

UAES
953.62
TRA
AUG 1970



CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

1466

GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH

AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

THE TRADE - AVIATION & MARINE DEPARTMENT

NEWS BULLETIN N. 5 - AUGUST 1970

S H A R J A H

The name "SHARJAH" is probably derived from an Arabic word signifying "east" and the Sheikhdom was presumably so called because it was then the most easterly of the Gulf States.

On the gentle curve of its golden sand gulf, Sharjah offers to visitors a refuge of quiet, serenity and harmony. Easy to access, perennial blue skies, crystal clear seas and the warm hospitality of its people contribute to make Sharjah an ideal centre on the Arabian Gulf. Visitors come to Sharjah not as sightseers or shoppers but to find the "Magic of Arabia".

The coast line of Sharjah is now about ten miles long and in addition to Sharjah Town there are a number of coastal villages including Hamriya, Laiyya, Haira and Khan. Two of these, namely Haira and Laiyya are located near to Sharjah Town though Laiyya can only be reached by boat as it is situated on an island. Khan lies to the south and Hamriya to the north but the road leading to it from the capital passes through Ajman's territory. Date palms are grown on its coastal fringe.

Inland, the State extends some fifty miles to the foot of the mountains and surrounds Ajman in a kind of arc.

Sharjah to some extent is unique among the Trucial States as it has boundaries with each of the other six States and also with Muscat. It has also several dependencies, namely Kalba, Didda and Khor Fakkan, all of which are situated some distance away on the Batinah Coast of the Gulf of Oman.

Sharjah is the third largest of the Trucial States which border the southwestern shore of the Arabian Gulf. The historical region of Oman, of which Sharjah is a part, occupies about 110,000 square miles of the south-eastern part of the Arabian peninsula and comprises the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and the seven trucial Sheikhdoms. Sharjah has an area of about 1,000 square miles, the main territory lying on the coast north of Dubai and the rest being split up into various enclaves in the mountains and on the east coast, the Batinah Coast, where Sharjah's important dependency of Khor Fakkan bisects the Sheikhdom of Fujairah and on the west is bordered by a strip of Ras al Khaimah's southern territory. Khor Fakkan has a coast line of approximately ten miles in length and along this coast, there are villages at Zubara, Luluya and

Husn, apart from the town of Khor Fakkan itself, from which the dependency takes its name. There are inland villages at Rufaisa, Shis and Nahawa. There are date gardens and agricultural settlements on the coast and some also inland as at Rufaisa.

Khor Fakkan Town has a good natural harbour and this is now being improved by the construction of a jetty, financed by the Trucial States Development Fund. Indicative of the growing importance of the town was the opening of a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East there in 1967. It is also significant that exports from Dubai to Khor Fakkan, increased steadily from 1964, reaching a total value of three million pounds sterling in 1966, and about six million in 1967.

The physical aspect of the territory is distinguished by a division into a series of distinct topographical zones, beginning with the salt flats of the coast which merge into a belt of very sparsely wooded sand hills which in turn merge into the gravel plain. From here one can see the barren peaks of the Oman range which run roughly north to south, forming the horn of Arabia and rising to over 2,000 metres in the Musandam peninsula and over 3,000 metres in interior Oman.

CLIMATE

Sharjah's climate is generally warm and healthy.

The sun, the warm climate, the clean air, golden sand beaches and the blue, warm, Arabian sea, are Sharjah's chief assets along with the scenic beauty of the desert and splendid sunsets.

Sharjah's climate is extremely pleasant during the winter months, hot and humid during July, August and September, the average maximum during the latter period being about 40°C, and about 22° in mid Winter. Rainfall is very low, averaging about 110mm annually, but this is very inconsistent.

The marvellous mixture of its people is a sumptuous display in colour; a melodious medley of Arabian sounds.

Most of the population of Sharjah is concentrated in the capital itself and numbers about 35,000. A few of the local people still lead traditional life of the itinerant beduin, but the drift to the towns in recent years has been considerable, and has accelerated since the discovery of oil in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Sharjah Town is prosperous with a number of substantial buildings, shops, good housing and an active "suq". A feature of many of the older buildings is a "wind tower" similar to those which used to be common in Dubai.

In addition to accommodating the headquarters of the Trucial Oman Scouts, Sharjah Town also houses a R.A.F. base and these establishments provide a certain amount of employment for the inhabitants as does also the airport.

