

Muscat, Sunday, February 23, 1992

Karami said after a meeting of the

Supreme Defence Council late on

Friday that firing Katyushas on Is-

rael could not be classified as an act

dered to allow no irregular armed

presence and prevent the launching

of rockets from areas under its con-

undertaking of any military action

in Army-controlled areas is totally

forbidden," Karami said. "This kind

of action is inconsistent with the

presence in forward villages where

attack on an Army camp inside Is-

rael in which three soldiers were

killed. Israeli aircraft struck Pal-

estinian camps in South Lebanon

and assassinated the leader of Hez-

The spiritual leader of Hez-

'The Islamic forces resorted to

bollah, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein

Fadlallah, urged a halt in the Kat-

self-defence following the martyr-dom of Sheikh Abbas Musawi," he

told worshippers during a Friday prayer sermon in Beirut. "Now that

the enemy was defeated and forced

to retreat, there is no need to re-

sume the firing of Katyusha rock-

An Israeli force, backed by 36

tanks, smashed UN barricades to

The Army, however, has no

The violent week began with an

true nature of the resistance.'

guerillas are entrenched.

bollah on Sunday

vusha attacks.

Karami said the Army was or-

"Any military presence or the

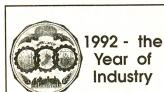
of resistance against occupation.

# TIMES OF OMAN

CBOL is pleased to announce the launch of 7 ATMs in Oman. Includes 3 Drive-ups Round the Clock Service at all ATMs

Commercial Bank of Oman Ltd. Is. A.O.G.





#### On other pages

6,000-year-old town unearthed in UAE - Page 3

Bush lifts sanctions on China: missile proliferation - Page 4

China, India for tie-ups in management, administration - Page 5

#### **BUSINESS TIMES**

India may raise Income-Tax limit - Page 9





#### Weather

Clear to partly cloudy skies will prevail over the Sultanate with some haze.

Wind: Northeasterly light to moderate during the day and southwesterly light at night along the coastal areas. Light southerlies over the interior.

Sea Conditions: Slight to moderate with a maximum wave height of 1.25 metres.

Muscat Area: Temperature maximum 26C, minimum 18C. Humidity: 40-75 per cent.

Tides: High 1:21 p.m., Low 6:50 p.m. High 12:44 a.m. Salalah Area: Temperature maximum 28C, minimum 19C. Hu-

midity 30-70 per cent. Tides: High 1:04 p.m., low 5:34 p.m. High 11:45 p.m.

Temperatures recorded in other cities: Abu Dhabi 27, Dubai 23, Riyadh 23, Jeddah 27, Bahrain 19, Kuwait 19, Doha 20, Cairo 20, Karachi 25, Bombay 29, Paris 04

and London 07.		
TEMP	MAX	MIN
Seeb	25	17
Mina Qaboos	26	18
Buraimi	28	10
Khasab	23	19
Ibri	25	11
Nizwa	29	15
Sohar	24	12
Saiq	16	05
Sur	26	20
Masirah	26	17
Thumrait	28	08
Mina Raysut	27	15
Qairoon Hairiti	23	12
Haima	27	11
Marmul	29	09
Fahud	30	11
Al-Halaniyat	29	20
Mad'ha	23	13

### Ties between Oman and Egypt hailed

CAIRO - Dr. Mahmoud Sharif, Egyptian Minister of Local Administration, has paid tribute to the special relationship that exists between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman at all levels, as well as relations between Egypt and the Arab Gulf states.

In a statement, Dr. Mahmoud Sharif welcomed the Sultanate's participation in the meetings of the Arab Cities Organisation's permanent office, currently being held in Cairo to discuss the problems faced by Arab cities. He noted that Arab cities need-

ed to cooperate in one important area, which was environmental pollution. In this connection, it was essential to make use of the scientific expertise available in the Arab

ISRAELI ARTILLERY POUNDS S. LEBANON

Vol. 18, No. 1

# Fighters defy truce calls

YATER, Lebanon — Israeli gunners struck Southern Lebanon with howitzer barrages yesterday after Shi'ite Muslim guerillas ignored calls for a truce and fired heavy weapons against Israel. The flare-up shattered an overnight lull and scared thousands of fleeing villagers who were planning to return home to Kafra and Yater and other neighbouring villages facing Israel's self-styled security zone.

Security sources said the rebels fired mortars and Katyusha rockets, although Israeli Army and other sources in the Jewish state denied the rockets had been used.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali directed his top peacekeeping official, Marrack Goulding, and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan to fly to Lebanon and Syria to try to defuse the

The Lebanese Army held a meeting with senior representatives of the Hezbollah, or Party of God, and the pro-Syrian Amal movement in the port city of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

Security sources said a decision was reached to pull out an estimated 1,000 militiamen the two groups had dispatched to the Kafra-Yater battle front on Wednesday, when Israel invaded the two villages to curb Katyusha attacks.

The sources, who spoke on con-

pledged to allow the returnees to pass through its checkpoints unpass through its checkpoints un-

Security sources in the Israeliheld enclave earlier said the first Katyusha rocket was fired at midday (1000 GMT), and 11 others followed at 10 to 15-minute inter-

Insisting on not being identified, the sources said some of the projectiles landed in Israel's northern Galilee panhandle. Others crashed in the security zone.

Israeli gunners opened up with 155mm howitzers that targeted villages around the market town of Nabatiyeh. That was in indication they believed the firing from that area, where the Hezbollah is known to have bases.

Wounded A 5-year-old girl was killed and four people, including the child's father, were wounded when a Katyusha rocket fired from South Leb-

## Peace teams leave for US

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators left for Washington yesterday to take part in a new round of Middle East peace talks opening next week.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinians' spokewoman, said her team will demand a halt in Jewish settlement activities in the Occupied Territories before entering into substantial negotiations on interim self-rule arrangements for

"The cessation of settlements is a prerequisite for the success of negotiations," Mrs. Ashrawi told reporters before boarding the New York-bound Royal Jordanian flight. Both the United States and Is-

rael insist that the peace talks should focus on interim selfsovernment arrangements 1.7 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Mrs. Ashrawi said that "in order to start serious work on the transitional phase and on the agenda items, we have to resolve two basic issues: settlements and human rights violations.'

The bilateral meetings between Israel and each of the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian teams open tomorrow. It is the fourth round of face-to-face talks since the Middle East peace talks were launched in Madrid, Spain, in October.

Thousands of Jewish im migrants are being settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were occupied in 1967. The Palestinians want to establish the independent state they aspire for on these territories.

On human rights, Israel has been widely criticised for its handling of Arab rioting against occupation, including deporting suspected Palestinian activists, mass arrests and lengthy detention of Arabs without trial. The arrest of two negotiators had threatened to obstruct the talks earlier this week.

The Palestinian team crossed into Jordan on Thursday and held talks with Jordanian negotiators and Government officials before leav-

On Friday, the Palestinian negotiators joined Palestine Liberation Organisation officials at a meeting with Ilter Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency. UNRWA cares for Palestinian refugees scattered around the Middle East since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

"We can't consider the issue of refugees as a humanitarian topic or a question of relief. It is a political issue, which involves the denial of our national identity and rights, and has to be tackled through an overall political settlement," Mrs. Ashrawi

### Minister to visit Japan

MUSCAT - Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, Minister of Commerce and Industry, will leave on an official visit to Japan on March 1 at the invitation of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan.

The Minister will study trends related to different development programmes and will visit several establishments like Japan Agency for International Cooperation and Organisation for Export and Import Pro-

The Minister will be accompanied by Abdullah bin Ali Ba kathir, Director General of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Khaleefa bin Mubarak al Hinai, Advisor at the office of Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, Salim bin Nasser al Ismaili, Executive Director of Rusayl Industrial Estate and Akram bin Hassan al Marzaa, Assistant Director of Office of Minister for Conferences and Committees Affairs.



MUSCAT — Hammad bin Hamad Al Ghafri, Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Affairs of Sultan Qaboos University, yesterday opened the fourth Arab Gulf states exhibition of University books, being held at the University. — 'Times' photo

### Missile kills 20 in Karabakh

MOSCOW - Azerbaijani and Armenian forces battled for control of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave yesterday and more than 20 people were killed in a missile attack, news agencies reported.

It was the largest death toll since the Foreign Ministers of the two countries agreed on Thursday on the need for a ceasefire in the fouryear-old conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives.

Also yesterday, two soldiers of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and three Azerbaijani militants were killed when the Azerbaijani gunmen tried to force the soldiers to give up their weapons, Moscow Radio reported.

Vozgen Sarkisyan, the Defence Minister of Armenia, said Azerbaijani militants launched a missile attack against the mainly Armenian area of Askeransky inside Nagorno-Karabakh, killing more than 20

There were also reports of clashes in the Kubatlynsky region.- AP

## FIS warns of violence in case of ban

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos is pictured here in a file photo with some of the Ministers and Advisors accompanying His Majesty on

the triumphant 'Meet the People' tour, which entered its thirteenth day yesterday. His Majesty is now camping in the desert. —

Picture by Mohamed Mustafa

ALGIERS — Algeria's Muslim party said yesterday its supporters could turn to violence if the authorities dissolved their party.

The Islamic Salvation Front the cancellation of elections which (FIS), in a statement to Reuters after the quietest Muslim weekend for several weeks, said: "The crisis, which everyone wants to find a way out of, cannot be resolved oth-

political dialogue, before violence becomes an alternative for those whom (the authorities) want to liquidate and marginalise. The Interior Ministry is taking legal steps to ban the party, ac-

er than by rapid recourse to serious

cusing it of multiple violations of The military-backed rulers have blamed the FIS for clashes with security forces in which at least 50 people were killed and 300 wound-

ed earlier this month. Most of the casualties were demonstrators protesting against

the FIS was set to win. "The FIS calls for a halt to the

project for destroying it because its destruction will have very serious consequences," the FIS statement

It was signed by Abderazzak Rajjam, one of the few remaining FIS officials still at liberty. He is in charge of the FIS Information Com-Threat

Student supporters of the FIS disrupted courses and examinations at Algerian Universities yesterday and in one case threatened to throw petrol bombs, Algiers radio said.

The unrest affected universities in Blida, Constantine, Annaba, Setif and at Bab Ezzouar Campus in Algiers, it said.

Students threatened to use Molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) if examinations went ahead," at Bab Ezouar, it added.

University officials there decided to call in riot police and go ahead with examinations, it said.

Only a minority of the country's 250,000 students have joined a wave of pro-FIS protests but they have already forced the closure of both campuses at Blida University, some 50 km (30 miles) south of the

The latest FIS statement accused psychologically torturing" its miltants before taking them to camps and prisons.

The authorities say they are holding 5,000 men without charge in two internment camps set up deep in the Sahara under a state of emergency declared on February 9. Hundreds of others have appeared in court and scores have been

The FIS says a total of 14,000 people, including children, women and old men, were arrested in a single week, between February 6 and

### Message from Havel

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received a written message from Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia.

The message was delivered to the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood al Said, when he received the head of the Presidential Court, Karl Schwartzenberg, at his office yesterday.

The Czech envoy conveyed President Havel's best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people. Bilateral relations and matters of common interest were also discussed. - ONA

#### Kazakhstan visitor MUSCAT — His Highness

Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, received former Deputy Soviet Prime Minister, Professor Vladimir Scherbakov, in his office yesterday. Scherbakov is currently Chairman of the State Authority for the Encouragement of Privatisation and Foreign Investment. Professor Scherbakov conveyed

the greetings of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and paid tribute to the Sultanate's policy of strengthening bilateral ties with his country and other friendly The meeting was attended by

Alexander Patsev, the Russian Ambassador to the Sultanate. - ONA

#### Cables

MUSCAT — His Majesty

Sultan Oaboos bin Said has sent a cable of congratulations to Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day. His Majesty wished the Emir

health and happiness and the Kuwaiti people prosperity and peace.

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received a cable from Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamed al Thani, Emir of Qatar, in reply to His Majesty's cable of congratulations on the occasion of the Emir's accession.

## China will comply with missile pact

**BEIJING** — China announced yesterday it would comply with international guidelines on the sale of missiles and technology as part of a deal to repay the United States for lifting some sanctions imposed on Beijing last June. (NPT). It has now agreed to sign

Washington said it was lifting the sanctions, which were imposed because of evidence Beijing was supplying missiles to Syria and Pa-

The sanctions covered US exports of high-speed computers and workstations, the transfer of missile technology and export of US sat-

"Upon the effective lifting of the above three sanctions by the US Government, China will act in accordance with the existing Missile Control Technology Control Regime (MTCR) guidelines and parametres in its exports of missiles and missile technology," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

The spokesman said Beijing had a "prudent and responsible" attitude toward arms transfers, insisting that they be used only for legitimate self-defence and not undermine the stability of the regions involved.

US officials have long sought China's acceptance of the MTCR guideline, which covers the sale of medium-range missiles and certain missile technology.

Beijing set the removal of the

sanctions as a condition for MTCR acceptance during a visit by US Secretary of State James Baker last November.

China also promised Baker it would take steps to sign the Nu-

Non-Proliferation Treaty

the treaty. Baker in turn said the Bush ad-

ministration would continue to try to hold off hawks in the US Congress who are pushing for a much harder US line with China over trade disputes and charges of human rights violations. 'We hope to see that all the

points of agreement and understanding reached by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries on November 17 last year will be implemented in their entirety as soon possible so as to help the improvement and development of Sino-US relations," the spokesman

There was sharp criticism from some quarters in the United States over the decision to lift the sanctions, which are separate from those imposed by Washington after Beijing's 1989 crackdown on prodemocracy protesters.

The US State Department said Washington would continue to monitor carefully all Chinese missile technology sales and would itself deny missile technology to Chi-The United States has been pressing Beijing for two years not to proceed with plans to sell intermediate-range ballistic missiles to Syria, Pakistan and other countries.

## **JUST AIM AND CLICK!**



## For great family pictures

Sophisticated, fully automatic Ricoh's 35 mm compact cameras are

light in weight

Auto loading and easy to use. Auto film rewind

Auto film advance

Electronic flash

Works on pen light batteries Date imprinting facility

(YF 20 Super D)

Muscat Electronics Co.(LLC)

Sony Showroom: Muttrah Business District, P O Box 8009 Muttrah, Sultanate of Oman Tel: Showroom: 796243, Sony Showroom: 23rd July Road, Salalah, P O Box 20377, Tel: 291617



President Nursultan Nazarbayev after signing agreements in New Delhi yesterday. Nazarbayev is in India for his first overseas trip since the breakup of the Soviet Union. — Reuter wire photo.

#### **OMAN AND WORLD**

## CIS commander sounds alarm on Nagorno-Karabakh

commander Yevgeny poshnikov said yesterday that fullscale war could erupt in Transcaucasia if former Soviet troops were sucked into the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Shaposhnikov said there were persistent attempts to draw his forces into the bloody four-year-old dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan which has killed more than 1,000 people in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The prospect of regular forces being drawn into military actions is a gloomy one. It means turning the conflict, which can and should be solved by political means, into a large-scale war," he said in the interview with the army daily Krasnaya Zvezda.

"That means bloodshed, mass casualties and destruction. This is the way towards an escalation of war beyond the boundaries of the region. This is a direct threat to the security not only of neighbouring states but the whole world.

Moscow Radio said two Commonwealth soldiers refused a demand to hand over their weapons and vehicle to the guerrillas, the ra-

Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave populated mostly by ethnic Armenians but administered by Azerbaijan, has continued despite a ceasefire call by the Foreign Ministers of both countries on Thurs-

day.

Commonwealth television on Friday reported heavy rocket attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh's capital Stepanakert. "The town is on fire. Rescue work is being hampered by the lack of electricity, fuel and water," it said.

Shaposhnikov, who gave his interview to mark official army day on Sunday, urged the warring neighbours to refrain from creating their own armed forces until the

Azerbaijan, along with Ukraine cupation. - Reuter

on Friday were considering filing

attempted manslaughte charges

against a man suspected of ar-

ranging to send 37 Indians to New

York in a sealed shipping container

farmer who saw the escape notified

would-be migrants found a hammer

in the steel container and used it to

in northern Germany was questioned, police said. No charges

were immediately lodged, but po-

lice said a search of his department

revealed evidence linking him to

released, was being investigated for

attempted mansaughter, police said.

They said he had been deported

The man, whose name was not

BRUSSELS — Former Soviet

republics on Friday joined the Nato

allies in setting a July deadline for

putting into effect a landmark treaty

slashing tanks, artillery and other

Officials from 30 nations met at

Nato headquarters for a second

round of talks aimed at saving the

conventional armed forces in Eu-

rope agreement, which was signed

which was a signatory to the ac-

cord, raised concern in the west

**DEAR CITIZENS** 

The demise of the Soviet Union,

in November 1990.

non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

the attempted smuggling.

A police spokesman said the

A 49-year-old man from Soltau

police, who detained the Indians.

in which they nearly suffocated.

37 hammer way

out of container

SOLTAU, Germany — Police back to Germany recently from

The human cargo, all men aged erhaven port officials as saying the

20 to 30, broke out of the container Indian would-be migrants would

in a panic on Thursday when they not have been able to break out of

ran short of oxygen. The container the container once it was wedged in

had been parked on farmland, and a among other cargo on a ship's

Nato, republics agree on

arms treaty deadline

its own military, independent of Commonwealth armed forces, by

President Ayaz Mutalibov, calling on his countrymen to unite, announced a partial mobilisation on Friday, according to Russian tele-

While accepting Commonwealth members' right to build their own armies, Shaposhnikov criticised what he called "haste, unilateral decisions, pressure of force, and especially rapacious, frankly criminal and illegal ac-

Military and economic disputes, particularly between Russia and Ukraine, threaten the long-term survival of the Commonwealth of Independent States formed last December with the demise of the Soviet Union.

The tug-of-war over the 3.7million-strong armed forces of the former Union has aggravated a severe crisis of morale among servicemen, already unhappy at military spending cuts, poor housing and miserable living conditions.

In happier days, Soviet Army day on February 23 was a festive occasion when women regaled their men with presents. This year celebrations of the Soviet Army's 74th birthday are more muted.

Nato Secretary-General Man-fred Woerner was due to arrive in Kiev late yesterday at the start of a visit to Ukraine and Russia where he will press for quick agreement over the shareout of military power.

Lithuanian Radio said the former Soviet Army would start to withdraw from the Baltic republic next Tuesday, in line with an agreement reached with Russia earlier this month. All three Baltic states, which regained independence from Moscow last September, are keen to rid themselves of an estimated 400,000 former Soviet troops whom they regard as an army of oc-

Canada, where he had been arrested

for trying to smuggle 13 Indian na-

tionals in a mobile home that was

sent by sea freight from Brem-

deck. The container was 12 meters

long, 2.6 metres wide and 2.4 me-

ters tall. It was fitted out with wire-

mesh bunks and food, though the

port officials doubted there were

enough supplies for the 10-day voy-

erhaven on Thursday aboard a

lice said. Three who had no res-

idence permits were turned over to

immigration officials, while the

other 34 were registered asylum-seekers or had other German res-

about whether the treaty provisions

Soviet republics.

in Europe

would be carried out by the former

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

said the nations agreed on a "road

map" for bringing the accord into

force by a summit of the Confer-

ence on Security and Cooperation

But a statement issued by the

Polish-registered freighter.

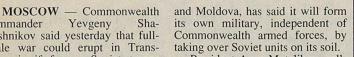
The ship was to leave Brem-

One Indian was hospitalised, po-

age to New York.

Television news quoted Brem-

erhaven, the port near Soltau.







MUSCAT — The third mathematics competition organised by the Arab Gulf States Education Office was opened at the Press Club yesterday under the auspices of Sheikh Amer Bin Shuwain Al Hosni, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Environment. It will run for several days. In his speech the Minister said that one of the distinctive qualities of our Gulf society was its desire to create a generation of forward-looking, ambitious young people, capable of keeping pace with change, able to respond to the reality in which they live and conscious of the value of science,

He added that the GCC states were deeply aware of the fact that it was the region's youth who would determine its future. Hence the attention given to them by the GCC organisations and institutions, particularly the Arab Gulf States Education Office, which had confidence in the talents and abilities of the youth of the Gulf. The Minister stated that the competition was of social and educational importance. A spirit of fair competition would encourage students to broaden their knowledge, and knowledge was the cornerstone of national progress. Ali Al Tuwaijeri, Director-General of the Arab Gulf States Education Office, expressed his thanks and esteem to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and his government for hosting the competition. He added that the Arab Gulf States Education Office regarded the competition as one of the major events on its educational programme. He said that mathematics was an essential basis for every science and a pre-requisite for any technological progress. Sheikh Amer Bin Shuwain Al Hosni then opened a scientific exhibition which included pictures, three-dimensional figures, teaching aids and books, as well as advanced scientific equipment and computers.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of Ministers, Undersecretaries and heads of GCC states diplomatic missions. — ONA

## Irish PM rejects abortion vote

ster Albert Reynolds, plunged into crisis by a court ruling that banned a raped 14-year-old girl from having an abortion in Britain, has rejected for the moment a new referendum on abortion.

His coalition government's junior partners, the Progressive Democrats, have said another nationwide poll on the issue is needed to solve the morality row that has bitterly divided and shocked Roman Catholic Ireland.

"I am not talking referendum...I am not thinking referendum," Re-ynolds said in Cork on Friday night. The last plebiscite on the abortion issue nine years ago was carried by Conservative Catholics after a bitter campaign against liberals. The constitution was subsequently amended in 1983 to protect the rights of the unborn child.

Reynolds denied there was any tension over the issue in the twoparty coalition which is dominated by his own Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party.

The furore erupted after the Dublin High Court banned a girl who had been raped by the father of her best friend from travelling to Britain for an abortion.

Her parents have now appealed to the Supreme Court.

The girl's case is now to be

preme Court judges whose final decision is expected within a week The state is to pay the family's 50,000 punt (\$80,000) legal costs.

"We will be all wiser when the Supreme Court has interpreted national and international law," Re-

He acknowledged that freedom of movement under European Community law had now become an issue in the emotion-charged case that threw his government into turmoil just one week after he took the reins of power from

Charles Haughey.
"The issue will be teased out by the courts on which is the superior right - freedom to travel or personal freedom," he said. Reynolds acknowledged that a

solution to the case would have to be "in harmony with European and international law. He said the state had not taken

my special steps to enforce the high court ruling.

'The family are not being watched. We are relying on their honour to stay. They have been a most honourable family and have shown themselves willing to obey the law," he said.

Asked what he would have done if he was the father in this heartbreaking case, Reynolds said: "I would obey the law of the land."

## Tough time for **UN** peace-keepers

tions peace-keeping troops will have to dodge uncharted minefields, risk being shot at and probably live in tents when they are deployed in Yugoslavia, a U.N. official said yesterday.

Colonel John Wilson, the U.N.'s chief military liason officer in Yugoslavia, said the first soldiers would arrive in about two weeks following the Security Council's approval on Friday of a plan to dispatch the nearly 14,000-man force.

But he said many details had to be sorted out and once U.N. source said their full deployment and the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army from Croatia after eight months of fighting would take five to six weeks.

"It's an enormous task moving 14,000 people around the world and making sure that when they come here they can survive in what is at present a fairly hostile environment," Wilson, a 44year-old Australian, told reporters in Belgrade.

"There are not going to be a lot of troops on the ground for at least two weeks."

The U.N. force, gathered from 31 nations, is intended to bring a lasting peace to Croatia following a seven-week ceasefire in a conflict that has killed more than 6,000 people since Croatia declared independence last June.

The republic of Serbia and the Yugoslav government have accepted the plan although the leader of Croatia's main Serbian enclave, Krajina, rejects it.

Croatia has expressed differences over the interpretation of the plan. But its Foreign Minister, Zvonimir Separovic, welcomed the decision to send the troops, provided they do not lock in place Serbian territorial gains in the fighting.

"We can only hope the U.N. troops are going to bring peace but not prejudge a political solu-

Peace-keepers will go to three areas which will become U.N. protected zones and rival Croatian militia and Serb irregular forces in the regions are to hand in their weapons. The Yugoslav army, which is backing the Serbs, is the withdraw.

The U.N. troops, who will arrive in phases because of a dispute over costs, will face problems with accommodation and lack of electricity in areas which have been devastated by heavy shelling and street fighting.

Wilson said some troops may start out in tents.

This is possible. Many of the buildings they could occupy are either demolished or in very poor condition," he said.

'Soldiers are used to this sort of thing and I don't think in the short term anyone would be terribly distressed. He said a greater problem

would be mines in the three zones in western and eastern Slavonia, east of Zagreb, and in Krajina, which is south of the Croatian capital. T've been assured both parties

will do their very best to lift those mines but they don't know where a lot of them are. Some have been laid by people who have subsequently moved on or have been killed," Wilson said. Other problems included map-

ping out boundaries with the warring sides, agreeing how many Croats and Serbs should be in the multi-ethnic local police forces and disarming the sides.

Wilson said each side was responsible for collecting weapons from its own forces and the arms would be locked up in armouries authority would have the other.

Wilson acknowledged that if the peace-keepers were shot at, some could fire back under certain conditions. They would have only small arms, helicopters and armoured personnel carriers, but he said he not was unduly concerned for their safety. - Reuter

The 30 million Blacks have no

De Klerk called the referendum

after the Conservatives easily cap-

tured a special election on Wednes-

day for a parliamentary seat held by

the National Party for more than

Black trade unions and Black civic

groups all attacked De Klerk's

move as giving Whites a veto over

this reflects the crisis of the apart-

heid establishment and underlines

the need to move as speedily as

said ANC spokesman Saki Ma-

protests, but the government is in firm control of the country and

Black groups would find it difficult

Government officials said the

date and the exact wording of the

referendum would be announced

next week. De Klerk wants the vote

as early as possible, and the second

Some activists have called for

possible to a democratic society,'

'We are of the firm view that

the rights of all South Africans.

The African National Congress,

election for Whites.

four decades.

national voting rights.

### Airbus plans major development

PARIS - Airbus Industrie and ts partners are pressing ahead with a major development plan of an ultra-high capacity jet following an airline survey which highlights demand for bigger planes.

Ten airlines in Asia, Europe and North America surveyed by the European plane-maker confirmed a substantial need for an aircraft with considerably more seating than the largest airliners in operation today.

The airlines say the aircraft would allow growing passenger traffic to be carried without greatly increasing the number of flights, which are already constrained by airport and airspace congestion in many parts of the world.

