Exciting prizes to be won!

RAMADAN QUIZ CONTEST

turn to page 11...

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23 Ramadan 1415

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**MIDDLE EAST - PAGE 3** 

**Arafat meets** Mubarak



**BUSINESS - PAGE 5** US, Mexico sign \$20b package



**SUBCONTINENT - PAGE 8** Benazir rejects Punjab



**SPORTS - PAGE 12** 

### Air-India talks

BOMBAY — Top officials at Air-India began talks yesterday with cabin-crew representatives to resolve a week-long dispute, a spokesman for the airline's cabin crew association said. "Our two representatives are in Delhi for the talks," an association spokesman told Reuters. He said the association wanted to cooperate with new managing director was announced on Monday night. Members of the association have been reporting sick since Tuesday of last week in protest against suspension orders issued to 19 crew members and also over demands for better working conditions. — Reuter

# Washington, DC broke

WASHINGTON — The US capital was declared essentially broke yesterday in a report given to Congress by government watchdogs. In a grim assessment of Washington, DC's financial condition, General Accounting Office (GAO) official John Hill told a Congressional hearing that the city could run out of cash as early as this summer. — Reuter

### 7 troopers killed

JAMMU — Suspected Muslim the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) in the southern region of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, police said yesterday. They said the insurgents ambushed a BSF patrol late on Tuesday night near Doda, 190 km east of Jammu city, winter capital of Kashmir, late on Tuesday. — Reuter

# Border talks

SANAA — Yemen and Saudi Arabia have made progress at talks over a long-standing border dispute but some points of disagreement still need to be ironed out, Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani said yesterday. "We consider what has been achieved as a progress in relations between the two countries ... there has been agreement on some points and some points of disagreement are still left," he told a news conference in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. — Reuter

# Euthanasia favoured

BEIJING - Advisers of Shanghai's government have suggested euthanasia be allowed after a survey showed 90 per cent of the residents of China's largest city approved of it, the Beijing Evening News said yesterday. A group of members of the Shanghai Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which is currently in session, suggested the municipal government allow euthanasia on a trial basis, the newspaper said. - Reuter

# Nuclear waste

SUVA — Fiji yesterday joined a growing list of Pacific nations protesting against a shipment of highly radioactive nuclear waste, fearing it will travel through their region on its way from France to Japan. Fiji's foreign affairs ministry said it had told the Japanese embassy in the Fijian capital, Suva. that it strongly opposed the shipping of the plutonium waste through the South Pacific. Japan refuses to disclose the route to be taken by the ship, due to leave France today. — Reuter

### Ramadan timings 05:13 Fajr Dhuhr 12:25 03:35 Asr

Maghrib (Iftar) 06:12



governor's package



Indians show

their class

# Anglo-Irish plan meets Protestant opposition

BELFAST — Britain and Ireland unveiled bold plans for a Northern Ireland political settlement yesterday but ran into a brick wall of rejection by pro-British Protestant politicians who said it was a covert plan to re-unite Ireland. British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart John Bruton said their "framework document" was an attempt to build on a six-month old guerilla ceasefire and create a lasting settlement to 25 years

"Read it, study it, think about it, discuss it, talk about it ... let it mature. Think of the overall prize that lies at the end," Major implored Protestant Unionists, who want to stay British and fear Dublin's involvement in any initiative.

But the immediate reaction of Unionists representing the 60 per cent Protestant majority was condemnation with the same fury that torpedoed a similar plan in 1973.

"I believe this whole thing is totally unworkable. It is not a document for discussion but a manifesto leading to the creation of a united Ireland, Ulster Unionist parliamentarian William Ross said three hours after the plan was launched

He and other Unionists fear the plan panders to Sinn Fein, the political wing of IRA guerillas who fought for 25 years to drive Britain from the province until a ceasefire last year. "You have sold out the union (with Britain)," hardline Unionist

leader Ian Paisley said in a statement

tition of Ireland was "a failure."

"There are some issues which of course we would not like but I think that the general sense of the document is that an internal settlement cannot be a solution ... the ethos is of an all-Ireland dimension," he told

Reuters.

The three-point plan includes a new Northern Ireland assembly and cross-border bodies to cement trust and economic cooperation and British and Irish pledges to change rival claims to the sovereignty of the province of 1.5 million people.

It tries to ensrhine equal treatment

for the twin traditions of Northern Ireland -- Protestant Unionists who pledge allegiance to the British Crown and Catholic Irish Nationalists. "It is a framework for discussion

not a blueprint to be imposed over the heads of anyone," Bruton said. "Its purpose is to facilitate not to pre-empt dialogue.' The document seeks to capitalise on ceasefires in September by the

IRA and loyalist gunmen, who killed

Catholics in a campaign to maintain cherished British sovereignty. Northern Ireland assembly elected by proportional representation to share power between the 60 per cent Prot-estant majority and Catholic minor-

Changing Britain's and Ire-Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams land's constitutional claims to Northsaid the determination of the two gov-

within the province and with Ireland.

from the assembly and Irish parliament to oversee economic cooperation. Its decisions would have to be reached by unanimity giving all

- Drafting a bill of rights to safeguard the cultural and civil rights of Unionists and Nationalists, mostly

Bruton told the news conference: The ending of all campaigns of paramilitary violence last autumn has created an unrivalled opportunity for such dialogue to take place with the reasonable prospect of a successful

Sinn Fein and groups close to loy-alist gunmen are holding exploratory talks with Britain but Major said "decommissioning" their guns was vital if they wanted to join new all-party

Constitutional change and a new assembly are key demands of Unionists but they have repeatedly threatened to bring down Major's embattled minority government if they believe the proposals will push the province towards Irish reunification. The assembly will hold the key to future relationships with the Irish Re-

public and replace a Protestant-dominated assembly which Britain scrapped in 1972 because of civil The document repeats key provisions of the December 1993 Anglo-Irish Downing Street declaration which lured the guerillas' political spokesmen into talks. — Reuter



BELFAST - British Prime Minister John Major (right), Irish Premier John Bruton (left) and Northern Ireland Minister Patrick Mayhew walk to Balmoral Conference Centre in Belfast yesterday to present the "framework document" for negotiations to create a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. - AFP photo

# Oman-Korea gas deal signed

erals Ministry Undersecretary Salim bin Mohammed Shaban announced yesterday that a letter of intent for the sale and purchase of liquefied nat-ural gas had been signed between Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Co. (OLNGC) and the Korean Gas Corporation (KGC).

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Shaban said that, according

ficial talks with KGC on supplying Korea with three million tonnes of liquefied gas annually for a period of 25 years beginning from the year 2000.

Shaban said that Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said bin Ahmed Al Shanfari had met the President of KGC and the Korean Commerce and Industry Minister when he visited

Seoul on January 28th, and had informed them of the Omani government's decision to develop the gas

Shaban added that the Omani gov ernment held a 51 per cent in the \$ 8 billion natural gas liquefaction pro-

He said that the Sultanate's natural gas reserves totalled over 25 trillion

# Cable of greetings

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, on the occasion of his country's 34th National Day. - ONA

# PDO awards two gas projects

MUSCAT — Petroleum Development of Oman has awarded two separate front end design contracts for Oman's liquefied natural gas project on behalf of the Omani

The Chairman of the Board of Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Co. told Oman News Agency yesterday that one contract had been awarded to Delta Catalytic Ltd. of Calgary, Canada, for the Saih Rawl gas processing facilities. The other contract, for the gas transmission pipeline from Saih Rawl to the liquefied natural gas plant planned at Sur, had been awarded to Kvaerner/R J Brown Pte. Ltd. of Singapore. The chairman said that work

would begin at the end of Feb-

The facilities were expected to be completed in September and the pipeline in November.

He explained that front end designs were part of project specificaion in preparation for the execution phase of contract tendering. The execution phase of the project was scheduled to begin in mid-1996, he said. — ONA

# Arafat seeks Arab and world support

CAIRO — PLO leader Yasser Arafat, impatient with the deadlock in self-rule talks with Israel, launched campaign for Arab and international support on Wednesday, possibly with an Arab summit as his immediate target. A statement by the PLO executive committee said peace talks with Israel, after 10 rounds on

an Israeli troop withdrawal and Pal-

estinian elections, were stuck in a vi-

cious circle and it was harder and

harder to continue. "The committee believes it is important to discuss the consequences and dangers of a breakdown in the peace process by holding an Arab meeting at the highest level in the framework of the Arab League as soon as possible," the statement add-The PLO is sending envoys to Arab countries, the United States, Russia, Europe, China, Japan and others to argue its case that Israel is dragging its feet on the agreement it signed with the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) in 1993. Arafat and the committee members launched the campaign by putting their plans to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak but Foreign Minister Amr Moussa gave a lukewarm re-

'As for the regionalisation or internationalisation of the process, this is a Palestinian point of view that has been expressed but there is still some time to go before doing so, I believe," Moussa told reporters after the

Arafat was expected to leave yesterday afternoon for Saudi Arabia and a meeting with King Fahd, also as part of the Palestinian campaign to bring in foreign powers.

The committee statement, read by PLO spokesman and committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo, said

and King Hussein of Jordan. It said Israel was fully to blame for the long delays in carrying out the second stage of the self-rule

Palestinian elections were meant to take place in Gaza and the West Bank in July last year, after Israeli troops withdrew from the towns in occupied parts of the West Bank.

agreement it signed in Washington

But the two sides have failed to agree on the arrangements and the Israelis have repeatedly questioned the ability of the autonomous Palestinian Authority to maintain law "It (the peace process) has reached a real crisis because of con-

stant Israeli obstruction, which led to slippage in the timetable ... and to a freeze on various fundamental aspects of this agreement," the executive committee said. 'Isolating any part of the accord

any important aspect, risks making the whole agreement collapse and leads the peace process to a dead end," it added. The committee condemned Israel

for a long list of practices in the occupied territories, such as confiscating Arab land, continuing to build or expand settlements and changing the demographics of the city of the Jerusalem area. "These acts violate the commit-

ments and guarantees that paved the way for the peace process ... and the Israeli government bears the full responsibility for this," it added. The PLO again asked Israel to release Palestinian detainees, one of

the disputes which dogged earlier stages of the Israeli-Palestinian ne-

It said Arafat and some executive committee members would prepare for what it called a comprehensive national dialogue to unite the Pal-

# Manipur heading for hung assembly

GUWAHATI, India - India yesterday in the first of six states to count ballots in assembly elections that could prove pivotal for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

With 45 of 59 races decided in the northeastern state of Manipur, the opposition Manipur People's Party (MPP) and the Congress had clinched 15 seats each. Congress, which won 26 of 60 seats in the last polls, in 1990, led the outgoing government with the support of independents but was expected to head for a close finish with the MPP in a hung assembly.

Polling in one constituency in the insurgency-riven state was postponed following the murder of a candidate during an election campaign in which at least 11 people were killed.

Manipur is one of six states holding assembly polls that will test the political winds before general elections that Rao is due to hold by March, 1996. State elections have no direct bearing on the composition of the national parliament or the federal government. Rao has said he will reshuffle his cabinet after the biggest states, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar, begin counting votes on March 11. He will have a chance to seize the political initiative on March 15 when his government announces the ginning April 1. — Reuter

# Grozny shelled

GOITY, Russia forces shelled rebel fighters and villages close to the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday and said they had foiled a push to break through their lines into the shattered city.

Chechens in Goity, just south of Grozny, said they had come under fire during the night for the first time. Shelling of Alkhanyurt, west of the capital, was also clearly audible when a Reuter correspondent visited Goity before noon. Itar-Tass news agency said the

rebels had simultaneously attacked Russian positions from the north and south of Grozny during the night but were repulsed with heavy artillery It said clashes also broke out in the Ilinskoye, Berkat-Yurt and No-

vopromyslovsky districts on the

southern edges of Grozny, but Inter-fax news agency said fighting had

died down later. "All (rebel) attempts to break through into Grozny were foiled,' Tass quoted an unidentified official as saying at the Russian military command in Mozdok, just outside Chechnya. - Reuter



# there would then be meetings with Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali, King Hassan of Morocco

UN sets date for Rabbani to quit Mahmoud Mestiri, struggling to rescue his peace plan for war-ravaged Afghanistan, announced yesterday that President Burhanuddin Rabbani had promised to end his self-

extended term on March 21. "Rabbani has not set any conditions for his agreement and he has given an undertaking to hand over power on that day," Mestiri told a news conference in Kabul.

Mestiri, who had originally planned for Rabbani to transfer power two days ago to a representative 'mechanism" of 30 Afghan leaders, said a four-man working group had been formed to consider the composition of the mechanism and to establish a security force that would be in place for the transfer of power.

militia known as Taleban had given conditional assurances that it would not block the plan.

'The Taleban have agreed with this and have promised not to obstruct the peace process, provided there is an Islamic government that conforms to the will of the majority of the Afghan people," the former Tunisian foreign minister said. Mestiri, whose original timetable fell apart because of the sudden

er government demands, expressed satisfaction with the latest agreement. "I think it is quite an impressive result, considering the difficult days we have just been through," he said. Mestiri was speaking after hold-

emergence of the Taleban and tough-

to Kabul from the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, early yesterday after briefing some Afghan leaders slated to take part in the interim mechanism. Arrangements for the end of Rabbani's term, now eight weeks overdue, began to fray after the previously little-known Taleban reached the gates of Kabul on February 14.

Their heavily armed fighters, who had ousted main opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from his strongholds south of the Afghan capital, want pro-Rabbani fighters to lay down their arms and let them enter the city unopposed.

Rabbani's forces, led by famed militant commander Ahmad Shah Masood, have responded by foring separate talks with Taleban and tifying their positions. — Reuter

RAMADAN LECTURES

Lectures, seminars and cultural competitions to be conducted by the clubs of the Sultanate during the Holy month of Ramadan as prepared by

Lecture of Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamed Al Khalili, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate

Lecture on the "Islamic Arts and their

Lecture on "Islam fights dependence

on others" by Ahmed Saleh Al Tauqi

Lectures on "Moral Ethos for the

Islamic Transactions" by Sheikh

Lecture on "Impact of Zakat in the

Muslim Community" by Dr. Adnan

Lecture on "Contributions of Muslim

Lecture on "Importance of Fictions in

Lecture on "Place of fasting among

Holy Quran" by Dr. Sheikh Yousuf bin

Scholars to Scientific Progress"

by Dr. Anwar Said Al Shahawi

Lecture on Social Insurances

Final Round of Quiz Contest Final Round of Chess Contest

Lecture on Social Insurances

other mode of worships"

impact on the modern life:

by Dr. Farooq Beisdi

Hashim Hashish

Ahmed Al Ammari

Ibrahim Al Sarhani

Religious Contests

DATE PROGRAMME

# All eyes on Eid

of Ramadan comes nearer to a fitting close, everyone is ready to welcome the advent of an auspicious Eid-ul-Fitr. Local sougs are thriving these days

with people shopping for Eid,

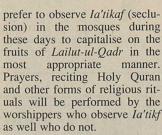
which marks the end of a month

Even as the shopping and other preparations are in full swing, all are attaching much importance to the worship of Al-lah, particularly in the last ten days of Holy Ramadan, as these days are most important in terms of the rewards, the

man expect from Allah, the

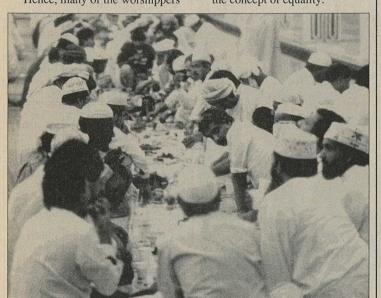
Almighty, by worshipping

Him. In the closing days of Ramadan, everyone is expecting the Lai-lat-ul-Qadr (Night of Destiny), wherein performing a single form of virtue will be eminently rewarded by Allah as if it is being performed consecutively for a period of thousand months. Hence, many of the worshippers



As the charity deserves prominent divine rewards during the Holy month (as much as 700 times higher than on any other occasions), Zakat (a compulsory religious tax) and other forms of alms-giving are being performed on large-scale. The Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, on its part, is now distributing the Zakat to the poor and the needy.

Besides, the Zakat-ul-Fitr will be performed on the day before Eid-ul-Fitr, as it is meant to provide the poor with necessary food items to celebrate Eid along with others exemplifying the concept of equality.



Iftar time at Sultan Qaboos Mosque in Ruwi. - Photo by Rodolfo Alfonso Hamriya road project nears completion

By Suzy Fontes
MUSCAT — Work on the
Hamriya Road Dualisation Project, initiated in June last year, is expected to be complete by March 15 (Arab City Day), according to a senior official in the Muscat Mu-

Already 75 per cent of the work is done and the completed right side road has been opened to public since the 18 of this month. And if things work out according to the plans of the Muscat Municipality team, the Hamriya dual carriageway could be opened to the public by February 28, Kalil bin Ahmed Al Kalili, Director of Roads at the Muscat Municipality, said.

"The total project, which is a combination of road work and beautification, will feature a minimum of two metres walkway on both sides, two lanes each of 3.65 metres, series of car parks covering 2.7 metres and central median of two metres with street lights. These features will be similar on either sides of the road," he ex-

The total extent of the road covered by the project is 1.1 kilometres, running from the Hamriya Roundabout to the Baladiya street. The width of the road, once completed, will be 7 metres.

The completed Hamriya road will be replete with the essential in-

It will be one of the few main roads in the city to be furnished with drainage facilities. This will ensure that both the traffic as well drainage problems are sorted on a permanent basis. Problems of water stagnation, caused by rain, is rooted out for good. Moreover, all the overhead wires will be placed

The decision to dualise the road was taken last year to ease the traffic problems in the area. "Hamriya is one of the important commercial areas, serving as an entrance to Hamriya as well as a link to Ruwi and even Wadi Kabir, through the Baladiya Street. The traffic con-



Hamriya road dualisation work in progress.

gestion caused during the peak hours, spurred us to take up this project without delay," Kalili point-

The beautification aspect of the project was concerned with the provision of side walks for the conveyance of the public, with appropriate illumination of the entire area; and organised car park in lieu of the earlier scattered parking sys-

Safety has been given due prominence by marking clear cut zebra crossing and defining areas meant for the public and the traffic. Easy access to the neighbouring areas has also been given prime concern.

In the process of road dualisation, around 14 cases of property were directly affected by the widening of the roads. All of them have been adequately compensated and relocated by the Muscat Mu-

The major junction at Hamriya and Yiti, will now not only accommodate traffic from Yiti, whose importance has been enhanced with the development of roads in the area by the Muscat Municipality, but will also facilitate the smooth movement of traffic from the Hamriya Roundabout. It will serve as the only main junction.

However, no other roundabouts have been installed in the road covered by the project, since the distance is short. And according to Kalili, roundabouts have proved to be the cause of more traffic prob-

Muscat Municipality has received a positive response to the entire project. "We are aware that the commuters were inconvenienced

during the completion of the project. It is unavoidable. Construction of road is a very tedious job and requires a lot of work. Besides, Hamriya is one of the complex roads.

However, with the opening of the right side of the road, all the problems are sorted. The peak hour traffic flow is smooth and easy. The system is working perfectly. We anticipate things to improve further with the completion of the project. Business is also expected to flourish in the wake of these developments," he explained.

Besides, plans are on to improve the traffic flow at the Baladiya Street junction. The same needs to be monitored and the municipality hopes to work together with the ROP towards this.

Take rest to counter flu, says Elbualy

By A Staff Reporter Health Services here in the Sultanate of Oman has cautioned citizens and residents alike on the perils of indulging in stressful work when they are down with cold, or connected ail-

Dr. Musallum bin Seif Elbualy told Times of Oman yesterday that majority of the children and adults here who were currently under the 'cold and fever' spell were to take sufficient rest and also advised them to stay as healthy as possible.

These illnesses take time to get over, and the best way to counter it is not to over-exert, nor stay late into the night," Dr. Elbualy said.

He averred that having a 'flue' during this season was common, and unavoidable. "Some flus are known to run for three weeks," he said, adding that although there was a vaccine for flue, the virus kept changing and thereby proved ineffective.

He also pointed out that research into finding a vaccine for the cold virus had proved unsuccessful. He advised not to spend money on medication to quell coughing. "The don't work, it is a waste of money, he said pointing out that the traditional method of treating it was far more beneficial.

He said for coughs, it would be ideal to have a mixture of warm water, bee honey and lime juice. This can be made taking an Omani Kahwa cup full of warm water, another cup with bee honey, and yet another with 'A child can be given one teaspoon,

VENUE Al Muhallab bin Abi

Seeb Club

Bidiyya Club

Saham Club

Nizwa Club

Manah Club

Musanah Club

Dhofar Club

Muscat Governorate

Al Batinah Region

Diba Club

Al Wahda Club

Sufra Mosque, Muscat

medicines for runny noses, or cold and fever in general, were no better than placebos. "Not only that they have side-effects, wherein you get drowsy," he said, pointing out the

He also pointed out that the nose bleedings accompanying colds were also not uncommon. "The problem is accentuated when the nose bleeders sneeze with their mouth closed," he.

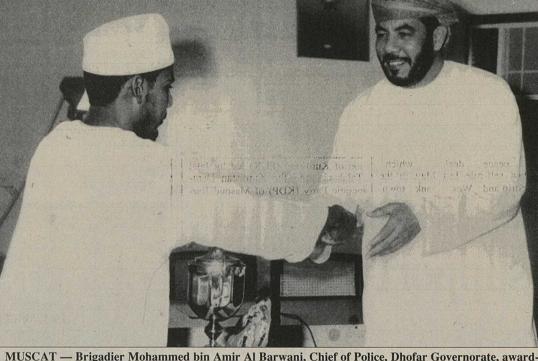
"The ideal way is to open the mouth and sneeze during this time. This way the pressure is invariably Dr. Elbualy said that children spit

make the children lie down when they bleed through the nose or the mouth. "It only increases the blood

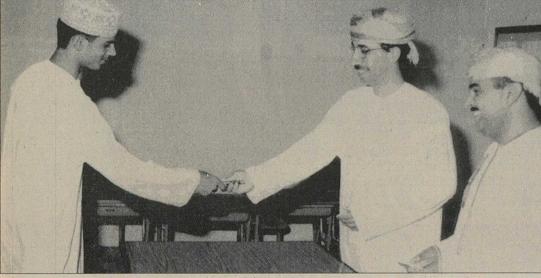
cases, the child's nose should be



Sheikh Saif bin Hashil Al Maskery, Undersecretary for Tourism at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, inaugurating the Muscat Sports' new branch at Al Araimi Complex. Present at the opening ceremony were VIPs, officials from sports associations and other sports personnel. — Photo by Rodolfo Alfonso



MUSCAT — Brigadier Mohammed bin Amir Al Barwani, Chief of Police, Dhofar Governorate, awarding a prize to one of the winners of the religious and cultural competitions held yesterday at Thumrait Air Base as part of the Ramadan activities of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO).



awarding a prize to a winner in the cultural competition held yesterday at SAB.

# MUSCAT — Group Captain Said bin Hamdoon Al Harthy, Commander of Salalah Air Base (SAB),

# PHARMACIES

MUSCAT REGION MUSCAT REGION
(Day Duty)
Muscat, Ruwi. Tel. 703245.
Bait Hatat, Wadi Adai. Tel. 565622.
Waleed, Ghala. Tel. 593606.
Seeb, Seeb. Tel. 600294.
(Night Duty)
Al Farabi, Ruwi. Tel. 793797.
Muscat, Ruwi. Tel. 702542.
Scientific, Al Qurum. Tel. 560890.
Assalam, Seeb. Tel. 537331.
DHOFAR REGION
(Day Duty)

(Day Duty) Al Eiman, Salalah. Tel. 294490. (Night Duty) National, Salalah. Tel. 291161.

FRIDAY

MUSCAT REGION (Day Duty) Ibn Sina, Muttrah. Tel. 714649. Al Khuwair, Ruwi. Tel. 704204. Faiz, Al Hamriya. Tel. 705899. Al Zahra, Al Khuwair. Tel. 600832. Al Hail, Al Hail. Tel. 537341. Muscat, Seeb. Tel. 621691. Abu Asiya, Al Ma'abelah. Tel. 551347.

(Night Duty)
Faiz, Muttrah. Tel. 792242.
Mazoon, Ruwi. Tel. 7004165. Al Khuwair, Al Khuwair. Tel. 699171. Al Tadawa, Seeb. Tel. 550670.

DHOFAR REGION (Day Duty)
Waleed, Salalah. Tel. 294905.
Ibn Hiyan, Salalah. Tel. 294667. (Night Duty)
Dhofar, Salalah. Tel. 295552.

# OMAN TV

Royal Anthem
Holy Quran
News
Religious Prog.
Children's serial
Ramadan Competition
Arabic Serial
Ramadan Dish
Noon Prayer
Ramadan Quiz
News
Bahrain News Letter Bahrain News Letter Barrani News Lett
Ramadan Quiz
Jawahir Al Kalam
Competition
Arabic Serial
Cultural Prog.
Afternoon Prayer News Cartoons Arabic Serial Holy Quran

Sunset prayer
Learn to Recite Holy Quran
Ramadan Quiz
Heritage Talk
Ramadan Quiz
Religious Talk religious rayer
Evening prayer
Children's serial
English News
Arabic Serial
Childrens' Competition
Sound and Echo Signs are enough for the wise News Guided by the Royal Speech The eternal language Arabic Serial Ramadan Quiz

Insakiyyat Prayers Cultural Prog. Tele-film

# WEATHER

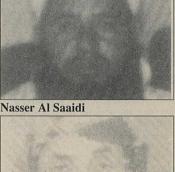
Mainly clear skies will prevail over the Sultanate, skies becoming partly cloudy over Musandam and Al

Dhahira.
Temperature recorded in other cities: Muscat 24 (75), Abu Dhabi 25 (77), Dubai 23 (73), Riyadh 27 (81), Jeddah 27 (81), Bahrain 21 (70), Kuwait 17 (63), Amman 09 (48), Doha 21 (70), Beirut 10 (50), Damascus 11 (52), Cairo 17 (63), Karachi 26 (79), Bombay 30 (86), Paris 08 (46), London 10 (50), Geneva 07 (45), Makkah 30 (86), Madinah 24 (75), Sanaa 27 (81), Aden 28 (82), Mukalla 26 (79), Tehran 07 (45), Ankara 07 (45) and Baghdad 13 (55).

Ankara 07 (45) and Baghdad 13 (55).					
TEMP	M	AX	MI	IN	
Seeb	25	77	16	61	
Mina Al					
Sultan Qaboos	28	82	20	68	
Buraimi	27	81	10	50	
Khasab	24	75	17	63	
Ibri	29	84	12	54	
Nizwa	29	84	16	61	
Sohar	24	75	14	57	
Saiq	15	59	05	41	
Jabal Shams	11	52	01	34	
Sur	27	81	19	66	
Masirah	28	82	22	72	
Thumrait	29		15	59	
Salalah	27	81	20	68	
Mina Raysut	20	68	20	68	
Qairoon Hairiti	22	72	15	59	
Haima	30	86	16	61	
Marmul	28	82	16	61	
Fahud	30		14	57	
Al Halanyat	29		20	68	
Mad'ha	28		16	61	
Johal Samban	10	66	12	51	

# Toyota winners

MUSCAT — Those who have been following these columns may have been observing with keen enthusiasm the growing number of winners from Toyota. Winners have emerged from all corners of the Sultanate — Ibri, Sohar, Muscat, Nizwa, Barka, Sinaw and Bidaya. The latest to join the growing list of winners are: Said Khamis Mohd. Al Shahoumi from Ibri, Nasser Rashid Mohd Shah Alam from Muscat.





Said Al-Shahoumi

# Ship's crew in fresh appeal for help

**DUBAI** — In a fresh appeal for help the crew of *MV Ajmer*, the Honduran-flagged cargo ship detained at Jebel Ali port, said they were desperate to return home to their families but alleged they were being harassed for having spoken out about their plight.

The owner is blackmailing us. We are in a dire situation. We have already spent more than two months on the boat. All we ask for is that our dues be paid so we could return home," said a tearful Abbas Ismail, who said his wife had been hospitalised after an accident and he was desperate to return home.

"I have been receiving messages from home. I have four children and there is nobody to look after them as my wife is in hospital. I am urgently needed, but I cannot go until I get what is owed to me because I have no money," he said last night. Speaking on behalf of about six crew members, both Indian and Pakistani, he alleged that when they appealed to the owner about his situation they were threat-

He claimed they were not paid any money at all these past couple of months "not even for basic necessities

and we have been borrowing Dh 10 from people who work in the port," he

The other crew members who want to leave are Sadanand Bhandari, Ahmed Nadim, Artab Ahmed, Mohammed Ramzan, and Sultan Habib, besides Abbas Ismail. They claim that four crew members, including the Captain, had been paid their dues and had "But we are being harassed. One

of our Indian crew members left in a dire mental state without even being paid because he could not take it any more. This is not fair," they said. The crew members also refuted claims by the owner that he had not been paid for the cargo and that the cargo of dates had been spoilt due to exposure to sun

"This is not true. The dates are fine and in fact they are in the process of removing the dates right now in front of our eyes," alleged Ismail.
"Please help us," they appealed in a call to Khaleej Times last night.

The 2,600-tonne vessel had been detained at Jebel Ali and its cargo of dates impounded, for alleged sanctionbusting until earlier this month

# Oman welcomes Qatar, Bahrain declaration

omed Qatar's and Bahrain's declaration that they wish to resolve their border dispute amicably.

This was announced in an official statement issued by the Foreign Min-istry yesterday. — ONA

# MSM reviews economic performance

MUSCAT — Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Board of Muscat Securities Market (MSM), chaired MSM's first board meeting of

the year yesterday.

The board studied last year's main financial and economic performance indicators for the country's different economic sectors, and reviewed investment and trading activities in the primary and secondary markets. The figures showed that investment in the primary market totalled RO 206 million in 1994, a 51 per cent rise compared with the 1993 figure of RO 139 million. Between 1993 and 1994 the number of public joint-stock com-panies listed on the market increased from 63 to 75. The general price index rose 28 per cent, while the market value of the listed companies rose 36.7 per cent, from RO 620 million in 1993 to RO 848 million in 1994.

The board also reviewed and approved the regulations for the sale and listing of non-Omani securities in the Sultanate, and approved the regu-lations on licensing banks and investment companies to act as financia

# Al Amerat lecture on fasting

AL AMERAT — There was a lecture on the pschological benefits of fasting at Al Warith bin Ka'ab Mosque in the Wilayat of Al Amerat on Tues-day night. The lecture, which was given by Salim bin Said Al Toqi, was attended by the Wali of Al Amerat, as well as local sheikhs, dignitaries and members of the public. - ONA

mixture when afflicted with a coughing spell," he said.

Dr. Elbualy was adamant that hazards of driving in this state.

blood when they have tonsillitis, and it should not worry the parents too much. However, it was wrong to

flow," he said. The doctor also said that in these

pinched for no less than 10 minutes, so that he or she starts breathing through the mouth. "A touch with a burnt silver nitrate stick on the spotadministered by a doctor is also one method to eliminate it," Dr. Elbualy said. He also pointed out that smok ers should quit the habit when they,

# **NEIGHBOURS' NEWS**

**BDSC** seeks support

MANAMA — Banks and other companies have been targeted by he Bahrain Disabled Sports Committee to further support their activ-

BDSC Chairman Sheikh Daij bin Khalifa Al Khalifa made the apfrom companies and banks in the past. "But we need a lot more support, and apart from bringing the disabled together also helps us to spread awareness about their needs," he said

# Labour official wants retirement

MANAMA — Labour and Social Affairs Undersecretary Abdulla Rashid Al Madany is seeking early retirement. Al Madany, aged 49, joined the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry as Undersecretary in 1981. Earlier, he had stints as administration manager at Gulf Air and was also the first manager of the Bahrain Flour Mills Company. He began his career as a teacher with the Education Ministry.

# Moon Plaza Hotel facelift

MANAMA — The Moon Plaza Hotel, one of the Bahrain's oldest deluxe hotels, will receive a BD 250,000 facelift early next month.

The complete renovation and refurbishment of the hotel has been carried out after new management, the Al Namal Group of Companies, took over the running of the hotel in November last year on long lease from owner Hassan Sadiq Al Baharna. The 10-storey hotel, established in the late 1960s, was then Bahrain's tallest building and a leading ho-

# Study on unemployment

MANAMA — Bahrain has launched a study to determine the problems of unemployed nationals and the steps needed to solve them.

The Directorate of Labour of Bahraini Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had written to all public and private sector undertakings to increase the share of Bahrainis in the workforce. But despite this, those seeking jobs are still trying to find replacement.

# Seminar on consumer rights

SHARJAH — A seminar here called for greater protection of consumer rights. Titled "Protecting consumers is the society's responsibility", and organised by the UAE Consumer Protection Society in Sharjah, it called for the establishment of a special government authority to determine the specifications of all the consumer goods in the

The seminar discussed various matters related to the well-being of consumers such as the danger of using medicines without prescription, advertisements on slimming medicines, waste disposal and the impact of consumption on environment and pollution.

# Inspection of firecracker shops

DUBAI — The Dubai Economic Department has stepped up its inpections of shops known to stock firecrackers during Ramadan. Officials here say that the number of violators is fewer than half the number caught during last year's Holy month. It has been seen that everybody was cooperating for the safety of children, and there has been no incidents of anyone being "burned" by fireworks so far.

# RCS aid for Chechen refugees

ABU DHABI — Displaced victims of the Chechnya war would receive help from the UAE Red Crescent Society (RCS) before the end of the Holy month of Ramadan.

The society, is one of the first charitable groups in the UAE to extend financial assistance to Chechen refugees. It will channel its donations through the Islamic International Rescue Organisation, which had a local office in Sharjah.

# Polio immunisation campaign

DUBAI — The Ministry of Health is planning a national polio immunisation campaign intended to cover the estimate 28,000 children in UAE aged under five. The UAE is free from the polio virus, and the campaign is meant to guarantee complete eradication of the dis-

The health ministries in all the GCC countries have decided to simultaneously launch a polio campaign which will involve giving two additional polio doses, a month apart, to all children under five, regardless of their immunisation status.



CAIRO – Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (centre left) and PLO Chief Yasser Arafat (centre right) chat after a crisis meeting with the PLO

Palestinians form

anti-Arafat group

in West Bank

Rabin, coalition

partner end row

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a coalition

The Dovish Meretz party, its votes crucial to Rabin's razor-thin majority in

Meretz wanted an additional portfolio for its environment Minister Yossi

Since my discussion with the prime minister, from my viewpoint the af-

Rabin said he asked Sarid to drop the issue in recognition of the "historic

At the cabinet meeting Rabin announced Tourism Minister Uzi Baram

Rabin himself has been holding the two jobs until now, hoping the ultra-

orthodox Shas Party would accept them in return for joining the government.

challenge" facing the government, still trying to come to terms with the PLO on expanding self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to other parts of the West

would also take on the job of interior minister while Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet would assume the job also of Minister of Religion. Both men

partner key to Middle East peace moves defused a row on Tuesday hours after

parliament, reacted angrily after the prime minister, at a special cabinet meet-

Sarid, a peace negotiator and an architect of the troubled Israeli-PLO peace

ing, tapped two ministers of his own Labour Party to fill vacant ministries.

deal. Hours later Rabin and Sarid made peace between themselves.

it erupted over changes Rabin announced in his cabinet.

# Israel, PLO continue poll talks

tiators yesterday began a second day of talks on long-delayed Palestinian elections in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

'The talks are expected to examine further the issue of international supervision of the elections, which both sides have said is vital to ensure their credibility

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said on Tuesday his side wanted supervisors from the United States, Russia, the European Union, Norway, Canada, Japan, Egypt and

Jordan to oversee the elections.
Palestinian elections should have taken place eight months ago, but 10 previous rounds of talks on the elections and an Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank have made little

'Palestinians have repeatedly said they will not hold elections under the barrels of Israeli guns but Israel has said it cannot pull out its troops be-

Attacks by Muslim militants suicide bombers, including one that killed 21 Israelis inside Israel last month, have hampered the nego-

cause of security concerns.

The two sides have also had differences over whether Palestinian groups opposed to the peace accord can participate as candidates or vot-

ers in the elections. The delay in the elections and in widening Palestinian self-rule led to a meeting of the PLO's executive committee in Cairo on Tuesday to assess how the peace process can be

kept alive and made to bear fruit. \*The committee decided early yesterday not to suspend the negotiations with Israel but to launch an international campaign for a thorough review of the Middle East peace

# Gaddafi blasts Nato plan

CAIRO - Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi attacked Nato's plans to discuss security with North African states, saying it was an attack on Islam and the prelude to recolonising the Arab world.

Gaddafi was speaking at a religious celebration on Monday evening. His remarks were carried by the official Libvan news agency Jana, monitored in Cairo.

The Libvan leader noted that Nato Secretary-General Willy Claes had invited ambassadors from Egypt, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia to meet him in Brussels on Friday and discuss alleged threats to Mediterranean security.

The target is widely assumed to be militant movements active in North African states. Gaddafi said: "this means the

start of colonising the Arab world again. It means that Nato has started to fight Islam through Muslims, through the rulers and governments, and to spread its shadow over North Africa.

"This is something dangerous and is bound to lead to confrontation one day," he added. — Reuter

# Arafat meets Mubarak

Arafat yesterday sought Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's support for a Palestinian campaign to save deadlocked peace talks with Israel from collapse.

Arafat and eight PLO executive

committee members decided at a meeting which ended in Cairo earlier yesterday against taking radical steps such as calling off the Middle East peace process, at least until they had consulted their Arab

Arafat and his eight colleagues met Mubarak and his foreign min-

tionalists and Islamists announced

yesterday the formation of the first

Arab coalition in the occupied West

Bank opposed to the Israel-PLO

Bassam Al-Shakaa, a former mayor of Nablus, said the new "Palestinian coalition" was calling for the resignation of PLO Chairman Yasser

"This is the only logical thing to

do after his complete failure," said Shakaa, who lost his legs in a bomb-

ing carried out by Jewish ultra-

position group sought to "reunify the

Palestinian people under one lead-

ership and one institution after the PLO lost its title of representative of

Palestinian sources said the group,

which did not include members of

Arafat's Fatah faction or its rival, the

militant Islamic movement Hamas,

nationalists in 1980.

all Palestinians"

Shakaa told Reuters

after a series of talks with Israeli leaders failed to agree on Israeli withdrawals from West Bank towns and on Palestinian

PLO spokesman and committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo said envoys would go to Arab and Western countries to brief them on the obstacles to progress and muster their diplomatic support.

