







Two killed in Indian plane crash

BANGALORE (India) — Two people were killed when a two-seater Indian aircraft crashed in the southern city of Bangalore yesterday...

Kim Novak honoured at Berlin film fest

BERLIN — Actress Kim Novak came out of retirement to receive a Golden Bear award at the Berlin film festival...

Authorities foil mass Greek prison breakout

ATHENS — Security forces foiled a mass breakout by hundreds of inmates at the Korydallos prison near Athens...

N. Korean minister is dead

SEOUL — North Korea officially announced yesterday the death from heart failure of Defence Minister Choe Kwang...

Nigeria seeks UK help in investigation

ABUJA — The Nigeria Police Force said it was still waiting for Britain's cooperation in order to investigate Nigerians living in exile there...

Adams calls for IRA truce

DUBLIN — The leader of Sinn Féin, political wing of the IRA, said yesterday a ceasefire by the outlawed paramilitary organisation would be the most important confidence-building initiative...

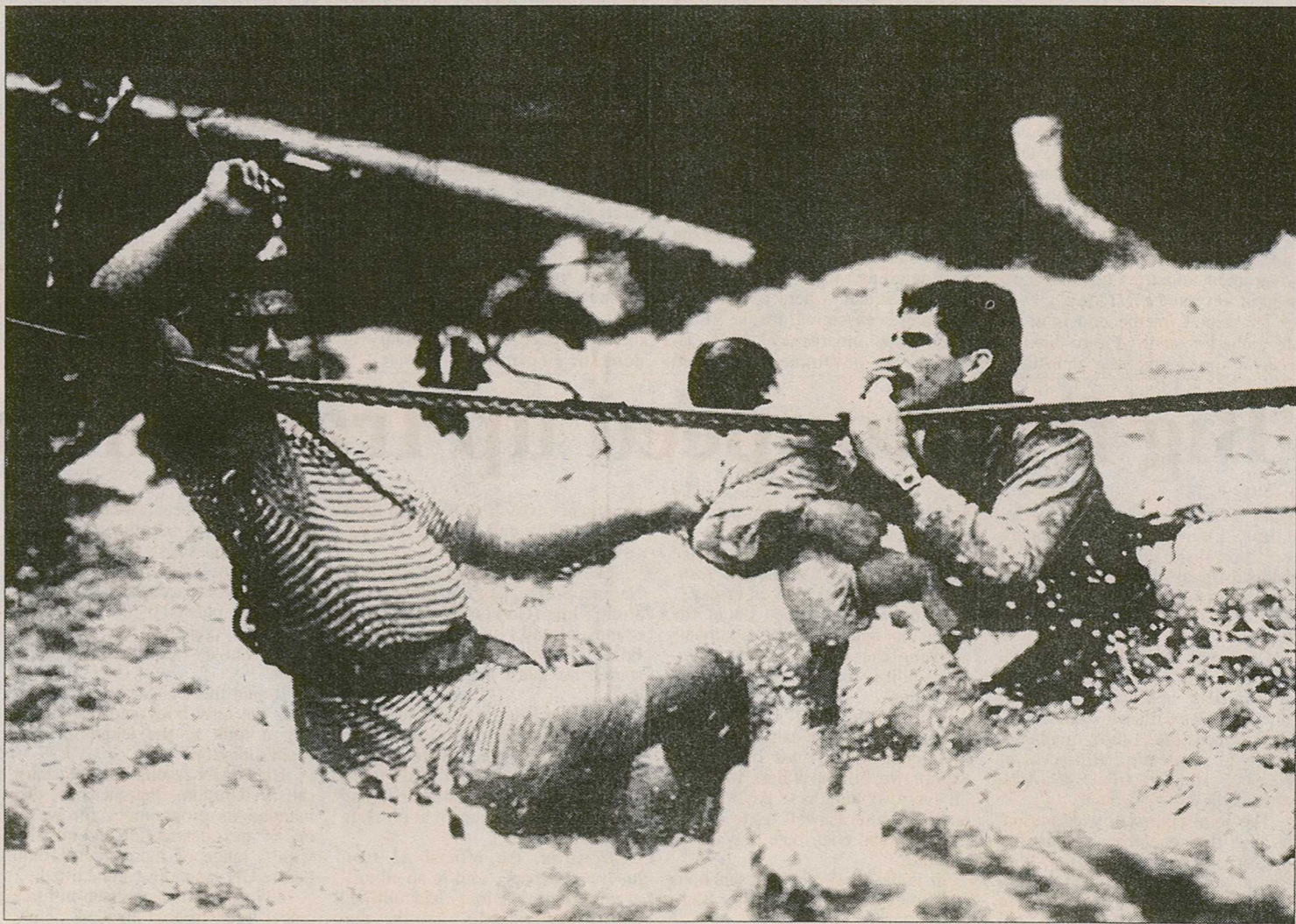
French protest against alien clampdown

PARIS — Tens of thousands of opponents of French government plans to toughen up immigration laws took to the streets yesterday in protests across France...

great and good, to declare the day of action open. The march was initially called by a group of French cinema directors who objected to a clause in the Debre bill...

Benazir alleges Leghari's role in Murtaza murder

KARACHI — Former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto yesterday alleged before a judicial tribunal that President Farooq Ahmed Leghari engineered the killing of her younger brother Murtaza in September...



The children's jury of the World Press Photo Contest has chosen this photograph by US photographer John McConico. The picture shows the rescue of a one-year-old girl from the whirling waters of the Guyamil in Puerto Rico...

WHO warns of global surge in blindness

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that some 75 million people, twice the current figure, could be blind by the year 2020 unless there was a global effort to halt the trend...

Violence claims another life in Pakistan

LAHORE (Pakistan) — Two gunmen killed a lawyer in Pakistan's central province of Punjab amid heightened tension between militant groups of the rival politics...

Albright ends Euro tour; Nato wrangling goes on