"The survey also suggests that the ultra-high capacity aircraft will initially be needed in the Asia-Pacific region, beginning at the turn of the decade," says Airbus In-

A year ago, the European consortium announced it was investigating the possibility of a 600seat derivative of its A330/A340

### US calls for end to Chad violence N'DJAMENA — The United

States appealed yesterday for an end to the 'perpetual violence' in Chad after the government said 13 people were killed in an attack on a A U.S. Embassy statement in

the capital N'Djamena urged President Idriss Deby's government and the opposition to work in peace for democracy in the ventral African "The United States wishes to

clearly state that it is opposed to the perpetual violence in Chad (and) supports an peaceful process to-wards democratisation," it said. Government sources said the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

for Africa, Herman Cohen, was due to arrive later yesterday for talks with Deby and Prime Minister Jean Bawoyev Alingue. Deby took power in December

1990, the latest in a long line of military leaders who have fought for control of Chad for the past 25

Soldiers were deployed along main roads in N'Djamena and around official buildings after Fri-

Government spokesman Moustapha Ali Alife said the men who attacked a police station before dawn were all wearing the uniform of the regular army. He said on television on Friday

night that 20 of the attackers were arrested and were being questioned. He said 13 people were killed - six civilians, six attackers and a paramilitary gendarme. The Chadian League of Human

Rights (LTDH) said most of the victims and those arrested were southerners.

Opposition activists charge that President Idriss Deby's goverment, which is dominated by northerners, is using the attack to delay the withdrawal of troops from the cap-

The government has fired four police chiefs and promised to withdraw thousands of soldiers stationed in N'DJamena after a wave of robberies and killings. The most prominent victim was LTDH vicechairman Joseph Behidi, who was shot dead on February 16 by an off-duty soldier. — Reuter

#### Croatia seeks **UN** membership

UNITED NATIONS — The newly independent republic of Croatia on Friday submitted a request for UN membership, but asked that no immediate action is taken, UN officials said. Croatian Foreign Minister Zvon-

imir Separovic gave the application letter to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, but request that is is not forwarded to the Security Council yet, UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said. It was not known when the ap-

olication would be forwarded, but UN officials have said that Croatia should not be admitted until a political settlement is reached in Yugoslavia. Croatia declared independence in June. The European Community recognised the former Yugoslav republic in January.

Croatia's declaration of in dependence led to immediate fighting between Croat militiamen, members of the Serb minority in Croatia and the Serb-led Yugoslav Army. Serb insurgents, who fear persecution in an independent Croatia, control about one-fourth of the republic's territory and have not fully accepted the deployment of UN peacekeepers in the enclaves they control. - AP

## Corruption charges dog Fujimori

LIMA — Shortly after resigning, President Alberto Fujimori's top anti-drug official raised a question: why do drug-trafficking planes depart from airports controlled by the military.

The question is likely to plague Fujimori during next week's antidrug summit in San Antonio, Texas.

The Presidents of Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Venezuela are to meet on February 26 and 27 for talks to follow up on agreements reached in a 1990 summit in Cartegena, Co-

More than 60 per cent of the world's coca leaf grows in Peru -half of it in the upper Huallaga valley. The illegal sale of the leaf, used to make cocaine, brings in an estimated \$1 billion annually

Hernando De Soto resigned on

January 28 as Fujimori's personal assessor on drug trafficking, two weeks after unveiling a plan to involve private investment in the war against drugs and lessen the role of law enforcement agencies. The investment would help peasant farmers switch to alternative crops.

Fujimori said he still intends to

promote alternative development in coca-producing areas despite De Soto's abrupt resignation. But De Soto's departure created a credibility problem for Fujimori.

In an interview after he resigned, De Soto said he was kept in the dark about Peruvian law enforcement's role in the drug war. He said Fujimori's failure to answer charges of military corruption was undermining negotiations.

US officials have filed complaints demanding Peru stop drug

seven small upper Huallaga airports and landing strips controlled by the military. Fujimori didn't respond, De Soto said. "What many people on the US

side . . . ask me is, "what are the

chances you're being used as a decoy while the drug-trafficking republic of Peru keeps on working?" De Soto said. "We got to a point where I need-

ed replies and I wasn't getting them," he said. "I have no idea why you can't do something as simple as close down an airport that the government is controlling.

The national police lead Peru's interdiction efforts from a USsponsored jungle base in Santa Lucia, located 260 miles northeast of Lima. The military focuses on fighting the country's two insurgency

But the military controls the sev-

en airports in question. Poorly paid soldiers reportedly bribe superiors for posts in the upper Huallaga, where drug traffickers are said to pay up to \$5,000 per take-off for pro-

National Police Maj. Edwin Montero, commander of the Santa Lucia base, complained last November that soldiers have fired on police accompanied by US Drug Enforcement Administration agents during raids on jungle drug labs.

At a February 6 news conference in London, Fujimori said corruption and drug trafficking was also common in the United States and Eu-

"In Peru we have reduced substantially the corruption level of the armed forces. There is still probably high corruption in the police - we're

## Blacks oppose South Africa referendum

The gathering, tentatively set for July 9 in Helsinki, Finland, will groups on Friday condemned President F. W. De Klerk's plan to hold draw together leaders of the United a Whites-only referendum on end-States and Canada and 46 European ing apartheid, saying it will delay a transition to democracy. Meanwhile, the pro-apartheid

> tion posed to White voters must be "clear and honest" before it would agree to take part in the ref-"We will not be stampeded into gimmick referendum," Conservative leader Andries Treurnicht

Conservative Party said the ques-

said of the ballot, which is expected in about a month's time. De Klerk shocked the country on Thursday by announcing plans for referendum on whether Whites support his reforms to scrap apartheid and usher in power-sharing with the Black majority. He said he would resign and hold a Whites-

only general election if he lost. government defeat could plunge the racially tense country

De Klerk has eliminated all major apartheid laws and his National Party government recently began negotiating a new constitution with 18 Black and White groups. However, White voters have

been abandoning De Klerk in fa-

vour of the Conservatives, whose

support has been rising steadily

since they won more than 30 per

to block the referendum. The Inkatha Freedom Party, the relatively conservative Zulu movement headed by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was the only prominent Black group that did not object to the proposed referendum.

half of March is considered most

Local newspapers and political analysts predicted De Klerk should win the balloting. Research Surveys, a private polling firm, said urban Whites favoured De Klerk's Nationalists

over the Conservatives by 48 to 39 per cent. However, the poll did not include rural areas where Conservative support is strongest. Whites are frightened of the swift pace of reform, and an economic recession, political vi-

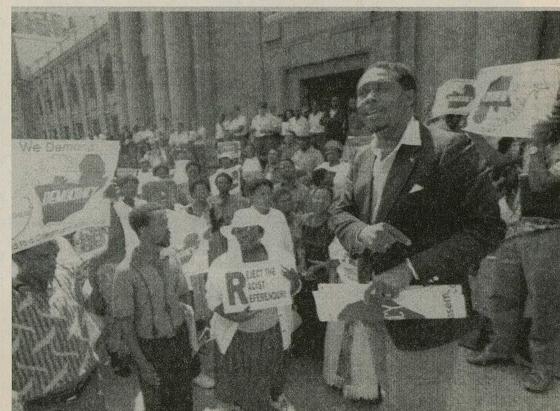
olence and growing crime have

added to White fears. Meanwhile, six people were killed and several were wounded, including mourners at a funeral in a Black township in South Africa, police and witnesses said yes-

Two men, armed with a hand grenade and an assault rifle, attacked the mourners in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, early yesterday, the African National Congress reported.

Spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said 11 people were wounded and rushed to a hospital after the hitand-run raid which he said had been carried out by men from a nearby hostel.

Police said they believed five people were involved and were investigating.— Agencies



JOHANNESBURG — African National Congress official Tokyo Saxwala addresses demonstrators protesting against South African President F.W. de Klerk's all-white "racist referendum" outside the Supreme Court in Johannesburg on Friday. — Reuter wire photo

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Wildlife is part of our beautiful environment and the protection of the wildlife of Oman only possible with the cooperation of every individual. Killing, hunting or disturbing wildlife will result in legal action.

We look forward to your cooperation in the conservation and protection of Oman's environment.

Municipalities & Environment

With the Compliments of the

Ministry of Regional

## 6,000-year-old town unearthed in UAE

historic town dating back nearly 6,000 years and containing possibly the biggest walled tower of its kind in the Arabian Gulf is under excavation in the United Arab

With the support of the Government of the emirate of Umm al Quwain and General Motors, a team of archaeologists led by Prof. Dan Potts of the University of Sydney, is uncovering evidence of virtually continuous occupation at Tell Abrag from 3,800 BC to the first century AD.

"The four-hectare site is a landmark discovery," said Professor Potts. "It is the largest and longest-settled pre-historic town ever found on the southern coast of the Arabian Gulf.'

The settlement was a regional centre which traded with important cities in western and south Asia. "We have found imported ceramics, stone vessels, stone weights, cylinder seals and metal objects similar to those from Mesopotamia, Iran, Bahrain and the Indus Valley," Potts add-

"We are indebted to the government of Umm al Quwain and to General Motors which has provided us with vehicles and funds to carry out extensive tests on our

Gary Rowley, regional director of General Motors, said: "We are very pleased to be able to help the team piece together a picture of

the lifestyle and economy of the floral, architectural and ceramic region's early inhabitants.'

The archaeologists are doing this by analysing the rich faunal, coveries is the round, fortified

remains unearthed on the site. One of the most exciting dis-



Tell Abraq - an ancient town that was a major trading centre 6,000 years ago.

Experts predict terrorist

Cyprus flights building made of stone and mud and with a diameter of 40 metres NICOSIA — Grumbling weathermen began a 48-hour strike yesand a height of 7.5 metres.

A circular grave lies at the base of the building and the team intends to bring in an anthropologist who can deal adequately with the human remains.

According to Prof. Potts, the town sprawled around the large fort with people living in barastis or tents. A mudbrick platform covers the mound, into which a deep well had been sunk.

From the amount of fishbones and shells recovered, we can tell that fishing was a major occupation of the population,' Potts added, "and the discovery of large grinding stones shows there was cultivation of cereals.

The people were also great traders with links all around the

Apart from the professor, the international team excavating Tell Abraq includes Anne-Marie Mortenson, the field director, Katrina Proust, registrar, Hildreth Potts, draughtsman, architect Stephanie Licciardo, archaeologist Robyn Stocks and Christian Velde and conservator Wendy Reade-Trevett. Also working on the site is Prof. Hans-Pater Uerpmann, a leading analyst of animal bone re-

"We will resume regular, scheduled flights on Monday," a Cyprus Airways spokesman said. "We will try to carry out some flights today and on Sunday but it will depend on making alternative arrangements to obtain weather reports."—Reuter

New strike

threatens

terday that threatened to disrupt

The national carrier Cyprus Air-

ways said its ground engineers had

ended a nine-day-old strike. But it

could not resume scheduled opera-

tions because of a dispute involving

weathermen at the main Larnaca

airport and a smaller one at Paphos

airports are refusing to give weath-

er conditions to pilots in a cam-

paign to win a paid lunch break.

They say they want the same condi-

flights by foreign carriers were

landing and leaving yesterday

morning but incoming flights might

be hit later in the day because of

Mediterranean holiday island. Driv-

ing rain fell as snow on the Troodos

Mountains north of the stwo air-

ports that normally handle around

30 flights a day. No improvement

was expected during the next 48

Dense low cloud blanketed the

A civil aviation spokesman said

tions as other airport workers.

bad weather.

Metereological officials at both

handling holiday flights.

most flights in and out of Cyprus.

## **UN** envoy begins arms talks in Iraq

UN commission set up to strip Iraq of its most lethal weapons has held preliminary talks with Iraqi officials to persuade them to cooperate fully with UN plans.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN's special commission on Iraq, met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf on Friday night, shortly after arriving for a three-day visit.

"I had talks with Al-Sahaf last night and expect to see the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister yesterday or today," Ekeus told Re-

He said his mission was to 'drive home" to Iraq the need for Baghdad to comply with UN plans, drawn up under the Gulf war ceasefire, to seek out and destroy any nuclear, biological, chemical or ballistic weapons Iraq might have.

Iraq maintains that it has given UN weapons inspectors full cooperation and sees the Ekeus visit as crucial to its campaign to get lifted an 18-month-old trade blockade imposed in response to its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

But the Security Council ac-cused Iraq on Wednesday of obstructing the UN plans after a series of diplomatic skirmishes between Baghdad and New York and periodic clashes between Iraqi officials and visiting weapons in-

It warned of "serious consequences" if Iraq failed to cooperate and sent Ekeus to Baghdad for his third round of talks with the government to seek full Iraqi com-

The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, accused Baghdad of treating the UN plans to disarm Iraq with "appalling disdain."

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al-Zubeidi or his deputy, Tareq Aziz is due to go to the United Nations next month to press for the lifting of the sanctions, which bar Iraq from exporting oil or importing anything except food

and drugs. Ekeus will press Iraqi officials to drop objections to UN monitoring of current Iraqi weapons programmes. Baghdad has refused, saying this is interference in its sov-

The UN envoy says it makes no sense to scrap Iraq's Gulf war scud missiles, chemical munitions and nuclear weapons research programmes if Iraq is replacing them

with new weapons.

Foreign Ministry officials said they expected Ekeus to hold talks with Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein Al-Samaraei yesterday but the timing was not known.

### Israel fails to get US help in housing refugees

WASHINGTON failed on Friday to agree with the U.S. government on help in absorbing tens of thousands of ref-

Israel is asking the administration to guarantee \$ 10 billion in commercial bank loans over the next five years to help absorb refugees from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Washington has linked the guarantees to cessation of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, which the United States opposes as an obstacles to mideast

Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval met on friday with Secretary of State James Baker.

Forty minutes later, Shoval emerged with the terse statement: 'We've had another talk, mostly about the loan guarantees, but not exclusively. There is no agreement yet and we'll have another talk."

Shoval did not say when they would meet again. Nor did he explain what problems remain over

Israel's request. Sources familiar with the meeting said Baker and Shoval dis-cussed "principles" and did not ex-

change any new proposals. Shoval reaffirmed that Israel would not spend any of the loan money on settlements but could not accept a freeze, said the sources, in-

sisting on anonymity. They did not set a time for their

next session. Baker told the Ambassador two weeks ago that Israel could complete housing units already started - an estimated 5,700 to 6,000 by U.S.

count - but break no new ground. The ambassador accepted in principle that settlements on the West Bank and Gaza would be slowed down, but they did not agree then - or apparently on Friday
— on how the curbs would be im-

Middle East peace talks are to reopen here tomorrow, with the settlements issue a major area of con-tention between Israeli and Arab negotiators. — AP

#### Israeli troops wound six **Palestinians**

GAZA — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians during clashes with stone-throwing dem-onstrators in the Occupied Gaza Strip yesterday hospital officials None of the Palestinians was in

serious conditions. A seventh person was beaten by soldiers after young men stoned troops stationed on a building in the Khan Yunis refugee camp. An Israeli army spokesman said he was checking the report. Palestinian youths have been pro-

testing the killing by an undercover Israeli unit of an armed activist who was long sought by the army for killing suspected Arab informers

#### **Pharmacies**

MUSCAT REGION (Day Duty) National, Muttrah Street. Tel. 712714. Mazun, O.K. Centre, Ruwi. Tel.

(Night Duty) Al Waleed, Al Fursan Street. Tel. 707746. Al Farabi, Municipality Street,

Ruwi. Tel. 700963. Ibn Seena, Near Ghobra Roundabout. Tel. 590394. Seeb, Seeb. Tel. 620294

**DHOFAR REGION** (Day Duty) Al Mashhoor , East Salalah. Tel. 294974 (Night Duty)

National, Al Salam Street, Near

Traffic Signals. Tel. 291161.

people in northern Israel Radio. From Katyusha rocket launchers then manned by Palestinian

## retaliation next week tre for Strategic and International

experts said on Friday that next week is a particular danger period for terrorist action by Shi'ite Muslim militants of Hezbollah to retaliate for the Israeli assassination of their leader in Lebanon.

Prof. Yonah Alexander, a terrorsm expert at George Washington University said, "next week will be very dangerous . . .a period in which we will see some kind of ac-

He said the danger comes because the initial period of mourning for Sheikh Abbas Musawi, killed with his wife and son by Israeli helicopter gunships last Šunday, will end and the Middle East peace talks, which Hezbollah opposes, resume in Washington tomorrow.

The psychological trauma in Hezbollah indicates they will have to act quickly," Alexander said, He and other terrorism experts spoke in a briefing on Middle East terrorists at George Washington University. Robert Kupperman of the CenStudies agreed that Hezbollah will definitely retaliate and that next week "is particularly dangerous in that an incident will occur.

Any action next week would probably be a major operation because Hezbollah has not had time

Vincent Canistraro, former head of the counter-terrorism for the US Intelligence Agency, agreed that next week is a danger period. He said that Hezbollah has the infrastructure to carry out terrorists acts in Europe and West Africa in addition to the Middle East.

Hezbollah has "a potential pool of resources" in the United States. Many Lebanese Shi'ites sympathetic to Hezbollah have emigrated to the United States because of the Lebanese civil war, Canistraro said. The FBI will have its hands

full," Kupperman said. Canistraro said early retaliation may be limited but that eventually

Hezbollah will try to mount a ma-

jor operation against an airliner or an official installation.

The three experts agreed that the most likely targets next week would be "soft targets" possibly Jews or Americans in Europe.

An FBI spokesman, Steve Markadt, said, "we don't have any information as to any increased threat" in the United States. On Wednesday the state de-

partment warned American travelers in Europe, Africa and the Middle East that they could be targets of terrorists and kidnappers taking revenge for Musawi's killing. 'While we do not at this time have information on a specific

threat, it is likely that terrorists events may occur for which we have no forewarning," the department said.

Hezbollah has already reacted by increasing rocket attacks on Israel, prompting an Israeli ground strike against the Hezbollah launching bases in South Lebanon. - Re-

#### Spy tests negative for Aids

CAIRO - A senior government physician said yesterday tests showed that an Israeli teenager held on suspicion of spying is not infected with the Aids virus.

Cairo newspapers have reported widely that Faika Misrati, arrested with her father, is infected with the fatal virus and was being kept in solitary confinement at a women's prison to prevent its spread to other

Dr. Sobhi Abdel-Rehim, the health ministry's first Under-Secretary, told reporters yesterday the ministry performed tests on Miss Misrati's blood at its main la-

"They proved that Faika Subhi Misrati does not have acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome," he told reporters.

in connection with the bombings.

UN official in Libya

pected in Libya yesterday after-The United States and Britain noon with a message asking Libya to explain its position in its dispute with western countries over the bombing of western airliners in

U.N. sources in Tripoli said Vasiliy Safronchuk, the Under-Secretary General for Security Council affairs, had a letter from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asking Libyan lead-

er Muammar Gaddafi to provide further clarification of previous Libyan proposals to solve the controversy

1988 and 1989.

The United States, Britain and France have threatened U.N. sanctions against Libya if it does not comply with a Security Council resolution demanding it hand over

have accused two Libyan men of planting explosives aboard a Pan Am plane which blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in

France wants Libya to produce four agents for questioning about a French UTA airliner which blew up over Niger in 1989.

Gadaffi wants the United Nations to create a 'mechanism' for U.S. and British demands and said this week the two men could be handed over for trial to neutral bodies if the west provided the Libyan judicial authorities with evidence against them.

Earlier this month Libya said it would cooperate with France

through the proper mechanisms, and Gadaffi said the four Libyans, who include one of his brothers-inlaw, could appear before the French investigating magistrate.

Safronchuk is expected to remain in Libya no more than two days, U.N. sources in Tripoli said. A U.N. spokesman in New York said he was tentatively scheduled to meet Gaddafi. The U.N. envoy is expected to

ask for an immediate Libyan reply. Failing that he would return to New York to say that Libya's clarifications fell short of the January 21 Security Council resolution, diplomats said.

Safronchuk, a Russian, first went to Tripoli shortly after the Security Council adopted the resolution. -Reuter

"Dear Father, if you feel it is necessary to buy a bicycle for your child, you are requested to guide him on its use and how to enjoy it with a view to not endangering his life", says an ROP slogan in the interest of public safety.

## Israeli army chief vows to stop guerrilla attacks

Army chief Ehud Barak vowed yesterday his troops would do what it took to stop Arab guer-rillas attacking Israel from Leb-

But Israel would not launch a massive invasion or allow fighting to escalate into a full-scale war, Lieutenant-General Barak said at Granot Hagalil settlement in northern Israel.

The Army will continue to do all it can to halt this wave of Katyushas (rockets) and ensure that anyone who tries to hit Israel and its citizens, especially in this area, will pay a very high price," he

"No party can drag us into a comprehensive war or massive entrance into Lebanon which we do not want. Still we intend to keep acting against terrorists, terror parties, or anyone who tries to harm the Galilee settlements," he told Israel Radio.

Israel invaded Lebanon 10 years ago this June with the stated

aim of eliminating the threat to

Barak and senior army officials visited the farming settlement in the western Galiee where a five-year-old girl was killed when a Katyusha rocket fired by pro-Iranian guerrillas struck the yard of her house on Friday.

The guerrillas have fired about 100 Katyushas southwards wince Israeli helicopter gunships killed Hezbollah (party of God) leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi, his wife and son last Sunday. Most rockets landed in Israel's buffer some in south Lebanon. The five year old girl, Avia Elizada, and three relatives wounded in the attack were the first direct casualties of the rockets. After Friday's fatal daylight attack, many residents of

Galilee slept in bomb shelters. But security sources said the night was the quietest in the week. The only Katyusha fired overnight landed in Israel's self-declared security strip far from any populat-

Israeli guns were silent yesterday except for occasional shells lobbed beyond the security zone. "I hope, though I cannot be

certain, that this wave of Kat-

said.He said Israel's 24-hour air and ground operation against Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon on Thursday was intended as a clear message to guerrillas that Israel would fight back. "I hope the artillery, ground at-

tack...have made the other side

come to their senses and stop the

firing. If not, we will have to think of additional measures," he said. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in the thrust. Security sources said seven guerrillas were killed and 17 wounded while two Lebanese ci-

vilians were killed and 11 wound-

"Hezbollah was very badly hurt by the attack on Musawi and by the attacks the rest of the week. We will see whether this wave continues," Barak added.

Security sources said the relative quiet yesterday could however be deceptive. Israel's push into two Shi'ite villages had wrought vast Destruction by appeared ineffective. Hundreds of Hezbollah guerrillas were returning to the villages armed with more rockets. — Reuter

# National Bank of Oman offers you security and financial flexibility

with American Express Personal Card, Traveller's Cheque, Gold Card.



With your American Express Personal Card, there's no pre-set spending limit. You'll also enjoy worldwide acceptance, free Travel Accident Insurance, Global Assist, help through 1700 Travel Locations worldwide and many more benefits.

With American Express Traveller's Cheques, not only do you get worldwide refund delivery, but we'll issue replacement cards, temporary I.D., re-arrange your travel plans, get emergency messages sent as well as cash personal cheques.

Only The Gold Card gives you an exclusive range of travel as well as financial benefits, in addition to Global Assist Plus, Express Cash, increased Travel Accident Insurance and the recognition and prestige members have come to know the world over.

To apply for an American Express Personal or Gold Card or to purchase American Express Traveller's Cheques simply call into any of National Bank of Oman's 49 branches in the Sultanate of Oman or our Abu Dhabi branch.



البنك الوطني العمان المحدود (شرمع ع) NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN LIMITED (S.A.O.G) Head Office: P.O. Box 3751, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman



## Assurance on missiles:US lifts China sanctions

Bush administration lifted sanctions on Friday on sale of US goods to China, including satellite parts and high-speed com-

The United States decided to accept China's word that it would comply with restrictions on missile sales to the Middle East, said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwil-

Her announcement called China's written commitment on missile sales "an important step forward in securing Chinese support for ballistic missile prolife-

Th decision lifts sanctions imposed in June on the sale of any US goods to two Chinese Government arms companies and on the sale of hightechnology US equipment to the

Secretary of State James A. Baker III elicited the promise from China to observe the 1987 missile technology control regime during a visit to Beijing

Baker received the written commitment from Foreign Minister Qian Qichen pledging to abide by the treaty's guidelines.

Critics have charged Bush with leniency toward China despite its questionable record on human rights and intelligence reports that it was providing missile technology to Syria and Iran.

Lifting of the sanctions came on the 20th anniversary of former President Richard M. Nixon's arrival in Beijing - the historic US opening to the communist giant.

China and Iran have a long arms relationship.

Iran has deployed short-range silkworm missiles manufactured in China, aimed at Gulf shipping

According to other reports, China also has provided Iran with the design and technology to produce an artillery shell with a range of 40 kilometres, or about 25 miles.

Also, reliable reports surfaced last month that China was continuing to sell technology to Syria, delivering about 30 tonnes of chemicals needed to make a solid-

China has denied repeatedly over the last several years that it providing weapons technology to Iran or to other coun-

tries in the Middle East. In the meantime, the administration is expected to decide soon whether to recommend to Congress a year's extension of trading privileges

Bush apparently was sharply critical of that record in a 20minute meeting with Li, who ordered a crackdown on "prodemocracy" demonstrations in Beijing in June 1989.

The State Department, in an annual report on human rights published the day of the meeting, accused China of a wide array of abuses, including torture, religious repression and mistreatment of suspected crim-

Still, the likelihood is that Bush, once again, will decide to extend China's "most favoured nation" trading status. - AP

Suharto urges

loggers to

plant trees

JAKARTA — Indonesian Pres-

ident Suharto yesterday urged loggers

who are cutting down one of the

world's last great rain forests to plant

trees under an ambitious reforestation

scheme. "The Indonesian reforest-

ation scheme is the answer to the

world's call (to us) to protect our

tropical forests in their functioning as

the lungs of the earth," Suharto told

holders of logging concessions in Ja-

cheme put forward by Jakarta in

1990 to deflect international criticism

is designed to provide timber for the

pulp and paper industries, as well as

second only to Brazil's in size, is de-

stroying its jungles at an estimated one million hectares (2.5 million

acres) a year, largely through slash

Forestry Minister Hasjrul Har

and burn farming and logging.