Committee member Mohamed Zuhdi Nashashibi said: "We want to tell the world that the Israelis are not willing to discuss anything. They are just playing with time and

form a coalition publicly opposed to

1993 peace deal which launched self-rule last May in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town

of Jericho as falling short of their

aspirations for statehood and in-

of Arafat's administration in Gaza

and Jericho, frustration is growing

over an eight-month Israeli delay in

expanding autonomy and frequent

closures of the areas following

bombings by Palestinian militants in

The announcement coincided with a Cairo meeting of the PLO's ex-

ecutive committee convened to dis-

cuss the faltering talks with Israel on

the second stage of the peace deal -

Palestinian elections and Israeli

troop redeployment in the West

Even within Fatah, the backbone

Many Palestinians consider the

the peace process.

at a certain point they feel they can say no to everything," he said. "We will put our case, and it is very clear, that the Israelis are really bringing the negotiations to a dead-The next phase of Palestinian self-rule - Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns and Palestinian elections — should have taken place eight months ago, according to the timetable of their 1993 peace accord.

But Israel has raised doubts about the Palestinians' ability to meet its security requirements after recent suicide attacks against Is-

# Turkey says casualties rise in N. Iraq

ANKARA — More than 100 people have been killed this week in northern Iraq in intensifying fighting between rival Kurdish factions, a senior Turkish official said yesterday.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said Ankara regretted the deaths and was concerned about the clashes between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Masoud Bar-

"Our information is that fighting has intensified and the number of deaths in the last two-three days have exceeded 100," he said but gave no further details.

"We once again call on the two sides to immediately end hostilities and begin contacts necessary for the

'We especially want an end without delay to the attacks on the lives and property of the civilians of Arbil and their security assured," Ataman

Arbil, seat of a dissident Iraqi Kurdish administration supposedly shared between the two groups, has been under PUK control since December while KDP militants have repeatedly attempted to drive them out.

A KDP source said last week that PUK should withdraw its forces from Arbil and make the city accessible to

# Jewish boys held

JERUSALEM — Israeli police said they detained three Jewish teenagers on Tuesday who were carrying small bomb and bullets as they tried to enter the Hebron shrine where a Jew massacred 29 Muslims a

Police said the 15 and 16-year-old youths from Jerusalem were held for questioning at the police station in the West Bank town. The items were discovered when the three were searched after leaving a teargas pistol, a knife and two toy guns at the shrine's entrance as required.

On February 25, 1994, US-born Dr Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler from near Hebron, killed 29 kneeling worshippers at Al-Ibrahimi mosque inside the shrine, the tomb of the Biblical Patriarchs, which is holy to both Jews and Muslims. Israel imposed tougher security measures following the massacre. — Reuter

# Israel questions Syria's commitment to peace

JERUSALEM — Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, taking a new line on Syria, questioned on Wednesday the validity of its stated commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Yossi Beilin said Israel had accepted in recent years that Syria had made a strategic decision to achieve peace and the only question was when a deal would be signed.

'I have some doubts about accepting this because Syria's behaviour in the last few months has not been that of someone who decided unequivocally to pursue peace and is prepared to do his utmost to achieve t," he told Israel radio.

Syria's peace talks with Israel are stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights,

captured by Israel in 1967, and the shape of peace and future ties.
"The current negotiations, or abtion whereby we will not reach peace with the Syrians in 1995 because things are moving at a snail's pace," said Beilin, who is close to foreign

minister Shimon Peres. Beilin's mention of the date was a clear reminder to Syria that time is running out before Israel goes to elections in 1996. The labour government's main rival, the right-wing Liopposes any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Israel, while blaming Syria for the current deadlock in peace efforts, had in the past pointed to repeated statements that comprehensive peace in the Middle East was a strategic option as proof of a commitment to the process.

"They are still playing the game of whether the Syrian ambassador in Washington will or won't come to said. "If that is the case, it is very possible there are other items at the top of the Syrian agenda.'

Syria has said further ambassadorial-level meetings would be useful only if Israel presented new

Beilin said it was possible Syria had only wanted to join the peace process to improve relations with Washington, which still officially regards it as a state that sponsors militancy "without having really intended to reach an agreement with

He questioned whether Syria was prepared to pay the price of peace, which he described as a change in its frontation states against Israel and a possible worsening of its relations

# Italy under fire in toxic waste scandal

BEIRUT — Greenpeace accused Italy yesterday of trying to duck its moral duty to take back thousands of barrels of toxic waste allegedly remaining from a huge consignment it dumped in Lebanon in the 1980s.

À Lebanese "civic emergency committee" simultaneously called for protests at the Italian embassy and Beirut government buildings to demand speedy removal of the waste which has caused a public outcry in Lebanon. The committee, including the head of the parliamentary environmental commission, said a statement by Italian ambassador Carlo Calia that Italy took back in 1988 all the waste it dumped was wrong, and thousands of barrels still remained in

Greenpeace

spokesman Fouad Hamdan also told Reuters that Calia's statement at a news conference on Tuesday was either uninformed or deliberately de-ceitful. "The ambassador either does not know what he's talking about or he is deliberately trying to fool Lebanese and Italian public opinion," Hamdan said by telephone from the office of the international environmental watchdog in Hamburg, Germany. "It is a shame that Italy is trying to make people forget about the whole issue. Italy has a moral duty to help the Lebanese authorities find the waste, dig it out and return it," Ham-dan said. Greenpeace and the Lebanese emergency committee say Italy shipped 15,800 barrels and 20 containers -- totalling 24,000 tonnes of toxic waste -- to Lebanon at the height of the civil war in 1987-88. Greenpeace has called the waste an "ecological time bomb."

But Calia said only 9,567 barrels and three containers were shipped to Lebanon and Italy spent \$10 million to take them all back in 1988.

The ambassador called the Greenpeace figures "mostly fantasy" and added: "We will not take back barrels that do not exist...the barrels that are found now, we know they are not However, Hamdan said Green-

peace had proof that 16,000 barrels were dumped in Lebanon after being

turned away by Venezuela.

He said Italy actually spent only
\$3 million on taking back waste after a row with the Lebanese government. The contents of only 5,500 barrels, mixed with sand to make up some 9,500 barrels, were shipped home in three small freighters. — Reuter

# \$100 million for Kuwaiti defence

nated 30 million dinars (\$100 million) to pay for allied support during a border standoff with Iraq in October, a government minister said in remarks published yesterday. Social Affairs Minister Ahmad Al-

Kulaib said a campaign for voluntary donations to a special defence fund was continuing and many firms had expressed a desire to contribute, the English-language Arab Times reported. Western forces rushed to the region when Iraq, which occupied Kuwait for seven months in 1990-91 deployed troops near the border for 10 days in early October.

Diplomats estimated the cost of the buildup by American, French, British and Gulf Arab air, land and naval forces at around \$500 million, of which Kuwait is paying half. Most of the rest is to be paid by the tiny oil state's Gulf Arab allies. The government originally floated the idea of a mandatory defence levy of between five and 10 per cent of income but backed off amid opposition from citizens and demands from some members of parliament that the levy be proportional to wealth.

Prominent merchants or their families have contributed donations worth hundred of thousands of dinars (dollars) to the fund known as the popular committee for donations, government officials said. - Reuter

# Prison mutiny in Algeria, 4 killed

TUNIS — Jailed militant rebels have mutinied in an Algiers high-security prison, killing four warders they took hostage, according to official reports from Algeria's capital vesterday

Security forces were intervening, the justice ministry said, adding that they had been called in "when it became clear that the security of the penitentiary

"This operation is still going on," the ministry added in a statement carried on the official news agency APS.

Residents contacted yesterday said the security forces were operating inside the prison compound and surrounding it.

APS said the revolt broke out in Serkadji prison on Tuesday. The mutineers seized six warders hostage, killed four of them and wounded another.

"Some prisoners have also been taken hostage by those behind the mutiny," the ministry statement said.

Serkadji prison, surrounded by high walls with constantly-manned guard towers, lies near the defence ministry, on the heights of the Casbah, the ancient heart of Algiers. It holds scores of militants, among them some who have been condemned

APS described the prisoners as offenders against state security, a term used for militant Islamists waging a war against the military-backed government during which an estimated 30,000 people have been killed.

Among the most notable Serkadji prisoners is Abdelkader Hachani, who took over leadership of the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) when its two top men, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, were arrested in June 1991. Hachani guided the FIS to a landslide lead in the first round of Algeria's mutli-party general election which the authorities cancelled in January 1992.

The same month, Hachani was arrested after a statement appeared in local newspapers under his name which the authorities interpreted as a call for soldiers to disobey their officers in the battle against militants. - Reuter

# Congratulations Sahil Enterprises



In celebration of the opening of Sahil Enterprises new showroom in Ruwi, we at Rado extend our best wishes and congratulations to our distributor Sahil Enterprises and management for their outstanding achievements and continued success. Wishing them a prosperous future.

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# UN report slams Iraq's anti-crime report

investigator said on Tuesday that new Iraqi anti-crime decrees under which thieves can have their hands cut off for stealing less than \$10 showed Baghdad's "complete failure" to re-

In a report to the UN human rights commission, former Dutch Foreign Minister Max Van Der Atoel said a series of such decrees issued over the past year constituted an "astounding public institution of cruel and unusual punishments'

Van Der Stoel, the commission's "special rapporteur" on Iraq, said the decrees were just one sign of continuing massive human rights violations in Iraq -- firmly blamed by him on the government of President Sad-

The rapporteur also criticised Iraq for refusing to accept a UN-supervised sale of oil to buy medicines and foodstuffs, which he described as "a further example of a government policy seriously violating numan rights'

fair is over," Sarid told reporters.

His report examines a number of decrees issued by Saddam's revolutionary command council and published in Iraq's official gazette.

Van Der Stoel said Decree No. 59 of June 4, 1994 prescribes "amputation of the right hand at the wrist for a first offence of theft over 5,000 Iraqi dinars" -- or less than \$10. Amputation of the left foot at the ankle is prescribed for a second offence and death for the third.

According to Decree No. 109 of August 18, those who have suffered amputations should be branded or tattooed with an 'X' between the eye-Decree No. 115, issued a week later, "prescribes the cutting off of the auricle of one ear of each person evading military service, deserting military service, or sheltering any evader or deserter of military ser-

Another decree says that farmers

convicted of "sabotage of the national economy" -- that is who refuse to sell their produce to the state at low state prices -- are also liable to amputation of the hand and branding as well as

Van Der Stoel wrote: "It is the opinion of the special rapporteur that these decrees reveal the complete failure of the government to respect its obligations under international human rights law. 'Indeed, it is surely a rarity in the

contemporary international community that a government not only boldly pronounces laws which stip-ulate disfigurement of persons within its jurisdiction, but shamelessly announces and advertises the existence of these punishments."

In three previous reports to the commission, Van Der Stoel has documented widespread rights violations in all spheres of life. He has not been allowed to visit the country since Jan-

He has argued that given Iraq's power structures, the violations were inevitable and that human rights violations were a direct result of state policy. In this year's report, Van Der Stoel said his previous conclusions were still valid. He wrote: "Power is grossly abused on a daily and widespread basis. The special rapporteur submits that the decrees issued recently in Iraq irrefutably substantiate

Van Der Stoel said as well as the state, there was proof of the direct responsibility of a circle of high-placed individuals, individuals who would not be afforded immunity under international law for their actions.

"In this last connection, the special rapporteur continues to receive information providing details of the personal involvement of a growing list of individuals within and around the ruling elite of Iraq in relation to various serious human rights violations," he wrote. — Reuter

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### **BOMBAY STOCKS** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995 **BSE Sensitive Index** Baiai Hind, Lt **BSE National Index** Tata Chem 360.00 Balaii Distiller 260.00 EPC Irria Ind Photo. 320.00 SPECIFIED GROUP 1250.00 Balkrish Ind. 150.00 105.00 Ind. Hume P 1300.00 Tata Tea. 350.00 Bank of Rajasthan Enviro Clean 40.00 Ind. Seamless Bata India Essel Packin 220.00 India Toners Voltas. Bell Ceramio Fabworth (I) 28.00 Inditalia Refcor 18.75 Bharat Forge Zuari Agro Besta Vision Federal Bank 255.00 Indo American Optics Bom Dyeing **NON-SPECIFIED** Finolex Cable 370.00 Indo Biotech 39.50 20.00 100.00 Infosys Tech Foseco India. 225.00 Innovative Marine 220.00 110.00 Bharti Tele Ganesh Benzo Integ. Rubain G.G. Dandeka Adani Export Garden (P) 102.50 GM Eyedorn Invest. Trust 142.50 Ion Exchange 140.00 Birla 3M 190.00 GIC BVCBS IPCA Laborat Ispat Alloys Bom. Burmah 4750.00 Goa Carbon 85.00 Ispat Prof Bombay Drugs Alpic Finance 500.00 Godfrey Phi Guj Alkali Alsa Marine BPL Eng. Ltd .65.00 Goodlass 210.00 ITI Ltd. 65.00 Altos India Burrough Wel Goodvalue Ma .. 95.00 162.50 Camlin Ltd Grind Norton GTN Textiles Amtrex Appl Carr. Aircon Gujarat Flour Guj. Inj (Ker) Hous. Dev Fir 225.00 Andhra Pape Gujarat NRE Coke Anmol Dairy Chambal Fert 29.00 Gui. Gas Guj. Lease Chicago Pneu 130.00 Guj. Godrej 48 00 Jayant Agro Ansal Prop Cifco Finance Gvan Leather Jaybh. Marut Indogulf Fer Appl. Elect (I 125.00 Hanil E. Tex 240.00 37.00 Jaiprakash I. JK Corp. Ltd Jindall Drill Colour Chem 4400.00 Havell's Ind. 35.00 Jindal Iron. Core Healthcare HB Portoflio Leasing Jindal Strip CRB Capital Jm. Sh. Stock Ashokley Fir Crompton Gr Hawkins Cook 40.00 Kabra Extr. HCL-Hewl-Pa Modi Rubbe Dalal Street Comm Hero Honda Kajaria Cer. 122.00 Damania Air 30.00 Himachal Tel 62.50 Kalvani Brak Dawn Mills Hind Nitro Kanel Oil Exp Atco Indust Ponds India 130.00 14 00 Digital Word Hoechst Ind Autolite Car 200.00 330.00 Autorid Fi Dolphin Lab Hotline (P) 55.00 KG Denim B & A Plant cnet Ltd. 45.00 Khaitan H Sp Dr. Reddy Iggi Resort Ind. Card . 40.00 Kin Honda .. 68.00 Kinetic Eng... 105.00 Kiran Oversea 210.00 E. Merck . 23.00 **MUSCAT SECURITIES** TRADING CHART FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995 ector 122 04: Market Price Index 152 45 OPNG LOW CLSG PRICE 22500 7.500 7.500 7.500 7.500 7.500 onal Beverages Co. Ltd. 3,800 3,800 3,800 3,800 3.800 BANKS & INVEST CO. SEC. Nat'i Bank of Oman Bank Oman, Bahrain & Kuwait Oman Int'i Bank 14157 1.800 1.820 1.850 1.820 nan Development Bank ofar Int'l Develop, Inv. Co. nancial Services Al-Ahlia Portfolio Co. INSURANCE SECTOR 15105 | 4,700 | 4,750 | 4,750 | 4,750 man Nat'l Insurance Co hofar Insurance Co 50% SERVICES SECTOR ort Services Corp. 3.420 3.420 3.420 3.420 3.420 Oman Fisheries Co TOTAL PARALLEL MARKET emputer Stationary Industry Al-Batna Dairy Corporate Nat'l Aluminum Products Al Amal Industries Oman Water Pumps Mfg. 1,380 A Rawdha Quarries 4.800 4.350 4.500 4.500 4.500 Reem Batteries & Power Appl. Co Construction Malerials Industry Cholar Marble & Granite 0.600 National Packaging Factory Oman Packaging Oman Packaging Oman Copper Industries Al Ahlia Detergent Company Oman Cement Company Al Salan Food Industries 1.820 1.810 1.810 1.810 1.810 Al Anwar Industrial & Trading Co National Carpet Factory Oman Securities Portfolio Co. Bank Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani mmercial Bank of Oman scat Finance Oman & Emirales Inv. Co. 50% (Omar 1.090 1.080 1.090 Oman & Emirates Inv. Co. 50% (Emirates) The Oryx Joint Inv. Fund 1837 1.660 1.660 1.660 1.660 Oman Agriculture Dev Ohofar Tourism 50% Modern Poultry Farm 6.650

# A year on, no listings on Lusaka bourse LUSAKA - A year after the Lu

19.00

35.00

no shares have been listed but the exchange has recorded over a thousand trades in unlisted shares valued at over 300 million kwacha (\$375,000).

1994 has been very disappointing but this year we are expecting two to be a lot more positive," Luse manager David Lister told Reuters on Tues-

"Once we get listed shares it will demonstrate that shares can be sold to the public and other companies would then consider raising capital by issuing shares," he said. The Luse hopes to have its first

listing of shares in the next few weeks when the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines' (ZCCM) "B" ordinary shares application is processed.

ZCCM has advertised in the local

press its prospectus for the listing of its "B" shares, also traded on the London Stock Exchange and in the United States.

Zambia's privatisation programme, on which the Luse pinned its hopes for increased activity on the exchange through listed shares, has been slow with only 14 state en-terprises privatised by December 1994 out of over 150 under the fiveyear programme which started in 1993.

In his 1995 budget, Finance Minister Ronald Penza directed the Zambia Privatisation Agency (ZPA) to sell over 100 companies already approved for privatisation this year.

"The government has approved more than 100 companies for sale. In 1995 all these companies have to be sold." Penza said. The Luse, opened in February

1994, has accepted a third stockbroking company, Finance Securities, in addition to the two founding members, Cavmont and Meridien Secur-

# UK offers help to rebuild N. Lanka

COLOMBO - Britain is interested in joining an \$816 million plan to rebuild Sri Lanka's war-torn northern areas now controlled by Tamil rebels, gov-

The offer was made by visiting British Trade Minister Richard Needham during talks with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

The officials quoted Needham, accompanied by a 31 British businessmen looking for trade and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, as saying Britain

would like to get involved in power and energy projects in the north.

The Sri Lankan government has prepared a rehabilitation plan costing \$816 million for the north, including repairs to roads, telecommunication, power supply, schools and hospitals, and is looking for foreign support to fund it. A Presidential Task Force, entrusted with the job, was scheduled to meet

potential donor countries and agencies on Wednesday for help. Damage to utilities in the north and east in a 12-year war between government troops and Tamil separatist rebels, runs into several million dollars.

More than 30,000 people have died in the rebel campaign for independence. A truce has been in force since January 8, after talks were resumed under Kumaratunga's People's Alliance which won power last August. Needham, heading Britain's biggest business delegation to Colombo, said

Sri Lanka was a high priority on London's agenda.

We see Sri Lanka becoming the next industrialised country in Asia." he told reporters after signing a letter of intent with Sri Lankan Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte to build seven mini hydro plants costing \$60 million and designed to generate a total output of 40 megawatts.

The plants, to be financed by the private sector, will be build by Britain's Biwater group on a build, operate and transfer contract for 30 years. The agreement was signed between Richard Needham, the British Minister for Trade, and Anuruddha Ratwatte, Sri Lanka's Minister for Irrigation, Power and Energy. Trevor Taylor, the chief executive of Biwater International, was

The Build-Own-Transfer project is being financed by private investors. Construction is expected to take four years.

The power will be supplied to the state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board at an agreed and guaranteed tariff Needham said the British government was pleased with the peace efforts

pursued by the Colombo government. Negotiators will resume soon a fourth round of talks with Tamil rebels which should pave the way for increased development in the country. "There is a great need for infrastructure which we can help with our ex-

pertise. We must strike while the iron is hot," he said. Needham said his delegation was interested in power, roads and infrastructure, areas which the Sri Lankan government has opened to private sector

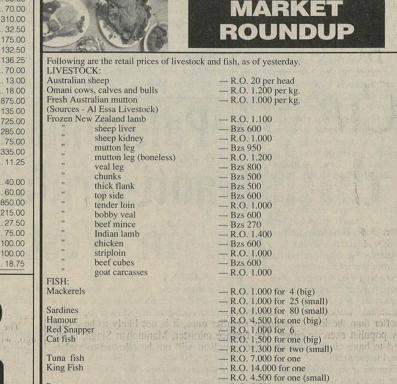
The British minister, who arrived on Sunday, had meetings with ministers in charge of trade and commerce, transport, highways, housing construction, posts and telecommunications, ports and rehabilitation work during his four-

# البنك الوطني العماني المحدود (ش م ع ع) NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN LIMITED (S.A.O.G)

Head office P.O. Box 751, Ruwi, Postal Code: 112, Sultanate of Oman Tel: 708894, Fax: 707781, Telex: 3281 NBO ON, Cable: NATBANK

# **Exchange rates**

Foreign currency for one Omani Rial		Omani Rial per one unit of foreign currer	icy			
Selling	Currency	Buying	Selling			
3.46	Australian Dollar	0.2844	0.2889			
26.80	Austrian Schilling	0.03672	0.03731			
0.974	Bahraini Dinar	1.015	1.027			
100.91	Bangladesh Taka	0.00951	0.00991			
77.94	Belgian Franc	0.01261	0.01283			
3.60	Canadian Dollar	0.2738	0.2777			
3.20	Chinese Renminbi	0.0000	0.0000			
1.18	Cyprus Pound	0.830	0.845			
14.99	Danish Kroner	0.06581	0.06673			
3.79	Deutsche Mark	0.2607	0.2639			
4.25	Dutch Guilder	0.2326	0.02351			
13.22	French Francs	0.07472	0.07567			
19.92	Hongkong Dollar	0.0493	0.0502			
79.81	Indian Rupee	0.01213	0.01253			
4115.23	Italian Lira	0.000236	0.000243			
250.56	Japanese Yen	0.003950	0.003991			
1.792	Jordanian Dinar	0.549	0.558			
0.768	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.282	1.302			
6.56	Malaysian Ringit	0.1482	0.1525			
4.02	New Zealand Dollar	0.2440	0.2485			
16.68	Norwegian Kroner	0.05896	0.05996			
78.06	Pakistani Rupee	0.01246	0.01281			
1.62	Pound Sterling	0.605	0.616			
9.41	Qatari Riyal	0.1052	0.1063			
9.69	Saudi Riyal	0.1021	0.1032			
3.74	Singapore Dollar	0.2641	0.2673			
316.46	Spanish Pesetta	0.00282	0.00316			
125.31	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.00758	0.00798			
18.72	Swedish Kroner	0.05241	0.05343			
3.20	Swiss Francs	0.3058	0.3124			
9.49	UAE Dirham	0.1043	0.1054			
2.58	US Dollar	0.381	0.388			
Courtesy	Courtesy: National Bank of Oman Limited (SAOG) 22/02/95					



Indic						Barrier Share	The state of	
	OMR	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	NLG	AUL
Savings	3.25%	4.81	3.75	5.00	1.12	2.12	3.91	6.31
Call	3.00%	3.81	2.75	4.00	0.12	1.12	2.91	5.31
1 Month	4.50%	5.50	4.31	6.00	1.68	2.93	4.41	7.00
2 Months	4.62%	5.56	4.43	6.06	1.71	3.07	4.46	7.12
3 Months	4.75%	5.62	4.45	6.18	1.71	3.19	4.51	7.31
6 Months	5.00%	5.87	4.62	6.52	1.71	3.43	4.70	7.75
9 Months	5.25%	6.18	4.81	6.93	1.84	3.69	4.88	8.00
12 Months	5.50%	6.43	5.10	7.25	1.81	3.82	5.13	8.37

	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	NLG	AUD
1 Week	7.56	6.43	8.00	3.75	4.94	6.50	9.31
1 Month	7.62	6.43	8.12	3.75	5.06	6.54	9.25
2 Months	7.68	6.56	8.18	3.78	5.22	6.59	9.37
3 Months	7.75	6.50	8.31	3.78	5.34	6.64	9.56
6 Months	8.00	6.75	8.75	3.78	5.58	6.83	10.00
9 Months	8.31	6.93	9.06	3.90	5.81	7.00	10.37
12 Months	8.56	7.25	9.37	3.94	5.97	7.28	11.75

PERIOD 1 MONTH 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 9 MONTHS 12 MONTHS	0.61335 0 0.61315 0 0.61405 0 0.61429 0	DEM .26310 .26381 .26559 .26712 .26867	CHF 0.31154 0.31334 0.31629 0.31926 0.32231	0.07565 0.07580 0.07611	0.004 0.004 0.004	39946 0.23 40268 0.23	3536 3723 3863	ITL 0.00023929 0.00023647 0.00023712 0.00023546 0.00023358
Spot rate	s against	US\$			Cros	s rates		
DEM GBP JPY CHF FRF NLG AUD ECU	USD 1.4720 1.5857 97.1500 1.2440 5.1310 1.6495 0.7434 1.2729		DEM GBP JPY CHF FRF	DEM 2.3340 1.5157 118.3700 0.2870	GBP 0.4286 — 0.6493 0.5071 0.1229	JPY 66.0200 153.7500  78.1100 18.9600	CHF 0.8455 1.9755 1.2815 — 24.2643	FRF 3,4861 8,1594 5,2836 4,1262

**Courtesy of THE BRITISH BANK OF THE** MIDDLE EAST, OMAN.



# **TENDER BOARD**

**TENDER NO. 162/94** Opened on 13.02.95 Adam Water Supply (desalination plant)

I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order:

1) Al - Matar Trading & Cont. 2) Bahwan Contracting Co. LLC

3) Best Enterprises 4) Civil Contracting Co. (Oman)

5) Galfar Eng'g & Cont. LLC 6) Oman National Electric Co.

7) Sogex Oman Co. LLC 8) Taylor Woodrow Towell Co. LLC

II. List of tender amount in ascending order:

1) 467,828.110 2) Main 549,680.172 Alt 562,880.172

1.300 1.290 1.290 1.290

**BONDS MARKET** 

LOW BID PRICE

114.337 116.646

14.308 14.597

1.000

115552

VOLUME HIGH

91203

BONDS

man International Marketing
TOTAL

man Portf. Inv. Units - 2nd 1992

Ovpt Bonds 1st 1996 8.50% Ovpt Bonds 4th 1997 8.50% Ovpt Bonds 5th 1995 8.25%

vpt Bonds 11th 1999 8.005

AGGREGATE TOTAL

THIRD MARKET

1.290

PRICE 100

1000

NO. OF CONT

OFFER I NOMINAL

3) 583,396,077 4) 597,561.369 5) Main 601,169.897

Alt 618,669.897 6) 649,568.174 7) 667,775.000 8) 730,631,417 TENDER No. 1/95

Opened on 13th 13.02.95

Health Centre at Jabal Al-Khour (Wilayat Bahla) I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order:

1) Al Fahal Contracting Co. LLC 2) Al Hilal Transport Contracting and Trading 3) Ali Mohd. Ali Al-Mahrouky and

Partners Co. 4) Al Majid Trading and Contracting 5) Al Mubarak General Trading & Cont. Co.

6) Jadees for Development and Construction Co. 7) Teejan Trading and Contracting

8) Urich Trading and Contracting Enterprises II. List of tender amount in ascending order:

1) 285,998.607 2) 296,383.830 3) 307,297.450 4) 307.359.550 5) 338,809,777 6) 344,010.332 7) 356,343.479

8) 422 886 905

TENDER NO. 2/95

Opened date on 13.02.95 Health Centre at Dimma I. List of tenderers in alphabetical

1) Al Fahal Contracting Co. 2) Al Hilal Transport, Contracting & Trading

3) Ali Mohd. Ali Al-Mahrouky & Partners Co. 4) Al Majid Trading & Contracting 5) Al Mubarak General Trading & Contg. Co.

6) Jadees for Development & Construction Co. 7) Teejan Trading & Contracting

8) Urich Trading & Contracting Enterprises II. List of tender amount in ascending order: 1) 337,501.133

2) 348,637.250 3) 356,073.314 4) 359,500.000 5) 370,674.478

6) 399, 336, 984

7) 423,941.415

8) 427,403,600

Tender No. 165/94

Opened on 6th February 1995 ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION WORKS (LV-433 VOTLS AT JABAL AKHDAR NIZWA AREA

**Bullion** 

I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order: 1) Al Munawara LLC

2) Galfar Engineering & Contracting 3) Modern Light Trading & Contg.

4) Volt Electrical and Mechanical

Contractors II. List of tender amount in

ascending order: 1) 185,411.050 2) 197,333,400 3) 225,500.000

Opened date on 23/01/1995 Tender No. 161/94 15 Classroom preparatory school for girls at Aseela, Sharqiya region I. List of tenderers in alphabetical

order: 1) Ahmed Industrial & Cont. Enterprises 2) Al Amerat Trading Industrial &

4) 229,222.701

Contg. Co.

II. List of tender amount in sec ascending order: 1) 324,618.385 2) 359,209.970 3) 377,001.685 407,396.763 ) 409,008.549 6) 433,027,126 7) 597 895 899 Tender No. 159/94 Al Masarrat pre-design drilling Al Ayn area contract No. 94/1029

3) Al Basath Trading & Cont.

5) Iss Trading & Cont. Est.

7) Tuftaf Est. LLC

6) Nous Trading & Cont. Est.

4) Al Tubaa Trading & Cont. Est.

I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order: 1) Hamood Al-Rashidi & Brothers Trading Est. Drilling Co.

2) Lalbauksh Irrigation & Well 3) Oman Drilling & Soil Technology

II. List of tender amount in ascending order:

1) 294,969.400

3) 376,805.000

United States and the United King-

dom expanded at a much more rapid

pace and so did their legislation. We

are trying to get the benefit of this,"

eeking to win back its role as a regional banking centre and financial marketplace, has begun a sweeping revision of its banking and finance laws to bring them up to date with modern requirements.

Nasser Saidi, first vice-governor of the Bank of Lebanon, told Reuters in an interview a joint committee formed by the bank and the justice ministry is working on the task under his chairmanship.

"Our banking and finance laws

need to be modernised. We also need a number of new laws," said Saidi, who expects the job to take at least a

year.
"We are trying to give a legal and

tion of markets in Lebanon. We would like to have international norms, be up to date and to secure transparency for the markets," he

The committee, which began work about three months ago, wants to graft elements of US and British finance and banking legislation onto Lebanon's existing French-originated

"What we are trying to do is something unique or different, to get as much as possible a hybrid system, to benefit from Anglo-Saxon law and legal tradition and marry it with the French legislation which we have,'

WASHINGTON - US President Bill Clinton looks on as his chief economic adviser Laura Tyson speaks to

the press after he announced that she will chair the National Economic Council. Tyson's appointment

highlights Clinton's efforts to upgrade the visibility of the National Economic Council, which he formed to

coordinate economic policy among all agencies dealing with financial matters. - AFP photo

**BUDGET ON MARCH 15** 

Cut in customs

duties likely

NEW DELHI — For a year now, the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao,

himself overseas the preparation of the annual budget. Because of the state

elections, the budget this year will be presented on March 15 and not February

28. With an eye on the general elections, the 1995-96 annual budget will not

contain any fresh taxes. It will be studded with several schemes for direct pov-

erty alleviation like mid-day meals for school children and increased support to

educational institutions for weaker sections. Although this year's Budget will

be softer than the Rao government's earlier ones, it is not likely to be a run-

away populist exercise either. The finance minister, Manmohan Singh, is be-

lieved to have clearly indicated that populism will not be allowed to violate

Sketching the broad policy outlines of the proposed budget, sources in the

prime minister's office said there would be only "marginal changes" in the income tax structure, with a continued reduction in customs duties. The rational

for this low-tax element is that the tax base of the country is, in any case, fairly

restricted. Moreover, in an election year, an increase in the tax burden will not

be a politically sound measure. According to the sources, the prime minister,

concurred with the finance minister over keeping populism within control. For

this reason, there would be clear signals that the reforms process is irrevisible,

stitutions catering to students from the scheduled castes and tribes. Tentatively

labelled "food for education," this scheme will substantially increase the level

of support for institutions," run for the weaker sections. Another "pro-poor"

element in the coming budget is likely to be a national scheme for providing

midday meals to some sections for school-going children. The government

feels this will accomplish the dual purpose of meeting nutritional requirements

On the reform front, officials pointed out that the appointment of P Chi-

dambaram, an ardent votary of liberalisation, was an unequivocal signal of

their continued relevance. No amount of post-Andhra turmoil within the Con-

gress about the reforms being elitist seems to have persuaded the prime min-

ister to dilute the pace of reforms. He has also avoided inducting leaders who

have called for a return to the socialist pattern in economic ministries. The fi-

nance minister has also indicated that he is unwilling to sanction lavish

amounts to various ministries and departments. He argued that the fund might

not be available to fulfil commitments made on paper. He said in many cases,

ministries had failed to show how they planned to constructively utilise the en-

MERCEDES TO HIT ROADS — The first Mercedes Benz car man-

ufactured in India is likely to roll out in four to six weeks. Mercedes-Benz, the

German giant which has tied up with Tata Engineering and Locomotives Com-

pany (Telco) for a car joint venture, is also considering a possible alliance, once again most probably with the Tata Group, to manufacture other auto-

motive components as well. "Our company has a wide range of automotive

products and we are keen to bring them to India. We have a very good re-

lationship with Tata's and hence finding a partner should not be very difficult'

said E H Herzog, advisor to the managing board of Mercedes Benz said in New

Apart from cheap foodgrain and housing for the rural poor, the government finalising a plan to supply highly-subsidised foodgrains to educational in-

as was the government's commitment to foreign investments.

as well as slowing down the dropout rate from schools.

Updating the laws is part of the government's effort to regain the predominant position Beirut held as a banking centre and financial mar-ketplace in the Middle East 20 years

ago, before the 1975-90 civil war. 'The laws haven't been revised for decades," a member of the committee who asked not to be identified told Reuters. "It's a huge undertaking if you want to do it properly. It's tre-

mendously important. The committee includes some 22

Arab trade

network

is ready

completed an ambitious project to set

up a network to boost flagging trade

among them as part of long-standing plans to integrate their economies,

League have already been connected

to the computerised trade data net-

work at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab

Monetary Fund (AMF), which is en-

couraging regional governments to press ahead with reforms to boost

The project, launched three years

ago, will be fully operational in the

next few months as the remaining members are linked, and a training

course has been organised for mem-

work of efforts to bolster trade and

economic cooperation among Arab

countries," the AMF said in a state-

members already linked but AMF

sources mentioned Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, and the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman,

The network is part of a \$500-million fund created by, the AMF

Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE.

The statement did not name the

"The network is within the frame-

Several members of the Arab

operators said.

their economies.

economists, bankers and financial market experts. It meets weekly and also calls on Lebanese expatriates working in legal and financial circles in New York, London and Paris when

Its proposals will eventually require parliamentary approval to become law. "We don't have a legal framework for modern financial instruments which evolved or were created over the last 20 years," Saidi

needed, Saidi said.

"Broadly, we need new legislation for instruments which didn't exist in Lebanon before the war, things like mutual funds which are very im-

define financial intermediaries and their role, authorisation and li-

It will draft listing requirements for financial markets and will draft a capital markets law whose chief purpose, Saidi said, will be to separate the role of the regulatory authorities from market operations.

Lebanon's banking legislation also needs modernisation, Saidi said. In particular, the committee will define the functions and responsibilities of investment banks, which began emerging in Beirut for the first time last year, in relation to commercial banks and other financial institutions.



\$20 billion deal to attempt to rescue the Mexican economy at a ceremony. - AFP photo

# 'Progress' in piracy talks

ed States made satisfactory progress toward averting a trade war as they raced against the clock to reach an accord before Sunday's deadline for sanctions, Xinhua news agency said

The report came after China-US talks over protection of copyrights, patents and trademarks in China moved onto a higher level in Beijing

"Both Chinese and US negotiators expressed their willingness here to-day to resolve their differences on intellectual-property rights and reach an agreement as early as possible through more positive efforts," Xin-

They agreed the progress they have made in the last-ditch talks so far was satisfactory, Xinhua quoted a member of the Chinese delegation as

A Chinese source close to the talks said an agreement could be in the offing after US Deputy Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who arrived in Beijing late on Tuesday, met Sun Zhenyu, a vice minister of China's ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation.
While Barshefsky's meeting

marked the shift of the talks to a higher gear, the ninth round of workinglevel talks since last June continued with just four days left before mutual sanctions go into force, US embassy

They refused comment on the talks or say whether any concrete progress was made.

Arriving in Beijing to add weight to the negotiations, Barshefsky said Washington had been heartened by a recent string of Chinese actions to crack down on intellectual-property rights violations but piracy remained

rampant.
On Monday, the talks on protecting intellectual property in China focused on copyright ver-

ification, software piracy and customs controls. The talks began last

US demands have included an end to copyright and patent violations through tougher law enforcement, creation of anti-piracy strike forces and quick, impartial court action.

In its propaganda blitz to show it can enforce existing anti-piracy laws, China hailed the efficacy of a crackdown in the southern province of Guangdong where many factories churn out bootleg laser discs, com-

pact discs and computer software.

The booming province bordering
Hongkong introduced a system in 1994 that requires licences for all compact-disc production lines to be re-examined and renewed and the authorities to conduct regular inspections, Xinhua said.

The province introduced a copyright registration system last No-vember, ruling that all work units must be registered before they implement contracts to reproduce or publish foreign video or audio products and foreign books, it said.

Among US demands is that Beijing raid 29 plants in southern China alleged to flood Asia with pirated laser and compact disks as a down payment towards building a better environment for intellectual-property

Guangdong has redoubled efforts to crack down on such counter-feiting, making good achievements, Xinhua incipted Xinhua insisted.

