

Nine in Chamber of Commerce mission

Oman delegation to Aden talks

Oman Chamber of Commerce board members were putting the final touches yesterday to a trail-blazing mission to the South Yemen capital, Aden.

A nine-member delegation from Oman led by Chamber President Sheikh Ahmed bin Omeir, joins other Arab missions for the 60th session of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce,

Industry and Agriculture, starting in the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on Saturday.

The delegation leaves on Saturday morning on a special flight for the two-day meeting.

Others in the delegation are Sheikh Aflah Hamed Salim al Rawahy (hon. secretary), Abdulla Hussain Baqir al Jaffer (hon. treasurer), Sheikh Khamis al Hashar, Ahmed

Salim Said al Marhoon, Mansoor Talib Mohammed Said, Yaqoob Hamed Suleiman al Harthy, Ibrahim bin Hilal bin Saud al Busaidi, and Essa Mohammad al Essa.

by Fermin D'Souza

The meeting is to discuss a number of subjects regarding establishing mutual co-ordination.

This is the first Omani delegation to take part officially, in a conference in Aden. This follows the signing of an agreement between the two countries and an exchange of officials.

• The Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry met yesterday at 9 am to discuss final details of the visit to Aden.



declares 70 per cent dividend — a record

Oman Aviation shareholders were smiling as they came out of annual meeting at the Gulf Hotel on Saturday. Their company had just announced a dividend of 70 per cent, the highest ever given by any company in the Sultanate.

The total dividend was RO 2.1 million, of which RO 1.5 million would be transferred to capital. The remaining RO 600,000 would

be cash.

Chairman Salim bin Nassir al Busaidi told shareholders that the objectives of consolidation and planned development had been achieved with "outstanding financial results."

"The high standards that have been attained in all the company's diverse international and domestic

activities in the aviation field have resulted in a 100 per cent increase in the operating profits," he said.

"This has been matched by profits from aircraft sales and prudent financial controls."

Operating profits for 1983 was RO 2,990,907 (RO 1,402,054 in 1982). Profits from the sale of aircraft was RO 1,532,829 —

giving a total of RO 4,523,736.

The company has completed rationalisation of its aircraft fleet and bought another aircraft. Also a helicopter unit has been established. New catering and ground handling equipment had boosted facilities and brought in more revenue.

In response to a directive of His Majesty to extend internal air services to major areas in the Sultanate, a resolution has been passed to extend such services to Sur Buraimi, Khasab and Masirah on a temporary basis for one year, the chairman told the shareholders.

More Omanis are being taken in at all levels and training courses have been intensified. A dedicated training unit will start soon and will follow a specific Omanisation plan.

By the middle of the year, a Flight Calibration Unit will begin operations with the company's first jet aircraft. The helicopter unit is to be developed further and, if it is found to be viable, a larger capacity aircraft introduced.

The meeting approved the report of the board of directors, the general budget and the final statement of accounts for the last financial year. It also appointed Coopers and Lybrand as external auditors for the current financial year.

Others attending the meeting were OAS directors Yousuf al Alawi Abdalla, Sheikh Mustahail bin Ahmed al Mashani, Salim Ali Nassir Assiyabi, Mohammed Rajab al Ba'Omar, and general manager and company secretary Roger S. Meldrum.

Dental surgeon dies

Dr. Saud al Kharousi, a leading consultant and dental surgeon and head of the Department of Dental Surgery at Al Nahda Hospital died from heart failure on Monday.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Health, colleagues and a large number of friends are mourning the death of Dr Al Kharousi who was one of the pioneers in dental surgery in the Sultanate.

Delegation to Brunei

The Minister of National Heritage and Culture Sayyid Faisal bin Ali and his accompanying delegation left Muscat for Brunei on Tuesday for celebrations marking Brunei's Independence.

The delegation included Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf al Alawi Abdallah, Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Said Ahmed al Shanfari, and Deputy Chief of the Diwan of Royal Court Affairs for Protocol Affairs Sayyid Saif bin Hamad bin Saud.

Population estimate goes up

Oman's population is estimated have gone up by half a million from the 1.5 million mainly quoted.

The new estimates are revealed in a booklet of information about Oman published by the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs to mark the visit of Ontario's Minister of Education this week.

No official census of population has been made since 1970 but an estimated figure of 1.5 million has been used for all references.

B Cal prepares for April 1

British Caledonian Airways' first flight to Muscat planned on April 1 will be using a new Airbus A310 aircraft which is being delivered this month.

The flight is the first British — scheduled service linking Muscat and Riyadh with Gatwick airport.

B. Cal intends to operate the A310 with a capacity of 24 first

class seats, 161 economy class seats, and up to 14 tonnes of cargo.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority last week granted B. Cal a licence for a non-stop operation between London, Gatwick and Riyadh, with onward services to Muscat, Doha, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Four flights a week are planned,

two originating in Muscat and two in Abu Dhabi.

"These new routes will link into B. Cal's established services to Europe, West Africa, North and South America through our hub at Gatwick," said Frank Skilbeck, the airline's general manager for the Middle East.

LATEST

Israelis step up Lebanon patrols

Israeli forces in Southern Lebanon have increased their military operations with a large-scale ground patrol crossing the Awali river and air strikes near Beirut.

The largest patrol since last September left on Monday and returned the next day.

Reports from Beirut say that a convoy of Israeli tanks and personnel carriers approached to within 12 miles of the Lebanese capital on Tuesday and pulled out later.

During the morning Israeli bombers attacked buildings in a nearby market village which the Israelis described as "terrorist command posts" — an apparent reference to Palestinian guerillas.

The United States marines in Beirut have begun to withdraw to US ships stationed off the coast of Lebanon. The final orders to withdraw came through on Tuesday, and the first of the 1,300 troops had begun to leave by helicopter.

The evacuation was expected to be completed next week, leaving only French troops of the multinational force still in Beirut.

The British contingent and most of the Italians have already withdrawn.

The European Community has called on the United States to take all action in stopping restrictions on imports from Europe.

Sayyid Fahr returns

Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence, Sayyid Fahr bin Taimur and his delegation returned to Muscat on Tuesday after attending the conference of the AGCC defence ministers in Doha.

The conference lasted for two days.

Graduation

The Signal Regiment's headquarters at MAM this week celebrated the graduation ceremony of a new batch of technicians who completed a course in cable jointing

Road courses stepped up

The Directorate General of Roads has stepped up training courses for Omanis in construction and maintenance of roads and heavy machinery.

Official bulletins

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos heard the oath of office from Oman's Ambassador to Japan, Marhoon Ahmad al Marhoon, and from Oman's Ambassador to South Korea Hamad Nasir al Toubi.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos sent a congratulatory telegram to Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani on anniversary of his assumption of power.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos sent a congratulatory telegram to King Birendra Birbikram of Nepal on his country's National Day.

His Majesty has also sent a telegram of congratulations to the President of Gambia on Gambia's National Day.

Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmed Obaidat has conferred with Oman's Ambassador in Amman Abdullah Said Al Baluchi on bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

Oman's Ambassador to Tunisia and representative to the Arab League, Mohamed Said al Marhoon, called on the Tunisian Prime Minister, Mohammed Mzali.

Tunisian envoy

The Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, Yahya Mahfoudh al Mandhri, received the Tunisian ambassador, Abdel Malek al Arif. Their discussions centred on the proposed visit of the Tunisian Education Minister, Mohammed Farej al Shazili. Mr Shazili is scheduled to arrive in Muscat on Saturday.

Ministry move to improve private education

The Ministry of Education is taking steps to improve the standard of private education. The move is aimed at providing a strong educational base to students before they enter higher classes.

A study is under way of the conditions required by the Ministry from private educationists who wish to open schools.

This was disclosed by Mrs. Saleha Sultan, who is in charge of private education at the Directorate of General Education. She said that permission for new schools has been delayed until the Ministry announces a revised set of conditions.

She said the Ministry is also considering a proposal to introduce a uniform syllabus in all private kindergarten schools in the country. The step, she added, is being taken following complaints that the management of such school were not keeping up a reasonable standard of education.

There are about 40 private schools in the country compared with 499 schools and 19 institutes run by the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs.

Mrs. Saleha Sultan said the Ministry is also considering providing services of Arabic teachers to foreign community schools without charge. The move which is not yet completed is aimed at promoting the Arabic language among

foreign students in Oman.

This free facility of Arabic teachers was made available to foreign schools by the Ministry several years ago but was later withdrawn due to administrative problems.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

All private schools in the Sultanate are required to use Arabic as medium of instruction for their students. The schools which are mainly up to the sixth

standard also take on the syllabus prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs.

The Department of Private Education granted permission to four new schools during last year. The permits were given for schools in Ruwi, Wadi Hattat and Al Ghubra.

Most of the applications now pending with the Ministry come from Interior towns. No decision will be taken on these until the Ministry announces revised conditions which might take a couple of months.



The Minister and Dr. Stephenson sign the a cultural cooperation agreement. (Picture Mahmoud Abdul Qader).

Oman — Ontario education accord

Oman and the Ontario Province of Canada on Tuesday signed a protocol on educational and cultural cooperation.

The accord was signed during the first session of formal talks between the visiting Ontario Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities Dr. Bette Stephenson and Yahya Mahfoodh al Mandhri, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs at the Ministry headquarters in Ruwi.

Dr. Stephenson who arrived in Muscat on Monday on a four-day official visit to the Sultanate was accompanied during the talks by Mr. K.E. Hunter, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education; Mr. Richard Donaldson, Special Assistant to the Minister; Dr. David Pugsley, Vice-President of Ontario Educational Services Corporation and Mr. F.I. Wood Canadian Ambassador in Kuwait.

The Omani side which was led by Yahya Mahfoodh al Mandhri included Ali Mohammad al Jarwani, Under Secretary Education, Sheikh Amer Ali

Omeir, Secretary General of Sultan Qaboos University and Moosa Jaffar, Director of Scholarships and Foreign Relations.

Later in the day the Ontario Minister paid a visit to Al Khod to see the progress on Sultan Qaboos University.

Dr. Stephenson was due to be received in audience in Salalah on Wednesday by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. Before leaving for Bahrain today the Ontario Minister will visit the Royal Oman Police Academy at Nizwa and will be chief guest at a certificate distribution ceremony to be held at the Girls' Teacher Training Institute at Al Khuwair.

New Council chairman

Amer Qais Shaibani has been elected as the new chairman of the Ibra Municipal Council at a meeting which was presided over by the Wali of Ibra, Shaikh Abdulla bin Mohammed al Busaidi.

The council also elected Mohamed Salem al Harthy and Sultan Mohamed al Hajri as the vice-chairman and secretary respectively.

The new council members are: Hamad Abdulla al Maskari; Ahmed Saleh al Sinawi; Saif Mohamed al Toqi; Saif Saud al maskari; Saleh Abdulla al Ismail; Ahmed Saif; Yahya Nassir al Harthy; Rabie Sultan al Yezidi and Said Amir al Harthy.

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5. PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS (REF. PT/5).
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Ambassador received

The Minister of Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs, Ahmed Suwaidan al Baluchi, received the Yemen Arab Republic's ambassador, Ahmed Mohammed al Roudhi, and conferred on ways of further bolstering friendly relations between the two countries.

Students may get training in Germany

Omani students may be able to have further training in Germany following a visit made by an educationalist from Cologne.

Dr Ameli Lueders-Luban is deputy director of C.D.C, a non-profit making organisation which considers overseas students for further study in Germany.

In a five day visit to the Sultanate Dr Lueders-Luban toured schools, the women's teachers institute, Oman Museum, PDO, and had meetings with Ministry officials.

She also had constructive talks with Said Nasser Al Khusabi, Under-Secretary of Information and Murad Ali Murad, Director General of Education.

by Shirley Jones

She was accompanied on her tour by representatives of the German Embassy in Oman. She returned to Cologne at the end of the week to prepare a report.

"Six Omani students are receiving training in Germany and there is a plan to send television technicians from the Sultanate to Germany for an intensive course," she said.

"I am the head of department and it is my task to see what further assistance is practical," she added.

"The courses of study are held in German so language lessons will be a priority. I have to decide how to organise this".

Students would study in Germany on scholarships from the Omani Government, or in Oman with German experts.

"But all education in Germany is free to residents and overseas students alike. We would help with the finding of accommodation, the all-important settling in period."

Although she was taken to visit two girls' schools Dr Lueders-Luban said she thought in the initial stages, training given would be to boys.

"Candidates would be suggested to us and if they are to attend a German college or university then we would interview them first. Part of my visit has been to establish the level of education reached by Omani schoolchildren at the end of the 12 academic years.

"In some cases we might send teachers and lecturers to Oman. In others the students come to Germany. All this has yet to be decided. But I had a very encouraging response from those I talked to," she said.

Students interested in German lessons should contact the German Embassy — 702482.

Training talks

The Minister of Information Abdul Aziz al Rowas received Minister of Higher Education in Ontario Mrs. Bette Stephenson and her accompanying delegation on Tuesday.

The meeting reviewed ways of stepping up cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Canadian Information Organisations particularly in training and educational programmes.

Baby's big day

A big date for parents of young babies is April 6.

On that day the Muscat Aponti Baby Show will be held.

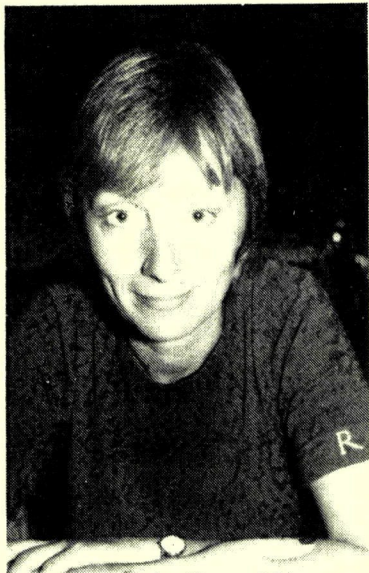
Sponsored by Al Fiqain Trading and Contracting Co and Times of Oman, it promises to exceed last year's show in which 70 babies were entered.

There will be at least 14 major prize winners in five sections. This will include a special award for the best Omani baby.

The show is open to all babies aged from three months to 22 months.

To enter your baby you must fill up a coupon which will appear in the Times from next week, and enclose a photograph of your baby's face.

These photographs will be published in advance of the show and from them one will be selected for a special "Times of Oman" award.



Dr. Lueders - Luban

Medical school talks

A team from the Sultan Qaboos University project, led by Sheikh Amer Ali Omeir, met officials from the Ministry of Health, led by Under-Secretary Dr Salim Hamdan at the Ministry to discuss pay and conditions for staff who will be working at the university medical school and teaching hospital.

Their recommendations will go forward to the University Foundation Committee for approval at their next meeting in April.

Envoy is received

The Under Secretary of Education, Ali Mohammed al Jarwani, received in his office the Bangladeshi Charge d'Affaires, Amjad al Haq.

They held discussions on further strengthening cooperation in the field of education including Oman's requirement of teachers from Bangladesh.



Freighter runs aground

Mina Qaboos tugboats went into action on Sunday to save the Greek-registered bulk carrier Tribels (above) from further damage after it ran aground at the Corniche.

The 484-foot long ship carrying a cargo of 6,500 tonnes of sugar was coming in to dock at Berth six when rough seas and a strong undercurrent

swept it off course and on to the rocks at Riyam.

The vessel, towed to its berth, is reportedly undamaged and its cargo safe. The 29-man crew escaped unscathed.

The Port Services Corporation sent four tugs and workboat to assist a 30-man

Oman Housing Bank answers the critics

The Oman Housing Bank has played a major role in securing accommodation for many people by granting them loans.

As a result, the bank has been flooded with applications seeking loans, forcing it to introduce a "first come first served system".

The ever increasing number of applications also forced the bank to change the maximum amount of loan from fifty to twenty-five thousand rials. This was done to enable a larger number of people to benefit from the loan facility, considering that the construction of an average family house costs RO 15,000.

Despite this, the bank receives complaints from the public.

A general complaint is that the actual payment of loans is sometimes delayed up to one year, as against one month, when the bank started its operations.

The bank justifies the delay on the ground that the number of loan applications has increased so dramatically that it is impossible for it to dispose of them any quicker. While the number of applications has gone up, the bank's loan budget remains the same. The loan budget has, therefore been distributed geographically to cover the different areas where the bank has branches.

Another complaint is that the formalities to be completed for obtaining a permit are very complicated — the filling of forms and production of land ownership certificate (for construction), passport and salary certificate etc.

It is claimed that the procedure is too cumbersome especially in view of the fact that obtaining the loan is just the first part of the project.

The bank says that it has taken all steps to simplify the procedure. The general manager, Mahmood Abuttin says that, citizens who want to buy a house, are no longer required to produce a land ownership certificate.

After the loan has been approved, they are given two months to find a house.

Another facility which the bank says it has granted is that it allows citizens, who file loan applications to buy houses, to change their mind and use the loan for constructing houses, provided they succeed in obtaining a plot.

But, then, the applicants complain that the fees and interest they have to pay are very high. In return for a loan of RO 21,000, they have to pay RO 31,180 over a period of 14 years, in addition to other charges like the consultants fee which in all mean something like another RO 1,000.

The bank replies that the Government has been very kind to its customers. It notes that the Government pays the difference of loans-interest. Only 2% interest is paid by people on a salary of RO 200, while actual loan interest amounts to 10%.

Those having a salary of RO 200 to RO 400 pay only 3% interest, while interest charged from those with a salary of RO 400 to RO 600 is only 4%.

The remaining interest is paid by the Government.

Pakistan warships sail

The Pakistan Navy ships Baber, Sarhad, and Baluchistan and the Submarine Ghazi left Mina Qaboos this week after a brief goodwill visit to the Sultanate.

Admiral Y.H. Malik, Commander of the Fleet was received by Major General Ehsan Hassan Nassib, Under Secretary Defence and Assistant Chief of Staff. Also present at the meeting were Group Captain Mohammad Mubarak al Amri of the Sultan of Oman's Air Force, Lt. Colonel Khamis Mohammad al Alawi, Director of AGCc Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Defence and Mr. Abdul Hameed Qureshi, Pakistan's Ambassador.

Many members of the Pakistani community in Muscat visited the ships on Sunday. The Pakistan Ambassador hosted a reception in honour of the visiting officers and men of the fleet.

A hockey team from the ships played a friendly match with an Omani team at Bait al Falaj ground on Monday. The Under Secretary of Youth Affairs Mr. Hamad Hammad al Ghafiri was chief guest.

Tribels, owned by Sea Traders, left Antwerp in December. Its last port of call was Jeddah. Local agents are Gulf Agency Company.

Institutes to become colleges

The Education and Vocational Training Council held its 28th session under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Heritage and Culture Sayyid Faisal bin Ali, the Council's Vice-President.

The Council approved a proposal by Minister of Education and Youth Affairs Yahya Mahfoudh al Mandhri regarding the re-naming of the teacher-training institutes as intermediate colleges, and the higher technical institute as Oman's Technical College.

The session also discussed a working paper on the possibility of unifying educational and information objectives in the interest of Arab Muslim nationals.

They also approved a proposal by the Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, raising the minimum percentage required for sending secondary school graduates on scholarships to 60 percent from 55 percent.

Military delegation from UAE

A military delegation from the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, led by Brigadier Saleh Nasser al Himiari, arrived in Muscat on Saturday.

They were received at Seeb Air Base by Major General Naseeb Hamad al Ruwahi, Deputy Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, senior officers, and the UAE Charge D'Affaires in Muscat.

They will visit a number of units to meet Omani commanders and their officers to familiarise themselves with progress achieved by the Sultan's Armed Forces.

The visit is one of a series of military exchange visits being organised by the AGCC countries.

Journalists course

Information Under Secretary Said Nasser al Khusaibi was guest of honour at a ceremony marking the end of the first training course for wilayat-based reporters of Oman News Agency.

Mr Khusaibi reiterated the Ministry's keenness to train and qualify reporters.

He urged the trainees to live up to the responsibility they must shoulder in serving Oman under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

Mr Khusaibi distributed certificates to the ten journalists who attended the course, which was run by the senior editor at the Middle East News Agency, Hamdi Mustafa.



Some of the successful computer students before the certificate presentation. Those in the front row obtained distinctions.

All computer students pass the course

All 16 students who took an introductory computer course at the British Council were awarded certificates — six with distinctions.

Supplies course ends

A new group of students has passed out of SOAF's Technical Training Institute at Seeb, after completing a course in supplies with SOAF.

The function was presided over by Colonel Yousuf Khalfan al Busaidi, Commanding Officer of the Sultan's Armed Forces Training Regiment.

Col. Yousuf inspected the graduates, distributed prizes to outstanding students and later gave a speech in which he praised the role played by TTI in providing SOAF units with trained manpower.

The function was also attended by Squadron Leader Said Nasser al Ismaili, deputy commander TTI and Squadron Leader Abdul Wahab Mohammed.

Religious lectures

Religious lectures continued with the latest in the southern region, held at the Sultan of Oman's Artillery 1st Regiment mosque at Sahalanout.

Sheikh Farhali Ahmed Mohammed, of the Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, spoke on Islam to a large gathering of officers and soldiers, headed by Major Mohammed Rashid al Zidi.

Filming starts on major TV serial

Shooting of a new television series, in which there are a large number of Omani and Egyptian artists — many of them leading ones — began in Oman on Friday.

The serial, produced by the Omani Organisation for Technical Television Production, set up by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos last year, revolves round the life and achievements of the great Omani patriot Al-Khalil bin Ahmad al-Faraheedi, who gave his life to defend the national honour.

The serial will be the most important produced by Oman Television since it began operations 14 years ago. Top artists from Egypt including Ahmad Mazhar, Omar al-Hareeri, Anwar Ismail, Ahmad Maree, Majdi, Safa al-Sab, Iman al-Tokhi, Abu Bakr Issat, Hamdi Ahmad and Laila Jamal are taking part in the serial, which will be shot partly in Cairo and partly in Oman.

The major part of shooting in Oman will be in Sumail, which abounds in natural beauty says executive director Abdullah al-Yarubi, Sur the traditional commercial centre of ancient Oman and other parts of al-Sharqiyya the eastern region will also be covered to highlight the activities of Al-Khalil Bin Ahmad al-Farahidi.

The story has been written by the author Taha Shibbi and the producer is Adil Sadiq.

Among leading Egyptian artists who have already arrived in Oman to take part in the shooting of the serial is the tragedy actor Ahmad Mazhar, whose position in Egyptian cinema, after 50 years as an artist, remains unchallenged.

Ahmed, who has played in about 100 films and serials, says that during a few days of his stay in Oman, he felt that there was enormous proximity in Omani and Egyptian traditions.

A horse-rider and a former army officer, Ahmad Mazhar is visiting Oman for the first time. Although his role in the serial is to a certain extent limited, it is generally believed that his thought provoking performance as a master of tragedy will enable him to emerge as the leading figure in the serial.

With the production of the serial, Oman Television will achieve the first step in its programme to minimise dependence on imported serials.

Authorities say that the interesting feature of the new serial will be that it will have the high technical standard of Egyptian TV productions, while at the same time highlighting Omani traditions.

The Omani Organisation for Technical Television Production has plans to produce a large number of serials and documentaries to reduce dependence on imported Arabic films, most of which according to authorities, do not conform to Omani traditions.

Information posts

Oman and Egypt are to appoint information attaches at their embassies in Muscat and Cairo.

The two countries are due to propose the names for the posts during the next few days. The attaches are being appointed to help coordination in the sphere of mass media and exchange of radio and TV programmes.

A senior UNESCO expert has been appointed as advisor to the Minister of Education Mr. Yahya Mahfoudh al-Mandhri, Dr. Mohammad Al-Shabini, who was advisor to the UNESCO office in Doha, will advise the founding committee of Sultan Qaboos University.

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Civil servants

The Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, Salim Mohamed Shabaan was guest of honour at a ceremony held for civil servants who distinguished themselves on the training courses organised by the Institute of Public Administration in 1982/1983.

In his address, he pointed out that the Institute had played an important role in accelerating development in the Sultanate.

Later he presented awards to 70 people currently in administrative in ministers.

British Council building ceremony

The Personal Adviser to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and Governor of the Capital, Sayyid Thuwainy bin Shihab, was officially opening the new premises of the British Council in Road 1, Medinat Qaboos, on Wednesday.

The British Council was represented by its chairman Sir Charles Troughton, CBE, MC, TD., visiting Oman specially for the opening. Sir Charles will also visit ministries and see senior officials.

The building consists of five classrooms, a library and offices. The project, which was completed in nine months, was designed by Huckle & Partners (Oman) with sub-consultants from R. Travers Morgan (Oman) Ltd and Majan Engineering. Quantity surveyors for the project, which cost just over RO 500,000 were Cobb Blythe Associates (Oman).

The development was carried out by Oman International Development Company (L.L.C.) and it was constructed by Taylor Woodrow - Towell Co (LLC).

A number of companies in Oman have made significant contributions towards the outfitting of the building, including Darwish AST, Joannou & Paraskevaides (Oman) LLC who have helped with the landscaping, and Wimpey Alawi who have helped with the tarmacing of the car park.

Christopher Housden, representative of the British Council, said "I am extremely pleased with the building and am particularly happy with not only the quality of the finish, but also the fact that as far as possible British materials have been used. I feel that it is a building that Britain can be proud of and represents the confidence we have in the Sultanate of Oman under the guidance of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

"We hope that our Omani students will enjoy the new building and although we regret leaving our traditional premises in Muttrah where the British Council opened in 1972, we feel that the new building is more appropriate for the needs of our collaboration with Oman for the 1980s and 1990s.

During the next few months a cultural programme will be announced which will include talks, lectures and films to be held in the students hall of the new premises.

Technicians graduate

The Signal Regiment's headquarters at MAM has celebrated the graduation ceremony of a new batch of technicians who completed a course in cable joining conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones.

The function was presided over by Bakhait Mohammed Salim al Qutun, Director General at the General Telecommunications Organisation, who distributed prizes to the successful students.

The Director General was later taken on a conducted tour of the Regiment's communication divisions, accompanied by the commanding officer of the regiment, and a number of officers.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos received a message from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud.

Saudi Charge D'Affairs in Muscat Eissam Abdullah Rasheed passed on the message to Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said on Sunday.



The participants in the course with Brig Shamim Yasin Manto. PIA's Oman Manager, Mr Asad Nabi Malik, is fourth from the left.

19 pass advanced travel course

Nineteen staff from 11 travel agencies successfully completed the second PIA advanced tariff and ticketing course held at the Muttrah Hotel.

Brigadier Shamim Yasin Manto, Director of Administration PIA, Karachi, presented the 18 men and one woman with their certificates at a ceremony held at Al Falaj Hotel.

The course lasted for five days and was

conducted by Mr. Massod A Khan, senior commercial instructor.

The PIA training centre based in Karachi was established in 1960 and employs over 100 qualified instructors. It is hoped to bring more courses to Muscat said PIA manager in Oman Mr Asad Nabi Malik.

Those receiving certificates were:- A Abdul Kalam, Qaiser Jaffrey, Krishna Kumar, Vasantha Rajaratnam, EM Aravindan, Miss Nilofar Qayoom, Raphael Pulikkal, Jawaid Siddiqui, T P Vijayan, Pupender Singh Kukreja, Brian Nazareth, Syed Nizamuddin, Iqbal Butt, Don Mahadeva Wijemanne, Vivek Narayan Ghanekar, John Mathai, Sanjeev Pawar, P K Gopala Krishnan, and Francisco Moniz.

Pakistan trade delegation

A 12-member trade delegation from Pakistan is due to visit the Sultanate from March 7 to 9 to explore the possibility of promoting trade between the two countries.

The delegation will hold talks with the President and members of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry on ways of increasing trade.

The delegation consists of representatives of almost all major export sectors of Pakistan's industry and agriculture.

These include electrical items, frozen sea food, food, sportsgear, carpets, tents, tarpaulines, textiles, fruit, vegetables and steel castings and other metals.

Those wanting to meet the delegation can contact Commercial Section, Pakistan Embassy, Tel: 703927.