Indonesia, whose rain forest is

open up more jobs.

scheme. — Reuter

reforestation

### S. Korea may take N-issue to UN

SEOUL - South Korean Pres ident Roh Tae-woo said yesterday Seoul would ask the United Nations to settle a dispute over inspection of North Korea's nuclear programme if Pyongyang refused to settle the issue, news reports said.

The nuclear row had become an international concern and "must be settled inevitably", Roh, quoted by the Yonhap News Agency, told reporters on the fourth anniversary of his inauguration. If this problem is not solved through the South-North talks, (we) should settle it through an international body like the U.N. Security Council, "Roh said, calling for the North to give early permission for international nuclear inspections.

A presidential aide confirmed the press reports. Pyongyang signed last month a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy to let inspectors see its facilities, but has yet to agree to a timetable for such scrutiny.

The Korea Times earlier quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying if North Korea delayed ratifying the nuclear safeguards agreement, Seoul would consider seeking the adoption by the U.N. Council of a resolution against Pyongyang. -Reuter

## North Korea said to be sending missiles to Syria

ficials met with North Korean diplomats in Beijing on Friday amid reports that a North Korean freighter is heading for Syria with sophisticated missiles and other equipment.

The State Department refused comment on report about the reported \$100 million military cargo but said it would view any such arms transfer with "great concern."

The New York Times said on Friday that American intelligence agencies are following the progress of the vessel, which reportedly is carrying Scud-C missiles.

The Scud-C is a longer range version of the Sovietdesigned weapons used by Iraq in the Gulf war.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the administration does not discuss reports based on Other officials said, how-

intelligence information.

ever, that US and North Korean diplomats met on Friday in Beijing, which has been the contact point for the two sides since 1988. The meeting was the 19th since the contacts began. North Korea is one of a handful of countries with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations.

It could not be determined whether the reported missile shipment was a subject of discussion at the Beijing meeting.

Ms. Tutwiler said Syria has had Scud missiles in its arsenal for years, and the United States believes the Syrians are trying to procure more, including from North Korea.

"The United States feels very strongly about prolife-ration of surface-to-surface missiles, particularly in the Middle East," she said.

"The dangers of Scud missiles in the Middle East region

have been amply demonstrated during the past Gulf War.

We have made known our views on this subject to all potential suppliers of such weapons, including the

North Koreans.

The Scud-C' are believed to have a range of about 360 miles - greater than the Iraqi Scud-B's fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel - and would enable the Syrians to hit any target in Israel or Israeli officials Jordan. urged the United States to stop delivery, the newspaper

North Korea is making its second attempt to deliver the shipment, it added. Last summer, a ship set out for Syria with the same cargo but turned back several months later after news reports identified the cargo. Egypt barred it from the Suez Canal. - AP

#### Bloody anti-Chinese riots shook Tibet's capital, Lhasa, for three days over the Tibetan new year in March, 1989. Beijing imposed martial law on the region after the unrest, in which officials said 16 people were killed and about 100 The new year holiday in early March has become a traditional season of discontent for Tibetan nationalists, who dispute China's

China boosts

security of

**Tibet** 

BEIJING — Beijing is boost-ing security of Tibet and ordering

independent foreign tourists to

leave the Himalayan region before

the anniversaries of anti-Chinese ri-

oting, official sources and travellers

be cleared out of Tibet between February 25 and March 15," a

spokesman for the Tibet Tourism

Administration said by telephone

der to prevent some possible ac-

cidents from happening over the Tibetan new year," the spokesman

"The decision was made in or-

"All independent travellers will

claim to sovereignty over the re-

## US steps up pullout from Subic base

States came closer to withdrawing from its last military base in the Philippines yesterday, pulling out one of its three giant floating drydocks from Subic Naval station.

A US official said the two other drydocks would be pulled out in the next few months before the start of the typhoon season in the Philippines, but no firm date had been

Philippine President Corazon Aquino had written to US President George Bush asking that some of the drydocks be left behind so Manila could turn the base into a commercial free port and ship repair yard providing access for US war-

Lieutenant Commander Al Twyman, Subic Base spokesman, said the first drydock worth about 20 million dollars would be brought to the US western Pacific territory of Guam where it could handle repairs of small ships like minesweepers or

hydrofoils. "We will get the other two drydocks under way as soon as feasible. If a ship is available, they will leave, he said.

One of the two remaining drydocks might be moved to Singapore while the other would be towed to volcano. - Reuter

BEIJING — Local leaders in

China's booming southern province

of Guangdong have ordered more

use of spoken Mandarin Chinese

saying widespread use of Cantonese

Guangdong's provincial party and

government leaders have decreed that by the end of 1992, Mandarin

must be used when receiving vis-

itors, disseminating propaganda and holding meetings, the official Peo-

is inhibiting socialist construction.

The departure of the three drydocks will throw thousands of Filipino workers out of work.

'We are not sure if . . . this signals the beginning of the end for the base, said Romeo Rosel, a 57 year-old pipefitter in the ship repair facility in Subic.

Departure of American forces from Subic, 80 km northwest of Manila, will bring to an end nearly a century of US military presence in its former colony.

The Philippine Senate's rejection of a new bases treaty, which would have given the United States use of Subic for 10 more years, forced Aquino to serve notice on Washington to withdraw its force

from Subic by the end of 1992. 'I would have preferred an orderly withdrawal that would have permitted the retention in Subic of one or two of the floating drydocks

to be operated under mutually acceptable arrangements," Aquino said in her letter of February 3.

Subic is the last US base in the Philippines. Washington pulled out its forces from its other major military installation, Clark Air Base, last year after it was wrecked by the June eruption of Mount Pinatubo

ple's Daily said yesterday.
"Spreading Mandarin is our

country's basic language policy, and

is an important part of establishing

the material and spiritual civilisation

by British colony of Hong Kong

speaks Cantonese, has become the

major export sector of China's econ-

omy and draws much of the coun-

try's foreign investment - a large part

Today's airline schedules

SUNDAY

PARIS

SALALAH

of it from Hong Kong. -Reuter

Guangdong, which like the near-

of socialism," the newspaper said.

Guangdong ordered to

improve its Mandarin

## Besieged Miyazawa set to try reform card

Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, his government under pressure from political funding scandals, is to make a fresh attempt to reform the country's deeply corrupt, yen-fuelled electroal

According to vesterday's Tokyo dailies, Miyazawa began late on Friday what promised to be a marathon weekend session with ruling party barons aimed at drawing up a set of reform bills he hopes will become law in the current Diet (parliament) Miyazawa has always been cool

owards political reform, but now his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) s in trouble, just five months before national elections. Most politicians and analysts see

Japan's electoral system, with its multi-member constituencies, as an incitement to lavish campaign spending. Diet members who want o hold their seats are easy prey for generous businessmen seeking fa-

ahap expects concession holders to plant at least 3,000 hectares (7,400 Yet when Miyazawa took over as Prime Minister last November, acres) under the reforestation one of his first acts was to shelve a controversial reform package drawn

TOKYO - Japanese Prime up by his predecessor, Toshiki Kai-

Now, after little more than three months in office, and the revelation of two more huge funding scams, the Prime Minister has undergone at least a tactical change of heart.

Disguested voters have just dealt the LDP a stinging by-election defeat, and Miyazawa's budget bill, stalled for two weeks in the Diet by an opposition walkout, looks unlikely to pass by the March 31 Miyazawa's lurch towards polit-

ical reform - he ridiculed Kaifu's efforts while manoeuring to replace him - is generally seen in Tokyo as an opportunistic move to ease pressure on him just a few weeks before another dangerously tight by-

The Prime Minister doesn't understand anything about political reform," the Daily Asahi Shimbun quoted one LDP Diet member as waying. "It's just an attempt to look like a winner ahead of the elections," another LDP member said.

Reports of the draft reforms being discussed in the LDP's smokefilled rooms this weekend said Mivazawa was seeking to reduce a huge electoral anomaly by which the value of rural votes - bedrock of the unbroken hold on power since 1955 - is sometimes three times that of the urban vote. He was also reported to be call-

ing for an overhaul of laws governing political funding, arguing that the small amount of public funds allocated for politicians' campaign expenses is the reason they must seek cash from industry and However, newspapers suggested

there was little enthusiasm in the LDP's high councils for embarking on wholesale reforms involving introduction of single-seat constitutencies and re-drawing of electroal boundaries. Meeting his party colleagues late

on Friday, Miyazawa said he hoped to have the reform bills drafted by mid-March. Reporters said this could be over-optimistic "Even among the LDP, there is a

lot of opposition to formulating specific proposals," said Ashahi Shimbun. "It will be difficult for the LDP to agree as the Prime Minister

Former Prime Minister Kaifu, a "Mr clean" about whom there was no whiff of scandal, was finally brought down through his reform efforts, which achieved the rare feat of uniting ruling and opposition party legislators in condemnation.

Yet now, just a few months later, even the conservative LDP's big business supporters are beginning

Recently Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Japan's most influential business organisation Keidanren, warned the ruling party that it would fall from power unless it reformed the electoral system.

So far this year, the public has been regaled by two new scandals directly tainting the LDP's power.

A former cabinet minister who acted as chief fund-raiser for Miyazawa's party faction was indicted on charges of taking huge bribes from a property developer. Several other top LDP figures were also implicated. Then prosecutors arrested four businessmen in a loans scandal which some reports say could end in the naming of some 130 Diet members for taking payoffs.

### Singapore tightens control on sedatives

SINGAPORE nas tightened controls on two prescription sedatives abused by local drug addicts, introducing jail terms and caning for offenders, the government said yesterday. The two drugs, nimetazepam

and triazolam, are short-acting sedatives used for treating insomnia. They are sold under the trade names erimin and somese. "Of late, there has been an in-

creasing trend of abuse of these two drugs by drug addicts who use them as substitutes for hard drugs, such as heroin," the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

The two drugs would still be available by prescription but doctors and pharmacists would be obliged to record and account for each tablet bought or dispensed, it said. -Reuter



Chinese children dressed up as monkeys to celebrate the spring festival in Beijing early this month. The Lunar New Year of the Monkey began on February 4.

SUNDAY

#### Pro-independence activists jailed in Taiwan

TAIPEI - A Taiwan court jailed three pro-independence activists for four months each vesterday for throwing petrol bombs at police and defacing a statue of former president Chiang Kai-shek.

Four others were acquitted on similar charges, while the trial of a fifth was continuing, a court spokesman said.

The offences occurred during anti-government protests in the western city of Taichung late last The eight accused belonged to

the outlawed organsiation for Taiwan nation-building, which wants Taiwan to declare independence and abandon its official goal of reunification with China. The leader of the group, Stella Chen, was arrested this month after four months on the run and faces trial on sedition charges, which carry a sentence of up to life in prison. - Reuter

The Times Crossword No. 264

#### Sudirman dies KUALA LUMPUR - Sudirnews of his death spread.

Asia's No. 1 entertainer

man Arshad, Malaysia's singing lawyer who won Asia's No. 1 entertainer title in 1989, died here early yesterday.

A spokesman for the family, Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said Sudirman, 37, died of pneumonia.

Sudirman was admitted to the Tawakkal Medical Centre here on July 17 last year and it was announced then that he was suffering from a mysterious disease. He left the hospital after four days and was in seclusion until his death.

His sister Radiah said the body was being sent back to their hometown in Temerloh, Pahang State for burial beside their mother's grave yesterday afternoon.

A large number of fans, fellow artistes and friends called at the house to pay their last respects as OANA

By PMP

Sudirman graduated from University Malaya here with a degree in law and was called to the bar in 1983. However, his love for singing had led him to pursue an entertainment career.

He gained international recognition in 1989 when he won the coveted title of Asia's No. 1 entertainer, defeating singers like Singapore's Anita Sarawak and Hong Kong's Leslie Cheung at the Salem Music awards in the Asian popular contest at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

He turned businessman after 15 years in the entertainment industry, producing and marketing his own brand of soft drinks, Sudi set up the Sudir Shoppe Boutique and also a restaurant, Selera Sudi.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FLT. NO. ARRIVAL

7.00

10.00

12 30

1.00

1.03

FLIGHT ARRIVALS AT MUSCAT FROM CITYVIA CITY

#### SUNDAY ABU DHABI GF005 ABU DHABI GF545 **AMSTERDAM** KL802 0145 BAHRAIN GF019 BAHRAIN GF065 1840 BAHRAIN DUBAI GF501 0700 BAHRAIN SHARJAH DOHA 2115 2220 GF523 GF545 BAHRAIN ABU DHABI BAHRAIN RASAL KHAIMAH 0815 GF741 BANGKOK GF152 0220 BANGKOK KARACHI 2359 TG508 BOMBAY 1345 AI844 BOMBAY GF052 0130 COLOMBO GF4144 COLOMBO UT568 DARESALAM DJIBOUTI TC761 0100 GF016 0215 DHAHRAN DOHA **GF183** 0900 DJIBOUTI TC761 0100 DOHA GF163 1300 DOHA GF183 0900 DOHA GF523 2115 DUBAI GF501 0700 FRANKFURT 0220 GF019 HONGKONG BANGKOK 0220 GF152 KARACHI GF002 0100 KARACHI TG508 KUALA LUMPUR COLOMBO UT568 KUWAIT SHARJAH LONDON ABU DHABI GF005 1040 LONDON GF007 0145 MASIRAH SUR WY301 0800 PARIS BAHRAIN GF019 0115 RASAL KHAIMAH GF741 0815 RIYADH DOHA **GF163** 1300 SALALAH WY5407 1630 SHARJAH GF231 1330 SHARJAH GF523 2115

ZANZIBAR DJIBOUTI

WY301

TC761

0800

FLIGHT DEPARTURES AT MUSCAT TO CITY VIA CITY FLT. NO. DEPART.

ABU DHABI 1245 ABU DHABI GF540 ATHENS DOHA GF042 2359 BAHRAIN GF052 0025 BAHRAIN GF144 2300 BAHRAIN DUBAI GF508 0010 BAHRAIN DOHA SHARJAH GF520 1210 BAHRAIN ABU DHABI GF540 1245 BAHRAIN FUJAIRAH GF550 1535 BANGKOK KARACHI TG507 2305 BOMBAY AI845 1225 BOMBAY GF065 1740 2235 CAIRO DOHA GF074 DELHI GF005 0945 0105 GF016 DOHA DOHA GF042 2359 DOHA GF074 2235 0010 DUBAI GF508 FRANKFURT DOHA GF016 0105 ISTANBUL ATHENS DOHA GF042 2359 0720 KARACHI GF741 KARACHI PK225 2320 KARACHI TG507 2305 KUWAIT SHARJAH GF232 2025 DHAHRAN 2310 LONDON BA129 2120 GF002 LONDON MASIRAH SUR WY302 1210 PARIS FRANKFURT, DOHA GF016 2340 0310

SHARJAH GF232 2025 1210 SHARJAH GF520 WY302 1210 \*COURTESY OF TRAVEL CENTRE OF OMAN L.L.C.

UT568

WY5408 2030

#### Radio 2.00

News bulletin. Weekly sports roundup.
Weather forecast and T.V. Opening the Holy Koran, preview of morning programmes, programmes. 3.00 weather forecast. Preview of evening pro-Up, up and away. News bulletin. Invitation to the proms. Up, up and away Local news bulletin 4.05 Hooked on classics Jazztracks A seat in the stalls. 5 00 Afro-Latino beat. News highlights. 6.00 News headlines. Gentle on your mind. Faces and places. 6.02 Preview of afternoon pro-News bulletin. grammes and news headlines. Weather forecast and phar-Ticker, tape and telephone. macies on duty. 645 Fitness and footnotes Lightly Swiss. News headlines. 7.00 The mixmaster. The Holy Koran. Know your drugs The company of Geha. News summary, preview of

#### Museum times

Natural History Museum, Al Khuwair, Tel: 602565 (extension 172), 605400 (direct). Opentimes: Thursday 9 am

Vintate chart show.

grammes.

Weather forecast and T.V. pro-



Sunday 8 am to 2 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm; Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am to 2 pm. Oman Museum, Information City, Qurm. Telephone: 600946. Opening times; Saturday to Wednesday 8.30

am to 2.00 pm.

Oman Aquarium at Marine Sciences and Fisheries Centre. Al Bustan. Tel 740061. Opening times: Saturday to Wednesday 8.00 am to 2.00 pm. Thursday 8.00 am to 1.00 pm. Friday closed Children's Science Museum, Shatt al-Ourm area, Ourm.

pharmacies, closedown, Na-

tional Anthem.

Health matters.

Opening times: Sunday to Wednesday 9.00 am to 1.00, 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm, Thursday 4.00 pm to 8 pm. Closed on Friday and Sat-Armed Forces Museum, Bait al Falaj. Tel:312645, 312646. Open-

ing times; Sunday and Wednesday

for general public and Monday for

school children: 8.:30 - 12:30.

Answers to Puzzle No. 263 CASTEQUALS SAP



Ess Listed Relax

Unique person Exponential expression Luxurious Pseudonym

Groom's mate Egg layer Impede Middle Easterners Meal finale Superlative suffix

Nevada area

Wharf area

Impairment

Extinction

Annoys Refurbish Sum up Peduncle Estimated House pets Sarcasm Aunt (Span.) Bar drink Cushions Tolerate Nipple Produced Entangle Loosen Cartilage

Thailand, formerly Headgear Sail support Burrowing animal Household work Medicinal plants German salutation Garden tool Burn Pod content Fortunes Toward shelter

is pursuing speedy economic reforms, would like to share experiences and cooperation with India in the fields of management, administration and training, Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian has said.

puted" civil services, Wu on Friday told India's Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Margaret Alva, here on a visit.

Alva called on Wu after signing a memorandum of un-derstanding (MOU) with executive Vice-Minister of Personnel Cheng Lianchang.

The MOU provides for cooperation between India and China in civil services, personnel management and public administration, through exchanges of professionals and institutional cooperation and exchange of materials.

Vice-Premier Wu set the context for such cooperation by efforts on emerging as a middle income world power by the end of this decade and would like to learn from other countries.

China is not only inviting foreign investments into its special economic zones and new develop-China would also like to ment areas, it is also trying to open up the backward areas in the interup the backward areas in the interior and needs to build up its own management and administration.

Vice-Minister Zhijian, who also held talks with Alva, said China aimed to trim its administrative personnel and infuse a sense of re-

Already since 1989, about 19 per cent of the staff strength has been reduced and by 1995, the cut would go up to 25 per cent at all levels of administration, he said.

The two sides agreed that a group of Indian civil service experts would visit China soon, to be followed by a Chinese visit to India to understand each other's func-

Alva said the two sides would work out fresh programmes from year to year on exchanges and training and that India's current cooperation programmes with the South Asian and African countries could also be extended to include China.

Alva had visited the industrial port city of Tianjin, south east of Beijing' on Thursday and found that with huge investments from Japan, the United States and Europe pouring in, there was need for training of middle-management ca-

The Chinese side was keen to see that not only labour but management in joint ventures should be made up of Chinese nationals, she observed.

Alva explained to the Chi-

nese side India's effoarts at economic liberalisation and structural changes and spoke of vast scope for trade and commercial exchanges with China' especially after the resumption of border trade and the reopening of consulates in Bomay and Shanghai. — PTI

## Kazakhstan sees no threat of Islamic fundamentalism

NEW DELHI — Kazakhstan sees no threat of an Islamic fundamentalism Bloc emerging in the five central Asian republics of the eraswhile Soviet Union and posing threats to a secular India, Kazakhstan President Nursultan A. Nazarbayev

Addressing a press conference here, Nazarbayev said the central re-publics with a majority of Muslim population were eager to revitalise ties with India, Iran, Tukey and Pakistan because of traditional old ties but this did not imply emergence of fun-

damentalism in the region. Replying to wide-ranging questions, he said his country was in favour of maintaining cooperation with India in the field of defence and would like its nuclear scientists to work in cooperation with the Indian scientists for peaceful used of nuclear

Nazarbayev said India was dependent on the republics of the erst-while Soviet Union for the supply of zarbayev said.

This required a collective decision of the commonwealth of Independent States, he said.

India and Kazakhstan signed five agreements incorporating a declaration of basic principles governing bilateral relations, establishment of diplomatic ties and cooperation in the fields of arts, education, mass media, sports, trade, economic relations and science and technology.

Kazakstan, Nazarbayev said, abhorred all forms of extremism and felt that cooperation with India in various fields would help in strengthening secular bonds.

Nazarbayev said he saw no threat form Islamic fundamentalism in Ka-

If such a state does succeed, it will take us back several centuries,"

His country would also like to benefit from India's experience in running a mixed economy, NaReplying to a question, he said a dozen of defence industries were located in Kazakhstan.

Cooperation with India in this field would benefit the defence industry in the Commonwealth of Independent States which was facing a crisis, Nazarbayev said.

He felt such a cooperation would help the defence industry in switching over to civilian uses in the long run. Nazarbayev said the question of controlling the nuclear "manpower"

in the republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union was a "thorny issue". Kazakhstan's nuclear threat per-

ception evolved on the nuclear arsenals in possession of Russia, China and the United States, he said. Nazarbayev said he believed in

the principle of parity and Kazakhstan would be prepared to destroy its nuclear arsenal provided the U.S. Russia and China agreed to follow a similar course.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Nazarbayev signed a decrectives of inter-governmental relations between the two countries.

External Affairs Minister, Madhavsinh Solanki, and his Kazakhstan counterpart, T. Suleymenov, signed three agreements, including protocols on establishment of diplomatic relations at the embassy level and establishment of consular relations and cooperation in the spheres of culture, arts, education, mass media and sports. The minister of state for commerce, P. Chidambaram, and his Kazakhstan counterpart, M.S. abishev, signed a framework agreement on cooperation in trade, economic coop-

eration and science and technology. Nazarbayev, who chose India for his first visit abroad after Kazakhstan proclaimed independence two months back, will also visit Pakistan before flying back home.

Nazarbayev said he had briefed Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao about agreements among the former Soviet republics to control

large part of the former Soviet nu-

clear arsenal on its soil. "We have signed a document with Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine on the use of our nuclear weapons, so

that we use them on the basis of consensus," he said. Kazakhstan was also a signatory

a document on nuclear nonproliferation, Nazarbayen said.

"We will do everything we can to stop proliferation," he said

Nazarbayev said his visit to India, his first overseas tour since Kazakhstan became an independent state two months ago, was prompted by a shared interest in fostering secular deproliferation. Kazakhstan, with a population composed of Russians, Ukrainians, Germans and Muslims, has so far declined to follow five other former Soviet republics which this week joined Iran, Pakistan and Turkey in

their Economic Cooperation Organisation.—PTI/Reuter

India

to sign

'Montreal

Protocol'

NEW DELHI — India will sign

ducing emission levels of chloro fluro carbons (CFC) that damage

the earth's protective ozone layer

once the amendments suggested by

the developing countries are ratified

night, Environemnt Minister Kamal

Nath said 20 countries were re-

quired to ratify these amendments

India is not against the protocol

Developing countires succeeded

at a London conference in pushing

through some amendments to the

protocol on the subject of tech-

nology transfer for replacing CFC's

with other less harmful and more

environmentally acceptabe sub-

CFC's are widely used in refrigerators, airconditioners and oth-

into the atmoshere from these settle

They rupture the ozone layer al-

lowing harmful ultra-violet and in-

fra-red radiation that can cause die-

sases including skin cancer. - PTI

in a chain reacting chemically.

The chlorine atoms released

er modern appliances.

and 18 have signed till date.

Disclosing this to newsmen in the Indian capital New Delhi Friday

and implemented.

at all, he said.

"Montreal protocol" on re-

### Star TV, BBC justify Indian concern over Pak 'misuse' of Asiasat

NEW DELHI — The anti-India tirade launched by Pakistan upto February 26 for the under-taking, failing which it would take television appears to have put them into trouble with two world TV Networks contemplating action against it for tampering with their programme on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to official sources here, the stand taken by the Star TV Network and BBC World News Service justified the concern voiced by India over the alleged misuse by Pakistan of its transponder on the Asiasat satellite.

The Pakistan TV has been often charged with virtually launching an information war over the skies by beaming inflammatory and communal news broadcasts which is reaching thousands of homes in India thanks to the Cable TV explo-

Both the Hong-Kong based Star TV and the BBC have shot off letters to the PTV Corporation demanding that it cease its infringing activities with immediate effect.

According to the letters, PTV had on February 17 via its transponder on the Asiasat illegally picked up the BBC programme on J and K available on the Star TV service and re-broadcast it after tam-

The Star TV has sought a written undertaking from the PTV that it would refrain from engaging in such infringing activities and illegally lifting their programmes.

necessary action.

The BBC Network in its letter said the use of the broadcast was illegal and must cease immediately. It warned of pursuing all legal means to prevent further broad-

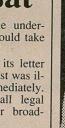
According to a visiting Star TV official, Steve Moss, the concern expressed by India over the tactics adopted by PTV was quite under-

A strategy is already being chalked out by the information and broadcasting here to tackle the "intrusion" of Pakistan TV in the country through the Asiasat and the adverse propoganda blitz, the sources said.

As part of the plan, work on installing nine new high power transmitters in the broader areas of four northern states is being speeded up

High priority is being given to extension of Radio and TV services

The Network has given time said. — PTI



to counter the propaganda.

in the border areas of northern India until the services of Instat 2A are available later this year to widen the reach of the Doordarshan programmes to cover the entire subcontinent, the sources added.

Besides transmitting Indian TV Programmes, the feasibility of the high power TV transmitters to "block" the inflammation the inflammatory broadcasts are being studied, the sources



Palkhi days are here again: Or so the BEST suggested, in this morcha that left the Wadala bus depot recently for Shivaji Park, to heighten fuel-saving

## India in brief

NEW DELHI — Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), has called for continuation of freight equalisation scheme till more integrated steel plants came up as a result of the liberalised industrial policy, otherwise a large number of units shall become totally uncompetitive and would finally close

New Delhi: A new kind of antenna pointed at the sun is sprouting on rooftops of remote villages, providing thousands of Indians their first encounter with electricity.

Tapping energy from a source 150 million km away that will last for five billion years, the antennas are part of systems designed to turn sunlight into electric power at sites, distant and so far entouched by electric grids.

