### West Indies need soul-searching

- World Cup '96

# TIMES OF OMAN

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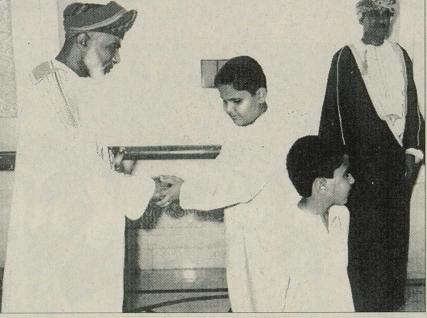
IMF to police Russian loan

TIMES OF OMAN LEISURE

Emma senses more success in Oscars



His Majesty offering Eid prayers.



His Majesty receiving greetings from a young citizen.



A section of the large crowd thronging to greet His Majesty. - Photos by Mohd. Mustapha

### His Majesty watches Eid festivities

SALALAH — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said watched Eid festivities of Al Badiyah residents (Hubut Al Badiyah) at Al Hisn Al Amr Palace yard here on Thursday. Also present with His Majesty on the occasion were members of the Royal family, min-

The Al Badiyah residents of Dhofar Governorate turned up in large numbers at the palace yard carrying guns and swords and chanting folkloric songs. They thus expressed their overwhelming delight over meeting His Majesty the Sultan as well as at the advent of the Eid Al Fitr.

The people renewed their loyalty and allegience to the leader of Oman's great renaissance, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Poets expressed through versus their deep allegience to His Majesty and hailed the achievements of the blessed era of the

Sultanate under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan. The music bands of Royal Guard of Oman and Royal Oman Police later put up an enchanting display of various

On Wednesday, His Majesty watched Hubat Al Aryaf of the palace yard. Large number of people from the rural areas of Dhofar Governorate participated in the festivities wearing traditional costumes and wielding swords in the air. Other dignitaries were

Earlier on Tuesday, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said offered the Eid Al Fitr prayers at Hayy Al Shatti prayer grounds. The prayer was led by Sayyid Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Busaidi, adviser of His Majesty for religious and historic affairs. Al Busaidi, in his speech given thereafter, urged Muslims to perform good deeds always and

thanked Allah the Almighty for His blessings

His Majesty later received at Al Hisn Al Amr Palace in Salalah various groups of people ranging from members of the Royal family, ministers, advisers, members of Majlis Al Shura, senior commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces and Royal Oman Police and senior civil and military officials came to greet him. His Majesty also received sheikhs, dignitaries and citizens from Dhofar Governorate who extended greetings and best wishes to him on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

His Majesty later held a luncheon at the palace which was attended by members of the Royal family, ministers, advisers, undersecretaries, members of Majlis Al Shura, senior civil and military officials, walis, sheikhs and dignitaries of Dhofar Governorate.

### Federation police enter Serb suburb

pulled up in front of the municipal police station in a light snow at about 0720am (0620 GMT), to be greeted by UN police commissioner Peter Fitzgerald. They climbed the station steps and disappeared into a warren of filthy rooms abandoned by Serb police on Thursday.

Overturned desks, stacks of old folders, bedding, the odd battle helmet and gas mask, a few hand grenades and scattered boxes of bullets littered the building.
At one point six Italian Nato sol-

diers, black feathers sprouting from their helmets, entered the station and soon left, carrying trays of explosives away for disposal Vogosca is one of five Sarajevo

suburbs being transferred from Bosnia's Serb republic to its Muslim-Croat federation and the first to come under non-Serb police control.

Fearing reprisals for the 43-month Serb siege of Sarajevo, thousands of Serb residents fled the town this week ahead of the Muslim-Croat police arrival. Nato sources reported Vogosca quiet overnight with only one or two fires and no serious in-

eration police entered the Serb sub- work unarmed, had spotted a group of didates submitted for UN approval

"It is tragic that the population here has fallen from 17,000 to about 2,500," the UN police commissioner said of the Serb exodus Kris Janowski, spokesman for the

UN high commissioner for refugees, blamed Bosnian Serb leaders for the

"They didn't have to go. They were incited to go by their own authorities," Janowski said.

"They were incited by a regime previously responsible for expelling tens of thousands of people and kill-

For Bosnian Serb leaders who fought a war for ethnic separatism, the notion of a multi-ethnic Sarajevo is anathema. Their scare tactics and the federation's late and rather lame assurances of personal safety for Serbs provoked a stampede which saw hundreds of Serbs without transportation walk out of town through the mountains on Thursday.

UN police commissioner Fitzgerald said the new federation police force in Vogosca had been screened by his men for its professional qual-

urb of Vogosca yesterday — to take control of a ghost town.

The first three federation vehicles about 10 armed men west of the town overnight. Subsequent Nato and UN muslims and one Croat, UN sources police patrols did not see them again. the town was to include 16 Muslims, 14 Serbs and two Croats -- a mix roughly mirroring the town's pre-war ethnic breakdown.

Asked what the federation police would be doing on their first day at work, Fitzgerald replied: "I can tell you what they won't be doing. There won't be any witch-hunts, there won't be any widescale searches or arrests. We'll be with them.

Two unarmed UN police monitors were on hand for every federation policeman, along with roving patrols of Nato troops in armoured vehicles. Given the recent peace accord and the number of reporters, UN monitors and Nato soldiers watching every move of federation police yesterday, Vogosca had probably never been so safe since the Bosnian war began in April 1992.