Since January, the province had inspected 5,218 shops and confiscated more than 166,000 pirated CDs, including 4,549 smuggled ones, and

39,585 copied video and audio tapes. Washington says piracy of US patents, copyrights and trademarks in China costs US industry nearly \$1 billion a year and has ordered \$1.08 billion in punitive tariffs on Chinese exports from February 26 if no deal is

# Intermarkets enters Yemen

MUSCAT — Continuing its pioneering role of developing the advertising industry in the Arab World since the early 1960s, Intermarkets has announced a further expansion of its regional network by starting operations in Yemen, becoming the first regional advertising agency to enter the growing Yemeni market.

Intermarkets Yemen/Mass Advertising is the result of a management agreement signed recently in Taiz between Mr. Abdul Gabbar Hayel Saeed, executive director of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies, and Erwin Guerrovich, chairman of the Intermarkets Group. Mass Advertising, a subsidiary of

the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies (HSA), the single largest industrial, commercial and agricultural conglomerate in Yemen, is one of the leading advertising agencies in Yemen with its own full-scale outdoor signs workshop, a silk screen printing facility and a fully-equipped video production studio.

# Saatchi shares take a tumble

LONDON - Shares in troubled British advertising agency Saatchi Saatchi Plc tumbled yesterday following news that it had lost the lucrative account for US food and confectionery group Mars Inc. Saatchi shares dived 12 pence to an all-time low of 93 pence in early trading before steadying at 96. Mars said it had chosen Omnicom Group's BBDO worldwide as one of its three core international agencies,

# \$20b package

US, Mexico sign

for Mexico, secured on Tuesday by Mexican oil export revenues and a vow to keep a lid on monetary policy, and say Washington faces little risk on the deal.

But their assurances failed to assuage congressional concerns and the head of the Senate banking committee announced hearings on the aid package and whether Washington gave Mexico advice that exacerbated its current crisis.

Markets also remained sceptical, with Mexican stocks plunging and the peso edging lower on the day. Even the dollar, which has come under attack recently amid concern about the Mexican package, also continued to

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz signed four documents on terms and conditions on Tuesday, after five days of intense negotiations, allowing the rescue package to go forward.

Rubin said under the agreements, Mexico should be able to end its liquidity crisis and stabilise its econ-

"The ultimate success of this programme depends on Mexico, and Mexico has made it clear that it intends to take tough measures to turn

the situation around," he added. President Bill Clinton proposed the deal as the anchor of a \$50 billion international aid package after an earfoundered in Congress. Tuesday's agreement was en-

dorsed by congressional leaders and does not require approval by Congress, but some lawmakers wasted no time voicing their continued opposi-Senate banking committee chairman Republican Alfonse D'Amato,

announced hearings on the deal, "the totally unprecedented use" of the exchange stabilisation fund, and whether Washington advised Mexico to devalue the peso last December. "I remain strongly opposed to the president's unilateral decision to use

\$20 billion ... to bail out a mismanaged Mexican government and currency speculators," D'Amato said in a statement, terming the new tougher conditions "woefully inadequate.'

Speaking on public television's Macneil-Lehrer, Rubin defended the administration's decision, adding, "the risk of doing nothing vastly exceeded the risks of undertaking the programme that we undertook.'

Rubin said Mexico faced many months of "difficult" times, but he was confident the agreed measures and the aid package would get Mexico's economy back on track in the longer term.

"I think the chances are very good it will work, but even if it doesn't, the chances of us getting all our money back are excellent. Not certain, but excellent," he said. — Reuter

Aldamining.

# Distress sales on Bombay bourse

HONGKONG — Hongkong, Sin-

four years ago to finance flagging internal trade, which has remained be-Hongkong's blue-chip Hang Seng index dropped 173.02 points, or 2.14 per cent, to close at 7,909.27 on dislow 10 per cent of the total Arab trade in the past two decades. Official figures showed exports among the Arab League's 22 mem-

pers stood at around \$12.88 billion in 1993, accounting for nearly nine per cent of their total exports of \$142.3 Internal imports of \$11.1 billion formed 8.7 per cent of the total imports of \$126.6 billion.

Experts blamed lack of financing, political rifts, customs barriers and problems associated with transport, storage, infrastructure and pro

To tackle the financial problem, the AMF established the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) in 1991, contributing half its capital. The rest came from other Arab banks and financial institutions

gapore and Kuala Lumpur stocks dropped sharply in afternoon trade yesterday to lead the majority of Asian markets down on a mixed day

appointing results from a muchanticipated government land auction. In Singapore the blue chip index

closed 2.46 per cent down to close at 2053.32 points amid concerns about a weak US dollar and on delayed reaction to a Washington Post report that the district of Columbia was insolvent, brokers said.

The American dollar also slid in late Tokyo trade on the same insolvency report, raising concerns in the currency market of another fiasco like that in Orange County, dealers

At close of trade, the dollar stood at 96.93 yen against its opening 96.95 opening and New York's closing 97.05.

In Kuala Lumpur, a wave of heavy foreign selling in key blue-chip stocks on rumours of disappointing corporate earnings sent the Kuala Lumpur composite index down 30.03 points, or 3.1 per cent, to close at 941.07.

Stocks also dropped in Bombay and Colombo, with lack of buying support in moderate trade sending the Indian exchange to a 14-month

"Most investors are making distress sales. Lack of liquidity on the market is also not allowing jobbers to take bigger positions," said Chandrakant Mehta of Bombay brokers V. C. Mehta.

The Colombo market dropped to a 16-month low with brokers saying that investors were getting jittery and adjusting portfolios before the end of the March 31 accounting year.

Elsewhere, trading was generally quiet with Tokyo ending barely changed, Seoul edging marginally higher in thin trading and Sydney finishing 21.9 points higher, or 1.18

per cent, at 1879.6. In Tokyo the Nikkei average gained just 10.40 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 18,106.65 with an estimated 300 million shares traded while in Seoul the composite stock index added 1.73 points to close at 919.49 in a dull market.

In Taipei, the weighted index slid 29.15 points, or 0.44 per cent, to close at 6,603.88, while Thai stocks also retreated in late blue chip selling with the Set index closing down 22.36 points at 1,265.95.

In Hongkong, the sharp drop in the Hang Seng was attributed to the disappointing results from a government land auction in the afternoon.
Of five sites offered at the auc-

tion, the key site brought a price within expectations, another exceeded expectations and three sites were withdrawn. "Why did it go up 170 points yesterday? Good land auction. What did we have? A reasonable but not compellingly good auction," said Nial Gooding of Kleinwort Benson. — Reuter

MUNICH - Members of the powerful German trade union IG Metall start counting ballots for the two-day union strike vote at a union building in Munich. The dispute concerns a pay rise and other work-related questions. - AFP photo

# BA back to **Damascus** MUSCAT — After a 12-year

lull, British Airways will re-start its service to Damascus in April. Additionally, the airline will offer four flights to Amman each week from - double the previous number. In March a new route to Baku, in Azerbaijan, will be made available to

British Airways travellers. vice will run twice weekly from London, Gatwick via Bucharest, and has been created to meet the needs of many oil companies and support in-dustries established in the Caspian Sea. "The Middle East region is a priority area for British Airways during 1995," says Alan Burnett, British Airways general manager, Middle East. During the past year we have been actively working to improve the quality of service we offer travellers in the region. The result: All flights to and from the Middle East have at least one cabin crew member who speaks Arabic, we offer halal meals which feature authentic recipes and local ingredients, we have a Holy Quran channel and other special Arabic in-flight entertainment, plus a range of services on the ground which are

"Our mission this year is to communicate the excellent value for money British Airways offers to Middle Eastern business and leisure travel-lers. Whether you are en route to a series of important meetings or on holiday with your family, British Airways staff are keen to do their utmost to make local travellers comfortable when they fly with us.'



HANOI - A street vendor sits amid foreign brands of cigarettes for sale in Hanoi. Four of the world's top cigarette makers, faced with growing public opposition in the West, are taking advantage of the recent economic reforms to produce and sell their wares in developing countries like Vietnam. - AFP photo

# Mark on rampage

LONDON — A rampaging German mark had the dollar and weaker European currencies on the run yesterday with dealers looking for central bank intervention after the US currency slumped to a fresh 28-month low on the mark. There was talk early in European trading that the German Bundesbank might have been buying dollars for marks to stop the mark's rise from damaging the economic recovery in Germany by making German-made goods too expensive abroad.

A short-covering spree lifted the dollar more than half a pfennig but it then retreated when there was no confirmation of the Bundesbank's intervention. "It gets a little worrying down here. We've come down so far so fast. The market's a little bit anxious about intervention at these levels," a dealer at a British bank in London said.

The dollar was at 1.4743 marks after earlier dropping to 1.4675, its lowest level since mid-October 1992 when it was recovering from an all-time low of 1.3860 marks. It was still down from 1.4792 late in Europe on Tuesday. The dollar was quoted at 97.20 yen, compared with late Tuesday's level of

97.40. The bank of Japan was seen buying dollars for yen overnight, traders said. The dollar has been under pressure recently due to fears that Mexico's financial crisis would adversely affect the US currency in the longer term. There is also concern among economists that the United States may be poised to halt a cycle of interest rate rises to avoid slipping into recession A new concern for the dollar surfaced with a report in the Washington post

newspaper which said that the US district of Columbia was insolvent. Traders said the report raised concerns in the currency market of another financial crisis like the Orange County debacle last year. Dealers in Tokyo sold dollars on the back of the report. The focus yesterday morning was firmly on the merciless mark, which was

giving currencies like the lira, peseta and French franc a beating The dollar has retreated against the mark as investors moved into the German currency as a so-called "safe-haven" investment to protect themselves from the turbulence hitting weaker units.

The mark/lira rate reached another record high yesterday. When the mark bulldozed through 1,100 lire to a 1,107.50 high. "It's completely mark dominated. Mark/lira seems to be leading the way,"

one London dealer said.

The Bank of Italy raised its official discount rate by 0.75 percentage point on Tuesday night to 8.25 per cent but this monetary tightening failed to help the Italian currency. Traders said this was a sure sign the lira was heading for

# TENDER NOTICE (LOCAL)

**TENDER NO: 29/95** 

NAME

: Construction of boys preparatory school at Falaj Al Mashayekh : 10-04-1995

LAST DATE FOR DISTRIBUTION **OF DOCUMENTS** PRICE OF DOCUMENT

**DUE DATE** 

: 15-03-1995

: R.O. 125/-**Grade One contractors** 

specialized in construction works & registered with the **Tender Board** 

# Parsimonious Republicans may yet rue the day

THE American Republican Party's new hard-line approach to foreign policy may yet rebound on them. The calls for reducing payments to the UN and, even then, deducting the cost of American troops participation in UN peacekeeping operations, besides being mean-spirited, may prove their undoing. Because, as things stand at the moment, America is in no position

to feel sanctimonious over their position with the UN.

The Americans pay their UN dues late and, in paying, let it be known how reluctant it is to pay, making all sorts of claims — whatever happens to be the 'hot topic' of the moment. In the past, it has quibbled at the fact that the UN is on American land, 'rent-free', conveniently forgetting that all the UN representatives and support team and their families are spend ing in the US. The Americans have also complained that the UN, generally as a body, is 'anti-America', therefore it questions the amount it has to pay the UN, again forgetting that the world body is meant to be a democratic forum, and if the feeling is 'anti-American' then there must be good reason

However, complaints of that nature are no longer in play, presumably waiting on the sidelines to be brought up at any convenient time. What is more pertinent is the relationship America, with a Democract president and Republican controlled Congress, will have in the future with the UN Especially if the new, leaner America is going to be meaner as well.

Already there is talk in the UN that the European Union (EU) may have greater influence on proceedings than America. This is based on the thinking that 'he who pays the piper, calls the tune'. The aggregate EU contribution to the UN budget is 36 per cent, while the American contribution is 31.7 per cent (of which 28 per cent is 'returned' through UN equipment purchases in the US). Another factor is the EU countries pay on time while the US is continually in arrears, important when the UN is faced with the continual problem of finding enough money to meet the increasing burden of peacekeeping operations around the world.

Although the present EU contribution, with 15 members, represents just over one-third of the UN budget, as the EU increases its membership so

At the moment, the EU is only 'flexing its muscles' by making it known they expect less American representation on important (and lucrative) committees, like Unicef, where the previous director James Grant has just died, and for greater EU representation instead. This is just one area where America's voice could be dimmed because of Republican parsimony and

It is interesting that just 16 countries provide a little over two-thirds of the UN budget, and that those countries are from what is loosely called 'the West'. Perhaps it is because of this that Westerners dominate the committees of the UN. Also, due to this, outsiders to look on the UN as a 'gentleman's club for Westerners'. May be the answer is somewhere there.

For some time, Third World countries have been clamouring for representation on the Security Council - something we have argued for in the past - and greater representation in the working committees of the UN. Not all the Third World countries can be considered destitute by any means since they include some of the fastest-growing economies on the world While we would not advocate they 'buy' their way in to have a greater say in the running of the UN, realities have to be faced.

Those who are large contributors to the running of the UN are obvi ously going to have a louder voice, even if they are late in paying up. Perhaps countries wanting a greater say in the UN affairs should consider ways in which they can contribute more to the UN. Maybe then consideration can be given to the thorny issue of Security Council representation with veto if it is still deemed necessary, for countries from the Third World, the Non-aligned Movement, the Islamic countries, the Arab world, the Asia-Pacific region and so on. All of which are 'dominated' by the policies of the infamous 'Group of Five' — America, Russia, China, Britain

# Other Opinion

# Rabin's move

AS Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat try yet again to break the deadlock in negotiations wrought by the Israeli ban on Palestinian travel, the anniversary of the Hebron Mosque massacre highlights how deep the divide remains between

The fact that fanatical Israelis settlers at Kiryat Arba revere as a martyr Baruch Goldstein, the Brooklyn-born madman who killed 29 worshippers in the mosque a year ago and wounded so many others, is bad enough. That they are allowed to do so publicly, with his grave turned into place of pilgrimage for Arab-hating bigots from the United States, is doubly offensive - and it is an offense from which the Israeli authorities cannot extract themselves.

It is all very well condemning the views of these who turn evil into good as Premier Rabin has endeavoured to do, but every Palestinian knows that were a group of his or her compatriots to do something similar, they would soon be crushed. The very fact that nothing is done to the fanatics of Kiryat Arba, that their settlement remains untouched, the fact that they are allowed to commemorate, indeed revel in murder, shows just how two-faced the Israel governments is. Their troops shoot dead a Palestinian teenager protesting at the grim anniversary; yet settlers, with children in tow, can without interruption light candles at the gunman's grave and for the benefit of radio microphones bemoan the fact that he did not kill enough Arabs. Which is the more repulsive

It was the Hebron massacre which triggered Palestinian anger and violence, and which the Israeli authorities now insist that the PLO confront. Yet they themselves do nothing to heal the wounds or lance the anger created. Were Goldstein's home bulldozed in the same way as are those of Palestinians merely suspected of violence, it might have helped. But all the Palestinians see are double standards. The blood-thirsty settlers are allowed to mount road blocks; they shoot at Arabs who drive through them; they celebrate the slaughter of Palestinians and call for yet more blood-letting: All this they do unmolested by the Israeli Army. Is it any wonder that Palestinians feel incited to

It is impossible to foresee any lasting peace in such provocative circumstances. The best move Yitzhak Rabin can make to break the logjam and give the Palestinians some confidence in his good intentions would be by demolishing Kiryat Arba stone by stone. It is an abode of evil that needs to be eradicated. He promises to "take steps" against those who publicly praise Goldstein's murderous act and who want the deed repeated. Well then, Rabin take steps! Punish these evil-minded settlers who hope to destroy any chance of

Such an action would go a long way to assure Palestinians that they were dealing with an honest man. It would undoubtedly calm the felt by so many, which has done so much to promote Palestinian violence in response. Conversely, to leave the settlers to their malignant provocative ways will serve only to exacerbate tensions while confirming the view that Rabin is the master

# **Newsroom Capers**

HOW do you read your newspaper? Sixth and final part, you'll doubt less be pleased to know. In this instance, it is based on the word 'read'

When you buy a newspaper, what are you looking for? Something that's on nice glossy paper, full of pretty colourful picture and pretty colourful advertisements? Or do you prefer something a little less brash, more sober and considered. You want the news, yes, but not shrieking at you first thing in the morning, thank-you-very-much.

We like to consider ourselves sober, modest and portraying a balanced opinion, one that our readers have come to expect - and get - from us. We have modern technology, computers, colour scanners and all that lot, yes, but we are not so enamoured by it that we feel obligated to use it because it

We'll use colour pictures when we think necessary. Not because we have the technology' as some of our competitors think. There, you'll see 'news' pictures that carry no news value at all, but have been used because it was the only one available on the wire service that night. Of course, it clashes with the colour ad that's been bought and paid. Do you really want your senses abused like this every morning? We

think not. We think not. We think you like your news as it is, undiluted, Not 'tarted up' by all the gizmos and gimmick that the computer world has dreamt up and sub-editors inflict, on their readers.

True, there are some who argue that TV has moved from black-and-white to colour, so should newspapers. That forgets the fact that a blackand-white image (photograph) is remembered longer than colour. Besides. colour is easier to 'take', as the viewer is distracted by the colour, not the 'message' the photo is trying to get across. With us, there's not argument we prefer our news black-and-white. And read.

# Concept of God's love

THE ultimate goal of man in this world is to reach Allah by love. All acts of piety are ultimately aimed at seeking perfection in this love which, in turn, removes the veil of vices from the heart of man and draws him nearer to His Crea-

Love for God depends on (a) knowledge of God, and (b) obedience to God. Hence, in the first instance, love or hatred implies knowledge of objects as they give us pleasure or pain. Unless an object becomes known, there can be no inclination towards or repulsion from it. Knowledge of God comprises knowledge of the Creator and the created including the soul, the cirumstances occurring after death, and so on. Muslim theologians have underlined three grades of knowledge which denote the relative sources of knowl-

The primary grade is the faith of the common man standing on basic sources of authority (Quran) and Tradition (Hadith). A higher grade is the knowledge of the learned people supplemented by observacontemplation and logical reasoning. The highest grade inter alia.

of knowledge, involves intuitive experiences of those who, by virtue of spiritual ascension, have intimacy with God Siddiquen. In religious minologies these sources are

called Taqlid (literal following), Ilm al-Muamala (deduction and reflection) and Ilm al-Mukashafa (direct vision). The achievement of knowledge of God and His works and creation is a sine qua non of man's love for God.

Human heart is filled with all sorts of vices i.e. unethical forms of the natural propensities. These vices engender love for world at the cost of moral and spiritual develop-

It is only through knowledge of God that he can dispel the darkness of his heart and comprehend reality. However, religious scholars maintain that man can never have perfect knowledge of God; there would always remain a yearning for more and more knowledge. This is because His attributes, His wisdom and His actions can never be known to man as they are known to Himself.

As for man, the more his knowledge is true and complete, the near-

RUSSIA's unmanned space

flight to Mars, originally planned

for 1994 but postponed to 1996, is

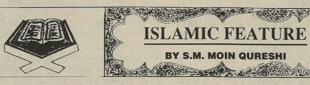
threatened with outright cancella-

tion because of the financial dif-

ficulties being faced by Russia's

Affairs (DARA) in Bonn, which is

The German Agency for Space



edge of God does not imply love for God in all cases. might have knowledge of God with all His attributes, but was bereft of the blessing of God's love. The conduct of the unbelievers with regard to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was another example of this fact. The Quran asserts: "Those to whom We have sent down the Book know him (the Prophet) as they know their sons. Yet a section among them conceals the truth knowingly." (Al-Bagarah: 146)

Love for God is, therefore, a higher ideal than mere knowledge of God. Some scholars, however, beieve that real love can exist only between, members of homogeneous groups and since man and God are heterogeneous, there can be no believers in the Hereafter. The Ouran gives good tidings to those who come up to this criterion: "Say: 'If you love God then follow me that God may love you and forgive your (Aal-e-Imran:31).

The believers who tread on this (straight) path form a common bond of love and fraternity. They help each other in redeeming this noble goal as a result of which their love for God gets intensity. The acknowledges this fact, but the love of the faithful for God is more intense..." (Al-Baqarah: 165).

However, just as obedience to Muhammad (SAW) has been bracketed with obedience to God, similarly love for God is not acceptable without love for the

God's love is the quintessence of Islam. All the choicest social and moral virtues emanate from this love. It is this love which shapes a man's character and leads him to the path of righteousness.

Testing time for Russian space progra mme

love between them. Others maintain that love in relation to God means nothing else than obedience to God. In the Quran obedience to Allah and to His Apostle has been mentioned together as an obligatory article of faith. The Almighty commands: "Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and beware, if you turn away, then know that upon our Messenger rests only the plain preaching" (Al-Maidah: 92).

Those who swerve from this way have been warned of severe retribution: "Those who disobey God and the Prophet and exceed the bounds of law, will be taken to Hell and they will abide there for ever and shall suffer despicable punishment." (An-Nisa: 14)

When knowledge of an obedience to God attain perfection, a stage is reached when the maxim 'Love begets love' takes its course. Those who love God become entitled to God's love in return. This will

warned Moscow that it will have to

provide funding that is not only ad-

United States are worried about the

whole future of global cooperation

in space, particularly Russia's con-

tribution to an international space

station to be launched in two years'

time with the United States as pro-

Other European states and the

equate but available in good time.

Holy Prophet. In one of his famous Traditions the Prophet is reported to have said. "No servant truly believes till I become to him dearer than his wife, wealth and all mankind." Therefore, the ultimate aim of our life is to love Allah and His

Friendship for this cause is friendship for Allah. Whoever creates obstacles in this the enemy of God and enemy of the believers. The Almighty cautions: "O you who believe, do not take My enemies and your enemies as friends..." (Al-Mumtahanah: 1)

On the Resurrection Day when every soul will be worried about its own fate, mutual lovers for religion will enjoy an enviable position. The Holy Prophet said, "The Almighty Allah will proclaim on the Resurrection Day: 'Where are the mutual lovers of My magnificence? I shall give them shelter under My shade on this day when there will

two-thirds the funds the Russian

space agency believes are required

1994, the Russian space agency

was obliged to re-examine its prior-

ities and the six-tonne spacecraft

being assembled for the Mars flight

is said to have suffered in the cuts.

Due to a scarcity of funds in

The Russians proposed doing part of their contribution.

to cover its projects in 1995.

themselves, but they get greatest rewards if adopted to seek pleasure of Allah and to work for His cause. An unprecented model of this kind of fraternity was seen in the conduct of the peolpe of Madinah Ansars in their treatment with the immigrants of Makkah Mohajirs. The Holy Prophet quoted God's words: 'My love becomes compulsory for those who love one another for My

Love, friendship and affection be tween the believers are good in

cause, and for those who sit together for My cause and for those who visit one another for My cause and for those who spend lavishly for one another for My cause."

from personal considerations, but for God's sake. Once Prophet Muhammad (SAW) asked Abu Zarr (RA) as to which aspect of

He deserves the

bue yourselves with Divine attrib-In short, God's love is the quintessence of Islam. All the choicest

Thus, love for the Almighty (and His Prophet) gets stronger by service to human beings in general and Muslims in particular. In the same way, hatred should not stem

faith was most firm. Abu Zarr (RA) expressed his ignorance at which the Prophet said, "Cooperation for the sake of Allah, love for the sake of Allah and hatred for the sake of Allah. However, Islam does not demand

that the sinner should be hated; the sin itself should be hated. A man's love may be directed to (a) self, (b) a benefactor, (c) beauty, and (d) a consanguine. God is worthy of man's love on all these counts. Love for the self amounts to love for God because He is the Creator of mankind and the entire universe. Secondly, since God is the greatest benefactor of man (being his Creator, Sustainer, Pro-

tector, etc.) Thirdly, God commands love on account of His impeccable beauty. Finally, God's love becomes due on the ground of 'consanguity' as well. The Holy Prophet regarded the entire human race as the "family of God." In the Quran the Almighty Himself proclainis, "Then, when I have formed him (man) and breathed into him of My spirit..." (Al-Hijr: 29). The Holy Prophet the believers, "Im-

social and moral virtues emanate from this love. It is this love which shapes a man's character and leads him to the path of righteousness.

without the "Argus" platform, built

by a St. Petersburg company, VNII Transmash, for the Mars mission.

giant in Greek mythology and de-

signed to separate from the main

craft when it goes into orbit around

Mars, was to have carried two

high-tech cameras which the Ger-

mans consider the most important

This vehicle, named after a

# Pakistan-US ties after Perry's visit

What Perry's recent visit to Islamabad has done is to introduce a certain level of pragmatism and to provide the necessary way out of the current impasse

By Perviz Iqbal Cheema

FOR a very long time, neither the US nor Pakistan were able to properly comprehend each other's legitimate interests. Washington failed to gauge accurately the intensity of rivalry between the major states of South Asia and viewed Indo-Pakistan relations from a global perspective. Equally simplistic views were those of the regional states which, for obvious reasons, accorded high priority to regional cobweb of issues and expected that the superpowers would also opt for their yardstick. Almost all major significant developments recent past, both at global and regional levels, not only caused certain amount of modifications in policies of regional as well as global powers, but also in some cases, gave birth to a rearrangement of relationship which, in turn, produced a long chain of actions and reactions. While most of America's actions and reactions were in many ways in congruence with its global considerations, the periodically modified America's regional policy to suit its global pursuits appeared to local states as a confused policy lacking clarity and coherence in its declaratory and operational dimensions. For local states, America's regional policy is far more important than its global pursuits.

With the demise of the Cold War and the consequent disintegration of the Soviet Union, coupled with emergence of the new unipolar world in which the US is the only superpower, almost all nations were compelled to modify their policies in order to suit the requirement of the emerging new world order. Just as the regional countries' policies underwent transformation, the global powers like the US also modified their regional policies in congruence with the dictates of the region. Four major objectives seem to have influenced the current American South-Asia policy: Preventing nuclear nonproliferation, strengthening democracy, promoting liberalisation in regional countries and encouraging economic linkage with the region, and checking narcotics trafficking.

But the major objective of America's Pakistan policy is once again the product of its global concern. The US is committed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons all over the world whereas the Pakistani nuclear programme is the direct outcome of regional developments. The repeated assertion by the Pakistani authorities that Pakistan's nuclear programme is peaceful-orientated and its expressed willingness to sign the NPT provided its regional adversary also agrees to do the same, have not been able to elicit attractive level of favourable responses. On the other hand, American pressures, both diplomatic and economic, have also been so far unabld to pay desired div-

Neither side is able to dictate terms to the other. Indeed, a dose of pragmatism and realism is urgently needed and what American Defence Secretary William Perry's recent visit to Islamabad has done is to introduce a certain level of pragmatism and to provide the necessary way out of the current impasse.

Compared to the US, Pakistan's quest for nuclear weapons is a re-active pursuit and that's why Pakistan categorically and repeatedly expressed its willingness to sign the NPT provided India also agrees to be-come a party to the treaty. Many Pakistanis feel that India exploded the bomb in 1974 and the American quietly but quickly accepted the Indian interpretation of the Rajasthan

In 1990, the American president refused to certify that Pakistan did not posses a nuclear explosive device and as a consequence the American aid was stopped altogether. Since then, both parties have been engaged in securing some kind of workable solution to the incumbent impasse. During 1982-87, Pakistan received \$3.6 million in aid and in 1987 signed another agreement for 4.2 billion for another six years (roughly stopped in 1990 as President Bush refused to certify in accordance with the requirements of Pressier Amend-The bulk of Pakistan's foreign

policy moves, especially those re-lating to South Asia, are primarily Indian-orientated undertakings so far, Pakistan had repeatedly stressed that its nuclear programme is peaceful orientated whereas the Americans assert that they have acquired sufficient evidence to suggest otherwise. The that since neither India nor Israel are subjected to pressures suggesting roll back or inducing them to sign the NPT, they, the Pakistanis, should not bow down. While there exists a commonalty in the cases of Israel and Pakistan as both are recipient of American aid, India's case cannot be viewed from this angle.

Defence Secretary William Perry's visit in some sense has helped Pakistan to find a way out of its di lemma of not abandoning its nuclear programme unilaterally and simultaneously avoiding rapid de-terioration of Pak-US relations. One major outcome of Perry's visit is that both countries agreed to revive the 1984 military consultative group. With the application of Pressler Amendment in 1990, the mutual consolations were abandoned. Revival implies that issues like joint military training, military education programmes exchanging intelligence information about threats that each side sees in the region, peace keeping operations and global security issues be mutually discussed.

Perhaps the most significant aspects of Perry's visit revolve around increased US comprehension of compulsions that force Pakistan to maintain its nuclear programme on the one hand and the initiation of trends toward strengthening of Pakistan and US defence relationship on the other. Acknowledgment by an important American official such as the defence secretary that the Kashmir issue is fundamental to the problems of India-Pakistan by itself amounts to a major success. Perry categorically asserted that solution to Kashmir problem is absolutely necessary be,fore there can be normal peaceful relationship between the two regional countries. Recognition of importance of the ongoing Kashmir dispute also helps greatly in comprehending the need for retaining the nuclear options

The second significant aspect of the Perry's visit is a timely arrest of deterioration in Pak-US overall relationship in general and defence relationship in particular. In fact, not only the adverse trend has been arrested, but with the revival of the military consultative group, it had been

Another aspect that needs to be highlighted here is that the two countries recognised the need for some type of security relationship. Despite the fact that Pakistan is currently confronted with many unforeseen problems in its weapons procurement por lices, the steadily increasing security relationships are likely to facilitate the processes and strengthen confidence at the intention levels. Perry's vociferously expressed appreciation of Pakistan's stabilising role in the Islamic world and its impressive contributions to UN peacekeeping operations is indeed a recognition of Pakistan's commitment to

The defence secretary's visit to Pakistan has been indeed useful; but for obvious reasons it could not meet the raised hopes and expectations. But then neither the government of Pakistan nor the visiting Americans where under and illusion that this visit will resolve all the complex problems bedeviling their security re-

# From Our Archives

FEBRUARY 1980

# Oman's trade surplus touches new peak

MUSCAT — Oman's balance of trade for 1979 increased by 172.5 per cent to RO 309.8 million compared to 113.7 million in 1978, with increased crude oil prices compensating for the fall in the volume of export. The value of crude oil exports reached a record RO 745.7 million dur-

ing the year though the volume of exports had declined from 115.9 million barrels during 1978 to 107.5 million barrels. The sale price of crude oil which was \$14 per barrel in January rose to \$28.26 in December. After that it has gone up further to \$30.20.

Japan maintained its position as the largest importer of Omani crude, and imported, nearly one third of the total production in 1979. The share of the US, declined in the last two years from 15.8 per cent to 13.1 per cent.

Norway's share has fallen from 6.5 per cent to 4.9 per cent. The only country which increased its share was the UK, which went up from 0.7 per cent to 4.6 per cent. Export of non-oil items, during the first half of the year was nearly double of those in the same period in 1978, with dried lime exports to the UAE

still occupying the first place followed by dried dates. As reported earlier in these columns, exports of fish becoming increasingly more significant. It is estimated that the total non-oil exports reached RO 5 million for the whole year as against RO 3.32 million for 1978. The level of re-exports jumped by 70.5 per cent from RO 26.91 million in 1978 to RO 38.16 mil-

lion in 1979. Beverages and tobacco registered the biggest increase. Total imports during the year increased by RO 40.8 million to 479.1 million. This was spurred by the increased level of government expenditure. Imports of food and live animals during the year amounted to RO 52.8 million, compared to 42.4 million in the previous year.

The value of beverages and tobacco imports also went up significantly by 80.9 per cent to 20.8 million. The largest group of imports was in the form machinery and transport equipment which went up by RO 44.5 million to RO 170.4 million during the year.

Britain continued to be the largest exporter to Oman though its share fell from 20.7 per cent to 17.1 per cent followed closely by Japan with 15 per cent. The US increased its share from 6.3 to 9 per cent and the Netherlands from 2.5 to 6.7 per cent.

# a partner in the enterprise, has **READERS' FORUM**

# US bent on blocking India

**By Rudolf Merget** 

space agency

The US Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphel's recent statement that India's admission as a permanent member to the UN Security Council would ultimately depend on the settlement of the Kashmir problem (TOO, 11 Feb) seems to be a precursor to permanently block India's attempt for the coveted position. Nevertheless, she has admitted India's eligibility for the membership along with the other strong contenders in waiting Germany, Japan and possibly Brazil

and either Egypt or Nigeria. Ms. Raphel had known to have stirred up the hornets' nest in earlier occasions also by making unwelcome remarks about Kashmir to the embarrassment and annoyance of the Indian government only to be clarified later by her seniors to pla-

cate the ruffled feelings. The nacent remark would certainly create new thaws in Indo-US relations and, the euphoria created by the recent successful visits by Mr. Perry and Mr. Brown would be ephemeral. It should be recalled in this contest that Ms. Raphel had also visited India prior to Perry's

Tough the visit had been de scribed as historic by political pundit and the press both in India and the US, Mr. Perry could not hammer out anything substantial either visa-vis signing the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty or as to solving the vexed question of Kashmir. India's ossifying stand on the nonproliferation treaty, with its own reasons, must have irked the US. India's consistent stand that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and that it should be discussed in accordance with the Shimla agreement, and thus rejecting third party intervention also

must have caused political consternation to the US. Moreover, the US fears a bur-

geoning pro-India policy would distance itself further from Pakistan, which it does not like to happen at least for the time being, and the Rafael euphemism should be read in the light of these factors.

The final question is whether the US will be able to thwart India's attempt to secure a permanent membership to the Security Council in the event of a concerted backing by the other members.

E.V. Krishnan,

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SAN JUAN CHAMULA — Chamulas Indians of the municipality of San Juan Chamula, 20km northeast of San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, get food from the Mexican Army. The army is maintaining guard posts around Chiapas to prevent advancement by the Zapatista army.

WHEN Israel put forward its development proposals for the region -of which a Middle East development bank is the most important -- two fronts were born, one rejecting the whole idea and the other willing to participate. However, we have heard very few clear statements from either of the sides setting forth their positions. Most have preferred to limit their response to barely audible mur-

Ahmad Al-Tayer, UAE's minister for financial and industrial affairs, carried the banner of the rejecting side. equivocal in opposing the idea. He set them forth clearly on the very same day, when he met with the US secretary of commerce who had come seeking support for the idea.

The stance of the UAE minister

can be summed up as follows: If the bank is meant for supporting Arab countries including those participating in the current peace efforts, there are Arab funds and establishments which are already doing the work. These Arab institutions extend loans and financial assistance on soft terms. Their cost of financing and interest rates are low and other conditions are extremeexcel any other international banking establishment. Then why should we support the proposed bank, while the existing Arab financing institutions have about \$10 billion at their dis-

If the aim, on the other hand, is to support Israel, it cannot be accepted, as Arab countries are not prepared to support the Israeli economic projects,

This means that two fronts are being formed at present in the battlefield of the Israeli bank. One comprises the countries which would benefit from the bank. Israel leads the list, with Jordan, the PLO and Egypt, along come partners. They recently met in Taba to discuss the means for sup-



By Abdul Rahman Al-Rashid

The other is the opposing front. It is led by Syria and the Gulf states. They think that the bank would serve the Israeli economy in the first place, even though it might give something to the Arab side also. More over, the Gulf states sincerely believe that the project is another financial tax imposed on them, something they are not willing to accept. And even if they accept the idea in theory, they cannot re spond materially because of their hard economic circumstances.

The motive behind the idea of the bank might be to support the Israeli economy as Tayer said. Or, it might have been motivated by the desire to as Israel's Shimon Peres said. Whatever the real motive, one thing is quite sure: Arab countries have the potential to start joint projects of their own without imposing a Middle East bank on all parties.

The four countries -- Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Israel — have, with American support, a collective chance, before them, to solve the major political obstacles. Until this day Israel has not implemented anything more than a small percentage of its grand project with the Palestinians. The settlements are on the increase. The closure of the Palestinian regions continues. Municipal elections are suspended. To solve all these, a development bank would be acceptable to all. But, as for today, it is just an idea not supported

# Our actions and image

OSTENTATIOUS display of pos-

Afabs, Dr. Hussein Basalama wrote in Al-Madinah recently. He was right. The streets of London, Paris and Cannes are full of Arabs, men and women, who carry around in their suitcases and pockets "that equip-ment" - the mobile telephone. "More than once, I have seen people on the sidewalk of a road talking on the mobile phone to those standing on the other side," he wrote.

Of course, this is not true of all Arabs who could afford to spend their vacations in the West. But it is true that some of us indulge in such practices, and add our bit to further darken the image of Muslims and Arabs. wrong understanding of the concept of "culture." One does not become "cultured" by wearing the finest clothes or by acquiring the latest model of cars. And spending wealth out of place is extravagance, not civilisation, in the

The West which invented and manufactured aircraft and cars make use of them when they are essential. If you go to any Western city -- with the exception of major ones -- you will find that people use ordinary bicycles to move about, despite the fact that they own cars. They use their cars only for long trips.

If the Westerner goes to a restaurant with his family at the week-end, he orders only what is just sufficient. I have attended some wedding small and attended only by relatives of the bride and the bridegroom. And there was nothing that can be termed as squandering, contrary to what we find in some Arab circles

I have also seen in famous British cities like Manchester, carts drawn by

es every morning. When I spoke about this to some Arab friends, they

At a time when we are depending totally on modern technology for any-thing and everything, the Westerner continues to make use of less complicated means, as they cost him only very little. And he has not relied total ly on the machinery made by his scientific establishments. On the other hand, he is quite aware of the value of more simple means. He thinks that he might sometimes be in need of them in

He is aware that modern machinery can work only with the help of fuel and that there is no guarantee that it will continue to be produced for ever So he prepares himself to meet the difhe faces them. So also his life is not paralysed, when he meets with tough

If Muslims return to the teachings of their religion, they would find that the Holy Our'an warns against the consequences of extravagance and urges followers to adopt a middle course in spending. It also urges them to purge themselves off evils like arrogance, pride and vanity. The Prophet (peace be upon him) has set noble examples in all walks of life. When his daughter Fatimah requested for a maid to help her, he did not approve it.