Navy divers visit school

Youngsters at the Hafez bin Rashid primary school at Seeb had a visit from a diving team from the Sultan of Oman's Navy.

Armed with life-boats, scuba gear and deep-sea diving equipment, the SON team gave the boys a glimpse of what it takes to be a diver.

The SON team's visit is part of a drive to promote interest in naval careers among young Omanis.

SCC men's Sur visit

Sheikh Hamad bin Ali al Ghafri and Sheikh Hamad Mohamed Tuba'a al Farasi, members of the State Consultative Council, visited Sur as part of the Council's on-the-spot study tours. They reviewed the existing facilities and the expansion of basic amenities in the region.

Road committee formed

A special committee has been set up to oversee the tidying-up of the area near the highway from Seeb Airport to the Al Bustan Hotel via Qurum and Darseit, following a Royal Decision to this effect.

The Committee will be chaired by Nasir al Wahaibi, deputy President of the Diwan of Royal Court Affairs for administration, finance and transportation.

The committee consists of Essa Nasser Essa, Director General of Capital Municipality at the Ministry of Land Affairs and Municipalities; Hamad Hilal al Busaidi, Director General of Housing at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and Tariq al Mantheri, Director General of Roads at the Ministry of Communications.

Also included are Mohsin al Shaikh, Director General of Properties at the Diwan of Royal Court Affairs and Al Muqadam Hamad Sulaiman al Rawahi from the Royal Oman Police.

The committee is to begin activities shortly in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

New division

Salman Stores have expanded their operations by establishing a manufacturing unit. The new division, called the Woods Products Division, is equipped with sophisticated machines and skilled craftsmen, according to Divisional Manager P.V. Mathew.

The unit will make custom-built office and domestic furniture, ornamental, fire - resistant and conventional flush doors, decorative carved panels, grills and other interior designs.

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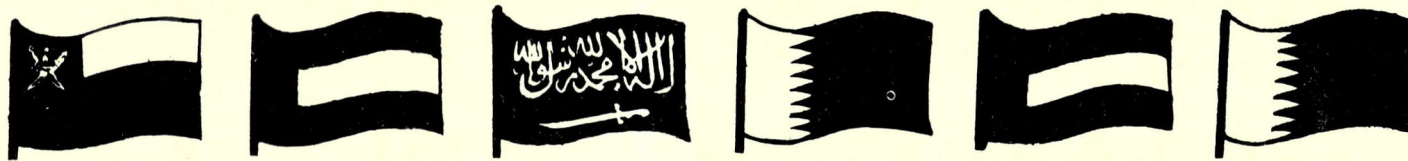


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Gulf roundup



Chamber chief's medal mission

The Chairman of Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Ahmed bin Omeir left Muscat for Gabon to receive the Golden Peace Medal awarded to the Chamber by the International Marie Curie Organisation.

The chamber was awarded the medal in appreciation of the role it played in accelerating development progress in Oman.

The UAE

• The UAE authorities last Saturday arrested more than 100 people in a four-hour operation for violation of the country's residence rules. Most of those held were domestic servants who had deserted their original sponsors.

• The United Arab Emirates is to spend Dh 10 million for security at its diplomatic missions, it was announced in Abu Dhabi. The move follows the assassination of the UAE ambassador to France two weeks ago.

• The Real Estate Development Fund, set up by the Saudi Finance and National Economy Ministry, is providing interest-free loans for middle and low-income Saudis to build both private and commercial housing. The institution has set apart \$800,000 million for the purpose.

• UAE's second chemical fertiliser plant will be set up in Sharjah, it was announced in Abu Dhabi this week. Construction work is expected to begin in the next few months. The production capacity of the plant will be about 1,000 tons of liquid ammonia and 1,500 tons of urea per day.

• Small radar boxes fitted with cameras are to be installed on major

roads in Abu Dhabi and will be linked with a closed-circuit TV network at the operations room of the traffic department in an effort to curb the increasing violations of traffic rules.

• The Board of Directors of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Trade and Industry is to send a delegation to tour AGCC countries to study the economic situation and the impact of official policies on the private sector.

• The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) and the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (Adco) have signed an agreement empowering Adnoc to manage and supervise all major Adco projects.

• The Ras al Khaimah-Gulf Offshore Company, an offshoot of the International Gulf Oil Corporation, has signed a contract with McDermott of Dubai to construct a floating oil rig and extend pipelines for several miles in the newly-developed Saleh oilfield.

• The third Gulf symposium on 'Combating Smoking' will be held in Duabi from February 25 to 27.

The symposium, organised by the Arab Gulf Health Secretariat, in association with the Emirates Medical Association, will discuss papers presented by Saudi Arabia and Iraq on anti-smoking campaigns in the two countries. Britain's Royal College of Physicians and several international organisations will also be represented.

• A water supply network for Al Ain has been approved. The project will cost DH 240 million and will be completed next year covering a total of 80 per cent of the low-cost houses in various parts of the city.

• The Ras al Khaimah poultry farm is now producing 20,000 eggs daily. Production is to be raised to 40,000 and then to 60,000 a day between April and October, it was stated in Dubai.

• Work on the Fujairah international

airport is to begin soon. The project will cost Dh 120 million.

• A new five dirham coin has been issued by the Central Bank of the UAE. One million coins have been minted and part of the quantity handed over to commercial banks, it was stated.

• The Ajman Cement Factory will go into production in April this year. The factory will produce both ordinary portland and sulphate resisting cement, according to British and American specifications.

The main plant was built by Ube Industries of Japan.

• A Romanian commercial delegation was on a brief visit to Dubai this week promoting food, textiles, furniture and chemicals.

• Eighteen people were injured and more than 150 cars were damaged in 17 road accidents during dense fog in Duabai on Wednesday last week.

Saudi Arabia

• Construction work is under way on a modern 574-bed hospital in Makkah. The Noor Hospital will have the most sophisticated medical equipment available in the world today and will provide total care to patients.

• A seminar on the role of information media in economic development will begin in Riyadh on February 28. Delegates from Arab countries as well as from specialised financial, economic, information and regional cultural bodies, the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture and Science and international agencies will participate in the talks.

• A study is under way at the Statistics Department of the Science Faculty of King Saudi University in Riyadh on climatic variables, such as temperature, atmospheric pressure, humidity, air speed and direction. The purpose of the study is to arrive at standard formulae for minimum, mean and maximum temperatures for the Kingdom.

• The Cultural Affairs Department of the Saudi Youth Welfare Presidency has issued the third, fourth and fifth volumes in the series of books entitled "This is our

country" dealing with the various cities and areas of the Kingdom.

• The Higher Committee for Administrative Reform in Saudi Arabia has met and discussed matters relating to improvements in the functioning of government bodies.

• A Saudi delegation from the Meteorological and Environment Protection Department was in Geneva this week attending the Seventh meeting of the International Federation Council for Protecting Environment and Natural Resources.

• A 21-member Japanese martial arts team gave performances of judo, karate and kendo last week in Riyadh and Jeddah.

• The Saudi Fund for Development is to give a 7 million franc loan to Senegal to finance a number of development projects.

• A contract has been awarded to a Saudi company for the maintenance and operation of the water and sewage network in Damman and Alkhobar.

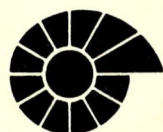
• King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has issued a Royal Decree approving a new system of trade marks for the Kingdom.

• Saudi Arabia's crude oil reserves are estimated at 165.5 billion barrels and its stored gas amounts to 114 trillion cubic feet, the Saudi Press Agency has reported. Saudi oil officials said that reserves in the Kingdom are expected to last 148 years.

• A six-member Canadian trade delegation was in Jeddah this week on a fact-finding and business mission.

• A \$100 million private pharmaceutical company has been established in Jeddah with the support of the Saudi Government to produce up to 40 per cent of the Kingdom's current \$350 million annual demand for basic drugs. The plants will come into full operation by 1987.

• The second Saudi oil exhibition will open in Alkhobar on April 1, with emphasis on non-associated gas and offshore development. More than 350 international companies are expected to take part in the five-day event, sponsored by the Saudi Expo Company of Jeddah in conjunction with the London-based Middle East Trade and Exhibitions.



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Commencement

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Team 8	8th September, 1984
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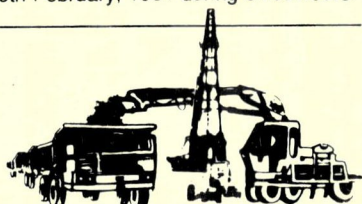
Duration of Contract: 24 Months

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Price of Documents R.O. 30/- for each Earthmoving Tender.

Tender Documents may be obtained from the Engineering Construction Offices, PDO, Mina al-Fahal, between 25th and 29th February, 1984 during office hours.

Petroleum Development Oman
Post Box 81, Muscat
Sultanate of Oman
Telephone: 608547
Telex: 5212 ON



UK trade with Arab world declines

The rate of growth of Britain's trade with the Arab world shows clear signs of a decline, according to the latest U.K. Government figures.

Provisional trade figures for 1983, made available exclusively to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) today show that U.K. exports to 19 Arab countries plus Iran last year rose in value terms by just £162 million, which was less than three per cent.

Taking into account the effects of inflation, this means that U.K. exports to the region suffered a decline in real value.

At the same time, exports from the Middle East into Britain last year amounted to just under 2.1 billion pounds, well down from the 3.4 billion pounds in 1982.

Analysts said this was largely due to the sharply reduced oil exports of many of the countries concerned.

Saudi Arabia remained by far Britain's biggest export market in the area last year, followed by Iran and the UAE.

Kuwait was the seventh biggest taking U.K. exports valued at £333.3 million, exactly the same as in 1982.

The biggest increase in export volumes was seen in the case of Iran which took £628.7 million worth of British goods in 1983, compared with just 333.7 the year before.

Iraq, which was the U.K.'s second largest market in 1982, slipped to fifth place with £400 million in 1983, reflecting the effects of the Gulf war on its trade.

• Communications Ministers of the AGCC countries will meet in Kuwait on March 6 to discuss a number of reports aimed at linking the six countries with trunk roads possibly a rail network.

The reports were prepared by special committees formed during the Ministers' first conference in Muscat last year.

• The Saudi Consolidated Electricity Company is currently implementing power projects worth SR 3.1 billion in a number of cities and villages in the Southern Region.

• A nine-member trade mission from Singapore, representing eight companies, dealing in business equipment, was in Jeddah on a five-day visit this week.

• Jeddah city is to have a close relationship with the Spanish town of Marbella. An agreement covering various aspects of municipal affairs in which the two cities could co-operate was signed by the mayor of Marbella who was on a visit to Jeddah this week.

Qatar

• Defence Ministers of the AGCC countries held a two-day meeting in Doha to discuss means of promoting military co-ordination and to review reports prepared by special committees.

• Stringent austerity measures have succeeded in producing a budget surplus in the first half of fiscal 1983/84, Qatar Monetary Agency figures show. Original official estimates were for a \$1,000 million deficit in the full year. However, the figures also suggest that the trade surplus was down substantially in the first nine months of 1983.

• Extensive deposits of commercially useful minerals - gypsum, chlorides of sodium, magnesium and bromine - have been discovered in Qatar. Recent geological surveys indicated that most minerals are all easily-exploitable surface deposits.

• From 1,000 to 2,000 new lines are being provided every month in Qatar's telephone expansion programme and the number of those waiting for a connection has been reduced to only a couple of thousands, a spokesman of the Qatar National Telephone Service said in Doha.

• The Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) - a joint body established by Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq - has made a detailed study on a project for the production of 20,000 tons of silicon and 50,000 tons of ferrosilicon, it was announced in Doha.

The study said the project requires 150,000 tons of quartz, 16,000 tons of iron ore, 6,000 tons of anodes, 85,000 tons of other materials and 690 kilowatts of electricity per year.

Japan could prove the best market for the project's products as it is expected to import between 200,000 and 250,000 tons of ferrosilicon in 1990 and about 80,000 tons of silicon in the same year.

• The World Health Organisation has selected Qatar's Regional Centre for

Food Contamination Monitoring as one of the few such institutions in the world for training purposes.

The centre will provide training for personnel from the East Mediterranean countries, including all Middle East countries, some African states and Pakistan.

• The women's section of the Qatar Red Crescent Society has started a three-month course in typing in secretarial skills for handicapped girls.

• A book fair opened in Doha this week. The display include some 4,000 books from the Qatar Public Library.

• Dairy production in Qatar last year covered 36.13 per cent of consumer demand, putting it third in the table of local food produced in terms of self-

sufficiency. The first two are fish and vegetables.

Bahrain

• Talks on possible areas of co-operation in the field between Bahrain and Bangladesh was held in Manama last week. They discussed remittance facilities for Bangladesh workers.

• Bahrain's first missile-equipped warship was launched by the Emir, Shaikh Issa bin Salman al Khalifa at a ceremony last week. The German-designed ship was named 'Ahmed al Fateh'.

• A campaign to make an on-the-spot study of the problems confronting

Bahrain in villagers has been launched by the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

• The British merchant bank, Grindlays, is to restructure its Bahrain domestic branch as a local bank with 60 per cent Bahraini ownership, the London Financial Times has reported. The bank will be called Grindlays Bahrain.

• The research department of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry is preparing a study on the effects of the causeway that will link the island to Saudi Arabia and the AGCC unified economic agreement on the financial and banking system.

Kuwait

• The Kuwait Ministry of the Interior is to carry out a thorough survey of the foreign labour force and apply stricter residence laws, it was announced.

• Kuwaiti banks have come first and second in an annual competition held in London to judge the artistic merits of Arab banks' annual reports.

The competition, organised by the London-based Arab Banking and Finance Magazine, was won by the Commercial Bank of Kuwait with the National Bank of Kuwait.

• All AGCC nationals will be treated at par with Kuwaitis in the awarding of construction contracts, the Kuwaiti Municipality has announced.

• A Gulf committee on co-ordination relating to information and planning of oil policy of the AGCC met in Kuwait this week to discuss activities during 1984 and last year's achievements.

• A seminar of 'medical treatment of alcohol and drug addicts' was held in Kuwait last week. Organised by the General Secretariat of the Health Ministers in the Arab Gulf, research work dealing with addiction prevention, the role of the media in fighting addiction and the problems facing addicts in psychiatric hospitals were discussed.

• More than 6,000 students have graduated from technical schools and business institutes in Kuwait during the past six years. These institutions were set up by the General Administration for Training in Applied Science to develop a technical cadre of nationals.

• Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will provide 50 per cent of the funds required for the construction of an international conference centre in Vienna, initiated by the former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The project is to cost \$185 million.

• The State Trading Corporation of India is to open warehouses in Kuwait and Dubai in a move to boost exports to the Gulf.

• A seminar on Arab theatre and heritage was held in Kuwait last week. More than 25 scholars from different parts of the Arab world attended.

Gulf markets smell good — to the tune of \$ 500 million

The Middle East is fast becoming one of the world's leading markets for perfume, the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) has said in a news analysis.

Recent figures indicate that the wholesale Gulf market is worth well over \$500 million a year, although statistics on fragrance sales in the Arab countries are difficult to interpret.

The market in toiletries is also expanding rapidly: the UK-based International Marketing and Economic Services recently estimated Saudi sales alone at \$75 million annually.

The Arabs have made perfumes for at least 700 years, and this tradition, helped by today's high income levels, has made them among the world's largest per capita users of fragrances.

Connoisseurs create their own varieties: buying essential oils from their local attar dealer (perfumer) and mixing them themselves.

The less adventurous are content to buy some of the 300-400 new products entering the Gulf market each year.

The US which dominates world production, is the leading supplier, partly because American firms create a type of fragrance - strong, heady and long-lasting - which particularly appeals to the Arab buyer.

Estee Lauder dominates the top end of the market but designer fragrances from Oscar dela Renta, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein are close behind, the report said.

Total US exports to Saudi Arabia of perfume, cologne and toilet water have rocketed in value from \$240,000 in 1976 to today's \$12 million a year.

At retail prices US companies are selling \$30 million worth of perfume in Saudi Arabia alone.

The UAE is another key market, distributing to many other places in the region. Annual US sales to the UAE have quadrupled since 1976 to about \$5 million.

The expensive French perfumes have enormous cachet, which has helped to make the Gulf France's largest market after the U.S. and the EC.

All the big names sell well, in particular Christian Dior, Chalen, Yves St. Laurent, Guy Laroche and Rochas.

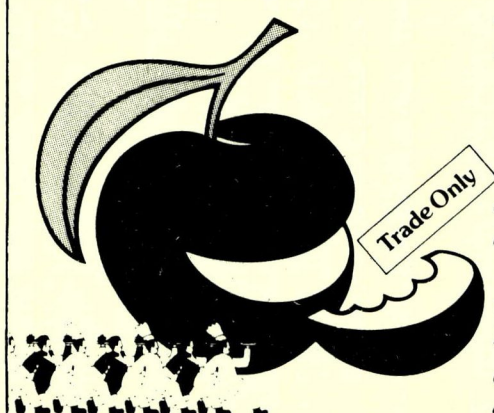
There is also a large demand for perfume from the Gulf's less well-off residents — the 2 million or so immigrants from Jordan, Lebanon, South Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Yemens.

Avon products, the world's largest perfume and cosmetics producer, which has been selling door-to-door in Saudi Arabia for nearly 10 years, has been especially successful at tapping this market. The company estimates Saudi sales at \$4 million a year at ex-factory prices. Bush Boake Allen, a leading U.K. fragrance raw materials firm, has been selling low-cost perfumes to the kingdom for more than 50 years.

Its products are specially designed for the Islamic market, being oil rather than alcohol-based perfumes. Products by India's Lakme and Singapore-based Dada Perfumes are also found everywhere, as are others from Indonesia, Taiwan and, above all, Egypt.

Egypt probably dominates the lower end of the Gulf market for perfumes, supplying both essential oils and finished fragrance in increasing quantities.

Egyptians have been making perfumes for 2,000 years, and have a much more exact knowledge than their western rivals of what appeals to the traditional Arab buyer.



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State Council members start field tours

Members of the State Consultative Council have begun field tours to the various Wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman to assess the developmental needs of local communities.

A team consisting of Abdulla Hamad al Busaidi and Ali Mohammed al Jarwani, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs, paid a visit to the Wilayat of Nakhl and Wadi al Maawil recently.

During the visit, the two council members met the deputy Wali of the region, Shaikh Khalifa bin Hilal al Alawi, and discussed the region's needs, and the need for expansion of basic services.

Another group, consisting of Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali al Qatabi, Under Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla al Hanai visited the Wilayat of Birkha and held talks with its Wali, Sheikh Abdul Rehman bin Saif al Kharussi.

The Wali told the council members of the need to increase the number of

schools from 12 to 16 to cater for the growing number of students in the region. Improved health care and better provision of drinking water supply also came up for discussion.

Among the specific requests made by the Wali to the touring party was the need to update the existing health clinic into a hospital, and the asphaltting of roads in the Wilayat. Above five per cent of the Wilayat still lacks electricity, the Wali pointed out.

Another group of council members, including Abdulla Sakhr al Amri, Director General of Oman Newspaper House, and Bakhait Said al Amri left for Salalah for an on-the-spot study.

New hospital

Major-General Nasib Hamad al Rawahi, Deputy Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, has opened a Military Hospital, Barracks and Sergeants' mess at the battle training camp at Saiq in Jebel Akhdar.

How SOAF helps the jebel people

South and East of Muscat, between Quryat and Sur, is a 60-mile length of coastline backed by high mountains that extend inland from 20 to 30 miles.

This area of the Sharqiah, particularly the Jebel Bani Jabir, remains inaccessible to vehicles because of the difficulties of road building through high jebel deeply indented by Wadis.

The very nature of this jebel, does, however, channel whatever water is available into the deep wadis. Throughout the years, the people have made good use of this water.

Extensive falaj work and good agricultural practice have produced gardens of date palms and fruit trees which support the surprisingly large number of villages in this area.

The goats are kept out of the gardens and are grazed in the higher jebel areas with their droppings collected and used to manure the date palms in the gardens.

This region is typical of many areas in Oman where the Sultan of Oman's Airforce gives help to the people by use of aircraft, particularly, the helicopter.

SOAF's help is in several forms. One is the movement of construction materials from the nearest road to these villages. The items carried include cement, sand, wood, doors and windows. These are packed into special nets that are hooked under the helicopter.

The helicopter flies direct to the villages often over distances of 10 km. By donkey track, the journey would be 20 or 30 km, a trek of several days.

A single helicopter lift is as much as 50 donkey loads and 40 helicopter loads can be moved in a day.

Falajes

This assistance enables the villagers to build and maintain their houses and falaj systems contributing to the economy of the community.

A task starts with a visit to HQ/SOAF by the village Sheikh who knows the amounts of material and when they will be ready for lifting by helicopter.

One very important detail is the clear identification of the pick-up point and the destination.

A helicopter crew searching for loads is a waste of costly flying time.

The villagers' cooperation is also essential on the day of the lift, for they are required to pack the nets at the pick-up point and to unpack them at the village heli-pad. They also have to move the loads off the all too small heli-pad before the helicopter can recover the valuable heli-nets for the next lift.

Another major task, undertaken by SOAF is the long established Rural Health Service.

This is a combined task with the Ministry of Health who supply medical teams from Khoula Hospital.

These teams are flown to a number of selected remote villages several times each month on a regular basis.

When the helicopter lands at the heli-pad the medical team moves to the village shade tree where those to be treated have assembled from the surrounding villages.

On a typical day, the helicopter will bring medical assistance to about 200 people, many of them mothers and their children.

Demanding

The helicopter flying for all these tasks is demanding and stimulating. Besides the usual hazards of flying in mountain areas, there is the challenge of landing on small heli-pads at high altitudes.

Turbulence, sudden wind changes and high temperatures, all combine to sharpen the pilot's judgement.

SOAF's invaluable help enables these communities to survive economically and ensures the health and well-being of the people.

The youth of these areas have a bright future. Watching the aircraft operate and helping the crews, these youngmen are often attracted to join organisations such as SOAF.

However, their roots remain strongly attached to their villages.

Egyptian praise for Oman

Egyptian Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Dr. Boutros Ghali has paid tribute to Oman's stand over Egypt pointing out that Oman was one of the few Arab countries that supported Egypt in its drive for a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East during the 1973 October war.

Dr. Ghali described Omani-Egyptian relations as "ideal and of a special nature" adding that co-operation and co-ordination were the predominant characters that governed relations between the two countries.

Asked whether there were any Egyptian diplomatic efforts to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war and what would be Egypt's stand if Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz Dr. Ghali said that there were no diplomatic efforts in that direction, expressing Egypt's belief that the war had become an international issue that should be considered by the U.N. Security Council.

As regards a possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran Dr. Ghali said that the strait was an international sealane, adding that freedom of navigation in international sealanes was one of the main principles of Egypt's foreign policy.

Ministry approves Quran interpretation

The Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has approved the sale of "The Meaning of The Holy Quran".

The book, which is in 10 volumes, contains a comprehensive interpretation of the Holy Quran by the Pakistani Islamic scholar the late Maulana Abul Ala Maudaadi.

The book has been published by the Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore. The English version is by Ch. Muhammad Akbar and the editing by A.A. Kamal.

The book is said to be one of the most authoritative interpretations of the Holy

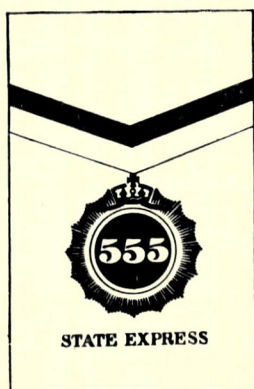
Book in the English language.

All religious publications on Islam are sent by the Ministry of Information to the Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for clearance before they are allowed to be sold in Oman. Most of Maulana Abul Ala Maudaadi's books have been approved.

Maulana Maudaadi's books are on sale at the Family Bookshop, Maktabat al-Thaqafah and the Arabian Bookshop. The British Council library in Muttrah and the Islamic Library in Ruwi also have his works.

اعلان تحذيرى

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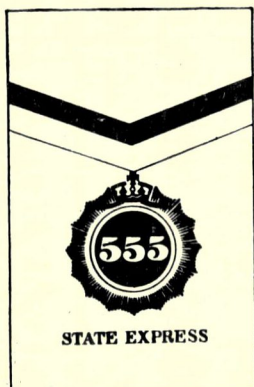
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TIMES
FEATURES

Tom and his 1937 Austin 7

Tom Newsome decided to emigrate to Australia. But he couldn't bear to be parted from his 1937 Austin Seven car.

So he drove it more than 23,000 miles from Melbourne, Derbyshire, England, to Melbourne in Australia.

"It was a journey that surpassed my imagination," says Tom. "I wanted to see the world and take my car and it all fitted together perfectly." Adventurous Tom set out at the end of 1982 and arrived at his destination 55 weeks and 18 countries later.

He had some strange experiences and a few hair-raising stories to tell. In the Indian state of Bihar, he was forced off the road five times in one day by other cars.

No brakes

And at the Saudi Arabian border, his car was stripped by officials checking to see there were no drugs and alcohol. But the most amazing tale was of driving across the Himalayas, with no brakes.

"It was uphill most of the way," Tom recalled. But on the way he damaged the mechanical brake cable on the tiny car when he drove over a bump in the road.

Tom was determined to carry on and made his way to Katmandu using the handbrake, which also had been reduced to almost nothing. He braked the best he could going down hill by using gears.

Hip replacement on hire-purchase

A private hospital in the UK is offering hip replacement operations on hire purchase.

It's an "all in" package deal and patients can pay in instalments spread over two years. A major attraction is that the operation can be carried out almost immediately.

The Priory Hospital, at Birmingham, launched its scheme just before Christmas.

"Long waiting lists for hip replacement surgery on the National Health Service in the UK are getting longer every day," said a spokesman for the hospital.

"In the past, many people have not been able to afford the fees for private care. But we believe that our HP idea

changes all that.

"We offer a 'package deal' at fixed price. It costs £1,650 for a 12-day stay. That covers theatre fees, nursing fees, meals and the cost of any drugs used.

"Patients can spread the payment over 24 months, paying in monthly instalments the same as with any hire purchase agreement. As is usual with HP terms, there's a small percentage interest rate charged," said the spokesman.

However, the price doesn't include the fees charged by the surgeon and anaesthetist, which are currently around £620 extra.

The spokesman said that patients must be referred to the hospital by their own consultant.

Play it again softly

Thousands of young people could be risking deafness from personal hi-fis, home headphones and loud disco music.

Four groups involved in helping the deaf are so concerned by the danger that they have joined forces to issue the warning.

The biggest risk is from personal hi-fis. It is not just the volume, but the length of time that the youngsters wear them continuously.

Up to 3,000 people a year may be having their hearing permanently damaged, according to the Association for the Hard of Hearing, the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Mr Harry Cayton, director of the National Deaf Children's Society, says: "We don't want to stop people enjoying noisy parties and music. We want them to be able to enjoy them all their lives.

"Personal hi-fis are not much fun or good if you're deaf."

Vos - the top dog retires

A 12-year-old Labrador called Voss has just retired after earning himself a place in the record books by fathering more than 500 puppies that have become guide dogs for the blind.

Voss, a yellow labrador, is owned by Britain's Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and was born in September, 1972, of parents who were members of the guide dog breeding programme.

Because of his pedigree and his physical and temperamental characteristics Voss was selected to become a stud dog. His first litter was born in February, 1974, and since then he has fathered 567 puppies that have been selected for the association's puppy-rearing scheme.

The final litter of six are now nearing the end of their training and when they qualify in a few weeks time Voss will become "the undisputed top dog of the breeding programme," said the spokesman.

In the past ten years, 460 of his offspring have become working guide dogs and 42 have joined the breeding stock, a successful rate of almost 90 per cent, much higher than any rating achieved by any other dog in the past 24 years. Voss has now retired officially.

• A Japanese consortium has agreed in principle with the Government of the UAE to set up a \$200 million liquefied petroleum gas project in Sharjah. C. Itoh and Japan Gas Corporation were now preparing a draft final agreement.