Sharjah is governed by the Ruler, His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed al Qasimi, assisted by the heads of his Government Departments and specialist advisers. This might be termed the traditional form of Arabian democracy, the Ruler's personal interest in the well being of his subjects being reciprocated by their eagerness to take advantage of their right of direct access to him in order to discuss their own personal problems.

THE HISTORY OF SHARJAH

From ancient times up to now Sharjah history has been mixed with legend.

Historically, Sharjah was part of the area known in the XIX century as the pirate coast. Most of the towns between Ras al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi, including Sharjah, were pirate nests, and the raids of Arab corsairs out of these ports on the rich shipping, trading with India, became a matter of growing concern to the British Government during this period. The leading figures in these piratical activities were the Qawasim family, ancestors of the present Ruler, but after the conclusion of various treaties of maritime peace with the British Government the danger to shipping was removed, and the area became known as the Trucial Coast. However,

internal and internecine strife continued and the slave trade flourished and it was not until the establishment of the Trucial Oman Levies, a local military force with British officers, after the second world war, that peace came to Sharjah and its neighbouring Emirates, and the inhabitants of the coast no longer went in daily danger of being kidnapped by marauding bedouin.

Sharjah's income is derived from trade, fishing and a developing agriculture, but the main source is its oil concessions.

COMMUNICATIONS

The port of Sharjah is served principally from a new jetty built in 1969 by Beton & Monerbau of Dusseldorf and offers the only jetty facilities in the Trucial States for ocean going vessels of up to 10,000 tons. There is also a project in hand costing over Lst. 1 million for widening and deepening Sharjah creek; when completed this will add safe water harbour facilities to the port.

A comprehensive urban road network has now been completed in Sharjah town which is also connected by road to Dubai and the other three Trucial States up the coast.

The airport has a relatively long history as in the 1930's Sharjah was a staging post on Imperial Airway's route to the Far East. Recently the runways have been lengthened so as to enable the airport to accommodate large jet transports.

Sharjah International airport is now served by an increasing number of international airlines which call at the airport most days of the week.

Cable and telephone communications are good and a State telephone company has recently been created to increase the coverage of tele-communications throughout the State. Sharjah is also the headquarters of Reuters in the Trucial States and supplies a daily newsheet in English containing the latest Reuters Bulletins.

OIL AND MINERALS

Oil Concessions — The great potential in Sharjah's rapid development is centered around the considerable hopes which are held for the discovery of oil. At the beginning of 1969 an on-shore concession was signed with a consortium of Shell and Bomin. The concession alone brings in a handsome revenue to the State. In December 1969 a major off-shore concession was granted to the Buttes Oil and Gas Company of California with a down payment of 2 million dollars U.S. and another substantial annual rental.

The hope of discovering oil off-shore has been further increased by a rich strike recently made by a Japanese Oil Company in Abu Dhabi territorial waters adjacent to part of the Sharjah concession.

Mineral Resources — A lone among the Trucial States, Sharjah has exploited mineral resources in the form of red oxide which is mined on the islands of Abu Musa and sur Abu Noian by a British Company-Golden Valley Colours, Ltd. with a head office at Wick, near Bristol. A small income accrues to the State from royalties on the export of a few thousand tons of the ore annually.

BANKING AND POSTAL FACILITIES

Four banks, namely the Eastern Bank, the Arab Bank, the British Bank of the Middle Est, and the Habib Bank have established branches in Sharjah, all located in the capital, where expatriate personnel attached to the airport, the military establishments, other institutions and Trade Companies have need for banking facilities. There is also a postal service run by the State which had been issuing its own stamps since 1963 when the British postal authorities handed over administration to the local post office. The newfound independence of the postal service was celebrated, after the first issue depicting the Sheikh, flag and map of Sharjah, by a series of commemoratives of President Kennedy and pictorials devoted to subjects such as scientific space research and science, transport and communications. More relevant, however, were the view of a Sharjah street and wind tower or that of Kalba Castle. To mark the occasion of the Arabian Gulf Area Monetary Conference, circular stamps

were issued in 1966 embossed on silver foil.

THE TRADE, AVIATION AND MARINE DEPARTMENT

This Department shall perform such functions and duties and render such services at home and abroad in the name and on behalf of the State of Sharjah and its Dependencies for all Trade, Commercial, Aviation and Marine affairs.