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh government has declared illegal the strike by assistant lecturers and instructors (diploma holders) in the government and aided polytechnic institutions in the state on February

New Delhi: Fifteen young talents in the fields of fine arts have been declared winners at the ongoing seventh "Yuva Mahotsava", an annual feature of the Sahitya Kala Parishad, India's Premium Cultural Organisation, on February

Chandigarh: The Haryana roadways would introduce "Express" buses from all the district headquarters towns to the district headquarter towns to the state capital, Chandigarh, and New Delhi from February 24 as part of silver jubilee celebrations of the state.

Jodhpur: A room in a nineteenth century house here, occupied by a senior railway official, is sealed because of a mysterious "ghost" who has not condescended to make an appearance for several years now.

The house built in 1880 has a room completely sealed with concrete walls and all that the current resident, A.S. P. Sinha, railway divisional manager (Jodhpur), could say was the mystery remains unsolved in spite of a lot of enquiries.

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh government has made a provision of Rs. 1.5 million during the current financial year for providing free travel facility in state road transport corporation buses to freedom fightthe state

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh): Thousands of devotees took a holy dip in the river Ganga on the occasion of Magh Poornima here on February 18. A large number of people arrived here from nearby rural areas on the occasion.

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir government striking employees have called off their 43-day-old strike in Jammu region following an agreement with the state government on February 18. Jaipur: President, R. Venkatara-

man, February 18 gave away the 1991-Sangeet Natak Academy awards to 26 outstanding performing artists and fellowships to three noted artists at the annual function of the academy here.

Rae Bareli (Uttar Pradesh) Minister of State for Communications, Rajesh Pilot, on February 18 said that telephone facilities would be extended to all the 2.25 lakh villages in the country by 1995.

He inaugurated the electronic switching system manufactured by Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) here. New Delhi: Handloom export has acquitted itself commendably with fetching Rs 830 crore so far in the current year as compared to Rs 841 crore for the whole of 1990-91.

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh government has revised the rates of minimum wages payable to the workers employed in the cinema industry in

Chandigarh: Haryana government on February 20 decided to allow opening of beer bars only within city limits and ban the sale of liquor within various religious towns, including Kurukshetra, in the state from April one.

New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is taking up structural conservation of Jorasanko, the ancestral home of poet Rabindranath Tagore in Calcutta.

The work, to be taken up in a phased manner, is estimated to cost Rs. 50 lakh, according to an official

New Dehli: Madhya Pradesh government on February 20 urged the central government to provide 100 per cent assistance for integrated development of villages around national parks and sanc-tuaries so that the dependence of these villages on forests could be

#### **BJP** to raise Bofors in budget session

NEW DELHI — The Bharatiya Janata Party would raise the issue of Bofors, price rise and increasing menace of terrorism in the budget session of parliament beginning tomorrow.

The party would demand that the Government should probe the latest allegations concerning the Bofors gun deal pertaining to the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and also on the new economic policies of the government, party sources said.

The BJP parliamentary party would be meeting under the leadership of party stalwart L.K. Advani tomorrow to finalise the strategy to be adopted in parliament and perform its role as the major opposition party, the sourc-

The party would demand that the government reconsider its nuclear policy in view of the recent statements by Pakistani and American leaders that Pakistan has developed the capability of

making a nuclear weapon, the

### 6 bodies to meet in Amritsar

sources added. - PTI

BHATINDA - Six Sikh organisations, including the Badal and Mann factions of the Akali Dal, which boycotted the elections in the northern Indian state of Punjab, will meet in Amritsar on February 28 to discuss the post-poll situation and finalise their next course of action.

A spokesman of the organisations told newsmen in Bhatinda in Punjab yesterday the meeting would be attended by second rank leaders in the absence of the top leaders, wuch as P.S. Badal, S.S. Mann and Manjit Singh, president of the All India Sikh Students Federation, who are under detention.

Manjit singh, who is lodged in the central jail here, has appointed Jasbir Singh Ghuman, as acting president of the federation till his release. — PTI

### Sweeping measures to abate Indian pollution

NEW DELHI — . Sweeping pollution control measures, including introduction of an "environmental audit" for industries, phasing out harmful pesticides and strict control on vehicular emissions, are detailed in the national policy on pollution abatement announced

A separate notification on environmental audit is being issued by the Federal Indian Government tomorrow, Environment Minister Kamal Nath said, announcing the policy at a press conference here Friday night.

The policy spells out the government's commitment on abatement of pollution for preventing deterioration of the environment. A mix of legislation, regulations, fisincentives, voluntary agreements and education programmes are the broad features of the policy.

Nath said emphasis was on the long future and on increased use of regulations and development and application of financial incentives.

Referring to fiscal measures for pollution abatement, Kamal Nath said while regulatory measures remained essential for effectiveness of the policy, new approaches for considering market choices would

be introduced. The aim is to give industries and consumers clear signals about the cost of using environmental and natural resources. The expectation is that market oriented price mechanisms would influence behaviour to avoid excessive use of natural resources, he said.

The Minister said there were at present several fiscal incentives for installation of pollution control equipment and for shifting polluting industries from congested areas. The items for which excise and customs rebate were allowed would be reviewed, he said.

This would stimulate the advancement of abatement technologies and create increased demands for products, Kamal Nath

Economic instruments would be investigated to encourage the shift from curative to preventive measures, internalise the costs of pollution and conserve resources particularly water, he said. - PTI

### UNHCR to discuss refugee problem with Mynanmar

DHAKA — The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is likely to initiate talks soon with Myanmar to stop the influx of Muslim refugees from that country into Bangladesh, a top UNHCR official has said. UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata

would would soon discuss the issue with UN Secretary - General, Boutros Ghali and begin talks with Yangon's military junta, the officer-in-charge of UNHCR in Bangladesh, S.S. Wijeratne told the English daily "Telegraph' on Friday. Wijeratne said the UNHCR would send out an appeal to the international community very soon for assistance to the Myanmarese refugees on the basis of an assessment by UNHCR's technical com-

Wijeratne, who visited some of the refugees' camps in Bangladesh's southeastern Cox's Bazar district a few days ago, said the sit-

uation there was 'very grave". Meanwhile, another daily, Daily Star, quoting diplomatic sources, said China favours a peaceful solution to the border dispute be-

tween Myanmar and Bangladesh. It quoted a refugee to say Myanmarese troops shot down at least 12 Muslims near the Buthidong town of Arakan Province last Tuesday.

Relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar came under strain since December 21 last year when Myanmarese forces allegedly raided a Bangladesh border outpost killing a Bangladesh rifles personnel and wounding 22 others. The Islamic Development

Bank (IDB), responding to Bangladesh Government's appeal, has decided to send a team for assessing the nature of the problems faced by the Muslim refugees from Myanmar and provide relief

## 5 bandits, hostage killed in S. Pakistan

nappers and one hostage have been killed in gun battles in southern Pakistan, police said yesterday.

one of six people they kidnapped from a coalmine at Khanoot on Friday snatched a gun and opened fire near their hill hideout in cen-Two bandits were killed when tral Sind, police said.

One hostage died in the shoot ing, but the rest fled and alerted police who attacked the hideout. Three more bandits died in the ensuing gun battle on Friday.



Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs & Telephones General Telecommunications Organization

**NOTICE NO. 13/92** 

**TENDER NO. 6/92** 

SUPPLY INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A CROSS-CONNECT BASED INTELLIGENT DATA NETWORK General Telecommunications Organisation (GTO), P O BOX 3789, Ruwi,

hereby gives notice of Tender No. 6/92 for the supply installation and commissioning of a cross-connect based intelligent data network" as per the requirements laid down in the GTO tender specifications.

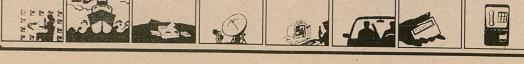
Interested parties are invited to submit their tender offers comprising of technical and price proposals as indicated in the tender documents.

Tender documents may be collected from Department of Contracts & Procurement of the Directorate General of Strategic Planning & Projects, first floor room No. 32, from 23rd February, 1992 to 25th February 1992.

A non refundable cost of RO 100/- for the tender document shall be paid at the Directorate General of Finance, third floor room No. 22 of GTO main building at Al Khuwair. Sealed offers should be addressed in the name of H.E. The President GTO

and submitted to the Department of Contracts & Procurement of the Directorate General of Strategic Planning & Projects. The last date for submission of the tender offers is at or before 10.00 hours

of 11th April, 1992.



## TIMES OF OMAN

The true order of learning should be, first, what is necessary; second what is useful; and third, what is ornamental

### French Socialists in deep trouble ahead of polls

month before France votes in regional elections seen as a national political test, President Francois Mitterrand's socialist party is in deep trouble. Opinion polls forecast that the socialists, buffeted by unemployment, factional squabbles and finance scandals, will lose at least a third of their support in the March 22 elections for 22 regional councils, averaging less than 20 per cent.

The socialists seem set to lose control of the last two regions they ruled - the North and Limousin. The desertion of working-class voters in industrial northern France, a traditional bastion, could be dramatic. In the key Paris and Marseille regions, surveys put the Socialist in a humiliating third place behind the mainstream Conservative opposition and the extreme-right National Front.

Many voters seem bent on using the regional poll to censure Mit-terrand and his unpopular Prime Minister Edith Cresson. The President is widely expected to reshuffle the government and perhaps fire Cresson after the election. But paradoxically the Union for France, an alliance of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac's Neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic and former President Valery Giscard D'Estaing's centre-right Union for French Democracy, is also expected to lose votes slightly.

"The result could be a massive rejection of the political establishment, not just of the socialists, with more than half of the electorate abstaining and a third of those who do cast ballots voting for protest parties," said Pierre Giacometti of the BVA Polling Institute. Jean-Marie Le Pen's anti-immigration National Front may win up to 15 per cent nationwide, with two ecologist lists sharing another 15 or 16 per cent

The Communist Party, written off by commentators last year after the collapse of Soviet communism, is holding its share of the vote and may average 10 per cent, boosted by working-class discontent at the government's austerity policies. Divisions among the Socialists have worsened their plight. In the Provence-Alpes-Cote-D'Azur region that includes the cities of Nice and Marseille, the faction-torn party is not

It is backing a slate led by millionaire businessman Bernard Tapie, cancer researcher Leon Schwartzenberg and fashion designer Daniel Hechter, none of whom are party members. But Tapie's showmanship and attacks on National Front voters as "bastards" have alienated many

Marseille Mayor Robert Vigouroux demonstratively refused to endorse Tapie and disenchanted local Socialist leaders Michel Pezet and Alain Bombard have withdrawn from his lists. In other regions, Socialist Grandees have been reluctant to lead party lists to what seems bound to be a political Waterloo.

Budget Minister Michel Charasse and Socialist parliamentary chief Jean Auroux only agreed to head their local lists after intense pressure from party leaders. Culture Minister Jack Lang and Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy have so far ignored appeals to lead regional cam-

### Child heroin addicts on the rise in Thailand

lease don't take it. Don't burn it, please. I am quitting, but, please, keep the drug for my mother and the rest of the family." a child of the Hmong Hill tribe is begging a visiting drug rehabilitation worker. The visitor threatens to throw the 12-

The boy, Phor Sae Yang, promises the worker from Chiangmai's MckEan Rehabilitation Centre he will stop using heroin after just one more shot. A policeman who talked Phor into getting treatment says more and more children in this mountain area 80 km northwest of Chiangmai are using heroin.

He said that two months of talking about the consequences of heroin use had persuaded 400 of the 700 people who live in the hamlet to sign up for treatment. Dozens of the 400 are children. "We can receive very few of them at any one time," he said. "We cannot cope with the quick spread of child drug addicts.

Some children who want to go to Chiangmai to receive treatment are prevented from doing so by parents who need them to work the village's strawberry, cabbage and soya bean patches, he said. Phor said he earned 20 baht (80 US cents) a day picking strawberries, he says his mother spends 50 baht (two US dollars) a day on heroin.

'You don't have to wait for his mother's consent," an old man tells the rehabilitation worker. "I'm his grandfather. I can give permission." Jerfaur Sae Yang, 61, tells the visitor to take the boy before

the mother returns from her potato field. Jerfaur says he is too old himself to kick the habit. "Be good," Phor tells his 10-year-old brother. "Big brother will be back. Don't

forget to have young sister take breakfast.' Phor dropped out of school four years ago when his father was arrested for heroin trafficking. The boy became a drug runner and later

started to use heroin himself Phor is not unusual. "This village is not an isolated case", says rehabilitation worker Tripith Juijaroen. "From my experience with these people, I believe that not less than 10,000 children younger

than 12 years are addicted to heroin.' "In the old days when opium (poppy plants) covered the mountains in this area, only the adults smoked opium, but nowadays both children and elders take heroin," Sikae Korea, a village headman,

Rehabilitation workers say poppy eradication programmes have changed the way Thailand's 500,000 tribal people use drugs. Moderate opium use has been replaced by addition to heroin, a more refined product of the same plant. Supplies come from refineries in Burma, Laos and Thailand.

"The main reason for children taking heroin is that it's easy to buy and is more convenient," Sikae Kora says. "Smoking opium you have to lay down with a special pipe and other equipment. Sometimes it takes an hour, but for heroin it takes a few minutes," he said.

A senior official of the Thai Narcotics Control Board said 30,000 of the tribal people, the Karen, the Hmong, the Lisu, the Khaya, the Akha and the Haws, spread over eight provinces of northern Thailand, still use opium. He did not have figures for heroin users. Phor says most of his friends are heroin addicts.

'I promise that I will never take heroin again for the rest of my life," the boy says at the rehabilitataion centre in Chiangmai after his first bath in a year. "He may not take heroin as long as we keep him

here but once he returns to his community, to the bad environment where all members of the family are taking drugs, I doubt he can re-

Tripith said his rehabilitation centre can take only 20 drug addicts for each 45-day course. A nearby government rehabilitation centre takes 200 a one time. "The hill tribes children addicts is a critical situation, we can only help a few of them at one time, while thousands are becoming the slave of heroin every day," he said.

HE'S IN ONE OF HIS BAD MOODS...

The brutality in Burma from which these Muslims are fleeing

Bangladesh —one of the world's poorest

countries — look like

makes even

paradise. Tim McGirk reports

land of natural ca-tastrophes and dire pov-erty, Bangladesh is now being battered by a political calamity not of its own making: more than 70,000 Muslims from neighbouring Burma have poured across the border, fleeing the excesses of Ran-

goon's military regime.

The brutality in Burma from which these Muslims are fleeing makes even Bangladesh - one of the world's poorest countries - look like paradise, according to some of the 1,000 refugees who are crossing over each day. Families arrive in Bangladesh exhausted and starving, jungle and forded the wide, shining Naf delta which divides the two countries. Ali Kalashan, who reached Bangladesh staggering un-der the weight of two cane baskets, one containing a dented kettle and a baby son, said: "If there's no food or medicine here, at least we can die

peacefully."

There is no food or medicine.
The Burmese refugees are washing up in an area of Bangladesh which clone which killed more than 138.000 people and has left the government nearly bankrupt. So far, Bangladesh has found less than £100,000 for the Burmese refugees. Other relief has come from Islamic aid oranisations - rice, black umbrellas emblazoned with the Saudi Airlines logo, and materials to build

One French doctor said wearily: 'I saw an old man who was too weak to beg. He was shaking so much he could not lift his arm." One out of every three children in the refugee camp is suffering from malnutrition. After listening to refugees in this settlement of reed huts in the jungle 30 miles from Cox's Bazar, an image emerges of the nightmare from which they have escaped, one that makes even Bangladesh look good by comparison.

After Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader, was given the Nobel Peace Prize last year, the Rangoon military council began to crack down on opponents who rallied around here. Among them were guerilla bands representing the Rohingyas, Burmese Muslims who inhabit the hills and coast near the

Bangladesh paradise for Burma's Muslims



Sayada Katun, a Muslim refugee, had almost reached Bangladesh with her family when Burmese troops attacked. Sayada was left

Refugees say that in December, the Burmese army, comprised mainly of Buddhists, began a ruthless per-secution of the Rohingyas. Rice paddies owned by Muslims were conmen were killed or forced into slave labour. In this camp of 3,000 ref-ugees, slowly starving to death, eve-ryone has brought a tale of horror

Sayada Katun is an old woman whose face is like a worn-out mask that cannot hide an unceasing, inward scream. She left her village, Taungbazar, with 17 relatives; they fought their way through a dense carpet of jungle for five days, dodging Bur-mese army patrols. The family had

reached the shores of the Naf river. They could see theirmdestination. Through a middle-man, Sayada and her family had arranged for a Rohingya Muslim to row them across in a long, pencil-thin canoe.

There were two canoes, loaded with more than 200 refugees, waiting along the jungle shore for the river tide to change. "Suddenly, we were spotted by Burmese soldiers. They fired. A man next to me fell with a bullet and died. The soldiers herded us off the boat, keeping the young girls apart. I was kicked very hard in the stomach. I was out for so long that it had grown dark and I was alone. The soldiers thought I wad dead," said the old woman, as she cried and cupped her frail hands around her face. She was found by another party of refugees, and one sold his lantern to the boatman to pay for her passage to freedom. She wan ders the camp, with her only be-longings, a shawl and an amulet earring to keep away evil, As Sayada told her story, hun-

dreds of other refugees pressed in. Two young women, Samuda and Anwar, told how they were taken to an army camp at Fakali and gang-raped for 20 days before they managed to escape past a sleeping sentry. Nazir Ahmed, a Muslim clergyman from Nayapara, showed me his injuries from where soldiers had beaten him. He had tried to stop the soldiers from using his village mosque as a toilet.

She dressed in Masai beads and

Their early married life sounds agement."

He also insists he is a

generally seems to have bowled over the shy, curly-headed scientist-pilot.

in the bits of the pro-World War

Happy Valley settler scene that man-

aged to be happy. Oria sternly rebuts

the notion that it was anything like

days, and when I fainted and fell, gang of soldiers came and kicked On the Bangladesh shore of the river, a refugee boat arrived. A blind man was carried by a boatman through deep green mud. A young Muslim woman, who had yanked off her turquoise veil out of fatigue squatted among a few dirty bundles She had gone on ahead in the first ca-noe, with the children, the blind man and the goods, while the men waited for a second boat. Her eight year old son stood guard beside her with a cat apult, which would do no good against the invisible enemies, hunge and disease, awating them in the reugee camp. Relief officials say there may soon be 100,000 Burmese Mus refugees crowded into Ban

agree with the proposition that the

future of the elephant lies with man-

Zimbabwean attempts to use erst

while cattle ranges for managed

wildlife, which could then be hunted

by Germans and Spaniards, photo-

graphed by all-comers, and eaten by

Africans. He is angry if anyone sug

gests that he is unrealistic about the

commercial usefulness of well

managed wildlife. "We probably have quite a lot to learn from the Zimbabweans," he says.

He knows perfectly well the arguments of the environmental econ-

omists who have been lending theo-

retical respectability and numbers to

the idea that only a wildlife with a

recognised economic value will be

conserved by a world that is greedy

as Professor David Pearce of Uni

These economists - people such

when it isn't plain hungry.

### Human fly madness hits **New York** bar

By Barbara Novovitch

erfect Tommy's used to be a perfectly normal bar until the owner decided to put velcro on the wall Now people are fighting with each other for the pleasure of sticking to it, upside-down.

Every Wednesday night dozens of people queue up, don zippered velcro-striped suits, race down a 20-foot corridor, jump on a trampoline, duck their heads. flail wildly with arms and legs and gyrate themselves into position against the wall, hoping they will stick to the velcro-striped

"Yea, go get 'em," yells the crowd, cheering on their favourite. "Higher, higher". Bar owner Adams Powers

calls it the "human barfly competition." He explains it is not really a rite of passage for spiderman or other comic book superheroes but an idea he got from a bar in New Zealand.

The object is to get your feet as high a possible on the wall. which means hitting the velcro panel upside-down, if possible.

U.S. wall-jumping champion Stephen Wastell, who doesn't consider himself an athlet, says: 'The actual doing of it takes no time at all" But Wastell adds, "it's weird hanging there upside

"It's been incredible, we've doubled our business" because of the barfly competition nights. Powers said recently.

He proudly recites a list of television shows and international press who have visited his establishment since he and his two partners started the zany sport last August.

Powers, Wastell and Joslin Brown, the "chick" in the two guys and a chick partnership who run the human barfly operation, saw a report about velcro walljumping in a sports magazine and telephoned the New Zealand bar that featured the sport.

An American late-night television comedy show host once put on a velcro-tabbed suit and flung himself at a velcro wall as a stunt. Graeme Smith and Rick Kirk

land of the Cri Bar and Grill in Napier, New Zeland, added the trampoline and "spotters" at either side to aid the jumper and prevent serious accidents.

After Powers' call, the New Zealand entrepreneurs came to the United States with their equipment and made Powers and his partner the sole U.S. dis-

tributors. So far, it has not taken the states by storm -- but there is an-

other bar in Long Island and one in Boston that now have velcro wall-jumping, Powers said. Competitions are free -- the jumpers and their claques cram-

into perfect Tommy's from about-9 to 11 p.m. to guzzle drinks and boast of their strategy for soaring to new heights. At 11 the queue forms for

competition, and each jumper signs a waiver for personal injury.
"There's three inches of pad-

wall or grabbing shoulders and

arms to prevent anything more

than a headache if the jumper

butts his or her head, as about

weighing 300 pounds, Wastell

The velcro will hold a person

Perfect Tommy's spotters

wear black-and-white-striped

uniforms, the backs of their shirts

emblazoned with the slogan

Velcro wall-jumping looks

At Perfect Tommy's there is a

more dangerous than it is, says

Powers, who compares it to

space-available bungee-jumping.

huge mirro above the wall-jump

area so that bar patrons along the

stairwell and on the balcony can

ding on the wall and the floor and the trampoline is padded," Powers explained. "Nobody's been hurt here, or in New Zealand." The "spotters" are key to the experience, snatching body and limbs and guiding them to the

half of them do.

'stick or die".

versity College London, and Tim Swanson of Cambridge University argue strongly that the pre-ban trad ing system failed because it was poorly conceived, and a new one could avoid all of its mistakes. But Iain insists that in the real world there is no chance that Africa could trade ivory without a return to the devastation of the Eighties. He agrees that Africa needs all

the income it can get, but cites evidence that ivory will never be worth a vast amount and certainly not as much as the tourism that would be a far better source of revenue from well-managed herds. Next month the CITES sig-

natories will meet in Kvoto, and sev eral southern African countries are health that a controlled trade in ivory should be allowed again. Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton will be open trading will open a series of loopholes which will utterly destroy the recent exciting attempts by the

one of those arguments where nearly everyone is right, and nearly every one exaggerates the merits of their case. Until I met the Douglas-Hamiltons. I was inclined to side with the southern African states This was not least because money from ivory might help the develop ment both of elephant conservation and the well-being of very poor countries. But you don't meet people such as Oria and Iain without being powerfully compelled to listen to their case. They amply demonstrate that they aren't just crazy about el-

likely to argue that their own elthere, re-inforcing the message of their new book: that allowing Zimbabwe and any other countries to relikes of Kenya to stamp out poach-What to do about elephants is

ephants. They like Africans as well. They believe the ban is good for

watch the shenanigans. Each jumper gets two tries and there are four heats, with the night's winner awarded a bottle of drinks. Wastell is the U.S. champ at 11 feet 4.5 inches. Paul Rose of New Zealand holds the world record of 12 feet eight inches, Powers said. "It's a lotta fun, there's noth-

ing to compare it to " said Ron Gee, 22, an engineer for General Foods, recently. After three tries, he reached a height of nine feet. Bud Rosenthal, 25, an analyst

at the Bank of New York, and Victoria Bohr, 22, who is looking for a job as a teacher, said they wanted to compete in the couples event, but neither won the drinks.

## Why elephants should keep their tusks

Hamilton. She was off to tell "Woman Hour" in no uncertain about poaching, she also has a cool head. Like Iain, she is a bush pilot. terms why the African elephant some people who claim to be better friends to it than she and her husband, Iain, a campaigning zoologist. The message is firmly that here is not some naive European sen-

timental defence of Jumbo. The couple have travelled from their home in Kenya before going on to a meeting in "Japan of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, where they will be lobbying for the continuation of the 1989 ban on the international trade in ivory.

Their opponents are not just Asian ivory trading countries; the most vociferous are wildlife experts in countries such as Zimbabwe who claim that far from wiping out elephant population, it is, only a wellmanaged trade that can ensure their survival. The nub is that while the African elephant population has halved in a decade, in some southern countries numbers are stable or rising, partly because of good management; while more northerly population have seen declines way above the average, partly because poor management of parks gave poachers a field day, Zimbabwe argues that its population of elephants are doing so well they must be culled - by 30,000 animals in the next two or three years. They would like to be able to to trade the windfall ivory crop.

The Douglas-Hamiltons pack quite a punch. Jain has a formidable reputation as the acknowledged expert on African elephant populations. He knows everybody in the elephant conservation business, and has the respect of almost all of even the staunchest opponents of his argument. Oria is a more obviously forceful campaigner. She speaks in a deep, grand voice that does not betray her Franco-Italian parentage but

ALBERT HERBERT HAWKINS (The Naughtiest Boy in the World) BY FRANK DICKENS

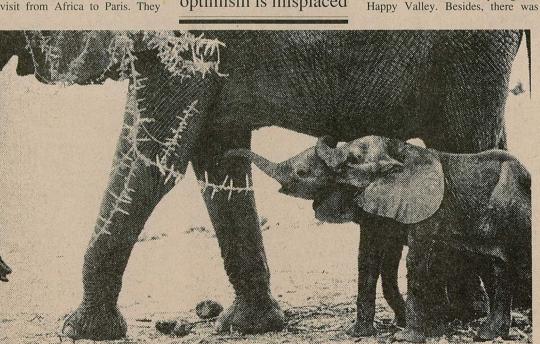
CAN'T HEAR'

YOU .

she is fiercely emotional in her anger

Oria Douglas-Hamilton needs no her mother's cousin was the creator of the "Babar" books. Indeed, their genesis was in the stories Oria's mother told her French relatives on a visit from Africa to Paris. They

Many African wildlife experts now advocate ending the ivory ban. Richard North met a couple who fear their optimism is misplaced



African elephants: in some southern countries members are stable or rising.

slipped into the family argot to the point where they were finally written down and illustrated.