Marlboro

Come to flavor



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

Malaysian mission for Oman

Malaysia is sending a 16-strong trade mission on a three day visit to Oman.

A follow-up of a previous business tour last November, the current mission is led by the Deputy Secretary-General of Malaysia's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr Mohamad Noordin Hassan.

A samples display of Malaysian products will be open to the public at Al Falaj Hotel, where the businessmen will be staying from February 28 to March 1. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 1.30 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm.

Mission members will be offering products ranging from timber and its by-products, textiles and garments to canned food and cooking oils.

"The previous mission was very successful and the response from local businessmen has been tremendous," said the Malaysian Charge d'Affairs, Ismail Mustapha.

"Traditionally, our main markets have been the United States, Europe and Japan. But now increasingly more products are coming to West Asia, and Oman is an important market," he told the 'Times'.

Timber and associated construction material are Malaysia's largest exports to the Sultanate! Sawm timber exports to the Middle East market shows a slight

Oman's first detergent factory

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Salim Abdullah al Ghazali will officially open the first detergent factory in the Sultanate on Saturday.

General Manager of the Oman Detergent Company Abdullah Hussein Baquer said that the factory was 100 per cent owned by the Omani private sector and would satisfy local demand for detergents. At a later stage it will begin exporting to Arab countries. Its product is named Bahr.

The factory also has a licence to produce brand names marketed in the Gulf.

increase of two per cent in 1982, according to a Malaysian trade journal.

Although there has been a significant drop in demand from Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, the loss has been made up by a pick-up of trade with Oman, the UAE and South Yemen.

"During the recession trade was stagnant, but is picking up now, especially with Oman," Mr Mustapha said.

"Oman's building industry has not been affected by the oil price slump and Malaysian exports of timber show a rise," he pointed out.

Trade figures from 1978 show a sharp rise in value of exports in 1980 and then a steady uptrend of exports to Oman. In 1978, the value was RO 2.8 million; 1979 (2.9 million); 1980 (4.6 million); 1981 (5.9 million); 1982 (5.7 million). Figures for 1983 are not yet available but are expected to reach at least RO 6 million.

Health tour of Interior schools

Members of the School Health Committee began a tour of schools in the Interior this week to inspect activities of the School Health Programme and to solve any health problems faced by students.

The members are Mohammad Hamdan al Toobi of the Ministry of Education and Dr. Hassan Moosa of the Ministry of Health.

The visit has been organised by the Committee for School Health which includes members from the Ministries of Health and Education. The members are: Dr. Ahmed al Ghassani, Essa Abdul Rahman, Mohammad al Tobi, Dr. Hassan Moosa, Raza Saeed and Mohammad al Busaidi.

The Committee members are visiting Rustaq, Batinah, Dhaira, Sur, al Wusta, Ibra, Musandam and Salalah.

The Committee for School Health operates clinics in big schools while students in other schools are regularly visited by doctors.



Newsman from India: Mr. Manzoor Ahmed, Mr. Siddique and Mr. M.L. Kotru.

Defence Ministers meet

AGCC Ministers of Defence opened their third meeting in Doha on Monday to seek ways of boosting Gulf military cooperation.

Oman's delegation to the conference arrived in Doha earlier under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence Sayyid Fahr bin Taimur.

Opening the conference Qatari heir Apparent and Commander-in-Chief Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani underlined the need for a joint Gulf defence strategy which he described as vital for maintaining stability and security in the Gulf states.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war Sheikh Hamad expressed hope that the current efforts to put an end to the war would meet with success to bring an end to Muslim bloodshed.

Later, Secretary General of the GCC Abdullah Yaqoub Bishara paid tribute to the GCC achievements since its establishment in 1981.

He described the present meeting as proof of the GCC member states' determination to avoid any foreign influence.

Logo Committee

The Minister of National Heritage and Culture Sayyid Faisal bin Ali presided over the Logo Committee's second meeting on logos being designed for the Sultanate's Wilayats.

The logos have been designed by the Capital and Musandam Governorates and the Office of the State Minister and Wali of Dhofar in co-operation with the public.

Indian journalists visit Oman

Three journalists from India are on a goodwill visit to the Sultanate at the invitation of the Ministry of Information.

Mr. M.L. Kotru, diplomatic correspondent of New Delhi's leading English language daily "The Statesman", Mr. Manzoor Ahmed, reporter of the United News of India news agency and Mr. Siddique, chief editor of the Urdu daily "Qaomis Awaz" have been impressed with development in the Sultanate. "It is all very tangible", said Mr. Manzoor Ahmad.

The visiting newsmen were shown around Nizwa, Rustaq, Azam and also made a brief visit to the Batinah Coast.

The journalists' visit follows in the wake of the recent visit to India by the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousuf al Alawi Abdallah during which he met his Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr. Narasimha Rao and decided to step up efforts to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

Kuwaiti visitor

The Board Chairman of the Kuwaiti Petrochemical Company, Abdul Baqi Abdullah al Nouri left Muscat after a four-day visit to the Sultanate.

His talks with Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Abdul Hafiz Salim Rajab and other senior officials dealt with ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in various fields particularly in fertilisers and natural gas.



1. The Ministry of Defence invites the following tender:-

SR. NO.	DESCRIPTION	COMMODITY	TENDER CONTROL	CLOSING DATE
1.	SUPPLY OF	STATIONERY ITEMS	658	10-03-84

2. Tender documents may be obtained on payment of RO. 5.000 (Rials Omani Five only) each in cash, from the Secretary to the Tender Board, Bait-Al-Falaj, between 0800 AM and 1100 AM on WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY.



Twenty-nine local travel agents received certificates last Thursday at the end of a two-and-half-day seminar.

Divided in two groups, they were brought up-to-date on international fares and ticketing.

The seminar was conducted by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and

organised by OUA Travels.

Conducting the seminar was Hans Setjo, one of five specialised instructors on fares from KLM's commercial and operational training centre at Schiphol airport.

The certificates were distributed at a luncheon reception at the Al Falaj Hotel.

**Photo
Spot**

Qaboos Mosque, Ruwi

*Picture by
P.K. Joseph*



Orientalist paintings exhibition at London Gallery

The Mathaf Gallery of London has announced a forthcoming exhibition of important Orientalist paintings.

The exhibition will take place at the Gallery's premises at 24 Motcomb Street, London SW1 from March 20 for one month. It will be open from Monday to Friday 9.30 am — 5.30pm.

The exhibition will include oil paintings by 19th Century orientalists, such as Jean Leon Gerome, Ludwig Deutsch, Frederick Arthur Bridgman, Franz Kosler, Benjamin Constant, Arthur Von Ferraris, Antonio Fabres y Costa, Victor Huguette and Rudolph Ernst.

There will also be on view a number of superb watercolours by artists such as Carl Haag, Giulio Rosati, Carl Werner, Frederico Bartolini and Giuseppe Aureli.

At the same time A.C.R. Publications in Paris will be launching their book "The Orientalists, Painter-Travellers 1828-1908" written by Lynne Thornton with the co-operation of the Mathaf Gallery. The signing of the book by the author will take place at the Mathaf Gallery on March 19, and copies will be available at the Gallery on this occasion.

Industrial safety training courses offered

Industrial injuries throughout the world have been reduced due to specialist training given in Britain to company executives from overseas.

The British Safety Council have, since 1975, trained more than 3,000 executives for their International Diploma in Safety Management and claim the tuition has benefitted companies in the Far and Middle East, Africa, North and South America and the Caribbean.

This year, once again BSC will be running training schemes of three 10-week sessions from 11 June to 17 August, 20 August to 26 October and 8 October to 14 December.

Lectures and tuition are given onboard the BSC's yacht, "Saint Katherine," moored on the River Thames close to the Tower of London. Topics covered include industrial hazards, fire prevention, occupational health and hygiene, first aid, workplace communication, decision taking and problem solving.

Trainees are given opportunities to see at first hand how British industry and commerce operate safety precautions in everyday practice. The factory laws governing the safety of workers will also be considered.

The courses are conducted in English

and cost £3,500 for ten weeks' non-residential tuition.

(British Safety Council, National Safety Centre, 62/64 Chancellor's Road, London W6 9RS).

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos received a telegram of thanks from President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan in reply to a telegram of condolences His Majesty sent after the assassination of the UAE Ambassador in Paris.

His Majesty has also received a telegram of thanks from the Governor General of New Zealand in reply to a congratulatory telegram on New Zealand's National Day.

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Experienced English Lady required to assist Resident Director of British Consultancy firm and lead administration section. Good typing/shorthand speeds and telex op. essential, knowledge of audio typing an advantage.

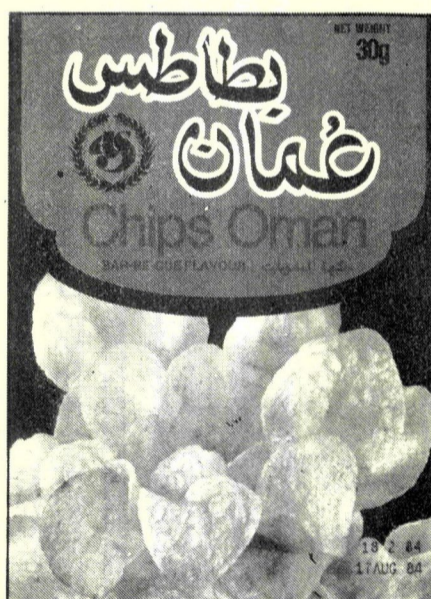
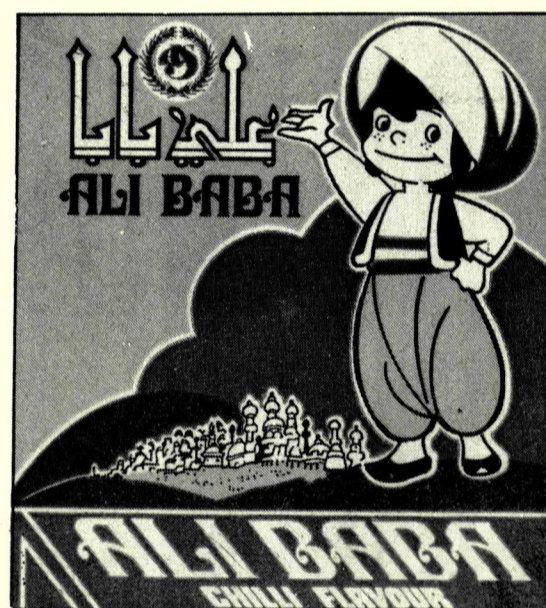
Hours: 8am. to 1pm But longer hours available to suit.

Top salary for right person.

Phone 601598 8am. to 1pm. or 3pm. to 6pm.

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Travel

india भारत

The jewel set in the city they called paradise

There it is, one of the earth's wonders, a flawless gem in a splendid setting — the Taj Mahal.

But no photograph can capture the atmosphere created by the world's most perfect building. It must be seen.

Seen as a great white structure against a pale blue sky, seen in differing hues as the sun moves westward - now ivory, now mauve, now golden. And seen in the moonlight.

For three centuries visitors have stood in wonder at the perfection of this great tomb that took 22 years to create — a monument to the love of Emperor Shahjahan and for his queen Mumtaz Mahal.

The guide will point to many intriguing items — gem-entrusted screens, flowing lettering and, after you have circled the impressive tomb will lead you down steps to see .. the real tomb.

Then there is the view across the Yamuna to where another Taj was planned.

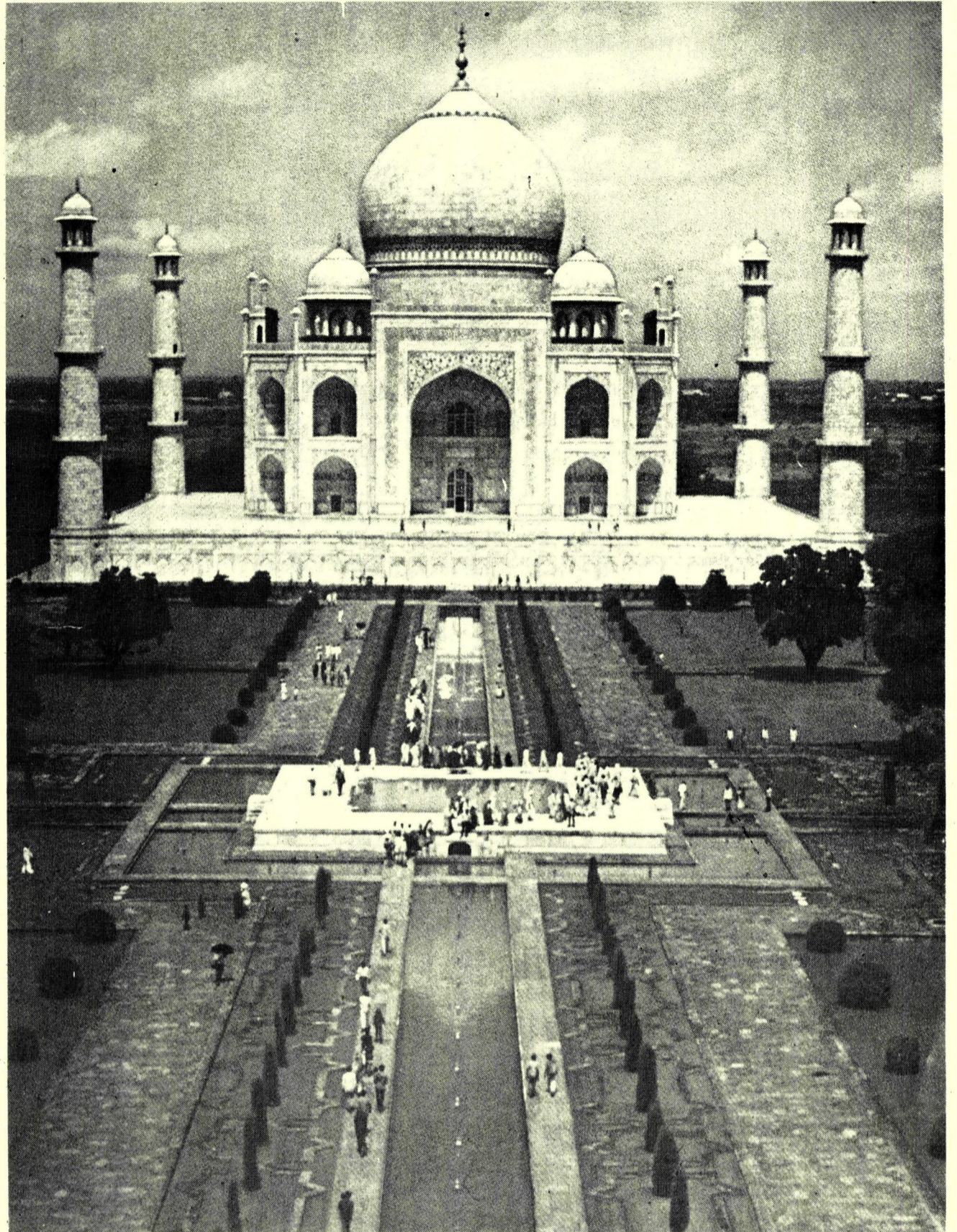
The lovely setting of the Taj is Agra which centuries ago was appropriately called Agrabana or Paradise.

And there is much more to see in this fascinating city - a lot of it to do with the magnificence of the Mughal Empire.

The reign of Akbar and his successors is ever-present in other structures.

The massive fort is another experience to be remembered.

When the great cities of today were still developing, this citadel was the flourishing centre of the Mughal dynasty. Four successive emperors helped create the fort. Within its walls Hindu and Muslim architecture merge in



splendour. Here sat the great rulers with their resplendent courts. Like a pearl in a flamboyant sandstone setting the Moti Masjid (the largest pure marble mosque in the world) echoes, to this day, to the call of the muezzin. Light a lamp in the royal bathroom and a million little flames shimmer back at you from the wall of mirrors.

The early history of Agra is obscure but it was believed to have been peopled by the warlike Rajputs until the fierce invader Mahmud of Ghazni put it to the torch around 1131. Three hundred years later an Afghan called Sikander Lodi

made Agra the seat of his government. He built a fort and city and named it Sikandra. It is here that the Mughal Emperor Akbar is buried. The earlier Lodi city has crumbled but the mausoleum of Akbar stands to this day, a harmony of red sandstone and white marble.

Then there is Agra's other great wonder. If stones could speak they would tell you that the resting place of Itmad-ud-Daulah tells of the love of a Mughal emperor for a beautiful woman.

Mehr-un-Nissa was the daughter of Itmad-ud-Daulah. One story goes that she captivated Emperor Jahangir at the annual fair at which court ladies set up stalls where, in an atmosphere of gaiety, the emperor went shopping.

He married her, called her Nur Jahan or Light of the World and raised her father to the highest ministerial position in his court, a position he held all his life.

When her father died, Nur Jahan built a mausoleum to his memory. Here craftsmen have surpassed themselves with a profusion of intricate chikanwork, translucent marble screens, and have experimented for the first time with pietra dura inlay, a technique to be used later in the Taj Mahal.

Forty kilometres south-west from Agra lies a deserted sandstone city, Fatehpur Sikri. In the 16th century, Salim Chishti, a mystic, came to this little

community of stone-cutters and spent his days meditating in a grotto.

Legend soon grew around him and word came to the Emperor Akbar who set out on a pilgrimage to ask the holy man the blessing of an heir. When a son was born the king named him after the mystic and decided to shift his capital to Sikri. Within five to six years a complex of forts, places and mosques sprang up. But Akbar was forced to abandon his new capital and Fatehpur Sikri became a ghost town.

Agra city is an intriguing place with much to offer the tourist in the way of shopping.

The handiwork of Agra's craftsmen is exquisite: a special kind of marble inlay in the style of the work at the Taj is executed on cigarette and trinket boxes.

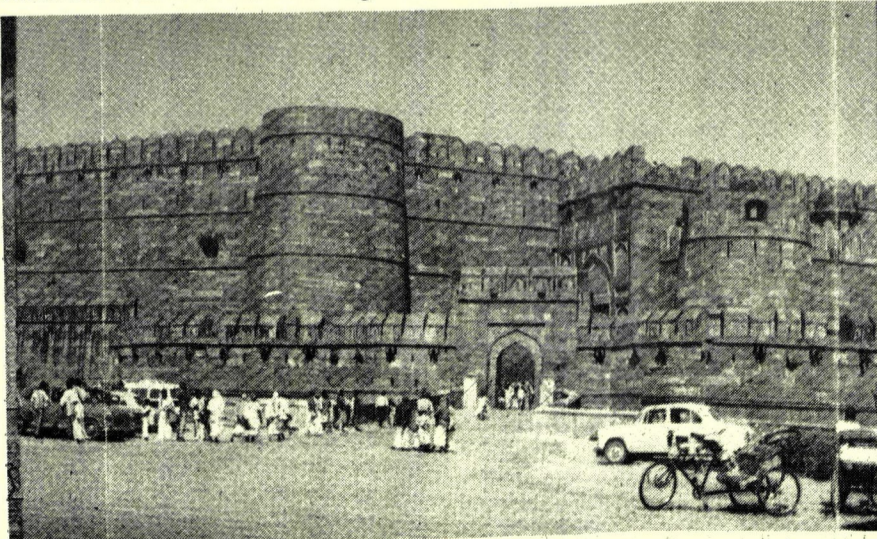
There are carved teak figurines, ivory statues, marble carvings, semi-precious stone inlay, metal and leather work, carpets and cotton rugs and black velvet accessories with gold and silver embroidery.

For the gourmet Agra offers two delicacies: delicious, sweet, translucent petha (crystallised marrow) and crisp, spicy dalmoth (piquant lentils).

Agra deserves several days to explore and even then one leaves with reluctance this glimpse of paradise.

A.C.

Next: Kashmir



Agra's imposing fort

Car talk

Those blinding lights no more

Even Bjorn Borg's ice-cold calm would slip a little on a night drive down Muscat's roads with its fair share of jaywalkers, blinding headlights, and drivers in a tearing hurry.

There is nothing you can do about people who insist on walking on the road and it is difficult to restrain speed-maniacs.

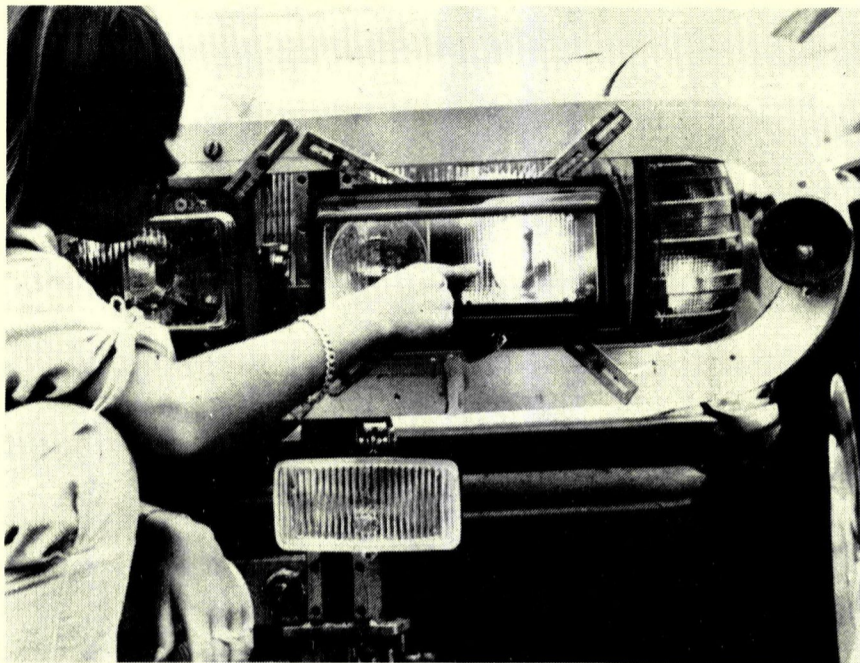
But at least the blinding headlights may soon be eliminated thanks to a company in Germany.

A new kind of headlight made by Hella (P.O. Box 2840, 4780 Lippstadt Federal Republic of Germany) is attracting attention around the world.

Called a "DE headlight", the new design has already been licensed for production by the Federal Office of Motor Vehicles in Flensburg, Germany. It outperforms every other headlight ever used in the automobile sector.

The letters DE stand for the mathematic formula behind the totally new headlight reflector. It collects the light produced by a normal H3 bulb more completely and focuses it more sharply than any previous construction.

The light beam is projected onto the road surface as if through a projector lens. The road



The DE headlight made by Hella. Despite its smaller size and weight it provides better illumination and cuts down drastically on glare. Hella feels that it is destined to become the headlight of the future.

illumination produced by DE headlights is bright and of absolutely equal intensity. There are no stripes, spots or the standard grey areas between light and dark. The adjustable beam shows a sharp dividing line between the illuminated area and the surrounding darkness.

The advantages are better driver vision at night and, despite increased luminosity and beam uniformity, an almost complete

elimination of blinding glare for oncoming traffic.

In the same way there is an almost complete loss of reflected glare in fog, rain or snow.

This new headlight, already available as accessory, will doubtless soon start becoming a standard feature on new cars.

Brakes made in Britain for Fiat of Italy

Automotive Products, based in the English midlands, is to supply clutches and brakes to Fiat of Italy.

The £13,000,000 contract marks an important stage in the companies current plans to expand into overseas market — aimed at pushing the current 33 per cent of production sold overseas to over 50 per cent.

Automotive Products will invest between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 in equipping a new factory near Savona in north-west Italy which will go into production soon. Volume will increase progressively over the next two years.

Although no details of the contract are being given by either company it is understood that Automotive Products will supply 25 per cent of Fiat's clutch requirements for cars and around 80 per cent of its drum brakes.

Electric van hits the road in Britain

The world's first production-line-built electric urban delivery van has been driven from the line building 1-tonne model "CF" vans at the Bedford Commercial Vehicles plant in Luton, near London, marking a significant milestone in the development of commercial vehicles worldwide.

Bedford aims to sell 300 electric vans in its first year of production alongside the conventional petrol and diesel CF vans. The company sees a steady growth in the UK market to 4,000 units within five years, peaking to about 10,000 units in the early 1990s — and Bedford is confident of securing a 25 per cent share.

With a top speed of 80 km/h, coupled with brisk acceleration, the CF Electric matches the performance of a conventional van in city traffic conditions. The working range on a single charge, in typical stop/start city operation, is over 80 km — more than adequate for most urban operations. The vehicle can carry over 1 tonne payload (including the driver), within a gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes, and the full cargo volume is available as the batteries are located below the van floor.

Fuel costs of the CF Electric can be as low as 25 or 20 per cent of those for the petrol or diesel versions, and maintenance costs can be as much as 50 per cent less than those of petrol or diesel models because there are fewer moving parts and the electric drive systems have long lives. Routine maintenance is largely confined to topping-up the battery by means of a centralised watering system which enables the task to be carried out

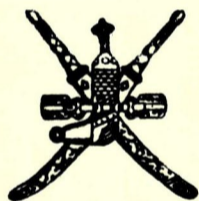
quickly and easily.

Power comes from a new high-performance Lucas Chloride motive power battery which has been developed using the latest Chloride "tubular" battery technology. Thirty-six, 6v "Monobloc" units are connected in series to give a 216 volt, 188 amp hour battery pack. Charging is carried out by means of an off-board Chloride-Legg 30 amp single phase charger which can be supplied for any mains voltage or frequency. It is fully automatic and returns a full charge in 8 to 10 hours.

A new Lucas CAV traction motor has also been developed. Mounted at the rear of the vehicle, it drives the rear wheels through an efficient primary reduction unit coupled to a conventional rear axle, via a prop-shaft. This arrangement makes use of standard components, reducing both component and vehicle assembly costs.

Because the CF Electric is intended for frequent stop/start operation, it is designed so that energy consumption and brake wear are both reduced by the use of regenerative braking. In normal driving most of the braking is from regeneration only and the servo-assisted hydraulic braking system is only needed when firm braking is required.

The vehicle's normal electrical equipment takes its supply from a 12 V auxiliary battery which is maintained at the correct state of charge by a dc/dc converter connected to the traction battery. This system enables radio and other equipment to be used whilst the vehicle is stationary without the risk of a flat battery.



TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Health, Department of General Services invites the following tenders:

1. Tender No. 52/84 for the purchase of a 250 KW electric Generator, as per specifications.
2. Tender No. 53/84 for the purchase of a 500 KW electric Generator, as per specifications.
3. Tender No. 54/84 for the purchase of three 320 KW electric Generators, as per specifications.

Interested Companies may obtain the necessary specifications from the Department of General Services at Al-Ghubra on payment of R. O. 25/- per copy, not refundable.

Tenders in sealed envelopes addressed to the Director of General Services may be delivered by hand latest by 4.3.1984.

Tenders filed after this date shall not be entertained.

The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Timesquiz

Win three prizes in this free-to-enter Times of Oman competition.

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The prizes are shopping vouchers valued at R.O. 20, RO 15 and RO 10 redeemable at any of the Assarain divisions.

Just write the answers on the coupon below (no photocopies) and send your entry/entries to the Competition Department, Times of Oman, P.O. Box 3770, Ruwi. The last date is March 15, 1984.

- What is the Capital of Gabon?
- Who wrote 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'?
- Where are the Cocos Islands?

Answers: ●
●
●

Name:

Address:

Signature:

Winners of the quiz will be the first three all-correct entries drawn from a lot.

6

A record for Paul after 20 years

It seems incredible, but it took Paul McCartney more than 20 years of recording before he had his first solo U.K. No 1 record.

McCartney has been at the top of the charts 17 times with the Beatles, including 11 consecutive No. 1's starting with "From Me To You" in 1963 and ending with "Yellow Submarine" in 1966.

He topped the charts for nine weeks with his band Wings and "Mull of Kintyre" in 1977. The record sold over two million copies and went on to become Britain's best-selling single of all time.