The Department is guided in all its actions to uphold the prestige and dignity of the State of Sharjah and its Dependencies, for the prestige of its flag, and for the orderly creation and development of a fleet under the aforesaid flag, to carry out an adequate policy aiming to facilitate and promote easier and better Maritime and Air Traffic with the view to promoting international trade and commerce, thus consequently promoting the highest interests of the State of Sharjah and its Dependencies in order to further better understanding with other Nations and Peoples.

SHARJAH INSURANCE COMPANY

The creation of the SHARJAH INSURANCE COMPANY, indicates the growing reputation that the State of Sharjah is acquiring as a financial centre.

An additional advantage of the Insurance Company is the services it will provide for the Trade, Aviation and Marine Department. J.H. Minet & Co. International Insurance Brokers at Lloyds of London, supervise the management of the Company and arrange the Company's reinsurances with first class Insurance Companies in the international market.

G U L F N E W S

GULF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The progress of the projected Federation of Arab Emirates in the Gulf area has marked time in August awaiting for decisions over British policy in the region generally expected to be taken after consultations that Sir William Luce, the British special envoy to co-ordinate British policy in the area, has already started with the leaders of the area and others. Expectance for possible development of Oman interest to join the Federation is also believed to be a factor for time marking.

A meeting of the Deputy Rulers of the nine Gulf states concerned with the proposed Federation, fixed for August 22 in Abu Dhabi to prepare a new conference of the Supreme Council of the Federation, composed by the nine Rulers themselves, has been postponed until mid-September to give Sir William an opportunity of expressing Britain's views on the question of the Federation to those directly concerned.

Sir William, the senior British diplomat who has been appointed on July 27 British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home's personal representative for co-ordinating British policy towards the Gulf area, left London on August 19 to visit Jeddah for consultations with the Saudi Arabian Government. This has been Sir William's first visit to the area since he has been entrusted with his task. He will later visit Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Teheran and is due in Baghdad on about September 19 and in Cairo on September 22. Sir William is expected back to London on September 26. A British Foreign Office announcement on August 18 said that "Sir William, who proposes to visit all the States surrounding the Gulf, and the United Arab Republic, is undertaking this journey both to renew his acquaintance with the area and for consultation". His talks in Baghdad, Cairo and other capitals, would only concentrate on Gulf questions and not on wider Middle East problems, within the decision by the new British Conservative Government to consult the Gulf Rulers and other concerned about the desirability of retaining a British military presence in the Gulf region after the end of 1971, the date by which the former British Labour administration of Mr. Harold Wilson had decided to with-

draw the military forces from the Gulf.

The U.A.R., Iraq and other countries have been reported to be against British retaining such a presence in the Gulf and, prior to the appointment of Sir William Luce, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, questioned on July 20 in the House of Commons for a statement on the Government's policy towards the Gulf, said that he was in close touch with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and other leaders in the region and that on July 10 he had met the Shah of Iran in Brussels: "Our Future policy - he stated - will not be determined finally until all concerned have been consulted". Asked by one opposition M.P., Mr. Robert MacLennan, whether the Government's aim to promote a Union of Arab Emirates in the Gulf would be assisted by maintaining a British military presence in the area "despite the hostility to this by leading powers there", Sir Alec replied: "If we are successful in forming a Union of Arab Emirates, it would be for them to say what kind of support they needed". A former Labour Minister, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, complained that a difficulty in forming the Federation was the uncertainty about the future of British troops in the area: "There is a feeling - he said - that this uncertainty is causing this important decision to be dodged. When is some Minister going to visit the Gulf?". Sir Alec replied that British plans for the area would be known shortly, and that he had no early plans to visit the Gulf.

Questions concerning the Gulf problem, particularly the projected Federation, and the latest Middle East developments, have been discussed by Dubai and Bahrain leaders in separate talks with Sir Alec Douglas-Home at the Foreign Office in London on July 31. The British Foreign Secretary was visited firstly by the Ruler of Dubai, Shaikh Rashid Bin Said Al-Maktoum, and an hour later by the President of the Bahrain's State Council, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al-Khalifa, and the Bahrain's Director of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak.

In the meanwhile, views on the proposed Federation and on British future presence in the area, have been expressed by many sources.