That was little comfort to those Serbs still stranded in the town and

keen to leave. A bus stood opposite the police station as the federation police arrived. Serbs — mostly women, the very old and the young — clambered

Major vows to soldier



A policeman of the Muslim-Croat Federation with the federation's flag outside the police station of the Vogosca suburb in Sarajevo yesterday, to replace the Serb flag. - AFP

### Yeltsin warns government on reform

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, anxious to keep Communists out of the Kremlin, warned the Russian government that its days were numbered if it failed to soften the blows of economic reform.

"The government will either carry out its duty to defend the social and economic rights of people or this will be done by another government," Yeltsin said in a "state of the nation" address less than four months before a pres-

The 65-year-old leader, looking resolute and showing no sign of the heart problems he suffered last year, threw down the gauntlet to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with a stinging rebuke over failure to support living standards. "The government, which is focusing on financial stabilisation, has forgotten about people living on wages and pensions," Yeltsin said.
"If we do not guarantee the social and economic rights of the people, if po-

litical instability starts, everything may be lost and we will be thrown back Yeltsin, struggling to make up ground on his Communist foes ahead of the June 16 election, distanced himself from the government and raised the grim spectre of a return to the old days of Soviet-style repression.

Speaking one day after the International Monetary Fund said it would lend Russia \$10.2 billion if it stuck to reform plans, he said the patience of ordinary Russians was wearing thin. "We called on people for a long time to tighten their belts, and people did

this, but their patience is exhausted," he said.

"Our task is to develop a market and at the same time to reduce the (social)

Yeltsin, clearly using the podium to score pre-election points, said the June election may be Russia's last chance to allow the roots of a free democratic so-

### **HM** greets King Fahd, Sheikh Jaber

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of greetings to the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of his resumption of duties. His Majesty prayed Allah the Almighty to preserve the king's health and be-stow blessings and prosperity upon the Saudi people under his wise leadership. His Majesty also prayed God Almighty to provide the king with long life and protect him from any misfortune so that he could continue his efforts in the service of Arab and Islamic societies.

 HIS Majesty has also sent a cable of greetings to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day. His Majesty wished the Emir good health and the Kuwaiti people further progress and prosperity. — *ONA* 

### Qatar calls for urgent AGCC meet

DOHA — Qatar yesterday officially called for an urgent meeting of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council to discuss the failed coup attempt in

"Qatar has asked Oman, as president of the AGCC, to convene and organise a special meeting in Muscat of the council to inform it of the circumstances of the shameless plot aimed at the region's stability," the official said. -AFP

### Saddam's sons-in-law slain: Report

BAGHDAD — Iraqi General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a former industry minister, and his brother Colonel Saddam Hassan, were killed yesterday, said a television station run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest

The two brothers, both sons-inlaw of Saddam's, and their wives returned to Iraq on Tuesday from Jordan, where they had defected last

The report came only hours after television announced that their wives, Saddam's daughters, had divorced them.

The report said the two women had been unaware of the men's "trea-

"Raghad and Rana have filed for divorce and got it," the television station run by Saddam's eldest son Uday said. The generals had called for Saddam's overthrow at his only press conference in Amman a few days after their arrival six months ago. The women reportedly said they were "misled and did not know their

• See also Page 3

### Clinton phones Major, Bruton

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE President Bill Clinton phoned British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton for brief talks yesterday to keep abreast of the Northern Ireland peace process.

The separate 5-10 minute calls, made as Clinton winged his way to California, came as Major, under pressure to restart the bomb-damaged peace process, met with US envoy George Mitchell in London ahead of talks with key Ulster politicians.

"The president called to check in with each, and to see how things are moving," said national security adviser Anthony Lake. "They did not get into detailed discussion of the specific issues, and said that they might be talking to (Clinton) him next week." But Lake said Bruton and Major

each had told Clinton "they think they are making progress." Mitchell in London condemned the two IRA bombs that have exploded in London since February 9, but said he had not been surprised. "It is a difficult situation, made more difficult in recent weeks," Mitchell said on leaving 10 Downing Street, referring to a renewed Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing campaign in London. who headed an inter-

national commission that proposed steps for decommissioning par-amilitaries in Northern Ireland, said he was "convinced" the Northern Ireland parties "are determined to move stay loyal in lengthy talks on Thurs-

on for another year LONDON — Prime Minister John

Major vowed yesterday that his government would soldier on for another year despite the shock defection of a Conservative member of parliament, the third to leave the ruling party in Peter Thurnham said he will sit as

an independent, dealing a heavy blow to Major by cutting his majority to just two ahead of an important parliamentary vote on government probity Major told reporters he was "saddened and disappointed" by Thurn-

ham's move. But it made no difference to his determination to wait until the last possible date in May 1997 before calling a general election. "I always expected to go right through until 1997," he said.

One Conservative MP, Sir Teddy Taylor, predicted Major, whose party is over 20 points adrift in the opinion polls, would be forced into an election in October. Bookmakers Ladbrokes cut the odds on an election in

1996 to 11-8 from 2-1. Thurnham, in parliament for 13 years, said he had been affronted by 'malpractices within the Conservative Party". He announced his defection after Major failed to persuade him to

day night.
"I don't quite know what happened after I finished my meeting,' Major told reporters yesterday Thurnham's decision placed in the balance the government's chances of winning Monday's vote on a report into sales of British arms-making equipment to Iraq in the 1980s. The report by a senior judge severely criticised two senior ministers.