It may be said that it is difficult to live like those people of the early Islamic period. This may be true in some cases. But does it mean that we should present ourselves as such idiots project a cultured pattern of behaviour as taught by the Holy Our'an and prac tised by the early Muslim society? We have to adopt living examples from that generation to show the greatnes of our religion and culture. And this will show the right way to those who

# Real capital of life is human capital

By Abdul Aziz Mumina

There is no doubt that the real capital of life is human capital and that all the social and economic development activities depend on that capital. All such activities are aimed

How can we develop the production capacities of this capital, "humanity?" First of all we have to save him and her from the slavery of thought and want. This will not be possible except by strengthening the fight against illiteracy. It is because illiteracy is linked with development as well as economic, social and cul-

Human elements are among the major constituents of any state. In fact, human development and growth is the key to other kinds of developments. The basic factor of human development is education with its manifold varieties and levels. Science and technology are progressing in excessive speed, to the extent that it has become essential to create new and advanced methods in the field of education and academic, technical and professional training. It is not possible for developing societies to be content with the limited levels of education. They have realised, in the light of the experiences of the advanced countries, that the shortage of wealth is not the only obstacle in the way of progress. They have under-stood that there is a more serious and important obstacle. It is the shortage of qualified and educated human cap ital. Development in the industrial agricultural and economic fields are inte-linked with the projects for de veloping social establishments. No borders separate them from one an-

The percentage of national income is proportional to the level of Educated people exceed 90 per cent in countries where the per capita income rises over \$5,000 annually. At the same time, the annual per capita income in a country where educated people constitute 40 cent of its population is only \$131. This is because the human resources are not properly used in those coun-

A historical examination of countries which have realised great development in the field of industry, shows that the spread of illiteracy is directly proportional to the spread of agriculture and inversely proportional to the spread of industry and growth

This means that the economic backwardness and shortage of production would lead to shortage of wealth to be spent on education. This will mean that people turn away from education towards work. —Okaz

# A pawn becomes a queen

Yesterday, I bought a chess set. I put the pieces up and I said, come and learn the game of Kings, now these ones in the front line are

Dolly said, why? I said, why what? She said why are they pawns, who is using them. Rekha said, what's a pawn? Dolly said, a pawn is a tool of imperialist capital-

Pinky said, I like the horse, I said, now the horse is a very powerful support and can move 2 and 1 or 1 and 2. Dolly said, sounds like a

dance step, hey, have you seen the buggabugga, it's the latest

My wife said, which reminds me we must have that painting of "Horses at Night" framed, the old frame has gone crooked.

I said, chess, remember, we are playing chess, now take this piece here, the castle, it can move horizontally and up and down the flanks. Rekha said, castles can't move.

Pinky said, I think you are trying to kid us. Pinky said, horses that dance, castles that move pawns that are tools, gee, dad,



# Between the Lines

# Bikram Vohra

it's pretty nutty game.

My wife, said, I think, we should get a cream coloured frame or do you think gold would be better, darling, why are you clenching your fists like that? said, chess, we're playing chess, now will you concentrate, this is the knight, it moves an-

gularly like this. Rekha said, what's the big one? I said this is the King and this is the Queen, if you kill the King the party is over.

Pinky said what party, I want to go, so how come I never get to go to parties, nobody loves me. Rekha said, what's check they always say check in chess, I saw it in a movie. I said good question, check is a warning you give to your opponent that his King is in danger.

Dolly said, why? I said, because

ocratic Action Party (SDA), which

won the most seats in Bosnia's first

vember 1990 to form a coalition

government with the minority Croat

free parliamentary elections in No-

its the rule. She said, pretty silly, rule, if you want to kill the King, why warn him? Rekha said, lacks a killer in-

My wife said, may be a white frame will set it off better, will go with the carpet, it's a beautiful painting. Dolly said, mum, we're playing chess. I said, now, you've got the rules.

am playing white so I move first, Rekha said, why, should you move first, why can't black move first.

think this is a racist game, I said, it's an old established rule. Dolly said that's not enough, if we play chess, black moves first, I move this

and she moved pawn. moved mine two spaces. She said, how can you move it two spaces?

said, the pawn moves one space at a time except the first time when it moved two spaces but it can't cut forward, only sideways and it can't come back though it becomes a Queen if it reaches the other end and ....

Dolly said, cuckoo, I think he's gone cuckoo. Rekha said, dad vou sure vou know this game? Pinky said, how can a pawn become a Queen?

Any my wife said, let's buy a gilt-edged frame, I've always wanted a gilt-edged

# **Izetbegovic: A commitment to** democracy and religious freedom

**By Mushtak Parker** 

ELEVEN years ago, a Yugoslav court in Sarajevo, then under communist rule, sentenced a group of twelve local Muslim writers and academics, both men and women, to prison terms totalling 90 years. The leader of the so-called "Sarajevo Twelve" was a distinguished writer and constitutional lawyer Alija Ali Izetbegovic, today the democratically elected president of Bosnia-Herzegovina who finds himself once again a virtual prisoner in the Bosnian capital.

Ironically, Sarajevo is still under siege from Serbian snipers and

artillery "The Sarajevo Twelve", all adopted by Amnesty International as Prisoners of Conscience, were Muslims accused of "counterrevolutionary conspiracy and en-emy propaganda" — the Marxist jargon for speaking out against religious and political repression. In fact, there was a thirteenth defendant — 57-year-old Rashid Prguda, who died under inter-

rogation in police custody.

Izetbegovic, then 58-year-old, was sentenced to 14 years, reduced on appeal to 12 years. Had communism not collapsed in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, Izetbegovic would today still be in Cell No. 20 in Foca prison known as "murderers' cell" because most of the previous inmates were convicted murderers. He would have been released in August later this year.

Such are the contemporary ante-cedents of hatred of Islam in Yugoslavia and the successor "Rump Yugoslavia" or Serbia-Montenegro has lost no time in outclassing their predecessors. Pillage, rape and genocide of Muslims in the region is sadly not a latter day 20th century phenomenon. It has happened several times in the bloody and bigoted history of the Balkans.

Not much has been written about Alija Izetbegovic, whose nnocuous-looking man. In reality, Izetbegovic is a courteous man with impeccable manners, widely respected by professionals of all ethnic groups. Even his former Muslim political opponents in Bosnia admire his pragmatism and patience.

The excesses of Serbian ethnic cleansing may yet radicalise the younger generation of Bosnian Muslims. But contrary to Serbian slurs, President Izetbegovic is no so-called Islamic "fundamentalist" and certainly does not subscribe to any sort of local or imported extremism. On the contrary, Izetbegovic was surprised by the "fanaticism and barbarity" of the Serbian response to Bosnia's declaration of independence.

This in stark contrast to Belgrade's response to similar declarations by other former Yugoslav re-Slovenia. publics such as Macedonia and Croatia.

Is it because the Muslims are the biggest minority in Bosnia? This might explain Belgrade's repression of Muslims in Serbia itself. especially in enclaves such as KoWe do not want an Islamic state in the heart of Europe - David Howell, chairman of the British House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.

sovo and Sandjak, both areas where the Muslims are in a majority and are seeking autonomy. The truth is that since the creation of Yugoslavia in 1918, Muslims there have borne the brunt of Serbian chauvinism, and many were massacred during World War II. Under Tito's totalitarian rule, when religious and political repression was at its height, Islam and Catholicism were tolerated only as long as they conformed to a Marxist vision of re-

LURIE'S WORLD

underdog" against the might of the "Stalinist Russian bear" This notion veiled Tito's human rights violations for decades and it was in this political culture that the likes of Milosevic and Karadzic were nurtured. As such, it is a pity that some British politicians over the last two years have fallen for the Serbian slur of the "Islamic funda-

Party. "Our home is in Europe.

My aim is to have an independent, democratic republic which conforms to both European mentalist" bogey. David Howell, a standards and Islamic values," Izetformer cabinet minister in Margaret begovic proclaimed. Thatcher's government and now the chairman of the House of Commons His detractors and opponents have called him meek and weak, partly because neither the West nor the Serbs knew how to confront his pacifist approach to independence.

> with tragic consequences. But then many struggles for liberation and independence have been bloody. In reality, Izetbegovic has become hardened and he has shown true grit in dealing with the appeasers at the UN and in the West and has beaten off opposition from within his own party. He continues to reaffirm that Bosnia's integrity is not negotiable, and to call on the UN to pledge peacekeeping forces to back international recognition of

Instead, the West wavered and ac-

quiesced and the Serbs attacked,

Bosnia-Herzegovina's dependence. He recognises that Muslims (44 per cent of the 4.3 million Bosnian population), Serbs (33 per cent) and Croats (17 per cent) can co-exist as they have done for centuries and at the same time realises that instability merely serves the Greater Serbia and Greater Croatia ambitions of the nationalists. That is why he has not ruled out negotiating with both the Serbian and Croat leaders on one condition. Izetbegovic urges "they must either negotiate or wage war.

They can t do both. He was born in 1926 in Bosanski Samac, a town on the River Sava where his grandparents had settled. His grandparents were expelled from the Serbian capital, Belgrade, in the mid-19th century after the enactment of a constitutional clause banning "undesirables" such as Muslims, Jews and Gypsies from living in the city. He grew up in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo as a devout Muslim and here, the young Alija witnessed several massacres of more than 100,000 Muslims during World War II. In 1946, at the age of 20, he had his first brush with the newly-installed Communist regime "for activities against the people" for which he was sentenced to three years hard labour.

On his release, Izetbegovic studied law at Sarajevo University and has worked as a legal adviser to two Bosnian corporations. Over the years, he has achieved international recognition as a constitutional lawyer, academic and writer whose books have been translated into 5 languages including English and German. These books published in samizdat formed part of the ev-



idence in his prosecution. However, the text which formed the principle prosecution case, "The Islamic Declaration" written in 1970, condemns totalitarianism in all forms and argues for democracy and religious freedom. It is a liberal intellectual charter for Muslim minorities in Europe and sought to reconcile European democratic principles with Sunni Islamic teachings. Izetbegovic is acknowledged as

an eloquent, widely-read author and and believes a local journalist's prime prominent intellectual. Most of his works have dealt with religion and are of a scholarly nature. Apart from "The Islamic Declaration", he has published a collection of articles in a volume titled "problems bf the Islamic Renaissance". He has also published such texts as "Atheism is not Scientific..... How to Read the Qur'an", "The Message of the Hijra" and "The Muslim Wife and Mother". His last know work, "Islam between East and West", was in the process of being published by Logos Press in Split when he was ar-rested in 1983 and the parenting of

the book was halted. A decade later a revised edition "Islam between East and West" has been published which is essentially Izetbegovic's treatise on culture and civilisation. "Culture means the 'art of being man'; civilisation means the art of functioning, ruling, and making things perfect. Civilisation educates; culture enlightens," he explains in his book. To him, humanism is the affirmation of God. "Belief in God and and his providence offers a feeling of security which cannot be made up for with anything else," he concludes.

It is ironic that the prosecutor Edina Residovic, accused him of conspiring to set up an "ethnically pure" Islamic republic. The pros ecutor's case focused on Izetbegov ic's writings, principally "The Islam ic Declaration" written in 1970. Izetbegovic, who conducted his own defence, insisted all along that "The Islamic Declaration" is a philosophical document and not a political one and accused both the prosecutor and judge of distorting his writings and of insulting Islam and the Qur'an during the proceedings.

Legal experts and international organisations such as Amnesty International have reportedly questioned the Yugoslav court procedures and have pointed to several irregularities.

Above all, the court, like official Yugoslav propaganda, was seeking to portray abroad the Muslims as an

intolerant community Some twelve years later, Serbia has not changed in its attitudes toward the Muslims. Perhaps it is too much to expect the Serbian leopard to change its spots.

istence. "Ah, I do not know. I do not know about that," he said. Some academics and senior journalists, who see AJI as a vehicle for change in Indonesia's tightly con-

to offend the government.
"This is a frontal assault," said David Hill, a senior lecturer in Southeast Asian Studies at Murdoch University in Australia who last year released a book called The Press in New Order

"But the government will have to take this (frontal assault) into account as to whether it wants to crush (AJI) publicly, which will attract some international interest, or whether they

just let it ride and hope they can sab otage it from within," he added. Others cite the example of the independent Indonesia Welfare Labour Union, or SBSI, which has not been declared illegal but has been crushed

by the jailing of many of its leaders. While the government has not re-

Prekasha Yoedha, AJI members from the leading Kompas daily, have been spectively, to Europe and to the Mo-

lucca islands in East Indonesia. Both are also members of SBSI.

Arismunandar and Yoedha resign. "If we asked them to resign, the

government said it would support us pas," the source said.

### Can Rao survive another round of poll reverses? Party (CPP) to back Singh's expulon March 14. The opposition may Even in the unlikely event of namic states have attracted a lion's

Following his release from

went as far as saying that "we do not

want an Islamic state in the heart of

dentials are not in doubt. Among

the charges against him in 1983

were his campaigns for "de-

mocracy" and a "multi-party sys-

Izetbegovic's democratic cre-

"I dread to think what'll happen when the

ceasefire ends!"

goslavia as the "liberal Communist Foca prison in November 1988, he

Yugoslavia before perestroika Foreign Affairs Committee even

# By S. Venkant Narayan

Over 162 million voters are exercising their franchise in the current round of assembly elections in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Orissa, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

Opinion polls and political analysts predict that India's ruling Congress Party will lose in all but the politically insignificant Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast.

The humiliating defeats in the crucial southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka last December have already eroded Prime Minister and Congress Party President P.V Narasimha Rao's moral authority, or whatever is left of it. They encouraged Arjun Singh to raise the banner of revolt against Rao, forcing the latter to expel him from the party for six years.

But leaders like Kerala's A.K. Antony and Narain Dutt Tiwari of Uttar Pradesh as well as "Young Turks" such as Rajesh Pilot and Tariq Anwar do not think Singh's expulsion is such a great idea. Efforts to get the Congress Parliamentary

sion were quietly given up because Rao's supporters developed cold feet at the last minute.

Can Mr. Rao survive another round of poll reverses?

had proportionately more political

prisoners than anywhere else in Eu-

rope, including the Soviet Union.

Its human rights abuses, which in-

cluded the use of hit squads to si-

lence Yugoslav exiles and critics

abroad, are well documented in the

.West. And yet there has been this

On the face of it, Rao may find it extremely difficult to cope with the situation created by possible reverses in the latest assembly polls, particularly in the prosperous states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Congress controls both these states right now, while Bihar and Orissa are run by the Janata Dal. If Maharashtra slips out of the ruling party's hands this time, it will be the first time that such a thing is hap-

The loss of power in Maharashtra and Gujarat will also mean that the Congress will find it extremely difficult to win the next parliamentary election, due in early 1996. The right wing pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to win in Gujarat on its own, and in Maharashtra in alliance with

the Shiv Sena, its electoral partner. This will naturally boost the

BJP's morale and encourage it to

create problems for Rao when Par-

liament resumes its budget session

disrupt the proceedings, block the presentation of the budget, demand Rao's resignation and a mid-term Within the ruling party, the dis-

sidents may make life difficult for Unless he expels N.D. Tiwari

and A.K. Antony from the party before the results come in, the two men and others who think like them may pressure the 74-year-old Rao to give up the party presidentship in favour of a younger man. If Rao succumbs to such a demand and quits as party chief, he will be unable to control the Congress Party. And that, in turn, will mean he cannot remain as prime minister for

However, the sober elements within the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) realise that dumping Rao at this stage is unlikely to help the party in any way. They realise that men like Arjun Singh and N.D. Tiwari do not have the stature to lead the party to victory. Sharad Pawar, the other pretender to Rao's throne, will become irrelevant in national politics if the Congress los-

Sonia Gandhi agreeing to enter active politics and campaign for the Congress in the next general election, it is extremely doubtful if she can sway the voters' emotions in the beleaguered party's favour. Sonia Gandhi is no Indira Gandhi, who did not hesitate to split the Congress twice in order to establish

This is where the Young Turks come into the picture. A pressure group of younger Congress parliamentarians who are worried about their future, the Young Turks want Rao to take some quick and drastic steps to win over the alienated Muslims, the poor and the back-

her supremacy over it.

Together, these groups amount to a formidable vote bank and can help any party win an election. Just what Rao will do to appease them remains to be seen.

In the meanwhile, the multinational corporations (MNCs) and the foreign institutional investors (Flls), who are pumping billions of dollars into India, will naturally be worried about the fate of their money if the Congress loses in Gujarat and Maharashtra. These two dyshare-of foreign investment.

Since the liberalisation process began in mid-1991, for in stance, Maharashtra received investment proposals worth Rs 648 billion (\$21 billion), and Gujarat Rs 562 billion (\$18 billion). Many of these may be at the discussion stage, while others may have reached the stage where a final decision is due to be taken. What happens when new governments take charge in these states in March?

Thus, a change of government Gujarat and Maharashtra will only mean a delay of a few months in decision-making, and definitely not a reversal of policies.

In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where the Congress lost power last December to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal respectively, the new governments have adapted themselves to the economic reforms admirably.

As for Rao, he has confounded friends and foes alike, by surviving quite a few crises since taking charge of the Congress Party in May 1991 and the country the fol lowing month. Can he survive this one? We will soon know.

# Indonesia's independent journalists dig in

By Dean Yates

LOUNGING in a hot, dingy apart-ment clouded with clove-scented cig-arette smoke, members of Indonesia's Independent Journalists Association

swap jokes.

But the laughter is soon replaced by stern faces. Members stare at the ceiling while a colleague takes a telephone call in fluent French from symphathisers in Europe.
Six months after its formation, the Aliansi Journalis Independent (AJI),

or Alliance of Independent Journal

ists, faces a daunting task in a fight for press freedom in Indonesia. The government-backed Journalists Association (PWI) refuses to acknowledge AJI's existence.

Some newspaper and magazine editors, under official pressure, are sending their AJI members overseas or on assignment to remote areas of the sprawling archipelago. The government of President Suharto rejects a liberal press system

responsibility is the smooth development of the nation. The AJI office, tucked in among thousands of cramped flats in a huge residential complex, has cheap fur niture, one computer, a donated fax machine and a solitary fan.

AJI secretary general Santoso, a soft-spoken journalist with the respected bi-weekly forum Keadilan magazine, sees a tough fight ahead

but says AJI is up to it. "The struggle to create a free press will be long but AJI is ready. What-ever obstacles or pressure is applied, whatever method is used against us,

we shall not give up," he said.

All was formed in August after
the state-backed PWI, or Persatuan
Wartawan Indonesia, did not protest against a ban last June on three lead ing weeklies for their political re-porting. The government defended the ban in the interests of national stability. Apart from fighting for press freedom, AJI sees itself as an alternative for journalists unhappy with

PWI, long accused of being an extension of the government. Santoso said AJI had about 100 members but he and other journalists say sympathy for the organisation is

videspread across Indonesia. During weekly meetings AJI members plan what is fast becoming Jakarta's hottest source of news -- a

cheeky unlicensed publication called 'Independen' Written by AJI's working journalists, recent issues have chronicled the latest business dealings of Suharto's family and given alleged details of Information Minister Harmoko's press

holdings -- stories that would land editors in trouble. Santoso said circulation ranges from 6,000 to 10,000 copies, with leg-

islators, government officials and a military general as subscribers. But just how long the government will tolerate Independen -- and AJI it-

self -- is hard to say. PWI chairman Sofjan Lubis, asked by Reuters what he thought of AJI, refused to acknowledge its ex-

trolled political system, said it was unlikely AJI would be declared illegal unless it did something extraordinary

sorted to such open tactics, it has put pressure on editors to either get AJI members to renounce the organisation Satrio Arismunandar and Dhia

A senior source at Kompas, speaking on the condition he remain anonymous, said the government put "strong pressure" on Kompas to make

but we do not want to do this. This is a way of keeping them within Kom-"We do not want to sacrifice Kom-

pas but we also do not want to follow what they say, so for us this is the most elegant way. Will this satisify the government? Maybe not.'

# Rs 10 lakhs for guarding ballot boxes

BOMBAY — The Election Commission (EC)'s decision to postpone counting of votes polled n the assembly elections to March 11, has cost the state exchequer dearly. The daily cost of guarding the ballot boxes has been estimated at Rs 10 lakh.

Following an attempt to steal ballot boxes at Renapur, from where senior BJP leader Gop-Munde is seeking reelection, the EC had taken an undertaking from Chief Secretary Sharad Upasani that adequate security would be provided at all counting centres. The Commission had also passed strictures against the state government for its failure to book the accused under the Representation of People's Act. Accordingly, the government has now posted a sub-inspector, two head constables and six constables at each counting centre, and for sensitive ones, the security staff has been dou-

In the Naxal-infested districts of Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded and Gadchiroli, along with the local police, companies of the Central Reserve Police Force and State Reserve Police Force have been deployed to guard the ballot

# Kidney transplant racket in Bombay busted

From A Correspondent

BOMBAY - Just two weeks after the notification of the Human Organ Transplant Act, 1994, city police took the first steps towards curbing the international racket in kidney transplant, that has flourished in the metropolis for the past several

In a raid on a private nursing home in north-west Bombay on Monday, they uncovered a huge organ earthing evidence which included a large number of documents containing names and addresses of donors, agents, recipients, medical teams and even hotels where the patients' relatives were staying. The raid conducted by a police

party, headed by sub-inspector Sunil Sonawane, on Kaushalya Nursing Home in Khar also found a Yemen national, who had undergone a kidney transplant just a few days ago, recuperating at the hospital.

The documents seized showed that patients of kidney failure from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Greece, Yemen, Germany, Venezuela and some other countries had come to Bombay in the hope of buying kid-

neys.

There was even a fax message to Dr Santosh Raut, the owner of Kaushalya Nursing Home, from Centin Ferudum, president of Trans Transplantasyon of Turkey, that said that he (Ferudum) had 30 patients waiting for kidneys of which 22 had already been paid for about at the rate of Rs 3

# Gujaratis give a tough time to power seekers round of elections getting over and

final battle for ballot on Saturday, voters in Gujarat have continued to give the political parties a tough time. It is for the first time in Gujarat's electoral history that the two main contenders, the Congress the Bha-

to gauge the voter's mood till the end. The electioneering by both the parties has varied from constituency to constituency. In no region of the state could the political leaders afford to stick to a single plank or issue.
In the last phase, the Congress and

ratiya Janata Party have not been able

the BJP — both beset by rebellion have begun their electioneering with renewed energy in Saurashtra region. The Congress has lined up three mention in party manifesto.

nal assault. Jhakhar and Ajit have been chosen, apparently, to establish a rapport with Patels, the dominant landed gentry of Saurashtra which has been increasingly alienated.

The Congress poll strategists feel Patel, there is no leader with the party to sway the Patels in Congress fa-

In Saurashtra, the leaders have realised that gimmicks like offer of subsidised and cheap grain would not cut any ice. That is, probably, the reason that the election speeches of the leaders of both the parties in Saurashtra were bereft of offer of cheap cereals and foodgrain, though finds a

chant for money, the Congress is relying more on matters financial and issues of water for irrigation, a perennial problem in many areas of Saurashtra. Elsewhere, the Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao, and other leaders have been appealing to voters to choose the Congress for financial and economic security in the light of vast avenues for investment thrown upon following liberalised economic policies.

With per capita investment of Rs 7,478, Gujarat tops the list in the country. Prosperity of farmers in Saurashtra, dominated by Patels, akin to Jats of UP and Bhumihars of Bihar, have forced the campaign managers to evolve different strategies.

Saurashtra's peculiar feature is ha-

tred for jobs, both government and private. The parties' promise for em-ployment to state's 18 lakh jobless has been tried only in tribal areas where industry and trade forces people to look for seasonal jobs in government's rural development pro-

Most youth in Saurashtra try to become self-employed at the first op-portunity. Hundreds of public call offices, operated by youth, have come up all over the state. Many employed youth have kicked off their regular salaried jobs to become PCO oper-

bountiful and farmers, both big and small, have their hands full on their

In Rajkot, Junagadh, Bhavnagar

The rains this year have also been

a an acute scarcity of farmhands this year. In fact, a large number of harvest operators from Punjab have descended on Gujarat this year.

They too are finding it difficult to arrange local help for their mechanised harvesting operations.

The prime minister's two-day tour of Saurashtra had, for a moment, shaken the confidence of the BJP even in Saurashtra where it is well-The state leaders sent an SoS to

central leadership expressing apprehensions that Rao's mention about dangers to investors if the BJP was voted to power would swing the "monied" Gujarati voter away.

The BJP rushed its star speaker, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, to the re-

'damage-control exercise" to counter the "veiled threat" held out by Rao.

'Gujarati is more concerned about the value of his rupee," a Rajkot BJP leader said. "However, Vajpayee's tour of Saurashtra has reassured the people that the party was for economic liberalisation. People here do not bother about the rhetoric about secularism and communal threat. But their rupaiya should be safe."

In the final phase of campaigning, BJP stalwart L K Advani is also camping in the state to save their votes and the *rupaiya*.

Besides, the BJP is offering a bo-

nus. It is selling its Suraksha Forum, a proposal to set up a body for the protection of rights of the stockmarket investors in urban Saurashtra.

# LTTE enhances build up BATTICALOA, Eastern Lanka

 LTTE build up in this eastern province dominated by Tamils and Muslims have tremendously increased with the relaxation of security checks following the government-Tamil truce in January.

People are being allowed to move about freely after the truce came into force on January eight as government which does not want to annov the Tamil rebels and

jeopardise the fragile peace process. But the result of this is, as police officials in the district put it, a massive build up by the LTTE in the province where their presence had been reduced to a considerable

Checks by the security forces have been relaxed in this sprawling eastern province: The army and police personnel manning the checkposts and bunkers on the highway and in the city either do not get up to check the vehicles or are profusely apologetic when they

identity cards.
Father Miller, a Christain missionary, told a visiting PTI correspondent that the cessation of hostilities agreement between the government and the LTTE is only an interregnum between cessation and resumption of hostilities. — PTI

# Probe against ex-army chief

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan police has launched an investigation into the cases of fraud and malpractice against the former army commander and till recently ambassador to Thailand, Lt. Gen Cecil Waidyaratne, the official news agnecy "Lankapuvath" said.

Among the cases being probed by CID are the fraud to the tune of Rs. 24 million in the purchase of high frequency direction finding equipment. The equipment purchased from a British firm at a cost of Rs 72 million had failed to function and was later replaced by the manufacturers.

The police is also looking into the purchase of allegedly substandard field ration packs from a Malaysian firm which was supplied to soliders on the battlefront. The food was found to be unfit for consumption and made several soldiers sick.

The payment of Rs 500,000 from the army traing ground to be unfit for

# PAK BRIEFS

Tribal war claims 30 lives

HYDERABAD — Tribal warfare in District Khairpur have claimed over 30 lives during the past three months with four persons including three brothers gunned down by the rival tribe on Ujjans, Kalrey, Jatoi and Korai tribes began several years ago and, according to a local Press report, the fighting has so far taken more than 100 lives.

# 'Specialist' dog goes berserk

KARACHI — A dog trained specially to detect drugs at Karachi's Quaid-e-Azam International Airport went berserk and bit the son of a police officer in Manzoor Colony. According to a report, police have arrested Pervez Masih, the handler, and booked him under Section 289 PPC. The dog-bite victim was treated at a local hospital and later

# Sindh orders **bullet-proof vests**

KARACHI — The Sindh overnment has ordered for 40,000 bullet-proof vests for its police force for protection against sniper firing. More than 50 policemen have lost their lives during the last few months in Karachi. Besides, the provincial authorities have also ordered for a large quantity of handcuffs to meet the growing demands due to an alarming increase in arrests of

'Altaf doesn't have UK passport'

KARACHI — Local MQM leaders have described a PPP leader's claim that party chief Altaf Hussain had acquired a British passport as a "blatant lie and warned the government to desist from carrying out false propaganda. Sindh Chief Minister's advisor, Iqbal Yousuf, had said on Monday that Altaf Hussain had been granted political asylum in England and was holding British passport.

But Yousuf yesterday repeated his comments, saying he was willing to provide proof of

## Govt reconsiders consulate closure

close the Indian Consulate in Karachi, it was learnt here. The closure of the consulate office has resulted in great hardship for Indian visa-seekers who had to go applications. The consulate was closed by the government on the advice of intelligence agencies who claimed that the office was being used by terrorists.

# US still backing bilateral talks on Kashmir: Wisner

States will continue to support direct bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan on the question of Kashmir taking into account the will of the people who live there, the US ambassador to India, Frank G Wisner,

US shares the desire to see tensions reduced and dialogue resumed between India and Pakistan and will continue to encourage the search for peaceful long-term solutions to the problems, Wisner said while delivering the All India Management Association Foundation Day lecture here on Thursday.

"A sovereign, stable Pakistan, able to serve as a bridge to Central Asia and the Middle East, with armed forces capable of maintaining external defence and internal order is a matter of self-interest to India," he said.

"I do not subscribe to the school of thought that friendships in South Asia or anywhere else in the world are a zero-sum game," Wisner said, adding that United States' relationship with India, like that with Pakistan, opens the way to better communications all

He said India and the United States created an important consultative mechanism in defence and security by signing the agreed minutes on defence cooperation last

He said its importance lies in the fact that it creates a framework for development of closer defence ties based on shared traditions of civilian control of military, mutual concern about new threats to international security and the commitment to collective action under UN to keep

Wisner said Indo-US defence relationship is directed towards no one and is open for all to see.

Recognising that India alone can define its security needs the US ambassador said just as Americans will maintain powerful and capable armed forces, they respect India's need for a

He said policy talks between India and the United States in defence, political and United Nations affairs will begin in March and continue through the summer, adding the US will not ask anything of India that it is not prepared to undertake itself.

Wisner said inspite of all the pos-itive changes in Indo-US bilateral relations in recent years, there were still substantial areas of disagreement and added that he would be disturbed if he felt that both nations lacked the ability to cope with the differences.

Wisner said the last few years have seen a surge in Indian investor confidence, an increase in capital flows and growth in India's exports.

He said steps taken by the Indian government to globalise its economy have sent welcome signals to the United States and the world at large. But much more needs to be done if India is to secure a place in the global marketplace, he added. "India must continue its liber-

alisation policies to compete in a global economy," he said. Wisner said to attract investment

and increase exports India must invest more in education, infrastructure, environment and health.

Meanwhile the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali has reiterated that the world body could intervene or take initiative to resolve disputes between India and Pakistan only if both parties agree to it.

"We cannot intervene or take constructive initiative unless we receive agreement of the two parties," he told a Pakistani newsman on Tuesday.

However, he said he is prepared to act as an "honest broker," mediator or use good offices if he received "positive answer" from the two par-ties. The question came up during a joint Press conference by Ghali and Director General of UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Federico Mayor, launching the UN Year of Tolerence. - PTI

# Non-Cong govts diverting central funds, says Rao

MOTER (Orissa) - Indian Premier P V Narasimha Rao, yesterday accused the non-Congress-I state gov ernments of diverting central funds earmarked for the welfare programmes of the poor, for other pur-

Addressing an election meeting here, Rao said it was unfortunate that these governments were behaving in an "irresponsible" manner, totally disregarding the interests of weaker sec tions including those belonging to backward classes

Rao was received in this village in Kalahandi in this eastern coastal state by two federal ministers, Santosh Mohan Deb and Arvind Netam and the local member of parliament, Subhash

Rao said it had come to his knowledge that even the money sent by the centre for providing relief in droughthit areas was being used elsewhere, sometimes to pay the salary to the state government employees.

Asking the people to vote for his Congress Party, Rao said installation of Congress-I governments in the states would facilitate better coordination between the centre and the states and all the programmes meant for the uplift of the poor could be effectively implemented. The Indian premier charged the

extending full cooperation to the centre and said this was a big hurdle in executing welfare programmes for the downtrodden. He said a large number of in-dustries could be set up in these areas,

opening up tremendous job op

non-Congress-I governments with not

# portunities. - PTI Murder case accused stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent

KOZHIKODE - V V Abraham 32, a Congress(I) worker and prime accused in the Cheemeni murder case, was stabbed to death by a group of persons, allegedly CPM men, at Mathamangalam in Kannur district.

Abraham had worked in the personal staff of the former finance minister Oommen Chandy. After Chandy's resignation from the ministry, Abraham was staying at Math-

Abraham's hands were tied behind before he was stabbed by the assailants who came in a jeep. They created scare in the town by throwing country bombs and then escaped Abraham died on the spot.

He was the main accused in the Cheemeni murder case in which five CPM workers were killed in Chee-meni on March 23, 1987 the day of the state assembly election. The court had, however, acquitted all the accused for want of evidence. Later, the two accused in the case, Jose and Su rendran, had been murdered, alleg edly by CPM men. In the Cheemeni murder case, Abraham was the third accused. Jose, the first accused, was killed two years ago.

With this, Kannur district is once again slipping into the shadows of political violence. The latest one is in retaliation of another one which took place eight years ago.

Shops and establishments remained closed in Cheemeni and Payyanur and some other parts of Kannur district on Tuesday and yesterday. Top police officials have rushed to the spot.

# Benazir rejects Punjab governor's package From Our Correspondent ISLAMABAD — Prime Minister have instructed that no political figure

Benazir Bhutto yesterday rejected the proposed formula by Punjab Govern-or Choudhry Altaf Hussain for reconciliation and power-sharing with PML-N and said handing over Punjab and NWFP to the opposition was absolutely out of question.

In her first public reaction to the formula, Benazir said in a sarcastic "The Frontier government is neither 'halwa' (sweets) which can be shared with someone on Eid day, nor is it a gift which can be presented to anybody."
"Nobody will be permitted to

snatch or give away the governments in the provinces," she told a magazine in an interview yet to be published. "The formula proposed by the Choudhry Altaf is his personal point of view," she said.

Benazir's comments came amid reports that secret contacts had been made between the PML-N of Nawaz Sharif and Governor Altaf Hussain. An indication was given on Tuesday by Nawaz Sharif when he was asked by newsmen to comment on the formula and he said: "Wait for tomorrow. So far there is no progress.

Reports said yesterday Chief Minister Wattoo and Benazir had an identity of views about the formula and both had criticised the governor at a meeting on Tuesday night.

Benazir said the formula proposed

by Governor Altaf was impracticable and based on the personal view of Punjab governor.

Her comments were made before a marathon meeting of the Big-Four, including President Farooq Leghari, Benazir herself, Governor Altaf Hussain and Chief Minister Manzur Wat-



BENAZIR BHUTTO

too at the president's house on Tues-

They discussed the governor's formula and tried to patch up the differences between the governor and the chief minister and officials said the results of the meeting were positive. On the proposal Altaf said after the Big-Four meeting as "my own brainchild, having no official backing."

"I had just talked about an outline during the course of an informal discussion with journalists. It was just a proposal," Altaf said in separate interviews to two Islamabad newspapers.

In her comment Benazir said the present governments were formed after the 1993 elections, with the mandate of the masses and nobody should insult the peoples' mandate.

Answering a question, Benazir said she did not want to send any politician to jail as she herself had been there. "We do not want to implicate should be arrested applying restrictive She, however, said if somebody

breaks law and it is proved after investigation, then he should be arrested regardless of his status as no one is above the law. The parliamentarians are not a privileged class and cannot be allowed to devour bank loans or withhold taxes. Similarly, no member of the par-

liament can be allowed to keep unlicenced arms or show these in public meetings, she explained.
She categorically said the govern-

ment had no intention whatsoever to implicate any member in a false case or victimise anyone. As long as the members abide by law, the government will protect them, she vowed. She said during the Sharif govern-

ment, false cases were registered against his political opponents and they were tortured, but "we do not want to repeat all that," she said.

Speaking about talks with the opposition, Benazir said the doors of her alliance PDF, which comprised PPP and PML-J, were open for Nawaz Sharif. "If he wants to hold talks, he will have to talk with both the PPP and PML-J," she stressed. Talking about Punjab government, Benazir said there is a coalition government in Punjab but some people think that Chief Minister Manzur Wattoo, with 18 members hears what he wants to hear and does what he wants to do.

"Such people should think that those who have 90 members would hear and do a lot more than Wattoo,' Benazir said in an apparent reply to Governor Altaf Hussain's logic about

# ANP leader raps Taleban

ISLAMABAD — The chief of Awami National Party in the North-West Frontier Province, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, has described the new force of Afghan students -Taleban — as "another conspiracy to divide Pakhtun people.'

Addressing a public meeting in Timergara town in the NWFP, Begum Nasim Wali described Taleban as nothing but a sequel to "imperialists" plot to divide the Pakhtun na-

Earlier, another prominent Pakhtun nationalist leader from Balochistan, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, accused Interior Minister Naseerullah Khan Babar and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for backing the Tale-

ban movement in Afghanistan. The government has repeatedly denied any involvement with Tale-

Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ahmed Ali issued a strong statement on Monday, saying that all apprehensions about Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan affairs were "based on

Bangladesh women make a replica of the national flag with flowers at the altar of Shaheed Minar in Dhaka recently in memory of the 1952 language campaign movement.

# Karunakaran loyalists to go on the offensive

# From Our Correspondent KOZHIKODE — The proKarunakaran forces in the state Con-

gress (I) which have so far been quietly facing the onslaughts of the dissidents and the other constituents of the ruling UDF demanding the replacement of the chief minister, have finally decided to go on the offensive. Six of the pro-Karunakaran DCC-

I (District Congress Committee-I) president who had an informal meeting in Thiruvananthapuram agreed on a two-pronged strategy for the purpose, one was to bring their case also to the attention of he prime minister who is also the president of the AICC(I). Another was to have a larger meeting of all the DCC(I) presidents who supported the chief minister and chalk out a course of action to counter the dissidents' move to oust Karunakaran with the help of the other constituents of the UDF.

The six DCC presidents who attended the conclave were E M Augusty (Idukki), K. Sudhakaran, MLA (Kannur), Rajan (Kollam), Mohan Kumar (Alappuzha), B. Sankaran (Kozhikode) and Kaviyad Divakara (Thiruvananthapuram).