As a young man, Oria's father was a keen big-game hunter. People ephants in quite the way they do now. "Everyone shot elephants in those days. That's why we came to Africa," Oria's father told his grand daughters when they were staying at his Art Deco pile in its 3,000 acres of farmland near Lake Naivasha. It is now Oria and Iain's, handily a mere

WAIT TILL HE STARTS

HOLDING HIS BREATH

25 minutes' flying time from Nai-

Returning to Africa after a failed marriage in Italy, Oria met Iain Douglas-Hamilton, fresh from Oxford and just beginning his 20 year study of the African elephant. She has written lyrically about their meeting, proclaiming her pride at sleeping in a hut in the bush "with my man", and then watching her children, Dudu and Saba, playing on her parents farm with their nannies, as "they grew like sunflowers in the

the very serious, and often harrowing business of Iain's work. He is credited with being the first person to tell the world about the richness of elephants' private lives. "I was on my first assignment, trying to work out what to do about the problem of there being too many elephants," he says. To do so, he had to be able individually to recognise the 450 animals in a particular herd. "It was quite easy, it was only a small herd." he says. He was learning to value each elephant while understanding how they worked as a crowd.

Iain criticises the view that good conservation will inevitably lead to he need for population control. says. "When I started, everyone was obsessed with the problem of there being too many elephants. They were so obsessed they overlooked what was to become the main determinant of elephant numbers: poaching.

"I have had the experience of agonising long and hard about a cull, and finally recommending it. But I was wrong: three months later a disease swept through the population and knocked it down to a quarter."

as an excuse for ivory trading. Oria, however, would make no exceptions. "The African elephant

gether, only that they should be used

to come to Oman MUSCAT — Two trade delega-He does not rule culls out alto-

needs management by man like it

from "Times" archives February 1976

Trade delegations

tions, one from Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and the other from India are due to arrive here. During their stay the delegations will call on the local traders

and Chmaber of Commerce to further strengthen trade relations. An Italian trade delegation shall also be visitng the Sultanate.

#### o opponents, "political correctness" (PC) is a new totalitarianism, a form of censorship used by minority pressure groups representing homosexuals, militant women and ethnic minorities. In its academic manifestation, it has led to the junking of the classics of Western culture, written by "DWEMs" - Dead White European Males - in favour of works of dubious merit that have been elevated to cult status because they reinforce the prejudices of the left. It is a phenomenon that has, its critics argue, destroyed free speech on US campuses. Opponents of PC here say it is poised to hit Britain.

Shirley Williams, currently back in Hertfordshire from her teaching post at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, has encountered the debate over PC at first hand, -both at Harvard and at Berkeley, in California.

It is a conflict, she believes, that has engendered extremism on both sides. "There is a danger that PC can become a kind of reverse McCarthyism," she says. "But in the extremes of PC and in the extremes of the argument against it you find intolerance to be Americanism.

Since the PC argument was defined in the late Eighties, its opponents, who invented the label, have portrayed it as a power so awesome that professors on US campuses fear that an unintended slight, casual remark or preference for Shakespeare could cost them their careers.

The anti-PC case is that "multiculturalism" is the latest mutation of the well-known indisorder, Sixties tellectual radicalism. Multiculturalism is the intellectual stalking horse, say its critics, for the promotion of women's and black studies. It is also behind the drive to purge the language of pejorative or weighted terms, and for positive discrimination in university admissions and appointments in favour of groups who have suffered in the past. The case was most congently argued in "Illiberal Education, the politics of sex and race on campus," by the Indian-born academic Dinesh D'Souza.

The virulent quality of the PC debate in the United States, Mrs. Williams believes, has roots in a series of social and political changes that have undermined the cohesion of American society. "The great success of the United States as a nation of immigrants alition that held together blue-

## But will it catch on in UK?



Shirley Williams: "In the extremes of PC and in the extremes of the argument against it you find intolerance claiming to be

has been to say that to everybody, vou are all citizens.' The trade-Political Correctness (PC), rife on US campuses, off was the acceptance of the predominant culture. But in many aris gaining ground in Britain. Or so its critics eas the white culture is in danger claim. Shirley Williams, now a Harvard lecturer, of becoming the minority and tells Isabel Hilton why she disagrees they have, as a result, become

There is a gradual breakdown collar workers with blacks and of the common schooling that was crucial in US culture. Twenty recent immigrant groups into the Democratic Party is in decline. years ago, everyone went through the public school system and There is a feeling that the consensus on which the country was learnt about the Civil War and the Founding Fathers and bonded built has broken down and it contributes to the sensitivity of those into a common vision." who feel that PC is very danger-Now, she says, it is no longer

true that 99 per cent of children There is a more sceptical posigo to local schools, largely because, after desegregation, there tion that PC is not the bogey the was a white flight into the private right would have us believe. It is, from this standpoint, a desector. "In some areas, there is as rogatory term applied to what high a percentage of children in private education as in Britain, so should be a healthy and democratic academic debate. PC repthat common experience has been resents dissent and not dictat-

"Finally, there has been a frag-Last month, 10,000 professors mentation of the political process, particularly on the left. The coof literature gathered for the annual convention of the pro-

fessional body of professors of English and other modern languages. As a body, they are regarded by the right as among the most pernicious purveyors of PC because they are deemed to have embraced multiculturalism wholesale

The professors complained they were the victims of media hype in an area that contained far more nuance than a headline can accommodate. The MLA commissioned a survey to discover whether it was true, as "The Wall Street Journal" had alleged in an editorial, that the classics were being eliminated from curricula all over the United States.

When the professors were asked which authors were the most important for courses on nineteenth-century American literature, they chose Hawthorne, Thoreau, Melville and Emerson. For the British novel, they chose Dickens, Eliot and Hardy. Last year, the American Association of University Professors released a statement which said that the view that PC was a "form of thought control . . . sweeping American campuses" was based on "disconnected anecdotes".

Mrs. Williams brushes with PC have been slight. "I have always been careful with the language of race, but I am less concerned with the language of gender and don't care particularly about the use of 'humankind' instead of 'mankind'

Opponents of PC in Britain claim it has already gained a foothold here. For the journalist Paul Johnson, PC is a "virus" that poses an "insidious threat to the moral and cultural values of a democratic Christian society'

It is, he says, fiercely dogmatic and shamelessly intolerant. The Labour Party, Mr. Johnson believes, has been afflicted and if it were to be elected, our civilisation would succumb to a fullblown case of moral Aids. If Labour were to win an election with a sufficient majority, Mr. Johnson warned recently, "we may find ourselves in a country where it is actually unlawful to put forward publicly the traditional moral teachings of our religion.

Mrs. Williams believes that social and political difference between British and American cultures mean that it is unlikely to take the same course. "The United States is a highly litigious culture and a culture of rights in which words carry a legal importance.

They become a weapon in the battle to establish rights through litigation. It gives hem an importance that they do not have in cultures of custom and practice like the UK

"In the Anita Hill case, for instance, it was seen as an acceptable remedy to legislate for the sexual harassment problem that she had claimed to have. If that problem arose here, our reaction. would expect, would be for women colleagues to bind together to deal with him. It comes back to the fact that the US is a rightsbased society in which everything turns on language and interpretation.

The acute conflict over names in the PC debate reflects real social change and the challenge by minorities to a dominant culture But it can also, Mrs. Williams believes, become a distraction.

"It is good to look at language to see what is says about how you feel about things," she says, "and it is useful to begin to understand how offensive it can be. But it can become a diversion from more important issues.

I have always been struck, for instance, at how little interest the feminist movement has taken in poverty, despite the fact that poverty is now largely a female phenomenon: it used to be the case that race was the largest determinant of poverty, but increasingly it is gender. But the feminist movement has been more concerned with terminology.

"Their concerns are mostly those of upper level careers and professions. PC fits very well into that. The use of the right phraseology becomes a symbolism it is avoiding real issues that might raise questions about one's own

# Rethinking higher education

Universities are in crisis, in the East as in the West, the North as in the South, suffocating

within rigid, out-dated structures, poorly adapted to the modern world. "If they do not change, says an eminent Latin American educator,

"universities will be turned into museum pieces.

reated during the first centuries of this millennium as a result of a change in the thinking of mankind and in social relations, universities are about to enter a new millennium in a situation of crisis and in world undergoing profound transformations

These transformations, which in an incredibly short time have created a completely different and much more promising international scene, stem from love of freedom and renewal of faith in democracy. The emergency of more participatory so-cieties will certainly be a feature of the nineties, the last decade of this

These processes necessarily affect our expectations of universities and of higher education in general Demands connected with the scientific and technological revolution in turn have an impact on academic structures and force them to adopt an inter-disciplinary approach as the most adequate response to the nature of contemporary knowledge.

The crisis in higher education is therefore a crisis involving change, in-depth revision of its objectives. missions, task and organisation and methods of work.

Higher education is facing the challenge of coming to terms with change as one of the characteristics of our times and, by the same token, of training graduates to respond to social change and to the rapid development of knowledge and skills. This means that universities must be constantly prepared to review their teaching structures and programmes, since crisis becomes more acute when the need for change coincides with rigid academic organisations and educational traditions that ascribe more importance to form than to cognitive content

Federico Mayor, Director-General of Unesco, has said that we

need "universities adapted to the pace of life today, and to the different characteristics of each region each coun-Institutional and conceptual changes in universities are therefore an essential part of overall change and the transformation of society, all of which are needed urgently as we approach the threshold of the next millennium." The options are quite clear: if the universities do not meet these new demands, other institutions will, and in so doing they will turn the universities into museum pieces.

We must therefore not be surprised that widespread concern about higher education and its ability to respond to new and changing situations s a major preoccupation in the world

What are the main problems facing higher education? Without claiming to have drawn up a complete list, we can identify the following:

Firstly, the challenge of dealing with constantly rising enrollment without sacrificing the quality inherent in tertiary education. The number of students in higher education worldwide is estimated at 61 million (1989), with women more numerous than men in certain professional fields and accounting on average for nearly 45 per cent of total enrollment The requirements of quality are not necessarily incompatible with increased enrollment, in view of advances in modern education tech-

"More" does not mean "worse". according to Eric Ashby, but it does mean "different". Mass education, like mass production, is somewhat different from tailor-made education or production. Distance higher education must play an increasingly important role in the task of tackling the quantitative problem, hence the variety of experiments that have been introduced into higher education activities today

The problem of democratisation cannot, however, be solved simply by increasing enrollment in higher education, it must be rooted in the lower levels of education. Higher education today continues to be the privilege of a very small segment of the agegroup concerned, even though growing number of lower middle class young people now go on to higher education. It is estimated that only about 15 per cent of young people worldwide have the opportunity

## **US-CIS** joint Mars venture proposed

less tolerant.

WASHINGTON — A Russian space official said on Friday he would like to see a cosmonaut and an astronaut someday step foot on Mars together and offered the use of the "Mir" space station in US space

exploration. Calling for much broader and deeper cooperation in space, the official also offered the former Soviet Union's "Soyuz" spacecraft as an emergency crew rescue vehicle for proposed US space station

Yuri Semenov, general director and chief designer of the Energia (Energy) Scientific and Industrial Complex that produces Soviet spacecraft told a Senate subcommittee that his country's and US officials have so far only talked about joint space ventures

'It is time to move from words to deeds," he said. "We could present a number of interesting projects for international cooperation.

Among possible joint projects, he listed efforts to monitor the weapons of third countries by satellite and the use of more-powerful Soviet

RD-170 rocket engines to launch a joint space platform.

Such a platform could be equipped with mirrors to divert radiation away from the Earth and more sunlight to it. It also could be used to clean up space debris and even to reconstruct the ozone layer, Semenov told the Senate appropriations subcommittee that overseas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"I am an optimist," he said, describing a long-term joint venture to explore Mars, using the moon as a take-off point. "And I believe citizens of our two countries will be the first to jointly step on Mars." Nasa administrator Richard H.

Truly told the committee his agency is most interested in exploring the possibility of adapting the "Soyuz" spacecraft for use as an emergency crew rescue vehicle for the US space station, which is expected to be ready for astronauts in the year 2000

Europeans, however, also have expressed interest in developing the technology for such a vehicle, which

would have the capability of quickly returning the crew aboard the station to Earth.

Truly said talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Secretary of State James A. Baker III last week cleared the way for dispatching a team of US experts to the Soviet Union within a few months to do the technical assessment.

But Truly rejected a proposal by some lawmakers to buy the Soviet's "Mir" space station as an alternative to continuing work on the 30 billion dollars "Freedom" space station.

He said the "Mir" station lacks the capability for carrying out the life sciences, medical and microgravity research of even what is now a vastly scaled-back version of the "Freedom" station.

Truly said Nasa is interested in other technologies developed by the Soviets, including their automated rendezvous and docking system, their rocket engines and their lead in developing small nuclear reactors for use aboard spacecraft. - AF

Greek veterans, young messengers in the 1912-1913 Balkan wars that liberated Macedonia from the Turks, take part in a demonstration recently in Salonica against recognition of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia which Greece claims has stolen the

### **France anoints Stallone** 'man of culture'

PARIS — France on Friday presented movie actor Sylvester Stallone, who played the legendary boxer Rocky and Commando Rambo, with one of its highest artistic awards.

Stallone, well-known for speaking in monosyllables in his movies, spoke eloquently and at length at the Friday ceremony.

'I've been honoured before, but I rarely felt I was understood," Stallone said. "If I die right now, I don't mind, because I'm already in heaven.

Culture Minister Jack Lang, pinning a green and gold medal on Stallone, anointed him an officer of the Order of Arts and Letters.

Lang, who a decade ago gained notoriety across the Atlantic for denouncing America's "cultural imperialism," described the actor who incarnated the boxer Rocky and the commando Rambo as "a living legend."

Sylvester Stallone escapes all attempts at classification, whether adulated or vilified," said Land in a brief ceremony at the Cul-

#### Noting Stallone's publicized passion for painting and authorship of the Oscar-winng "Rocky" screenplay, Lang saluted him as a "man of sensitivity and cul-

His shaggy Rambo locks stylishly shorn, his rocky trunks replaced by a designer suit, Stallone looked at home under the chandeliers and gilt moldings of the Palais Royal where the ministry is located.

The actor was to be the guest of honour yesterday at the annual Cesar Awards, France's versign of the Oscars, and is to receive an honourary Cesar.

Stallone said he was struck "speechless" by his Friday award, but launched into a lengthy thank you. believe that life is to be grabbed

like you would your strongest enemy and not let go" he said. "You must live life ferociously, and that's the way I approach art. It is a constant battle of man against his limitations. I want to thank the entire French nation for this incredible honour."

#### Taylor calls her survival a miracle

NEW YORK - On the eve of her 60th birthday, actress Elizabeth Taylor appeared on television on Friday wearing skintight jeans, boots and a studded leather motorcycle jacket saying it was a miracle she was still alive. "It's kind of a miracle that I'm going to be 60. I almost died a couple of times," said Taylor, who also wore a silver crucifix when she appeared on NBC's Tonight Show."

"I'm a living example of what people can go through and survive. I've had the lowest valleys, the highest highs, tragedies, addictions.

"I am a survivor," said Taylor, who made her screen debut at the age of 10. Throughout her life she has made headlines over her eight marriages, weight problems and battles with drugs and alcohol. The Londonborn actress said she would celebrate her birthday next Thursday "with a party for the child in me.

I've been pronounced dead. read my own obituary. It was the best review I'd ever had," she said.

Taylor said her marriage last year to building worker Larry Fortensky was a happy one and that their relationship was very private and very profound." - Reuter

long neck.

SYDNEY - Britain's Queen Eliz-

As the Queen was introduced for

abeth was unable to back the winner

for the Queen's Cup yesterday de

the Cup's presentation, some 20,000

fellow punters and socialites gathered

at Sydney's Royal Randwick Race-

the barrier at the start of the 2,000-

given the tip too late to place a bet.

spite being given the winning tip.

However the Queen, an avid punter with a modest stable of some 30 racehorses, showed little emotion as she watched the tip thunder down a very hot and humid straight to win 75,000 US dollars prize money by a

If she could have made it to the course laughed when told she was bookies before the start of the race, Champion trainer Tommy Smith she would have won 3.75 dollars for tipped his horse, second favourite Aquidity ridden by jockey Shane Dye, just before the horses leapt from a 75 cent bet.

The Queen's Cup, previously known as the King's Cup until the death of King George VI, was first

"This is one of my great moments as a trainer," said Smith after winning his first Queen's Cup. "I have trained for many years and I have won many races, but it is a great victory.

After enduring 45 degree celcius heat on Friday when she visited the New South Wales town of Dubbo, the Queen arrived at Randwick to 94 per

The track was officially dead for the first race, but a blazing summer sun quickly dried it out and race officials revised their track rating to

Queen misses backing Cup winner despite tip

After officially opening a new million dollars public grandstand, Queen Elizabeth and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh quickly disappeared into the air-conditioned comfort of the members' stand

emerging only to view each race. As has been the case throughout her week-long visit, Republican protesters were nowhere to be seen.

The Queen and her husband will attend a church service today before making a number of other public appearances around Sydney. — Reuter

### **CIA** willing to release JFK files if given OK

WASHINGTON - CIA di rector Robert Gates promised on Friday to open secret agency files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy if Congress and the President agree to declassify the documents.

in any broader government effort to review and declassify these documents," he said, giving no indication there might be national security grounds for resisting such an effort. Gates' comments could make it

"CIA will not be found lagging

easier for Congress to respond to growing calls for the release of thousands of sealed documents relating to the 1963 assassination.

Debate about the killing was stirred by last December's release of a film by director Oliver Stone contending Kennedy was the victim of a shadowy government conspiracy, primarily by the Pentagon and CIA

Gates, in remarks prepared for delivery to the Oklahoma Press Association in Tulsa, said the CIA has been kept from any action on its own to open the Kennedy files by privacy regulations and the fact that many of the documents it holds belong to other agencies.

In tandem with other government moves toward releasing such documents, he said, all agency documents about the Kennedy assassination would be transferred to a reinvigorated review unit with a 'bias toward declassification."

Rep. Louis Stokes, who was chairman of a House panel that investigated the assassination, has said he would like to see files made public, but the FBI has indicated more reluctance.

trying to make the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency more public " to help people understand better what CIA does and how we

More broadly, Gates said he was

Gates outlined a range of steps toward more openness in other ar-

Besides declassifying old docu-

ments, the plan calls for giving more speeches and briefings, publishing nore information about the agency's history and mission and sponsoring university seminars. The CIA unit responsible for re-

viewing historic documents is expected to review files in the CIA's possession and those among the 750,000 documents under seal by the House select committee on assassinations. The House panel concluded in 1979 that Kennedy probably was the victim of a conspiracy.

# Times=G-b-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D-S

Good news



BANK OF MUSCAT

TODAY'S R.O. 100/- WINNER

MANIAR PANKAJ DIRAJLAL

**RUWI BRANCH** 

HOURLY SWISS WATCH WINNERS

- 1. AFAQUE MAJEED (RUWI BR)
- 2. HAMOOD HAMDAN AL
- KIYUMY (JIBROO BR)
- AHMED MOHD SALIM (SALALAH BR)
- 4. ABDULLAH ZAHER HUMAID
- 5. RASHID MASOUD NASSER AL SIYABI (RUSTAQ BR)

AL AMRI (IZKI BR)

RAMADAN SPECIAL DRAW OF R.O. 10.000/-MONTHLY DRAW OF R.O. 1000/- FEB. '92

RUSH, OPEN ACCOUNT TODAY & WIN.

#### Manpower

House Maids, house boys, babysitters, cooks and skilled and unskilled workers available from Sri Lanka for immediate employment with reasonable charges. Call 620146/441843 Hilal Bin Juma & Partners Trading.

Philippine Manpower available. All positions. Fast recruitment, low fees! Contact Patrick, P.O. Box 4826, Ruwi, Tel. 795544, 705969, \*\*\*

Avoid problems, fast arrivals housemaids/qualified personnel Sri Lankan 7 days, Filipino 14 days. Tel.:701371.

#### Buying & selling

For sale available used airconditioner in good condition. Tel.: 796212.



#### Surprise



BANK OF MUSCAT

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A TOKEN GIFT (AN **ELEGANT WRITING PEN)** TO ALL 440 WINNERS OF THE LEXUS-COUPONS

DRAW SCHEME (DURING NOVEMBER '91 TO JANUARY '92). PLEASE CONTACT YOUR



#### For rent

4 Coaster 25-Seater available on rent. For negotiation contact Mr. Hassan Nawaz Tel. 750919 / 798954.

#### Pizza!!!!!

#### PIZZA EXPRESS RESTAURANT TEL. 603400.

Central Area, Madinat Qaboos, Free home delivery to M. Qaboos, Area. Timings: 12 noon - 3 pm & 6 pm - 11 pm.

On Thursday - Open from

12 noon to 12 midnight. Fridays: 6 pm - 10.30 pm. Ask about our Daily Specials and Parties and Function catering.

#### Hotel

SEA VIEW HOTEL CORNICHE, TEL. 714555

Located close to Riyam Park. Fully Air-conditioned rooms. All rooms provided with Refrigerator, Colour TV, Direct dial Telephone.

#### Cargo

**MUTTRAH SHIPPING AGENCY** 

Your personal effects to India/Pakistan. For your shipping requirements please Muttrah Shipping Agency, Tel. 706333/706344.

### Fun! Fun!!



Ice Skating is fun. Al Khuwair Tel. 696492.

#### Institute



ADVANCE YOUR CAREER !!

Add English to your strengths Enrolment now open for series of English language

courses. Starting 22 February

- Beginners, Elementary & Intermediate levels Mornings, afternoons and evenings Highly qualified British & American teachers
- Tignly quanted british & American
   Computer & Video assisted learning
   Students library
   Professional, friendly atmosphere
   Maximum 16 students per class
   Excellent value fees

(You can also learn English & Arabic typing with professionals).

WE OFFER THE BEST For further details and fees

please fax or phone us: FAX: 794602, PHONE: 701261

#### Institute

#### **AL SHARQIYA** INSTITUTE Job-oriented computer cours-

es available. Attractive group discounts. Individual/group classes to suit your convenience. (From 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) Contact 799655/796752. O. C. Centre, Ruwi.

### Restaurants

#### TEL. 711574

Pav Bhaji and South Indian snacks. Delightful sizzling Sizzlers - vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Fresh juice & Bombay Falooda. Take-aways!! Timings 11 am — 3 p.m. & 5 pm - midnight. Samrat Restaurant, Corniche Sea face, close to Riyam Park

### RUWI.

Hall available free for private parties. Tel: 703390

For party snacks & Sweets (Mithai), Buffet Lunch & Dinner at reasonable rates. Contact

HALWAN VEG. RESTAURANT Sharp Market, Ruwi.

#### **CURRY HOUSE**

midnight. Location Wattayah. Asia Supermarket, Ruwi. Tel. 564033.

#### Mabrook



#### **Commercial Bank** of Oman Limited

RO. 100/- WON TODAY BY

MR. FAWZY BIN MOHAMMED ABU DHAB

AL-KHUWAIR BRANCH

#### Matrimonial

#### SAMRAT RESTAURANT

Visit us for Bombay Chat,

KAIRALI RESTAURANT

Visit for the finest Indian and Chinese, Tandoori dishes.

Tel: 700602

#### RESTAURANT

The only prize draw

with so many, many cash prizes

Alliance invited from ac-

complished professionals/postgraduate bachelors for Keralite RC postgraduate Nurse 31/158 well-employed in Muscat. Write with complete details to: The Advertiser (M), P.O. Box 3770, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

### MIRBAT RESTAURANT

Qurum Heights, On the way to Gulf Hotel., Tel. 561262. Daily Buffet Lunch of

> 6 courses. We offer all varieties of Continental, Chinese, Tandoori, Mughlai, Indian cuisine and Arabic grills.

> > \*\*\*

#### **AL AKTHAM** RESTAURANT Tel: 603292

For special occasions, parties, out-door catering and takeaway services. Visit Al Aktham Restaurant at Al Khuwair, Behind R.C. Cola. Visit us for Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and Continental food.

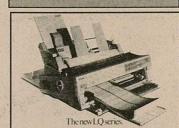
#### "Home of the pan pizza" PIZZA HUT

Ourm: Tel. 564012 & 563798 MBD: 798488 & 798337 Open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

#### PINDI HOTEL

Quality food / crazy rates: Indian, Punjabi, Mughlai Chicken Tikka Bzs 400, Jambo food, outdoor catering, private Chapli Kabab Bzs 200 RO. 2 / parties, takeaways. Restaurant doz, Tikka / Kabab RO.1 / doz. timings: 12 pm to 3 p.m. 7 to Pindi Hotel, Tel. 752933 near

#### Computers



#### IMPRESSIVE RANGE

**NEW EPSON:** LO-570/870/1170 Sole Distributors:

#### **ELECTROMAN LLC**

Tel.: 510315 (Muscat) Tel.: 295104 (Salalah) Also available at

Tunes Tel. 563001 Al Wadi Commercial Centre, Qurum - Shop No. G19

#### Rent a car

Taha Majid Rent a Car. Opp. Al Nahda Hospital. Tel. 752951.

Mohammed Taqi Mohsin Rent a Car. Tel/Fax. 700728, Inside Al Falaj Filling Station, Near Oman Sheraton Hotel.

Salem Al Rashdi Rent a Car - Models 1991, 1992. Good price — Discount upto 33%. Contact Tel. 703343, 703334.

Al Bager Rent a Car. Tel. 607008 / 604765. Al - Musafia'a Rent a Car.

Tel. 561041 Al Shukery Rent a Car. Tel. 590944, 951733, Fax:

591800. Hilal Rent a Car. Tel.: George — 751045, 798830.

Hamood al Esry Trading. Tel. 700156, 799861. Honda

Al Seham Trading Rent a Car and Real Estate. Tel. 590259, 592485, 953248.

#### **Situations Vacant**

Wanted: Artist who knows Arabic and English writing. Apply P.O. Box 7218 - Muttrah. Tel. 712862.

Required urgently an experienced storekeeper, preferably worked with furnishing companies. Call Tel. 700700 -

Needed a male cook with not less than 3 years experience in Continental cooking + desserts. Please call: 601743/4.

#### Tours



**SUNNY DAY TOURS** 

#### **Tours and Charters**

- Cultural Tours by Luxury Coach, Saloon Car or Limousine
- Sinbad Cruises 4-WD Adventure Excursions
- Luxury Overnight Camping Safaris Wahibi Sands Bedouin Village.

please contact **SUNNY DAY TOURS** 

TEL. 592992.