MOSCOW — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright left for Asia after a week-long European tour that added momentum to Nato's plans to expand eastward...

UK boils over 'Jew Rifkind' remark by German

LONDON — British politicians reacted angrily yesterday to a German newspaper's description of Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as "the Jew Rifkind"...

Four women found killed in France

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER (France) — Two sets of sisters whose bodies were found near this northern French port were assaulted and strangled...

Brazilian beauty wants to be a father

BRASILIA — Plenty of people insist Roberta Close is the most beautiful woman in Brazil, but she of the jet-black tresses, sultry stare and sensual coral lips just wants to be a dad...

Major set to face botanist in election



A file photo of Roberta Close. — AFP

Rwandan refugees flee Kalima camp

KISANGANI (Zaire) — Twenty-five thousand Rwandan refugees fled the Kalima camp in eastern Zaire yesterday less than a week after it opened...

'Scandals could topple Israeli government'

JERUSALEM — Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government could be toppled over the growing attorney-general scandal...















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Al Mazyona Big Gift scheme

BANK Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani conducted the first draw for Al Mazyona '97 Big Gift savings scheme at Mulladah branch. The chief guest was Abbas Ahmed Ali Ibrahim Al Ajmi, inspector of schools, Ministry of Education, Batinah area. The function was attended by Riad Hassan Al Asfoor, senior manager corporate relations and Ali Mohd Sultan Al Zaabi, manager Mulladah branch and a large number of customers and bank staff.

Zubair felicitates Ramadan offer winner

ZUBAIR Auto conducted the most exciting sales promotion offer in Oman, during the holy month of Ramadan. The scheme was hybrid of a wide spectrum of customer-oriented benefits rolled into one, such as — the upto 60 months easily payable monthly instalment scheme, the lowest-ever cash price, attractive trade-in offers, numerous surprise gifts, upto five months instalment holiday plans, the unique lifetime 'Diamond' warranty, the weekly Visit-and-Win Ericsson GSM raffle and the lifetime 24-hour recovery service, in Muscat.