Thurnham said he was "very inclined to vote against" the government following the debate. He said the bungling and top-level ma-noeuvring highlighted by the report had triggered his defection. At least two Conservative MPs

are considering deserting Major in the vote, but he may get support from Protestant Ulster Unionists. If he loses, he may call a vote of confidence. Thurnham's move follows de-

fections by legislators Alan Howarth to the main opposition Labour Party and Emma Nicholson to the centrist Liberal Democrats last year. "We are now seeing a haemorrhaging of support from the par-liamentary Conservative Party," said

Labour's parliamentary business man-

ager Donald Dewar. "It suggests the

government is in a state of very, very

poor morale and beginning to break

Conservatives in Thurnham's con-

stituency, part of the northern English town of Bolton, said his decision was prompted by a failure to become the candidate for rural Westmorland, where he lives, at the next general election. His current seat, whose electoral make-up has been affected by boundary changes, looks certain to Thurnham denied this was his rea-

son for quitting, although he said his attempt to find a new seat "has certainly opened my eyes to mal-practices within the Conservative Par-The arms-to-Iraq report, compiled by senior Judge Sir Richard Scott, says that William Waldegrave, now number two at the treasury, repeatedly misled MPs in parliamentary answers in which he said export guidelines had not changed. It criticised chief government law officer Sir Nicholas Lyell, for advising ministers to sign "gagging orders" in an attempt to withold government papers from the defence in a trial of three company executives accused of breaching export rules. There are 324 Conservatives MPs in the 651-seat Commons and 322 opposition MPs

The Conservatives have held power

since 1979. — Reuter

### Russia suspends sanctions against Serbs

MOSCOW — Russia yesterday pulled out of UN-imposed sanctions against Bosnian Serbs following a decree signed by President Boris Yelt sin, his office said.

Yeltsin made the decision after the Bosnian Serbs complied with conditions outlined by UN Security Council Resolution 1022, the decree

Resolution 1022, which was adopted by the council on November 22, provides for the suspension of sanctions against Bosnian Serbs after an announcement by the commander of the peace Implementation Force (Ifor) that Serbs had withdrawn from separation zones established by the Dayton peace accord.

In New York, Russia's ambassador to the United Nations announced the effective unilateral sus pension of UN sanctions against Bosnian Serbs, breaking ranks with the other members of the Security

Russian ambassador Sergei Lavrov told reporters that Moscow was simply observing the terms of the UN resolution which provides for the sanctions suspension if certain condi tions are met

On Thursday, Russian diplomats at the United Nations denounced the request by Ifor commander Admiral Leighton Smith to delay suspension of the sanction by two days. -AFP

#### involvement in bribery scandal NEW DELHI — An Indian court yesterday ordered federal detectives to report on charges that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had accepted bribes from the chief suspect in the country's worst corruption scandal.

The Delhi High Court ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file a report on allegations that Rao had accepted money to buy support during a crucial opposition-sponsored vote of noconfidence in parliament in 1993.

The case, filed by activist Ravinder Kumar, alleged that Rao had paid huge amounts of money to opposition MPs who voted in favour of his Congress (I) government on September 28, 1993. The government survived by a

slender margin of 14 votes with 265 lawmakers voting against the motion and 251 voting for Rao's Kumar, a leader of the Rash-

triva Mukti Morcha (National Freedom Front) group, said the prime minister had deposited Rs3 million (\$96,774) in the account of opposition MP Suraj Mandal, who opposed the motion along with others.

Opposition parties have accused the beleaguered Rao of accepting at least \$3.5 million from the prime suspect in the scandal, a businessman named Surinder Jain. The Congress party has denied the



Indian court asks report on Rao's

Jain, in a statement to the CBI said he "had agreed to pay Rs30 million ... these payments were required for the purpose of engineering defections of some MPs in support of the Congress party which was being planned by (Congress heavyweight) Satish Sharma and Chandraswamy.

Chandraswamy, a controversial figure who reportedly counts the Sultan of Brunei, Elizabeth Taylor and Rao as his followers, was one of the conduits for the prime minister with Sharma, a sitting minister, Jain

has said. Jain, a permanent fixture of Del hi's smart set and an avid partygoer with extensive foreign links, said most of the money came from sources overseas. He has also claimed paying bribes to former prime minister The \$21-million-scandal erupt-

ed four years ago when a random raid on Jain's plush country retreat near Delhi unearthed coded payments made to 115 top politicians and bureaucrats between 1988 and 1991 in exchange for favours. The snowballing scandal has

rocked the political spectrum with seven federal ministers resigning after being implicated. Twenty-four politicians have been formally charged and more heads are likely The charges have undermined the credibility of the Congress, the

main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), all serious contenders for power in upcoming parliamentary polls, expected in

Meanwhile, the CBI has said there was "insufficient" evidence to incriminate two unspecified people in the scandal amid intense speculation that one of the individuals was Rao, touted as the "Mr Clean of Indian politics" by his party.