They deplored the bid by those who had lost the organisational elections to 'hijack' the party and its leadership with the help of the constituents of the UDF. They also resolved to squarely face the dissidents' move to take over the majority with the help of pressure tactics from the other con-

action plan to not only defend the rivals blows effectively but also hit back with equal force. The decision of the pro-

Karunakaran forces which had been lying low to go on the offensive is considered a significant move. It is only because they have been keeping a low profile confining to at the most passive expressions of support for Karunakaran that an eyeball to eyeball confrontation between them and the anti-Karunakatan forces could be avoided so long. The present decision is bound to lead to fireworks in the political firmament of Kerala in the

(M) leader and Revenue Minister K M Mani said in Thiruvananthapuram that there was no stipulation that only the leader of the largest constituent of the ruling coalition could become the chief minister. He cited the instance of the late CPI leader C Achutha Menon serving as CM from 1969 to 1976 despite his party's strength being less than that of the Congress. Similar was the case with the late League leader C H Muhammad Koya.

K Karunakaran has read the writing on the wall: even Rao cannot save him. So he is now trying desperately

minister's case for a little more time to quit in grace, he may find that his trip has only helped to seal the fate of the 44-month-old Karunakaran government and more than the twodecade-old ruling UDF set-up.

### East-West Airlines complains of persecution NEW DELHI — East-West links. We want to ask people that minorities business interests" airlines, one of the largest sched-He warned that the company uled private airline in the country had enough evidence to show," who

agencies at the behest of its busiright time we will come out with ness rivals by dubbing it as a front East-West Airlines has been in "Last one year we have been at the eye of the storm recently with delays in paying inland air travel the receving end of raids by various tax, disruption in light schedules security agencies like enforcement, and one of its senior executives, revenue intelligence, CBI and in-Saboo V Chacko being picked up come tax in the name of public scrutiny", said Nasiruddin A Wahby police under Tada for alleged complicity in helping some so called associates of absconding id, the chairman of the airlines. He added, "I for once and all

are the people behind the campaign

and what is their interest. At the

'We have an impressive track record of being the first private air taxi operators and have raised our money through banks and public issues" Nasiruddin Wahid said adding," even after a year's scrutiny, the agencies have been unable to

Bombay underworld don Dawood

Starting as a small time airline in 1992, East-West today has the largest fleet of ten aircraft with 72 flights operating to 34 destinations in the country

The airlines chairman said that "persecution campaign" by security agencies was upsetting the airlines ambitious expansion programme of upgradation of its fleet and modernising its servicing facilities. Wahid comes from a family of

freedom fighters and asserted that he and his family were "proud In-We employ 10,000 people in India and another 20,000 abroad and feel hurt when our efforts to

boost aviation and allied services

in India are dubbed as anti-

The allegations are levelled that we received three to four crores from people with terrorist we pay over Rs 4 crores salary to our staff and have earned over Rs 150 crores in just over two years and you expect people to believe we would go for such peanut amounts", Wahid said. "The transactions of our group

are over Rs 2000 crores and this has been routed through nationalised banks who have earned sizeable amounts from our deposits", Nasiruddin Wahid said adding, "just because we are minorities. We are pained by allegations of being a front for terrorists". Wahid said undettered by the "false campaign to drag the com-

ahead and are in line to procure the advanced Boeing 737-400". He also disclosed that the company was all set to establish a five star deluxe hotel resort at Kovalam in of Kerala. – PTI

pany down under. We will go

The enlarged meeting of all the DCC(I) presidents who supported the chief minister would be held in Kochi on February 23. It would draw up an

Meanwhile, the Kerala Congress

to remain in power as long as he could in the name of seeing the Vote on Account through and failing which to put his trusted man Union Minister S Krishna Kumar in the saddle till such time as he can reoccupy it. He is determined that under no circumstances should A K Antony succeed If Rao is coming to plead the chief

# KARACHI — The Pakistan government is reported to be re-considering its decision to

to Islamabad for filing their

# Publisher justifies payment to Bombay Chief Justice

isher has justified paying the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court about \$80,000 for the overseas rights of a book he has au-

The payment to Justice A M

Bhattacharjee for his book Muslim Law and Constitution has led to a controversy in India with lawyers Bombay seeking his resigna-The judge has proceeded on leave and Press reports quoting sources close to Justice Bhat-

tacharjee said yesterday he was

likely to put in his papers within

S Musafir, chief executive of "Roe-

In a Press release issued here, S

Musafir is a non-resident Indian

buck Publishing", has justified the payment of \$80,000 to Justice Bhattacharjee, and given details of deal and the context in which the

yesterday complained of per-

secution campaign by security

want to make it clear that we have

no links with Dawood Ibrahim, the

most wanted man in connection

leashed on us by our business rivals

misusing official machinery", Wah-

id told newsmen here adding, "it

appears to be an onslaught on the

"It is a dirty corporate war un-

payment was made.

for terrorist activities.

with Bombay blasts".

tionality and son of late Gurmukh Singh Musafir, a veteran freedom fighter and former chief minister of

to buy the copyright of the book written by Justice Bhattacharjee. The Iranian gentleman, whom Musafir has not identified in his Press release, made it clear that his enquiry was based on a wish to have this

the Iranian readership. "I was able to contact the author and realised that he was the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. I spoke to him on the telephone and he asked me to send him a proposal in writing which I duly did on September 9, 1994. He indicated that as would be visiting England shortly, we could perhaps meet and finalise any arrangement", Musafir

Musafir said he was approached in July 1994 by an acquaintance in Iran who enquired if it would be possible

work printed in "Farsi" (Persian) for

Musafir, who is also one of the directors of a local English newspaper India Weekly, said "My Iranian buyers offered to pay \$80,000 for the "Farsi" edition of the book, the Dubai buyers offered \$55,000 for Arabic edition. I was given the freedom to sell the publishing rights to the book in other parts of

Musafir said he received a reply from Justice Bhattacharjee to his letter on September 14, 1994 confirming the latter's willingness to accept his offer for publishing the

"Following this exchange of letters, I met Justice Bhattacharjee in November 1994 at the St James' Court Hotel during his visit to London and discussed with him the possibility of publishing his second

book, Hindu Law and the Con-

stituion, but we came to no ar-

rangement regarding this". - PTI

# IN FINE PRINT

# Drug racket in Australian jails

SYDNEY — People are filling using racquets to hit them into Australian jails, feeding a strong appetite among inmates for nar-cotics, prison authorities said yes-

Hitting and throwing drug-filled tennis balls over the razor wire of prison walls are among imaginative smuggling techniques identified by an inquiry into drug-taking in jails in South Australia

One smuggler even used a crossbow to fire drugs over a prison wall, but the more traditional method of hiding drugs in cakes carried into prison visits was still popular, the inquiry found.

Lobbing tennis balls was "the easiest way to get it over the fence", a spokesman for the South Australian prisons minister said.

They pack the drug and then wrap it (in plastic film) and then put it in a tennis ball, and then you just literally throw it or hit the ball over the fence," spokesman Keith Blyth added in commenting on the

official inquiry's findings.

The South Australian government plans to step up security around the state's eight jails, and may use drug-sniffing dogs to pa-trol outside jails for people with suspicious tennis balls, Blyth said.

# Smoking ban on flights

CANBERRA — The United ban smoking on non-stop flights between the three countries. Australian Transport Minister Laurie Brereton said yesterday.
"The ban will be extended to

all Australian international flights regardless of destination from July 1, 1996," Brereton said in a state-

Australia's two major airlines, Qantas Airways Ltd and Ansett Australia, had both endorsed the proposal, Brereton said.

Smoking has been banned on Australian domestic flights since 1987.

# Australian city in dog day showdown

SYDNEY — There's a showdown in Australia's outback town of Dodge City -- over dogs. Aborigines have taken to

Dodge City's dusty main street to protest against the poisoning of scores of dogs, including some they say are pets.
"People are afraid to touch the

dogs which have staggered into homes and are under houses," said local aboriginal health worker Dave Gordon, describing how the dogs fell victim to an official pest-eradication scheme

They said they would only kill wild dogs, but some of them are pets," he added. "They are vomiting near where the children

are playing."

Last Friday night 120 poison baits were laid around Dodge City, in northwest New South Wales state, to eradicate ma-rauding packs of wild dogs which

By Saturday night scores of dogs were collapsing and vomiting in violent death throes, prompting aborigines to stage a protest march on Tuesday. "There

# China unveils Deng watch

BEIJING — A Chinese factory has produced the most expensive item yet to bear the face of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, a gold, diamond and platinum watch costing up to 11,300 yuan

(\$1,340).
The China news service said yesterday that proceeds from sales would go to the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped.

It said a factory in Guangzhou in the south, where the timepiece was unveiled at a ceremony attended by local leaders, had produced 8,000 of the watches, with the men's model selling for 11,300 yuan and the women's for 10,800 yuan (\$1,280).

The watch, issued to commemorate 15 years of the open-door and reform policy launched by Deng, carries a platinum en-graving of the 90-year-old leader on its face and also uses 18-carat gold and diamonds, it said.

The chairman of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped is Deng Pufang, the handicapped son of Deng Xiaoping. The younger Deng approved the design, the agency added.

# **Ghost officials** haunt Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian government census of its civil service has found 3,487 ghost workers on the payroll, the information ministry said yes-

Ung Teaseam, Undersecretary of State for Information, said 146,311 civil servants were paid last December, but only 137,604 people had registered during a national census on February 7.

This means 8,707 were absent but 5,220 of these absentees had an explanation, which means 3,487 were so-called ghost civil servants," he told a news confer-

The average salary of a civil servant in Cambodia is 60,000 riels per month (\$23), well below the minimum basic wage to sup-

port a family, estimated to be be-tween \$100-\$200 per month. Many Cambodians holding low-paid jobs in the public sector report to work in the morning and hen leave to begin their second

# **European powers** press Belgrade on peace plan

Serbia" and help ease tensions in Croatia, where rebel Serbs are in warout for peace in former Yugoslavia, will make a fresh effort to convince like mood The Croatian government has ordered more than 12,000 UN pea-Serbia to accept a peace plan when of ficials visit Belgrade today, diplomats said. France, Germany and Britain are sending envoys for talks with Serbian cekeepers there to leave. President Slobodan Milosevic and there will be a full meeting in Paris next week of the five-nation "contact

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, charged with selling the plan to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, went home after a weekend of talks with the response that an end to sanctions was a precondition for Belgrade's cooperation.

But Kozyrev, whose country has strong traditional links with the Serbs and has been less critical of them than the United States, expressed some support for Belgrade. Diplomats said there was some concern that Milosevic could try to create tension between Russia and its contact group partners as a negotiating tactic

"The contact group has to work hard to preserve its unity and we've had our disagreements about how to handle the Serbs, said another dip-lomat. "Milosevic plays on that."

The contact group continues to back a plan for dividing Bosnia roughly in half between rebel Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance. But the Bosnian Serbs, who control two-thirds of the former Yugoslav republic, have repeatedly rejected it.

The peace process has been given urgency by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's decision to expel UN peacekeepers from Croatia when their mandate expires on March 31.

He says their presence has allowed the Croatian Serbs to foreign officials fear a new Serb-Croat war could break out, inflaming other smouldering conflicts across the former Yugoslavia as spring arrives — allowing any side to mount fresh offensives after the win-



BELFAST — British Prime Minister John Major (left) and his Irish counterpart John Bruton shake hands as they unveil their framework document aimed at a sustained peace for Northern Ireland. Britain and Ireland agreed to relax their constitutional claims to Northern Ireland and to abide by the wishes of the majority of the province's 1.6 million inhabitants as a basis for setting Ulster's 25-year sectarian conflict. — AFP photo

# France to expel US spies

group" trying to broker a settlement,

European diplomats said,.

Despite recent appeals from the United States and Russia — the two

other nations in the group — Milosevic has said he will consider the new

international plan only if UN sanctions imposed on Serbia for its part in the

"We are making another effort with a trip to Belgrade and there will

be a contact group meeting next week in Paris to take stock," said one Eu-

ropean diplomat, who asked not to be

"We haven't given up. No one is overly optimistic but it is worth an-

other attempt," said another diplomat.
With the threat of renewed war in

Croatia and a shaky four-month cease-

fire in Bosnia due to run out at the end of March, diplomats and UN officials

now see a real risk that the Yugoslav

conflict could flare again and spread further afield. But the path to peace negotiations in former Yugoslavia has

been littered with countless broken promises and violated ceasefires since

major powers earlier this month, of-fers to ease sanctions on Belgrade if it

recognises Bosnia and Croatia. But it

does not promise to lift them permanently, something Serbia wants.

The plan for recognition of the dif-ferent republics would, at least on

The current plan, agreed by the

war first broke out in 1991.

conflict are lifted.

PARIS — French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua has asked the United States to recall five of its nationals including four diplomats, for alleged espionage activities, the newspaper Le Monde said yesterday.

The five were suspected by French counter-intelligence services of being members of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and had attempted to recruit members of French ministerial cabinets, Le Monde said.

A spokesman for the US embassy in Paris told Reuters the embassy never commented on intellience matters

# British playwright

Robert Bolt who won Oscars for the screenplays of *Dr Zhivago* and *A Man For All Seasons* has died aged 70, his

quite peaceful. He passed away at home with Sarah (actress Sarah Miles) beside him," said a spokeswoman for his agent Casarotto Ramsay.

Bolt's other movie blockbusters included Lawrence Of Arabia in 1962

# LONDON - British playwright

agent said yesterday.
"He died on Monday night, it was

# Robert Bolt dies

and Ryan's Daughter in 1970.

# Hank defends

Forrest Gump' CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — In order to earn the "Pudding Pot" from Harvard University's Hasty Pudding theatricals troupe on Tuesday. Oscar nominee Tom Hanks had to throw darts at pictures of his op-

Hanks, who has been nominated as best actor for Forrest Gump, had to play "Nail the Nominees," throwing darts at pictures of fellow best actor nominees, including Paul Newman and John Travolta.

Not bad for a guy who didn't even make it through Sacramento State University," said Hanks, the theatrical company's 28th Man of the Year.

Last year Hanks won an Oscar as best actor for his role as Andrew Beckett, a lawyer suffering from Aids, in the movie Philadelphia.

"This is quite an experience, a thrill and an honour," Hanks said upon receiving the pot. The Hasty Pudding is the oldest acting company in the United States, and has presented man and woman of the year awards since

Hanks joins a long list of distinguished actors, including Tcm Cruise, who have won the "Pudding Pot." Last week actress Michelle Pfeiffer accepted this year's "Woman

Asked what Forrest Gump would say about the award, Hanks said, "where's the pudding?" — Reuter

# From bombs and bullets to bed and breakfast

BELFAST - From bombs and bullets to bed and breakfast. The 160km road from Dublin to Belfast is past and signposts to its likely econom-

Yesterday Britain and Ireland launched new proposals for a lasting political settlement to a 25-year conflict that turned the British province into a state under siege and the border into a hi-tech battleground.

The plan envisages cross-border to economic development and foster better relations between north and

south, Protestant and Catholic.

But to all intents and purposes, the physical frontier that demarcates the British province from the Irish Republic was crumbling years ago under the

weight of economic necessity.

Ceasefires by the Irish Republican
Army (IRA) and their loyalist foes accelerated the process last year and the
display of military muscle that used to greet travellers is a memory.

British army watchtowers still loom over the main crossing points, protected by galvanised sheeting from sniper attack and wire fences to catch the mortar bombs of IRA guerillas who killed British soldiers in an attempt to end British But the young British soldiers with their nervous camouflaged faces thing of the past. The soldiers are in barracks. The police now catch speeding motorists. At night motorists used to be confronted by a single red torch beam swinging slowly in the middle of roads outside major towns, such as Newry, 60 kms south of Belfast.

These were held by a lone police-man in a flak jacket to flag down traffic. Behind him was another with an auto-matic rifle sheltered behind the rear

door of an armoured jeep.

No longer. Only the locals now remember that this was the spot where an IRA sniper drove a bullet through a policeman's neck moments before an IRA Christmas ceasefire.

Or that this nondescript two-pub or that this nondescript two-pub town along a northern coastal road is greysteel, where vengeful Protestant gunman shouting cynical halloween greetings sprayed a bar with gunfire and killed eight innocent revellers.

Things have also changed in Belfast itself. Soldiers have been returned to barracks during daylight hours and shoppers throng the city centre mall and young couples check out house prices -which have risen 13.5 per cent since the

Since the ceasefire, signs at the border advertising bed and breakfast ac-commodation or information packs from the Irish and Northern Irish tourists boards no longer seem so out of Tourism is our first card," Northern

Ireland's Economy Minister, Baroness Denton, told Reuters. Her Irish counterpart, Enda Kenny, is of the same mind. Tourism authorities north and south are advertising and promoting the island as a single tourist delight with main

eyes on the multi-million dollar American market. They hope to cash in on a new perception of Northern Ireland since the ceasefires that has seen tourism inquiries from the Irish Republic soar by

500 per cent in the last few months. "There are a million people in the republic who have never visited North-em Ireland. They will," said Michael Smyth, economics professor at the University of Ulster.

Customs posts are empty shells growing mould, closed down by the European Union's no-frontier single-market trade ideal. Lorries carrying Nothern Irish beef for export plough down the road, crossing vehicles carrying Finnish paper for Belfast.

The landscape is subtly different. In

British-ruled Northern Ireland the farm-Ireland, nature itself seems to have been on the designing team. — Reuter

# 50 feared dead as Chinese boat capsizes

**BELJING** — More than 50 people are missing, presumed dead after a Chinese junk laden with fish and fish vendors sank in a sudden storm off Southern Zhejiang province, the Beijing Youth daily reported yesterday. Only four survivors have been found since the wooden 40-

horsepower junk sank on Saturday afternoon, it said, quoting local government and police officials. The Zhinan fish transport No. 18

was sailing from a harbour in the Zhoushan archipelago to Beilun near the coastal city of Ningbo when it It was heavily overloaded with fish

cargoes filling all available space, including cabins and corridors. Government officials said they

held out little hope of finding any surivivors among the estimated 50 people still missing after the junk sank when sudden strong winds whipped up huge waves.

The passengers panicked, the boat began to list, water rushed in and the vessel sank within 30 minutes, the newspaper said, quoting survivor Zhang Minglun. — Reuter

# Beijing cops smash gun rings

back a rising tide of armed crime, Chinese police seized 260,000 guns and 1,600 grenades in the first five months of a crackdown on illegal weapons,

the China Daily said yesterday.

The nationwide campaign, launched last August, also netted 780,000 rounds of ammunition, 460,000 kg of explosives, 510,000 detonators and 220,000 illegally owned knives, the newspaper quoted a

senior police officer as saying.

Beijing launched the anti-firearms campaign after alarm about a dramatic growth in armed crime.

China saw a 38 per cent rise in armed crimes in the first six months of 1994 compared with the year before, the Legal Daily said in January. Most of the weapons seized were

home-made guns firing steel shot or hunting and small-bore rifles, but 1,400 were military rifles, it said.

Police arrested nearly 2,000 suspects and shut down 1,573 sites for making and selling guns, it said.

Public pressure forced a further 11,600 people to give up their illegal weapons, the newspaper said. For example, police in eastern

Shandong province smashed more than 40 criminal gun rings and arrested 956 people, while in the southern island province of Hainan police shut down 300 sites for gun man-

### bushed UN staff in Mogadishu yesterday, killing a Somali guard and briefly abducting one employee near the airport where foreign civilians are evacuating the country. UN officials said gunmen in a withdrawal.

GUARD KILLED

Somali gunmen

ambush UN staff

"Technical" battlewagon mounted with a heavy weapon and two other vehicles intercepted the UN staff in a convoy near the UN-held airport. In an exchange of fire, one guard

was killed and two were seriously wounded. A Somali man employed by the UN high Commissioner for Ref-ugees (UNHCR) was abducted but later freed unharmed. UN officials said a British security

officer, Bill Lindsay of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), was injured in the hand. He was taken to the Pakistani hospital at the airport and was expected to be evacuated later to Nairobi. There was no apparent motive for the attack in the lawless city. The convoy was taking the UN staff to work at the UNDP compound near the entrance to the airport, where all UN troops have pulled back before completing their withdrawal from So-

Somalia have either withdrawn to the airport or sleep there at night for security before heading to their offices out side each morning Officials said several UN international civilian staff who were waiting at the airport to leave by plane to the Kenyan capital were told to speed

malia. The last UN foreign civilians in

A final rearguard of Pakistani UN soldiers is due within days to be plucked from the beaches of Somalia's anarchic capital in the US-led operation "United Shield" to safeguard the

The UN Operation in Somalia (Unosom) is leaving two years after thousands of US-led foreign troops landed to sweep aside gunmen and help end a famine that was killing 1,000 people each day. But Unosom failed to persuade Somalia's rival warlords to agree on peace and set up an interim government so is pulling out of what was a test case for UN mission in the post-cold war world.

UN vehicles are being shipped out to other missions around the world and those that cannot be moved are being destroyed. UN aid agencies are pulling their foreign staff out of Mog-adishu before the last troops leave but hope to return within a month or so as long as a security mission says it is safe. UNDP is to take over coordination of relief operations in Somalia from Unosom but the agency's headquarters compound is in a dangerous neighbourhood facing the airport and Indian Ocean. At its height Unosom employed

some 2,600 Somalis and with a budget of some \$1.5 billion per year was the biggest single employer in Somalia, torn apart by civil war since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991.—Reuter

# Chechnya civilians bear brunt of war

- Masud Basalyev pauses on a bridge over the Sunzha river in the centre of Grozny and ponders the devastation the war has wrought. To his right, Russian bombs and artillery have ploughed Chekhov Park into a jumble of shattered concrete, splintered trees and water-filled craters. To his left stands the fire and shell-scarred remains of the presidential palace, once the pivot of the battle for Grozny but now a grim reminder of how poorly the Chechen rebel cause has fared.

A few tattered remnants are all that remain of Chechen flags which waved through weeks of desperate battle.

Basalyev scurries out of the way as two armoured personnel carriers hauling Russian soldiers clank past, churn-

ing up huge clouds of dust.

"It's their city now not ours," the former factory manager -- who identifies himself as an ethnic Russian with some Chechen blood -- said of the Russian soldiers.

"We are supposed to be subject to humanitarian law but now we are completely deprived of our rights. Only the next generation will be able to forget what happened in Grozny. Many more civilians died here than soldiers."

No final reckoning of civilian loss-es and suffering in the Chechen war will ever be possible. Russia's Human Rights Commis-

sion, in a report leaked on Tuesday, said that more than 24,000 Grozny civilians had been killed in the two months up to January 25. Scores of dead still lie buried under

tonnes of rubble in collapsed buildings in Grozny and many recovered bodies have been buried in common graves. While the battle for the Chechen

capital has been well reported, the fighting and dying in small outlying villages has gone largely uncovered. Civilians are stopped and searched at Russian checkpoints in Grozny and elsewhere across Chechnya. "Suspicious" characters are sent to interrogation centres for further ques-

No doubt some are Chechen fighters like those who try to slip in and out of Grozny to operate as snipers or members of small commando teams at night. Others are simply innocent victims snatched up in the swirl of war.

One such hapless individual stood at attention against a wall on a main

street in Grozny under Russian guard earlier this week, waiting to be transported to such a centre. "I came from Nazran in Ingushetia to look for my relatives and these sol-diers stopped me and said my papers

were not correct," the middle-aged man told foreign reporters. "I don't know what was wrong but

I'm not a soldier. I'm not a member of any of the gangs fighting here." Russian human rights monitors charge the army with gross violations

in Chechnya and say the military are operating behind a screen of secrecy shield their misdeeds. With world leaders treating Chechnya as an internal Russian matter, Moscow is denying international hu

man rights experts access to the battle zone. Tens of thousands of refugees jam into makeshift shelters in countryside where sanitation is so poor doctors warn epidemics are invitable when the weather turns warm. Most pitiful are those with dis-

abling wounds and no prospect of adequate medical treatment. "I went out to take some water outside my flat in Grozny about 7

O'clock one morning and a mortar fell and blew my hand off," recalled 51-year old Zina Saslanbekova from her bed at Urus-Martan hospital "I am raising eight children whose father is dead and now I have only one hand. We've lost our flat and all

our belongings and there's no chance to get a prosthesis. I have to get a new hand somehow or I won't be able to take care of my kids." Slumped in a grimy ward full of other women wounded in the war, Saslanbekova's story is far from unique.

"The war is pointless compared to all this suffering, said the woman's daughter, Rosa, who now lives with her seven siblings in a former kindergarten in Urus-Martan. "Lots of people, including some

very young ones, are going to be invalids forever." — Reuter



GROZNY — Special OMON militia soldiers check an arrested Chechen fighter for special marks on the right knee and near the right ear, which usually indicate that the person has often used a grenade

# Test run planned for wheelchair Cinderella

evert an embarrassing row over the rights of the disabled ordered a bizarre wheelchair rehearsal yesterday itician should be admitted to Vien-

na's prestige opera ball.

Theresia Haidlmayr, who has tickets and a table reservation for the ball, was told only this week that she could not attend because she was wheelchair-bound, and regulations did not permit wheelchairs in

the ballroom. Opera ball doyenne Lotte Tobisch-Labotyn, who runs the annual society bash, offered Haidlmayr of the opposition Greens Party a seat in the visitor's gallery overlooking the ball but was indignantly turned

In an apparent manoeuvre to cir-cumvent their own strict safety regu-

lations and thereby defuse a row

over discrimination against the handicapped, safety engineers said

yesterday they would take her on a

"rolling inspection" of the 19th century opera house.

hallmarks of a face-saving exercise to stop Haidlmayr, who has been in a wheelchair all her life, becoming a

contemporary Cinderella. "An official inspection of the op-era, including by wheelchair, will be carried out by engineer Wilhelm Kranzelmayer of the state buildings section," the handicapped MP said yes-

The inspection was intended to determine whether her wheelchair could, after all, be permitted among the heady swirl of white organza, black tails, gilt, chandeliers and champagne which makes up Vienna's annual ex-

The ball is Austrian high society's treasured mirror of a bygone era of imperial splendour. Up to 4,000 guests paying steep prices for tickets and drinks waltz the night away in the company of political, entertainment and business stars.

The event is lampooned by the

capital's Bohemian counter-culture as

a kitsch night out for the nouveaux

riches and, in the past, has sparked

Anxious to avoid a row, Econom ics Minister Wolfgang Schuessel, whose ministry runs public buildings, made it clear on Tuesday that officials would have to rethink their ban on Haidlmayr and said he was confident she would attend. Haidlmayr told Reuters she had

agreed to take part in the inspection, in part to underscore the lack of arrangements for the handicapped in Austria's public buildings. But she said she had "no interest in a typically Austrian solu-tion...custom-made for one in-dividual" and would not be saying

until today -- the morning of the ball whether she would in fact accept the new arrangement. Discrimination at the opera ball was "only the tip of the iceberg".

Haidlmayr said in a statement. The physically handicapped were regularly kept in spectator-only places at a whole series of annual balls and other public festivities, she

# Balloonist lands in Canada after record trip MENDHAM, Saskatchewan and he was using a backup battery.

An American stockbroker landed

safely in Canada on Tuesday after setting a world distance record and becoming the first person to cross the Pacific Ocean alone in a bal-

Steve Fossett, 50, who appeared happy and healthy after the gruelling four-day trip, said he had accomplished his goals. 'I wanted to be the first person to fly across the Pacific and I had in mind setting a distance record," Fossett said after putting his balloon down near the tiny hamlet of Mendham, Saskatchewan, about 400 km

east of Calgary. Fossett, who left South Korea on

February 18, said the lack of company didn't faze him. "Loneliness just doesn't bother

me," said Fossett, of Chicago. He travelled more than 9,600 km, breaking the official ballooning distance record of 8,320 km set by Ben Abruzzo and other balloonists in 1981, project manager Bo Kemper said from Chicago.

It was unclear if Fossett had gone further than the unofficial world record distance of 10,900 km by Virgin Atlantic Airways founder Richard Branson in 1991,

Kemper said he believed Fossett had also set a world record altitude for the type of balloon of 8,100 me-

Fossett said he first dreamed of setting the solo record about three years ago, just before he took up bal-

"I'm just trying to do some interesting things. I have some personal achievements I want to do," he said. Project spokesmen had said earlier that winds were too strong for Fossett to land in Canada and he would probably put down in Montana or South Dakota.

But David Slavsky, Dean of Natural Sciences at Loyola University in Chicago, said there were "good meteorological reasons to go for a landing now. Slavsky was in charge of sci-Fossett's radio, had stopped working

loon to study El Nino, a Pacific Ocean current that influences weather patterns in many areas of Fossett reached Canadian shores

on Tuesday morning after travelling at speeds of up to 145 kph. During the trip, he had to endure extreme cold because heaters in his

Gondola did not work, said Kemper, an assistant Vice President of Loyola University in Chicago and an old friend of the balloonist. Kemper, who kept in contact with Fossett from Chicago throughout the flight via computer, said the balloon's generator, which powers

Fossett, who took off from Seoul's Olympic Stadium, financed the trip himself and had no sponsors. Kemper would not say how much it cost. The specially designed balloon, 16 metres in diameter and 30 me-

tres high, weighs more than two tonnes -- including the pilot's Gondola with fuel and supplies. Fossett had an oxygen mask for use at high altitudes.

ning to enter the trans-Pacific sail-

Next, Fossett said, he is plan-

"It's a very fast race and I have hopes of breaking a record."

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# GREETINGS

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Dear friend Malcolm J Rodrigo (A.W.V) you are engaged, how wonderful, the news has really thrilled, hope you find your future plans are happily fulfilled. Congratulations. From loving friends, Kalum, Upali (AWV)

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GF 052 GF 1002

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WY 411

GF 509 GF 050

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Brazil keep

top slot in

world ranking

**ZURICH** — World champions Brazil retained top place in the latest rankings issued by Fifa on Tuesday:

in brackets):

Brazil (1) . Spain (2) . Italy (4)

Sweden (3)

Germany (5)

Norway (8)

9. Mexico (15)

10. Ireland (9)

Argentina (10)

Netherlands (6)

Switzerland (7)

12. Romania (11)

13. Nigeria (12) 14. Bulgaria (16)

15. Denmark (14)

17. Russia (13)

18. France (19)

19. Portugal (20)

20. England (18)

16. Colombia (17)

Leading placings (1994 positions

60.96

59.45 59.29

# Thrilling Ramadan showjumping despite rain

By A Sports Reporter
MUSCAT — Despite a steady drizzle, showjumpers from Royal Stables and Royal Guard of Oman recorded impressive victories in the Ramadan showjumping competition held at Enam Equestrian showground in Seeb last Monday.

The opening event - Grade C in two phases attracted an impressive field of 15 riders of which seven qualified to proceed into phase two run against the clock.

Ashwaq ridden by Abdulla Da-boon of Royal Stables set the stage with a clear in 33.36 secs but this was quickly surpassed by ROP's Said Al Qanayi who took Al Shama through in 30.84 seconds. Mohamed Saleh of Royal Guard was next and the dimunitive showjumper spurred Khais to clear all hurdles through in a breezy 27.75 seconds, the best time for the class and naturally clinching first place. The nearest challenge to this performance came from ROP's Mohamed Al Rasbi on Sadiq who settled for second place, ahead of Royal Stables Mattar Hamdan who rode Khulood.

Class 2 — Intermediate, which followed the opening event also saw a quality field of 15 riders.

Salim Sultan riding Izz for the stables of Sayyid Shabib bin Taimur showed a welcome return to form with a clear round and a jump-off was ensured when ROP's Hamoud Al Toki took his Belgian bred mare, Shuah through without blemish.

Tibyan joined the fray with an excellent performance from Royal Stables' Abdullah Daboon and three more qualified for the jump-off: Hamoud Al Toki taking his second ride Sharya through, Zaid Al Hashimy on Annasimy and Mafoodh Hamed on

Salim Sultan was drawn first on Izz in the jump-off and in an attempt to set the pace, the pair incurred a total of 33 faults.

# Graham just another victim of soccer's sleaziest season

LONDON — Sacked Arsenal mier League ground any Saturday. manager George Graham will A manager proved to have done know today how much more his alleged transfer "bung" is to cost

On Tuesday his successful eight-and-a-half year Highbury reign ended when the board dismissed him over claims he accepted a £285,000 (\$450,200) irtransfer payment, concluding "that Mr. Graham did not act in the best interests of the

And today the Premier League's inquiry team, who have already told Arsenal privately of their findings, will publicly announce them -- and reveal any further sanctions against Graham, whose job was worth around £300,000 (\$473,900) annually. Arsenal are unlikely to be penalised.

The Premier League can act independently of the English Football Association (FA) in the matter, and is planning to close loopholes with new legislation that it hopes will end transfer irregularities.

But of far more concern to Graham is that the league also has the power to fine and suspend offend-

There has already been much media speculation that because the image of English soccer has become so tarnished this season by a succession of sleazy incidents on and off the field, the authorities should take the strongest possible action against offenders.

On December 18 last year, The Observer's Patrick Barclay wrote: "Let it be made clear...the charges against Graham are in a league of their own...a manager taking a £285,000 (\$450,200) "bung" might as well take every note and coin naively tendered by every man, woman and child at an average PreA manager proved to have done that ought to be banned indefinitely from taking part in the

And Rene Eberle, the head of Uefa's disciplinary committee echoed those words two days before Christmas, saying that if Graham was found guilty and suspended, the ban should be imposed by Fifa worldwide.

The Graham case centred on the transfer of Danish international John Jensen who moved from Brondy to Arsenal for an alleged £1.57 million (\$2.48 million) in But Brondy received only £900,000 (\$1.42 million) for the player and part of the missing balance -- £285,000 (\$450,200) -went into Graham's pocket. He never declared the "gift" on his tax

Details of the deal only became public last November after an inquiry into the dealings of the Norwegian agent Rune Hauge by British and Norwegian tax authorities.

Graham eventually returned the money to Arsenal late last year, but his future has been in doubt since the story broke last No-

Graham is just one of a number of high profile performers to be caught up in the sleaze that has washed over English soccer this His own Arsenal player Paul

Merson admitted cocaine, alcohol and gambling addictions in November, and has only recently returned to the side following six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic.

The Sun newspaper claimed in November that Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar took bribes from a Far East betting syndicate to throw Premier League

nies. The FA are currently conducting an inquiry into those allegations and are expected to report

In January, Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona attacked a fan with a flying twofooted lunge after being sent off at Crystal Palace. He was formally charged with assault on Tuesday.

Two weeks ago, Chelsea captain Dennis Wise was convicted of assaulting a taxi driver and told by the magistrate that he could well face a jail term when he returns to court for sentencing on March 13. That conviction ruled him out

of the England squad for the friendly against Ireland in Dublin last Wednesday which was abandoned after 27 minutes because of a riot by English hooligans.

Later the same night in Dublin, Vinny Jones of Wimbledon bit the nose of a Daily Mirror reporter in a hotel bar -- and has subsequently been banned for three matches by

Meanwhile £5 million (\$7.90 million) rated Stan Collymore was pulled out of Nottingham Forest's team to play Arsenal on Tuesday night because he is in court facing charges of assaulting two men outside a night club.

And a long-standing feud between England coach Terry Venables and Alan Sugar, his former boss at Tottenham, has been rumbling on for almost two years, with frequent allegations over Venables' business dealings surfacing in the

Arsenal's action on Tuesday and any subsequent action by the Premier League today suggest the authorities are finally trying to clean up the game's image. They have a long way to go. - Reuter



LONDON — Arsenal's Paul Merson (left) and Nottingham Forest's Colin Cooper go for the ball during their Premiership match at Highbury. Arsenal won 1-0. -AFP photo

# - Reuter Ajax blast Dutch FA

ATHENS — Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam will protest strongy against any punishment handed out to their players for boycotting the national team.

Eight Ajax players have refused to play for the Netherlands against Portugal in a friendly in Eindhoven and the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) has said it was considering what action to take against the rebels. But Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal reacted angrily on Tuesday. "I don't know anything about a punishment. I hope the KNVB board comes to reason," he said. "They haven't thought

about Ajax's interests. Van Gaal was speaking at a training camp near Athens where his players are preparing for the Eu-

against Hajduk Split on March 1. "I am not happy with this commo-tion, it is affecting the players. It is very difficult to concentrate on your

game," said Van Gaal. - Reuter

# Carlos hits stunner for Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO - Palmeiras' left-back Roberto Carlos, in a moment that was extraordinary even by the standards of Brazilian soccer, scored with a 40-metre free kick as his team beat Gremio 3-2 in the South American Libertadores

When the kick was awarded, near the edge of the centre circle inside the Gremio half, the Palmeiras player lined up the ball and gave himself a run-up of around 20 me-

He then thumped a shot which dipped and swerved beyond bewildered Gremio goalkeeper Danrlei into the back of the net.

The goal came in the 19th minute of a first-round group four game in which Gremio, another Brazilian side, twice came back after Palfor the last two years and one of the favourites to win this year's Libertadores, finally won the game with a 67th minute goal clinically scored by their controversial striker It was the opening game in the

group which also features Ecuadorean sides Emelec and Nacional Three of the four teams in each group make the second round. Hapless Venezuelans Caracas FC

lost 5-0 and had two men sent off away to Paraguay's Olimpia in group

Goalkeeper Cesar Baena, who prevented his team from suffering an even bigger rout with some splendid saves, was dismissed in the 80th minute for a professional foul.