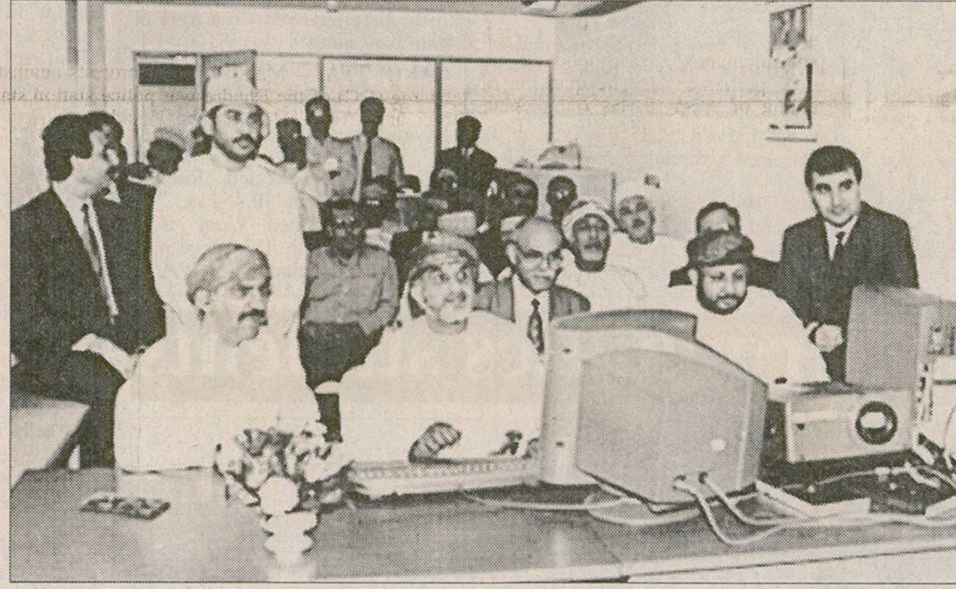
Oman Arab Bank draw

THE 15th monthly draw of Oman Arab Bank's saving accounts (Hassad) was held recently under the auspices of H.E. Juma bin Ali Al Juma, chairman of the Tender Board. The draw was held at the bank's Qurum branch premises and was attended by Murtadha Hassan Ali, deputy chairman, OAB, general management department managers, OAB Muscat area branches managers, and a large number of businessmen and customers of the bank.



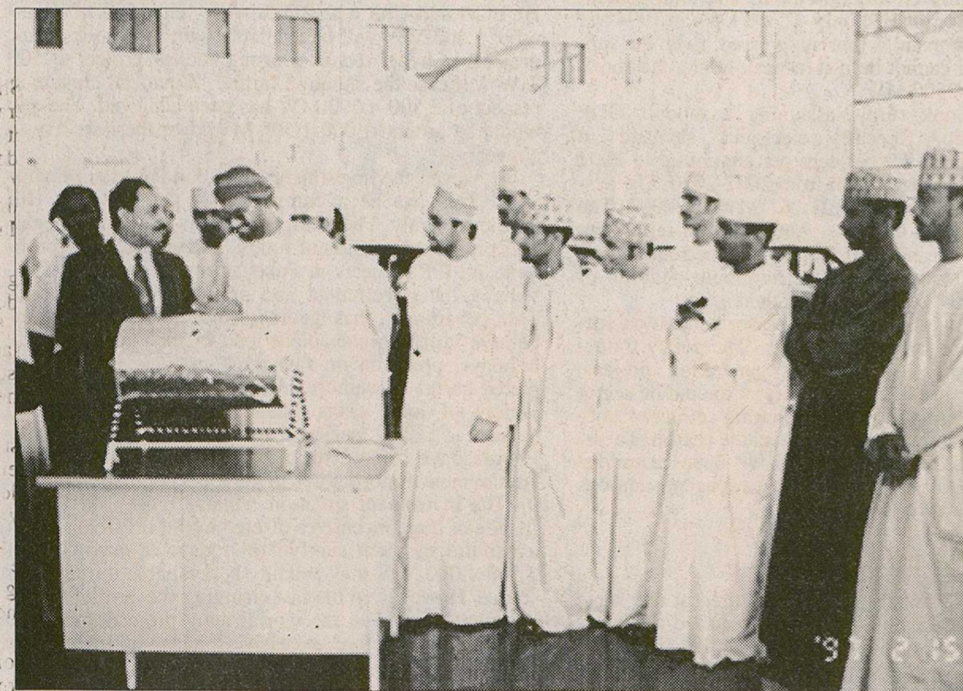
HSE bags major contract

THE 'HSE Management Services Division' which is part of the National Training Institute (a Renaissance company — member of the Tawoos Group) has secured a major health, safety and environment contract with the Baker Hughes Group of Companies. The group consists of Baker Oil Tools, Baker Hughes Inteq, Centrilift and Eastman Christensen who, together, have signed major contracts with Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO).