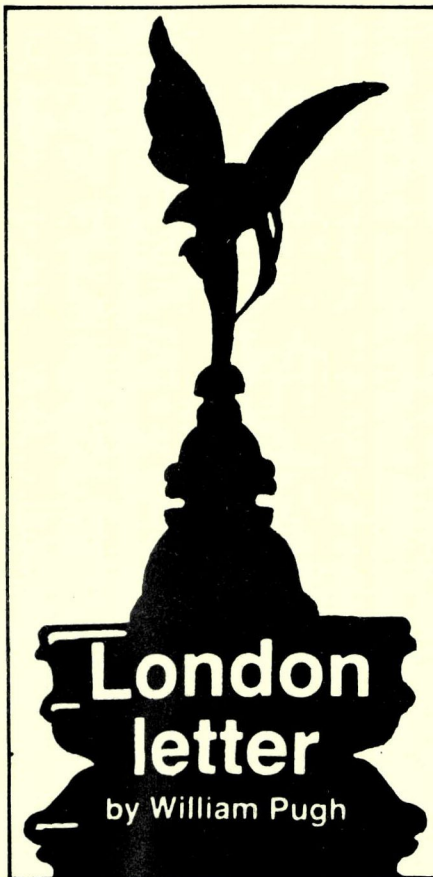
But it wasn't until this year that he finally made the Number 1 spot on his own with "Pipes of Peace".

Police ambush victim Steven Waldorf, shot five times by Scotland Yard detectives who thought he was a wanted gunman is to be paid nearly £150,000 compensation by Scotland Yard.

Months of negotiations between his lawyers and the Metropolitan Police and Home Office are now nearly complete.

By March 27-year-old Mr Waldorf should be receiving his cheque for injuries which almost killed him.

He had hoped to collect around £250,000. And one report claimed he was



demanding £1 million.

Scottish made women's kilts on display at a Moscow trade fair proved such a hit recently, that the Russians placed an order for 15,000.

The kilts, worth £164,000, were ordered by a government-run buying agency, and the first of them will be on sale next month in stores throughout the Soviet Union.

The company, of East Kilbride, near Glasgow, have also scooped a £220,000

order from Japan for the kilts.

Ainsley Huskisson of Peterborough, has achieved the ambition he has held for 20 years — he has succeeded in writing the "Lord's Prayer" four times on the back of a 12½ pence stamp.

Having a smashing time will never be the same in Greek taverns and clubs. The age old tradition of smashing plates as a sign of appreciation is to be banned on grounds that it is wasteful and dangerous.

Dancers, entertainers and customers have been cut, bruised and hit by the broken plates. The plates, usually defective, are provided mainly for tourists at about 10 pence each, to be tossed on the dance floor.

Bouncing Sir Freddie Laker is back in the airline business. He has joined the board of Florida - based Northeastern International Airways, which plan to start cut-price flights between the US and Europe next year.

A new British airline with ex-Laker Airline staff, British Atlantic Airways, is planning a cheap daily jumbo-jet service between London and New York. Fares are expected to start at £99 one-way.

A visitor from Kuwait

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Abdul Hafiz Salim Rajab received board chairman of the Kuwait Petrochemicals Company Abdul Raqi Abdullah. The meeting dealt with ways of boosting bilateral co-operation in various fields.

Quiz 3 results

The first prize in Timesquiz number 3 sponsored by the Wadi Adai Service Centre of Assarain Enterprise in awarded to Abdul Rahuman Mohamed, P.O. Box 6049, Ruwi.

The second prize goes to Jacob Thomas, P.O. Box 4791, Ruwi and the third to D. Varghese, P.O. Box 962, Muscat.

These were the first three entries drawn from those who answered correctly that Abidjan is the Capital of Ivory Coast, that Daniel Defoe wrote 'Robinson Crusoe' and that the 1985 AGCC summit is to be held in Muscat.

The fire beater

What was once a hail of death for ancient Romans of Pompeii near Mount Vesuvius, could become a life and money saver.

The Scottish firm Ecometal Ltd, of Glasgow, has taken volcanic rock, melted it and developed a new fireproof cladding system for the construction industry.

The secret of the new system's effectiveness is rock fibre, a natural material which can withstand very high temperatures. So confident is managing director Mr Iain McQuire of its fire-beating properties that he recently sent sample panels to the UK Warrington Research Centre for independent testing. "The panels held back the searing heat of a 1200 degrees C blaze

Leisure

Try rope skipping for fitness

Keeping fit!

by C.D. Ratnam

Rope skipping is a wonderful exercise. It is great for Cardio Vascular fitness and a fast way to get in shape. Bradley J Steiner, International authority for Strength and Fitness states Rope skipping is a wonderful conditioner and is even superior to jogging.

Rope skipping requires very little space and the simplest kind of equipment. Unlike swimming and jogging, rope skipping is not dependant on good weather. It can be practised in your room throughout the year. Bradley J Steiner further states that five minutes of rope skipping is equivalent to half an hours running.

If you are training with barbells and dumbbells you may include rope skipping at the beginning or end of your schedule with great benefit. Rope skipping can be practised with a simple rope. However it is always better to buy a professional rope made specially for athletes if you are serious about your training. Skipping ropes come in various lengths and you should select one that is suitable to your height.

If you have not done any skipping before you should go about it slowly.

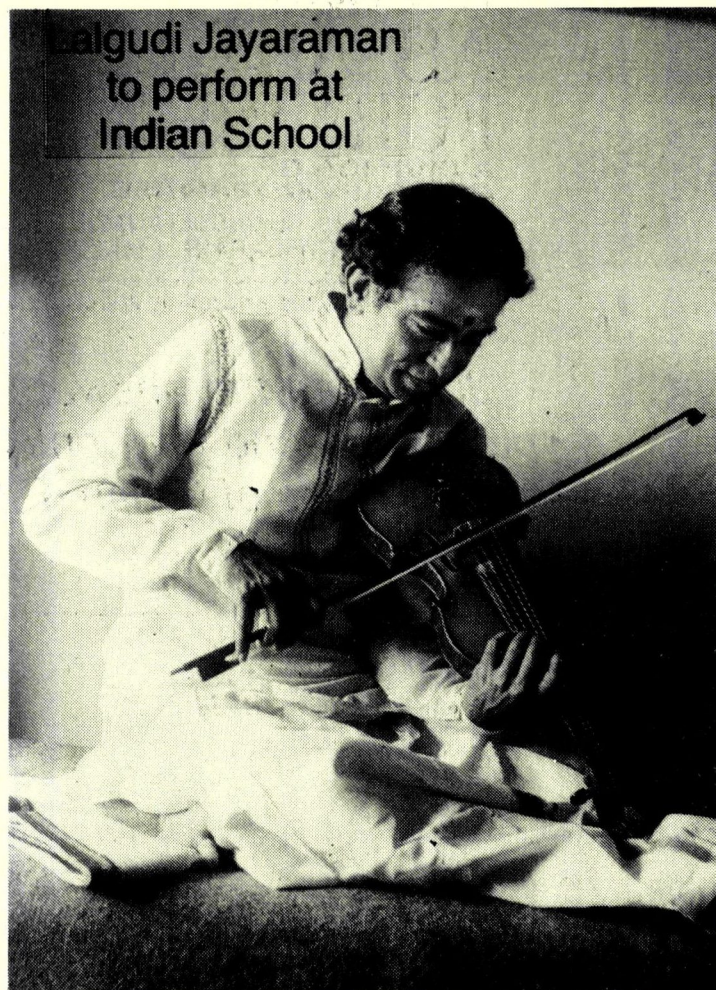
When you start the rope hangs behind your body, the handles are held at your sides. Flex your knees lightly, and bring the rope overhead down in front of you and jump as the rope passes under your feet. Continue in this manner.

When you become experienced you will jump lightly only about an inch to let the rope pass under your feet. After a few weeks practise you can practice a variation, alternate foot jumping one foot then the other.

Start with fifty circles the first week. The second week you jump rope fifty times and then rest and do another thirty. By the fourth week you should skip rope continuously for three minutes the regular style, then take a short rest and do three minutes the alternating style.

The only other exercise required in this conditioning programme is to perform a few situps on an abdominal board to strengthen your abdominal muscles. This exercise was explained before in this fitness series and you may refer to the previous issue of the Times of Oman. Rope skipping is a wonderful exercise for cardio vascular fitness, and not child's play as some people think. In fact it is very strenuous and it is always safer to consult your doctor before starting a skipping programme. Professional Boxers, Wrestlers and Karate experts practise rope skipping regularly.

Feast of Indian classical music



A feast is in store for lovers of Indian classical music. On March 1 and 2, the great Indian violinist Lalgudi Jayaraman will perform in the auditorium of the Indian Central School, accompanied by the equally famous Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan (violin) and Vellore Ramabhadran and T.H. Vinaykram on the mridangam (a type of drum) and the ghatam (an ancient Indian instrument made of clay), respectively.

The shows are scheduled to begin at 8.00 pm March 1 and at 5.30pm on March 2.

Lalgudi born in 1930, emerged as a solo violinist of rare brilliance in 1958 after long experience as a concert violinist accompanying the masters of the day including, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer and Madura Mani Iyer.

Lalgudi has since then made his mark on the global music scene, being invited to perform in the Edinburgh International Festival. He then toured

extensively in the United States and Canada and several European countries. He has also performed in Malaysia and Singapore to rave audiences.

Lalgudi is now considered as one of the leading composers of Indian classical music (Carnatic) and has to his credit several tillanas and varnams (scales of music) that are a scintillating blend of rhythm and lyrical beauty. Lalgudi published an erudite volume 'Lalgudi Pancha Ratna Krithis' with notations in 1973. Lalgudi was awarded the Padmashree in 1972 (one of India's leading award made to civilians) and also presented with the Music and Dance Academy Award by the President in 1979.

Lalgudi has made seven long playing albums of classical music and was a star attraction in the Festival of India in London in July 1982.

The other violinist, G.J.R. Krishnan is Lalgudi's son and pupil.

Entry passes to the Lalgudi shows are available at the UTA French Airline offices in Ruwi, Angara Video Centre, the Indian Central School and Ambassador Hotel.

Feghali is Sultanate's backgammon champion



The Gulf Air/Merit Open Backgammon Championship held in

conjunction with the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel ended on Thursday after three exciting days of play. Going into the finals on Thursday it was anybody's match as the four finalists played a round Robin. Elie Feghali emerged a decisive winner with 22 points, with Vassos Petevis scoring 12 points to take second place. Joseph Feghali, Elie's cousin/brother and John Hament tied for third at 10. A playoff settled the tie with Feghali capturing third place with 11 points and John Hament in 4th with 10 points.

Elie Feghali received a Muscat-Athens-Muscat ticket, courtesy of Gulf Air with a complimentary stay at the Athenaeum Inter Continental Hotel. Mr. Petevis was presented with a handsome inlaid backgammon board courtesy of the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel, while Mr. Joseph Feghali accepted a Moulinex Kitchen appliance set from Khimji Ramdas and John Hament will be enjoying dinner in the Qurm Restaurant.

Penfriends

Mr Maisu Lee, 19 years, P.O. Box 867, Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa. Exchange of gifts, postcards, music, photography, disco and books.

Miss Veronica Mintah, 24 years, C/o Robert Mintah, P & T Corporation, Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa. Exchange of gifts, music, dancing.

Miss Victoria Loves Lindy, 25 years, P.O. Box. 1027, Lone Bay Oguaa, Cape Coast, Ghana, W. Africa.

Mr. Anthony Amoako, 18 years,

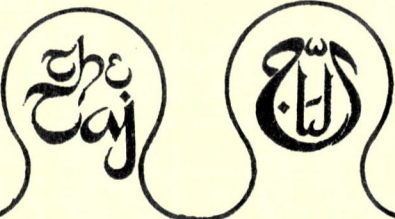
C/o Mr. L.K. Woan Yah, G.P.A., P.O. Box 249, Takoradi, Ghana, West Africa. Exchange of gifts, writing letters, playing football and writing pen-pals.

Miss Lee de Forster, 24 years, C/o Royal Palace, Box. 1061, Oguaa C/R Ghana, West Africa. Music, dancing.

Tennis finals

The Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel/U.T.A. French Airlines Open Tennis Tournament finals will take place today at 6.30pm.

Prize giving will begin at approximately 7.30.



Try our fast takeaway service
Your food will be ready &
packed for you 15 minutes
after ordering it.

"For Reservations Ring 734880.
Timings : 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
& 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
An enterprise of the Mustafa & Jawad group".



Leisure

In the stars

by Kathleen O'Hara

Famous people born under the sign of Pisces: Frank Borman, Chopin, Buffalo Bill Cody, Jackie Gleason.



Pisces

Feb. 19
to
Mar. 20

Good. You have adopted a up-and-at 'em mood, eager to make progress in your career. You should find relationships improved. At home, family members are likely to come up with useful ideas to cut back on unnecessary expenditure. Social events favoured.



Virgo

Aug. 22
to
Sept. 22

Good. A favourable time for Virgos. Your prospects should improve. News may arrive by mail to settle a business issue that has caused some worry. This is a particularly happy and contented time for romance. Meeting with loved ones are likely to be delightful occasions.



Aries

Mar. 21
to
Apr. 20

Good. Pleasant surprises in store. Good luck will be with you. You will have difficulty in achieving most of your objectives. Travel will produce excellent results. Do not pull any punches, you have that extra magnetism that draws people to you.



Libra

Sept. 23
to
Oct. 22

Good. Personal plans can be advanced. You will feel drawn closer to your mate or partner. Mental endeavours are important. Come to grips with those jobs that require special attention. Short trips are starred. An



Taurus

Apr. 21
to
May 20

Good. Some good news is blowing your way. Your patient stand will begin paying dividends. Any increase in earnings should be reflected in your bank balance. Romance is likely to be important. The voice of reason wins out for you.



Scorpio

Oct. 23
to
Nov. 22

Good. Scorpio people's fortunes are on the rise. You can take steps to further your financial plans. Contacts with people who maintain a low profile can be most helpful. Past favours are remembered. A case of who you know pushes you towards success.



Gemini

May 21
to
June 20

Good. A promising time. Gemini people will be feeling somewhat happier about creative work. There should be no disturbing people or circumstances for you to cope with. It will not be difficult to attain and maintain concentration. An excellent time for personal relationships.



Sagittarius

Nov. 23
to
Dec. 20

Good. Accept any invitation that is something out of the ordinary. Affairs could be helpful careerwise. A fine week for romance. You can rely on friends for small favours. Speculation could pay off very handsomely for you at this time.



Cancer

June 21
to
July 20

Good. You should now have a clear vision of where you are going. Spare time should be used constructively. Surroundings are important to your health and well-being. Business that you handle will be successful. Romantic attractions are likely



Capricorn

Dec. 21
to
Jan. 19

Good. A most fortunate time for Capricorns who work on a commission basis. A happy time too for romance. Those of you who have had difficulty telling relatives of a new love in your life should be able to broach the subject. Pleasant surprises in store.



Leo

July 21
to
Aug 21

Good. You are in a positive frame of mind and know what you want. Creative work is especially favoured. So do not stifle your artistic leanings. You may also be able to earn extra cash from what you have in the past considered a pleasant hobby.



Aquarius

Jan. 20
to
Feb. 18

Good. It is essential to contact people in faraway places, they can be extremely helpful in delicate business negotiations. New friends can be made through a reunion or gathering. Younger Aquarians may make important new relationships at universities

Dining out

Al Falaj Hotel: French Corner restaurant offering international cuisine from 12.30 until 15.00 and from 19.00 to 23.30. Al Makha 24 hour coffee shop, snacks all day and between noon and 15.00 buffet lunch. Buffet dinner available 19.00 to midnight. Open Friday and holidays too. On the eighth floor is the Mandarin Chinese restaurant. Fabulous views of Muscat as you eat oriental fare from 12.30 to 15.00 and 19.00 to midnight.

Airport Restaurant (Seeb): Enjoy a Seeb "Quick-bite" lunch or full a la carte cuisine for that special evening out. Family buffet lunches at an all inclusive price on Thursdays and Fridays.

Candles: Lebanese and Arabic dishes at the restaurant between Ruwi and Hamriya flyovers. Home delivery available.

Gulf Hotel: Overlook the pool from the coffee shop open from 5.30 until 23.30. Asian and European dishes on the re-vamped menu. Thursday night is the poolside barbeque from 20.00 or at lunch time in the Al Falah restaurant an Italian buffet.

Golden Oryx: A selection of Chinese dishes both a lunch time and in the evening.

Inter-Continental: Thursday night is Pizza Night by the pool from 19.00. On Fridays tuck into the brunch buffet from noon. Every Sunday there is a BBQ with a different theme each week, starts 20.00. Mondays and Tuesdays the Al Ghazal bar serves man-sized sandwiches. Candle-lit dinners in the Qurm restaurant.

Mutrah Hotel: Lobster specials from 19.30. Snacks available daily from 10.00 to 16.00.

Lobster specials from 19.30. Snacks available daily from 10.00 to 16.00.

Mina Hotel: Prime lobsters freshly caught, cooked by master chefs for a tantalising flavour. Juse one of the many Indian and Western specialities served in the intimate first floor restaurant overlooking the Corniche. Delicious dishes from noon to 15.00 and from 19.00 to midnight.

Omer Khayyam: Cosy restaurant in the heart of Ruwi serving an interesting range of spicy dishes. A Chinese selection or the appetizing sizzlers.

Ruwi Hotel: Thursday an original pub lunch from 12.30 in the Arbaq room Friday from 19.00 by the poolside a Tandoori evening. The Ruwi revival breakfast available from 8.00 in the Trading Dhow. Tuesday's fresh haul of fish is the ingredient for Sea Food Special.

Seashells: Chinese, Indian and Continental dishes with the accent on sea food served in this restaurant of Ruwi High Street.

Taj Restaurant: Vegetarian meals are among the offerings at this authentic Indian restaurant close to Muttrah roundabout.

Mandarin: Newly-opened restaurant in heart of Ruwi. Duck, sea food and other Chinese specialities cooked in the Cantonese style. A selection of Chinese vegetables and Chinese tea is also available.

The Muscat Inter-Continental and British Airways present

Hywel Bennett
Jack Smethurst Peter Byrne
Jacqueline Clarke Moira Foot
Barrie Gosney James Gill

AND
Norman Rossington

In The Theatre of Comedy's

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!

It is a triumph!"

Ray Cooney Chris Johnston Derek Nimmo Douglas Heap Stan Davies

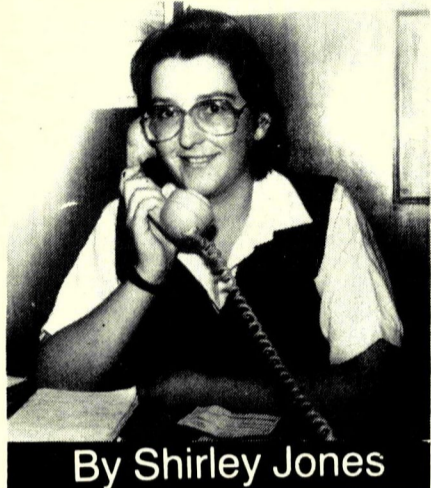
MUSCAT INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL

Feb. 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th & Mar. 1st 1984

Dinner/Theatre Ticket R.O. 14.800
Doors Open 7.00pm - Curtain up 9.15pm

THE ENTIRE CAST ARE FLOWN TO THE FAR AND MIDDLE EAST BY BRITISH AIRWAYS

Woman's World



By Shirley Jones

I've always harboured a secret desire to be a model - one of those glamorous size 8s with sky-rise legs, a pinched in waist and the ability to walk down stairs without looking at the ground.

An up-tempo display of European fashion

..... put up by amateurs just for fun

It isn't such a secret now that I've told you but it still remains a dream that one day - when I've lost a lot of weight, grown seven inches over night and had clandestine deportment lessons — then may be....

For those that model clothing as a profession then it does not seem so glamorous I'm sure. It can mean long hours in unpleasant weather conditions and the need to look radiant however you really feel.

But few of us have never yearned to do something other than our routine allows. I've got quite a few other fanciful notions apart from the modelling - hot air ballooning for example.

However, nine girls from Muscat recently had the chance of modelling I've been craving. For a few of them it was a completely new experience to parade down — cat-walk before the gaze of a critical audience. For the others it is becoming a hobby.

Sharing the limelight at the Inter-Continental Hotel were housewives and secretaries.

The show was an up-tempo display of fashion from Europe by Balqis Boutique. Preparation took a month's practice nightly under the skilled direction of former professional model Jasmina Danois-Maricq.

I've included on this page a few shots of them in the final dress rehearsal - also a chance to glimpse some of the styles for Spring.

Jasmina was a model for six years. For the St Valentine's Day show she directed and choreographed.

It was a lively presentation with a touch of style. Few will have guessed the models were amateurs putting in the time and effort for fun.

Behind the scenes were the frantic quick changes, last minute panics and nerves, but on stage elegance and tranquility.



A TREASURE FOR TOMORROW



Ω
OMEGA®

TISSOT

J.K. Enterprises
Showroom at Omega Building
(Near Q.S.S.) Greater Muttrah.
Tel: 701609
Salalah Tel: 462682
Opp. Police Station.

Woman's world

Fruity tea bread

Honey is one of life's most delicious natural foods and I like to use it in all sorts of recipes - sweet and savoury.

Here is one idea for a fruity tea bread which if kept in an air-tight container is ideal for when those unexpected visitors call.

Flavoured with tea and sweetened with honey and fruit, this bread is dark and rich. It can stay moist for three weeks wrapped in foil and kept cool.

You'll need: 8oz (200g) mixed fruit, quarter pint (150ml) prepared tea; 5oz (125g) clear honey; one egg,

beaten; 8oz (200g) self-raising flour; salt; 1 oz (25g) butter, melted; Topping: Honey; quarter oz (10 gm) walnuts, chopped; quarter oz (10g) unrefined sugar.

Method

Put fruit, tea and honey in bowl. Cover, leave overnight to allow fruit to soak up and absorb tea flavour.

Stir in beaten egg, sifted flour, salt and melted butter. Transfer to a greased 1lb bread tin and bake at 350 deg. F., 180 deg. C., gas mark 4 for approximately 50 minutes.

Take out of oven, brush bread with honey, sprinkle sugar and walnuts over the top. Trickle more honey over nuts and sugar. Return bread to oven and bake for about 20 minutes more. Cool.

Chanel consultant from Paris

Chanel's beauty advisor is making a return visit to Oman from the cosmetics headquarters in Paris.

Veronique Olivier will arrive in the Sultanate on February 25 and stay until March 1.

She is to give seminars to members of Oman Women's Association on Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday she will give two sessions at Mumtaz Restaurant in Qurum.

The seminars will be held from 9 am until 1 noon and from 4pm until 7pm and numbers will be limited to around 15 per session.

Those interested should contact

the perfume counter at Khimji's General Store.

Veronique held similar sessions at the Golden Oryx last year and features an entertaining practical demonstration in which all ladies play a part.

The latest Chanel range will also be on show.

Ring 701953
with news
of your
club functions

Excellent response!

Thank-you those who responded to my "before and after" make-up article a couple of issues ago.

All your letters and photographs are now on file and I will be getting in touch shortly to arrange the first of the free beauty sessions with expert Judy Watson of the British Beauty Centre for March.

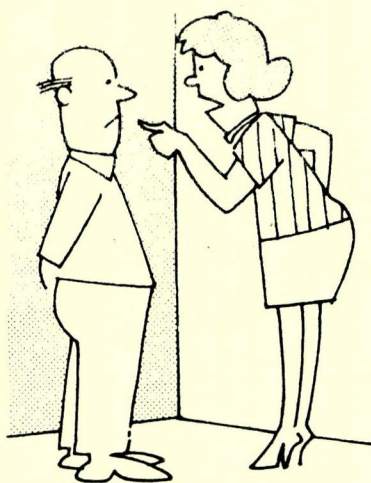
To pick up small pieces of glass...

Carrying a plastic bottle of Tanuf water and a glass in my kitchen one day I could feel that one of them was going to slip from my grasp - typically it was the glass.

At my feet it smashed to smithereens and I was left contemplating the intact Tanuf bottle which would still have been intact if it had fallen.

There are names given to this unfair phenomenon which I won't dwell on now. However I did find a handy hint that I picked up a while ago very useful in the circumstances.

To pick up small pieces of sharp glass pat them with a wad of damp paper towelling or cotton or even with a generous lump of plasticine or putty.



To hell with logical argument. I prefer a good shouting match

Pampers protect your baby from wetness much better than cloth diapers You can feel the difference



As you know when a cloth diaper gets wet it stays wet and clings to the baby's skin thus causing irritation.



Pampers comes with a special stay dry topsheet which absorbs wetness and keeps it deep within the absorbent quilted lining....

And so keeping your baby drier and happier.

Pampers with quilted lining keeps your baby drier and happier

Spotlight

In the middle of the desert

Lush red tomatoes sprout like embers; cauliflowers turn towards the sun



In the cabbage patch.

In the midst of the desert ripe fruit and vegetables are bursting forth.

Lush red tomatoes sprout like embers amid the foliage, cauliflowers turn towards the strong Omani sunshine.

Mangoes and pomegranates, sugar cane, potatoes, onions, garlic, aubergines — all burgeon forth from rich soil just a short distance from the coast.

Mr Yahya Mohammed Yahya Al Hosni and his three workers have cultivated their arable farm at Rumais for four years with the continued support of the government.

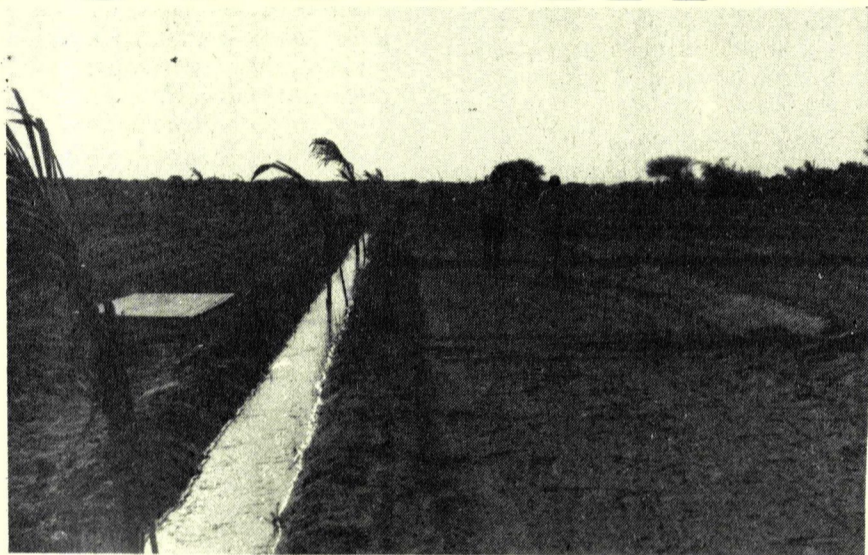
Three or four goats, a calf and a donkey constitute the livestock.

For many of the vegetables the season is drawing to a close with perhaps a month and a half left of significant yield.

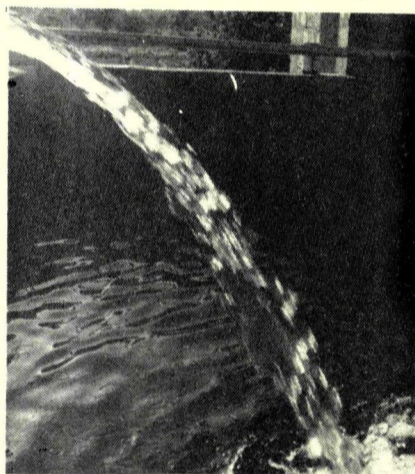
Throughout the hot summer the main crop will be watermelons.

The planting for next season will be moved round to give some acres a rest and a chance for nutrients to return to the soil.