Opposition leaders have charged Rao with stage-managing the probe to absolve himself of alleged guilt and force the resignations of his rivals within the party to shore up his tottering image. — AFP









Folk songs, dance and various other cultural activities marked Eid celebrations in Oman. - Photos by Mohd Mustapha

### They all stayed here to discover the home delights

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT - Many locals and expatriates told Times of Oman yesterday that they had stayed in the Sultanate during Eid holidays because there was enough entertain-

Although many agreed that this year the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had an added attraction in the Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF), they said that they decided against going to Dubai because Eid was an occasion for family get-together.

Some of them said that going to the UAE during Eid did not quite befit tradition.

A few said that there was a 'risk' factor going to the UAE by road, and it was better to be safe were visitors to Oman from the UAE, so it was not exactly a 'one-

The Sultanate offers a unique opportunity to commune with nature. The nature lovers we spoke to said that they had explored wadis and mountains during the hol-

idays.

Ali Nami Jaffer, photographer: I had a well-deserved rest during the holidays. Yes, I stayed here (Oman) and spent time with my family. I did not go to Dubai; it is too hectic there. I believe in staying home during Eid. Also, I think it is dangerous (if you are going to Dubai by road). Most people cross speed limits and I think it is much more safe in

**SULTANATE OF OMAN** 

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, MUSANDAM GOVERNORATE

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate of Education, Musandam Governorate, announces

the sale of its boat named **Ghazel** (length 14.50 meters, width 4.20

meters, engine capacity 105 HP) in public auction to be held at the

Interested persons can participate in the auction subject to the

1) A temporary refundable guarantee of RO.200 should be paid. It

2) The auctioned boat should be removed by the purchaser within seven days from the auction. Or else, the directorate will have the right to reauction it, costs of which should be borne by the first

3) The successful bidder should pay a brokerage fee of 2% of the

5) The boat offered for sale can be inspected at Bakha seaport or by contacting the transport division of the directorate during official

4) The successful bidder should pay the amount in cash.

directorate premises on Monday 26 February at 12.00 noon.

following terms and conditions:-

will be added to the auction value.

auctioned value.

working hours on 828561.

Ahmed bin Ali Al Sagheer

Director of Education, Musandam Governorate.

to see here. Visitors from all over the world are coming to enjoy the diverse beauty of the Sultanate and I think instead of running off to other places, one should stay here. I went into the interior and visited many tourist spots.

Essam Mohammed, librarian: I really like Oman during Eid, because celebrations here are steeped in tradition. I don't think it is good to go out of the country during such an auspicious occasion. My family is here and I make it a point to stay with them and enjoy Eid. I did not go to Dubai (or anywhere) last year, and this year, too, I staved put.

Dubai is an attraction, especialduring the Shopping Festival, but I don't believe in going out of the country during Eid. I might go to Dubai later.

During the holidays, I took my family to the Naseem Garden and then attended a birthday party of my friend. I had a very enjoyable

Othman Al Raisi, circulation supervisor: Why do I have to go to Dubai during Eid? Shopping Festival? But everything is available in Oman, I don't understand this 'Dubai rush'! Yes, I stayed home with my family, and I have done the same last year, too. Eid is such an auspicious occasion, so why head for Dubai then? I celebrated it (Eid) here. On the first day of Eid, after prayers and Eid greetings, we all put on our new clothes; and I took my children out. Later, visitors, who included my brothers, cousins and friends, streamed in. I

Zubaida Habib Al Zadjali, receptionist: I stayed in Oman. Why? There is so much happening here. In fact, during Eid, it is better here. Yes, I know many people from here went to Dubai, but so what, I preferred to stay here. I had a great time here. I went to exhibitions and other Eid parties.

Aziz, media executive: Of course, I stayed in Oman during Eid. We spent the holidays here. There was more than enough entertainment to occupy us. We went to a farm house in the interior and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I wanted to relax and rejuvenate myself after a heavy grind at work. Besides, I did not like the idea of going to Dubai during the holidays. There is too much rush

I don't think everyone heads for Dubai during Eid holidays; specially when there are plenty of entertaining programmes here. Last year we camped in wadis. This year some of my friends went to Wadi Dayikah and Sifa beach.

Rubin Jamil, copywriter: People did go to Dubai this time. It's all happening there, and people will naturally be attracted. Entertainment is an year-round activity in Dubai ... and since city and night life is thriving there, it is an attraction for the youth. This time, coupled with the Shopping Festival, more people would have gone there.

But, no, I did not go. I decided not to go because of the rush. I spend Eid quietly with my family and friends

Suresh Unnithan, sales supervisor: We went 'wadi bashing' and trekking up the mountains. We could not go to the desert this time. Yes whenever we get holidays we head for the interior, to the wadis, mountains, deserts ... Dubai? Whatever for? It's paradise here ... I can't wait for my next

Akbar Miran, driver: I stayed in Oman, I celebrated Eid with my family and friends. No, I did not go to Dubai, because I can't afford it also, why should I? There are many activities here. And yes, it's not a one-way traffic', people from Dubai are also coming here. In fact my friends from Dubai were



Children (above) along with their families (below) enjoy a beach outing. - Times photos



### Beaches become beehives

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — The golden beaches of Oman turned into beehives of revelling picnickers during Eid hol-

Crystal-clear water, calm waves, soft, clean sand and the cool, pleasant weather - all lured families away from their television sets.