In particular, calls for the early formation of the Federation have been released in Qatar and the U.A.R. The weekly newspaper Al-Orouba, published in Doha, stated that "since there was little likelihood of any continued British military presence in the area after 1971, the Federation had become an urgent necessity". Cairo Radio, in a broadcast on August 12, said that "The people of the Gulf support the plan for a union of Emirates, strive steadily to realise it and try to remove all obstacles from its path. There is no doubt that it will inevitably see the light of day some time and come into being, although it seems to have got off to a stumbling start and to be slow in its steps towards completion.... The sons of this Gulf region should accept nothing less than the realisation of a political union embracing them all, strengthening their existence and protecting their present and future alike from the ambitions of the greedy and the machinations of the imperialists".

The U.A.R. Government's view on the British policy in the Gulf area have been made clear in other Cairo Radio broadcasts saying that "The British forces and military bases in the Gulf region are bound to leave and there must be an end to them soon..... The wheel of action in the Gulf must move towards this target on the basis that it is incontestable and irrefutable. This means that all the Gulf Emirates must follow their road to independence, lay the foundations of the Federation, and continue working within the framework of development and progress in all spheres, the way it was before the British Conservative Government came to power". The Cairo Radio also said that "It is worth nothing that the U.A.R. objects to a British presence in the Gulf area as a principle stemming from its faith in the rights of the Arab people to freedom and sovereignty. From this premise it will object to British forces in the region after 1971, believing that the presence of these forces will not serve the interests of the area but rather those of world colonialist and imperialist policy. The UAR will add its voice to those of the brothers in the Gulf who demand freedom for the territory and the resumption of their sovereignty over its future, its wealth and all its affairs so that it can take up its strong position in the liberated Arab caravan, thus becoming a force of greater activity and vigour in achieving the aims of the resurgent Arab nation".

A press view on what Britain should do in the Gulf has been expressed also in the Sunday Times of London by Mr. David Holden, a special correspondent who has just returned from a visit to Oman, Bahrain and the Trucial States. Under the headline "We're not wanted in the Gulf, Sir Alec", Mr. Holden said on August 16 that "..... In particular, the notion canvassed by some Conservatives that it is still possible or desirable to reverse Labour's policy and continue to keep 6,000 British Servicemen in the Gulf indefinitely does not stand up in the light of Gulf realities..... In the nine smallest sheikhdoms — Bahrain, Qatar and the seven states of the Trucial Coast — whose existence has depended on British protection for the last 150 years and whose future is at the heart of most of the Gulf's immediate problems, there is a natural nostalgia for the British presence and anxiety about the future. But the public silence there is even more deafening than the chorus from Iran, Kuwait, Iraq and Egypt, tacitly supported by Saudi Arabia, saying that the British must go. To remain in spite of this would invite trouble. The Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf, now so active in Dhofar, would like nothing better. The Iraqis, already actively preparing revolutionary Baathist cells in Bahrain, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, would be delighted. President Nasser would be compelled to intervene, especially now that his Arab nationalist credentials seem a little tarnished by his acceptance of the Arab Israel cease-fire". "But to pull out the troops does not mean that Britain must abandon the Gulf totally to its own devices, and the more far-sighted minds in the Gulf have been considering for some time other ways in which a realistic British connection might continue. While all permanent bases must go..... But all this depends on the creation of a political structure, in succession to Britain's old hegemony over the sheikhdoms, which will obtain proper international recognition and with which Britain can conclude the necessary agreements. The shape of such a structure must be Sir William Luce's chief concern. At present the Federation of Gulf Emirates — the nine small sheikhdoms — on which British hopes have rested since 1968, is a painfully spastic-looking infant, manifestly unsound in head and limb. Whitehall is still committed to it, and Sir William may give it one more chance; but sentiment is growing swiftly in Bahrain for opting out, especially now that Iran's old claim to sovereignty there has been disposed of, and if she goes Qatar will almost certainly follow her into independence. Theoretically the next course would be to form a federation of the remaining seven — the Trucial States alone. But this would be a less convincing unit and probably no less difficult to give effective form to, for the rivalry of Dubai and Abu Dhabi remains acute. A third possibility may therefore gain ground on both the "Nine" and the "Seven" — a "Greater Oman," in which the newly liberated Sultanate of Oman might eventually absorb the smaller Trucial sheikhdoms while establishing broadly federal relations with Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The Oman Sultan's new Prime Minister, Tarik, certainly favours some such development and it would possess a powerful historical and tribal appeal. Sheikh Zaid, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, has already paid court to the new Sultan and other Trucial rulers are expected to follow him soon. Unless Sir William Luce gets the sheikhs' federation into orbit now, therefore, we may see it by this time next year consigned to the shelf reserved for those other post-imperial curiosities, the federations of South Arabia, Central Africa and Malaysia, while other solutions force their way into the reckoning".