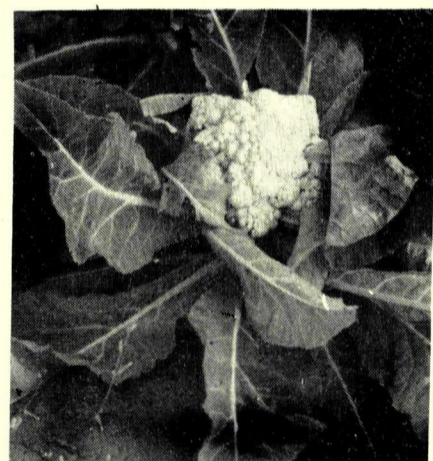
**Story and pictures
by Shirley Jones**



The falaj - the essential life giving water supply which runs in a channel throughout the plantation.



Cool, clear water constantly on tap.



Cauliflower ready for harvesting.



Yayha (left) takes a look at his potato crop with the help of his Egyptian farm worker.



Planting out fresh furrows.



The local vet (left) pays a visit to see his friends on the farm.



Picking the ripe tomatoes



Beast of burden - the farm donkey.



A shady glade of fruit shrubs and trees gives shelter to the goat enclosure.

Your TV and radio

Oman Television

THURSDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem.
- 3.02 Holy Koran Religious talk.
- 3.25 Cartoon.
- 4.00 Educational programme.
- 4.30 Indian film.
- 5.36 Prayers.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local News.
- 7.20 Local programme.
- 8.00 English serial.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 10.30 English News Programme review.
- 12.30 News in brief Holy Koran
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.8.00

FRIDAY

- 10.00 Royal Anthem
- 10.02 Holy Koran Religious talk.
- 10.30 Cartoon.
- 11.00 World of Children.
- 11.45 Health programme.
- 12.00 Prayers.
- 12.45 Religious programme.
- 1.00 News in Brief.
- 1.05 Football.
- 2.35 Childrens programme.
- 3.00 English programme.
- 4.00 Arabic film.
- 5.50 Variety.
- 6.45 Songs.
- 7.00 Faces and events.
- 8.00 Arabic serial.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 9.30 Wrestling.
- 10.30 English News.
- 11.00 Programme review.

- 11.05 Arabic programme.
- 12.15 News in brief-Holy Koran.
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.

SATURDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem.
- 3.02 Holy Koran Religious spoke.
- 3.25 Cartoon.
- 4.00 Educational programme.
- 4.30 Programme for children.
- 5.00 Open Se. same.
- 5.40 Arabic serial.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local News.
- 7.02 Cultural programme.
- 8.00 English serial.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 9.25 Arabic serial.
- 10.30 English News.
- 11.03 Local programme.
- 12.30 News in brief Holy Koran.
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.

SUNDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem Holy Koran.
- 3.30 Cartoon programme for children.
- 4.45 Educational programme.
- 5.40 Arabic serial.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local News.
- 7.30 Local programme.
- 8.00 Religious programme.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 9.30 Arabic serial songs.
- 10.30 English News.
- 11.00 Programme review.

- 11.05 English film.
- 12.30 News Holy Koran
- Royal Anthem.

MONDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem.
- 3.02 Holy Koran.
- 3.12 Cartoon.
- 4.00 Educational programme.
- 4.30 English programme for children.
- 5.00 Arabic programme for children.
- 5.40 Arabic serial.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local news.
- 7.20 Local programme.
- 8.15 English serial.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 10.30 English News.
- 11.00 Programme review Arabic film.
- 12.30 News in brief Holy Koran.
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.

TUESDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem.
- 3.02 Holy Koran Religious.
- 3.25 Cartoon.
- 4.00 Educational programme.
- 4.30 English programme for children.
- 5.00 Arabic programme for children. "Open Seasm"

- 5.40 Arabic serial.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local News.
- 7.20 Local programme.
- 7.50 Cultural programme.
- 8.15 English serial.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 9.30 Arabic serial.
- 10.30 English News.
- 11.00 Programme review Local programme.
- 12.30 News in brief Holy Koran.
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.

WEDNESDAY

- 3.00 Royal Anthem.
- 3.02 Holy Koran programme review.
- 3.52 Cartoon programme for children.
- 4.30 Educational programme.
- 5.36 Prayers.
- 5.40 Arabic serial.
- 6.30 Cultural programme.
- 7.00 Local News.
- 7.20 Sports magazine.
- 8.00 Cultural programme.
- 9.00 Arabic News.
- 9.25 Arabic serial.
- 10.30 English News/programme review.
- 11.00 Best seller music.
- 12.30 News in brief/Holy Koran.
- 12.45 Royal Anthem.

BBC World Service

Doctors and their work

In the first of five programmes Rita Dando talks to doctors in Britain about their lives, work,

training, problems and their attitude to the profession. A junior hospital doctor is the first to be interviewed about working long unsociable hours on Sunday at 18.30 and Monday at 22.30.

Billy Budd is a young sailor who is handsome, popular and a good seaman aboard HMS Bellipotent but without knowing why storm clouds begin to gather over his life. This classic story by Herman Melville is based on his own years at sea and read by Ian Holm at 17.30 on Sunday, 8.30 on Monday and 12.15 on Friday.

One of the greatest mysteries surrounding the life of William Shakespeare has been the identity of his "dark lady." In "Love's Labours Lost" and throughout his sonnets Shakespeare revealed a hopeless infatuation with a dark haired woman. For the past 400 years she has been known only as a character but now scholar A L Rowse can reveal her identity. Discover the truth at 9.45 on Monday or 17.30 on Wednesday.

Play of the Week is "Time Slip" starring Paul Daneman and Gwen Watford. Paul and his workmate Frank have invented a remarkable machine for making exact copies of three dimensional objects. They try it out on themselves first - resulting in alarming confusion for wives Faye and Margaret. Saturday at 22.30 and Sunday at 4.30 and 16.00.

F.M. Schedule

SATURDAY

3-4 Easy listening, 4-5 Pop mix, 5-6 Jazz, 6-7 Classical, 7-8 Light Pop, 8-9 Instrumental.

SUNDAY

3-4 Instrumental, 4-5 Country, 5-6 Pop mix, 6-7 New Wave, 7-8 Jazz, 8-9 East Listening.

MONDAY

3-4 Country, 4-5 Classical, 5-6 Hits by the year, 6-7 Beat train, 7-8 Big Band Sound, 8-9 Light Pop.

TUESDAY

3-4 Light Pop, 4-5 Instrumental, 5-6 Pop mix, 6-7 New Wave, 7-8 Easy listening, 8-9 Classical.

WEDNESDAY

3-4 Pop mix, 4-5 In concert, 5-6 Easy listening, 6-7 Country, 7-8 Classical, 8-9 Instrumental.

THURSDAY

3-4 Pop mix, 4-5 Country, 5-6 Light Pop, 6-7 Weekend special, 7-8 Pop, 8-9 Dance time.

FRIDAY

3-4 Easy listening, 4-5 Pop mix, 5-6 Country, 6-7 The way we were, 7-8 Instrumental, 8-9 Jazz.

Radio Oman

SATURDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 Top of the Pops.
- 1.30 Arab & Islamic encyclopedia.
- 1.45 Music for the millions
- 1.58 Weather forecast FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 Report from Salalah.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Role of Islam.
- 2.55 Closedown.

SUNDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 Adventure theatre.
- 1.30 Jazz time.
- 1.58 Weather Forecast FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 World of Sport.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Islam — An Eternal Message.
- 2.55 Closedown.

MONDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 Melody Time.
- 1.30 Reading room.
- 1.45 Country world.
- 1.58 Weather Forecast, FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 Deteline Oman.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Islam in History and the modern world.
- 2.55 Closedown.

TUESDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 Muscat city sounds.
- 1.30 Lifespan.

- 1.58 Weather Forecast, FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 When I listen.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Music panorama.
- 2.55 Closedown.

WEDNESDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 What the papers say.
- 1.15 Album tracks.
- 1.30 The dying cultures of Asia.
- 1.45 Evergreens.
- 1.58 Weather Forecast, FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 Be my guest.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Inside Oman.
- 2.55 Closedown.

THURSDAY

- 1.00 Opening Review+Headlines.
- 1.03 You, me and the music.
- 1.30 Merry-Go-Round.
- 1.58 Weather Forecast, FM & TV Programmes.
- 2.00 Something funny is going on.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Islam in history and the modern world.
- 2.55 Closedown.

FRIDAY.

- 1.00 Opening Review, Headlines, Weather Forecast, FM & T.V. programmes.
- 1.03 At your request.
- 2.30 News.
- 2.40 Light music.
- 2.55 Closedown.

Banking and Insurance

A 'TIMES' ADVERTISEMENT SUPPLEMENT

A buoyant sector in Sultanate's economy

Oman's economy is a buoyant one and this naturally presents a stimulating environment for financial institutions like banks and insurance brokers. However, the market is naturally a very competitive one.

Most Oman bankers agree on the point that there are too many commercial banks in operation — 22 with 170 branches — for Oman's small population and the slim, though growing industrial base.

The Central Bank of Oman, the country's monetary agency has been doing extremely well in its role of supervision and control of the activities of the commercial banks and this has earned it great respect at both home and abroad.

Commercial banks in the Sultanate are required by law to publish annual balance sheets and submit monthly reports on their management, internal controls, credits, loan security, liquidity, foreign assets and so on.

In the commercial sector, the eight local banks led the field in 1982 with gross profits of RO 10.5 million (\$ 30.4 million); the 14 foreign-owned banks recorded a total RO 5.3 million (\$ 15.3 million). The disparity is partly explained by the local banks' expanding branch network and support from their Omani shareholders. Overall, growth in commercial bank's gross profits was an impressive 30 per cent in 1982, with an average return on lending of 3.9 per cent and total assets of 1.8 per cent.

National Bank of Oman (NBO) has 42 branches including one in Cairo and another in Bombay — and balance sheet of RO 254 million (\$ 735 million). It participated in a \$ 300 million international loan to the government signed in June 1983.

After 35 years, BBME with 18 branches, still dominates the foreign

banks. New offices in Salalah were opened in June, and a new headquarters in the Ruwi central business district will go to tender soon. BBME participated recently in the \$ 45.4 million syndicated loan to the Oman Housing Bank.

Local banks such as Al-Bank al-Ahli al-Omani and Bank of Oman, Bahrain & Kuwait (BOBK) are becoming increasingly active. Their emphasis is on customer services. Al-Bank al-Ahli made a 1982 pre-tax profit of RO 850,000 (\$ 2.5 million) and has four branches. BOBK increased profits by 35 per cent in 1982 to RO 738,052 (\$ 2.1 million) and increased its capital to RO 6 million (\$ 17.4 million). It has 16 local branches.

Interest ceiling remain at 11½ per cent for borrowing and 9½ per cent for deposits; rates can vary from 6 per cent to more than 11 per cent on deposits, but the higher rates have some foreign exchange component. These relatively low ceilings have been fixed for several

years. There are several advantages to this — it shields the economy from international currency fluctuations, encourages private borrowing and keeps inflation down.

However, liquidity fluctuates with dollar interest rates. It drops when rates are high and rises when they fall — it has been high for the past four or five months. In 1982, the proportion of cash plus clearing to private deposits fluctuated from 8.5 per cent in the first quarter to 34.3 per cent in the fourth, although the Central Bank tries to cover the commercial banks by adjusting government deposit levels.

Bankers say that the fixed interest rates — with a 2 per cent spread — leave them little room for manoeuvre or risk. In addition, increased operating costs cannot be passed on to the customer. The average margin for all banks in 1980 was 4.1 per cent, but this fell to 3.4 per cent in 1981, rising to 3.5 per cent in

1982. However, most of the managers at a recent bankers' meeting voted in favour of the system because of the stability it brings — and stability is the watchword of Oman's banking sector.

The Central Bank keeps close control of the commercial banks' foreign exchange position, and ruled in May 1980 that aggregated foreign exchange should not exceed 40 per cent of capital and reserves. All Euromoney assets must be backed by a 5 per cent reserve held interest-free at the Central Bank.

Overseas transactions are expensive, and bankers are turning more towards local financing. Trade is a good investment, and real estate remains buoyant. Development provides many opportunities for short-term investment, but banks avoid lending on construction because returns are slow.

In the past 12 months several new regulations have come into force. All banks are required to increase their capital from RO 50,000 (\$ 145,000) to RO 1 million (\$ 2.9 million) by the end of 1983. The smaller foreign banks will be mainly affected. This will increase money available for loans, as the ratio of capital plus reserves to assets must be at least 1:27; in addition banks may not lend more than 20 per cent of their assets to any one borrower.

From the beginning of 1983 banks were required to hold 10 per cent of their portfolio in promissory notes or bills of exchange, on which the Central Bank charges 6¾ per cent instead of the usual 8 per cent.

Other new regulations relate to management issues. Banks are required to increase local staff to 90 per cent by 1985, and the Central Bank has just opened a bankers' institute offering a one-year diploma course for secondary school graduates.

A new and second wave of Arab Gulf banking is under way in the member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. Ten years ago banking in the region was largely a matter of central banks keeping their oil revenues on deposit with corresponding banking institutions in the West.

As more funds — generated by the sharp rise in oil prices in the mid-70's — reached the region the ultimate outcome was an unprecedented period of growth associated with the setting up of various investments and banking institutions. No region in the world has changed so dramatically in so few years as the Gulf Arab states forming the Cooperation Council.

The tone set was, and still is, for efficiency, competitiveness and services catering for the special needs of the region. Investment companies have been developing into much larger institutions like the Arabian Investment and Banking Corporation (Investcorp) and the new Gulf Investment Corporation set up by the increasingly sophisticated needs of Gulf investors and to promote investment in joint industrial ventures.

Due to the local and regional limited capacity to absorb investment funds in comparison with international opportunities massive fund surpluses left the region in search of more attractive returns abroad. To a certain extent this move was welcomed by the region's central bank authorities who prefer the excess money leave the area rather than float around inflating local economies as was the case in the mid-70's.

As the central banks are opposed to exchange controls, the artificially depressed interest rates (in Qatar 7%) for time deposits and 9% for commercial banks lending) have contributed in the past to an outflow of funds attracted by higher rates overseas. But this outflow has largely dried up because of the fall in the international rates and to the aggressive policies of Saudi Arabia's Monetary Agency (SAMA) and Kuwait Central Bank policies of adjusting the riyal and the dinar against market trends.

Gulf banking sees period of boom

Although four or five years ago some observers claimed that Gulf central banks authorities (except Bahrain) lacked the experience to manipulate the markets effectively and did not have the financial instruments to control flows of money in and out of their economies, these banks are now starting to acquire the necessary instruments to establish Western confidence in the banking system and meeting regional needs effectively. Hence, Gulf banks now look more in control of their funds and able to respond to fluctuations in dollar rates and other trends.

Although so much efforts have been exerted in monetary and fiscal policies coordination and integration there are still further more grounds to be covered. Some of the short term conflicting interests and fiscal policies designed to suit each state's economic environment are still pursued to a certain extent. The governors of the monetary agencies and

central banks of the region have been meeting regularly, almost every three months or so for the past three to four years and they have been agreeing on certain measures to coordinate interest rates, banking policies and so on. The fact that so many similarities exist in conditions and problems facing the Gulf Arab states makes it easier to achieve further coordination and joint policies.

Reform is occurring over the region in banking. The United Arab Emirates is one of the most over banked states in the world. For a population of about a million there were — until the central bank began enforcing limits — 347 bank branches. 1981 has seen a series of central bank measures to regulate the system. The tighter money situation resulting from the drop in oil income has certainly helped.

1982 saw the completion on Saudi Arabia of the "Saudiisation" process started in 1976 by which all banks are at least 60% Saudi owned. Capital of Saudi banks has increased tremendously, branches are being opened throughout the kingdom and the banking system can offer now an increasingly sophisticated range of services and are becoming growingly assertive. All of the kingdom's

● Continued on Page 25

A 'TIMES' ADVERTISEMENT SUPPLEMENT

The international insurance broker

The insurance broker provides an intermediary service function between client and insurer, or insurer and reinsurer. He will also provide ancillary services such as loss prevention advice and recommendations, fire and other engineering advisory services, 'risk management' services (the identification, quantification and control of risk to which an insured is exposed), surveys and assessments, etc.

The insurance broker's business and prime interest is the satisfaction of his client's insurance needs, whatever and wherever they may be. He is thus always a provider of services, whether from a localised establishment or across frontiers.

The broker's client may be an individual, or the managing director of an industrial or commercial organisation requiring direct insurance protection for assets or exposure to liability. That requirement may be trans - or international requiring the provision of trans - or international services.

The client may be an insurer himself, requiring reinsurance coverage because capacity or expertise is not available in particular country. The lack of local coverage, insurance capacity or expertise may equally be a problem to be solved for the client with direct, rather than reinsurance needs.

The broker is often an innovator and if, for example, the client is exposed to a risk for which there is no locally available coverage, or which needs coverage which must be tailor-made for the individual instance, then the broker will devise a suitable coverage in all its intricacies, and thereafter search out an insurer who will accept the new form at an economic rate.

In both direct and reinsurance business, the broker is one of the principle conduits for the passage of business between the major developed international markets, such as London, the USA, Germany, France, Switzerland and the fast developing Middle East, Far Eastern, African and Latin American markets.

Where reinsurance is concerned, his service is the provision of his specialised knowledge of the techniques available, the insurance markets which will underwrite particular types of reinsurance at the most economic cost, the design of new forms of coverage and his ability to offer underwriters, wherever they may be located, a broad spread of business from his portfolio of international risks.

This is a multilateral, multidirectional service function and especially through London, business and services flow in both directions.

In many markets the broker issues cover notes and certificates of insurance and drafts policies. By these means he ensures that his clients have the exact coverage required and, at the same time, he bears many of the overhead costs of staff and administration which would otherwise fall to the charge of the insurer. Many brokers survey a risk before insurance and insurers often accept such surveys since they know that the broker's reputation and business depends upon his accuracy and impartiality.

The international activities of insurance brokers can be seen from the

Could he help you solve a problem?

By Andrew Gale

following examples:

(a) A pharmaceutical company with headquarters in say, France, requires unified worldwide product legal liability coverage for all its manufacturing units and sales operations in perhaps thirty different countries, all of which have different local legal requirements as to liability in regard to pharmaceuticals and requirements as to whether insurance must be provided locally, or may be provided externally. The client's broker must arrange local service in each country for local management, either through a local broker correspondent, his own local establishment, perhaps even a locally licenced insurer or as a true trans-frontier service by his head office personnel. Unified coverage will probably be provided by placement in many national and international markets. A web of multi-directional service flows is immediately apparent.

(b) An insurer in a particular territory requires a reinsurance programme to protect his underwritten portfolio of different classes of business. The expertise to reinsure the different parts of the programme does not exist locally.

The broker flies in, examines and discusses the requirements, returns to his head office, designs the programme subject to the insurer's approval and then places the component reinsurances in which and whatever worldwide insurance market provides the broadest coverage at the most economic cost and with the greatest security.

As a quid pro quo the client insurer requires that he be offered a fair showing of business, that he may in turn underwrite from the broker's existing international portfolio. Another web of multi-directional transfrontier provision of services is evident.

The broker thus spreads the client

insured's or insurer's risk among many and in turn he provides insurers and reinsurers with a wide range of different classes of business without which no insurance market can operate effectively and at a reasonable profit.

The broker is always a traveller, within national boundaries or worldwide. Many in the industry clock up the most phenomenal mileages in annual air travel in the quest for business. Any broker's wife must be a patient and long-suffering soul, adept in the intricacies and psychology of meeting a jet-lagged male in a crowded airport at the end of a trip where the connections did not connect, the hotel had fouled up the booking and luggage was stranded at the other side of the globe.

There is little more satisfying than putting a new client's insurance programme 'to bed' (completing placement of all required covers) after months of work and miles of travel.

Should you have a risk or insurance problem looking for a solution, the British Insurance Brokers Association will be glad to put you in touch with a broker who can help you resolve it.

Write to the Director General, BIBA, Fountain House, Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5DJ, Telephone (int) 441 6239043.

INVESTCORP generates \$ 10.2m. in net income

The Board of Directors of INVESTCORP (whose full title is Arabian Investment Banking Corporation (INVESTCORP) E.C. met last week and announced that the firm had generated \$ 10.2 million in net income for its first fiscal year which ended December 31, 1983. Further, the directors also announced that they would be recommending to the shareholders at INVESTCORP's annual general meeting that a dividend of \$ 7.5 million be paid, representing 15 per cent of the firm paid in capital.

With earnings of \$ 10.2 million, INVESTCORP generated a return on its dollars 50 million of paid in equity of over 20 per cent in its first fiscal year. This represented a return on assets of over 12 per cent and \$ 170,000 in net income per each of the firms employees.

INVESTCORP's December 31st, 1983 annual statement, audited by Ernst and Whinney, indicated \$ 15.5 million in gross operating income, dollars 2.7 million in interest expense, dollars 4.3 million in operating expenses, and net unusual income of dollars 1.7 million, resulting in total net income of dollars 10.2 million.

INVESTCORP also reported \$ 81.3 million in total assets, of which \$ 24.8 million was cash, deposits, and marketable securities, \$ 20.8 million in investments, \$ 23.5 million in investment products marked for resale, \$ 9.3 million in fixed assets, and \$ 2.9 million in other assets. These assets were funded by \$ 17.2 million in interbank deposits, \$ 7.5 million in dividends payable \$ 4.4 million in other liabilities and \$ 52.2 million in capital, reserves, and retained earnings.

The company announced that it had

completed several important developmental tasks. The operating structure of the company and its subsidiaries has been established. The majority of staff has been hired. A building for the Bahrain head office has been purchased and renovated. A representative office in London has been established.

It was also announced that it had undertaken several types of business activities to generate results and that in March 1983 INVESTCORP's international real estate investment department bought one half of a prime quality office building in Los Angeles, California, in partnership with Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company.

INVESTCORP sold shares in this investment to its clients, with an attractive cash return on their investment. INVESTCORP announced at its board of directors meeting that an independent internationally recognised real estate appraisal firm had recently valued INVESTCORP's investment in the property at a considerably higher price than it paid for it in March. INVESTCORP announced that it and its co-investing clients earned over 24 per cent of annualised return in the first year of this investment.

INVESTCORP also reported gross earnings exceeding \$ 10.4 million from its treasury department, resulting from activities in the foreign exchange, interbank deposit, and eurobond markets.

The firm was also active in the international equities markets. In anticipation of establishing an investment fund to receive and invest customer funds for investment in

the U.S. equities markets, INVESTCORP successfully invested some of its own capital.

The firm indicated that during 1983 Saudi Investment and Finance Corporation, Citicorp Capital Markets Group, Hawaii-based Castle and Cook Inc. and Investcorp acquired 100 per cent of the equity of A and W brand's Inc., the number one producer of root beer in the U.S. soft drinks industry. INVESTCORP's share of A and W is 10 per cent.

In clarifying its securities investments, INVESTCORP advised that it has not had, nor does it now have, any direct or indirect involvement in if any of the Gulf share markets and therefore did not experience any of the adversities resulting from them.

Future plans

After INVESTCORP's recent board meeting, Abdul Rahman Salim Al Ateeqi, a former Kuwaiti Minister of Finance, presently advisor to H.H. the Ruler of Kuwait and INVESTCORP's chairman, indicated that he sees three areas of opportunity for the firm in its immediate future.

INVESTCORP anticipates creating a wide array of such funds for its customers, and plans to offer opportunities to invest in such diverse areas as venture capital, foreign exchange, commodities and futures, Asian securities, U.S. Securities, etc.

INVESTCORP has established with \$200 million in issued capital 25 per cent of this was called in from owners when the firm began operating. These shares are available for purchase by nationals of any of the Gulf states, without limitations.

Gulf banking sees boom

● Continued from page 23

commercial banks can expect to consolidate their growth in the year ahead and continue to enjoy profits well above those of their counterparts in the West. But the extraordinary jumps of the 1970's will not be repeated.

Kuwait has already shown how overseas investments can provide a diversification which is much harder to obtain by industrialisation. With the help of specialised banks such as those in Kuwait (Kuwait Real State Bank, Industrial Bank of Kuwait and Credit and Saving Bank) Gulf governments can continue to channel funds to needy areas of the economy through softer finance for longer periods and help maintain the balance between state and private financing of development.

In Qatar, the small but active banking community is under-going a series of regulations imposed by Qatar Monetary Agency (QMA) to curb the misbehaviour of banks and other financial institutions which have enjoyed one of the freest banking environments in the region.

Most of the central banks of the region have been battling with the attraction of the offshore banks of Bahrain for surplus dollar based capital. The Bahrain offshore banking system developed in the 70's on the basis of Gulf inexperience in money matters, providing a link between the new wealth and investment opportunities in the West. Launched in 1975 it turned Bahrain into a major

money centre. Among the attractions were a time zone between Europe and the far East, a well educated and trained workforce, proximity to the oil states and good telecommunication and air links.

The concept of establishing a unified economic entity is embodied in the CCASG unified economic agreement carefully being implemented in stages giving room for deeper consideration for inter-state variation in stages of development.

With the implementation process of the economic agreement going ahead of expectations a stronger economic integration is on the way that will bring about a qualitative shift in the financial, economic and industrial development of the region by greater diversification.

The idea of establishing a stock exchange in the region, originally proposed by H H the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, has recently attracted much interest but the crisis in Kuwaiti Souq al-Manakh (unofficial stock market) caused the governments of the region to adopt a more cautious approach.

Bahrain has already moved to phase one of its three-phase programme for establishing a stock exchange.

Saudi Arabia is actively encouraging the formation of public joint stock companies. The giant Saudi Basic Industries Corporation with a total of SR 10bn (\$3bn) has offered part of shares to the public. The shares have proved very popular.

Arab bank lending changes direction

Aggregate lending by Arab banks in the international syndicated loan market dropped by nearly one third in 1983, from \$9.79bn in 1982 to \$6.98bn, a Middle East economic weekly review has reported.

The actual drop of 28.7% was mainly the result of the loss of the South American market according to figures compiled by itself, reported the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

During 1983 the Arab banks continued their penetration of the Asian loan market and increased their emphasis on two major regions which they had served before: the Arab World and Western Europe, MEES reported.

The figures indicated that lending in Arab countries amounted to \$3.58bn, 51.3% of the Arab banks aggregate syndicated lending.

This was the highest proportion committed to this region since 1979, although the volumes involved were lower than the 1982 figures of \$4.28bn, and 43.7% of the total, MEES said.

Lending to Western Europe in 1983 amounted to \$1.52bn, 22% of the total, compared to \$1.49bn, 15.3% for 1982. The 1983 figure represents a return to the average exposure to this region recorded in 1979-81, MEES said.

Although Asian borrowers received a smaller volume of Arab bank lending in 1983, \$1.48bn compared to 1.62bn in 1982, the percentage of the total at 21.3% for 1983 was the largest slice of the Arab commercial lending cake ever achieved it said.

The regions avoided by Arab banks in

1983 were Latin America, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Africa south of the Sahara, MEES said.

The MEES tabulation showed that loans to Latin American shrunk from \$1.77bn, representing 18.1% of the total in 1982, to just \$62.5m, representing 0.9% of the total in 1983.

The share of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe also shrunk markedly from \$362.73m (3.7%) in 1982, to \$128.14m (0.9%) in 1983.

MEES also compiled a table showing that the Gulf International Bank (GIB) retained its pre-eminent position as the Arab Euro-bank. In the process GIB widened the gap over its nearest rival, the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC).

Apart from this stability at the top there has been a major shift in the activities of other leading Arab banks, MEES added.

Three of the top banks in 1982, Jeddah's National Commercial Bank, Saudi International Bank and Arab Bank Ltd of Jordan cut back their syndicated lending activities significantly in 1983 and their places were taken by two Kuwait banks, MEES said.