For bookings of information,

#### Announcement

#### **OMAN ECONOMIC** CONSULTANCIES Tel. (Off) 705492/706983 Fax: 705666.

- ★ Feasibility Studies ★ Market Research
- ★ Re-structuring financially enlisted companies
- ★ Cost Management/ Control Located at Wadi Kabir, Behind Sana Fashion.

#### Announcement

SECURE YOUR FUTURE AND YOUR CHILDREN'S **EDUCATION** LIVE IN CANADA, **AUSTRALIA OR NEW** 

Top-Level Managers, Professionals and Tradesmen with relevant experience. New Rules coming into place soon. Call June, Tel. 697-677 or Fax 698-

#### Acco. available

Executive bachelor seeks similar executive for sharing 2. bedroom flat R.O. 100. Please Tel. 798157/700545

#### Serviced apartment

Qurum Beach House. Tel.: 564070.

#### Video

"VIDEO VIEW" Tel.: 703349 For very competitive rates.

Best quality and largest collection of English, Arabic, and Hindi films. Please visit VID-EO VIEW, Next to Khimji General Product Divn., near Al Jadeed Supermarket, Ruwi.

#### Newstrack



Promote your products through our video films. The only video house in Oman with 8 Outlets in the Capital Area and thousands of our members viewing your advertisements daily.

- We are located at ★ Video View, Near Al Jadeed
- Supermarket, Ruwi, ★ Video Safi, Rex,
- \* Vision, Qurum, ★ Video View, Qurum,
- ★ Video View, PDO Club, ★ Vision 2000,
- Madinat Qaboos,
- ★ Vision World, Ghala, ★ Middle East Commercial Services, Corniche.

**Contact ALI** Tel. 560695.

#### **Situations Wanted**

Graduate structural design engineer having more than eight years experience seeks suitable position. Contact Tel. 796-463.

B.Com graduate with 10 years experience as Accountant/ Salesman on visit, seeks immediate employment. Please contact Prabhu, 700070.

secretary, computer, accounts Tel. 792795.

secretary knowing typing, tlx, PC wordstar, data entry, fax and all office administration work seeks employment. Contact Abdul Rasheed, Tel. 703992.

Call Mr. Fareed, Tel. 794620 or write to C/o Liyaqath Yoosuf, P.O. Box 6097, Ruwi.

Contact Tel. 603783.

#### Music

#### Tuition

Tel.: 796321.

### Confectionery



Wonderful Cakes for so many of your treasured moments.



Al Sarooj — Tel.: 698423 Sabco Centre - Tel.: 562319

available. CBD area to Muttrah. avanaoic. Contact 700296. Light duty driver available im-\*\*\* mediately. Tel. 796321.

Well qualified female young

clerks, salesman, houseboy, housemaid, seeks placement. Six years experience male

Ten years experienced civil engineer seeks suitable position.

Female secretary, 14 years experience at managerial level, proficient in shorthand, typing, Wordstar, Word Perfect, telex, fax and independent correspondence, seeks placement.

Private Music lessons on Violin, Clarinet, Saxaphone, Organ, Lute. Call Mr. Shubbur

Learn English well to speak — read — write. Gulf Institute, tact Mr. Venkat: 753956. Available secretary temporary/ leave vacancy. Knowledge of all

15 years experienced catering

executive seeks placement. Con-

Available Sri Lankan housemaid with release. Tel. 703533, Indika, between 0830 to 1600 10 years experienced civil en-

office routines. Contact 796766.

gineer in site supervision and consultancy with valid Omani driving licence, seeks immediate employment. Contact Tel. 753988. Highly experienced individual in pharmatical sales, at

present in India, seeks suitable

#### placement in Oman. Please contact Tel. 593085. Services

For all types of your sign boards contact Al. Falaj Neon Signs, Tel. 712862/701302.

Special offer for airconditioners and also professional workers for Refrigeration and machines. Tel.: Washing 796212.

\*\*\*

Painting, Plumbing, Electricals, Car Parking, Water Proofing, Repairing of A.C. Building Maintenance. Tel. 707340.

Contract cleaning, Shampooing, Carpet/Sofa painting, carpentry, shifting & maintenance. Contact Riyamco, Tel.





### PISCES You may see what looks like a chance

to get rich quick, but there's sure to be

a snag in it somewhere. People under

your sign usually have to work hard

for what they get. Lucky colour

Green; Lucky number 8.

(Mar.21-April 19): You'll find you have misjudged someone. What you thought was meanness was only a sensible regard for keeping money matters straight. You should

have some favourable news. Lucky

you're likely to lose your money. Ro-

colour Black; Lucky number 4.



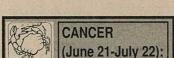
mance is quiet and social life offers little of interest. A good day to develop our inner resources is indicated Lucky colour Blue; Lucky number 2.

(May 21-June 20):

you're prepared to do a lot of work. Late in the day is a good time for something special. Today is not a day for group activites. Lucky colour Red; Lucky number 6.

GEMINI

IF IT IS YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY :- You are very impulsive and therefore get into trouble. You are sincere in your work and hardworking. You are also helpful to others. Avoid speculations and over-spending. Romance is on the cards If single there is a chance to tie the knot. Travel is on the cards. Taurus, Gemini persons play part. Lucky colour Green, Lucky number 5.

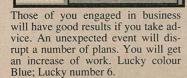


Some luck is coming you way, and you

should soon be enjoying a higher stan-



One event will have an air of intrigue about it, but the results may be disappointing and ordinary. A good day for discussion and debate. Lucky colour Violet; Lucky number



LIBRA

VIRGO

(Aug.23-Sept.22):

(Sept.23-Oct.22): This could be an accident-prone pe riod unless you take care and avoid risk. Don't leap on to moving vehicles, or cross roads without due care. Tensions relax later in the day. Lucky colour Violet; Lucky number 2



tion you don't wish to answer, say so. There are likely to be tidings of good fortune at some time during the day, so keep cheerful. Lucky colour

SAGITTARIUS

(Oct.23-Nov.21):

SCORPIO

(Nov.22-Dec.21): tive writing are favoured, and if you are engaged in them you should get a first-class chance of forging ahead

today. Lucky colour Green; Lucky



particularly today. Lucky colour Orange; Lucky number 3.

**AQUARIUS** 

(Jan.20-Feb.18):

This is a progressive time, and just the sort of help you need ought to be forthcoming. You're a little forgetful at the moment - make sure you haven't forgotten an important date. Lucky colour Black; Lucky number 3

## the 'Times of Oman FREE

You can put a small personal advertisement in the 'Times' free of charge. Use the coupon (no photocopies). Words must not exceed 20, including address.

# Place your small ad in

Times of Oman Advertising Department, P.O. Box 3770, Ruwi.

The Times of Oman reserves the right to reject

certain types of small advertisements.

Address : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_





SARCO AL-SEEB TECHNICAL EST.

P.O. Box 3996, Ruwi, Tel. 798567

Watch

SAMSUNG

The World Watch

Win a free Samsung watch from SARCO by entering the Timesquiz. Fill the coupon below (no photocopies), and send to: The Competition Department, Times of Oman, P.O. Entries for today's quiz must be sent to us on or before February 27, 1992.

Employees of "Times of Oman", and Sarco and their associated companies and their

QUESTIONS:

1) What is constellation?

families are not eligible to enter

ANSWERS: 2) Which is the tallest building in the world? 3) What vitamin is the cause of night blindness? 2)

The correct answers to Timesquiz No.313 are 1) The Greek goddess of war is Ares, 2) Pb is the chemical symbol for lead and 3) Colt /foal is the young of a zebra.

ADDRESS: TEL. & SIGNATURE:

313 is K. M. Hamsa, P.O. Box 5282, Ruwi.

Winner for Timesquiz No.

**BRANCHES:** Al Harthy Complex Part-time office/house boy

# BUSINESS FOUNDED 1975 TIMES



#### **Time Warner** Co-CEO resigns

NEW YORK — Time Warner Inc. on Thursday announced the unexpected resignation of N.J Nicholas Jr. co-chief executive and president in a rift over the direction of the media and entertainment giant.

Vice chairman Gerald M. Levin, a former Ticholas rival and one of the architects of the merger of Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc. was elected by the company's board of director to succeed Nicolas.

Nicholas has been sharing the chief executive's title with chairman Steven J. Ross since a few months after the 1990 merger. Levin, a lawyer, has been the merged company's chief business strategist.

Nicholas, who also stepped down from the company's board, was quoted in a news release from Time Warner as saying his decision was prompted by unspecified differences between himself and the management and board.

The deal that brought Time and Warner together created one of the world's biggest media and entertainment companies with interests in magazine and book publishing, filmed entertainment, re-

corded music and cable television. Nicholas' abrupt departure was a surprise because he was the highest-ranking executive from Time in the merged company and was in line to succeed Ross once the former Warner Communications leader retired.

Ross, 64, is currently undergoing treatment for prostate can-

Time Warner's financial fortunes have been improving.

It has trimmed its debt in recent months to \$ 8.7 billion from about \$ 11 billion. It has agreed to sell a 12 \$ per cent stake in its entertainment operations to two Japanese companies for \$1 billion. It also recently posted its first quarterly profit since the merger. Levin, 52, joined Time in 1972

at its home box office paytelevision division and became vice chairman in July 1989 when Time bought a majority interest in Warner. The merger of the companies was completed in January

In the statement released by the company, Nicholas hinted at a top-level disagreement.

"For a company to fulfil its potential requires a clear strategic focus shared totally by its leadhe was quoted as saying in the statement released after the close of the financial markets in New York. — AP

ALL SET FOR A NOT-TOO-SOFT BUDGET

Times of Oman, Sunday, February 23, 1992

# India may raise I-T limit

NEW DELHI — Broadening of the direct tax base and marginal rise in the exemption limit in personal income tax is likely to be effected in the union budget for 1992-93 even as the pressure mounts on the Finance Minister to prune mounting subsidies and tax from income.

While the Government is confident about Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, meeting the target of keeping the fiscal deficit at 6.5 per cent of GDP in the current year, as has been committed to the IMF, the Government might resort to further "belt-tightening" measures as a fall-

The Finance Minister, who will be presenting his second budget in less than seven months, has an extremely difficult task as he sets upon to realise the fiscal deficit target of 5 per cent of GDP in the next

With budget about a week away, an official paper has warned that it was time to say goodbye to subsidies on commodities as they were touching a 'staggering" Rs. 10,000

Also, with fertiliser subsidy at Rs. 7,000 crore in spite of the measyear's budget, experts feel there is ample scope for further reduction

of commodity subsidies. However, they doubt any further cut in food subsidies amounting to Rs. 2,700 crore because of its impact on the prices of essential commodities, especially those covered by the public distribution sys-

The coming budget is likely to incorporate the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee on reforms in direct and indirect tax

Reduction in import duty exemptions on capital goods import and extension of value added taxes on goods are expected to be the highlights in the indirect tax arena.

With inflation hovering around 13 per cent, the Finance Minister has a difficult task in attempting additional resource mobilisation without fuelling further price rise. As part of direct tax reforms,

experts feel that a number of exemptions in direct taxes might be shelved while efforts would be made to bring in more assessees,

ures announced in the current employed individuals, under the net. The budget is also expected to come out with some hard measures for tapping the vast sums of black money with the National Housing Bank (NHB) deposit scheme netting in a mere Rs. 102 crore of unaccounted money.

Official sources concede that the NHB scheme could not be termed a success as the two parallel schemes, India Development Bonds and the Foreign Exchanges Remittances (Immunities) Schemes, were said to have drained out the Indian money through "havala" rackets and brought them back in foreign schemes.

Sources say as of now, the realisation figures under the two foreign exchange schemes amounted to \$2,500 million Rs. 6,500 crore) with some more money still in the

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made for the live telecast of the budget presentation in the Lok Sabha on February 29. The presentation is slated to commence at 1500 hours

'Doordarshan' (national television network) will also cover live

the customary President's address to the joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on February 24, and the railway budget for 1992-93 the next day.

The economic survey, which precedes the union budget will be placed in Parliament a day or two after the railway budget.

The Lok Sabha (lower house of Indian Parliament) is likely to sit till May 8 as per the present schedule, with a likely break for ten days from April 10 on account of interventing holidays.

The Rajya Sabha will adjourn on March 31 to reconvene later.

While the discussion on the President's address in the Lok Sabha is likely to be completed by March 3, discussion on the demands for grants of various ministries is expected to begin only by March 23. The discussion is likely to be completed on April 24 when the finance bill will be taken up.

Black money menace Noted Indian economists and in-

dustrialists have demanded urgent steps to curb the generation of black money in India's economy.

In response to a pre-budget

questionnaire by PTI, economists have emphasised that successive shemes of tapping black money by offering indemnity from prosecution had failed to yield the desired

The highly complex problem of baclk money, which has been a cancerous growth in the country's fiscal system, has invariably pre-occupied the mind of the Government.

From time to time, the Government has announced schemes to unearth unaccounted wealth, but with little success, say the economists.

For instance, a voluntary disclosure scheme way back in 1965, with a tax rate of 60 per cent, yielded only Rs 38.80 crore.

Later, under 'block scheme,' a total of 4,13,628 people declared income, amounting to Rs 145.51 crore. In another voluntary disclosure scheme in 1975, a total of Rs 157.8 crore was disclosed.

Then in 1981, a special bearer bonds scheme, popularly known as 'black bonds scheme' could manage to collect just Rs 800 crore, as against the minimum expected amount of Rs 1000 crore. — AP

البناك الوطنى العمان المحدود (ش.م.ع.ع)

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN LIMITED (S.A.O.G)

Head Office P.O. Box 3751 Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 708894, Fax: 707781, Telex: 3281 NBO ON, Cable: NATBANK

### **Exchange rates**

Omani Rial per one

per one	Omani Kiai	Currency	
Selling	Currency	Buying	Selling
3.41	Australian Dollar	0.2887	0.2932
29.90	Austrian Schilling	0.03286	0.03345
96.62	Bangladesh Taka	0.00995	0.01035
0.974	Bahraini Dinar	1.015	1.027
87.26	Belgian Franc	0.01142	0.01146
3.04	Canadian Dollar	0.3244	0.3283
13.28	Chinese Renminbi	0.0735	0.0753
1.19	Cyprus Pound	0.828	0.843
16.50	Danish Kroner	0.05967	0.06059
4.25	Deutsche Mark	0.2319	0.2351
4.79	Egyptian Pound	0.2062	0.2087
14.48	French Franc	0.06810	0.06905
19.84	Hong Kong Dollar	0.0495	0.0504
67.11	Indian Rupee	0.01450	0.01590
3165.00	Italian Lira	0.000309	0.000316
331.00	Japanese Yen	0.002981	0.003022
1.75	Jordanian Dinar	0.561	570
0.752	Lebanese Pound	1.310	1.330
6.65	Malaysian Ringit	0.1460	0.1503
16.67	Norwegian Kroner	0.05900	0.06000
4.72	New Zealand Dollar	0.2071	0.2116
63.27	Pakistani Rupee	0.01545	0.01580
1.48	Pound Sterling	0.667	0.678
9.40	Qatari Riyal	0.1052	0.1063
9.69	Saudi Rial	0.1021	0.1032
4.23	Singapore Dollar	0.2330	0.2362
107.75	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.00888	0.00928
15.42	Swedish Kroner	0.06384	0.06486
3.84	Swiss Franc	0.2562	0.2602
9.49	UAE Dirham	0.1043	0.1054
2.57	U.S. Dollar	0.381	0.388
Courtesy	: National Bank of Oman	Limited (S.A.O.)	

## Call to extend Modvat to direct taxes

MADRAS — President of Madras Stock Exchange (MSE) V Ganesan has called for extending the Modvat (modified value-added tax) scheme to direct taxes to make way for incomes from dividend being wholly exempted from tax.

The 'Modvat' based on the principle of no double taxation, had been introduced by the Centre in respect of indirect taxes and it was now time to apply this principle for direct taxes too, he told PTI in a pre-budget interview here. He said as dividends were paid

by companies only after deducting tax, paying tax dividends again in the hands of the shareholders meant taxing the same income twice over and it should be given up. Speaking on a wide range of issues that impinge on the stock mar-

ket in the context of the Centre's economic reforms and the keenly awaited union budget, to be tabled in Parliament on February 28, Ganesan said the various fiscal concessions granted by the Centre to non-resident Indians (NRI) as individuals should also be extended to corporate entities owned by

NRIs to attract funds from them. Gansan said the investment fa-

to NRI-owned companies lacked the matching fiscal concessions given to NRIs as individuals. The corporate entities had to pay a 65 per cent on long-term capital gains. As a result, there has been virtually no flow on funds from these entities at present, he said.

Referring to long-term capital gains currently exempted from tax if invested in certain specified assets like Hudco debentures under section 54-E of the Income Tax Act' Ganesan suggested that sale proceed of long-term capital assets also be exempted from capital gains tax if it was reinvested in shares or the istruments of mutual funds within a specified period. On investment in units of nat-

ural funds like UTI, Ganesan urged that the ceiling on the investment entitled to a deduction be doubled from the present Rs 10,000 to Rs As the federal Government had

decided to allow mutual funds in the private sector also' this benefit should be extended to them too, he said. Ganesan also wanted interest on

debentures and fixed deposits of

private sector companies to be included under the income eligible for deduction under section 80-L of the Income Tax Act' as these instruments played an important role in financing trade and industry.

On the stock market scenario Ganesan said the present bullish phase was in a 'fairly advanced stage', which started in early 1988 when the Bombay stock exchange (BSE) sensitive index was around 400, he said. By mid-1989 the BSE indeed

appreciated to around 800, jumped to about 1600-level by the third quarter of 1990 and had at present peaked to around 2300, he said. From this point, the rise might not be that spectacular, he added. Among the negative factors that

caused concern to the stock market, Ganesan said the 'most disturbing one' appeared to be the recession slowly spreading over the economy.

The automobile, aluminium, ce-

ment, consumer durables, manmade fibres, petro-chemicals, stee and tea plantation industries were experiencing various degrees of recession and adding to it was the rising inflation, he said. — PTI

### Bill to limit auto import mooted

WASHINGTON — A Senator proposed yet another bill on Friday to limit Japanese imports and help J.S. automakers. But this one has a twist: the auto industry would have to do without "obscene salaries" and prove it was increasing quality.

'If the auto industry wants import relief while it rebuilds and retools, we should grant it - provided the big three are willing to meet higher standards for quality, efficiency and service," said Sen. Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat. As another condition for as-

sistance, he said, the industry should bring its top executives' salaries "more in line with industrial reality than with major league base-"Auto executives cannot expect

to collect obscene salaries while they lay off U.S. auto workers, Baucus said in a speech to the Centre for National Policy. Under the bill, he said he would

introduce sales of Japanese vehicles - whether made in Japan or at "transplant" factories in the United States — would be limited to the 1991 level of about 3.6 million. The limits would be achieved through negotiations or, if the talks failed, with tariffs. — AP

### **Muscat Securities**

Foreign currency

TRADING CHART FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1992

SECTOR-WISE PRICE INDEX: Industry — 168.73; Service — 135.97; Insurance — 119.99; Banks & Investment— 89.47; Market Price Index — 114.74.

Opening price July 1, 1990 = (100) points, used as a basic price for calculating daily price index.

NAME OF COMPANY	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VOLUME IN RIALS	PRIV	OPNG	HIGH	LOW	CLSG PRICE	BID PRICE	OFFER PRICE	PAR   VALUE	NO EXC
INDUSTRY SECTOR OMAN FLOUR MILLS								5.150	5.300	1	
RAYSUT CEMENT	1110	3003	2.700	2.700	2.750	2.690	2.690	2.690		1	
DHOFAR CATTLEFEED	730	3154	4.350	4.320	4.320	4.320	4.320	4.300	4.420	1	
PACKAGING CO										1	
OMAN NATL DAIRY								3.800	4.000	1	
OMAN REFRESHMENTS								4.520	4.700	1	
NATIONAL DETERGENT								6.800	6.950	1	
AREEJ VEGOIL DERVT										1	
CONST MATL INDUS									0.650	1 1	
OMAN CABLE INDUS								8.000		5	
NATL MINR WATER										1	
NATL BISC INDUS		3 (111)	( 000)	7019 8	11001	187		2.500	2.650	1	
DHOFAR BYGS CO							-111			1	
REEM BATTERIES										1	
NATIONAL BEVERAGES								5.250	5.500	1	
NATIONAL GAS								4.450	4.600	1	
MITTORIA GIO	2 4							41130			
MUSCAT INDL GASES	1348	3764	2.800	2.750	2.800	2.750	2.800	2.750	2.800	1	
BANKS & INVEST. COS. SEC.			300							1	
NATL BK OF OMAN										1	
OMAN BK CORP									1.050	1	
BANK AL AHLI OMANI										1	
BANK OMAN BAH KUW									1.050	1	
BANK OMAN BAH KUW 25%									1.050	1	
OMAN INTNL BANK									1.450	1	
OMAN DEVELOPT BANK										1	
OMAN INVST FINCL CO.	11200	47605	4.200	4.250	4.260	4.250	4.260	4.240	4.270	1	
** OMINVEST 50%	200000	200000						1.490	1.520	1	
DHOFAR INT DEV INVS 100%	9500	13015	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.360	1.400	1	
OMAN SECURITIES CO. 100%	11159	14507	1.280	1.300	1.300	1.300	1.300	1.230	1.280	1	
FINANCIAL SVCS CO. 75%										1	
INSURANCE SECTOR OMAN NAT INS CO.								4.500	4.700	1	
AL AHLIA INS CO.									2.080	1	
OMAN UNTO INS CO.									2.700	1	
DHOFAR INS CO. 50%										1	
SERVICES SECTOR GULF HOTELS (OMAN)	750	1688	2.230	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.300	1	
AL KHUWAIR DEV SVC 50%										1	
OMAN HTLS CO. LTD										1	
MDRN PLTRY FARM									1.100	1	
PORT SVCS CORP	1000	3100						3.080	1.100	1	
OMAN AVIATION	280	1098	3.920					3.920	4.000	1	
NATIONAL ELECTRIC					3.920	3.920	3.920	1.900	2.000	1	
OMAN FISHERIES	120	816		6.800			6.800	6.500	6.680	5	
	2000		1	1	0.000	1 0.000	0.800	0.300	0.080	1 3	

## Trading Price List parallel market SWEETS OF OMAN NAT CO. FOOD PRODS COMPUTER STAT INDUS BATTNA DAIRY PRODS VOLUME OF TRADING IN THE PARALLEL MARKET FOR TODAY IS : R.O. 000

VOLUME HIGH LOW

PRICE PRICE

## Tenders - the company bids

& Contracting Est.

Trading Co.

2) Al-Hashar & Company

5) Getco Engineering Co, 6) Middle East Automobile & Parts Centre

7) Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan 8) Oasis Trading & Equipment

9) Shanfari Automotive Co. 10) The Industrial & Trading Co. 11) Zawawi Trading Company

II List of tender amount in ascending order: Rials Omani

551,995/-

583,828/-No Total No Total

10) No Total No Total Regret

Contracting Est.

Tender No. 138/91 Construction of boy's primary school at al-Khaboura 1. List of tenderers in alphabetical 1)Al-Abbady Trading & Contracting Est. 2) Ali Mohd. Ali Al-Mahrouky & Partners Co.

3) Ali-Jawi General Trading &

4) Al Maamary Est.

6) Al-Mubarak General Trading

7) Al-Mubarak Trading & Contra-cting Co.

9) National General Trading &

Contracting Co. 10) Oman Commercial Agencies

12) Teejan Trading & Contracting Est. 13 Urich Trading & Contracting

II. List of tender amount in ascending order: Rials Omanil 1) 188,383.800

4) 219,975.000 5) 230,588.201 6) 239,224.650 7) 245,270.000 8) 250,420.010 9) 259,998.840 10) 260,897.101

**Tender No.139/91** Construction of Majaz al Sughraa girls preparatory school. I List of tenderers in alphabetical

1) Al-Abbady Trading & Contracting Est. 2) Al-Jawi General Trading & Constracting est.

tra-cting Est. 5) Al-Mubarak General Trading & Contracting Co. 6) Conttrade Contracting & Trad-

8) National general Trading &

Contracting Co. 9) Oman Commercial Agencies 10) Saif Said Saif Al-Akhzami Trading Est. 11) Salim & Juma Al-Khadouri

12) Tale Al-Saad Trading & Contracting Est. 13) Teejan Trading & Contracting Est.

14) Urich Trading & Contracting II. List of tender amount in as-

cending order: Rials Omani

5) 266,299,655 6) 273,375.316 7) 282,500.000 8) 287,964.600 9) 299,493.035 10) 305,234.265 11) 312,686.923

Opened 6-1-1992 Tender No. 123/91 Construction of annexe to Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries building at al-Khuwair. 1. List of Tenderers in alpha-

betical order: 1) Al-Turki Enterprises 2) Bahwan Contracting Co. 3) Bogest Trading & Contra-cting

7) Oman Transport & Contracting 8) Qurum Contractors 9) Target

6) Iskan Contracting Co.

cending order: Rials Omani 1) 322,432/-2) 338,386/-3) 450,000/-

cending order. Rial Omani

1) 1,504,241.838 1,383,390,792 2) 1,543,681.613 1,419,092.241 3) 1,621,245.679 1,496,126.239 4) 1,623,720.000 1,484,805.000 5) 1,660,259.656 1,518,962.457 6) 1,699,950.000 1,565,789.400 7) 1,819,976.309 1,677,231.938

Tender No. 125/91

Supply & Installation of computer system for the Court of Mag-

1. List of Tenderers in alpha-1) Al-Madina Development &

4) Oman Computer Services 5) W.J. Towell

II List of tender amount in ascending order: Rials Omani 1) (A) 86,691.000 (B) 79,949,000 2) 88,500.00 3) 118,366.00 4) 128,014.000

Tender No. 128/91 Women's Training Centre at Nizwa for Ministry of Social Affairs 1. List of Tenderers in alpha-

Trading & Contracting 3) Jamnadas Khimji & Co.

94.867 96.783

748,225/294 Opened on 27-1-1992

616,793/101 627,790/-669,540/641

9) Target L.L.C.