The possibility that the Sultanate of Oman might seek to join the proposed Federation has emerged after the latest developments in the Sultanate with the deposition of Sultan Said Bin Taimour. The new Sultan, Qabas, told foreign journalists on August 10 that he hoped "to have soon an opportunity of discussing possible association of his Sultanate with the projected Federation".

A suggestion that the Federation of nine Gulf States might be extended to include Muscat and Oman was made in March 1968, only a month after the announcement of the Federation plan, by the Ruler of Ras Al-Khaimah. But no further action was taken at the time.

The suggestion that the Sultanate of Oman might seek to join the proposed Federation has emerged after the latest developments in the Sultanate with the deposition of Sultan Said Bin Taimour. The new Sultan, Qabas, told foreign journalists on August 10 that he hoped "to have soon an opportunity of discussing possible association of his Sultanate with the projected Federation".

DEVELOPMENTS IN OMAN

Sultan Qabas of Muscat and Oman, who took power last month from his father, Said Bin Taimour, has started immediately working out widespread internal reforms to modernise and liberalise the society of his country.

Firstly, the new Sultan has announced that the country would no longer be known as Muscat and Oman but simply as the Sultanate of Oman, in a step to emphasize the unity of all parts of the land. Designs for a new national flag to replace the present unadorned red banner are also being considered.

Among reforms listed in the first radio address launched by the new Sultan to his people, were "freedom to travel" both inside and outside the country, invitation to exiles to return to serve their country, lifting of import restrictions, plans to improve agriculture (in particular restrictions on import and ownership of agricultural machinery have been lifted), communications, education and health services, revision of civil servant's salaries and lifting of ban of house-building. Qabas has also abolished restrictions imposed by his father on singing, smoking and wearing spectacles in public, while slaves have been released from bondage in the royal palace at Salalah, and a clinic has been immediately opened. A general amnesty has been declared for all but hardened criminals in custody, and sentences still enforced have been made of definite rather than indefinite duration.

A plan to strengthen Mutrah as the country's main commercial centre has also been decided and the new Sultan has already inspected the site where it is planned to construct a new port. Plans to redesign and expand the Mutrah port have already been discussed with a British firm of consulting engineers, Sir William Halcrow and Partners.

The new Sultan also appealed his people to "take a strong stand against Communism" and told dancing and singing tribesmen welcoming him in Muscat on July 30, in the streets decorated with flags and palm branches, that "we hope that this day marks the beginning of a great future for us all and hope too that everybody will do his duty in helping us to build a happy, prosperous and great future for our homeland".

He also told the first party of journalists to be allowed to enter the Sultanate for 10 years, that he wanted his country to "make friends with all states which offered their friendship and even with those which are at present unfriendly". The Sultan also said that he was anxious to establish diplomatic relations with Arab states and hoped that he would soon have an opportunity of discussing possible association of his Sultanate with the projected Federation of Arab Emirates in the Gulf region. He regarded relations with Britain important since their ties had been close in the past and he hoped that they would remain so, but he could not yet define his attitude towards a continued British presence in the Gulf area. The Sultanate was unable "to speak for the Gulf as a whole, but would co-operate as best it could", he said.

Speaking of the rebel forces in Dhofar province, who are believed to be supplied with arms via Southern Yemen and to be trained by Chinese experts in guerilla warfare, Sultan Qabas said that any of them were welcome "to come and work for the country and not against it". They would be treated with kindness and understanding by the new Government".

Tareq Bin Taimour, uncle of Qabas, has been appointed Prime Minister and has formed a new Government, including Badr Bin Saud as Minister of the Interior, Mohammed Bin Ahmad as Minister of Justice, Dr. Asim Bin Mohammed Al-Jamali as Minister of Health, and Shaikh Saud Bin Ali-al-Khalili as Minister of Education. According to British press reports, Sultan Qabas is taking over the Foreign Affairs portfolio himself, while Colonel Hugh Oldman, a former British officer who served the ex Sultan, would be Defence Secretary, responsible for security and Michael Bailey, another Briton, would be responsible for Development and Welfare.