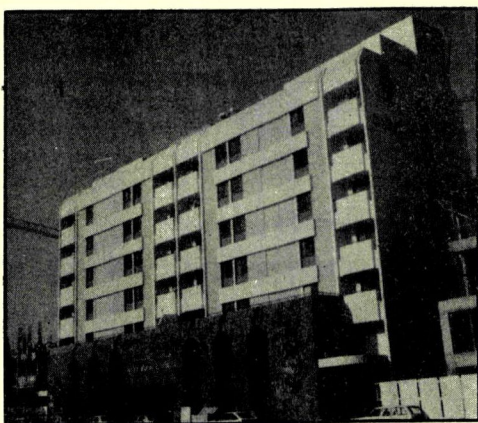
The following banks were at the top of the tabulation: (Name followed by, total loans in million dollars and share of the total).

Gulf International Bank 953.11 — 13.6
Arab Banking Corp 652.70 — 9.3
Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait 442.79 — 6.3
Al Ubaf Group 428.96 — 6.1
Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investing Co. 374.16 — 5.4
National Bank of Kuwait 325.14 — 4.7

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Branches in Oman	45
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Branches Overseas	Abu Dhabi, UAE Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt
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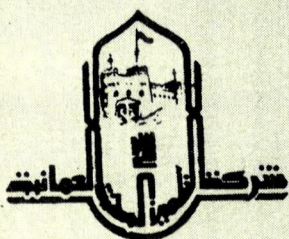
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A 'TIMES' ADVERTISEMENT SUPPLEMENT

NBO registers an operating profit of RO 6,103,870

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of National Bank of Oman Ltd., was held in its Head Office on February 18, 1984. The shareholders approved accounts for the year ending December 31, 1983. During this year, bank's operating profit was RO. 6,103,870.

The shareholders approved Cash Dividend at the rate of 20% (RO 1.8 million) for the year 1983 and Stock Dividend of 22.2% (RO 2.0 million) for the same period. The other operations of the bank also witnessed improvement over the last year.

Deposits and other accounts recorded rise of 13.4% from R.O. 234.7 million in December 1982 to R.O. 266.1 million in December 1983.

Total advances increased by 17.4% from R.O. 117.3 million in December 1982 to R.O. 137.7 million in December 1983.

Total Assets of the bank stood at R.O. 291.7 million against R.O. 254.1 million in December 1982, an increase of 14.8%.

A secure feeling for bank managers

"Security" to a banker is not only guarding the bank's cash, it is also what he requires when lending money.

A banker likes to wear a belt and braces. Not only will he lend only if he considers the proposition for which the customer want cash to be viable, he wants a safety-net in case he is wrong or an unexpected development jeopardises the repayment of the money.

He thus demands some security, giving him a right or interest in assets he receives, so that if the customer fails to repay a loan or overdraft, the manager may be reimbursed for the debt from the possession mortgaged.

The asset may be property but could also be stocks and shares, insurance policies or anything else of value.

The asset is generally charged to a bank by way of mortgage. This means that its possession remains vested in the mortgagor, usually the borrower, while the mortgagee — the lender — has the right to obtain ownership if the debtor defaults.

Occasionally security is referred to as "collateral." This is an American term, and in Britain, "collateral security" is any form of security deposited by someone other than the customer himself, whereas "direct security" is any type of asset owned by the customer and charged by him

as security for his own borrowings.

A third party securing the account of another, should bear in mind that if the borrower defaults his asset may be realised to reimburse the lender.

But there is one form of security which does not involve tangible asset; this is the guarantee, or a promise whereby one person agrees to be answerable for the payment of a debt incurred by another.

The guarantee is probably the simplest form of banking security, but on the other hand is the most difficult to realise.

Quite simply, those signing a guarantee never expect that one day they may have to dig deep into their pockets to honour their contract.

Bankers will not take a guarantee unless they have evidence that the person giving it could meet his obligation if required to do so. But caution should be exercised if securing the indebtedness of another person: one is generally securing indebtedness that you cannot control.

Banks point out the dangers of such actions and in many cases will insist that the person depositing the security takes legal advice. But even after being advised independently of the consequences, many people believe "It cannot happen to me". Make sure it doesn't.

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Ruwi (Ammar Centre) Tel: 705749
Al-Khuwair (Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour Bldg) Tel: 602488
Greater Muttrah (Aziz Darwish Bldg) Gr. Muttrah Tel: 706636
Booth at New Customs Bldg. Mina Qaboos Tel: 734626/24

OTHER BRANCHES

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Nizwa: Tel: 410545 Buraimi: Tel: 650571
Sohar: Tel: 640072 Izki: Tel: 418008
Sur: Tel: 440442 Adam
Ibra

Commercial Bank of Oman Ltd. (S.A.O)

INCORPORATED IN SULTANATE OF OMAN

Head Office — Corniche P.O. Box 4696 Ruwi, Tel: 773327/ 772113 Telex: 5392 COMBANK ON

A 'TIMES' ADVERTISEMENT SUPPLEMENT

The Washington DC-based First American Bankshares is the overall winner of the 2nd Arab Banks Annual Reports Competition organised by the monthly Arab Banking & Finance magazine published by the MEED Group.

First placed among the Arab-based banks judged in the competition was Saudi American Bank followed by Gulf International Bank and Arab Asian Bank. In a special section for artistic merit Commercial Bank of Kuwait won, for the second year in succession, with The National Bank of Kuwait as runner up.

The competition was judged by a team from the international accountants Deloitte, Haskins & Sells comprising senior partner Murray Charlton, resident manager in Bahrain Amjad al-Jaffery and manager Mark Davis. The artistic assessment was judged by Alistair Duncan, director of the World of Islam Festival Trust, with Colin Larkin, partner of the specialist design group Scorpion Pica, and Roger Emmerson, production director for The MEED Group.

First American was followed in the

Arab banks annual reports competition

overall winners' rankings by National Bank of Georgia and Saudi American with Gulf International Bank and the Paris-based Frab Bank Group as runners up. The criteria for judgement were based, as last year, on the concept of "general purpose accounting". The judges said in their report: "We believe that an annual report's objective is to communicate information about a bank's activities, both past and future, to a wide variety of users, ranging from shareholders and depositors to employees, customers and society at large."

The judges noted with pleasure that five Arab-based banks were among the top 10, compared to 4 in 1982. The other Arab-based banks in the top 10 were Arab Asian, United Gulf Bank and The Saudi Investment Banking Corporation. "It is a sign that there is a greater awareness of the need for further and better disclosure. It is noticeable that,

although the more extensive standards of disclosure promoted by the US' Securities & Exchange Control Commission have resulted in two American-based banks heading the financial disclosure table, Arab banks dominated the table."

In assessing the overall presentation of the balance sheets the judges looked for the grouping of the assets and liabilities to distinguish between banking assets and infrastructure, shareholders' funds and other liabilities.

A point of criticism was that many banks, while identifying short-term funds, failed to define their usage of the term. A distinction between trading account securities and the longer maturity investment portfolio was often lacking. The judges commented that although the most significant figure in most balance sheets is loans and advances to customers, many bankers

are still reluctant to give much detailed analysis.

Full details of the competition results are in February 1984 issue of Arab Banking & Finance. Awards will be presented to the winners of the five sections during a March ceremony in London.

Further information on the Arab banks annual reports competition is available from: Stefan Kembell, Publisher, Arab Banking & Finance, 21 John Street, London, WC1N 2BP, Tel: 404 5513, Tlx: 27165 MEEDARG.

Good support for new Pan-Arab accounting association

Support received from various governments in the Arab world indicates that the new Pan-Arab accounting body is both important and needed according to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, President of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA).

The council of eight met in Kuwait with Jassim al Marzouk, the Kuwaiti Minister of Trade and Industry.

Mr Abu-Ghazaleh said that they discussed the formulation of plans for the society's projects and activities in the next several months, and they were pleased by the interest shown by the Minister.

The council also visited Abdul Aziz al Sager, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kuwait, who provided the council with his guidance emphasising the need for the Arab Society of Accountants and the importance of ethical standards in the profession.

Mr Abu-Ghazaleh noted the many informal discussions among council members, representing many different countries and international firms over the last several months. They included discussions with different Ministries of their countries besides private interests. The results have greatly encouraged the council.

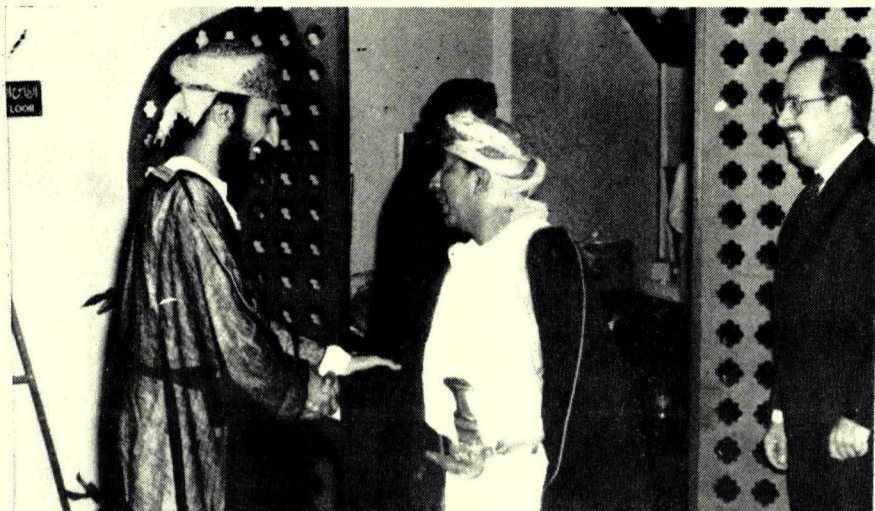
"There continues to be a tremendous need for standardisation and modernisation of the audit practices in the Arab world. We continue to look to the West but there is a critical need to adapt those standards to fit the peculiar needs of our national economies."

The council announced that the society had completed incorporation procedures and was officially registered as a London entity as of 12 January. This first meeting since incorporation was attended by the eight council members and the special advisor to ASCA Professor John Small, immediate past President of the ACCA. This was also the first meeting held in the Arab world.

Other announcements included the appointment of Dr Issam Merei as the society's secretary general Dr Merei is currently a senior consultant working on accounting and auditing standards. He earned a doctorate in business administration from Texas Tech University and is a certified public accountant in the US. A former faculty member of Texas Tech University of Wisconsin; he has held senior positions in both private industry and the government sector.

A final announcement was made that Ben Strachan, the former British Ambassador to Algeria, has been nominated for the position as the society's London executive director. A distinguished Arabist, Mr Strachan has served throughout the Middle East as an ambassador to Algeria, Lebanon, Yemen Arab Republic and Djibouti.





Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Sayyid Faisal bin Ali welcomes guests to the opening.

Exhibition of historic finds in Oman

A fascinating exhibition of archaeological finds in Oman ends today at the Gulf Hotel, reflecting the huge amount of work done in the field.

The display was opened by the Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Sayyid Faisal bin Ali on Sunday evening.

Present at the opening ceremony were members of the Royal Family, Ministers, Under-Secretaries, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps and archaeologists working in the Sultanate.

In his address, the Director General of antiquities at the Ministry, Ali al Shanfari underlined the special attention His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and his Government were giving to preserve Oman's heritage.

At the opening, Dr Paolo Costa, archaeological adviser to the Ministry, paid tributes to the tremendous work by the foreign archaeological expeditions



Dr. Paolo Costa

working in various parts of the country.

Through their painstaking efforts, a wealth of artifacts has been unearthed and through their research much light has been thrown on Oman's history — all of which is encapsulated in the exhibition.

On display are copper weapons dating back to 3,000 B.C. gold coins from the 13th Century, utensils and jewellery going back to the first millenium, and a large number of photographs and diagrams.

The exhibition was divided into sections according to region and excavation sites — Qurm, Wadi Baushar, Dhofar, Zafar (now known as Al Belid, a part of Salalah), Sohar and the Batinah coast, and so on.



Sayyid Faisal and dignitaries look around the exhibition.

Fees to be paid after successes in examinations

The Council of Ministers has decided that Government servants on studies abroad will be given air passage, cost of books, and university fees after they have been declared successful in the courses they are taking, provided the Ministry employing them approves the professional field they have opted for.

This was announced by the Director General of Scholarships and Foreign Relations, Moosa Jaafar.

He said that the decision to provide these facilities after the student has been declared successful had been taken in view of the fact that in the past many students failed to appear for examinations with or without justification.

The Ministry had, as a result, to spend huge amounts of money, with no benefit occurring either to the students or to the Ministry.

Moreover, the provision of facilities after the result has been declared gives a strong incentive to students to carry out their studies more diligently. Experience had shown that the move was extremely useful.

The Director General said that the total number of students abroad this year exceeded 1200, including girls. More than 99 per cent of the students were studying at Beirut University and the remaining at different universities in Egypt.

The reason why most had opted for Beirut University was that the admission procedure there was easy, there was a possibility of holding the examinations in the Sultanate and the university had agreed to treat technical degrees obtained from Omani institutes as equivalent to general secondary.

The university granted the approval after several months of efforts by the Education Minister and other Ministry officials.

Mr. Moosa Jafar said that the Ministry was confident that the standard of education at the teachers' institutes and the agricultural and commercial secondary institutions in Oman was by no means below that of general secondary. But until recently, foreign universities did not share this confidence. When at the Education Minister's invitation, the Vice Chancellor of the Beirut University visited Oman and the deans of faculties at the University supervised last year's examinations, and were briefed on the curricula of the institutes, they reached the conclusion that their standards were similar to those of general secondary institutions. The university finally agreed to treat the degrees as equivalent.

The Director General said that he wanted the graduates of the specialised secondary and other institutes to prove that they are worthy of admission to the university and that their standard was in no way less than that of holders of

general secondary certificates.

Similar efforts were also being made to get other world universities to recognise the degrees of the specialised institutes. Some universities in Saudi Arabia had already decided to treat the degrees of the teachers institutes as equivalent to general secondary. Qatar and Morocco had also agreed to treat the commercial certificate as equivalent to general secondary.

In some Egyptian universities, these certificates were considered as equivalent to general secondary, provided a specified number of marks was obtained. Efforts were underway to secure recognition from other universities as well.

The Director General said that the Ministry was trying to persuade Beirut University to again hold this year's examination in the Sultanate, as it did last year.

The final approval of the university was yet to come. Once this happened, arrangements will be made locally. The examinations would be held at the earliest in September.

'Instant' 35mm film in Oman

Capital Stores, a Mustafa and Jawad Enterprise, is launching a revolutionary way of taking 35mm transparencies at a function at the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel on February 28.

A new Polaroid film for use in any 35mm camera will be introduced to some 200 invited people including senior Government officials and professional photographers, by Mr. Sohar Singh, Polaroid Regional Manager based in London.

The system comprises only a compact manual processor, slide mounter and easy-to-use slide mounts.

A Capital Stores spokesman said the system does away with the laborious process of handling chemicals and the use of a darkroom. No electrical power is also needed. The transparency, in colour or black or white is ready in five inutes after a shot is taken.

Envoy received

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousuf al Alawi Abdallah, received in his office the British Ambassador, Duncan Slater. They conferred on ways of further boosting friendly relations between both countries and other topics of mutual interest.



The flash of dozen blades, haunting notes in the still night and the war-like beat of drums....

This was the atmosphere for a traditional pre-battle dance by a visiting troupe from Pakistan on Sunday night.

Before a large audience at

Pakistan College, including Ambassador Qureshi, the dancers and their musicians gave a spectacular display of sword dances.

The energetic performance was well received. In between acts a ship's bell was presented to the college from representatives of three visiting warships from Pakistan.

What's new?

New drive on heart disease

Doctors and scientists at four UK medical centres are to launch a programme aimed at curbing one of the most prolific killers - heart disease.

The work, in Glasgow, London, Oxford and Leicester, follows a £100 million US study, which has shown that lowering the cholesterol level in the blood reduces the chances of a heart attack.

Each centre will screen 7,000 men over the age of 20 in a two-year period and will then be able to offer treatment to those at risk.

The research, expected to cost around £200,000, will reveal the scale of risk from high cholesterol levels in the four areas. Prof Gemmell Morgan, of the Chair of Pathological Biochemistry at Glasgow University in Scotland, said that smoking, lack of exercise and high blood pressure were all known to be major factors in the heart disease. But the latest US study has proved that reducing cholesterol could save lives.

In Scotland where the new programme has just been formally launched, coronary heart disease is the biggest killer, accounting for 20,000 deaths each year. But it is estimated that this latest discovery could cut the number of deaths annually by up to 2,000.

Scotland's rate of heart disease is only matched in the western world by Finland, and Prof Morgan suggested it was time to educate people on the subject.



Tock-tick it's a backwards clock... Scottish designer Robin Robertson assembles a novel timepiece at his showroom in Edinburgh. The timepiece - from Mr Robertson's Sapphire and Steel collection - has hands that move anti-clockwise over the face which has numerals marked in reverse.

The backwards clock

Clocks in the collection are designed, manufactured, decorated and assembled in Scotland. The company was established three years ago to specialise in unusual wall clocks and to stock jewellery. Mr Robertson built up a collection of more than 60 different clocks but was unable to find one that was made in Scotland.

It was that situation which led to his venture into design and the subsequent flow of interest from potential customers in many parts of the world.

The clocks are sophisticated

enough for the sitting-room and yet fun for children's bedrooms. Mr Robertson says, "They are often bought as anniversary or wedding gifts or for Christmas or birthdays". He now has to think of new ideas for his 'alternative' clocks to up-date the Orbits Clock, representing rockets going round the earth; flying ducks and ducklings in continuous flight; Hands Clock with black-sleeved arms; and the Aeroplane Clock with propellers, that were all included in the first of his productions.

Sapphire and Steel, 48A, Frederick Street, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Ulcers may be caused by air

Duodenal ulcers, curse of the businessman and others in stressful jobs, may simply be caused by people swallowing too much air.

Doctors in London noticed almost by accident that people suffering from ulcers swallowed far more frequently than normal. Most people swallow spontaneously once or twice every 10 minutes but ulcer victims swallow up to five times more frequently. Some were found to swallow almost continuously.

Research by Dr Paul Calloway, of London's Royal Free Hospital, and Dr Peter Fonagy from the psychology department at University College, also in the capital, showed that when a person swallows he or she transmits about five millilitres of air to the stomach.

Because there is no way it can leak through the stomach wall the stomach simply stretches to accommodate the build-up of air. The body's natural system is led to believe the stomach is full of food and produces acid accordingly.

It is thought that an excess of acid attacks the stomach lining and causes duodenal ulcers once it finds it is not required to break down a small amount of food that shares a full stomach with a large amount of air.

Dr Fonagy says tests have shown that when people with duodenals or another

painful disorder known as hiatus hernia are persuaded to reduce the rate of swallowing their condition improves. However, in most cases the doctors found that people could not sustain a reduced rate of swallowing.

"We have not yet found a way of getting people to stop swallowing so much," said Dr Fonagy. "We are trying to get a better understanding of swallowing."

Although it is thought swallowing may be the cause of ulcers, it seems that anxiety may still be the root cause. "Anxiety seems to make people swallow", explained the doctor.

Dr Fonagy and his colleagues plan to study the problem further with experiments on rats that can be persuaded to "drink air". It may also lead to a better understanding of duodenals which until now have been the subject of little research.

Meanwhile, ulcer sufferers are being encouraged to try various forms of relaxation to reduce their rate of swallowing. In some cases microphones have been fitted to their throats so that the noise of swallowing can be relayed to them. In this way they become much more conscious of the habit and so reduce the frequency.



TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Health (Department of Public Services) invites the following tenders:

1. Tender No. 41/84 for the purchase of 17 Station Wagons, six cylinder with power steering, ten-seat.
2. (a) Tender No. 42/84 for the purchase of 10 Pick-ups, six cylinder with power steering, as per specifications.
(b) One Pick-up, double-cap, airconditioned, four cylinder, as per specifications.
(c) One Truck 2/3 tonne, as per specifications.
(d) One Truck, 5 tonne, diesel, power steering, 6 cylinder, as per specifications.
3. (a) Tender No. 43/84 for the purchase of four buses, 26 seat, 4 cylinder.
(b) Eight mini-buses, 15 seat.
(c) One car, Saloon, 1600 C.C., airconditioned.
4. Tender No. 44/84 for the purchase of Sewerage Cleaning Tankers, 1500 gallon, diesel, 6 cylinder, as per specifications.
5. Tender No. 45/84 for the purchase of ten Ambulances, airconditioned, as per specifications.

All interested Agencies of vehicles in the Sultanate may obtain the necessary specifications from the Department of Public Services at Al-Ghubra on payment of R.O. 25/- per copy, not refundable.

Tenders enclosed in sealed envelopes and addressed to the Director of Public Services, may be delivered by hand latest by 26.2.1984.

Tenders submitted after this date shall not be entertained.

The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Business

Kent and Sussex Exporters' Club mission to Oman

Products and equipment for the control of pests affecting buildings or stored commodities will be offered in the Sultanate by a British company with clients in 52 countries.

Adrian Hore, General Manager of modern Environmental Services is visiting Oman and other Gulf states for the first time as member of the trade mission, of the Kent and Sussex Exporters' Club. They will be in Muscat on March 6.

Services provided by the company are appropriate to the requirements of governmental and municipal authorities responsible for environmental health. Mr Hore hopes to meet a number of the officials concerned, as well as potential importers and end-users of the materials employed in structural pest control.

Rigid Urethane Insulation Products, used in Britain mainly to reduce heating costs for dwellings and industrial and commercial premises, are to be promoted by manufacturers Coolag Purlboard.

The company produces a range of roof insulation boards, designed to meet the requirements of the various waterproofing systems used for that roofs. The widely-used standard roofboard has a

polyurethane core and roller coated bitumen glass tissue facings. Where additional fire resistance is required, boards such as 'Collag FM' are offered. This has a niflam core with fire retarded glass tissue facing on both sides and has been approved to factory mutual class 1.

Other Coolag Purlboard products include 'Heatsaver' pre-decorated industrial lining board, thermafoil cavity wall insulation board and P1 for general insulation where a plaster finish is required.

The company says its boards give more effective insulation, thickness for thickness, than other materials and that their light weight reduces installation costs.

Although the insulation products were originally designed for the British climate - that is to keep heat in and to reduce condensation - they have been used in hotter climates, on industrial warehouses for example, to maintain low internal temperatures and relative humidities.

In response to initial interest, Coolag Purlboard established an export department in early 1983. This department has the task of developing overseas markets, with particular reference to the Middle East. In the Gulf states, some success has already been

achieved and the company's aim is to seek agents/distributors.

Ionisers, furniture and home accessories are all offered by an established furnishing specialist which has been visiting the Middle East twice a year since 1966.

John Hoskins, managing director of the Kintara Furniture and Picture Company, will seek outlets for an entirely new range of Ionisers developed with both commercial and domestic applications in mind.

The smallest Ioniser, designed to look like a book, is suitable for a 15-foot square room continuously occupied by two people. Larger fan-assisted models are appropriate for office installation and include types which can be mounted in air conditioning and ducting outlets. It is claimed that the Ionisers clean the air by quickly clearing smoke fumes, smells, dust and pollen particles.

Framed copies of both hand coloured pictures printed from antique copper plates and original oil paintings are produced by Kintara the latest selection of ceramic lamps in 16 fashionable colours, has been styled specifically for Middle Eastern interiors.

Also available are reproduction furniture in Mahogany and yew, garden furniture contract furnishings for hotels and other large-scale purchasers and a consolidation and buying service of food, bakery and specialised equipment required by the catering and food production industries.

A firm specialising in the provision of uniform rainwear and related products to military, police and other services will offer a wide selection of protective clothing.

Vivian Rubin, Sales Director of Stourmac, will bid to sell direct or through established agents, and is interested in meeting more potential agents. One local police force is already supplied, and Stourmac are approved manufacturers to the UK Ministry of Defence.

Included in the product range is the fly fronted 'Bochester' waterproof raincoat, designed for police, military, public authority and civilian use. It is made in navy or black polyurethane proofed nylon with Kimono Sleeves, ventilated yoke and detachable epaulettes optional quilted or fur fabric linings, a bodywarmer Jerkin and rainproof trousers are also available. Other garments include a hip-length rain jacket, rainproof anorak, high visibility safety tabard, waterproof nylon poncho, armoured vehicle Crewman's coverall in proofed nylon and a waterproof combat smock.

W.J. Towell are distributors for MODULEX signs

The Building Materials Division of W.J. Towell & Co. (LLC), operating from their new showroom at Wadi Kabir, recently signed an exclusive distribution agreement with MODULEX of Denmark, manufacturers of one of the most comprehensive sign systems in the world.

In interior system, which is now in stock in Muscat, is suitable for signs for doors, desk signs, name signs, menu boards for hotels and restaurants, reception area indicator boards showing the company name and floor levels in commercial buildings, exchange rate boards for banks etc. Also available are the international pictorial symbols for "no smoking", "escape door", "fire exit", etc.

Where the internal signs are for permanent use, they are delivered ready for fixing, as per the customers' requirements.

Dredging contract

Royal Boskalis Westminster NV has announced the award of a dredging and reclamation contract valued at USD 22 Million from the Jurong Town Corporation Singapore.

The work in a joint venture with Ballast Nedam Groep NV, is for the Reclamation of the island of Sakra and Bakau to create one island of 165 hectares

Royal Boskalis Westminster NV is the Dutch associate Company of Boskalis Westminster (Oman) LLC, P.O. Box 5063, Ruwi.

Major advantages of the systems are the facility to change the texts quickly and economically, a large choice of print size both in Arabic and Latin alphabets and most importantly, the ex-stock availability. A feature of the system is the facility to produce corporate logos to order and these can be assembled into all parts of the signage system. National flags of most nations are available ex-stock.

Modulex is a wholly owned subsidiary of the world famous Danish toy manufacturer LEGO and some components of the Modulex system use the Lego patent method of interlocking.

MEFEX '84

The 1984 Mefex Salon Culinaire has attracted a record number of entries.

Over 170 leading chefs from Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Jordan will take part in this year's competition which will be judged on the second and third days of MEFEX (The Middle East Food and Equipment Show) at the Exhibition Centre Bahrain.

A panel of six judges, selected by the co-organisers, the Chaine des Rotisseurs pour le Moyen Orient, will consider entries in 20 classes which include artistic butter carving and live fruit and vegetable carving.

MEFEX features more than 350 of the world's leading food and equipment manufacturers including major government groups from Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Denmark, the United Kingdom, West Germany and Holland.

The Show is open to qualified business visitors daily from February 26 to March 1, 1984.



Speakers at the OCCI seminar

Areej shares issue

The last date for public participation in the capital of Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives LLC, which owns an edible oil refinery at Rusail industrial area here, has been extended to March 19.

On offer to Omani nationals and institutions are 31,250 shares of RO 10 each. The issue, which was to close at the end of 30 days on January 19, was extended to February 19, and now finally to March 19 when the statutory 90 day period elapses.

It is understood that response thus far has been nearly 50 per cent, mostly from individuals. There seems to be a certain degree of reservation on the part of institutions, mainly because of the premium factor.

There is a 25 per cent premium to be paid on every RO 10 share, and as in the case of another public issue in the recent past, the response to 'premium' is somewhat in a low key.

Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, registered in 1980 as a limited liability company, began blending and marketing edible oils in November 1982. The 9000-tonne rated annual capacity is proposed to be raised by 66 per cent. The company is yet to declare a maiden dividend.

Seminar on management conducted by OCCI

The need for advanced management training for Omanis to prepare them for senior positions was the main topic at a two-day seminar on "The Special Problems of Management Development in the Gulf", organised by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Ashridge Management College of Britain.

The hon. secretary of the Chamber, Aflah Hamad al Rawahy, formally inaugurated the seminar and underlined the OCCI's efforts in developing local skills with a view to achieving self-reliance in the management field.

The Deputy Principal of Ashridge College, Mr. William Bradie said that with proper guidance and further training, Omanis could occupy senior management positions and thus reduce the dependence on foreign experts.

The Director of Overseas Operations Management at Ashridge, Mr. Douglas Smallbone, spoke on marketing and sales management with special emphasis on Oman.

Business

Commercial Bank meeting

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Commercial Bank of Oman will be held on March 3 at Ruwi Hotel.

It will approve the report of the Board of Directors and profit and loss account of the bank for the period which ended on 31.12.83.