And as usual, beaches in and around the city were the most sought-after picnic spots. The huge queues of vehicles

around the parking lots of the city beaches, were an indication of the popularity of beaches in Oman. Families started flocking the beaches on the first day of Eid itself.

very rare in the city, picnickers spending an entire day on the beach is not unusual. However, limited picnic spots on the beaches forced picnickers to start early in the day to

grab the best picnic spots.

Favourite pastime at the beaches snacking and soozing, an occasional game of cricket or football and a refreshing swim in the cool waters. Families come well prepared - boxes of lunch, packets of snacks, flasks of coffee/tea and ice boxes filled with water and soft drinks.

Many find beaches ideal for barbeque. Since only a few beaches in the city are equipped with permanent barbeque stands, picnickers relying ally carry their own sets along with marinated meat. The adventurous few count on their fishing skill and prefer to barbeque the fish caught by Barbeque or not, fishing, too, is a

favourite pastime. But this, however, is restricted to line-fishing.

Besides Al Bustan beach, Al Jussa beach, Qurum beach and the Qantab beach - endowed with numerous breath-taking islands soughtafter by picnickers escaping crowded beaches — the Yiti beach, Sifa, Al Sawadhi and several other scenic beaches, dotting the suburbs of Muscat, were also preferred by people looking for quiet spots.

### MYDAY

I CATCH her on a not-so-busy day in an unusually busy week. Julie B. Jimenez is incharge of

a stall at the Eid Fair '96. Being a Friday, the Oman International Exhibition Centre was closed in the morning. Otherwise, during this festival,

Jimenez is more in a rush than during a usual working week. In a miniature Body Shop she

takes time off to talk to Times of Oman about her day. We interrupt our conversation many times to give space to the

customers who are magnetted to stand number F17 by attractive discounts on the perfumes in particular. "This is definitely different

from working in the shop," Jimenez says about the festival. "You meet lots of different

people who do visit the Eid Fair, but don't frequent The Body Shop. Here businessmen, too, show interest in our products. Those who don't know The Body Shop will get to know it here," Jimenez

And away she is, to help out a young Omani woman who is carrying her mobile phone with her and wants to try out the "Woody Sandalwood" perfume. It is 5.15pm but already pretty

crowded in the exhibition hall. Jimenez laughs, saying this is nothing. It will get really chock full around 8.30pm. "When the fair is nearly closing around 10pm, people start rushing and buying. Even after the organisers have already turned the lights off." Jimenez usually programmes her alarm for 6am. After morning

prayers and preparing for the day, she arranges her room and spends some time reading books. "Sometimes I talk to my plants," she says. Around 8.30am she heads for work, except on Thursdays. "We start early on Thursdays for our weekly meeting, and sometimes for training." 'We' means The Body Shop staff of nine.

During this exhibition-week, Jimenez goes to the shop first. She gives in the money of the sales and takes a new stock of products to sell at the fair. "We have to be at the exhibition centre 30 minutes before the fair opens. We clean the display stand and prepare special offers. Before visitors start coming in we have to be ready,"



JULIE B. JIMENEZ

This time 'We' refers to herself. and three Omani trainees from the Oman Training Institute, who are "very, very hopeful and interests."

She teaches the three girls how

to deal with customers. 'Sometimes customers can be difficult. I tell the trainees to always smile and to just try to get the customers to buy the product," is Jimenez' advice. Other themes for the trainees

are merchandising products and giving information about the products to customers. Very important for future personnel is to learn about the values of The Body Shop, as it is a business with a message. The most important issue at the moment is animal testing.

A morning at the fair runs until 1pm. The stall reopens at 5pm and closes at 10pm. Jimenez tries to dedicate her spare time to a professional management course. Computer, business administration management and communication are the main

On Mondays Jimenez takes lessons to learn Dutch. "I have many Dutch friends, but not all of them speak English," she explains. "I want to be able to communicate with them in their own language

Does she already speak the language? Yes: "Een beetje" (A

- By Marja Kooreman

#### OMAN TV Prayer timings

.03.36 .06.12

Tomorrow

#### **EVENTS**

organise a workshop on health problems in wilayats at Majan

Sri Lankan foreign minister,

	08:00	Royal Anthem
1	08:03	Holy Ouran
E	08:21	News 1997 5182 11878
	08:30	Cartoons
	09:23	English film for Children:
		Captain Johnno
	11:00	News
	11:10	Musical Varieties
	11:31	Comedy Prog: Laurel &
	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	Hardy
	12:25	Azan of Dhuhr Prayer
	02:00	News
	02:16	Arabic Serial
	03:00	Songs
	03:18	Crystal Maze Contest
	03:36	Azan of Asr Prayer
	04:12	National Festivals
	05:00	Tattoo Show
	06:00	News
	06:12	Azan of Maghrib Prayer
	06:40	Arabic Serial
	07:25	Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations
		in Dhofar
	07:37	Azan of Isha Prayer
1	08:00	English News
1	08:21	Home Video
	08:46	Arabic Serial

Poetry

Arabic Prog.

News Holy Quran

Varieties

News

10:00

10:39

01:00

01:15

#### • THE Ministry of Health will

Hotel on Monday.