The new Premier, who has returned to the Sultanate from voluntary exile in protest against Shaikh Said's "mediaeval rule", told a British journalist that he did not think it necessary for British military forces to remain in the Gulf, though he believed that Oman would play a leading part in the area once it had adjusted its internal affairs and formed a modern government. He also said that the oppression and hardship that had caused rebellion in Dhofar should be removed and the process has already started: "Should this not ha-

ve the desired effect, all military forces available will be concentrated on stamping out the rebellion", he added.

Sultan Qabas has already made informal tours in his country, visiting Muscat and the twin municipality of Mutrah. He also flew to Nizwa, the ancient capital of Oman and met many tribal leaders throughout the Sultanate.

According to a Kuwaiti newspaper, he has also plans to make general tour of the Gulf area. Commenting on the news that Sultan Qabas would also visit soon Kuwait, Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, said the "We shall welcome Sultan Qabas. No doubt his reign will be one of welfare for his people, to whom we wish all happiness and stability".

After Sultan Qabas has taken over power in the Sultanate, he has received telegrams of congratulation from the Rulers of Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Fujairah, Dubai and Sharjah. On August 9, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Shaikh Zayid, paid a visit to Oman and met Sultan Qabas at Seib, near Muscat. An official statement said that the two leaders had talks "in an atmosphere of friendship and goodwill" aimed at strengthening the links which bound their countries and peoples.

ABU MUSA OIL DISPUTE DEVELOPMENTS

Mediation work in the Abu Musa offshore waters dispute between Ajman and Umm Al-Qaiwain and Sharjah, has been started in August by Sir Gawain Bell, who has been appointed by Britain to act as mediator. Sir Gawain, whose appointment has been accepted by the Rulers of the three Gulf states and by the two oil companies involved in the dispute (Occidental Petroleum, concessionaire of Ajman and Umm al-Qaiwain, and Buttes Gas and Oil, concessionaire of Sharjah), has already left London for the area. He is a retired member of the British foreign service who was Governor of Northern Nigeria from 1957 to 1962 and constitutional adviser to Saudi Arabia in 1965/1966.

The dispute relates to rights to explore for oil in the offshore waters of the island Abu Musa at the mouth of the Gulf.

CEMENT PLANTS PLANNED IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH AND DUBAI

Ras Al-Khaimah plans to build a 700 tons per day cement plant, expected to be the first of this kind in the Trucial States. Tenders submitted by international companies for the construction of the factory have been opened on August 7 in London by the Deputy Ruler of Ras Al-Khaimah, Shaikh Khalid Bin Saqr Al-Qasimi, who is chairman of a recently formed Ras Al Khaimah Cement Company which will own and operate the plant. Four tenders, made respectively by a British firm, two Japanese and one Indian concerns, will be scrutinised by Kennedy and Donkin, consulting engineers to the Cement Company and to the Ras Al-Khaimah Government. The contract is expected to be awarded to the successful bidder next September.

The total cost of the project ranges between 12 and 15 million U.S. dollars and production is expected to start in two years' time. The construction organisation of Mr. Ziad Mango, a major shareholder in the enterprise, has undertaken to purchase the full production of the new plant during the first five years.

Last June, a contract was signed to build a giant cement factory in Dubai, with a capacity of 1,500 tons per day. The contract was signed by Marc von Wyss, senior Vice-President of the Swiss Holderbank Management and Consulting, and Majid Al-Curaiir, a Dubai businessman. The cost of this project was estimated to range between 8 and 10 million pound sterling. A detailed plan of operations has been worked out, calling for the completion of initial plans and specifications within six months. Eight months will then be allowed for the submission of tenders and a further two months for their study. The factory should come in full production within three years.

ABU DHABI OIL OUTPUT

Crude oil produced by the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in July totalled 1,248,000 long tons, bringing the total 1970 output to date to 10,310,000 long tons.

Crude oil produced from the Murban field averaged last year 355,900 barrels a day, or 12.7 per cent more than 1968. Exports were of 16,781,085 long tons (or 130 million barrels), 13.7 per cent more than in 1968. The Company's payment to the Abu Dhabi Government was of 48.7 million pounds in 1969.

ABU DHABI PORT DEVELOPMENT

The new navigation channel being constructed by a Dutch consortium for the port of Abu Dhabi, will be 4.35 miles long, 164 yards wide and 31 feet deep. It will make the harbour accessible to seagoing vessels and in particular to large oil tankers. At present, it can be reached only by barges and lighters. The cost will be of 5.8 million pounds.