The meeting will also approve and declare the dividend and appoint auditors. The meeting will be followed by an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders to approve an increase in the bank's capital from RO 3 million to RO 5 million.

BBK has a great year

Statement by Rashid Abdul Rahman Zayani, Chairman, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Kuwait.

"The Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait had another outstanding year. We are pleased to report record levels of assets, earning assets, net income and earnings per share. It was the most successful performance in our history despite the difficulties posed by structural adjustments being made within our principal markets.

"BBK's assets at the end of 1983 registered BD 874 million, a marginal increase over 1982's total of BD 854 million - yet the highest total assets ever reported by a domestic banking organization in the State of Bahrain.

"The Bank's earnings increased for the fifth consecutive year. Net income rose to BD 16.5 million - an increase of 23% above the 1982 year end total of BD 13.3 million. Earnings per share was 531 fils in 1983 versus 432 fils in 1982. Included in these results is BD 415,000 representing our share in the income of our affiliate, the Bank of Oman, Bahrain & Kuwait.

"I am also pleased to report that final engineering plans have been completed for our new Head Office building. This singularly-unique structure will add a remarkable new dimension to the skyline of Bahrain and provide us with opportunity to consolidate the bank's various operations (currently housed in 3 separate buildings) into a single, efficient workplace layout. Construction is expected to start in the summer of this year.

"Banking is clearly entering a new era in which the 'winners' will be separated from the 'losers'. In the next decade, I predict that we will witness a revolutionary change - not only technologically, but in the basic rules by which the game is played. More than ever before there will be a need to perform 'strategic planning' rather than mere 'budgeting'; to reward and promote 'innovative' managers rather than 'loyal' followers; to measure employee productivity in terms of 'income' per employee rather than 'assets' per employee; to market the bank's products not on 'image' but according to market 'segments' and 'product differences'. Speaking for BBK, I can say we will suffer no lost opportunities. Nor will we fail to earn a competitive rate of return for our stockholders.

Omani economic progress



Mr. Rockefeller

David Rockefeller is very impressed

Making his third visit to Oman this week was David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Mr Rockefeller, who is 68, was stopping off in the Sultanate to renew old acquaintances as part of a tour by private jet of 10 countries in 19 days.

In a press conference at the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel he told reporters that economic progress in Oman since his first visit in 1973 was nothing short of miraculous.

Unable to say the exact nature of any negotiations in Oman on this trip he did point out that Chase loans to the Sultanate were already in millions of dollars and this was likely to increase.

He met Deputy Prime Minister Qais Abdul Munim Zawawi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Risa Moosa Mohammed and President and Deputy Chairman of Central Bank, Dr Abdul Wahab Khayyata.

Mr Rockefeller is chairman of the

Chase Manhattan Bank's International Advisory Committee. He officially retired in April, 1981, when he handed over the Chase chairmanship to Willard Butcher, who visited Oman in 1983.

"I am naturally delighted in the continuing close relationship between the US and Oman. Also I am very impressed at the role Oman has played in greatly furthering regional cooperation within the Arabian Peninsula," he said.

During his tour of Asia and the Middle East Mr Rockefeller opened a Chase branch in Lahore, Pakistan, the second in the country.

He explained that it was to be Lahore's first fully computerised bank.

He said he hoped one day the Omani policy not to allow more overseas banks would change and then a Chase bank for the Sultanate could be considered.

Mr Rockefeller was to visit Saudi Arabia and Egypt before returning to New York.

Seminar on 'Mobira' car phones

A seminar on car telephone systems was held at the Muscat Inter Continental Hotel on Tuesday night.

Assarain Enterprise were introducing a range of the car phones to Oman in a short presentation.

"Mobira" is a market leader in such mobile communication systems in Britain and is considered ideal for businessmen, construction sites, taxi drivers and so on. The system can be connected to the national exchange.

Rust-fighting product

An Indian industrialist is currently in Oman with a simple solution to the age-old problem of rust prevention. His product is an anti-rust paper, 'Rustpaper' which also has anti-fungal properties.

Mr. J.S. Betrabet, Managing Director of Protection Engineering Corporation, developed the product, which consists of chemically treated packaging paper with releases ammonia vapour at a steady rate. The vapour forms a fine film barrier on the metal surface which prevents rust formation by arresting oxidation.

Vaporap is available in powder, tablet or liquid spray form. The paper which is available in sheet from of up to 112 cm x 110 cm size costs less than a rial per square metre making it a very competitive product.

Reception

The visiting General Manager of the Al Ain Inter Continental Hotel held a reception at Muscat's sister hotel on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Samir Ayoubi welcomed his invited guests to the Qurm lounge.

Wang's latest in multilingual world processing



A live demonstration of the latest in Arabic/English multilingual word processing systems from Wang of the United States was conducted by Oman Computer Services at the Al Falaj Hotel on Sunday.

The seminar attracted senior officials from various ministries, Petroleum Development Oman and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Amrit Chopra, General Manager of Oman Computer Services, emphasized that the company was committed to

the technological growth of Oman and would continue to endeavour to bring the latest and appropriate technology to the Sultanate.

The company's computer programming course conducted regularly for Omanis have proved to be very popular.

The demonstration, conducted by Firoozeh Aase showed that the latest Wang products in Arabic were specially designed for the Arabic language and were not mere adaptations.

Wang are the only suppliers of multi-

terminal Arabic/English multilingual word processing systems in Oman.

Mr. Chopra said the Arabic on Wang equipment was far superior to that available on other products.

The special features demonstrated at the seminar included 'proportional spacing and contextual analysis'.

The latter ensures that though only one key per Arabic letter needs to be used on the keyboard, the appropriate shape of the Arabic letter is displayed and printed automatically by computer.

Other OCS executives involved in the demonstration seminar were Mr. Peter Rogers and Ghulam Rasool.

There are 13 distributors and well over 1,200 Wang systems currently installed in the Middle East. Wang is therefore, committing considerable resources to develop and improving the quality of facilities and support on Wang Arabic systems, Mr. Chopra said.

The unique arrangements of the Arabic language has been accommodated in the Wang system and "we truly believe that the design of office systems should be changed rather than the Arabic language. Past attempts by others have usually resulted in computerised Arabic, rather than Arabised computers".

Business

Tenders — the company bids

The following tender bids were opened on February 14:

	Part 'A'	Part 'B'
Desert Line Projects	1,244,057.000	1,445,579.000
Lehane Machenzie	1,173,562.000	1,387,900.000
Shanfari Trading & Cont.	1,496,924.190	1,807,057.272
Qurum Contractors	1,668,544.000	2,032,863.290
Mothercat	1,351,914.000	1,527,062.000
Six Construct Ltd	1,165,011.000	1,309,876.000
Taylor Woodrow Towell	Regret	
J&P Oman	Regret	

153/83 Agriculture extention centre and accommodation at Dhank.

	Agr. Ext.	Accomod.	Total
Tanheed Contractors	101,026.000	185,732.000	—
Rawahi Enterprises	96,032.252	191,303.855	287,336.107
United Contracting Co	85,649.355	177,709.450	263,358.800
Jernan Trad & Cont	87,729.125	165,362.670	253,091.795
Al Jadawil Trad., Ind. & Cont Est.	83,044.995	146,124.820	229,169.810
Al Mubarak Gen. Trad & Cont.	82,667.200	166,024.650	248,691.850

154/83 Agriculture extension centre and accomodation at Sinaw.

Jernan Trad & Cont	87,685.125	154,301.620	241,986.745
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Mazin Trad & Cont. Co.	79,414.500	168,393.500	247,808.000
Al Saqlawi Est.	122,560.350	198,439.725	321,000.075
Hasan Haji Juma Backer	88,630.800	157,378.540	246,009.340
Al Mubarak Gen Trad. & Cont	82,082.550	157,038.750	239,121.300
Al Jadawil Trading Ind. & Cont Est	83,044.995	146,124.820	229,169.810

155/83 Agriculture extension centre and accomodation at Al Khaboura.

United Trad & Cont	79,445.365	139,209.448	218,654.813
Al Hossan Trad & Cont	81,028.607	148,141.458	229,170.065
Al Ikhlal	94,469.396	182,063.275	276,532.671
Hasan Haji Juma Baker	84,054.800	155,464.540	239,519.340
Al Jadawil Trad. Ind & Cont	83,044.995	146,124.820	229,169.810
Ahmed Nasser Assoc & Ptnrs	78,320.715	146,699.905	225,020.620
Oman Contr Est.	80,127.976	145,159.030	225,287.006
United Cont Co.	85,584.565	177,598.080	263,182.640
Al Gaith Trad & Cont	137,829.285	361,704.355	499,533.650
Ahemd & Saeed al Rawas Trad Cont	80,208.150	165,274.835	245,482.985
Al Adnani Trad & Cont	80,906.155	151,454.930	232,361.080
Rawahi Enterprises	96,032.252	184,538.855	280,571.107

Tenders

The following tenders were announced by the Tender Board this week and should be submitted by the date in brackets:

4/84 Supply of medicines (27.3.84)

5/84 Supply of tools, equipment and furniture for offices, schools and houses for the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs (27.3.84)

The following tenders were announced earlier:

3/84 Supply of four nos crawler loaders (27.3.84)

2/84 Printing of school books for 1984/85 and 1985/86 (27.3.84)

1/84 Supply of medicines (28.2.84)



A farewell party was held at Ruwi Hotel for the Resident Manager of C H Dobbie and Partners, consulting engineers.

Mr A H McElhinney and his wife are returning to Britain. Partner Mr J S Patray was there to wish them well and also to welcome new manager Peter Hunt from South Wales.

C H Dobbie and Partners is a UK-based international practice of civil and structural consulting engineers currently engaged on projects for the

Ministries of Defence and Communications and for private clients.

They have been represented in Oman for three years. The local office is now expanding to cope with increased workload.

Mr. Abdullah Saleh Baabood, Managing Director of Assarain Enterprise, local sponsors for the firm spoke warmly about Mr. McElhinney and also welcomed Mr. Hunt to Oman.

Exchange rates

	Buying	Selling
U.S. Dollar	0.34505	0.34574
Saudi Rial	0.0985	0.0987
Qatari Rial	0.0947	0.0950
U.A.E. Dirham	0.0939	0.0941
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.178	1.181
Bahraini Dinar	0.9146	0.9176
Jordanian Dinar	0.9201	0.9269
Egyptian Pound	0.386	0.388
Indian Rupee	0.0321	0.0323
Pakistani Rupee	0.0256	0.0258
Australian Dollar	0.3262	0.3271
Canadian Dollar	0.2765	0.2772
Singapore Dollar	0.1622	0.1627
Pound Sterling	0.500	0.502
Belgian Franc	0.00627	0.00629
French Franc	0.0417	0.0419
Swiss Franc	0.1570	0.1574
Italian Lira	0.000208	0.000210
Netherlands Guilder	0.1139	0.1141
Deutsche Mark	0.1287	0.1290
Swedish Krona	0.0432	0.0434
Norwegian Krone	0.0450	0.0452
Danish Krone	0.0352	0.0354
Japanese Yen	0.001479	0.001483

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Director Geoffrey Fenton.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Where you can get your 'Times'

MUSCAT

P.N. Gandhi a Co., P.O. Box. 185, Muscat.
Tel: 704124, 745374.

Al Firdous Book Shop, P.O. Box. 326, Muscat.

Majan Newspaper and Magazine Distributing Agency. P.O. Box 796, Muscat.

MUTTRAH

There Star Book Shop, P.O. Box 4834, Ruwi. Tel: 772630.

Mutrah Hotel, P.O. Box 4158, Ruwi. Tel: 734401.

Khimji General Stores, P.O. Box 19, Muscat. Tel: 734762/734061.

Al Bahini Supermarket, P.O. Box 3596, Ruwi Tel: 772348.

Barkath Restaurant, P.O. Box 4095, Ruwi.

Maher Supermarket, Near Mutrah Hotel.

Ramnial B. Kothary (Near Star Cinema)

Angara Super Market, P.O. Box 7192, Muttrah.

RUWI

Khalid Information Book Shop, P.O. Box 901, Muscat.

Al Saqafa Book Shop, P.O. Box 4000, Ruwi.

Mahboob Book Shop, P.O. Box 5716, Ruwi.

Bismi Book Sellers, (Oman Plaza Cinema), P.O. Box 8325, Muttrah.

P.N. Gandhi & Co. Tel: 704124

Sabir Supermarket, P.O. Box 66, Muscat. Tel: 703863/703086.

Valoo Supermarket, P.O. Box 5812, Ruwi. Tel: 772551/703281.

Sabir Supermarket, Near Softy Ice-Crem.

Fair Trade. P.O. Box 1436, Muttrah. Tel: 701767.

Ruwi Hotel — Book Stall, P.O. Box. 5195, Ruwi. Tel: 704244.

Ever Ready Trading Co., P.O. Box 3717, Ruwi. Tel: 703275.

Haridas Nensey & Co. P.O. Box 152, Muscat.

Al Arabi Supermarket, P.O. Box 7142, Ruwi. Tel: 703050

Family Book Shop, P.O. Box 3376, Ruwi. (near Rex Cinema). Tel: 706816.

Matrah Cold Stores, P.O. Box 4158, Ruwi. (near Rex Cinema). Tel: 704333/704539.

Consumer Co-operative Society of the Capital Ltd. P.O. Box 5156 (near Rex Cinema). Ruwi. Tel: 706826.

Al Marifa Book Shop

Al Daser Cold Stores.

Capital Stores-Book Shop (Al Falaj Hotel) P.O. Box 570, Muscat. Tel: 702311 ext.019.

Fair Trade (Al Falaj Hotel)

Ruwi Supermarket.

Sabir Supermarket.

QURM

Sharikat Fanniya Omaniya L.L.C. P.O. Box 4949, Ruwi. Tel: 704400.

Al Fair Supermarket.

Catering and Supplies Co L.L.C. P.O. Box 311, Muscat. Tel: 607696.

Haridas Nensey & Co. P.O. Box 152, Muscat.

Onas Trading Tel: 745374.

Family Book Shop (Mct. Inter-Continental Hotel)

Muscat Pharmacy (Gulf Hotel)

MEDINAT QABOOS

Family Book Shop

Matrah Cold Stores

Ramnial B. Kothary and Co. Tel: 602515.

AL-KHUWAI

Abu Mohammad Supermarket, P.O. Box 4551, Ruwi Tel: 603985.

SEEB

Seeb Airport Cold Stores. P.O. Box 3014, Ruwi. Tel: 701197

RUSAIL

Matrah Cold Stores. Tel: 610288.

JALAN

Nahda Jhalan Establishment, P.O. Box 31518, Jalan.

SALALAH

Family Book Shop & Co., P.O. Box 8884, Salalah. Tel: 460027.

Weather

Dry and moderate, hazy weather prevailed over the country during the last two days of the week.

The night minimum and day maximum temperatures in the Capital area were slightly below normal and averaged 25C and 17C respectively.

The outlook is for the slightly hazy weather to continue along the Dhofar coast. Dry everywhere.

Emergencies

Fire	999
Police	600099
Al Rahma hospital	772281
Khoula hospital	600455
Al Nahda hospital	701255
Muscat hospital	745036
Police hospital	600435
Force Base hospital	614334
Assada hospital	722088
Water	772774/702732
Electricity	773140/701821
Telephone Faults	192
Flight Information	619223
Telex faults	703344
Directory Information	198
Operator	195
Time in English	140
Time in Arabic	141

Light-up time

Lighting-up time for all vehicles in the Capital Area is 17.30 hrs, the Royal Oman Police has announced.

Shipping

New Panther	General	24.2
Golden	Vehicles	24.2
New Zealand	Reefer	24.2
Ledenice	Containers	24.2
Kazukawa	Containers	24.2
Maersk	Vehicles	24.2
Alps	Vehicles	27.2
Hual	Vehicles	28.2
Al Mirqa	Containers	28.2
Al Ihsaa	Containers	28.2
Medi star	Containers	28.2
Stirling	Refer	28.2
Nopal	Vehicles	29.2

Embassies

Austria (Consulate), P.O. Box 223, Walja, off Honda road, Ruwi (tel 701921)

Bangladesh, Mumtaz are near Ruwi Hotel, Ruwi, (tel 707462)

Belgium (Consulate) P.O. Box: 4382, Ruwi (Tele: 603011, 602033).

China, P.O. Box 3315, off Al Khalid bin Ahmed Street, Ruwi (tel 702451)

Denmark, (Consulate) P.O. Box 7061, Muttrah. (tel 773377)

Egypt, P.O. Box 969, Diplomatic Quarter, Al-Khuwair

France, P.O. Box 591, Muscat — Sidab Road, Muscat (tel 722916)

Germany, P.O. Box 3128, Qaboos Street, Ruwi (tel 702482)

Greece, (Consulate) P.O. Box 5031, Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi. (tel 702311)

India, P.O. Box 4727, (Near Qaboos Mosque Ruwi. (tel 702997)

Iran, P.O. Box 702, off Al Khaleed bin Ahmed Street, Ruwi (tel 722668)

Iraq P.O. Box 4848, Jabreen Street, off Rex Road, Ruwi. (tel 701349)

Italy, P.O. Box 6727, Marbat House, Ruwi. (tel 703202)

Japan, P.O. Box 6511, Medinat Qaboos, (tel 603464)

Jordan, P.O. Box 5220, Diplomatic Quarter, Al Khuwair, (tel 602561)

Korea, P.O. Box 5220, Opp. Oman Chamber of Commerce. (tel

702322)

Kuwait, P.O. Box 892, Qaboos Street, Al Falaj Roundabout (tel 706444)

Morocco, Behind Ruwi Hotel P.O. Box 6125 Ruwi. (tel 701977, 701706, 702281)

Netherlands, (Consulate), P.O. Box 160, Muscat. (tel 600837)

Pakistan, P.O. Box 7005, off Al Khalid bin Ahmed Street, Ruwi. (tel 702527)

Qatar, P.O. Box 802, Government Flats, Ruwi. (tel 705820)

Saudi Arabia, P.O. Box 873, Near Oman Chamber of Commerce, (tel 706370)

Somalia, P.O. Box 4767, Nara Street, Ruwi. (tel 701322)

Switzerland, (Consulate.) Near Ministry of Health, AlGhobra (tel 603544)

Tunisia, P.O. Box 5755, Nr. Hassan Bin Thabit School, Muttrah. (tel 704859)

United Arab Emirates, P.O. Box 355, Diplomatic Quarter, Al Khuwair. (tel 601372)

United States of America, P.O. Box 966, near Al Alam Palace, Muscat, (tel 745233)

United Kingdom, P.O. Box 300, Near Al Alam Palace, Muscat (tel 745501)

Yemen Arab Republic, P.O. Box 3701, Khamis Al Shaqai Street, Govt. Flats, Ruwi (tel 706445)

Pharmacies

CAPITAL AREA

(Night Duty)

Thursday — National, opp. Qaboos Mosque, Ruwi; Oasis, opp. Capital Stores, Greater Muttrah.

Friday — Al Hashar, opp. Mazoun Trading, Ruwi, Ibn Rushd, opp. Bahwan Centre, Greater Muttrah.

Saturday — Muscat, opp. NBO, Greater Muttrah, Al Khaleej, opp. Ruwi Hospital.

Sunday — Ibn Sina, Near Commercial Bank, Ruwi, Waleed, opp. Postal Directorate, Greater Muttrah.

Monday — Hilal, Darsait High Street, Muscat, Qurum Central Market.

Tuesday — Al Farabi, opp. Sabir Super Market, Walja, National, Talib building, opp. Arab Bank, Muttrah.

Wednesday — Ibn Nafees, opp. Darsait Fire Station, Muscat, Madinat Qaboos Shopping Centre.

(Day Duty)

Thursday — Mazoun, Muttrah interior market, Farai, opp. Sabir Super Market, Walja.

Friday — Teeba, near Seeb market, Mazoun, near Muttrah taxi stand, Waleed, Hamriyya high street.

Saturday — Muttrah, Muttrah market, Muscat, Madinat Qaboos shopping centre.

Sunday — Muscat, Muttrah market, Ibn Nafees, opp. Darsait fire station.

Monday — Mazoun, near Muttrah taxi stand, Wadi Kabir, near Sabir Supermarket, Walja.

Tuesday — Farabi, near Muttrah taxi stand, National, opp. Qaboos Mosque.

Wednesday — Mazoun, interior market, Muttrah, Oasis, opp. Capital Store, Greater Muttrah.

SOUTHERN REGION

(Night Duty)

Thursday — National, near Fairtrade.

Friday — Khaleej Oman, Al-Salam street, zone no. 5.

Saturday — Mazoun, opp. Police Fire Station, Salalah.

Sunday — Ibn Hamran al Ansi, opp. Shanfari Mosque.

Monday — Muscat, near Police Station, Nahdha street.

Tuesday — Dhofar, Salalah east, near PWD.

Wednesday — National, near Fair Trade, Al-Salam Street.

(Day Duty)

Thursday — Ibn Hamran al Ansi, opp. Shanfari mosque.

Friday — Muscat, al-Nahdha street, near Police Station.

Saturday — Dhofar, Salalah east, near PWD.

Sunday — National, al Salam street, near Fairtrade.

Monday — Khaleej Oman, Al Salam Street, zone no. 5.

Tuesday — Mazoun, Al-Nahdha Street, opp. Police Station.

Wednesday — Ibn Hamran al Ansi, Al Qardh region, opp. Shanfari mosque.

Holidays

Prophet's ascension, April 28; Eid al-Fitr, June 30; Eid al-Adha September 5; Hijri New Year (Muharram 1 1405 AH) September 26; National Day November 18.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Airline timetable

Fl. No.	A/C Type	From	STA	STD	To	WY402/GF355	B737	SLL	2040	2145	DXB/BAH
WEDNESDAY											
KL551/552	DC10	AMS/AMM/BAH	0015	0800	BAH/AMM/AMS	GF174/4174	LJ011	JED/DOH	2145	2300	KHI
GF004/1004	LJ011	LHR/DOH/AUH	0020	0120	BOM	GF1033/033	LJ011	BOM	2240	2345	AUH/LHR
GF367	B737	Ex GF338/Tue	-	0700	DXB/BAH	PK219	B720	KHI	2340		Ops 220/Mon
GF2011/011	LJ011	DEL	0830	0930	AUH/DOH/LHR	KL875	B747	AMS	2325		Ops KL875/Mon
PK205/206	B707	KHI	0835	0945	KHI	KL875	B747	Ex KL875/Sun	-	0015	CMB
GF2173/173	LJ011	BOM	1025	1130	DOH/JED	PK220	B720	Ex PK219/Sun	-	0050	KHI
GF1026	LJ011	LHR/CDG/BAH/AUH	1105	1215	BOM	GF002/2002	LJ011	LHR/BAH/DXB	0045	0145	BOM
GF356/736	B737	BAH/DOH/DXB	1120	1200	KHI	TC711	B737	DXB	0045	0130	JIB/NZN/DAR
GF735/WY401	B737	KHI	1610	1650	SLL	BA012	B747	MEL/SYD/SIN/KUL	0305	0405	LHR
A1865/864	A300	BOM	1755	1920	DEL/BOM	RJ400/401	B727	AMM/DXB	0400	0700	DXB/AMM
WY402/GF361	B737	SLL	2040	2130	DXB/DOH/BAH	BA011	B747	LHR	0530	0700	KUL/SIN/SYD/MEL
GF1025	LJ011	BOM	2040	2145	AUH/BAH/CDG/LHR	GF971	B737	Ex GF352/Sun	-	0750	DXB/BAH/AMM
GF080/1080	LJ011	CAI/AUH	2120	2240	DEL	871					LCA/ATH
GF174/2174	LJ011	JED/DOH	2145	2250	BOM	GF773/187	B737	KHI/AUH	0750	0840	AUH/DOH/DHA
THURSDAY											
GF366	B737	BAH/DXB	0050	-	Ops GF335	GF1011/011	LJ011	BOM	0820	0930	AUH/DOH/LHR
MBGF438	B720	BEY/DXB	0105	-	Ops GFMB439	A1881/880	A300	BOM	0905	1030	DEL/BOM
BO023/024	DC10	DAC	0135	0245	DAC	KL876	B747	CMB	1035	1125	AMS
KU671/672	B727	KWI/DOH	0225	0630	DOH/KWI	GF356/WY403	B737	BAH/DOH/DXB	1040	1130	SLL
BA012	B747	MEL/SYD/PER/SIN	0245	0430	LHR	IY754/755	B737	SAH	1210	1255	DOH/SAH
BA011	B747	LHR	0530	0700	KUL/SIN/SYD/BNE	WY404/GF734	B737	SLL	1515	1555	KHI
GF4003/003	LJ011	DEL	0600	0700	DXB/BAH/LHR	GF066	LJ011	BAH	1525	1630	BOM
WY6010	F27	-	-	0645	GWD	GF733/533	B737	KHI	2000	2040	DXB/DOH/BAH
GFMB439	B720	Ex MBGF438	-	0720	DXB/BEY	GF972/363	B737	AMM/BAH/AUH	2050	2145	AUH/BAH
GF335	B737	Ex GF366	-	0730	DOH/BAH	PK225/226	B720	KHI	2050	2200	KHI
GF1085/085	LJ011	BOM	0720	0840	AUH/BAH/CAI	GF1078/2078	LJ011	CAI/DOH/DXB	2250	2340	BOM
WY6011	F27	GWD	1005	-	SLL	GF1031/031	LJ011	BOM	2240	2345	BAH/LHR
GF354/WY403	B737	BAH/DXB	1250	1130	BOM	GF942	B737	ATH/LCA/BAH/AUH	0150	-	Ops GF365
GF012/1012	LJ011	LHR/DOH/AUH	1105	1215	BOM	BA011	B747	LHR	0345	0300	SIN/PER/SYD/MEL
A1867/866	B747	BOM	1135	1300	BOM	BA012	B747	BNE/SYD/SIN	0245	0345	LHR
WY404/GF734	B737	SLL	1515	1535	KHI	GF3003/003	LJ011	BOM	0600	0700	DXB/BAH/LHR
GF1232/237	B737	KWI/DXB	1530	1600	DXB/KWI	GF365	B737	Ex GF942	-	0630	AUH/DOH/BAH
MB046/907	B737	CAI/SHJ	1535	1620	SHJ/CAI	WY6008	F27	LHR/AUH	0730	0840	AUH/BAH/CAI
SV230/231	B737	JED/DHA/DOH	1930	2015	DOH/DHA/JED	GF034/2083	LJ011	GWD	1005	-	KHI
GF733/341	B737	KHI	2000	2145	AUH	WY6009	F27	BAH/DOH/DXB	1110	1200	BOM
GF076/3076	LJ011	CAI/BAH/DXB	2150	2230	CMB	GF360/736	B737	BOM/DEL	1235	1400	SLL
GF1031/031	LJ011	BOM	2240	2345	BAH/LHR	A1863/862	A300	KHI	1610	1650	DXB/DOH
BA148	L12	BOM	2255	2345	DXB/LHR	GF735/WY401	B737	SLL	2040	2120	Ops GF367/Wed
PK219	A300	KHI	2340	-	Ops Friday	WY402/GF351	B737	BAH/DOH/DXB	2350	-	
FRIDAY											
PK220	A300	Ex PK219/Tue	-	0050	KHI	GF338	B737	BAH/DOH/DXB	2350	-	
GF942	B737	ATH/LCA/BAH/AUH	0150	-	Ops GF945						
UL331	LJ011	CMB	0200	0300	VIE/CDG						
BA011	B747	LHR	0345	0500	SIN/BWN/SYD/MEL						
RJ400/401	B727	AMM/DXB	0400	0700	DXB/AMM						
GF945	B737	Ex GF942	-	0730	LCA/DOH/LCA/ATH						
845					AMM						
GF330/345	B737	DXB	0720	0800	AUH/BAH						
GF3087/087	LJ011	CMB	0815	0915	BAH/CAI/TUN						
GF1011/011	LJ011	BOM	0820	0930	AUH/DOH/LHR						
PK205/206	B707	KHI	0835	0945	KHI						
GF030/1030	LJ011	LHR/BAH	0825	1030	BOM						
GF350/736	B737	BAH/AUH	1105	1200	KHI						
GF4171/171	LJ011	KHI	1450	1540	DOH/JED						
A1869/888	A300	BOM	1605	1730	BOM						
GF184/WY405	B737	DAH/DOH/AUH	1750	1830	SLL						
GF976/361	B737	AMM/DOH/DXB	2030	2130	DXB/DOH/BAH						
WY406/GF363	B737	SLL	2215	2245	AUH/BAH						
UL532	LJ011	CDG/VIE	2315	-	Ops Saturday						
SATURDAY											
UL532	LJ011	Ex Friday	-	0015	CMB						
GF004/1004	LJ011	LHR/DOH/AUH	0020	0240	BOM						
MBGF438	B720	BEY/DXB	0105	-	Ops GFMB439						
GF172/3172 LJ011	JED/AUH	0150	-	CMB							
GF946	B737	ATH/LCA/DOH/DXB	0200	-	Ops GF949						
KU671/672	B727	KWI/DOH	0225	0630	DOH/KWI						
BA012	B747	BNE/SYD/ADL/SIN	0245	0250	LHR						
UTAF568	B747	BNE/SYD/ADL/SIN	0245	0330	CMB/SIN						
BA012	B747	CDG	0315	0425	KUL/SIN/SYD/MEL						
BA011	B747	LHR	0330	0700	DXB/BEY						
GFMB439	B720	Ex MBGF	-	0720	Ops GF39						
GF088	LJ011	TUN/CAI/BAH	0615	-	AUH/BAH/LCA						
GF949	B737	Ex GF946	-	0800	BOM						
GF032/1032	LJ011	LHR/DOH	0820	1030	BAH						
GF061	LJ011	BOM	0820	1015	DXB						
GF391	LJ011	Ex GF088	-	1100	KHI						
GF358/736	B737	BAH/DOH/AUH	1105	1200	KWI						
A1811	B747	BOM/DEL	1140	1240	SLL						
PK511/512	F27	KHI/GWD	1200	1240	DOH/TUK/KHI						
GF735/WY401	B737	KHI	1610	1650	BOM						
A1880	B747	KWI	1800	1900	DXB						
TC710	B737	DAR/JIB	1915	2000	DOH/DOH/BAH						
WY408/GF361	B737	SLL	2040	2130	Ops GF368/Sun						
GF344	B737	BAH/AUH	2250	-							
SUNDAY											
GF004/1004	LJ011	LHR/DOH/AUH	0020	0120	BOM						
UTAF567	B747	SIN/CMB	0030	0140	DEL						
GF136	LJ011	BAH/DXB	0030	0140	LHR						
BA012	B747	MEL/SYD/BWN/SIN	0245	0245	DXB/DOH/BAH						
GF089	B737	Ex GF344/Sun	-	0630	GWD						
WY0886	F27	-	-	0645	AUH/DOH/DHA						
GF388/187	B737	DXB	0720	0840	SIN/ADL/SYD/BNE						
BA011	B747	LHR	0830	0945	AUH/CAI						
GF1081/081	LJ011	BOM	0830	1015	-						
WY0897	F27	GWD	1005	-	AUH/JED						
GF367/177	LJ011	CMB	1005	1130	KHI						
GF358/736	B737	BAH/DOH/AUH	1105	1200	DOH/BAH						
GF061/037	B737	DHA/DOH	1430	1530	DOH/KWI						
GD0232/237	B737	KWI/DXB	1520	1600	KKT						
SD024/025	B747	KKT/DXB	1520	1620	SLL						
GF738/WY408	B737	KHI	1600	1650	BOM						
A1880/882	A300	BOM	1605	1700							