Striker Stalin Rivas was given the red card in the last minute for top-scorer last year as he helped unsung Minerven become the first Venezuelan side to reach the quarterfinals. In group three, Millonarios showed that there is still life in Colombian soccer, despite last year's World Cup fiasco. The Bogota side, which qualified

in six years, thrashed Universidad Catolica of Chile 5-1 to go top of the group. Their goals were spread amongst five players. Wilstermann of Bolivia made a late recovery to draw 2-2 at home to

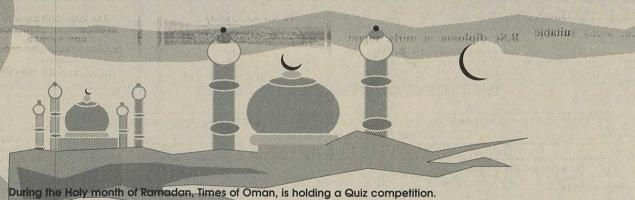
for the competition for the first time

Peruvian champions Sporting Cristal in group five. Argentine striker Walter Maladot pulled the first goal back in the 78th ninute and Demetrio Angola headed the equaliser five minutes from

- Reuter

ropean Champions' Cup quarter-final

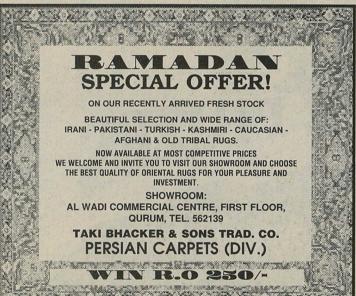
# RAMADAN QUIZ CONTEST



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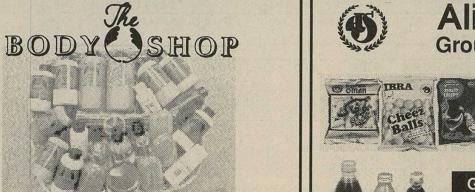
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# TIMES SPORT

Thursday, February 23, 1995

# Berlin admits mistakes in Olympic bid

BERLIN — Berlin, beaten by Sydney in the race to stage the 2000 Summer Olympics, will not apply to host the 2004 games, the president of the German National Olympic Committee said. Admitting a failure to generate public en-thusiasm for the unsuccessful bid and mistakes in presenting Walter Troeger said: "We'll think about it again after

Hill ready

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DIDCOT — Briton Damon Hill began the countdown to the start of the Formula One season by warning his rivals "I m better prepared than

The Williams driver launches his

campaign in Brazil on March 26.

# Indians show their class

work of overhauling Australia's 250 for six after their top order batsmen launched a blitzkrieg in the early overs of their New Zealand one-day Centenary Series match yesterday.

India won by five wickets in the 48th over. But the result was academic since India have already been eliminated from the fournation competition while Australia will play the winner of the New Zealand-South Africa match being played today.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar smashed Jo Angel out of the attack in the first five overs so Australian captain Mark Taylor replaced him with ace leg-spinner Shane Warne. Warne was promptly hit for 19 in his first over.

Tendulkar's stroke making was matched if not exceeded by Manoj Prabhakar. Together the pair reached 97 in just the 15th over.

Angel got some reward when he had Tendulkar caught by Taylor for 47 and then bowled Prabhakar



Aussie future looks bright in



Navjot Sidhu...prolific, consistent

for 50.

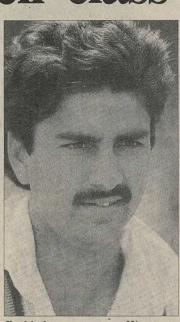
But the damage had been done. Mohammad Azharuddin hit a quick-fire 25, including two sixes from a Tim May over, one of which went out of the Carisbrook Park. Then Navjot Sidhu smashed 54 from 70 balls to maintain the

Although wickets tumbled regularly and seemingly 'unnecessarily, Vinod Kambli, with 51 not out, saw the Indians to victory.
In their innings, all Australia's

batsmen except Taylor (0) contributed as they set up what was a respectable score, setting India a 251-run victory target. Ricky Ponting top-scored with

62, playing solidly rather than He had strong support from

Greg Blewett (46) and Mark Waugh (48). — Reuter



Prabhakar... savage on Warne

### **SCOREBOARD**

Australia
D. Boon c Kambli v Vaidya32
G. Blewett c and b Tendulkar46
R. Ponting c Vaidya b Prabhakar62
S. Waugh c and b Kumble23
M. Waugh c Azharuddin b Srinath 48
I. Healy not out
M. Taylor b Srinath0
S. Warne not out
Extras (w-2 nb-6 b-2, lb-3)
Total (for 6 wkts, 50 overs)250
Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-103, 3-158,
4-207, 5-226, 6-226
Did not bat: T. May, G. McGrath, J.
Angel
Bowling: M. Prabhakar 10-0-61-1 (w-1),
J. Srinath 9-0-49-2 (nb-5, w-1), P. Vaidya
7-0-36-1, A. Kumble 7-0-28-1 (nb-1), A.
Kapoor 9-0-38-0, S. Tendulkar 8-0-33-1
India
M. Prabhakar b Angel50
S. Tendulkar c Taylor b Angel47
N. Sidhu run out54
M. Azharuddin c Healy b Blewett 25
V. Kambli not out51
S. Manjekar c Healy b May14
N. Mongia not out6
Extras (w-3 nh-1 lh-1) 5

Bowling: G. McGrath 9-1-45-0, J. Angel 10-1-47-2, S. Warne 10-0-61-0 (w-3), T May 10-0-51-1, G. Blewett 8.5-0-47-1, (nb-1) **Result**: India win by five wickets.

# Agassi's top form continues

PHILADELPHIA — World number two Andre Agassi played blistering tennis to soundly defeat Swedish qualifier Jan Apell 6-4 6-2 in just 51 minutes at the \$714,250 Comeast US indoor men's tennis tournament. In other first-round matches, Brazilian Luiz Mattar defeated American Brad Gilbert, who is also Agassi's coach, 6-0 6-4 and Brett Steven of New Zealand came back from a service break deficit in the final set to defeat Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 5-7 6-1 7-6 (7-4).

Once the second-seeded Agassi gained the early upperhand by breaking the 93rd-ranked Apell's serve in the third game, he was never in trou-ble. The second seeded American broke serve twice in the second set in the first and seventh games before serving it out.

"I was hitting the ball strong,"
Agassi said. "I just felt that I played
better than he did. I returned well, I served well and I just felt I had a bit too much game for him.

Even though Agassi played well he indicated he wants to improve all aspects of his game in an effort to displace Pete Sampras and attain the

number one ranking in the world 'There is not one shot that I have that I don't want to improve," Agassi said. "I want to improve my groundstrokes and my serve and volley game. I feel that I have a lot of room

for improvement and that's what keeps me going. 'It's not a question of being num-

ber one as a goal, being number one is a by-product of a lot of hard work." Agassi said he would not be available to play Davis Cup for the United States in the quarterfinal tie against Italy set down for Palermo from March 31 to April 2 after Pete Sampras turned down an invitation from US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson. "I can't afford to go play unless Pete does," Agassi said, "because really I would be falling behind, if I

go and he doesn't.' "Davis Cup can be very taxing. It takes three weeks out of your schedule, your preparation week, the week you are there and then the week to come down from it. It's a big sac-

rifice to go play.
"I can understand Pete's desire to not want to go, but I was a bit disappointed because I felt if we were to rally as a team, then let's do it. It's just as much a cost for me and for Jim (Courier)." -Reuter

# Zimbabwe tie Pak in dramatic finish

Guy Whittall produced a dramatic tied finish with Pakistan in their opening one-day international when he grabbed the last wicket of the penultimate ball of yesterday's game.

Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar carried his bat for an unbeaten 103, but was left a frustrated onlooker as injured last man Wasim Akram spooned a return catch to Whittall.

Akram, who came to the crease at 213 for nine with his right hand swathed in bandages after suffering a nasty cut when fielding, found himself at the striker's end with two balls remaining and the scores level on

His dismissal produced only the ninth tie in 976 one-day internationals. Pakistan have been involved in five of them and Zimbabwe two.

Saeed, named joint man-of-thematch with Zimbabwe's Bryan Strang, was dropped by wicketkeeper Alistair Campbell in the third over when on two, but accepted his second chance with an otherwise flawless innings.

Without ever resorting to slogging, he went on to complete his eighth one-day international century, which came in the last over of the match in 192 minutes from 130 balls and included six fours.

After the early losses of opener Aamir Sohail (7) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (0) to Strang, who took 4-36 from his 10 overs, Saeed shared important partnerships of 55 for the third wicket with Salim Malik (22) and 65 for the fifth with Shakeel Ahmed (25).

Pakistan looked to be cruising to victory but two run outs changed the balance of the game as it reached its climax in a gripping last 10 overs.

That was increased by the late appearance of Wasim, who had have six stitches in the webbing of his right hand after trying to take a



SAEED ANWAR

Zimbabwe
A. Flower b Amir Nazir.......
G. Flower c Rashid b Sohail ....
M. Burmester b Sohail ....
A. Campbell c Ijaz b Sohail ....
D. Houghton c Rashid b Wasim
G. Whittall c Inzamam b Aqib...
S. Carliele run out.

Aamir Sohail c and b B.Strang ..... Saeed Anwar not out ..... Inzamam-ul-Haq c Campbell

B.Strang ...... Salim Malik c Campbell

. Carlisle run out Strang c Rashid b Wasim .
Peall b Aqib .....

Pakistan

fierce return catch from Stephen Earlier, Whittall, with 33 from 32 balls including 14 in the last nine after they had squandered a good start. From 105 for one at the halfway mark they slipped to 189 for eight in the 48th over and it was only Whittall's efforts which got them past 200. He later chipped in with three for 46 with the ball, including the crucial last wicket. Grant Flower top-scored with 41

for Zimbabwe and shared in two good partnerships -- 45 for the first wicket with his brother Andy (25) and 60 for the second with Mark Burmester (25).

The introduction of Aamir Sohail's left-arm spin worked well as he removed both Grant Flower and Burmester and then Alistair Campbell for 21 after the Zimbabwean had threatened to rebuild the innings with a partnership of 51 with Dave Houghton (32).

Sohail finished with his best oneday internationals figures of three for 36 from 10 overs. — Reuter

Ijaz Ahmed c B.Strang b Peall

Manzoor Elahi c P. Strang b

Tall of Wickets: 1-9 2-13 3-08 4-107 5-172 6-175 7-209 8-210 9-213 10-219

Bowling: Jarvis 7-0-30-0, B. Strang 10-1-36-4 (2w), Whittall 9.5-0-46-3 (1w), Burmester 3-0-16-0, Peall 6-0-27-1, P. Strang 10-0-41-0, A. Flower 4-0-14-0

Man of the match: Saeed Anwar (Pakistan) and Bryan Strang (Zimbabwe) -

Second international: February 25, Ha-

Third international: February 26, Harare

Extras (b-4 lb-5 w-3) ......

Result: match tied

seeking to better his third and second places of 1993 and 1994 respectively by taking the world drivers' title. Hill, who was at the team's Didcot base to help launch the Williams-Renault FW17 car, said: "This will be only my third year."
"In my first year it would have been unreasonable to expect me to challenge for the championship. I finished third and won three races—1 think I did a damn good job. "Last year was a horrible one," said Hill, referring to the deaths of his Williams team mate, Brazilian-Ayrton Senna, and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger at the San Marino Grand Prix. "I would not want anyone to have to go through that. It was

'This year I feel prepared, much better prepared than I did at the be-ginning of last year and at some points during it. **SCOREBOARD** 

"I believe it's going to be a very exciting championship. I just hope it will be a safe season, that I win the championship.'

not an ideal way for me to have my

on the title by just one point to German Michael Schumacher, added

Hill, who eventually missed out

second season in Formula One."

Hill said he was delighted in his earlier impressions of the car, the successor to the FW16, with which the team won the Constructors' World Championship last year.

"It has been radically redesigned," said Hill. "For me a huge improvement will be the cockpit area. For the first time I've had one designed around my size and shape, rather than having to adapt.

"It won't necessarily improve my lap times in qualifying or in the early part of the races, but I'm sure it will help me perform better when you feel tired at the end of races."

David Coulthard, who is to part-ner fellow Briton Hill this season. said: "On paper the car looks to be a real winner. It's going to be a very exciting championship." —Reuter

# THE TIMES OF OMAN READERSHIP SURVEY

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- Terms: 1. The last date receipt of the completed questionnaire is March 11, 95.
  - 2. The results of the prize draw will be announced in the Times of Oman.
  - 3. Photocopies of the questionnaire can be also be used.

Mail the completed questionnaire to: Readership Survey, Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman. or Fax to 799153

# THE TIMES OF OMAN READERSHIP SURVEY

Note: All information provided by you will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. ✓ Tick the answers you select.

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□Al Shabiba □Others .....

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As a newspaper, how would you rate the Times of Oman? □Excellent □Good □Fair

How would you rate the Special supplements published in the Times of Oman?

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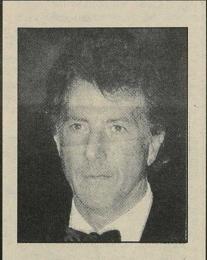
Thank you for participating in the Times of Oman Readership Survey

# Weekend Weekend

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1995



Women are undermining the image of the bodyguard as a glorified bouncer. Observant and unobtrusive, they are increasingly in demand, says Christa D'Souza.







Gloria (top left)
with Michael
Stich, has also
guarded Dustin
Hoffman (top)
Robert De Niro
(centre) and Boris Becker (bottom)

# WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

# IN FOCUS

### BY T.K.V. MANI

t was with great euphoria that almost the whole world greeted the PLO-Israel accord of mutual recognition and peace signed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington in 1993. The handshake that followed the signing of the historic agreement by the two leaders promised to hold peace, come what may. But one year and a half since the accord the Palestinians remain still powerless and their land is still occupied. Life has changed little for them. And now despair is replacing hope for peace and economic progress. The peace process is deadlocked thanks to the intransigence of the Israelis. They blame Palestinians for the stalemate. They talk only of Palestinian attack as the stumbling block to the peace move while conveniently forgetting that they still encourage Jewish settlements in the Palestinian land, they let loose their army on the Palestinians at the slightest provocation and their closure of Gaza and West Bank which put the poor people out of work. Arafat has conceded much to the Israeli demands angering his own men, only to remain committed to the agreement and for a genuine desire for peace in the region. The resentment among his men was much evident when only 9 members of the PLO executive committee attended a crucial meeting he called on Tuesday in Cairo, followed by the failure of the Washington meet sponsored by Clinton, to review the peace accord and seek a new format to revive the deadlocked autonomy talks. PLO men cannot be blamed for their indifferent attitude. It seems Israel is not serious about the accord. They want peace, of course, not at the cost of their occupation of Palestinian land. From the beginning they have been hindering the peace process on one pretext or other. The Israelis are not concerned about the real causes that stall the peace talks. Even if the process is impeded by violence, the move should not be abandoned. Israel should act wisely to stop the attack by Palestinians by recognising their rights, by leaving their land. It is shuddering to think about a failure of the peace accord and the aftermath.

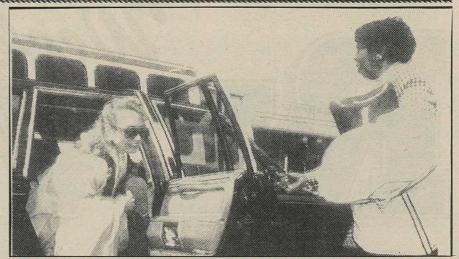


PLO leader Yasser Arafat (left) speaks with an unidentified member of PLO's executive committee at the crisis meeting held in Cairo.

t seems the main warring factions headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Burhanuddin Rabbani in Afghanistan, even with the emergence of a new group which boasts of great patronage from outside with more military strength, the Taleban student movement, are not ready to make peace. The UN envoy who was in Kabul to broker peace between the groups says they are now taking advantage of the presence of the Taleban, which the UN recognised as a party to any peace agreement. The new group's stunning victory over the two rivals seldom scares them as the rumour is that both the factions are regrouping their forces. The UN envoy also sees no speedy peace for Afghans, but hopeful that Taleban's military pressure on both the parties can accelerate the peace process. Ironically neighbouring Pakistan is one of the worst sufferers of the fall out in Afghanistan. It has been sheltering more than a million refugees ever since a war broke out in Afghanistan to oust the communist government. And the new government failed to bring peace. The country is facing a big economic crunch with the suspension of foreign assistance, including that of various UN agencies to look after the refugees.



Two Afghan children sell "Nan" bread locally along the ruins of a former shopping boulevard in eastern Kabul. This area was a hotly contested frontline in the recent battles between mujaheadeen factions.



Hillary Clinton and her minder

# Women of substance

has just finished for the day on her current contract, providing top secret security for a pop group to play at a London venue. Attractive, stockily built, dressed in a black pullover, beret and jeans, Jackie, 32, a former professional power-lifter and shot and discus sportswoman, is probably London's finest fe-male bodyguard. Diana Ross and George Michael are just two of the "principals", as they call them in the security business, she has mind-

As she walks into my flat, I notice her discreetly casing the joint. I had asked to meet her at her flat, but Jackie had refused, explaining how essential anonymity was to the job. She will not reveal her surname. "I started out as your classic handbag searcher, six years ago,'

Then one day I worked on the door at Wembley, where Prince was playing. He had a female bodyguard and I remember thinking, 'I'm sure I could do that, too.

Jackie is now an employee of the north London-based company Show Sec Inter-national, which specialises in providing pro-tection for the entertainment industry. Although weapons are illegal in this country, Jackie knows how to operate a gun, is trained in martial arts, has taken courses on low-level bodyguarding (how to deal with pests or fans) and high-level bodyguarding (how to deal with stalkers, kidnappers and potential assassins) and has undergone rigorous physical training. And Jackie is far from being an oddity. Women all over the world are starting to prove that, when it comes to bodyguarding, they are just as good as men ... if not better.

Take "Gloria", the glamorous 28-year-old blonde assigned to mind Boris Becker and Michael Stich, who were playing a Davis Cup tennis tournament against Croatia in Karlsruhe,

Germany, 10 days ago.

Young Gloria — her last name was never identified — had a big job on her hands, despite the fact that she was working as part of a team. As the attack on Monica Seles in Hamburg two years ago proved, there are a few loonies out there. Becker, for one, is a tremendous security He and his wife, who is black, have been the target of ferocious racial abuse, even death threats, ever since they announced they were going out together. It is just as well that Gloria, who has previously protected the likes of Whitney Houston, Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro, is an expert in martial arts and packs a

Heckler & Koch when on duty. Becker and Stich are not the only ones to choose the so-called weaker sex to protect them. Hillary Clinton is always discreetly shadowed by a couple of smartly dressed women with little bits of curly wire coming out of their ears and carrying "quick draw" handbags. So is the Princess of Wales. In 1993 she hired Sergeant Carol Quirk, a police officer and judo expert, to join her four-strong team of royal protection officers. Although the male officers are the ones you can spot in photographs, Quirk will be somewhere in the background, particularly when the children are around. Princess Anne also uses a female bodyguard regularly Edward, too, has been spotted one.In China, where business warfare and extortion is rife, female bodyguads with secretarial skills are in demand. They are trained in the southeastern city of Wuhan where they learn shorthand, typing, boxing, wrestling, a martial arts method called Qi Gong — said to make one resistant to pain — and how to kill with their bare hands. In 1993, 3,000 women applied for the course's 135 places, each of which costs about £200 — more than a year's salary for the average skilled worker.

What is the point of having a female bodyguard when you can have a male one for the same price (about £200 per day for a low-risk, keep-the-fans-back assignment, up to £600 a day for a high-risk anti-kidnap specialist)? Advanced Services, the Munich firm which employs Gloria, says that women are "essential" for protecting other women. Whether they be princesses, sportswomen, female politicians or the wives and children of male public figures, they are under the threat of kidnap. Women are the only people, says an AS spokesperson, who cipals. In other words, they can follow them anywhere ... into the bedroom or bathroom, even see them naked — all important factors as the relationship between bodyguard and female client is inevitably very close. Jackie's very first job, four years ago, was to accompany to eastern Europe a female society figure who specifically asked for a minder who was not ex-Army: a female guard with whom she would feel comfortable. There is also the question of "Women bodyguards are considered more uncompromising in the performance of their duties," says an AS spokesperson diplomat-

Marriage or serious relationships, however, you go home and tell your other half that you are just off around the world with three guys for the next nine months, it doesn't go down too says Mick Upton of ShowSec Inter-al. "But females make excellent bodyguards: they do it because they really want to — they give it 110 percent — whereas males who come into it because it's a very macho thing to do sometimes think it's about being one of the lads and drinking 14 pints of lager a

There are other reasons why females make superb bodyguards: "Women are natural observers, they spot things that men would not look at," says Steve Tavlin of Holmes Detective Agency in Manhattan, New York, which provided its services to Yoko Ono immediately after John Lennon's assassination. "Say some guy's collar keeps getting pulled down, say his tie is off at an angle — that would indicate that there might be something, such as a gun, pushing against the waistband. Women are better than men at noticing things like that.

'A female bodyguard can also easily pass for a female executive, a nanny, a secretary, a girlfriend ... nobody suspects her presence," he goes on. "Meanwhile she is looking at every-If a man goes into a business meeting and he has an obvious bouncer with him, peo-ple say: Why does he have a bodyguard? Is somebody after him? Is there something we

don't know about?' Rock stars often go for high-profile bodyguards," says Steve Flicker, director of the London-based Scorpian Security Services. don-based scorpian security Services. By high profile I mean anything over 19 stone and over 6ft 5in. But that's for show. Few rock stars get death threats. A macho bodyguard is a status symbol. It's all about saying mine's bigger than yours. When the threat assessment is genuinely high, women bodyguards are just as functional as male bodyguards. This is because good BG work boils down to common cause good BG work boils down to common sense, co-ordination and organisational skills. Most people think bodyguards have to be killer martial artists and carry a firearm. In my opinion, if you have a confrontation you've done your job wrong.

Some men simply like the way female bodyguards look. However, many men in a position of power need to send out a message that they are quite capable of protecting themselves. In many ways, say those in the security business, a bodyguard resembling Clint Eastwood in In The Line Of Fire can make a man feel rather weedy. Having a female bodyguard may make him feel more in control.

Martha Braunig, who runs Executives Security International in Aspen, Colorado, wishes more women would apply for the job. "About 92 percent of our student body is male," she says, "We'd give anything to change that. The modern image of the bodyguard is somebody who blends in, who is non-aggressive, who is a facilitator in straightening out problems, who avoids letting clients get into sticky situations and who, only as the last resort, is going to pull a gun and use it. For centuries women have worked out problems in a non-violent way.

Jackie says that much of the work can be unglamorous: waiting outside the San Lorenzo restaurant in London while the principal has lunch, hanging around in the hotel until the star wakes up at midday. But she loves the job: "I'm good at it. I have a loud voice. I command respect. I thrive on stress.z" And she and the boys from ShowSec loved *In The Line Of Fire*, which they viewed together. In fact, it is still Jackie's favourite film still Jackie's favourite film.



Krishna Mehta

itals in Paris, Milan, Duesseldorf, London and New York most of the accessories are from India.

The road is well paved therefore for Indian fashion designers since India is the big influence for fashion in the West. So what's stopping our couture kings? Why hasn't Shahab Durazi sold under his label in the West? Why does Xerxes Bhathena, the glamorous designer who has attired film stars prefer to sell only to the NRIs in Canada, USA and the Middle Fact?

There are stray instances of designers like Bina Ramani selling at Bloomingdale's and being recognised in the Big Apple. Or Ritu Kumar retailing at Galleries Lafayette under her own label.
There is Ravissant which has its own salon in London since 1990 but that's as far as Indian fashion has gone West.

If exposure is what's worrying many, with the advent of Star TV and other for-

eign TV channels, Indian designers in the Nineties have never had it so good as they are viewed by millions all over the world. Yet it seems our styles are not making that all important international impact. Japanese designers like Issey Miyake, Kenzo and Yoji Yamamoto are viewed with respect on the international

Turkey's Rifat Ozbek is making waves. In Paris there is Leconte Hemant, the French-Indian duo, making waves in the Nineties. But Hemant, many will argue has been a part of the Parisian

fashion scene for nearly a decade.
"Fashion has come of age in the last five years. We are still babies compared to the rest of the world. The Japanese have been on the fashion scene long before us. We are trying to find our foothold

has been working diligently for the past three years liaising with various garment associations to muster up support to make India a partner country at the Igedo in future. Tiny Hongkong was a partner country a couple of years ago. So far his efforts have been met with luke.

have been met with luke-warm interest from the various national garment as-sociations. Exports of bulk garments them very busy and hap-

py it seems. India has a booming export business but the millions of garments shipped bear the labels of the buyers. In the country fashion de-signers are creating exclusive, one of a kind garments which unsuitable mass production and sale. What is needed is a pret line of quality from these designers which is worthy of export to the West with their own label.

If fabrics are a prob-lem then mills should join hands with de-signers and exporters, and help each other. Textile exports are also touching new heights. Maybe converting them into fashion garments will help the country's talent and finances. A happy marriage of machines, designer and exporter would benefit the trio.

ce is often given as the reason to strike out in the West yet, Durazi comments. "Sponsors are not a problem but it is a signature look that an Indian designer

has to develop before going West. Very few have it — Abu Jani and

Sandeep Khosla, Ritu Kumar, Pallavi Jaikishan and Asha Sarabhai do. While Western designers are inspired by India, Indian designers are also influenced by the West. Yet there is a very thin line dividing these thin line dividing these two worlds. Inspiration is good. Initially I admit I was inspired by the work of Armani, Donna Karan and Chanel. Indian designers at times are influenced and end up literally, dividingting. up literally duplicating foreign styles," feels

Durazi. Designers like Wendell Rodricks have always tried to create an international look for the Indian market so that their creations cannot be termed as ethnic. Although Rodricks has quite a faithful foreign clientele in India and France where he spends time, he has not been able to create a firm market for his clothes in the West.

It is a known fact that haute couture all over the world is dying. In France, designers are at-tempting demi couture which is intempting demi couture which is in-between haute couture and pret. Every top designer name in the world lives off his pret line. Olivier Lapidus admits he hardly sells 5-6 pieces out of his couture collection every season but has a thriving business in RTW. Indian designers should learn, if they want to survive in the country and make an impact in the West,

# INDIAN FASHION

# Skirting the issue

t the end of a gruelling fashion season with designers and fashion houses knocking themselves out of breath to catch the limelight, has Indian fashion finally come of age or is it still in a flux? While the West has borrowed heavily from India in the '80s and '90s by way of inspiration can Indian designers go West and flaunt their labels easily? Or will Indian fashion and its creators remain curbed within the shores of the sub-continent?

The flower-power culture of the '60s went down well with Indian fashion. Cheese cloth shirts and Madras check skirts were the rage in the West and exported by the tonnes to Europe, USA and the Far East.

Came the '80s and there were strong indications of Indian embroidery being popular, along with a boom in Indian jewellery. In the early '90s the Indian rage did tend to wane a little, but by summer the control of the contr

"94 once again it was the East that the West was turning to.

So at the Igedo Fashion Fair in 1993 the Sun Magic theme inspired by India was followed by top haute couture designers. It was the mystery of India that signers. It was the mystery of India that designers in Germany, France, Italy, UK and USA were fascinated by. Indian styling touches were evident in ankle length knitted leggings and high side slits for tunics. Harem trousers, Jodhpurs and austere Nehru jackets appeared. Fabrics like Indian silk, muslin, chiffon, voile and satin

Gianfranco Ferre admits there has always been a touch of India in his creations ever since he visited the country as a young man. He may not have the silhouettes but it's the hot Indian colours he adores. Escada's Michael Stolzenburg swears by the beauty of Indian embroid-There were several heavily embroidered pieces for his autumn-winter '94-95 evening wear collection from India. German designer Ella Singh combines the beauty of Indian fabrics and

embroidery with western styling.
Haute couture designers like Italian
Tristano Onofri and French couturier Olivier Lapidus either have the Indian essence woven into their styles or name their collections Himalaya, Kashmir etc. Emanuel Ungaro and Versace have their creations embroidered in India regularly.

On the catwalks of the fashion cap-

in the country, leave aside going to the West. We don't have the courage to sell our labels abroad. But I'm confident it won't be long before Indian designers hit the international scene," predicts Krishna Mehta, predominantly an ethnic wear designer who recently introduced her EDW (everyday wear) Western

She goes on to add, "Today I know what foreigners want. I won't sell them a sari. Just like the Japanese don't sell their kimonos to the West. But in a country where the West. But in a country where 80 per cent of the population wear ethnic garments, designers too can't switch over suddenly," she argues. "I would go abroad with men's *kurtas* with a mandarin collar and I'll succeed. Jean Paul Gaultier and Armani are doing them. What

are doing them. What we need is exposure to the right markets recognition. When I went for the Cologne Fair the companies were backed by their countries all the way. Countries all over

the world are participating in fashion fairs in great style. In February '94 In February '94 Turkey had a major promotion with Turkish designers at the Collection Premiere Duesseldorf Germany. In September '94 the USA returned to the Igedo after nine years in full strength to promote its swimwear/ lingerie lines.

Mr K C Damodaran of the Indothe In German Chamber of Commerce

Shahab Durazi believes that "the fashion scene in India is totally ethnic and for me it is quite discouraging. There are just a handful of us like Ravi Bajaj, Monisha Jaising, Bhairavi Jaikishn who are sticking to West-ern wear. Other Western wear designers are diversifying into ethnic wear for monetary reasons. It's totally a commercial business and at times one can't blame the designers. But to sell in the West one has to create their type of clothes." Tarun Tahiliani always attempts a Western and eth-nic line for his collections but it is the latter that he is more comfortable with.
Durazi,
one of the pioneers who introduced Indian women

to the beauty of well-Wester n wear, has had several offers to go abroad collection or franchise his name. "I don't feel the time is right for me perso nally. Finan

they will have to compromise on price and style to create wearable, affordable clothes. Hemant Trivedi, Sheetal Stores, fashion director, still hasn't gone in for a personal label inspite of being in the designing business since over a decade. "There are buyers interested in Indian fashion. The West is looking at India but can we compete in the world market? Our poor quality shows up. We fall short of something. Our fabric development doesn't make the grade. East Asian countries and China are moving ahead. An Indian designer shows styles and the minute the buyer's interest wanes, the designer is willing to make a compromise. Sitting in this country we don't exactly have the pulse of the international market," he argues.

At international fashion fairs where giants like Mondi, Comma, Laurel, Escada, Karl Lagerfeld, Bogner participate on the strength of their collections, Indian companies are satisfied with procuring job work or generally remaining a quiet bystander.

In the vast milieu of international fashion Asha Sarabhai apparently designs under her label but stays with Issey Miyake's umbrella in Japan. A few designers in the capital claim they sell to Gallerie Lafayette, Nieman Marcus and Bloomingdales. Occasionally, a store in Europe, UK or USA has an India promotion week and Indian designers are featured and soon forgotten by those countries.

"A few georgette blouses on a rack in a store is no big deal," adds Trivedi. "Most designers in India are stuck in a rut." Yet Trivedi argues, "It is not necessary for Indian designers to go West. We could turn into a good supplier country like Hongkong."

try like Hongkong.

When a buyer sells Indian garments and a customer buys it irrespective of the country, that is when we have succeeded. Funnily enough, while some Indian designers may feel they have ardial designers may leef they have arrived and are ready to make it big in the international market, the West is totally ignorant about their capabilities. Paris, Duesseldorf, Milan, New York, London feel that Indian designers create only ethnic garments like saris and are totally un-

Escada relying on Indian embroidery to live up to western formal wear.

Broken hearts and records

wards have a way of eluding deserving people. They seem to whizz past like a cat and drop on to the lap of the person next to them. So it was little wonder then, that there were many broken hearts after the 22nd Annual American Music Award ceremony was over, — there were simply too many deserving musicians and too few awards.

They were twenty-two in number, in seven categories, namely pop-rock, soul-rhythm and blues, country, heavy metal-hard rock, rap hip-hop, adult contemporary and alternative music, which pretty much sums up the diversity of music thriving in America and the rest of the world.

Even then, the categories appeared to be lumped together and adult contemporary and alternative music were vague terms encompassing

artiste award for her music and Anita Baker elbowed out the competition in the soul-rhythm category. Babyface clinched the male artiste award, so did Toni Braxton in the female category for her eponymous album-it was truly the night of black musicians.

But there were others who made their presence felt without winning anything, Little Richard, the man with the powdered face took a bite from his Tutti Fruti, Celine Dion exhibited the power of her love and Tom Jones and Queen Latifah strutted their stuff too. But the show stealer was Madonna who read out a chapter from her Bedtime

Babyface

Stories, with

lump-in-his-throat singer, also had his moments. He swept the best artistes (pop-rock) award and later, the coveted favourite artiste award in the adult contempora ry field. Others, gone, were not forgotten. Nirvana received the heavy metal-hard work award which was more of a posthumous tribute to grunge rock's relevent speaker Kurt Cobain. It

Michael Bolton, the was appropriate too, for he haunted the entire music industry throughout 1994, rock's 'relvetant speaker' Kurt Cobain. It was appropriate for his spectre hunted the entire music industry throughout 1994.

# aladies and melodies

The sound of music can be deadly for some people. A Strauss waltz or pop song can trigger off seizures that have led to violence, attempted suicide and murder.

These tragic cases suffer from a rare disease called musicogenic epilepsy, which affects about one in 30,000 epileptics.

The sort of music that affects them varies

from person to person.For some, a seizure may be induced by a pop tune. For others, a classical harmony can cause it. Even sounds such as church bells ringing have been known to affect some sufferers

It is thought that a particular note in a tune can somehow affect brain patterns and lead to attacks in which people act out of character. Normally happy individuals have become suicidal. Other passive characters have become violent. A schoolboy in Somalia. East Africa, suffered seigures when her ia, East Africa, suffered seizures when he heard a certain type of native music. His classmates discovered this and deliberately played it to tease him — with fatal results. During one of his seizures, he hit one of them with an axe and killed him.

A woman in Leeds, West Yorkshire, was sensitive to a wide range of music. She was just as liable to suffer a fit induced by a pop tune on the radio as one brought on by the strains of a street violinist. She was so worried, she eventually became too scared even to go out shopping. A well-paid executive gave up his city job to move to a country cottage for the same reason.

Where music cures

Fortunately, once music ogenic epilepsy is diagnosed, it can be successfully treated with drugs. But many doctors mainsprains, soothes tension and reduces weight, it can tain that music can endanger peoand reduces weight, it can also prove fatal by affecting brain patterns or the heartbeat ple's health in other ways too. Dr John Diamond of Mount Sinai Hospital, York. New claims certain rock music is bad for the heart.

"Many rock tunes have a beat which conflicts with the body's natural rhythms.'

"Played very loudly, it can literally make the heart miss a beat, weaken the body and make it more vulnerable to disease.

Dr Diamond tested hundreds of rock records during research into the ways in which music can affect the heartbeat. And he reckoned the worst "offenders" were Michael Jackson (at full blast), the Bee Gees, Madonna and Rod Stewart.



Jackson: Worst offender

But there are two sides to every story. A prominent French doctor maintains that some kinds of music can cure a number of ailments. For instance, if you suffer from swollen ankles or sore feet, listen to Greek singer Nana Mouskouri. Her voice can help massage your troubles away, according to Dr Guy Allaire, who has made a study of the art of music therapy. Music can soothe the savage breast, but the 59-year-old doctor of St Nazaire believes it

can do much more than that and he has invented a which, transforms music into direct vibrations that act as a soothing massage parts of the body. And he says that satisfied customers maintain tunes and singers have helped rid them of facial fat, wrinkles, acne and backache. The musical vibra-tions are relayed through electrodes placed on the affected

part of the body. Where Sacha Distel's voice, apparently, is perfect for women who want stronger bust lines. Masenet and Beethoven seem to work for back complaints, hernia and nervous troubles.

Finally, Italian surgeon Dr Gaetano Zappala uses music to put his patients at ease. He has performed countless operations at his Rome clinic using a local anaesthetic and music. He says: "Mozart is perfect when treating acute rheumatism

Handel is right for emotional problems.'



Above: Michael Bolton feeling elated having won the award for favourite male artiste in pop-rock category. Centre: Babyface and Madonna who sang a duet for the show. Top: Anita Baker with her award for favourite female artiste in the soul-rhythm and blues category. Top right: Mariah Carey best female artiste

show admirably but the Queen's

towering presence took the cake from

Tom boy's plate.

There were few surprises in any of the categories. Boyz II Men, Ace of Base (Best band pop-rock category), Lion King (Best album), Counting Crows (Favourite artiste, alternative music) had shown their strength on the billboard charts, and their glorious past year.

Mariah Carey bagged the best female



**Christy Turlington** 



Linda Evangelista



Cindy Crawford



Star choice: Nicole Kidman



Lulu did well

Sophisticated: Selina Scott

fluence — also up there in third place with the Hollywood star-pack. But that was before this week's wet-look Princess. It remains to be seen how many women will be copying her new slickedback hairstyle.

It's the old style Diana, with her crop of flattering off-the-face curls, that readers admired. Also tied in third place was her look-alike Selina Scott, who embodies that same image of casual sophistication.

All the women chosen have one thing in common aside from their obvious good looks. They have enough age and experience to appear self-confident, happy with the way they look.

Surprisingly, in the light of all the articles telling us how to change our appearance, half the women in Britain are also quite satisfied with the way they currently look

Half are happy with their present hairstyle, their hair type and condition, as well as colour.

But if they had the choice, 46 per cent would be natural blondes. Only 15 per cent would be dark brunettes or have red hair while 13 per cent would be brunettes.

A few fashion victims — two per cent — would want to have heavily-bleached blonde or obviously dyed black hair. The survey also revealed that most women had experienced at least one major disaster at their hairdressers.

Nearly six out of 10 say they have been on the receiving end of a "hair-cut from hell" and four out of 10 have had such a disastrous perm, the only alternative was to go for the chop.

But although we all want to look like film stars, in our typically British way, we also want glamour on the cheap.

Only four per cent of us spend more than £10 a month on hair care products, and a third spend under £10 on a visit to the hairdresser.

We want to look like stars — but not if the cost is astronomical. - *Celeste Mitchell* 

# Who's a pretty woman?

t's official — not every woman wants to look like a supermodel or join the prancing army of girls with pouts and high cheekbones who refuse to get out of bed and walk down a catwalk for less than

According to a new survey of the most sought-after styles and looks, most women don't want to be size eight six-footers or emaciated waifs.

Nowhere do we find a mention of the designers' darlings — Christy T, Linda E, Naomi C, or little Kate M. If dreams could come true, the average British female would rather be a Pretty woman than a hyped clothes-hanger.

When more than 2,000 women were

asked which celebrity influenced their style, actress Julia Roberts received the highest marks. The lady with the beestung lips scored more than double her closest competitor, film star Demi Moore.

The only supermodel who shows up anywhere on the list of wanna-be lookalikes is Cindy Crawford. But the soon-tobe ex-wife of Richard Gere still gets a lower score than Cher, Linda Evans, Goldie Hawn and Nicole Kidman, who all tie for third place.