ABU DHABI HOTEL TAKEOVER BY GULF AVIATION

Ownership and management of the Al-Ain Palace, the leading hotel in Abu Dhabi, had been taken over by the Gulf Aviation Company in partnership with local interests. The hotel, which can accommodate 130 people, is being renamed 'The Gulf.

ABU DHABI TO CROP FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Environmental Research Laboratory of the Arizona University, U.S.A., will erect five acres of inflated polyethylene greenhouses in Abu Dhabi. The greenhouses are expected to produce crops of fruits and vegetables at less than the cost of produces imported at present, the Laboratory said.

TRADE TALKS BETWEEN ABU DHABI AND IRAN

An Iranian trade team has paid a three day visit to Abu Dhabi in August for talks with local economists and prominent businessmen who are soon to visit Teheran. The Abu Dhabi team will visit Teheran for 10 days and an exhibition of Iranian goods is being prepared for them there. They will also visit industrial plants throughout the country.

QATAR TV SERVICE LAUNCHED

A pilot television station has started transmitting regular programmes from Doha. It represents the first stage in a project to embrace TV coverage of the whole Gulf area, which will take a year to implement. The station has been built by the Marconi Company. An agreement covering regular supplies of Egyptian videotape recordings for the Qatar television service was recently signed in Doha by the Chairman of the United Arab Republic Television Authority.

NEW BRANCHES OF HABIB BANKS IN RAS AL KHAIMA AND DUBAI

The Habib Bank (Overseas)Limited has opened, respectively on July 25 and 26, a branch at Ras al Khaima and a sub-branch at Dubai.

APPOINTMENTS IN QATAR

Doha - The Deputy Ruler and Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa Al-Thani, has appointed Ahmad Abdullah Al-Malki to head the Department of Immigration, Passports and Naturalisation. He also appointed Abdul Aziz Al-Sad to head the Customs Department in the Ministry of Finance and Oil. The Immigration post was formerly held by Ali Ben Ahmad Al-Ansari, now Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

QATAR TO ATTEND PETROCHEMICAL CONFERENCE

Doha - Qatar has received an invitation to attend the Pan-Arab Conference on Petrochemicals in Kuwait next January 25. The Conference will be held under the auspices of the Arab League and the Arab Centre for Industrial Development.

NEW BAHRAIN - KUWAITI BANK

A joint Bahrain -Kuwaiti Bank with a capital of one million Kuwaiti dinars (about Lst. 890,000 sterling) is to be set up in Bahrain. Bahrain Chamber of Commerce President Ali Al-Wazzan said Bahrain's 50 per cent contribution would be in the form of fifty thousand 10 Dinar shares. Four Kuwaiti banks and two

investment companies would meet the other 50 per cent.

FODDER PLANT PLANNED IN BAHRAIN

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation will help the development of agriculture in Bahrain, it was announced by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid, Head of the Department of Municipalities and Rural Affairs. He said the FAO will specifically help Bahrain in establishing a fodder plant. He added that experts were expected to arrive at the end of August. FAO is expected to cover 50 per cent of the investment.

HOTEL EXTENSION IN BAHRAIN

The Board of Bahrain Hotel Company has announced its acceptance of a bid by Wimpey and Company for an extension of the Gulf Hotel opened here in September 1969. Additional 110 bedrooms and ten VIP suites are to be added. By the time the extension is completed the total cost of the Gulf Hotel will be Lst. 2.4 million. Its final total of 250 rooms and suites would make it the largest hotel in the Gulf.

NEW BRIDGE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN BAHRAIN

The Bahrain Government has awarded a 750,000 sterling contract to the British company Fitzpatrick (Overseas) to build a new four-lane bridge at Muharraq at the end of the causeway linking Mamama to Muharraq. Sir William Halcrow and Partners will be the consultants.

APRON FOR JUMBO JET TO BE BUILT IN BAHRAIN

A 1.5 million sterling contract has been awarded to the British company Tarmac for the construction of an apron for the new Jumbo Jet terminal at Bahrain airport. Alexander Gibb and Partners will be the consultants.

POWER AND WATER SURVEYS IN BAHRAIN

The British companies Preece Cardew and Rider and Rendel Palmer and Tritton have been awarded in association with a contract to undertake a feasibility study to include a survey of the power and desalinated water needs in Bahrain in the next 10 years. The study will also recommend the most suitable site for a future power station. In addition to predicting domestic power requirements of Bahrain, the survey will also take into account the requirements of new industries likely to be established in the area.