• LAKSHMAN Kadirgamar,

will arrive in Muscat on Tuesday, heading a trade delega-• THE Educational Activities Department of the Ministry of

Education will begin assessment visits to schools from

### Huge crowd relishes **Eid Bonanza**

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT - A huge crowd thronged the 'Children's Eid Bonanza' at the Civic Piazza vesterday

The exciting event, jointly organised by Ashbal Al Shabiba and the Muscat Municipality, got off to a splendid start with a bird show. The Wonder Birds show, which has enthralled public at the Qurum Natural Park, set the mood. The crowd began streaming in at 4pm, and all

prominent spots were 'booked', immediately. The mood turned upbeat once the famous magician, Samala Venu got on the stage to perform some dazzling tricks.

The performance of the twenty-eight-year-old Venu, who has gained entry into the Guinness Book of Records and Limca Book of Records with his various feats, thrilled the crowd.

Other exciting events during the evening included a quiz programme,

The music band 'Al Basma' added spice to the evening with lilting

The whole show was compered by the well-known TV personalities, Mama Kaltham, and Abdulla Al Dholi.







Samala Venu performing at the children's Eid Bonanza and (left) the crowd screaming for more. —Photos by Rodolfo Alfonso



An Israeli border policeman checking the papers of Palestinian passengers on a bus at the Bethlehem checkpoint yesterday. - AFP

### Amend outdated charter, says Abu Mazen

BEIRUT - Senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas said his organisation should amend its charter as demanded by Israel because it is has been overtaken by events, in an interview published yesterday.

"How can we keep an old charter which has been overtaken by time and which calls for the use of arms against Israel, a country with which we have concluded a peace agreement?" he asked.

Abbas - architect and signatory of the autonomy accords with Israel told the Saudi newpaper Asharq Al Awsat that the PLO charter "represents a part of our past history."

"We have entered a new phase with which our future political and ideological positions must correspond. We have embraced international legitimacy and made a number of pledges before the world.

Therefore we must adopt a constitution, a resolution or a charter which carries the weight of the importance of these pledges," he said.

Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen, said from the PLO offices in Tunis that his organisation had already recognised the state of Israel unlike its charter.

"We have no other choice but to change the charter ... otherwise you

### Peres maintains lead despite Likud tricks

Shimon Peres and his Labour Party solidified their lead in opinion polls over the conservative opposition this week despite a right-wing campaign of personal attacks against him, two new surveys showed yesterday.

Polls published by the dailies Yedioth Ahronoth and Maariv both gave Peres 49 per cent of the vote in the race for prime minister compared to 34 per cent for Benyamin Netanyahu, head of the main right-wing party Li-

Former Likud number two David Levy, who this week formed a breakaway centrist party called Gesher, or the Bridge, was given four-to-five per cent of the vote and 12-13 per cent of voters remained undecided. In the elections scheduled for May

rectly elect the prime minister at the same time they choose a new parliament, or Knesset. The latest surveys were conducted after Likud and its ultra-nationalist

29, Israelis will for the first time di-

ally Tsomet launched a joint election campaign on Sunday centred around personal attacks against Peres. Their campaign slogan was "Peres

will divide Jerusalem," accusing the prime minister of planning to hand the "eternal capital" of Israel.

Peres and other ministers spent the week denying this and a string of other allegations that if re-elected the Labour government would offer a host of concessions to Palestinians in upcoming negotiations on the future of east Jerusalem, the West Bank and

Yesterday's polls indicated that the Likud offensive could be backfiring with Peres gaining two to three points over Netanyahu from identical surveys published by the two dailies

Two smaller surveys broadcast on television on Thursday also showed Peres maintaining a solid lead over Netanyahu, although they showed the gap between the two men narrowing slightly to around 10 points.

In the latest polls, Likud was also shown losing ground in the Knesset race despite its electoral alliance with

The papers give Likud-Tsomet 34 or 35 seats in the 120-member Knesset, compared to the 40 seats they won in the previous elections in

Labour was shown gaining over one or two seats from the 44 deputies

five of its 12 seats, implying that even if it comes out ahead in the new polls, the left with have to seek new coalition partner, possibly Levy's Gesher which is given two-to-three seats in

Meanwhile, Hanoch Smith, who runs one of Israel's main polling institutes, said one of the biggest question marks is how the country's Russian immigrants will vote.

In 1992, most of the 240,000 voters from the former Soviet Union largely backed Labour, but Smith said this was in big part because the Russians "are basically oriented toward voting against the government" which was Likud at the time.

This year there are expected to be 450,000 Russian immigrants eligible to vote, or 11-12 per cent of the elec-

Smith suggested that many would back the new immigrant party formed by former refusenik Natan Sharansky n the Knesset polls, but their allegiance in the prime minister's race was uncertain.

"The Russian vote is completely unpredictable," Smith said. He also stressed the weight of

Most Israeli troops withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 1994 under terms of the Israel-PLO peace deal that launched Palestinian self-rule. Some young first-time voters, expected to number more than 200,000. "What soldiers still protect Jewish settlewe don't know is how lasting this shift will be," Smith said. — AFP ments in the strip and patrol jointly with Palestinian police. — Reuter

### Israel lifts closure of Gaza, West Bank

11-day closure of most Palestinian territories yesterday to allow in more than 50,000 workers, but imposed curbs on Israeli civilian movements in the West Bank, the

Palestinian sources said the army also reimposed a prohibition on Palestinians leaving or entering the town of Daharia, south of Heb-

The Israeli army said Daharia was being put off limits to Israelis because of an overnight incident in which an Israeli soldier was slightly hurt by a stone thrown by a Pal-