Even Lulu scores higher — but try convincing Vogue that there are more British women who would rather resemble the short, Scottish less than the longlimbed American model.

The survey by *Prima* magazine, which focuses on hair colour and care, showed Princess Diana is still a tremendous in-

Supermodels feel the pinch in a vote to discover the ideal beauty



Winner: Actress Julia Roberts is the celebrity who most influenced other women in the survey.

# An affair doomed from the start

t was an affair doomed from the start. The romance not just splits the young woman's relatives but also the nation.

Kristina Bernadette Cojuangco Aquino, popularly known as Kris, 23, probably never thought she could hurt some people with her notorious carelessness and being tactless. This time, former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino was not amused by her youngest daughter's admission in a nationwide television show that she is indeed pregnant by actor Philip Salvador and his second mistress at that.

When news reports were first leaked that Kris was pregnant, she issued a public denial. Apparently she told of her real condition to her mother before moving out a month ago from their home.

Salvador, 45, is married to Asuncion Dabao and has three children who are all living in the United States. The marriage is still valid.

Since November last year, Kris has been estranged from the Aquino family when she left the family residence to join Salvador not fully aware that the romance shocked show business because of the wide age gap between the two -- a secret first.

Butz, however, dismissed speculations Kris was just looking for a "father figure," being only 12 when Ninoy was assassinated. "She has many uncles to run to. I don't think she's wanting in advisers or father figures," he said.

While they would like Kris to marry considering her

condition, Butz said they understood this was not possible at the moment.

Salvador was still seeking an annulment of his marriage to the former Asuncion Dabao, now in the United States with their three children. Dabao refuses to sign the annulment papers

Aquino home. The Aquino household can't help notice that their most unsinkable member is sinking into depths of lone-liness.

When she is asked, Kris blurts out with matching tears: "Since I was a child I did everything to make my mother happy. I obeyed everything she said to make her happy. But now, here I am, sad and miserable. Do I really have to be sad to make



Kris Aquino

as her marriage to Salvador in 1975 is still binding.

The Salvadors have applied for annulment with Quezon City court, with the actor admitting that he had been unable to discharge his marital obligations since his marriage.

And what about Kris' father, how would he have felt?

Butz said Ninoy would not have approved of the Kris-Philip romance because the slain senator was very conservative

and did not approve of abortion or a live-in relationship. Neither would he have allowed Kris to separate from the household until she got married.

Would Ninoy have approved of Kris' showbiz career in the first place?

Kris' reply in 1993 when she "abandoned" Padilla in favour of mother Cory: "If my father were alive, he'd be my number one fan because Mom is my number one critic. I'm sure he's proud of me now because of two important things: one, I managed to finish a college course even if I'm in show business and more important, I have chosen my family over love."

"How could you?" was Cory's only reply to Kris' when news of her pregnancy first broke out.

There was deafening silence in the

her happy?"

Kris admitted that her relationship with her mother, a devout Catholic, had been strained by her romance with Salvador. The actress known to be headstrong and the most financially independent of the Aquinos, has had her way on this one.

However, Kris compounded her personal problems when she invited Congressman Ferdinard



"Bongbong" Marcos, son of the late dictator whom her mother accused of plotting the assassination of Ninoy in 1983, as guest on her TV show recently. Her friendly kiss with Bongbong did not please Cory, who turned 62 last week. Newspaper columnists described it as a national night-



**Cory Aquino** 

nare.

One Manila newspaper even savaged the young Aquino in its editorial: "Kris represents what is wrong with a culture that has been banalized by gossip magazines and tawdry movies."

"She has reduced the tragedy of her family -- which is our tragedy as well -- into nothing but a kiss-kiss, bang-bang movie, saccharine and forgettable. In so doing, Kris has effectively erased from our memory the nightmare that is Marcos. She herself has replaced that nightmare."

Years back, Kris had promised to be always Cory's little baby; to work hard to be a better daughter who may be in love but who will never ever bring shame and scandal to this illustrious clan.

"You know Mrs. Aquino. She believes in the sanctity of marriage," said former Presidential Press Undersecretary Deedee Sytangco.

Mother Cory had repeatedly told her daughter to respect marriage as a sacrament and also to look at it as something permanent. For better or for worse.

"Maybe you consider me belonging to a forgotten generation but I'm seeing in the younger people today that it's nice for couples to make their marriages

work for life," Cory has said.

Kris said she missed her family very much. "It's getting bigger and I'd like to apologise. For whatever it's worth, I still really love my Mom.

I have no regrets as far as loving Philip is concerned.

My only regret perhaps is that I was not able to wait for the right time."

Former President Corazon Aquino said she would only reconcile with her daughter only if the young woman drops the man who got her pregnant and caused a scandal to their family.

"That would be it," said Cory, as she urged the people to "pray for Kris."

But as in all stories of this nature, many Filipino mothers believe this scenario would be good for the next six months. When Kris' child is born, would Cory be the first babysitter?

A forgiving nation would just watch. Just like in the movie. — *Cynthia Balana in Manila*.



Philip Salvador

would split the Aquino and the Cojuangco clans, joined by the marriage of slain Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Cory.

Before Salvador, Kris was romantically linked to Robin Padilla, the "bad boy" of Philippine cinema. Reports had it that it was Kris' only brother, Noynoy, who was able to "neutralise" her romance with Padilla courtesy of the Presidential Security Group. Their mother was then president.

Senator Agapito "Butz" Aquino, her father's brother, said Kris' uncles and aunts on the Aquino side will support whatever decision she makes. He said he does not object to Kris' relationship with Salvador, whom he described as a "decent guy and not a skirt-chaser."

The couple met during the filming of the movie *Nandito Ako* (I am Here). They had tried to keep the relationship -- which

# Fame in the family

or 15 years everyone in Hollywood loved Dennis Quaid's movies off-beat pictures like Breaking Away, and The Long Riders - but none of them made any money.

Now suddenly all that's changed: Dennis Quaid has suddenly become box-office mag-His new movie, Flesh and Bone, took \$5 million in the US in four days. After two years away from the camera, Dennis is be-

ing hailed as the new Humphrey Bogart. It's all due, he says to his wife, Meg Ryan. She co-stars in *Flesh and Bone.*, has given him a whole new outlook on acting ... and persuaded him to take a successful al-

"I got tired of waking up with hang-overs," says the 39-year-old Texan heart-throb. "I wanted to leave my hard-drinking reputation behind. ... Otherwise I realised that I'd probably end up dead ... ear-ly."

In Flesh and Bone, Dennis plays a haunted young loner with a terrible incident in his past. James Caan stars as his father while Meg Ryan plays the woman who ends up in both their lives.

up in both their lives.

"Working with Meg was wonderful,"Dennis says. "I'd love to do more movies with her. It's nice to be together all the time, the whole family." Their, two-year-old son, Jack went on location with them.

"I had no intention of leaving him behind, "Dennis says.

"Being a hands-on dad is very important to me. "The trouble is no one tells you just what hard work father-hood is!"

When Dennis and Meg are not working they live in a remote log cabin in Montana with its own trout stream. When one is with its own trout stream. working on a movie, the other stays home to

look after Jack.

"When we both made Flesh and Bone it was natural to take Jack along too," says 32-year-old Meg. "Dennis is a wonderful father. We have a very normal family life and love being at home. We probably haven't been out more than four times

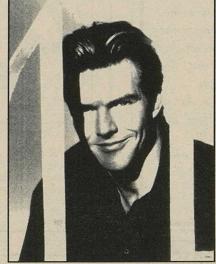


**Dennis Quaid** has been looking for a hit movie for 15 years. Now, thanks to his wife, he's finally found one...

in the past year. Then it will be just somewhere for a quiet dinner."

It's a far cry from the days when Dennis was a young hunkabout Hollywood, renowned for hard-living and heavy drinking. It's a relief to put all that behind me and enjoy a happy relaxed life with Meg and Jack,"

he says.
"We don't want Jack to grow up a showbiz kid, which is why we moved to Montana. I think you are born 50 per cent who



**Dennis Quaid** 

you are and the other half is the environment you grow up in.

"Meg and I are trying to give Jack the

most normal childhood he can have. will teach him to respect people no matter

It was Meg who persuaded Dennis to make his movie comeback with her in Flesh and Bone. "We had a pact when working on the movie not to discus our roles off the set," Dennis says. "Meg would be on one side of the bed working on her script and I would be on the other working on mine.

"That way, our characters managed to keep secrets from each other.

It certainly paid off. Flesh and Bone has been hailed by the critics as one of the most emotionally overpowering movies of the 90s and already Dennis and Meg have been tipped for Oscar nominations.

In the powerful opening, set in the 1960s, James Caan uses his young son as inside man on a robbery but a crucial error leads to a massacre that traumatises the

youngster for life.

"The part was my biggest-ever challenge,' Dennis Quaid recalls. "The character is very different from me. I'm much, more of an extrovert person.

"I admit that most of my movies in recent years have done box office dives but I choose roles that are interesting because I love acting. That's the first thing that interests me, not whether they're going to be hits

It looks as though in the future, they're going to be hits whether Dennis like it or not! Says Flesh and Bone director Steve

People are at last waking up to what a fantastic actor Dennis is and offers are pouring in. He could do a dozen movies this year

if he wanted to.
"But I know he will only do what, really appeals to him. Then he really goes for it. For instance, he finished my movie on a Friday and started his next the following Monday!"

day!"
"I haven't felt so eager and fit for years," Dennis says. I've even thought about starting up my rock band again" - he played Jerry Lee Lewis in the biopic *Great Balls of Fire*.

"I put the music on hold when Jack came along," says the piano-playing Dennis. just play my music to Jack now. He loves it, and is getting very musical.

"Who knows in a few years time we could go out on the road together. He already does some very mean drumming on the kitchen saucepans!"

aye Dunaway has been known to throw a fit or two on the set. At least one major film director has gone on record saying she can be a giant pain in the butt to work with. The press seldom fails to mention that she can be difficult, demanding, imperious, picky, peevish, melodramatic or downright scary.

And despite occasional starring roles in mediocre motion pictures such as *The Champ*,

forgets Dunaway's ice queen-perfectionist approach to her Academy Award-nominated parts in *Bonnie & Clyde, Chinatown* and *Net*work - which also netted her the golden Oscar statuette for best actress. The lithe blond beauty with the high cheek bones keeps on working at 53, easily surpassing most of her more submissive contemporaries. Nor does Dunaway seem to care which medium she works in, moving with ap-parent ease and confidence between stage, feature films and television projects of all stripes. Absolutely fearless, she saw the horrendous CBS sitcom *It Had to Be You* (1993-94) evaporate in about 30 seconds, but came roaring back a few months later to cop an Emmy for best guest actress-drama in a *Columbo* in-

Supergirl and Mommie Dearest, no one ever

Buttoning up a frenetic year, Dunaway now stars in the telefilm A Family Divided, a hard-hitting family drama focusing on a shell-shocked mother torn between ethics and loyalty to a son. She portrays Karen Billingsley, a volunteer worker with battered women, and Stephen Collins plays her husband Roger, a successful attorney, as both are threatened with moral bankruptcy when their son, Chad (Cameron Bancroft), is involved in a college fraternity gang rape and subsequent death of a high school girl.

'I was overjoyed when the script, then called Mother Love, came out of the blue," says Danaway, "because it's the kind of role I always look for. It's hard to find a woman character who behaves heroically, who behaves away from the norm and stands for

"In this case, she goes against the wishes of her husband, perhaps at the expense of their marriage, to reach the core of decency in her She knows that her son will be destroyed if he and his parents pretend that nothing hap-pened even if he could get away with a hei-

The brutal pace of shooting A Family Divided in three weeks on location in Vancouver Absolutely Fearless



though retakes of scenes were typically held to

You do get more time with a (feature) film and you do have to move fast in television, but perfectionism doesn't always mean time," she says. "I do have some experience with speed — I mean, Sidney Lumet directs on roller skates. If you know the moves in advance, the work gets done.'

Dunaway - who was born in tiny Bascom Florida, and grew up all over the United States and Europe when her father switched from farmer to career Army man - claims to have learned a great deal about coping with chaos from Peter Falk wile shooting the two-hour *Columbo* telefilm last year.

'I love Peter and learned how to slow down and get into the moments from him," she says. "When things got really crazy on the set just before shooting a scene, he would just say, 'Well, I don't know about this ..... and



**Faye Dunaway** 

he'd calm me right down. In general, I would say this is a quieter and calmer time in my life than ever before.

When a woman gets past 40, I think she is in many ways at the top of her game mentally, emotionally and spiritually," Dunaway con-

tinues slowly. "I feel good about that and about what I'm doing.
"That's why I would do another television series in a New York second. I'm looking for a half-hour or a one-hour show, it doesn't make any difference. I know that a one-hour drama requires long hours, but I'm a kind of workaholic. It's the one thing I love most to do, except be with my son (Liam, 14)." The intrepid actress was six weeks into rehearsals last June in preparation to take over the Norma Desmond role from Glenn Close in the Los Angeles musical production of Sunset Boulevard when composer-producer Andrew Lloyd Webber in effect fired her by closing down the entire operation.

He contended that she could not sing the demanding role well enough. Dunaway — who reportedly would receive \$25,000 a week plus a cut of the gross — responded crisply with a \$6 million-plus breach of contract and defamation suit. "I just wish Glenn (Close) well; I think she's wonderful. But life goes on and I'm exploring other options, including and I'm exploring other options, including some plays at the Roundabout Theatre in New York and a couple of theatres (in Los Angeles) sometime in 1995. I'd love to sing Sondheim ... I'm also developing my own films, including one of Pearl Buck that I like a lot."

While the Sunset Boulevard hoopla swirled, Dunaway was already up to her ear lobes shooting the feature Don Juan de Marco and the Centerfold with Marlon Brando and Johnny Depp.

In the upcoming release, she plays the amorous wife of Brando, a heavyweight shrink about to retire, when a disturbed young man (Depp) who thinks he is Don Juan sucks them both into his insane world. In the process, the couple reawaken the passion in their 30-year marriage.

Marlon is a great actor, an idol of mine I had really wanted to work with. I found him quirky with a sweet attitude on things and an imagination that allows him to come up with complete surprises. And this was my second film with Johnny," Dunaway continues, referring to the as-yet-unreleased Warner Bros. tragicomedy Arizona Dreams, which also stars

'He's my brother and I love him. I think he's the crown prince, the heir apparent to Marlon's crown.

Dividing her time between homes in Los Angeles and New York, she seems to carry no baggage from her first marriage to rocker Peter Wolf of the J. Geils Band or her second union to British photographer Terry O'Neill, Liam's father.

This is a good time for me, a time of "This is a good time for file, a unit of quiet investigation," muses Dunaway. "I'm a lot mellower than I used to be, and I feel as though I'm approaching the best work I've ever done.

—Eirik Knutzen Thursday February 23, 1995

## Dear Kids,

Are you all feeling under the weather of late? All that sniffling, running noses, nose blocks, fever, flu.

But what is to be done about it. Cold, and fever virtually has no cure. And as a senior paediatrician says, if you take medicine to battle cold, it will be cured in a week, but if you leave it, you will get rid off your cold in seven days!...

Sometimes, the above is true. But of course, medicines help. Not only that, the important thing is when you get a fever or a cold is that you must never overexert yourself. Take sufficient amount of rest, sleep well, and do not watch TV late into the night!

But the best advice is not to let it bring down your spirits. So what if you have a running nose, or a blocked one? It will pass, as any problem will.

The sun will shine the next morning and all will be well.

Cheerio and Aatishoo to you! Aunty Sunshine.

The last wolf...seen wild in England was spotted in 1864. One village in Yorkshire still has an official wolfcatcher who is paid £2.00 a year.

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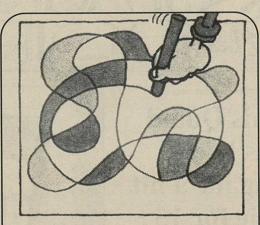
An odd job: The ghost train owner in Brighton's pier employed a feather tickler. His job was to hide in the darkness and tickle passengers with a long feather to frighten them.

\*\*\*

Greetings: As well as shaking hands when they meet, Tibetans bump foreheads. The Eskimos, as most people know, rub

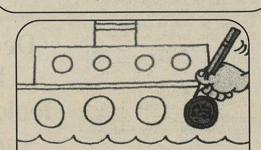
Mark Twain: The author of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer was born in 1835, a year when Halley's Comet flared across the sky. He always said that he would die when it next appeared in 1910. He did.

# EASY PICTURES

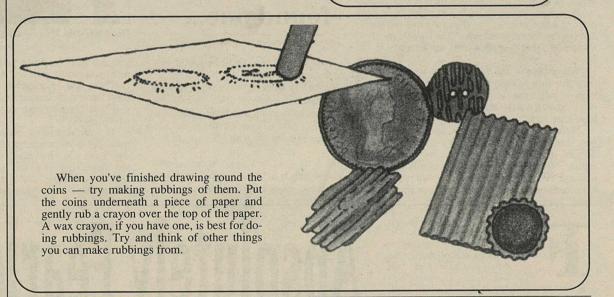


One of the easiest pictures of all to make is a scribble picture. With a crayon scribble all over a sheet of paper. Fill in the scribble in different solours and account all here. ferent colours and you will have a very unusual

Your paint box, felt pens, crayons or wax crayon



Another sort of easy picture to make is a 'draw-round' picture. See if you can create a whole picture just by drawing round a few coins. Have a competition to see who can think of the most unusual things to create using the coins.



O.1 What was the name of the group before they changed it to 10 'New kids on the

Q.2 Which two members of the group are

Q.3 When's Joey-Joe's birthday?

Q.4 Name the home town of the group?

Q.5 What's the name of the group manag-

Q.6 Which two kids share the same sign,

Q.7 Which new kids are left handed?

Q.8 What is Jordan's favourite car?

Q.9 Which new kid's nickname is puff Mc

O. 10 Which new kid's lead song is "Treat me Right.

9: Danny (Joey-Joe)

Porsche

Jordan and Danny Jordan and Donnie

Dick Scott Boston

Dec 31, 1972

Jordan and Jonathan Nynuk

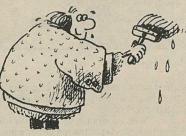
**VIZINEES** 

# WHACKY REPLY CONTEST

So what's your excuse? Use your imagination. The funnier the better. Mail to Junior Times along with the coupon on page X to reach us by Tuesday and win

Walt Disney **Perfumes** 

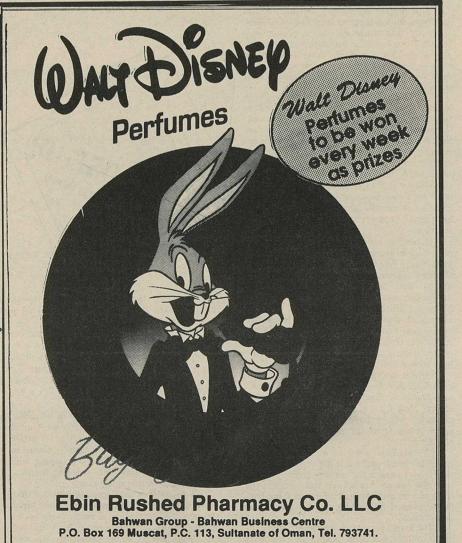
Why are you wearing your raincoat, your overcoat and your jacket to paint the house?



Last week's winner: Sameera Zaman

Whacky Reply:

"Because he was too hot to handle"



# The pigeon race

t the bottom of Jackie and Kim's garden, there was a pigeon loft where their dad kept racing pigeons. (Pigeon lofts are special little wooden

houses for pigeons.)

One day Jackie and Kim had a big surprise. Their dad gave them two pigeons. 'These two aren't very good at racing,' said Dad, 'but they'll make nice pets. So if you look after them properly — you can have them.'

The pigeons were called Popsy and Mopsy and they had pearly grey and white feathers.

'Fancy Dad saying Popsy and Mopsy aren't good at racing,' said Jackie. 'Let's have a race with them and see. We'll take them to the park in the big shopping basket. Then, we'll let them fly home on their own and we'll ask Mum to let us know which one gets back first.'

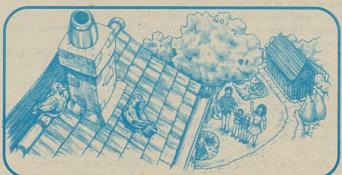
So Jackie and Kim took the pigeons to the park. They went right to the middle of a

big stretch of grass, and they let Popsy and Mopsy out of the basket. But guess what those two pigeons did?

First they went flying round in circles as if they were playing aeroplanes. Then

park and landed on the grass right next to where a little girl was feeding some baby ducklings. The two pigeons managed to eat quite a lot of the ducklings' bread, but before Jackie and Kim could creep up and catch them, they





they went flipping about over the tops of all the trees.

Then they flew close to the pond in the

flew up into the air again.

'Perhaps they think the park aviary is a pigeon loft!' said Jackie, as they watched the pigeons walking about on the aviary roof.

aviary roof.

'We'll just have to go back home and see if they come back to their loft later

on. They don't seem to like racing at all,' said Kim.

When they got back, Dad was down the

garden with his proper racing pigeons.

'How are Popsy and Mopsy getting on?' he asked.

'They've got lost in the park,' said Kim. 'I hope someone will see the little rings they are wearing round their ankles and send them back to us.'

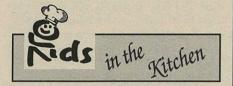
Then Mum called from the house. 'Hurry up, tea's ready. I thought you two had got lost in the park.'

'It's Popsy and Mopsy that have got lost, Mum,' said Jackie.

'Popsy and Mopsy?' said Mum. 'They're not lost! They got back ages ago. They're up there on the roof — near the chimney-pot'

pot.'

'They must be better at racing than we thought!' said Jackie and Kim.



# **Nachos**

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 tablespoon oil

1 onion, chopped

250g minced beef

6 olives, sliced 1/2 cup tomato sauce

1/2 cup canned red kidney or baked beans, drained

1/4 teaspoon chilli powder

1 tomato, peeled and chopped

dash Tabasco sauce

salt and pepper

1 x 200g packet corn chips

1/2 cup sour cream

1 cup grated tasty cheese

Collect everything you need for this recipe, on the kitchen counter or table.

Prepare the ingredients.

Turn on the oven to 180°C.

Put oil in a large frying pan on the stove, over a burner turned on to medium heat.

Add onion and cook for 5 minutes until onion turns clear.

Add mince bit by bit, so the pan isn't too full. Cook mince until it browns, 10-15 minutes.

Use a tablespoon to remove any fatty fluid that comes out of the meat.



# Constitution of the second sec

# Save our planet

- 1) Dont buy products made from the hides and skins of endangered animals or plants.
- 2) Use cloth bags when shopping instead of paper or plastic bags.
- 3) Trees and energy can be saved if you recycle and use less paper. Write both sides of a sheet.
  - 4) Buy recycled products packed in recycled material.
  - 5) Keep the planet clean. Make sure all trash gets where it belongs, in the dust bin.
- 6) Air is getting polluted. Don't drive your car around too much. Try walking, biking or have a car pool.
  - 7) We need clean water. It is important not too waste it.
  - 8) Pollution is making our air and water dirty. We need to work to keep them clean.
- 9) Check your house to see if there is any leak in the pipe lines. Think of ways to use ess water.
- 10) Be careful not to pollute water. Make sure all chemicals are dumped correctly.
- 11) Learn more about endangered species.
- Recycling is important. Learn about you neighbourhood recycling programme. Encourage others to do the same.
  - 13) Saving energy will help too. Don't waste electricity. Turn off lights.

# Would you believe

Tough-guy actor John Wayne's real first name was Marion.

Male birds sing for two reasons: To attract mates and to warn other male birds to stay out of their territory.

Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill claimed that he got over his fear of speaking in public by imagining that everyone in the audience had a hole in his or her sock.

Because of changing tides in the Bay of Fundy, a waterfall on the St. John River in Canada actually reverses itself during high tide, when the river flows back over the falls. Aptly enough, the phenomenon is called the "Reversing Falls of St. John."

Sending Valentine cards on Feb. 14 did not become popular in the United States until the mid-1800s. The first specimens truly were from the heart — they were hand-made and usually accompanied by a handwritten poem. Later, Valentines became much more elaborate.

The Los Angeles Lakers basketball team used to be located in Minnesota — ergo, the name "Lakers," although Los Angeles is not known for its lakes. Another interesting basketball misnomer is the Utah Jazz. The Jazz used to be based in New Orleans, where the name made perfect sense.

One of the primary ingredients of the alcoholic drink mead is honey.

Some people think a snake is sensing motion when it flicks its tongue, but actually what it is doing is trying to detect scent.

# That is funny

American newspapers once reported that the famous writer Mark Twain had died, even though he had not. When Twain, who was travelling, heard the news, he quickly called his wife. "Don't worry," he said. "The news of my death was exaggerated."

A French furniture company once received a letter from a woman saying she had ought a Louis 14th bed.

"But," she said, "the bed is too small. Can you please send me a Louis 15th bed?"

The dentist asked the boy why he was screaming even before he started drilling. "Because you're standing on my foot," the boy told the dentist.

"There's something very strange about teachers," one student told his friend. "What's that?" his friend asked.

"They give you the information one day and the next day they ask you questions about it. Do they forget what they gave you?"

# Are you a good friend? Test yourself.



really good, reliable friend is one of the most important things anybody could have. So how do you rate in the friendship-stakes? Our quiz

might start you guessing!

Your best friend's upset because

someone's spreading rumours about her. Do you

Tell her she's imagining it?

Tackle the person spreading the rumours and tell her to lay off?

Comfort your friend and tell her to ig-

You've saved \$5 towards your holiday. A girl you know slightly is frantic because her mum's ill and she wants

to buy her flowers. Do you-Immediately give her your

> Lend her the \$5? Lend her \$3?

> > Your best friend's down with something infectious. Do you -

Not have time to see her because you're too busy?

Send her a get well card and ring up a few times?

Go round every night to have a gossip with her?

A girl who's just moved into your street seems very lonely. Do you -

Go out of your way to talk to her

to be

week

Citizen

collection

whenever you see her?

Never talk at all - you don't know anything about her?

Pop round and invite her to your place for tea sometime?

You own mum is obviously very tired. Do you -

Tell her she'd be better if she had some early nights?

Do as much as you can to help her? Do your bit and nag everybody else to

do theirs, too? Your best friend suddenly stops talking to you. Do you -

Think, 'Well that's her hard luck!', and go off with someone else?

Get very upset and try to find out why? Assume you've done something that's upset her, but don't know what?

A class-mate has been having a rough time with her homework. Do you -

Offer to help her with the subjects you're good at?

Suggest someone else who can help? Tell her she'll just have to try harder?

You've always got on well with your cousin, but then she turns up in the same dress as you at a family gathering. Do

Laugh and say something about great minds thinking alike?

Ignore her for the entire evening? Ask if she'd like you to nip upstairs and

While this is going on, the other chil-

change?

Good friend? Bad friend? Or just inbetween friend? Find out which symbol you've ticked most often -

You're a very good friend, indeed. You're always willing to help anybody who needs a hand, and you're much more concerned for other people than you ever will be for yourself. Be a bit careful, though. People could start taking advantage of you, just because you are so generous.

Cat

You're the complete opposite! No one will ever take advantage of you, basically because you seem to be so selfish - on the surface, anyhow. Underneath, we'd guess you're a bit scared of people and bit wary of close friendships, maybe because you've already been let down badly? But if you could only try again - things would get so much better in the future!

Bird

You're a lot like most of us. You're a good friend who usually puts other people first. But just sometimes you decide you can't be bothered, or something else you're involved which is more important. That's normal, and because you are loyal to people you know and like - you'll never, ever be short of your own good friends.

# HAROLD AND GERTI

You will need:

An old newspaper

A blindfold (a scarf or piece of cloth)

Choose two people to be Harold and Gertrude. Blindfold Harold, give him a rolled-up newspaper, and put him in the middle of the circle of children. He calls out 'Gertrude'. Gertrude must answer 'Harold'. Harold tries to find her by the sound of her voice. He has to try and hit her with the newspaper. She runs round the outside

of the circle.

When he succeeds he can take off the blindfold. Gertrude then wears the blindfold and tries to find Harold with the newspaper.



dren will be in the way. They must keep out of the way of the newspaper, without letting go of each others' hands. Anyone who is hit by the newspaper is out.

# **ANSWERS**

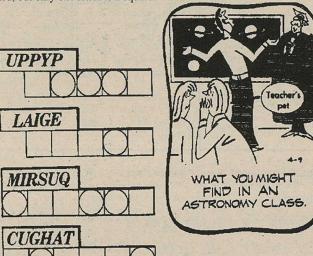
- 1. Carol.
- 2. John Rice and Greg Rice.
- 3. Nomaza Paintin.
- 4. R Venkataraman.
- 5. Niel Kinnock.
- 6. Attila.
- 7. Robben Island.
- 8. Ravi Shankar.
- 9. Sophia Loren.
- 10. Reliance Industries Limited.

# CITIZEN CLOCK COMPETITION

Here is a golden opportunity for you to own a CITIZEN CLOCK. All you need to do is solve this puzzle and send it to us along with the coupon by Tuesday.

Last week's winners: 1. Master Sarang Satheesh 2. Blaize Gomes 3.Cecelia Wulf

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.



You are now ready to solve today's jumble for kids. Study the picture for a hint. Then play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in or-

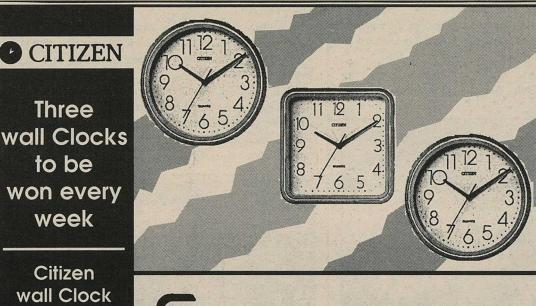
der so that they make your funny answer. rint answer here: A

Fill in the coupon (no photocopies) and send along with your entries to:

**Junior Times** Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770, Postal Code 112, Ruwi.

Entries must reach on or before Tuesday

\_\_\_\_ COUPON - \_ \_ Tel. & Signature.....





AL-SEEB TECHNICAL EST. P.O.BOX 996, RUWI,

### STELLA WILDER

# YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you can usually depend on your athletic prowess and your physical stamina to see you through tough times. There may be particular challenges, however, that demand concentration on your mental and emotional development. You have been endowed with many interests and abilities, and you will discover early in life that you needn't limit yourself to the standard career choices. Indeed, once you free yourself from the expectations of others, you will discover unforeseen opportunities of all kinds.

Though you will make a name for yourself primarily in one profession, within that particular field you will be experimental and eclectic. In time, you will doubtless become known as a pioneer of sorts.

Also born on this date are: Bobby Bonilla, baseball player; Sylvia Chase, newscaster; Peter Fonda, actor; Howard Jones, musician and singer.

To see what is in store for you today, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23



PISCES (Feb. March 20) - Evaluate a current situation very carefully today before making a decision that might last a life-time.

(March



April 19) — A fork in the road lies ahead, so slow down a bit to get a better look at the surrounding territory.

ARIES



TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Preventive medicine is the key to feeling good and performing well at this time. Try not to let anything slip through the cracks.



GEMINI (MAY 21-June 20) - You must work to make sense of choices that might seem random today. In the end, you'll understand the real



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) - Many individuals, if they were in your shoes today, would see a certain offer of help as a threat. You, however, know better and can benefit.



necessary right now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
— You will know better than anyone how to take care of yourself today. You mustn't let anyone keep you from doing what is

**CROSSWORD PUZZLER** 



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You can maintain a competitive edge today simply by progressing according to plan and avoiding any major changes to personal routine.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Though you are not usually superstitious, today you may look twice at seemingly random events that directly affect you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — A short cut may look like just the ticket today, but in fact, you'll do much better using a straightforward, old-fashioned approach fashioned approach. SAGITTARIUS (Nov.



positive developments today, and don't let others' negative at-titudes get you down. You can even turn someone else around by the end of

22-Dec. 21) — Focus on



the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Resist giving orders today unless you want to be taking them by tonight. Approach others with sympathy and understanding.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Try not to become overly sensitive or defensive when others promote their own plans and strategies. In the end, cooperation will be beneficial.

16

18

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Mr. Coward

Three (pref.)

Raised the spirit of

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Electrified

particle

Common

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- Louis, MO

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# **Best Sellers**

- The Celestine Prophecy, James Redfield Politically Correct Bedtime Stories, James Finn Garner
- Self-Defense, Jonathan Kellerman
- Eyes of a Child, Richard North Patterson The Bridges of Madison County, Robert James Waller
- Debt of Honor, Tom Clancy
- Acceptable Risk, Robin Cook Mutant Message Down Under, Marlo Morgan
- Felicia's Journey, Willam Trevor
- 10. Wings, Danielle Steele

# **Best Movies**

- Sunday's Children
- Safe Passage Little Women
- Jungle Book Stargate
- Nell
- Ready to Wear Speechless
- 10. Disclosure

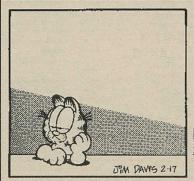
### THE BORN LOSER

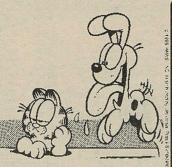
## By Art and Chip Sansom



### GARFIELD

### By Jim Davis







# Bu By Arun H

- Get set and go for this hilarious, brain teasing game.
- This game is suitable for a family or gathering, with one reading the questions and others trying to get the answer.
- Alongside are a set of 10 questions in three progressively easy clues.
- If you get the answer with the first choice, give yourself 10 points.
- If you have to rely upon the second clue to get the answer, you are entitled to just 5 points.
- answer only with the third clue, you get just one point.

If you can get the

Whoever gets the highest number of points is the winner of WHO IS IT?

### CLUE NO. 1

- She weighed the same as 9 men, 8 baby elephants, 728 bags of sugar, one mini car
- They were left for dead by their parents who could not cope with their midget new-borns.They are today the world's smallest identical twins and by thinking big they have defied all odds to become millionaires.
- 3. Her claim to fame has been disputed by press and critics now. She is from New Zealand. She
- shot to the limelight during the elections of South Africa.

  4. He is the first president of his country to ever have recorded his memoirs. The same is titled as My Presidential Years. He is the ex-President of an Asian country.

  5. He is one of the commissioners appointed to the EU's executive body from his country. The
- other one is Sir Leon Britton.
- 6. He was the leader of the warlike tribes from Central Asia, which terrorised Europe in AD 400's.
- 7. It is a bleak, 574 hectare plot of land, 11 km offshore in picturesque Table bay. It became norious as ....'s (name deliberately omitted) Devil's island during the peak of the struggle for ...rights' (here again the name in deliberately omitted.) It imprisoned many activists of a famous torious as movement
- 8. No filed of music had been left un-experimented by this great musician. Foremost innovator of global music. First artiste to introduce Indian music to the West. He has played with renowned maestros like Yehudi Menuhin. He has played music for flute virtuoso Jean Pierre Ranipal. He has
- also played music for Yamamoto.

  9. She recently became the 2000th personality to be honoured with a star set into the Hollywood
- Boulevard when she took her place on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

  10. It became the first Indian company to be listed among the 50 largest firms in the world's emerging markets by US magazine Business Week. (July 94)

### CLUE NO. 2

- . She is the fattest woman as per the Guinness Book of Records.
- 'Think big' was the multi-million pound property rental empire built up by them. She claimed to be the niece of Nelson Mandela.
- 4. He held various ministerial port-folios and then the post of vice president before becoming the president of his country.
  - 6. The name of the tribes mentioned is the Huns.
  - It is in South Africa and the people of course are the blacks, the victims of Spartheid.
- nationally acclaimed dancer Uday Shankar. He also happens to be the disciple of Ustad Allauddin
- 9. When this happened she was 50 and her inspiring message for others setting out on the rocky road to fame was 'May their dreams come true as my dreams came true'.
  - 10. It is India's largest private sector company.

### CLUE NO. 3

- . She is from Flint, Michigan.
- 2. The last name of the identical twins is the name of a cereal, an unavoidable daily dish of millions of Asian.
- 3. She was perhaps the first black to vote in the history of South Africa (now this claim is being disputed)
  4. The country referred to is the largest populated democracy of the world i.e. India.
- 5. He was the former leader of opposition Labour Party.
  6. He was finally defeated at Chelon-sur-Marine in 451 AD.

Sitar is his instrument. He is from India.