Currencies

COUNTRIES

Local Currency

Equivalence

in

US \$

Algeria	1 Dinar = 100 centimes =	0.2140
Argentina	1 Peso = 100 centavos =	0.000018
Australia	1 Dollar = 100 cents =	0.9685
Austria	1 Shilling = 100 groschen =	0.0582
Bahrain	1 Dinar = 1.000 fils =	2.6596
Belgium	1 Franc = 100 centimes =	0.0209
Brazil	1 Cruzeiro = 100 centavos =	0.0036
Canada	1 Dollar = 100 cents =	0.7954
Chile	1 Peso = 100 centavos =	0.0132
China	1 Renmmbi yuan = 100 fen =	0.5105
Cyprus	1 Pound = 1.000 mils =	1.9999
Denmark	1 Krone = 100 ore =	0.1163
Djibouti	1 Franc = 100 centimes =	0.0056
Egypt	1 Pound = 100 piastres =	1.1962
Ethiopia	1 Birr = 100 centş =	04825
Finland	1 Mark = 100 pennia =	0.1849
France	1 Franc = 100 centimes =	0.14
Germany DR (E)	1 Mark = 100 pfennig =	0.4065
Germany (W)	1 Mark = 100 pfennig :	0.4086
Great Britain	1 Pound = 100 pence =	1.5053
Greece	1 Drachm = 100 epta =	0.0119
Hong Kong	1 Dollar = 100 cents =	0.1523
Hungary	1 Fonnt = 100 filler =	0.0251
Iceland	1 Crown = 100 aurar =	0.0535
India	1 Rupee = 100 paisa =	0.1025
Iran	1 Rial = 100 dinars =	0.0117
Iraq	1 Dinar = 1,000 fils =	3,2169
Ireland	1 Pound = 100 pence	1,2727
Italy	1 lira = 100 centesim	0.0007
Japan	1 Yen = 100 sen =	0.0042
Jordan	1 Dinar = 1.000 lits =	2.7999
Kenya	1 Stilling = 100 cents	0.0753
Kuwait	1 Dinar = 1.000 fils =	3.4344
Lebanon	1 Pound = 100 piastres =	0.2532
Libya	1 Dinar = 1.000 dirhams =	3.3777

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The good, the bad and the ugly

The day E.T. came to life, a movie myth was shattered.

Monsters have ruled the silver screen for 50 years, cashing in on the public's love of spine-chilling thrills.

Then along came a small, ugly extra terrestrial creature — and captured the heart of the world.

His creator Steven Spielberg, the man behind Jaws and Close Encounters, took a gamble which paid off beyond his wildest dreams.

E.T. is now the biggest moneyspinner in the history of the cinema.

"In my other films such as Poltergeist, I dreamed up the most harrowing sequence I could," says Spielberg.

"I wanted the film to scare the life out of anyone who walked into the cinema.

"But E.T. was entirely different. It is about human understanding, values and compassion."

E.T. the 3 foot creature from outer space has no right to be lovable. He is a freak miniature monster that would be the making of a horror film.

But Spielberg guides our emotions so we come to accept the abnormal. "I detest all those films where creatures from outer space are massacred," he says.

In the space of 90 minutes he succeeds in turning conventional attitudes upside down. Does this spell the end of the horror movie?

Take King Kong made in 1932. The giant ape was really only 16 inches tall although for a few sequences huge eight-foot fur-covered arms worked by pulleys were used to grip co-star Faye Wray. But the special effects did their job and fooled the incredulous moviegoers. He was the first and biggest screen monster star, setting a trend to be copied endlessly by future generations of movie-men.

The same year saw another piece of startling special effects work, in the transformation of actor Fredric March from the peaceable Dr Jekyll, to the hideous Mr Hyde. Director Rouben Mamoulian refuses to reveal how he achieved it.

But the king of those early screen monster films was cricket-loving Englishman Boris Karloff. His make-up was so realistic, and so terrifying, that when he made his first Frankenstein film, in 1931, Universal Studio's boss, Carl Laemmle ordered him to wear a towel covering his head between takes in case he frightened a pregnant secretary."

Sharing spine-chilling stardom was Bela Lugosi, who played Dracula, also for Universal.

Dracula had first appeared on the silent screen in The Nosteratu, in 1922 and was featured through the Thirties. But in the Forties with the exception of Lon Chaney Junior's appearances as the wicked Wolfman, and the horrifying Mummy, the monsters-you-love-to-hate slipped out of fashion. It was time for monster mickey-taking.

Even Abbott and Costello got in on the act with their send-up Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein, at the end of the decade.

Then in the mid Fifties British Hammer studios loosed a whole new generation of terrors on cinema-goers.

Sit. Wanted

Smart Executive Secretary 10 years experience, fluent English & Spanish seeks suitable position. Proficient in Typing/Telex/Shorthand/Office administration. Contact. Eric, Post Box 3588, Ruwi. Tel: 705453/701472.

Sit. Wanted

Qualified experienced translator/interpreter available for any urgent work or part time job. Contact Nabil telephone 601800, 2.00pm onwards.

Ex British Airways employee UK, seeks employment Oman 20 years experience. Contact Mr. Weerasekera, 5 Clare Road, Stanwell Staines, Middx, England.

Electrical Engineer with business management qualification marketing experience six years Muscat, ten years India available. Contact Turakhia, P.O. Box 58, Muscat, Phone: 603792.

Experienced male steno secretary knowing telex and correspondence seeks better opportunities. Contact Nair c/o Suku P.O. Box 5198, Ruwi.

Qualified experienced salesman, office routine work eight years in Oman, holding valid Omani driving licence. Good Arabic contact Pravin, Post Box 7815, Muttrah.

Young energetic Indian presently in Dubai with experience as supermarket manager, outdoor salesman, seeks employment in Oman. Contact Hament 704365.

Graduate Qualified Business Administration ten years' experience presently working in Oman seeks changes. Please Contact A.A. Lambay, Post Box 19094, Salalah.

For Sale

Honda 80 cc motorbike for sale. Only 700 km. Insured until August. RO 180. Ring Anderson 701670, 8am to 3pm.

Chevrolet 1978 model 6-wheels 14½ ton-tipper in good working condition for sale. Contact Tel: 600703.

Datsun 140J Saloon white colour with a/c radio and tape recorder available for R.O. 400 or near offer contact 701936.

SITUATION WANTED

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If you are planning a happy retirement (or meantime a holiday home) please contact us now.

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We are building homes fit to live in many years before them, and we still do in traditional style, aesthetically pleasing, on individual village sites, converted cottages or farmhouses.

Not very easy to come by these days, but worth waiting for.

Write: **Boadicea Estates**, P.O. Box 154, Paphos, Cyprus. Telex 2133.

Personal

Mrs. Ravi Kanta Puri, mother of Mr. Sarang Puri, Manager of Essaco, passed away in Dehradun on February 9, 1984.

A hawan (funeral prayer meeting) was held in Muscat on February 19. Mr. Puri thanks all those who sent condolences.

Going Home? We are specialised for all your needs of shopping. Fascinating items - reasonable prices - Abualiz Trading, Taxi stand, Muttrah.

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Outdoor salesman required for expanding stationery business, preferably holding driving licence. Apply Post Box 6686, Ruwi or phone 706142 evenings.

MITSUBISHI'S MAGNIFICENT PAJERO



Pajero Repeats Triple-Crown Victory in January 1st-20th Paris-Algiers-Dakar Rally

In a repeat performance of last year's triumphant Triple-Crown Victory, Mitsubishi Pajeros proved they've got what it takes to be champs — they can go the distance in style.

The Paris-Algiers-Dakar Rally is regarded as the best and toughest proving ground for 4WD vehicles. Competitors in this, the world's longest, most demanding high-speed rally, must cover some 11,000 kilometres in just 20 days!

Out of an initial field of 243 vehicles only 86 managed to cross the finish line. When the results were tallied, Mitsubishi Pajeros had swept 5 separate categories/classes!

In addition to the Triple-Crown 1st place wins in Categories 4 and 2 and Marathon, the Pajero also placed 3rd overall (1st among all production vehicles) plus 1st in both Diesel and Ladies Classes.



Sweeping so many prizes in a field full of the world's toughest competitors proves what Pajero drivers have been saying all along: the Mitsubishi Pajero is the best 4WD vehicle ever to come out of Japan!

To test that statement yourself, go for a test drive. You'll find the Pajero at your friendly Mitsubishi distributor.



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Sport

Oman's biggest tennis event next month

The biggest tennis event in the Sultanate, Al Falaj Hotel's month-long 5th Annual Oman Open Tennis Championships, begins on 13 March.

Al Falaj is the only hotel authorised by the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs to organise the annual Oman Open Tennis Championships. This year in association with Gulf Air. The tournament is under the patronage of Under Secretary of Education and Youth Affairs, Hamad al - Ghafri Hammad.

Players will be locked in battle for five trophies — Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Ladies Singles, and Ladies Doubles.

Entry fee is RO 3 for a player for

each, event. All participants are entitled to free admission at the presentation of prizes, gala buffet dinner-dance on April 13 at the hotel.

Deadline for entries is March 7 at 6pm.

The draw will be made on Friday, 9 March by the poolside of the hotel at 6 pm by Hamad Al-Ghafri Hammad, Under-Secretary of Education and Youth Affairs.

Preliminary rounds start on Tuesday, 13 March with the Quarter Finals to be played on Wednesday, 4 April.

Finals will be played over two days — Thursday 12 and Friday 13

Prizes will be distributed at the

gala dinner dance by the poolside of the hotel on 13 April at 8.30 pm.

This year prizes for champions, runners-up and others total over RO 4,000.

Balls will be provided by the hotel and matches in preliminary rounds will be played at the discretion of the players.

During the preliminary rounds the following tennis courts will be available at the disposal of the players — Al Falaj Hotel, Novotel, P.D.O, and the Ministry of Defence court (please see John Lindsay (Navy).

Members of the tournament Executive committee are chairman, Mr. A.C. Papayannis, (Al Falaj Hotel), Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ali Abdul Khaliq, (Gulf Air), Tournament Director, Mr. John Hament, (Al Falaj Hotel), Assistants, Mrs. W. Verhulst, (P.D.O), Mrs. L.De Boer, (P.D.O), Mr. John Lindsay, (Defence-Navy) tournament referee, Mr. Brian Crawford, (Al Falaj Hotel), Assistants, Mr. Saeed Hazari, (Oman Refinery), and Mr. M. Balakrishnan, (Shell Markets)

Kuwait Rally begins

This weekend's Kuwait International Rally could decide this season's Gulf and Middle East Challenges.

After winning the Jordan, Oman and Qatar rallies, Rothmans Porsche driver Saeed al Hajri needs one more victory to clinch both titles and he will be going flat out to wrap them up in Kuwait.

Dubai's Abdullah Omar is virtually Al Hajri's only challenger for the Gulf Championship and after Omar's bitter disappointment in Qatar — when a wheel sheared off his turbo-charged Celica Coupe — he is determined to show what he can do in the new car.

So the stage is set for a battle royal today and tomorrow, between the Gulf's top two drivers — but with at least half-a-dozen others ready to take over should the favourites falter.

On paper, Omar looks the likeliest to succeed. His Celica was producing close on 340 bhp before it retired in Qatar. Al Hajri had a maximum of 270 bhp in the Porsche so the Dubai driver has a huge power advantage.

On top of that, Al Hajri has problems with the suspension. The Porsche, which made its world debut in the Qatar Rally, still has a few teething troubles. But the dogged determination of the Qatari, his great experience and his remarkable ability to stay cool when others are working up a sweat could see him through.

Although Kuwait's Michel Saleh is now out of the running for the Gulf Championship, he still has a stake in the Middle East Challenge. Not that he needs any incentive to try to win in front of his home crowd.

Saleh, whose brilliance is overshadowed by a certain inconsistency in finishing, drove his Group 4 Celica to third place in last month's Qatar event.

It was an electrifying performance, particularly since he had been down to tenth place overnight through a variety of problems, mainly punctures. "I had nothing to lose," he said later, "so I gave it everything I could."

Mohammed bin Sulayem, the Dubai driver, could upset the forecasters in his privately-entered Opel Manta 400. He finished second in Dubai and Qatar and the long sandy stages in Kuwait will suit him admirably.

The official Opel team's Jimmy McRae has other commitments so there is no factory entry in this rally.

The vast majority of the competitors are from Kuwait with only a handful of outsiders. Chris Wallis in a Porsche 911 RS similar to Al Hajri's, is the only representative from Bahrain. Apart from the Rothmans driver, Abbas al Kuwari and Sadoon al Kuwari are expected to travel from Qatar.

The lucky Saudi driver, Mamdouh Khayat, has entered his Opel Ascona. Khayat, the only Saudi to compete on the Middle East circuit, finished tenth in Dubai and twelfth in Qatar and will be looking for an improvement.

From the UAE, Nissan driver Hamad al Mazroui is accompanying Omar and Sulayem, but the formidable Omani line-up is missing.

The Kuwait Rally, always a tough event and won last year by al Hajri on his way to capturing the Gulf title, has been lengthened for 1984. The 1,500 kms of desert terrain includes 900 kms of special stages.

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Sport

Double win for Anwar



Midfield tussel for the ball.

A reshuffled Oman national soccer team shocked visiting English first division team Queens Park Rangers with an 18th minute goal.

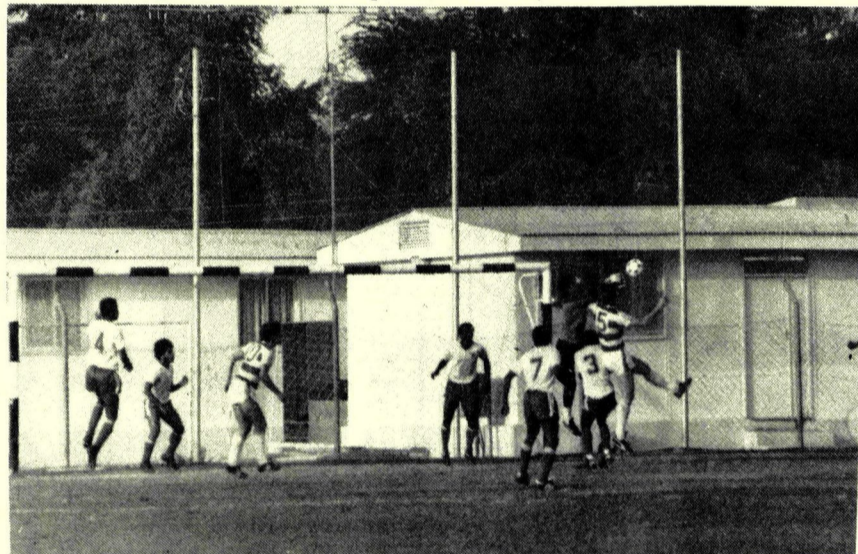
But their victory was shortlived as the Rangers, fifth in the English First Division league, settled down to a fast-paced quick passing game which netted them three goals.

The equaliser came in the 25th minute through a defensive lapse

which Clive Allen made good use. Rangers went ahead ten minutes later when full back Warren Neil chipped the ball over goalkeeper Suleiman Khaif.

The final goal came in the 61st minute off the boot of Terry Fenwick from a converted corner kick.

Oman's sole goal came from striker Darwish Ahmed.



Suleiman Khaif goes up to foil a dangerous Rangers move.

THIS WEEK'S BRIDGE BY SH

George Norris of Denmark was the East on the following deal.

K10987
KJ65

—
10943

Q53
987
KQ983
J7

AJ6
Q2
J1065
AQ85

42
A1043
A742
K62

S	W	N	E
P	P	P	1C
P	1D	1NT	2D
2H	3D	P	P
3H	P	P	P

Thomas Berg (West) led the CJ and George Norris ducked to the King. The declarer cashed the HA, HK and H10, and played a small spade to the 7.

George Norris, AWARE OF THE DANGER, DUCKED!

The declarer next played the C10 to the CA, and East switched to a diamond won by DA and a spade was played to S8 and SJ. Now, a diamond continuation killed the

dummy effectively, and losing 2 clubs, 2 diamonds and a spade, the declarer was one trick short of his contract.

Had East won the first spade, he could have returned a diamond to the ace. North had set up the spades with a spade to the 8, and later the trump in the dummy would have been entry to the spade winners.

The next deal illustrates that playing to trick one without much thought often leads to disaster. The deal was played in Indian Nationals in Madras last month.

(W)	(E)
AQJXX	10
QJ10	AKXX
X	AQ9X
87XX	A9XX

East opened the bidding and soon found himself in 3NT and south led the H9, H10, was played from the dummy AND East routinely played low from the hand. Now the contract was unmakeable, as the declarer was one entry short to cash the spade winners once they were set up. If the declarer had overtaken the H10 with HA, the contract would be unbeatable in spite of clubs breaking 4-1, as south held all the missing honours.

Ace motocross rider Anwar al Salmy recorded a double win last Friday — one on four wheels!

The tearaway rider swept past Oman's top rally drivers to win the morning's NMSC auto test in his Opel Manta. In the motocross meeting in the afternoon he won his sixth championship.

The NMSC auto test attracted 16 entries. It consisted of four timed 'test' runs over an obstacle course set up on the ROP Kart Club track.

Anwar al Salmy sped through the tricky course in 3 minutes 19 seconds to win the event 1.6 seconds ahead

Marksmen for Gulf contest

Oman's international marksmanship unit is to send a team to compete in the Third Gulf Championships being held in Saudi Arabia from 7 to 16 March.

The team will also be competing in the international championships being held in Mexico from 1 to 7 April, prior to going to the United States in preparation for their entry in the Los Angeles Olympics.

The newly-formed Omani Shooting Federation will hold its first meeting of the year at Muaskar al Murtafaa on 29 November.

of Wahid Gharib al Oufy in a Daihatsu Charmant.

In third place was Wahid's brother, Saleh, who finished in 3:25.5 in his Subaru Hatchback. All three drivers came through without a single penalty point.

Among the big names to disappoint were Abdulla Lamki who took fourth place in his BMW, Said Khalifa and Hamoud al Said who finished seventh and eighth, and the Kharusi brothers who took ninth and tenth placings.

The Oman Motorcycle Sports Club's seventh meeting was dominated by Anwar al Salmy who won all three races to clinch the National Class title for the sixth time.

In second place was Omar Sudan, the only rider to have beaten al Salmy this season. Newcomer Allister Hunt pipped the brave Phil Lawes for third spot.

Lawes, who won the 250 cc championship last season, fought back after a nasty fall midway through the event and did well to finish third later in the all-comers "fun" event which was again won by al Salmy, with Omar tailing him.

The Club Class saw newcomers coming to the fore. The event was won by Mohammed al Baluchi who beat Jim Christie in three close races. Mohammed al Hinai and Azhar Mirza tied for the third spot.



Shameem Ahmed with the winning team. On his right is Farooq Shaikh, vice-captain, and on left M. Aslam Mir, captain.

A packed PDO Pavilion watched an interesting annual friendly Cricket Game on Friday. A similar event was organised in February last year OHI won that match.

The general manager of Commercial Bank of Oman Ltd was the chief guest.

CBOL won the 30 over match by five wickets. CBOL's M. Naeem Shaikh was declared man-of-the-

match for his all round performance.

Mr. Shameem Ahmed, CBOL, general manager presented a shield to OHI XI.

Captains: Suhail Rizvi (OHI XI); M. Aslam Mir (CBOL XI).

Results: OHI XI 162 for 5 wickets in 30 overs.

CBOL XI 163 for 7 wickets in 30 overs.



M. Aslam Mir receives the trophy from Shameem Ahmed.

INMARSAT approves leasing

The shipping and offshore industries will be able to lease telephone circuits on the maritime satellite system operated by the International Maritime Satellite Organisation of which Oman is a member. This follows a decision by the INMARSAT Council, which has concluded its 17th session in London.

INMARSAT provides the satellite capacity for telephone, telex and data communications to the worldwide shipping and offshore industries. The Council, INMARSAT's policy-making body, meets at last three times a year.

Circuits will be leased for one or two hours per day for periods as short as one month. The leased circuit will be between a designated ship earth station via a designated coast earth station. Leased circuits will be offered during a one-year trial period which will enable INMARSAT to evaluate the service.

INMARSAT has also approved its first application, from British Telecom, the UK signatory, for a very high speed data (VHSD) service. INMARSAT announced last November that it would grant access to the system for such a service. This application is for service at 1.024 megabits per second.

The Council also approved an investment share of 1.64 per cent in INMARSAT for Saudi Arabia, which will enable that country to become a member of the INMARSAT Council. Saudi Arabia joined the Organisation last October and has announced its intention to build two coast earth stations. It also anticipates a substantial increase in the number of ships of Saudi registry fitted with ship earth stations.



Making their seventh visit to Oman this week were members of Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

The British mission of 21 traders called at the Sultanate as part of a three week tour of six Gulf countries.

Mission secretary Dennis Arrandale has been on all seven of the previous visits since the first in 1972.

"We have the honour of being the first British trade mission to visit Oman twelve years ago" he said. "Since then we have brought out a party every two years or so."

Omanis valued the quality of British goods, the back-up service and liked the method of doing business, he added.

For some of the mission members it was their first visit to Oman and they were keen to explore the market place.

Manchester mission

A reception was held for them at the home of the British Embassy's First Secretary (Commercial) on Tuesday night.

Among products and services being introduced by the mission were canvas, flags, compressors, resins, lighting,

laundry machinery, pipes, cement pigments, fastenings, cosmetics, printing machinery, grocery products, textiles and sewage treatment plants.

● Our picture shows some members of the group on Tuesday.

Gulf soccer body meets

The higher committee of the Seventh Gulf Soccer Tournament held its third meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Education and Youth Affairs Yahya Mahfoudh al Mandhri.

The meeting reviewed organisational aspects of the tournament, the role of the different sub-committees and the outcome of the recent visits to the Gulf states by an Omani delegation

The All-New Canters.

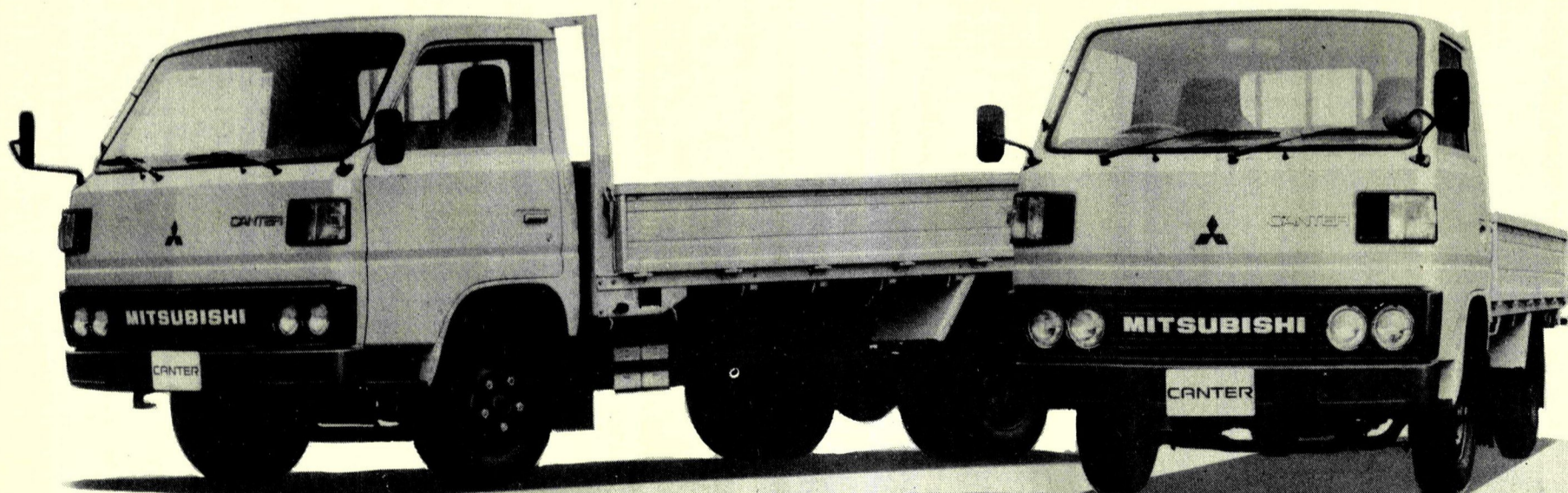
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