683,804/-693,100/-702,460/253

2. BPB Industuments Ltd I. List of tenderers in alphabetical (MB Petroleum Services) 3. British Geological Survey 4. Century Geophysical Corpo-

6. Ropertson Geologging Limit-7. TNO Institute of Applied Geoscience (Comprimo Oman Projects) Total Amount (O.R.)

5. Hydrotechnica Limited

(Major Engineering Consul-tants)

918,500/-1,007,085/200 1,567,500/-1,604,130/-

2,096,325/-

3,095,301/-

3,292,776/-

Tender No. 134/91

**Tenderers** 

ration

Geophysical Well Logging

1. Altas Wiveline Services

(Oman Holding International)

Tender No. 136/91 Construction of Girls secondary school Al Shatti Al-Qurum. **Tenderers** 1) Al-Turki Enterprises 2) Bin Ameir Establishment

3) Bogest Trading & Contracting 4) Haifa Construction Co. 5) Hydromatic Const. Co. 6) National Engineering & Cont.

Total Amount (O.R.) 612,145/126 616,275/527

7) Oman Shapoorji Const. Co.

8) Oman Transport & Cont. Co.

Tender No. 137/91 Supply of Vehicles and Cleaning

Equipment to the Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Environ-

1) Al-Fairuz Trading & Contg.

3) Arabian Car Marketing Co. 4) Arabian Engineering Services

12) Zubair Automotive

1) 72,780 2) 88,050/-3) (A) 398,300/-(B) 341,800/-398,575/-

No Total

5) Al-Majid Trading & Contract-

8) Conttrade Contracting &

11) Saif Said Saif Al-Akhzami

2) 214,758.863 3) 215,929,402

11) 281,585.755 12) 288,860.250 13) 305,795.640

3) Al-Maamary Est. 4) Al-Mahdawi Trading & Con-

7) Mohd, Saeed Trading & Con II. List of tender amount in as

Trading & Contracting Co.

1) 197,104,620 2) 213,299.100 3) 237,776.877 4) 238,435.450

12) 317,467.242 13) 323,665.250 14) 346,481.681

4) Haifa Construction Co. 5) Hydromatic Construction Co.

8) 1,925,906.015 1,764,573.353 9) Regret Regret

istrate betical order: Supply Co. 2) Gulf Technology Co. 3) Imtac

5) (A) 167,871.000 (B) 161,079.000

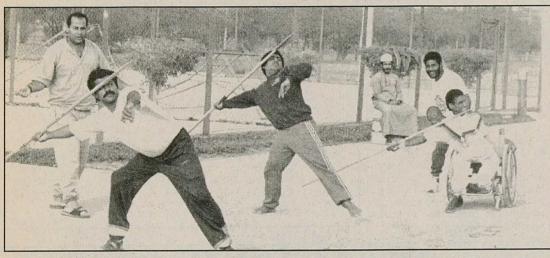
betical order: 1) Al-Fahal Contracting Co. 2) Hassan Haji Juma Backer II. List of tender amount in as-

CMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT UNITS - FIRST ISSUE 1991 DVPT BONDS FIRST ISSUE 1996 8.5% DVPT BONDS SECOND ISSUE 1994 8.25% O.I.B. FLOAT RATE NOTES FIRST ISSUE 1998 9.75%

#### TIMES SPORT



Ali Saleh and his group of handicapped Olympic trainees



Javelin, discus, shot-put and weightlifting — who says the handicapped can't? —"Times"

## Olympic spotlight on Oman's handicapped

By Carlyle Chapman

MUSCAT- At first glance one thought they were just a group of cripples out for a good time in the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex premises on a recent sunny afternoon. A closer approach showed they were not 'just a group of cripples' but a potential team for the Barcelona Olympics for the Handicapped to be held in September.

And they were practising, dead seriously, under the critical eyes of their trainer and principal, Mr Ali Saleh, appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs. One of the trainees, Ahmed Nakbi, wielding a javelin, acted as translator while Mr Salem related his wards' progress and his efforts to produce a respectable squad for the 'Big Event.'

There were ten of them at the coaching camp, which was into its last day that day. They were all working men— some of them in wheelchairs, others with calipers or decided limps. It could be they were athletes when they had the full use of their limbs.

Then again, they may have taken to athletics only after they became crippled. Now, with an opportunity to shine in a sport they may or may not have excelled in before Fate intervened, they were determined not to let a little handicap get in the way of glory-for them and for their country, the Sultanate of Oman.

Ultimately, some time in Au-

four will be selected, three for athletics and one for weightlifting. The athletics events Oman will be participating in are javelin throw, discus and shot-put." He said the current coaching camp, lasting three weeks, was for working men.

Another camp would be held in June-July, when schools are on vacation, for handicapped students who could not attend this one due to academic responsibilities.

Ten students would be selected for the next camp, Mr Salem disclosed, adding that after the summer camp eight prospective sportsmen would be chosen from the combined group of employed and student trainees

These again would be put under the microscope for the 'final four selection.' A total delegation of seven, including participants and officials, would represent Oman at the Barcelona Olympics for the

Ahmed Nakbi, the impromptu translator, is training in the shot-put and standing javelin dis-

The javelin event at the Handicapped Olympics would be in two categories— sitting(for those in wheelchairs and the severely crippled) and standing(for the more mobile). Salem al-Rahbi, who was at the camp, was also preparing for shot-put and standing javelin. Khalfan Hiddifi is a discus thrower and javelin expert. Khalfan Jamali, Taher Baamar and Abdulrehman

dulrehman are discus throwers too.

Another sitting-javelinist, Mo-hammed Nagum al-Balushi, is also a member of the weightlifting fraternity comprising Saeed al-Malki, Ibrahim al-Sahdi and heavyweight Yahya al-Amri who are preparing for selections.

'The students for the next coaching camp are yet to be se-GCC volleyball lected," said trainer Ali Saleh.

Mr Saleh was all praise for His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, through whose benevolence and encouragement in providing every facility and opportunity for the handicapped it has been possible to field a side for the Barcelona Olympics for the Handicapped.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Social Affairs who, in implementing the directives of His Majesty have created an atmosphere in which the handicapped feel safe and secure and where they have been fully inducted into society at par with eve-

Leaving the coaching camp, Mr Saleh and his group of trainees, one felt a sense of insecurity, of being left out of all the activity.

Then you understood— Ahmed Nakbi and his wheelchair friends at camp were doing more in spite of their disability than many a physically normal person, who has taken his mobility for granted.

In such circumstances one can only say, 'Look out, Barcelona, here

from Feb. 25 scheduled for each day of the tour-By A Sports Reporter nament, with a rest day on Friday, February 28. The detailed fixtures MUSCAT— The 11th GCC Clubs Volleyball Championship is

ready to take off at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex from February 25 to March 1.

Announcing this at a press con-

ference at the Al Falaj Hotel yes-

terday, the President of the Oman

Seeb Club, Al Nasr from Bahrain,

Gadisiya from Kuwait, Wasal from

the UAE, Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli

stars from Seeb Club will be seen

n action during the tournament.

returned from their Gulf junior

championship tour in Doha where

they performed creditably, de-

feating Kuwait in the final stand-

on a round-robin system where

each team will play five games. Two points will be awarded for a

win, one point for a loss and 0

points in case of a withdrawal or

echnical foul. In the event of a

draw in any match, play will be ex-

tended to break the deadlock. If a

tie persists, then a series of service

Qatabi, President of the Majlis al-

Shoura, will inaugurate the tourna-

ment on February 25 at 4.00p.m. at

the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

The director of the tournament,

Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Adani,

will deliver a speech on behalf of

the Higher Committee. Mohammed

Jasim Hamadah will also speak on

behalf of the Organising Com-

mittee of the GCC Volleyball Tour-

nament. The Commander of the

Royal Navy of Oman and President

of Seeb Club Sayyid Shihab bin

Tariq, will be the President of the

High Committee of the Champion-

Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali al-

points will decide the winner.

The tournament will be played

Club and Al Arabi from Qatar.

hosted by the Sultanate.

The President of the Oman Volleyball Association Mahdi

Volleyball Association Mr Mahdi Abdulbaki Ali, said this was the February 27(Thursday): 3.30p.m.: Al Ahli vs Seeb; 5.30: first time the tournament was being The six top teams from the

Gadisiya vs Al Nasr; 7.30: Al Arabi GCC states taking part are hosts

> February 29(Saturday): 3.30p.m.: Wasal vs Al Ahli; 5.30: Al Nasr vs Al Arabi; 7.30: Seeb vs Gadisiya

Ahli vs Gadisiya; 5.30: Al Arabi vs Seeb; 7.30: Wasal vs Al Nasr; Clos-

The chief guest at the closing ceremony will be the Secretary-General of the Higher Committee for Conferences and President of the General Organisation for Sports and Youth Activities, Ibrahim bin

leyball tournament will be held dur-

25. Following this, a press conferrector of Finance in the Ministry of Labour, Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad sociation, Ms Habiba al-Hinai, and

the tournament and other details

February 25(Tuesday): 4.00p.m.: Inauguration; 4.45: Wa

sal vs Seeb; 6.30: Al Nasr vs Al February 26(Wednesday): 3.30p.m.: Al Arabi vs Al Ahli; 5.30: Wasal vs Gadisiya; 7.30: Al

February 28(Friday): Rest day for the teams

Some of Oman's junior national March 1(Sunday): 3.30p.m.: Al The national junior team have just

Hamoud al-Subhi. Women's volleyball Meanwhile, a women's vol-

ing the month of Ramadan, organised by the Oman Volleyball Association in conjunction with the Women's Association and Ruwi A total of 12 teams will take part in the tournament, entries for which close on Tuesday, February

ence will be held on Tuesday March 3, to be chaired by the Di bin Hamoud al-Busaidi, and attended by the director of the tournament at the Oman Volleyball As-Enquiries regarding entries for

can be addressed to Ms Habiba al-

### Kazuruni are all sitting-javelin gust, Mr Salem said, "a team of Gwynne B wins battle of Gwynnes

PHILADELPHIA — Former it makes it even worse." U.S. Open champion and secondseeded Pete Sampras saved two man Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. points to outlast tenthseeded Aaron Krickstein 3-6, 7-6

Sampras guns

down Krickstein

(7-5), 7-6 (9-7) in a Marathon quarter-final at the \$850,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis tournament. This match, I should have lost," said the fifth-ranked Sampras. "This is the type of match you try not to lose and go back to the hotel and can't believe you

Krickstein, who had led 5-3 in the final set, had two match points in the final set tiebreakers. Sampras saved both with winning shots, cracking an overhead winner on the first and backhand vol-

ley on the second. Sampras had his own troubles, failing on his first four match point in the 12th game before securing his spot in the semifinals against Brad Gilbert on his fifth try in the tiebreaker when Krickstein missed a backhand volley.

Both Americans felt the strain of the two and-a-half-hour match. Sampras stood thorughout the post-match news conference to protect from getting leg cramps while Krickstein was treated for a strained left groin injury afterwards.

'I was definitely winded on the long points," said Sampras, who saved some energy by hitting 20 aces.

'There was so much tension,

doubles event which

is being sponsored by

prior to the match.

The sixth-seeded Gilbert of the U.S. bat 14th-seeded Dutch-

The other semifinal, pits 11thseeded Francisco Clavet against 16th-seeded Amos Mansdorf. Clavet of France outlasted Jim Grabb 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 and Mansdorf of Israel beat another American Jeff Tarango 6-3, 6-0.

Clavet, 23, will meet the winner of a Friday night match be-tween Amos Mansdorf of Israel and Jeff Tarango.

Grabb took only 30 minutes to win the first set, breaking Clavet in the sixth game with three straight volleys for a 4-2 lead. He won the final two points on a cross-court shot and a double

Clavet keyed his comeback with a service break in the 11th game. He was helped by three doubles faults by Grabb and took a 6-5 lead. After losing a set point to an overhead smash and then losing the advantage, Clavet came back to win the next three points and hold service to take the

In the third set, Clavet made three straight errors to allow Grabb to tie at 3-3

He broke back in the seventh game, then held service, and closed the match with an overhead that broke Grabb's service.

Clavet, ranked 38th in the world, has won one tournament since turning pro in 1988. - AP

#### vincibility surrounding Oman's most successful Darts team was shattered as they crashed to a shock fan. Abdul Shaheed starred again for Nell Gwynne 'A', pairing up with Mohd Ali to take the last On a night that nothing were

right for the team that was unbeaten over three seasons, Nell Gwynne 'B' scored fullmarks for making the mot of the situation. With their full complement of 'names' playing, the 'A' Team could not justify their billing, at least on this night, their 13th encounter of

Cliff Walker won a tight first game, which, like most games played that night, went the distance. 'A' Team players failed to find the target time and again, the number '13' having something to do with their finishing! Abdul Shaheed was the only singles player to win for Nell Gwynne 'A', as Ishaq Saleh, Phil Jeffery, Andrew Kennedy and Jari Roikonen made in 5-

mer world heavyweight boxing

champion Trevor Berbick guilty on

Friday of raping a woman who

worked as a baby-sitter for his fam-

ily. Berbick was the world champ

in 1986 when Mike Tyson knocked

him out to take the crown. Tyson

His accuser, a 26-year-old

woman who worked as a baby-

sitter for Berbick's family, gave 90

minutes of emotional testimony on

Wednesday. She said Berbick

pulled off her clothing, hit her, held

her down and forcibly had sex with

her in the bedroom of her Miami

driven to her apartment from his

home near Front Lauderdale, os-

tensibly to pay her \$480 in baby-

The woman said Berbick had

apartment on October 31, 1990.

sitting fees he owed her.

was convicted of rape this month.

contender.

tense pressure, the 'B' string stormed away to take the first two doubles, the damage being done by Andrew Kennedy and Andrew Mills, Phil Jeffery and Salim Khal-

Thirteen also proved unlucky for third placed DSA, who went down to a resurgent Majan who established a good lead in the singles, going up 4-2. Majan winners were Saif Hamood, Rashid Saleh, Mohd Al-Rahbi and Bob Wakenshaw.

claimed the first doubles as Majan stormed back to take the next two through Abdulla Muftah and Salim Mohd, Wakenshaw and Saif Hamood. Majan move up one position in the standings, but are still on the

The yoyos of the Division,

Ruwi Tigers, were again consistent in their inconsistency, winning this time, as they took out the Bogeys The issue was settled in the sin-

gles, with Bryan D'Sa, Murtadh Habib, Doc Mehta, Adrian Palmer and Leo Zamora posting wins for the Tigers.

Lachie Carter was the sole survivor for the Bogeys.

Hedley Nuttall and Carter won the first double game for the Bogeys, Murtadh Habib and Tommi Tatti the next for the Tigers and Nick Stothard and Brian Ellis

Nell Gwyne

Nell Gwyne

Ruwi Tigers

Double Boge

Al Falaj Arro

DSA

Majan

Highlight of the singles was Robin Rowles' maximum. Carl Rodircks, Konrad Fernandes, Rowles, Paula Rodricks, Lenny Misquitta and Noel Joseph posted good wins for

Bogeys, making it 6-3 for the Ti-

fensive against Lansab, blanking

out the fliers 6-0 in the singles.

Al Falaj Arrows went on the of-

Colin and Suleiman prevented what was ominously looking like a whitewash but the arrows were in no mood to concede any more games and raced through the next

	able - Division	W	I.	F	A	Т
A	13	12	1	78	39	102
В	13	11	2	74	43	96
	13	9	4	65	52	83
	13	6	7	60	57	72
ys	13	3	10	53	64	59
ows	13	3	10	53	64	59
	13	4	9	44	73	52
	13	4	9	41	76	49

# Ivanisevic posts

Ivanisevic, of Croatia, saved two match points with blistering serves when down 4-5 in games in the third set and another with an ace at 6-7 in the tense tiebreaker. Another ace, his 20th, settled the

"I had the match points but until October.'

Newsweek Champions Cup out-

In other quarterfinal action, second-seeded Stefan Edberg survived a tough challenge from Italian Omar Camporese to advance with a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Alexander Volkov of Russia continued his upset run when he downed fifth-seeded Guy Forget of France, 6-4, 6-4. In the previous round, 28th-ranked Volkov defeated former world No. 1 Ivan Lendl.

Unseeded Petr Korda of Germany.

In the semifinals, Edberg faces Korda and Ivanisevic meets Vol-

#### **Oman Shooting** Association holds meeting MUSCAT — The first meeting

of the Administration Council of the Oman Shooting Association for the year 1992 was held yesterday morning at Musakar al Murtafa.

The meeting was presided over by Lieutenant-General Khamis bin Humaid bin Salim al Kalbani, Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces and Chairman of Association Administration Council.

The meeting was attended by Ma-jor-General Ali bin Rashid al Kalbani, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman and First Deputy Chairman of the Association, General Mo-hammed bin Marhoon al Mamary, Assistant Inspector General of Royal Oman Police for Operations and Training, and second Deputy Chairman of the Association, Air-Vice Marshal Yahya bin Rashid al Juma, Secretary Defence Committee at the office of His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence, and member of the Association, Air Vice-Marshal Mohammed bin Naser al Rasbi, Assistant Commander of SAF for Administration Affairs and the members of the As-

The Meeting discussed the subiects selected to the activities of the Oman Shooting Association and its previous performance in international

## Lendl fined

each on Friday by the ATP tour for outbursts during their second-round defeats at the \$1.04 million Eurocard Classic. "In Becker's case he swore in German at a German linesman and the lineman reported him to the umpire, while Lendl said offending words to the umpire in his match said ATP tour supervisor ED Hardisty, who assessed the fines. Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, the seventh seed, and unseeded American John McEnroe were fined on Friday for matches played on Wednesday. Ivanisevic was fined \$500 for verbal

eighth seed Karel Novacek of Czech-

### win over Courier STUTTGART — Seventhdoors at Indian Wells, California

seeded Goran Ivanisevic fought off three match points to upset world No. 1 Jim Courier 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (10-8) in the quarterfinals of the \$1.04 million Eurocard Classic on Friday night.

match after two hours and 30 min-

they were all on his serve and with him, it's a lottery, you never know what he's going to do," said Courier. "The best thing I can get from this match is that I don't have to play an indoor tournament again Courier will next play at the

Czechoslovakia also advanced when he defeated unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, On Thursday, Siemerink, ranked 40th in the world list, had upset third seeded Boris Becker of

## Tragedy strikes as Tomba loses gold

ALBERTVILLE, France Norway's vanquishing vikings denied Alberto Tomba a record fourth Alpine skiing gold medal and completed a sweep of the cross country races at the Winter Olympics yes-Tragedy struck at the speed ski-

ing site, where a Swiss skier was killed when he crashed into a snowcat grooming trials, the Olympic Organising Committee said, the second games-related fatality. Norway's vigour on the trails

and verve on the slopes gave it a total of nine gold medals for these games, second only to Germany's

Norwegian skier Finn Christian Jagge was just .28 seconds faster than Italy's Tomba in total time for the men's slalom, where "La Bomba" nearly charged to victory in a lightning second run. Jugge had led him by 1.58 seconds after the first Tomba was sixth after the first

run, but his second run put him

Norway's Bjorn Daehlie, still looking fresh after 50 kilometres, the longest men's cross country race, finished 57.6 seconds faster than Italy's Maurilio De Zolt. It was Daehlie's third gold medal of these games. Italian Giorgio Vanzetta

Austria - like Norway having its most successful Winter Games ever - won its first Olympic gold in bobsled racing as Ingo Appelt piloted its No. 1 sled to victory in the four-man event. By .02 second, he denied German veteran Wolfgang Hoppe a record-tying third Olympic bobsledding gold medal. Swiss driver Gustav Weder, the games' two-man champion, won the

Hoppe's medal gave Germany a

ahead of all the first-run leaders fied team of former Soviet athletes in the overall medals race with three events left. The Germans had 10 golds to the ex-Soviets eight. Norway had nine gold, but

> Austria had six golds. Speed skier Nicolas Bochatay, 27, was on a regular slope away from the steep competition run at Les Arcs when he was struck by a snow, cat, officials said.

trailed Austria 21 to 20 in total

WINTER OLYMPICS Bochatay had placed 13th in Friday's semifinals of the demonstration event, reaching a speed of 210.650 kilometres (130.895

Last weekend, a French Army Sergeant was killed by an avalanche during in Olympics security patrol near Courchevel, officials

miles) an hour.

In men's cross country, Daehlie

4 x 10 kilometre relay team. Daeh-lie won the 50K and 15K races and finished second in the 30K. Ulvang won the 10K and 30K events and finished out of the medals in the The battles on snow came after

divided the four individual gold

skied on the victorious Norwegian

a night in which artistry beat athletic jumping on ice. American Kristi Yamaguchi won gold against Japan's star triple-jumper, Midori Also Friday, the unified team's

Lyubov Egorova became the game's first quintuple medalist three gold, two silver — when she took silver in the women's longest cross country race, 30 kilomtres, behind Italy's Stefania Belmondo.

In hockey, the unified team beat the United States 5-2 and advanced to today's gold medal game against Canada, a 4-2 winner over Czech-

and Gegard "The Viking". Ulvang medals between them and both

Tomba already had made history on Tuesday, becoming the first alpine skier eve to win the same event in two Olympics. He won both the giant slalom and slalom in the 1988 games.

"The fact that people are talking about a fourth gold medal has got me charged up," Tomba said Fri-France's Jean-Claude Killy

now co-president of these games organising committee, won three gold medals in 1968 and Australia's Tony Sailer won three in 1956. Neither won again. A total of 123 skiers were yes-

terday' slalom field. Those considered capable of beating Tomba included Bittner, Norway's Olive Christian Furuseth, France's Patrice Bianchi of France, four-time world cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg and World Cup overall leader Paul Accola of Switzer-

### Mac, Becker STUTTGART — Boris Becker

and Ivan Lendl were fined \$1,000 abuse during a second-round match against Olivier Delaitre of France. McEnroe was fined \$450 for

breaking his racket during his loss to



Rahim's drops again proved to be pivotal and the caught his opponents off foot time and time again. Brenda, who is usually a steady support in the front was very erratic and could not find the rhythm. Rahim and Shikha took the match 15-7, 15-4. The Omani Singles event which is being sponsored by Al-Khaf and Oman Aviation started the days proceedings. In an all family affair

Sultan Salem won a three set thrill-

er over his brother Hamoud Salem

by a score of 15-10, 10-15, 15-9.

Hamoud Salem matched his more

renowned brother stroke for stroke

in the first game However, Sultan showed his class after trailing 4-9, fought back to take the first game 15-10. Not showing any signs of nerves Hamoud Salem exacted revenge by showing all round curt craft to take



Rahim-Shikha

in semifinals

the final In match of the night tentatively but Rahim and Shikha Mohan and Olivia thrashed Murali and Mina by 15-5, 15-2. The match never really took off and Mohan was in dazzling form with his smashes working over time. Olivia Vas provided ample support from The entire badminton feternity

was disappointed with the news that, due to health reasons Dr. Joy Varghese the reigning Singles and Mens doubles champion has pulled out of Mens doubles and Mixed doubles tournament. It is yet to be seen whether he would be able to participate in the singles event. As a result Chandralal/Joseph and Ronnie/Sushma received walk overs in Mens doubles and Mixed doubles respectively.

pite he needed and he came back after the back and comfortably lead his brother throught the game before clinching the tie at 15-9. Sultan Salem now moves on to Semi Finals.

Today's fixtures are: Quarter-

finals- Ronnie/Percy vs Ali Sulei-

man/Jaga 7.30 pm; semi-finals

Hamoud vs Thuwainy 8.00 pm; Joy

vs Mohan 8.30 pm; Rahim/Shikha

vs Ronnie/Sushma 9.00 pm.

### 7-2 defeat to stablemate Nell Gwynne 'B'.

MUSCAT — The aura of in-

Keeping up spirits for DSA were Mike McGinley and Greg Hague. Pat O'Neill and Dave Lewis

fringe of the relegation zone.

The pre-played match between Majan and Double Bogeys resulted

Putting the 'A' Team under in- in Majan winning the match by the

Berbick found guilty of rape

> He hinted that the woman's testimony was part of a conspiracy. saying she was "on the payroll," but did not specify what that means. Miami sexual battery detective Shawn Mahon testified that in three

successive interviews, Berbick had

willingly had an affair with him.

different accounts of his re-Now 39, Berbick is no longer a lationship with his accuser. The first time, the detective said. Berbick said he had never had sex with her. Then he aid he had intercourse with the woman, but at Berbick's home. Then Berbick acknowledged having sex with her at

> had consented. The jury deliberated for two hours before finding Berbick guilty of sex battery by physical force and burglary with assault. Dade Circuit Judge Thomas S. Wilson Jr. set sentencing for April 10. - AP

except Jagge. Michael Tritscher of

Austria won the bronze medal, fall-

ing from .51 seconds ahead of

Tomba after the first run to .18 sec-

In another Norway-Italy battle,

onds behind him after the second.

her apartment, but said the woman

### Germans win by late goal

KARACHI — German Captain Volker Fried scored four minutes from time yesterday to give his side a 3-2 victory over Britain in the Champions Trophy Hockey

fortunes, a free hit on the edge of the circle gave fried the chance to clinch the match for the title hold-The Germans hit back after

twice falling behind to superb

After a game of roller coaster

field goals scored by Jason Lee in the 12th and 27th minutes. Sven Meinhardt, who spent five minutes on the bench after being shown the yellow card for rough tackling, scored both equalisers in the 27th minute and in

47th minute. With each of the six contesting teams having played two games, Australia and Pakistan lead the standings with four points.

#### Today's matches: Pakistan v Netherlands, Australia v Britain, Germany v France. - Reuter



# WORLD CUP SPECIAL



# Richardson nursing injured finger



Richardson ... 'I don't mind the pain.'

MELBOURNE, Australia -West Indies captain Richie Richardson is nursing a persistent finger injury on the eve of his team's opening match of the World Cup cricket tourna-

The West Indies faces Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket ground today and Richardson abandoned a net session yesterday, fearing he may ag-gravate damage to his left ring Richardson broke the finger

three weeks ago during a domestic match in Antigua and hurt it again in a match against the New South Wales state

Richardson said he planned to play against Pakistan despite

"I was feeling vibration when I was batting today, so I decided to stop," he said. "I don't mind the pain and I can cope with it, so I'll play. "I'll just work on it with some ice between now and tomorrow and then have it bandaged up just before the match starts."

The West Indies played

Tendulkar...the youngest

The eldest

and the

youngest

NEW PLYMOUTH

John Traicos made his first-

class cricket debut when the

beatles were top of the pop mu-

sic charts and many of his cur-

er Traicos is the oldest player

competing in the nine-nation

making his debut, Traicos will face players young enough to be his sons during the World Cup.