Bahar cash bonanza

THE National Detergent Co. SAOG has brought out yet another exciting, mega consumer offer, called 'Bahar Cash Bonanza' a part of the ongoing series of promotions on what has popularly come to be termed as 'Blue' Bahar.



Omasco raffle draw

OMAN Marketing and Services Co., sole distributors for Honda cars in the Sultanate of Oman, conducted their second fortnightly raffle draw of their spectacular Ramadan promotion for Honda cars on February 15.

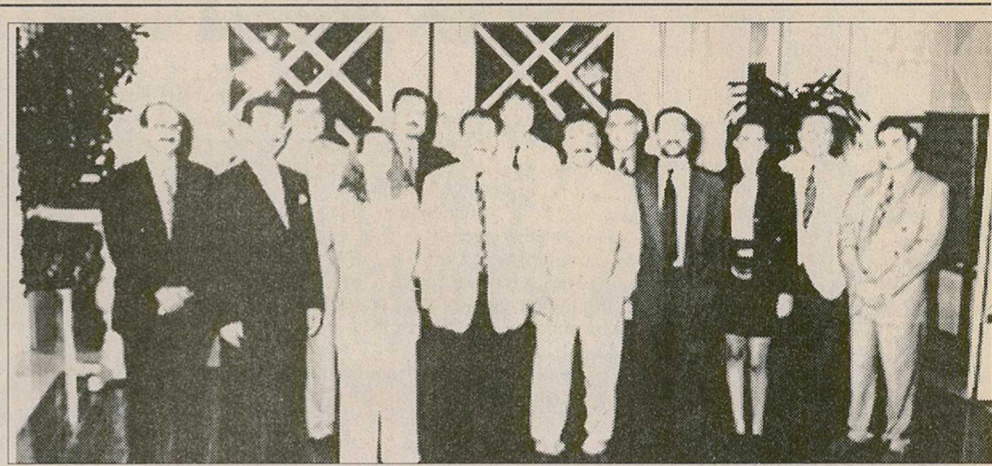
Imtac Cyber Point opens in Al Ghubra

THE third franchise outlet of Imtac, the Imtac Cyber Point was recently inaugurated at Al Ghubra. Consumers in Al Ghubra, Ghala, Bousher and nearby areas can now have access to Imtac's products and services at an authorised franchise outlet close to them. The wide range of products available will include HP, PCs, printers, consumables, renaissance multimedia and Internet ready PCs, computer accessories and software, Motorola and Bang & Olufsen GSM phones and accessories.



Omanexpo Eid Festival

OMANEXPO 11th annual Eid Festival, which was held from February 6 to 14, concluded very successfully. In order to celebrate the 11th anniversary of holding this exhibition the organisers made the entry free of charge, to enable one and all to have a chance to experience this happy occasion. And large crowds thronged the Oman International Exhibition Centre daily, to be a part of the festivity.



Team meets to discuss future strategies

THE future was the main topic of discussion at the Team Advertising regional meeting held recently in Dubai. Team's role in the cyber age was defined and decisions were made to keep investing in the necessary technology and resources.

MID TV '97 from March 9

THE prime focus of the four-day Media International (MID-TV '97) running at the Dubai World Trade Centre from March 9-12 will be on the production, availability and telecasting quality tailor-made programming to meet the phenomenal surge in demand from a vast array of satellite channels in the Middle East that are currently in an intense race to attract more television viewers to their fold.