Palestinians,

exchange fire

GAZA — Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen exchanged fire in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip yes-

Palestinian sources said they did

not know of any casualties. An Israeli

army spokeswoman said no Israelis

number of shots were fired from the

autonomous area at an Israeli patrol,'

the spokeswoman said. She said the

gunmen escaped into the Palestinian-

The spokeswoman said one Pal-

A Palestinian border guard officer

estinian gunman might have been injured but none of Gaza's hospitals

said there was heavy shooting from both sides at 4:00am. He said police

were not involved in the shooting and

were still searching for the gunmen

said: "Our checkpoint is 600 metres

from where the Palestinians opened

fire on the Israelis. The Israelis

opened fire indiscriminately. They

He said the police at the check-

point could not report the shooting to the Israeli-Palestinian district co-

ordinating office because they lacked

means of communication or trans-

bullet cartridges were found af

terwards, from weapons used by both

Israel opened its borders with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to Pal-

estinians yesterday after an 11-day

Abu Leileh said some 200 empty

The guard, Shafiq Abu Leileh,

had received such a casualty.

ruled area.

hours later.

shot towards us."

"The incident happened after a

terday, the Israeli army said.

Israelis

roadblocks were preventing Palestinians from entering or leaving

The West Bank and Gaza Strip had been sealed off since February 12 following intelligence reports that Palestinians opposed to the Israeli-PLO peace process were planning car-bomb attacks.

The closure prevented 56,000 Palestinians with Israeli work permits from getting to their jobs at a cost estimated by Palestinian authorities of some six million dollars per day in lost earnings.

The army was also keeping Is-

compensation for the downing of the Airbus A-300.

flight from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas to Dubai

but Iran insists the attack was intentional.

of the rejection of the Iranian lawsuit.

US offers compensation

for downing Iran plane

**TEHRAN** — The United States has agreed to pay \$101.8 million in compensation for the US Navy's 1988 downing of an Iranian airliner with 290 people on board, an Iranian official said yesterday.

\$61.8 million of the amount would go to relatives of the victims and the rest in

Eftekhar Jahromi, head of the office for international legal affairs, said

The USS Vincennes shot down the airliner on July 3, 1988 as it was on a

The United States said the plane had been mistaken for an F-14 fighter jet

The US State Department said on Thursday that the two countries had been

Washington had suggested paying about \$300,000 to the families of each

The Iranian official said \$300,000 had been set aside for each victim who

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns announced on Thursday his

He was apparently ruling out compensation for the downed plane, which

able to settle the claim after the International Court of Justice dismissed a law

victim right after the downing, but a decision was held up by the lawsuit. Fam-

was a "bread earner" and \$150,000 for each of the others. He made no mention

country would pay \$61.8 million to the families of the victims, but "no money

ilies of 42 non-Iranian victims have already received compensation.

will be paid to the government of Iran under the settlement.

was owned by the state-owned Iran Air. — AFP

qilya yesterday, but it lifted a fourday ban on Israelis going into Jer-

Israeli radio said the overall closure of the West Bank and Gaza was lifted despite continuing reports that militants were preparing new anti-Israeli attacks.

In another incident, the army reported that a joint Israeli-Palestinian police patrol was fired overnight with automatic weapons in the Gaza Strip, damaging a Palestinian jeep.

The patrol fired back but did not report hitting any of the attackers.

— AFP

#### Saddam's daughters back home, divorce husbands

BAGHDAD — Two daughters of President Saddam Hussein married to top defectors who returned from Jordan have divorced their hus-bands, Iraqi state television announced yesterday.

"Raghad and Rana have filed for divorce and got it," a television station run by Saddam's son Uday

General Hussein Kamel Hassan, former industry minister, and his brother Colonel Saddam Hassan returned on Tuesday after defecting to Jordan six months ago together with their wives.

Uday's Youth TV reported that

he two sisters said they were "not aware of the treason" of their husbands. — AFP

### Turkish alliance talks continue

ANKARA - Turkish Islamist and conservative aides were due to meet yesterday for a third time to share out ministries in a planned coalition that would give the 73year secular republic its first Islamist premier.

The aides, who failed to con-clude talks on Thursday in the drawn-out alliance negotiations, are due to meet in parliament, the Anatolian news agency said.

The prolonged talks delayed a meeting of Welfare Party leader Najmuddin Erbakan and Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz, which was set for yesterday. The meeting, their seventh, is expected to take place today.

Erbakan and Yilmaz had earlier

this week moved closer to agreement, announcing they would rotate the premiership of their coalition government. — Reuter



### enter a phase of confrontation with Israel," he said. — AFP annexed east Jerusalem to the Pal-estinians despite a broad national con-it elected in 1992, although its left-wing coalition partner Meretz loses EU keen to discuss labour, rights issues with Asia

BANGKOK — The European Union sees the March summit of leaders with East Asia as a golden opportunity to thrash out sensitive political and economic issues, a senior official of the grouping said yesterday. The charge d'affaires of the EU's

mission in Bangkok, Daniel Descoutures, said it would not help both sides build an equal partnership if such issues were left out, as mentioned by host Thailand. Among issues deemed sensitive and irrelevant by summit chairman

and Thai Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa were those related to child labour, human rights, Indonesia's occupation of former Portuguese colony East Timor, unfair trade practices and nuclear testing.