- . Nelson Mandela was imprisoned here for almost three decades for having opposed apartheid

9. Her first name is Sophia.
10. It paid a record dividend of 51% for the year 1993 to its shareholders.

### Answers on Page X

### Sun. 43 12 - Letterman 13 Concerning (2 wds.) Workers' assn. Wipes out Dinner 58 course 19 Killed 60

Garfield

Next to

and Morris

Nobleman

**ACROSS** 

- Actor Flynn 22 Without prejudice 26 Maiden
- loved by Zeus Sea mountain Ohio col-28
- lege town Rudolph's 30 nose colour

34

Army off. Closest

- Eggar ID "A rose -- rose" agcy. Of God (Latin) - Rica
- Heston ID 45 Term 47 Revealed 50 Hurries 51 - power

38

- Inexpensi 53 ve cigar 57 Lettuce
- Roof" 61 British Navy abbr.
- 62 June 6, 1944 (hyph.
- wd.) Chinese faction
- 33

- Meeting Comforts For in-
- Emperor" star Grooming
- Orient —— the

- DOWN

- 44 Swiss river Federal 46 47
- 6 stance Map abbr. "The Last
- aid
- 56 Butter substitute 59
- **Answer to previous Puzzle**

- 1 B-F linkup
- DAVE RAVI OAR
  IRAN OLEG PTA
  GANTRY EELPOT
  RICK TBONE
  INCIDENT SS
  OILED OHO EFG
  TD SLATERS AR
  AER EST APPLE
  EA KENTUCKY
  EXTRA DOOR
  GRITTY IRRUPT
  AAR IONS ELON
  DYE PUCE DART

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# THURSDAY



11:30 02:00 03:00 05:00

# Timesat





06:00	Live - New Zealand Centenary Cricket
00.00	
09:30	Sanghi World Chess
10:00	GOLF: Australian Skins
12:00	College Basketball
02:00	The World of Rugby
02:30	Volvo World Cup
	Showjumping
03:30	Sailing Series
04:00	Johnnie Walker
04.00	Pro-Celebrity Golf
06:00	New Zealand Centena
08:00	India Cricket Scene
09:00	College Basketball
11:00	New Zealand Centena
01:00	Volvo World Cup
	Showjumping
02:00	Johnnie Walker
02.00	Pro-Celebrity Golf
00.00	
03:00	Futbol Mundial



06:00	Jem
06:30	Aerobics Oz Style
07:00	The Wind in the Willows
07:30	Playabout
08:00	The Sullivans
08:30	Graham Kerr's Kitchen
09:00	E! Features
09:30	Donahue
10:30	Santa Barbara
11:30	The Bold & The Beautifu
12:00	Oprah Winfrey Show
01:00	Riviera
01:30	Graham Kerr's Kitchen
02:00	Aerobics Oz Style
02:30	The Sullivans
03:00	Small Wonder
03:30	Robotech
04:00	Teenage Mutant
	Ninja Turtles
04:30	Batman
05:00	Home and Away
05:30	Neighbours
06:00	Mash
06:30	Crystal Maze
07:30	The Rill

	The state of the s
	TI BUILDED BUILD
08:30	The Bold & The Beautiful
09:00	Santa Barbara
10:00	The (New) Twilight Zone
10:30	Mash
11:00	Civil Wars
12:00	E! TV
12:30	Neighbours
01:00	Movie:
	Bullseye
03:00	The Sullivans
03:30	Richmond Hill
04:30	New Spiderman
05:00	Kidstreet
05:30	G.I. Joe

C	TA	ID
2		114
M	O V I	ES.
BALL STREET		

06:00	Bloodfist
07:30	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
09:30	All of Me
11:30	Worth Winning
01:30	Niagara
03:30	Carry on Spying
05:00	The Movie Show
05:30	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
.07:30	All of Me
09:30	No Way Out
11:30	Bloodfist
01:30	Worth Winning
03:30	The Kremlin Letter
05:30	The Devil's Treasure

# [V] CHANNEL

06:00	Rewind
07:00	The Ride
08:00	The Vibe
09:30	By Demand
10:00	The Ride
01:00	Big Bang - VJ Petrina
02:00	The Vibe - VJ Ruby
03:00	Over the Edge
03:30	Music Update Tokyo
04:00	Sigaw Manila
05:00	By Demand - VJ Nonie
06:00	The Vibe
07:00	Flashback
07:30	Over the Edge
08:00	Partyline Rhythm & Raag
08:30	Rewind
09:30	The Vibe
10.20	Ry Domand



The Ride By Demand Jump Start Sigaw Manila

09:00	BBC Newsday
12:00	BBC World News
12:05	Cracking the Code
01:00	BBC World News
02:25	The Late Show
02:00	BBC World News
02:25	Jeremy Clarkson's
	Motor World
03:00	BBC Newsdesk
05:00	BBC World News
05:05	Horizon
06:00	BBC World News
07:00	BBC World News
07:10	World Bus. Report
07:25	Food and Drink
08:00	BBC World Headlines
08:05	Naked Hollywood
09:00	BBC World News
09:25	A Question of Sport
10:00	The World Today
12:00	BBC World Headlines
12:05	Correspondent
01:00	BBC World News
01:25	Tomorrow's World
02:00	BBC World News
02:25	World Bus. Report
03:00	BBC World News
03:25	World Bus. Report
04:00	The World Today
05:00	BBC World News
05:25	World Bus. Report



12:30 01:00 01:30 02:00 02:30 03:00	Shakti Rasna Song Tere Naam Se Ek Duje Ke Liye Hum Honge Kamyaab Katha Sagar Zee Education
03:30 04:00	Amar Kathayen Teer Kaman

0	Chitra Tarangini
0	Jawab Nei
0	Premer Phande
0	Gaane Anjaane
0	Filmi Chakkar
0	Lux Kya Scene Hai
0	Parivartan
0	Shayad
0	Dream Merchants
0	Bazaar Buzz
0	Do Se Bhale Teen
0	Tara



Parampara Ek Minute Infotaiment

INTERNATIONAL			.03
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			0
	06:00	World News	0
	07:00	Intl. World News	0
	07:30	Showbiz Today	0
	08:00	World News	0
	09:30	Moneyline	11
	10:00	Worldwide Update	1
	10:30	World Report	1
	11:00	World News	0
	11:30	Headline News Update	0:
	11:45	CNN Newsroom	0
	12:00	World News	0
	12:30	Headline News	0
	01:00	World News	0
	01:30	World Report	0
	02:00	World News	U
	02:30	Business Morning	
	03:00	World News	
	03:30	Business Day	
	04:00	World News	
	04:30	Business Asia	1
	05:00	Larry King Live	
	06:00	World News	

07:30	Business Asia
08:00	CNN News Hour
09:00	World News
10:00	World Business Today
10:30	Headline News Update
11:00	International Hour
12:00	World News
12:45	CNN World Sport
01:00	World Business Today
01:30	Showbiz Today
02:00	The World Today
03:00	Moneyline
03:30	Crossfire
04:00	Prime News
05:00	Larry King Live



07:00	Magazine
07:30	Magazine
08:30	Journal de France 2
09:00	Euronews France 3
10:00	Journal de TF1
10:10	Magazine
11:05	
11:30	Documentary
12:00	Magazine
	Varieties
01:40	Animation
02:00	News in English
02:10	Animation
02:45	Magazine
.03:45	Journal de France 3
04:00	Telefilm
05:20	Documentary
06:10	Infos
06:30	Journal de France 2
07:05	Sport
07:15	Animation
09:00	Sport
09:10	Serial
10:00	Magazine
11:00	Journal de France 2
11:35	Film
01:10	Varieties
01:50	Magazine
02:20	Sport
02:30	Journal de France 3
03:00	Magazine
04:15	MCM Programme
05:00	Journal de France 2
05:35	Journal de TF1
06:05	MCM Programme
00.30	

# A Pakista

	TV
07:00 07:05 07:10 07:35 08:10 09:30 09:55 10:02 10:08 10:10 10:50 11:40 12:10 12:25 12:40	Tilawat Aur Tarjuma Hamd/Naat Dhanak Tarzan Khabrain Long Play Aabshaar Harf-e-Sana PTV2 Insignia Bismillah Aaj Ki Nasheriyaat Rait Tey Rastay Nasheman: Ep. 7 Perspective Health Forum Boaltay Haath Legacy for the Future



04:45 05:00 05:20 05:50 06:00 07:00 07:25 07:30

5	Aiou Courses
5	Al-Akhbar
)	Harf-e-Dua
	Dua-e-Affaar Aur
	Azan-e-Maghrib
	Hamd-o-Naat
	Tadrees-ul-Quraan
	Angan Angan Taray
5	Ilmul Kitaab
)	The News
)	Muqabil Hai Aaiena
)	Pukaar
)	Khas Khas Khabrain
	Pukaar
5	Khabarnama
	Commercial News
2	Mehfil-e-Sama
,	Khas Khas Khabrain
	Farman-e-Elahi
	Close Down

### **OMAN RADIO**

	The second second	
	08:00	Opening, the Holy Quran, pre-
		view of morning programmes
		and weather forecast
	08:10	Talks on Ramadan/Music of
		the Arabs
	08:30	News Bulletin
	08:40	Music of the Arabs
	09:00	Invitation to the Proms
	10:00	Festivals of Music
	11:00	News Highlights/Reflections of
	44.05	Ramadan
	11:05	Classical Relaxation
	12:00	Preview of afternoon pro-
	12:03	grammes and news headlines In focus
	12:15	
	12:30	Short Story
	01.00	Country Sunshine News Headlines
	01:02	Ramadan Nights
	01.02	This is Jazz
	01:57	Weather forecast and TV
	01.57	programmes
	02:00	World of books
	02:30	News Bulletin
177	02:40	Songs and music from
2		France
-	02:58	Weather forecast and TV pro-
		grammes
	03:00	Preview of evening
		programmes
	03:02	Themes and Variations
	04:00	Local news bulletin/what the
		papers say/Eminent Muslim
		Women
	04:15	Power mix
	05:00	Musical Moments
	05:30	Fasters Oasis
	05.45	The Holy Quran Adhan/Duaa/

The Holy Quran Adhan/Duaa/ News headlines/Muslim in the World of Islam News Bulletin Weather Forecast & Phar-macies on Duty Faces and Places Evening Express The Holy Quran News summary, preview of morning programmes, phar-macies on duly, closedown, national anthem

# FRIDAY



06:00	NBA Game of the Wee
07:30	Futbol Mundial
08:00	New Zealand Centena
10:00	PGA Tour
11:00	India Cricket Scene
12:00	European Snooker
	League
01:00	WWF Wrestling
01.00	Spotlight
02:00	Asian Football Show
03:00	Sailing Series
03:30	NBA Inside Stuff
04:00	NBA Game of the Wee
06:00	Boxing
08:00	World Chess Champs.
08:30	Invtl. Basketball
10:30	WWF Wrestling
	Spotlight
11:30	European Snooker
	League
12:30	Asian Football Show
01:30	Boxing
03:30	European Snooker
	League
04:30	Intl. Basketball



1 200		
06:00	Jem	
06:30	Aerobics Oz Style	
07:00	The Wind in the Willows	
07:30	Playabout	
08:00	The Sullivans	
08:30	Great Vegetarian Dishe	
09:00	Fashion Television	
09:30	Donahue	
10:30	Santa Barbara	
11:30	The Bold & The Beautif	
12:00	Oprah Winfrey Show	
01:00	Riviera	
01:30	Great Vegetarian Dishe	
02:00	Aerobics Oz Style	
02:30	The Sullivans	
03:00	Small Wonder	
03:30	Robotech	
04:00	Teenage Mutant	
04.00	Ninja Turtles	
04.00		
04:30	Batman	

06:30	Remington Steele
07:30	Dynasty
08:30	The Bold & The Bea
09:00	Santa Barbara
10:00	India Business Weel
10:30	Mash
11:00	Doogie Howser, MD
11:30	Anything But Love
12:00	The Big Byte
12:30	Neighbours
01:00	Movie:
	The Incident
03:00	The Sullivans
03:30	Crossbow
04:00	Dive to Adventure
04:30	Transformers
05:00	Kingdom Adventure
05:30	East of the Moon

Home and Away Neighbours Mash

utiful

05:00 05:30 06:00

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06:00	The Devil's Treasu
07:30	All Hands on Deck
09:30	The Jewel of the N
11:30	Carry on Spying
01:30	All Hands on Deck
05:15	Jewel Feature
05:30	Jewel of the Nile
07:15	US Top Ten
07:30	The Devil's Treasu
09:30	The Kremlin Letter
11:30	Black Narcissus
01:30	I Ought to be
	in Pictures
03:30	Robocop
05:30	Bull Durham

# [V] CHANNEL

06:00	Rewind
07:00	The Ride
08:00	The Vibe
09:00	By Demand
10:00	The Ride
01:00	Big Bang - VJ Petrina
01:30	The Vibe
02:00	VJ Ruby
03:00	Over the Edge
03:30	Rewind

04:00	Sigaw Manila
05:00	By Demand - VJ Nonie
06:00	The Vibe
07:00	GIM Show
07:30	Club X
08:30	Ticket
09:00	Classic Concert
10:00	The Vibe
11:00	Heart & Soul
12:00	By Demand
01:00	The Ride
03:00	Jump Start
05:00	Asian Top 20



06:25	Newsnight
07:00	BBC World News
07:25	World Bus. Report
08:00	BBC World News
08:25	Holiday
09:00	BBC Newsday
12:00	BBC World News
12:05	Question Time
01:00	BBC World News
01:25	Business Matters
2:00	BBC World News
2:25	A Question of Sport
3:00	BBC Newsdesk
5:00	BBC World News
5:15	Everyman BBC World News
6:00	BBC World News
7:00	BBC World News
7:10	World Bus. Report
7:25	Tomorrow's World
00:8	BBC World Headlines
8:15	Question Time
9:00	BBC World News
9:25	Holiday
0:00	The World Today
2:00	BBC World Headlines
2:05	Question Time
1:00	BBC World News
1:25	Film '95
2:00	BBC World News
2:25	World Bus. Report
3:00	BBC World News
3:25	World Bus, Report
4:00	The World Today
5:00	BBC World News
5:25	World Bus. Report
1	1000



# INTERNATIONAL

Khana Khazana Khoobsurat

Swayaamvar - 2000 Phillum Bazi

Phillum Bazi Akbar Birbal Regional Feature Film Hum Honge Kamyaab Double Trouble Close Up Antakshari Philips Top 10 Andaz Sitara Bazaar Buzz Film Deewane

Film Deewane Banegi Apni Baat Parvarish Khoobsurat Infotainment

12:30 01:00 01:30 02:00 02:30 03:00 05:30 06:00 06:30 07:00 08:30 09:00

06:00	World News
07:00	Intl. World News
07:30	Showbiz Today
08:00	World News
09:30	Moneyline
10:00	Worldwide Update
10:30	World Report
11:00	World News
11:30	Headline News Update
11:45	CNN Newsroom
12:00	World News
12:30	Headline News
01:00	World News
01:30	World Report
02:00	World News
02:30	Business Morning
03:00	World News
03:30	Business Day
04:00	World News
04:30	Business Asia
05:00	Larry King Live
06:00	World News
07:30	Business Asia
08:00	CNN News Hour
09:00	World News
10:00	World Business Today
10:30	Headline News Update
11:00	International Hour
12:00	World News
12:45	CNN World Sport
01:00	World Business Today
01:30	Showbiz Today
02:00	The World Today
03:00	Moneyline
03:30	Crossfire
04:00	Prime News
05:00	Larry King Live



07:00	Magazine
07:30	Magazine
08:30	Journal de France 2
09:00	Euronews France 3
10:00	Journal de TF1
10:10	Documentary
11:00	Documentary
11:30	Magazine
12:00	Serial
01:00	Varieties
01:45	Animation
02:00	News in English
02:10	Animation
02:45	Magazine
03:45	Journal de France 3
04:00	Magazine
05:40	Magazine
06:10	Infos
06:30	Journal de France 2
07:05	Sport
07:15	Serial
07:45	Serial
08:15	Varieites
09:00	Telefilm
11:00	Journal de France 2
11:35	Telefilm
01:00	Magazine
01:55	Serial
02:55	Sport
03:05	Journal de France 3
03:35	MCM Programme
05:00	Journal de France 2
05:35	Journal de TF1
06:05	MCM Programme
00.00	mom r rogramme

Paki	sta	h
	TV	2
4-2-4		

11		
A47		03:00
		03:02
		04:30
06:00	Tilawat Aur Tarjuma,	05:00
	Hamd/Naat, Warzish.	05.30
	Cartoon, Khabrain, Hamari	05.30
	Sehat, Qawwali,	05.45
	Hussol-e-Insaaf, Roshni, Dua	
08:00	Close Down	
11:55	PTV Insignia	06:30
12:00	Bismillah	06:40
12:10	Natak Rang	1
01:50	Physics in Action	06:45
02:20	Aiou Courses	07.00 09:45
02:45	Family Classics	10:00
03:35	Follow Me	
04:00	Aasaan Hesaab	
04:30	Fehmul Quran	

04:55	Computer Biology
05:25	Aiou Courses
05:50	Al-Akhbaar
06:00	The News
06:20	Lux Style Ki Duniya
06:50	Shehrzaad
08:00	Khabarnama
08:30	PTV File
08:35	Aaj Ka Akhbaar
08:40	Current Affairs
09:05	Khwab Tamasha
09:30	English Feature Film
	Khas Khas Khabrain
	Farman-e-Elahi
	Close Down

### **OMAN RADIO**

0800

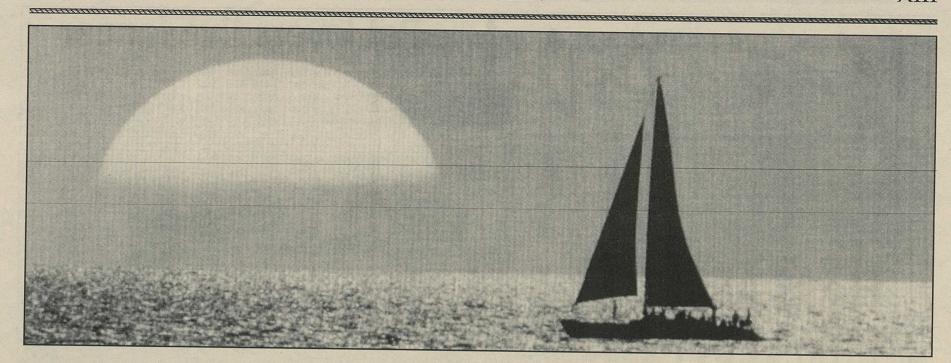
08:10

08:30 08:40 09:00 10:00 11:00

12:00

12:15

Opening, the Holy Quran,
preview of morning pro-
grammes and weather fore-
cast
Talks on Ramadan/Music
of the Arabs
News Bulletin
Music of the Arabs
Invitation to the proms
Festivals of Music
News Highlights/Reflections
of Ramdan
Preview of afternoon pro-
grammes and news head-
lines 12.03
The Holy Quran
The Great Trade Routes
Merry-go-round
News Headlines
Eminent Muslim Women
Ramadanian Nights
From here, to there, to you
(Request Show)
News bulletin
This is Oman
Weather forecast and TV
programmes
Preview of evening
programmes On Stage
Anything goes
Classical showcase
Teen spirit
Fasters Oasis
Fasters Oasis
The Holy
Quran/Adhan/Duaa/News
headlines/Music in the World
of Islam
News Bulletin
Weather forecast and
pharmacies on duty
Business report
Just listen to this
The Holy Quran
News summary, preview of
morning programmes, phar-
macies on duty, closedown,
national anthem



# Let yourself Goa

iven that we knew a cold winter was firmly entrenched back home, it seemed madness to think of leaving Vaiguinim beach for even a moment.

Like most of Goa's 60 miles of coastline, its seductive formula is soft sand, swaying palms and the lapping waves of the Arabian Sea, all under a dependably cobalt blue sky that deepens at dusk to produce sensationally romantic sunsets.

Goans are working hard at their tourism, or, rather, as hard as their laid-back, Mediterranean approach to life permits

Leaving the state's prime industry -the mining and export of iron ore -- to
non-Goans prepared to slog under the
midday sun, 20 per cent of Goans
have now given up their traditional village and farm occupations to live off
tourism. Their efforts are encouraged
by Europe's increasing number of direct charter flights.

But the region is in no danger of becoming a Costa del India. It has a way of life that is utterly relaxing, Goans offering something quite different from the rest of India. In a way, they make Goa the soft entry for those worried but fascinated by the subcontinent.

There is little of the aggressive north Indian shop-keeping here -- spending highlights are buying cheap sunglasses near Calangute beach, giant fresh cashew nuts at Zantyes in Panaji, bargain silk at the Silk House there, and half-price Benetton clothes at the franchises in Panaji and the Leela Beach Resort.

The beaches come in every shape, size and mood, the more magical and private ones to the north, the seemingly endless ones to the south. Almost all are silver-sanded, with the odd exception where iron dust gives the silver a harmless and acceptable tarnish.

It is just possible to tire of beach life, however, so we decided it was time for an expedition. Clutching our binoculars and bottles of Bisleri water, we splashed through the warm waves and clambered into a large Goan canoe made of mango wood strapped together with coir.

Our guide and boatman chugged out across Mormugao say, into the mouth of the Zuari River and up the twisting Cumbarjua Canal.

We were soon squealing with excitement to see a big, fat crocodile



sunning itself on the mangrove banks. Two hours later it was the birds that held the stage -- the croc was almost forgotten.

Elegant herons minced among the mangrove roots; a dazzling golden oriole swooped across our bow; a great Indian bustard cruised above, its chestnut wings catching the sunlight; and we counted dour different species of neon-bright kingfishers.

Travelling downstream along the Mandovi River you can glimpse building towers poking up above the dense palm groves; from the water these and the riverside Viceroy's Arch are the only clues that you have arrived at Old Goa.

For a century, from 1510, when Albuquerque conquered Goa, this spot was not only Portugal's principal Indian port but also the focus of her powerful seaborne empire, which stretched from east Africa to Malacca. Fortunes wobbled later, but Portugal clung on to Goa right up to 1961, 24 years after British India became independent.

In its heyday, visitors claimed Goa rivaled Lisbon in splendour. Today, the busy riverside mint, the traders and their galleons are all gone, as are the pious men of the cloth and the dissolute sailors.

The day we arrived was different. Two young tailors were pounding their treadle Singer sewing machines, shaded from the heat by a magnificent spreading rain tree.

As fast as they stitched together



pieces of cloth plucked from the huge piles lying around them, so their mates fixed each length on to a bamboo scaffolding to make a multi-coloured patchwork awning.

Beneath completed areas, fluorescent lighting was being rigged up to questionable safety standards.

In general, however, there is not the calibre of sublime architecture south India possesses.

Trips into the Goa hinterland, increasingly dotted with brash new homes built with Middle Eastern earnings, are to visit the gently fading mansions of the charming former aristocracy now on harder times.

It's well worth investing in a taxi for a day or so (roughly \$30 a day, less if you can bust their cartels around hotels) to do a little beach-hopping. There is no coast road: Lanes run down to the beaches from the main roads, which meander through undulating countryside planted with coconut palms and cashew nut trees.

They pass Portuguese forts (Aguada and Chapora are well worth a visit) and villages where old and young laze on their "balcaos" -- the porch in front of the house furnished with built-in seats.

The beaches themselves are mostly under-shaded, making a suitcaseful of high-factor sun cream an essential, together with a deep respect for the midday sun -- jaunty parasols are, mercifully, few and far apart.

So, too, contrary to popular belief,

are hippies. Modern hippies, often cleanshaven and beadless, seem to confine themselves to the northern beaches and look suspiciously as though they have a gold American Express card tucked away in a back pocket.

Alongside the beaches there are plenty of hotels and guesthouses, but not many are visible from the sands. Coastal beauty is now protected by a 650-foot building rule. Thus the older Taj Holiday Village, Cidade de Goa and Goan Heritage open directly on to the sand, while the newer hotels, from the all-singing, all-dancing Leela Beach Resort down to charming guesthouses, are set back and so cannot provide one of the most pleasurable experiences of a seaside holiday: Lying in bed at night listening to the rhythm of the waves.

Around the hotels, and especially in the Candolim, Calangute and Baga beach areas, there are cafes and restaurants in a quantity found nowhere else on the subcontinent.

Panaji's Venite and the Panjim Inn are in the Latin quarter, Fonthainas, where Portuguese is still spoken and tiny bar-cafes serve a lethal tequila-like cocktail of coconut feni with salt and lime juice.

Food is based on the local sea and river produce such as lobster, king-size shrimp and pomfret, which respond well to a mixture of robust Portuguese and Indian traditions.

There are also delightful beach cafes -- really palm-leaf shacks -- which sprout up along any well-used beach and are liable to have menus listing grilled giant prawns, slice of fresh pineapple and, leftover from hippier times, porridge and peanut butter sandwiches.

If you find yourself wanting a change, the rest of India is readily accessible. Indeed, many packages offer trips up north to the Taj Mahal and Rajasthan, down south to Tamil Nadu's temples or over the Western Ghats on to the Deccan plain to see the lost, magnificent city of Vijayanagar -- a splendid train journey goes part of the way, from Margao to Bubli.

But maybe it is easier just to ask one of the fishermen mending his nets to take you out for a morning, or to join a boat trip to Grand Island for a barbecue and some snorkeling (bring your own mask and flippers), or to go scuba diving, or take a sunset cruise to spot porpoises.

# That's Life

# Pet lovers live longer

People who own a dog or cat live an average of five years longer than those who don't, according to a new survey by psychologists.

"We have found that a pet — particularly a dog or cat — is less stressful than a child or a grand-child and is good medicine for loneliness," German psychologist Dr. Gerhard Brehm explained.



# Will bananas help chain-smoking chimp When you feel like smoking a cig kick the habit?

When you feel like smoking a cigarette, reach for a banana instead — that's what Pete, a chain-smoking chimp, does.

But the puffing primate's owner, Jim Garvin, is going to make sure his pet kicks the habit. He's also weaning Pete off cigarettes with nicotine patches.

"We're a bit worried about the cigarettes and matches. He could set fire to the straw in his cage," Garvin said.

Pete, 26, has been

hooked on the wicked weed since a tourist threw him a cigarette and a box of matches several years ago. Pete popped the cigarette in his mouth and lit up.

Now Garvin has given up smoking and he reckons Pete should do the same thing.

Although the chimp loves his ciggies, he much prefers bananas.

So every time Pete gets the urge to smoke, zookeepers at Causeway Safari Park give him a

# Dad has 60 kids!

When a judge asked an accused drug dealer to list his assets, he named his kids — all 60 of them.

"I have 60 children," Glovis Arteaga Encinas, 65, told startled US Magistrate Peter Palermo.

"Did you say 60?" responded the shocked judge. Glovis explained he had tied the knot five times, starting when he was 16

The aging drug suspect arrived on a flight from Bolivia with 5.6 pounds of cocaine strapped to his back and thighs, according to agents.

# 99-year-old still behind the wheel — and he'll

keep on driving till he drops!

The one thing John H. Chapman wants to do more than anything is to still be driving when he hits 100 — and that milestone is less than a year off!

"You that's what I want...to be able to say I was still driving a car at the age of 100," the 99-year-old former mechanic admitted.

And the amazing thing is, he seems a shoe-in to do it. For one thing, he just breezed through a driving test to get a new license. For another, he's as mentally sharp and the short of people helf his are

physically spry as a lot of people half his age.

And to top it all off, he has a spiffy, '91 four-door General Motors Saturn that's logged only 5,000 miles on the odometer. "It's a good car...just right for me," he said. "I don't take long trips. I use it for driving around town doing

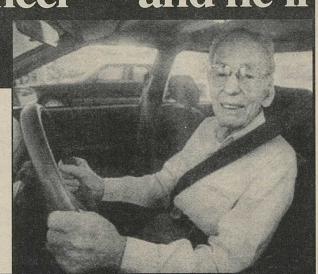
my errands and coming home.

"The best car I've ever had was an Oldsmobile. But I have to say that because I worked for the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors for a long, long time."

If you think that John is just another old codger who's too old to be on the road, think again. His pet peeve is older folks who drive too slow for the flow of traffic.

"You get on the freeway and there's a slow mover nine times out of 10 you look over and it's an old gray-hair. I say, if you can't keep up with the traffic, maybe you ought not be on the road.

"If I can be driving my car when I hit 100, I'll be happy," John said. "That would really be great. That would be an accomplishment."



# Was he a traitor passing on a nation's secrets or the victim of a woman's revenge?

hroughout the summer of 1947 Claude Fabre's regular disappearances from his office in the French Ministry of Information became at first a departmental joke then something considerably more serious.

As deputy chief of the ministry's external affairs department, 40-year-old Fabre, an elegant university honour graduate, was large-

ly a government public re-lations man mixing with foreign diplomats. The foreign diplomats. The problem was he was never around when he was want-

His colleagues at first assumed that Fabre was conducting a clandestine affair. After all his wife, Yvonne, a dumpy blonde who lived in a world of hairdressing and clothesbuying, never accompanied her husband to the theatre or the opera.

They had little in common and in the past, Fabre had had discreet affairs with the wives of colleages but had ended them before they became serious.

Now, as his appearances from the office became more frequent, col-

leagues began to wonder whether Claude Fabre had got himself seriously involved with some mysterious lady-

Nor were they apparently the only ones to take an interest in Fabre's private life. In August, 1947, the security services, tipped off about his behaviour, began an investigation into his private life.

A few weeks spent following Fabre, tapping his phone and intercepting his mail, at the Soviet Embassy in Paris who was suspected of working for Soviet Intelligence.

Five weeks later, security men made an early-morning call on Fabre in his flat near the Place De La Concorde. As a result he appeared before a District Court in October accused of five charges involving

breaches of security.

Maitre Rene Cherete, prosecuting, alleged that Louise D'Flette "an experienced temptress", had passed on a variety of security secrets obtained from Fabre.

These included the future deployment of French Air Force jet fighters and top-secret radar installations. This information, claimed the prosecution, had fallen into Russian hands and Fabre was directly re-

For two days the court was closed to the public while the pros-ecution have evidence concerning details of the espionage involved.

Then at a public session a security agent known only as R. testified that he had followed Fabre for several weeks. With the aid of an eaves-dropping device he had

listened in on conversations between the

Asked Maitre Daniel Boame for the de-Asked Wattle Dailer Boather for the defence:" Did you hear the accused pass over state secrets to this young woman?" to which R. replied: "We heard him communicate numerous pieces of information of a military nature, including some deliberately false, which had been made available to him in his department." able to him in his department."

Maitre Boame: "I put it to you that this

# Mystery of the bird of death

he afternoon that 10-year-old Sarah Hallett told her mother that she had seen a white bird sitting outside her bedroom window, Mrs Elizabeth Hallett felt as though a knife had been twisted in her

"What sort of bird was it?" she asked as casually as she could although her heart was beating furiously and she felt cold

"A big white bird like a dove," Sarah replied. "It just sat outside the window looking at me. Then it just disappeared. I didn't see it fly away. I wonder what it Elizabeth Hallett said



youngest daughter, been seriously ill with a chest in-fection throughout the summer of 1931. Now the family had been assured that she was on the road to recovery. Could the appearance of the white bird mean that the doctors were tragically wrong?

Elizabeth Hallett reasoned, it was high time such tales were dismissed as superstition? The next morning, when Sarah seemed no worse for her experience, Elizabeth mentioned to her husband that their

daughter had seen the white bird.

She was totally unprepared for the furore that followed. Her husband, furious that she had delayed so long in telling him, roared off in his car to the local vicarage to ask the vicar to conduct the service of exorcism which had been used for centuries when ever the white bird was seen at the Corner House.

It was the first time the vicar, a young man who had been in the parish only a few months, had heard about the curse. He was highly sceptical of ghosts and superstitions and said he would consider the matter.

> phoned to say that he did not feel able to conduct the ceremony.
>
> In her hus-

Later he tele-

band's Elizabeth Hallett had called in the family doctor who examined child and reported she was getting better and there was nothing to worry about.

So comparative peace re-turned to the Corner House . but not for long. Shortly after midnight that night,

the household was aroused by piercing screams coming from Sarah's bedroom. Her parents rushed to the child's side and



# Was a ten-year-old girl the latest victim of a centuries-old curse?

Elizabeth Hallett said nothing to her husband Charles about what their daughter had seen. He knew all about the legendary white bird of death. His grandmother had died hours after she claimed that a white bird had fluttered frantically around her

And only five years earlier, Charles Halties, had seen a white bird hovering around the stable yard. No one else had seen it and he had mentioned it to his son.

Then Colonel Hallett mounted his favourite Cleveland Bay mare and left for a day's hunting. When he returned it was as a corpse. The horse had hesitated at a jump and Colonel Hallett had fallen heavily, shattering his spine. He was dead within minutes. Legend had it that in the 18th century a daughter of the family had seen the bird on the morning of her wedding day and pleaded with her father to postpone the ceremony. He said it was impossible and that

the wedding should go ahead.

During the ceremony, a former suitor of the girl, inflamed with drink and jealousy, shot the bridegroom as he was kneeling at the altar. The assassin was attacked by guests and wounded so seriously that he died a few hours later.

But all that was a long time ago. Surely,

found her sitting up in bed beating frantically at the empty air.

"Don't let the bird hurt me," she screamed. Her mother, acting instinctively, snatched a Bible from a bookcase and began to read out loud. Slowly the child's hysteria subsided and she fell into a fitful sleep.

"I don't remember what I read," Elizrecalled., calm seemed to sweep over the room." The doctor was called and found that the child had apparently suffered from some mysterious nervous shock.

But Sarah Hallett didn't die and the white bird was cheated of its victim. Or so it seemed. The child grew up, and in 1941 was a 20-year-old nurse in a hospital in the thick of the London blitz. One Sunday afternoon in October Sarah and her room-mate at St Stephen's Hospital were relaxing when Sarah suddenly clutched at her throat. trying to choke me," she gasped. "It's taking my breath away."

Her room-mate called a doctor. By the time he arrived, Sarah was unconscious, her pulse faltering and feeble. She died two hours later and an inquest recorded an open verdict. But to the Hallett family the cause of her death was quite clear.

The bird of death had patiently waited ten years to claim its inevitable victim.

# WAS THE LADY A LOVER .. OR A SPY?

gave security chiefs the information they wanted: Claude Fabre was having an affair with a tall dark-haired divorcee named Louise D'Flette, a 34-year-old executive in a Paris theatre management organisation.

The revelation was about to be dismissed with a Gallic shrug when something more ominous was discovered: Louise D'Flette's sister was married to a Russian - an official

THE VERDICT IS **YOURS** 



were given jobs in Russian foreign afto East Germany. It was believed they 1948, Fabre and Louise D'Flette defected Claude Fabre was found not guilty on all charges and discharged. In May

was merely casual conversation resulting from the lady asking Fabre what sort of day he had had." Replied R.: "I did not get that impression. It seemed to me that definite information was being passed on."

Appearing as a witness for the prosecution, Louise D'Flette said that Fabre had asked her to pass on envelopes of material to her brother-in-law at the Soviet Embassy. She was reluctant to do so but he persisted

and eventually she agreed.

She told the court:" I was very much in love with him and thought that I might lose him if I didn't do as he asked. When asked by the defence if she had been told that she would not be prosecuted if she testified against Fabre, Louise D'Flette replied:"No one has promised me anything or threatened

In court, Claude Fabre declared that he The relationship with Louise D'Flette had ended acrimoniously and his former mistress was now determined to get her own back.

He told the court: "I never passed on any

security secrets to anyone. My relationship with this woman was purely personal and emotional. In fact I did not know anything about the nationality of her brother-in-law or his position in the Soviet Embassy until these investigations started.

"He said that in his job he had no access to security material and had never made any attempt to gather any from other departments. "I wouldn't know where to start,"

"Why Louise D'Flette feels it is necessary to ruin me remains a complete mystery to me. The whole thing is a setup. I am innocent of everything except an unwise

Would YOU have found Claude Fabre guilty of espionage?

amn the pinkos, and thank God it's not a perfect world! All comedy, all humour, perhaps arises from our enjoyment ofother people's mistakes and imperfections, and if there is a place of perfection where there is nothing to laugh about, then I don't want to be there!

If, like me, you regard laughter as a blessing, and think of the jugular as a sacred vein, you too ought to pay tribute to error.

To me, it seems not only human but also wise to err. So highly do I esteem misprints that if I were to edit a

Chand Rangwani compiles a wacky miscellany of misprints, malapropos and Freudian slips

marriage of their daughter....

Investigators into last night's inferno say that a crossed wife may have led to the fire.

We regret our poof-reader's error in yesterday's edition which stated that 'Mr Sawant is a defective in the police force.'

The correct line should read 'Mr Sawant is a detective in the police farce.' We apologise to the concerned officer.

The three-day outing at Pushkar is climaxed by a huge festival which practically doubles the town's population each year. (From a travel magazine.)

# A tribute to error



newspaper, I would make sure that there is at least an amusing misprint in every page to add gaiety to all this news of great sombriety.

I'm sure the paper will sell that much better, since it will allow each one of our esteemed readers a daily squeal of delight at his own wisdom and a daily reason for writing a letter to the editor.

Here, then, are some examples (all real, of course):

### HAUNTING HEADLINES

Miss World unveils bust at dedication ceremony

Deceased accused of fleeing site after accident

Rain makes roads impassable for drought-relief vehicles

High court directive to rape accused.

### **NUTTY NEWS-LINES**

The area in which the film star was hurt is famous for its great beauty. (On actress Sonu Walia getting injured in Ooty.)

His friends could give no explanation on why he should have committed suicide. He was single.

When the baby is done with the drinking it must be unscrewed and laid in a cool place under the tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk, it should be boiled. (Instruction on bottle-feeding procedure in a 'child-care' mag.)

To love and cherish, in sickness and in health, for poorer or richer, until

debt do us part. (Overheard at a Catholic wedding.)

Pakistan better not fool around with the nuclear bomb.

It is dynamite. (A home minister's statement at a press conference.)

His father was a civil serpent too. (Extract from an article accusing a prominent bureaucrat of corruption.)

The esteemed minister, who has been sick for several days, is now in bed with a coed.

They were married and lived happily even after.

The newly-formed Women's Orchestra is rather weak in the bras section.

Mr and Mrs Popley request the pleasure of your presents at the

### AWFUL ADS

We offer special 'English Improvement' classes in which, student be able to very much improve their spoken and writted English and speak like foreign. Even Kapil Dev be coming to us. Contact quickly: Rapidex Tutoirals.

Ad inserted to announce arrival of a grandson: A seven pound bonny baby arrived last night to frighten the lives of Pappu and Sharda Gupta.

Under which, was another ad from the same family:

Mrs Sharda Gupta pleased to announce arrival of seven pound baby boy. And of loss of 20 pounds.

### 'SITUATIONS VACANT' AD

Prominent High Court liar is searching for a pretty and accomplished deceptionist to help him deal with clients. Salary and pecks negotiable.

### AD IN A LONDON PAPER

Indian Vegetarian Restaurant: Proprietor: Jyotindra Pattni cooks proprietors mother-in-law + wife.

### MISCELLANY MADNESS

Sign on a photocopying machine: Employees are not to interfere with the typist's reproduction equipment without the manager's express permission — Manager.

Sign in a 5-star hotel offering 'Girl Friday' services:

Executives who have no secretaries of their own are welcome to take the fullest advantage of our girls in the steno pool.

Sign in a beauty parlour window:

Don't whistle at the girl leaving here. She may be your grandmother!

Sign on packaged health food:

Contains only the purest of artificial preservatives.

Sign outside roadside eatery:

Eat here and you will never eat anyplace again.

Warning on a defunct public telephone:

Beware! This machine is coiniverous!

Telegram received by a divorced

Bangkok is beautiful. Am having a wonderful time. Wish you were her.