World Cup, which starts.

tournament.

At 44, Zimbabwe span bowl-

More than 25 years after

India's Sachin Tendulkar, 18, is the youngest player in the

Traicos was a member of the

south African team that beat Australia 4-0 in a Test series in 1970 and then was expelled from international cricket for 22 Born in Egypt to Greek par-

ents, he now play for South Af-

rica's northern neighbour and

has lived most of his life in Zim-

babwe.Teammates say they are astounded by Traicos' dedica-

"He is quite remarkable,"

said Zimbabwe captain Dave

Houghton. "It is regular for him

to be bowling for an hour to one

stump when the rest of us have

gone. And he is still one of the

rent rivals were not even born.

against Australia and India earlier in the summer but Richardson said the return to the Caribbean had refreshed his men.

"The guys are very en-thusiastic and we feel very positive,' Richardson said.

"Once we get our attitude right, I think we have a very good chance of winning the tournament.'

Pakistan has been in Australia for more than three weeks, playing six warm-up matches. The team took a break yesterday skipping practice completely.

Team manager Intikhab Alam said his men needed a

"We thought we had a good three-hour session yesterday and would relax a little bit before the game,' Intikhab said. "The boys are all fit and we have no worries at all."

The West Indies beat Pakistan 2-0 in a one-day series in Pakistan last October and Richardson said he was confident his men could make a flying start in the competition.

"I fancy ourselves against them, especially since we beat them last time in Pakistan," Richardson said.

Neither team will finalise its lineup until shortly before the match starts.

Provisional teams: West Indies: Richie Richardson (captain), Curtly Ambrose, Anderson Cummins, Roger Harper, Desmond Haynes, Carl Hooper, Brian Lara, Gus Logie, Mal-colm Marshall, Patrick Patterson, Phil Simmons, David Wil-

Pakistan: Imran Khan (captain), Ijaz Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahemd, Wasim Akram, Zahid Fazal, Inzaman-ul-Haq, Wasim Haider, Aaqib Javed, Moin Khan, Salin Malik, Javed Maindad, Rameez Raja. - AP



Gavin Larsen of New Zealand rolls on the pitch after caught- and- bowling Australian Steve Waugh for 38 while Kiwi captain Martin Crowe (L) moves in as New Zealand upset cup holders Australia by 37-runs in the cricket Workd Cup. David Boon of Australia is pictured at right. — Reuter wire photo

## Pull up your gloves, De Silva tells his lads

NEW PLYMOUTH - Sri Lankan cricket captain Aravinda de Silva called on his batsmen to spearhead the team's bid to reach the semifinals of the World Cup for the first time.

Sri Lanka opens its World Cup campaign agaisnt Zimbabwe at Pukekura park today.

"Much will depend on our batting. We must set reasonable totals when we bat first," de Silva said.

"It's important that we get some outdoor practice. We need time outdoors," De Silva said. The Sri Lankan captain said he

was pleased with the form of his team's bowlers.

"They improved rapidly on our tour of Pakistan where they learned a lot," he said.

"We've got a young side but there's some exciting players. We want to start with a win and our aim is a semifinal berth."

Zimbabwe captain David

#### Ratnayake ruled out

NEW PLYMOUTH — Sri Lanka's leading pace bowler, Rumesh Ratnayake, is to miss their first World Cup Cricket match against Zimbabwe at Pukekura Park today.

Ratnayake dislocated his shoulder in a recent warm-up game in Australia, and Sri Lanka have decided they do not want to risk aggravating the injury, team manager Ranjit Fernando said yesterday.

"The doctors felt he would be okay in about five days (after the injury)," Fernando said.

"It is unlikely that he would be fit to bowl tomorrow but we are hoping he'll be fit to play against New Zealand next week at Hamilton," he added.

The loss of Ratnayake, Sri Lanka's leading wicket-taker, is a considerable blow for the side who see victory over tournament long-shots Zimbabwe as a springboard to further success.



Aravinda de Silva ... 'we can beat anyone'

Houghton said his side had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

"We are the rank outsiders. Re-alistically, we haven't got a chance of winning the cup. But we're here and I believe we can cause one or two upsets along the way."

Houghton said one-day cricket

was a great leveller.

"If we can field well, bowl well, take our catches and bat well, we can beat anyone," he said. "Every side we play are better than us but we must rate ourselves as having a chance agaisnt anyone." — AP



Rumesh Ratnayake.... ...shoulder dislocation

Former captain Arjuna Ranatunga is set to become the first Sri Lankan to play in 100 one-day international today. - Reuter

### **Trumpeting** the Cup

AUCKLAND — Nearly 30,000 toy trumpets yesterday signalled a noisy start to the fifth World Cup

The trumpets were given to spectators as they arrived at Eden Park for the opening match of the ninenation tournament between co-hosts New Zealand and Australia at Eden

The fans enthusiatically blew the plastic trumpets as a procession of colourful floats representing each of

the competing nations paraded around the ground. In contrast to the gale-force

winds which swept over Auckland on Friday, cutting power to "ousands of homes, uprooting trees and rip-ping off roofs, Eden Park was bathed in sunshine. The opening ceremony featured vocalists and a flypast by vintage aircraft including tiger moths and World War II Harvards.

One of the biggest cheers from the crowd was for New Zealand cricketing great Bert Sutcliffe as he rode into Eden Park on the New Zealand float.

Then vast portions of the crowd rose to their feet as one of New Zealand's all-time greats, Sir Richard Hadlee, was chauffeured onto the ground in the back of a 1930 Packard convertible.

'The atmosphere is unbelievable down here," Handlee said. The float representing South Africa also earned a huge cheer from the crowd.

## IMRAN ALL SET TO BEARD THE LI-



Khan could hold the key to one of the most intriguing matches of meet former one-day kings West Indies at the Melbourne cricket ground today.

Although nearing 40, the dark and brooding all-rounder with the film star looks still has the ability with either bat or ball to turn a match around.

Having played in all four previous World Cups, Imran tops the list of wicket-takers with 27 victims at an average of just un-

der 15 apiece.

He is, however, disarmingly modest about his bowling ability "I am more of a batting all-rounder now. As a bowler I have lot

a lot of pace, the deliveries are a bit rusty," he said.

But while his pace may have decreased, his guile has not.

Much more will depend on Imran's bowling that orginally anticipated following the massive blow of losing main paceman Waqar Younis with a stress fracture in his back only days before the tournament started.

But Pakistan still have another dangerous fast bowler in Wasim



Imran Khan ... more of a batting all-rounder

Akram, who has the ability to swing the ball either way at great Pakistan last November lost a three-match limited overs series 2-0, with one game tied, against that West Indies, who then went to Australia and failed to qualify for the final of the Triangular

But the West Indians have returned feeling lessons have been learnt from their recent venture here and are confident about their prospects of lifting the cup they won on the first two occasions it was staged, in 1975 and 1979.

Richie Richardson leads the West Indians in their attempt to

restore one-day pride, and he will have been encouraged by the

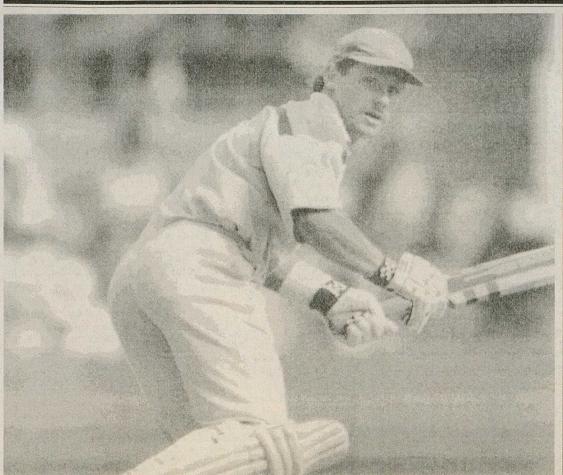
form his side showed in Thursday's emphatic 77-run win over New South Wales in a warm-up match. Richardson's undefeated 80 hinted at an improvement in his own form, while an innings of 71 by talented 22-year-old Brian

Lara may have earned himself a spot in today's game. Especially impressive was pace bowler Winston Benjamin with two wickets, but more importantly conceding only eight runs in six

West Indies' pacemen have often been criticised for being unable to bowl within the stricter confines of the laws of one-day cricket, conceding large amounts of extras which have sometimes cost them the game.

They cannot afford any such luxury in the next five weeks.

Pakistan and the West Indies start joint third-favourites behind Australia and England for the Crystal Globe trophy.



English batsman Robin Smith plays a shot to third man during his innings of 91 in the World Cup match against India, held in Perth, Australia, yesterday. England won the match by 9 runs. — Reuter wire photo

## Semi-finals: Springboks' minimum Cup target

BRISBANE — South Africa's cricket team has made a spot in the semifinals its minimum target as it prepares to play in a World Cup tournament for the first time. South Africa is an unknown quantity

tournament — a result of its 22 years of isolation. players Brian McMillan and Mark Rushmere said on Friday that the team members believed

at the start of the nine-nation

they had to ability to at least make the semifinals We are going for the semifinals and if we get there anything can happen," said batsman Rushmere. They guys are all feeling very positive and we have nothing to

Allrounder McMillan said the mood of the players was unbeat. We expect to do fairly well and surprise a few teams,"

McMillan said. "Making the semifinals is the initial target.' Though South African team lacks international experience. McMillan doesn't believe that is necessarily

a major setback. We know more about most of the teams we will be playing than they know about us," he said. "The other teams do have an ada big step up from domestic cricket, but a lot of our blokes have some overseas experience.'

McMillan, a right-arm fast-medium bowler and capable batsman, has himself played for Warwickshire in the English county champion-

World Series competition.

He said the South Africans were more enthusiastic than apprehensive about their return tot he international arena. "Our blokes are fairly excited," he

said. "This is the ultimate and everyone is positive and looking forward to the challenge. McMillan said the team was trying to ignore the expectations of the

cricket-crazy South African pub-The people back home expect us to do well, but we are not thinking about that," he said. "That is their

problem. Not ours. McMillan said the South African team had been warmly welcomed throughout Australia.

"In a way, it makes as realise what we've been missing," he said. "It is a pity we didn't get back into international cricket a lot sooner. McMilan said the team had moulded

into a good unit, typified by a

"We always play with great drive and determination," he said. "We are never lethargic and always fight — that's one of the main characteristics of the team.' McMillan said there had been no

discontent in the squad over the controversial omission of veterans Clive Rice and Jimmy

'The selectors named the best team and that is it," he said. "This is the best team — a team for the present and a team for the fu-

Rushmere said the South Africans had quickly adjusted to the more bouncy Australian wicket and the white limited-overs ball,

which swings noticeably. We are all comfortable with the conditions and have adjusted well," he said.

All the South Africans are slightly nervous about their first match of the World Cup — a contest against defending champion Australia in front of a sellout crowd at the Sydney cricket ground on Wednesday.

We'll be nervous, but it is a matter of controlling those nerves," Rushmere said. "It is certainly a McMillan said it was up to the South African to shut out the

crowd and the occasion. It will get to us initially, but once the first ball is bowled it has to become just another match," he said. - AP

#### Procter's concern

BRSBANE - South Africa's cricket coach Mike Procter is concerned about some of his batsmen lacking match practice after a World Cup warm-up against Queensland was abandoned for a second time

"It has really thrown us out," said Procter, who elected to stay indoors to watch the New Zealand-Australia opening cup match on television with his team. "Our fielding and our bowling looks in top shape but I must admit I am a little concerned with the batting at the moment, Procter said.

"We have had plenty of time in the nets since we got here but it's not the same as time in the middle against different attacks," Procter



Traicos...the eldest

# TIMES SPORT

Timesquiz on Page 8

Every day! Free entry! See

India run out of victory



Australia Botham stamped his extraordinary personality on the cricket World Cup with yet

another of his star performances as England opened their campaign with a ninerun win over India yesterday.

Boldly chasing England's 236 for nine - a total built around Robin Smith's brilliant 91 - India were derailed by the irrepressible 36-yearold all-rounder just as they neared a full head of steam.

Botham, having failed in his unfamiliar role as explosive opener, halted the Indian express in the unlikely guise of a third-change bowler as he took two for 27 off 10 tight and wily overs.

He took the key wicket of Sachin Tendulkar whose blossoming innings of 35 was slowly strangled by the craft and experience of a

player twice his age. Ravi Shastri made a pedestrian 57 and Krish Srikkanth a dashing 39 but England, whose captain Graham Gooch made 51, were just too

strong for the Indians. A late charge by bowler Subroto Banerjee, with 25 not out off 16 balls, made for a tense finish but India's challenge ended at 227 with four deliveries remaining when his partner, Javagal Srinath, was run out - inevitably by man-of-the-match

One scare for England came when 38-year-old Gooch pulled up, having a problem with his right leg.

He batted on with a runner - Botham in Shastri's last over when the leftagain - and later fielded without apparent discomfort.

Gooch said he had suffered cramp in the leg. Shastri also limped off after his innings, and that could be more serious.

The game was his first since an operation on his right knee and it was the same knee that troubled him. But Azharuddin said he would be fit for India's next match, against Sri Lanka in Mackay on Friday.

England's plans for a flying start were grounded by the new ball attack of Manoj Prabhakar and Kapil

Continuing the fine form they

TODAY'S MATCHES At Melbourne: West India vs Pakistan. At New Plymouth: Sri Lanka vs Zimbahwe

have showed all summer in Australia they kept England to 23 off the first 10 overs - Prabhakar conceded four runs in five overs while Kapil

dismissed Botham for nine. He was caught behind by Kiran More, who had missed a difficult legside chance offered by Gooch before he scored.

Gooch prospered from the reprieve and, with Smith, began to stoke up the innings. Ravi Shastri, whose bowling was embarrassingly awry, and Subroto Banerjee were both hit out of the attack but Tendulkar filled in capably, bowling his

full complement for 37 runs. Gooch, having injured himself running a single in the 23rd over, limped off to the dressing room seven overs later after being surprised

Stands out for taste

HEALTH WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.

arm spinner managed to pitch one after a series of full tosses.

Smith, returning to an area where he played several years of grade cricket, pulled two massive sixes and struck eight other boundaries in his 108-ball innings.

Hick, once gain, failed to deliver but Neil Fairbrother busily added 60 in 11 overs with Smith as England built a formidable launching pad for the end-of-innings slog.

However, from 197 for three in

the 43rd over they lost six wickets for 27, taking just 23 runs off the

India's innings maintained a rough parity with England's progress for 30 over before slipping behind.

While Shastri dropped anchor, Kris Srikkanth displayed his usual range of thick edges and powerful drives before holing out to Botham at mid-on for 39 as he attempted to hit a third successive four off Phillip

Azharuddin added another chapter to his miserable season, out first ball, but Tendulkar again batted beautifully until Botham applied the brakes. He tied up and eventually dismissed Tendulkar with a leg-

Azharuddin said Tendulkar's dismissal was the turning point and India's fortunes subsequently dipped. Gooch on pitch

Captain Graham Gooch fresh from England's opening win over India, said he still made Australia the cricket World Cup favourites despite their surprise defeat by New



Times of Oman, Sunday, February 23, 1992

Botham: What he lost in runs he made up for in wickets

And in reference to the pitchfixing debate he said: "I am not surprised because I know New Zealand will have prepared the wicket to suit their own type of slow-medium

"We saw that in a few matches over there. That type of bowling is very difficult to get away. "Australia still remain favourites in my

Cup pitches cricket management pair Ian Taylor and Warren Lees said this week slow pitches would favour them but added they would not be deliberately fixing wickets.

SCORECARD England innings - 236 for nine in 50 overs G. Gooch c Tendulkar

I. Botham c More b K. Dev b Prabhakar G. Hick c More b Banerjee N. Fairbrother c Srikkanth b Srinath

A. Stewart b Prabhakar C. Lewis c Banerjee b K, Dev D. Pringle c Srikkanth

D. Reeve not out Tufnell not out Extras (1B 6LB 13W) Fall of wickets: 21, 131, 137, 197, 198,

214, 222, 223, 224. 214, 222, 225, 224. Bowling: Kapil Dev 10-0-38-2 (6B), Manoj Prabhakar 10-3-34-2, Javagal Srinath 9-1-47-2 (5W), Subroto Banerjee 7-0-45-1, Sachin Tendulkar 10-0-37-0 (1W), Ravi Shastri 4-0-28-1 (1W)

India - 227 all out in 49.2 overs R. Shastri run out K. Srikkanth c Botham b Defreitas M. Azharuddin c Stewart

b Reeve S. Tendulkar c Stewart Botham . Kambli c Hick b Botham

P. Amre run out Kapil Dev c Defreitas S. Banerjee not out More run out M. Prabhakar b Reeve J. Srinath run out Extras (LB-9 S-7 NB-1)

Fall of Wickets: 1-63 2-63 3-126 4-140 5-149 6-187 7-194 8-200 9-201.
Bowling: Pringle 10-0-53-0 (1W), Lewis 9.2-0-36-0 (5W 1 NB), Defreitas 10-0-39-1, Reeve 6-0-38-3 (1W), Botham 10-2-27-2.

Result: England won by nine runs. - Re-

### Moosa, Kaspar in Inter-Con **Tennis final**



By A Sports Reporter

MUSCAT— Top seed Tariq Moosa and 14-year-old Kaspar Kaergaard ended the dream runs of Graham Haynes and Ali Maher in the semifinals of the Men's B Zubair-Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel tennis championships yesterday, while Ghazi al-Zedjali shrugged aside a leg injury to knock out M. Al-Balushi to reach the semifinals of the Omani Closed event.

Graham Haynes had no answer to the awesome power and crafty court play of young Tariq Moosa who unleashed a series of winners with his top spin and backhand drives. Having taken the first set 6-0, Haynes got the measure of Tariq's play to a certain extent before going down 2-6. Kaspar Kaergaard produced a mature display against Ali Maher to take the first set 6-2.

In the 4p.m. clash featuring Ghazi al-Zedjali and M Al-Balushi in the quarter final of the Omani Closed event Ghazi, suffering from a sprained foot in a previous match looked almost pedestrian, yet he did well to break Balushi's serve in the very first game.

Balushi held his serve in the third game but Ghazi, adopting baseline tactics and with very accurate placements saw Balushi make many unforced errors time and again to concede the set to Ghazi. The second set followed similar tactics though Balushi managed to win two of his service games. Final score— Ghazi al-Zedjali 6-1, 6-2.

Results: Men's "A" Singles: E. Bakker bt G. al Zedjali 6-4, 6-3; Men's Doubles:

Bickerton/Gibson bt Khout/Atassi 7-5, 6-3; Khan/Dharmapalage bt Clayton/Hill 6-3, 6-4; Limaye/Shetty bt Peper/Bakker 6-2, 6-4; Hipol/Al Mamaari bt Shirodka/Giriraj 6-3, 6-; Omani Closed: g. al Zedjali bt M. Al Balushi 6-1, 6-2'

Laies Doubles: Gilbert/Henderson bt Russel/Challot 6-0, 6-1

Today's Fixtures: Ladies Open Singles: 6.00 pm - Sian Forgrave vs Shuna Giles; 6.00 pm - Clard Mann vs Robyn Hen-

derson; Men's Doubles: 7.30 pm - Bickerton/Gibson vs Limaya/ Shetty; 7.30 pm - Khan/Dharmapalage vs

## Aussies eat 'Crowe' AUCKLA making the score 171 for four. D — Martin Chris Harris, Ian Smith and



ND — Martin Crowe's New Zealanders launched the Cricket World Cup in stunning style by

pulling off a 37-run victory over holders and favourites Australia at Eden Park yes-

Crowe played an accomplished innings of exactly 100 not out to lift New Zealand to 248 for six in their 50 overs and then directed an effective piece of out-cricket as his team dismissed Australia for 211 with 11 balls left.

A dogged century from opener David Boon could not save Australia, whose frail batting on a good pitch followed their uncharacteristically poor catching four catches being missed, including Crowe Twice.

Roared on by a 25,000-strong crowd, New Zealand medium-pacer Gavin Larsen took three for 30, while three Australian batsmen were run out by sharp fielding.

Reeling after a drubbing from England in the past six weeks, New Zealand were rank outsiders against an Australian team supposed to be peaking for the World Cup.

Crowe, whose century led a New Zealand fightback from 13 for two after he won the toss and elected to bat, won the Man of the Match award.

Australia got off to a flying start, following ceremonies to launch the fifth edition of the Cup, when Craig McDermott bowled opener John Wright for nought with the third ball of the match.

Andrew Jones was trapped leg before by Bruce Reid to make the score 13 for two, and dashing opener Rod Latham scored 26 quick runs before he was caught behind by Ian Healy Ken Rutherford joined Crowe

with the score at 53 for three, and the pair breathed fresh life into the innings with stand of 118.

Crowe, one of the world's most elegant batsman when he finds his form, dominated some loose bowling despite pain from a knee injury which doctors advised him to rest instead of playing in the World

Rutherford worked the ball into the open areas of Eden Park for a valuable 57 before he was run out,

Chris Cairns provided vital support for Crowe, who reached his century with the penultimate ball of the in-

Boon and Geoff Marsh began Australia's innings in style, hitting 35 off the first seven overs, with Cairns being dispatched for 30 runs from four overs Crowe experimented by open-

ing the bowling with the off-spin of Kenyan-Born Dipak Patel, who responded with figures of one for 36 from 10 overs.

The Australians, 6-4 favourites to retain the cup, were restricted by the accuracy of Patel and medium pacers Willie Watson, Larsen and Latham, and wickets fell as they



Crowe: The Kiwi wizard

lashed out in frustration.

Boon could only watch as Dean Jones fell to a touch-and-go run out decision for four, captain Allan Border was caught on the boundary for three and Tom Moody was caught and bowled by Latham for seven.

Steve Waugh rallied the Australians by hitting 38 in a 74-run partnership with Boon, but Waugh's dismissal started a slide in which the last five wickets fell for 12 runs.

Border told a news conference after the match: "My worst fears came true today. The Kiwis came out smoking. They never left up pressure on us.'

Border said Crowe's innovative captaincy — opening the bowling with Patel and bowling each player in two or three over spells - had

upset his team. The Australian skipper said the

defeat did not wreck his team's chances of retaining the cup. "One game does not a summer make, but I imagine New Zealand's odds have shortened a tad," he said.

Crowe said he was delighted to silence critics who questioned his ability during the tour by England, in which New Zealand lost all three one-day games and two out of three Test matches.

"We know we've been struggling but finally today we got a reward. The team needed someone to lead the way with a bit of courage," he said of his third one-day international century.

He said of his innovative tactics: 'We thought we would do it differently. There was nothing to lose, everyone expected us to be

100

14

stuffed.' Scoreboard **New Zealand innings** John wright b McDermott Rod Latham c Healy b Moody Andrew Jones lbw Reid Martin Crowe not out Ken Rutherford run out Chris Harris run out Ian Smith c Healy b McDermott Chris Cairns not out Extras (6LB, 7W, 4NB)

Total: 248 for six wickets. Fall of wickets: 2, 13, 53, 171, 191, 215. Bowling: Craig McDermott 10-1-43-2 (2W), Bruce Reid 10-0-39-1 (2W, 4NB), Tom Moody 9-0-37-1, Steve Waugh 10-0-60-0 (2W), Pe-

ter Taylor 7-0-36-0, Mark Waugh 4-0-27-0 (1W). Australia innings: David Boon run out Geoff Marsh c Latham b Larsen Dean Jones run out 21 Allan Border c Cairns b Patel

Tom Moody c and b Latham Mark Waugh lbw Larsen Steve Waugh c and b Larsen Ian Healy not out Craig McDermott run out Peter Taylor c Rutherford b

Watson Bruce Reid c Jones b Harris Extras (6LB, 1NB, 2W) Total: 211

Fall of wickets: 62, 92, 104, 120, 125, 199, 200, 205, 206, 211. Bowling: Chris Cairns 4-0-30-0 (1W), Dipak Patel 10-1-36-1 (1W), Willie Watson 9-1-39-1, Gavin Larsen 10-1-30-3, Chris Harris 7.1-0-35-1, Rod Latham 8-0-35-1.



Winners and runners-up of the ICA Open Darts competition

## David claims ICA Open

MUSCAT — The inaugural ICA Darts Open tournament, which attracted a record number of entries, was won by Kiran David, who beat Cliff Waker in a thriller that saw fortunes fluctuate till the last leg he event, which saw over a hun-

dred entries, was sponsored by OUA, Khimji Ramdas, Volca and was organised in association with the Muscat Darts League.

Held over two days, the Open featured men's singles, men's plate and women's singles matches. Prizes on offer also included high scores and high finishes for men and women.

he game has been attracting an increasing numbers of Omani players, whose standard of play came as no surprise to the regulars.

The field, which included some of

the top names in Oman saw leading contenders drawn in different quarters. The first casualty was Abdul Shaheed who lost to Andrew Kennedy who then made it into the semis beating Karanjeet Singh 3-1. Ka-

### **DARTS**

ranjeet finished on 108, which was the highest finish recorded. In the same half Cliff Walker beat Umesh Suverna to set up a meeting with Kennedy. Walker went on to beat Kennedy to book a place in the finals.

In the other half Kiran David overcame a jittery leo Zamora 3-0 and Al Irvine came up against a determined Greg Hague who scored well but couldn't fine target. Gret threw two tremendous 180s in the tournament, the only player to get the magic maximum. Irvine went through 3-2. The semis saw David playing a blinder, not letting Irvine settle down and going through 4-1.

The finals were well attended and lived up to the billing. David clinched the pulsating match 5-

In the Ladies' section, Margaret D'Souza claimed the title, beating Paula Rodricks. High finisher was Yogini Rawal, (59) and the highest score (135) was recorded by Paula.

The men's Plate event was claimed by Jack Hague after some anxious moments. C.M. Sardar, one of the organisers, was the other finalist. In fact the event proved to be quite satisfactory for the Organisers, as three of then reached the finals on the night!

PRINTED AT ALWATAN PRINTING PRESS

Founder, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali; Managing Director and Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Anees bin Essa al Zedjali; Subscription: RO 35. Published by Al-Essa Printing and Publishing House, from the office of Times of Oman, P.O. Box 3770, Ruwi. Telephones: 701953, 701468, 700296. Telex: 3352 TIMES ON . Fax: 799153.