GULF AIR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT TO BE DISCUSSED

The development of air transport in the Gulf region and the possible setting up of an Arab Gulf aviation company will be discussed at a meeting in one of the Gulf emirates next October between representative of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Qatar. The announcement has been given by Mr. Feisal Al-Fuleij, Chairman of the Kuwait Airways. He said that the planned company would operate in the emirates as well, as between the Gulf and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Gulf Airlines Company, in which some emirates participate, and the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), have been running air services in the emirates for more than 10 years.

DIRECT MAIL FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO SHARJAH

Mail from Saudi Arabia is being routed direct to Sharjah rather than via Dubai as at present. This was arranged with Saudi postal authorities by Sharjah's Postmaster-General, Salem al-Mahmoud, who recently visited Riyadh.

Sea the concessionaires are companies and corporations that are completely controlled by national governments. Under the British and French system, the concessionaires would be governments, and dispute over a particular block would be much more dangerous than inter-company rivalries.

Japan claim to undersea oil

In the meanwhile, Japan has informed on August 10 the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taiwan that under international law possible oil reserves under the Continental Shelf around the Senkaku Islands southwest of Okinawa belong to Japan.

The dispute arose out of the granting of petroleum exploration rights in the area by the Taipei Government to the U.S. Pacific Gulf Oil. Such an award is invalid under international law, the Japanese Foreign Minister told members of a special committee of the Upper House.

Gulf was given the rights to explore for offshore oil in a wide area in the East China Sea, including the waters off the Senkaku Islands, a small group under control of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands and destined to be returned to Japan by the U.S. in 1972. The Continental Shelf near the Senkaku Islands could be the location of the world's largest oil reserves, according to U.S. navy oceanographic geophysicists.

CHOLERA SPREAD IN SOVIET UNION, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Several cholera cases have been reported throughout August from various areas, including Soviet Union the Middle East and Africa. Earlier alert of the disease was a press report from UAR on August 1 that cholera had stopped troop movements in Alexandria and Cairo. But UAR Government has denied that a "gastric trouble" spread in the country was cholera. Subsequently, cholera outbreak was reported from certain areas of the Soviet Union and travel and health measures have been introduced in this country. Cases of cholera have been also officially reported to the World Health Organisation in Geneva from Libya (28 cases), Lebanon (30), Israel (33) and Dubai (one). The WHO also claimed that some 2,000 cases of the disease, with 60 dead, have been noticed in Guinea but this country has denied and has decided to quit the Organisation as a protest for the release of the information. WHO said on August 28 that cholera was spreading more rapidly throughout Middle East and Africa than generally believed because governments are failing to report the cases of the disease, despite of international regulations which make it mandatory for all countries to report infectious diseases.

In the meanwhile, many countries in Asia, Africa and Europe have adopted cholera precautions, including quarantine measures and vaccination. WHO has supplied vaccine, rehydration fluid, laboratory reagents for diagnosis and antibiotics to many countries, including Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Guinea, Congo, Southern Yemen, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Israel, St. Helena and Liberia. A co-ordination of preventive measures against the disease has been discussed at a meeting in Damascus on August 27 of ministers of neighbouring Arab states on a call by the Syrian Minister of Health. The move was welcomed by the WHO.

KIDNAPPINGS IN URUGUAY

Uruguay has introduced emergency measures, equal to a virtual martial law, following the murder of one of three hostages kidnapped last July by Left-wing Tupamaros guerillas. The body of the hostage, U.S. aid official Mr. Dan Mitrione, was found shot through the head in an abandoned stolen car. Police and troops sealed off Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, from the rest of the country and started a door-to-door search for the other two hostages still in guerilla hands. They found no trace of the men so far.

NERVE GAS BURIED IN ATLANTIC

2,800 tons of nerve gas contained in 12,500 rockets have been dumped by the U.S. Army on August 18 some 5,000 metres below the surface in the Atlantic off the Florida coast. The rockets were on board of an old ship which has been sunk.

Many countries, including Bahamas and Bermuda, protested for this move. A formal U.S. pledge that there would be no ill effects arrived at United Nations just in time to avert an official reprimand.

On August 28, the U.S. Senate adopted a measure prohibiting the disposal of chemical or germ warfare agents unless first rendered harmless. The move followed the widespread furore over the dumping of the nerve gas in the Atlantic.