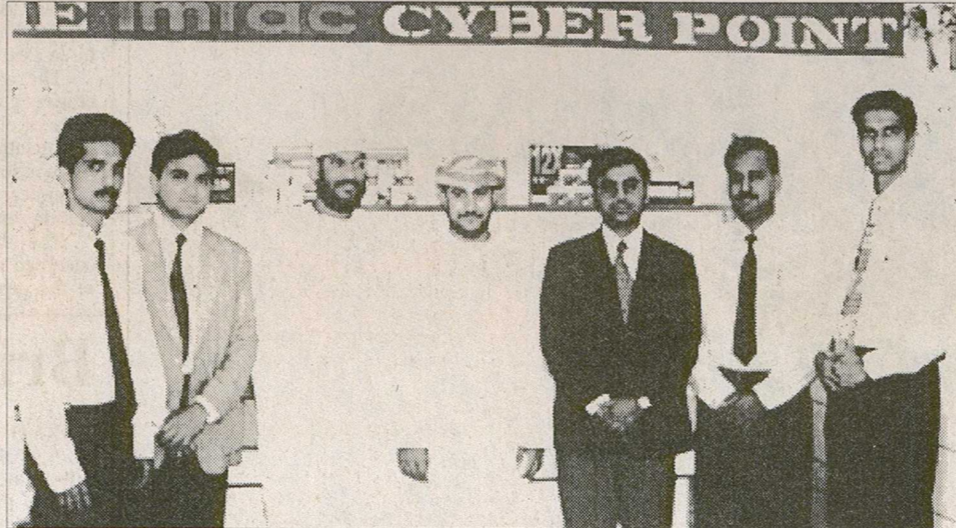
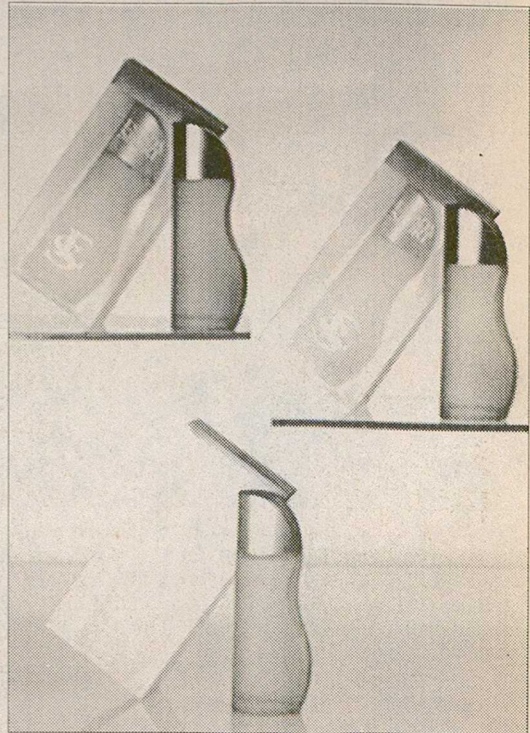


Ford to launch Escort, Tracer

THE introduction of the new Ford Escort from Europe and the new Mercury Tracer from the US is nothing short of a landmark event for Ford in the Middle East. Ford will now be able to compete in the small car segment, which represents over 35 per cent of the total car market in this region, from which Ford has been shut out until now.

Escada Sport fragrances

THE many moods of leisure time are captured by three new Escada Sport fragrances for women, designed to complement a casual lifestyle: moments of calm, hours of sport and afternoons in the country. Escada Sport fragrances are infused with plant extracts that will elicit a spirit of relaxation, exhilaration or escape, based on the science of aromachology.



Muscat Index Fund announces 6% dividend

THE Muscat Index Fund has announced a cash dividend of six per cent for 1996, the highest dividend declared by any fund in Oman. The Muscat Index Fund managed by Bank Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani SAOG and advised by Bahrain International Bank has performed exceedingly well in its first year of operation. The net asset value of the fund has appreciated by more than 25 per cent in one year.

Spring fair '97 to mark 25% growth

THE 22nd edition of the International Spring Trade Fair (ISTF '97) running from March 5 to 11 at the Dubai World Trade Centre will have an overwhelming international presence with over 30 countries represented.

Nabil Day celebrated

NATIONAL Biscuit Industries Ltd. SAOG celebrated their tenth Nabil Day on February 15, '97. On this occasion the chairman thanked all the employees for their contribution to the growth of the company. 1996 has been an outstanding year for Nabil in all aspects.