The summit from March 1-2 will be the first between leaders of 10 east Asian nations and the 15-member EU.

Asia will be represented by the seven-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), China, Japan and South Korea. Asean groups together Brunei Da-

russalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and "You don't want to gather 25

heads of governments and deem

some issues are so controversial that you don't want them to be mentioned," said Descoutures.

"We cannot preclude some subjects will not be brought up. If both sides want to build an equal partnership, a real listening is important," he said. "It will be a golden opportunity for all leaders and could defuse ten-

Banharn told reporters on Thursday that sensitive issues should be avoided because this was the pioneer summit between the two regions. Asean member Indonesia has also said it does not want controversial topics raised at the meeting. "The world is not perfect. We

have to achieve a lot more. The Uruguay Round has been a major suc-Now we look to the World Trade Organisation meeting this year to make the playing field more level," Descoutures said. Discussions on nuclear test bans

and the southeast Asian nuclear weapons free zone would figure prominently at the summit and at bilateral meetings between heads of government, he added.

"Nuclear non-proliferation will figure in the language in the final (summit) communique," he said. On farm trade disputes and detheir commodities, Descoutures said

The EU had agreed to dismantle some farm tariff barriers at the Uruguay Round and was in the process of revamping its common agriculture policy and price supports for farm-

"Agriculture is a special case and we need some time to reduce barriers. This is because agriculture cannot follow the industrial cycle because much depends on weather and special circumstances," he

Descoutures noted that the EU was concerned that Japan was not liberalising its trade and markets as fast as it was expected to. "The EU's greatest trade deficit is with Japan and it cannot continue;" he

On the political and security front, the EU was keen to see stability in the booming Asian region for mutually beneficial reasons. There were flashpoints in the South China Sea, in Taiwan and on the Korean peninsular that could erupt and reduce Asia's economic strength, he added.

### Poll campaign begins in Taiwan

TAIPEI — The director of Taiwan's central Election Commission, Huang Kun-Hui, yesterday gave the forma kickoff to campaigning in the island's first fully democratic presidential agriculture was a special case for the elections.

Huang, who is also interior minister, declared the daily 10am-10pm campaign stomp would start today and end on the eve of the March 23

Public opinion polls will be barred in the last 10 days of the campaign to avoid any influencing of voters, a common practice in many countries, he added.

Four candidates are vying to become Taiwan's first president, to be directly elected by the pubic through democratic process. Previously, the president was elected by the National Assembly, with the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) nominee running unopposed

The KMT's champion, incumbent Lee Teng-Hui, is bidding for a second term and Premier Lien Chan is his running mate.

The main opposition Democratic Progressive Party is fielding proindependence veteran Peng Mingmin as presidential candidate and legislator Hseih Chang-ting as his part ner. — AFP

### Japanese govt unveils quake crisis manual

**TOKYO** — The Japanese government, stung by criticism of its response to the Kobe earthquake, yesterday unveiled a crisis management manual outlining what should happen n the event of a massive quake in To-But the manual, endorsed by

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at an informal cabinet meeting, made no mention of measures to deal with eventualities such as a cut in basic utilities. It only gave advice to min-Speaking to reporters, Chief Cab-

inet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said Hashimoto and his ministers had agreed on "rules on how the cabinet should deal at an initial stage with a quake that directly hits Tokyo." If the prime minister were to die

in an earthquake, he would be replaced -- in order of precedence -- by the deputy prime minister, the chief cabinet secretary, and the national land agency chief, the manual said.

Once a tremor had struck, it added, ministers should "voluntarily gather at the prime minister's office by every possible means.

Officials would also be allowed free access to television, radio and police channels to contact their

The manual's release comes after severe public criticism of the slow government response to the quake on January 17 last year that killed some 6,000 people in Kobe and its vicinity in western Japan.

Despite widespread fears that the

"Big One" may hit Tokyo at any time, the government had never issued guidelines in the event of the death of the prime minister or the destruction of his office.

A researcher at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute said the manual had only listed "matters of course," but said the cabinet would be working out further details soon. "The government needs to make

closer contact with the Self-Defence Forces," which are trained for crisis management, said Hiroshi Fukuoka, associate researcher at the institute, which is affiliated to Kyoto Uni-He also noted the cabinet should

set up an office solely devoted to crisis management staffed by people with a scientific background. Tokyo University professor Keii-

chi Kasahara noted that the usual 75year cycle between earthquakes in the area had come around again.

"Massive quakes occur in every 70 to 80 years in the Kanto region," the seismologist said.

Known as the Great Kanto Earthquake, a massive temblor registering 7.9 on the Richter scale decimated Tokyo in 1923, killing more than 140,000 people.

In September last year, a conference entitled "Preparing for the Big One in Tokyo", heard that a major quake in Tokyo would leave between 40,000 and 60,000 dead, causing economic losses of up to three trillion

"Even a big one in the (neighbouring) Tokai region could damage the capital," he said. 'An earthquake with the mag-

nitude of the Great Kanto Earthqake would paralyse the capital's functions and claim many lives," Kasahara said, adding that his estimates put the possible number of dead in metropolitan Tokyo at up to one million. The most important thing in the

"We also need to keep electricity,

event of a disaster is to secure chan-

nels of information transmission," he

gas and other so-called life lines as well as routes for food supply," he

### Sirivudh trial PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian

Cambodia

defends

government spokesman yesterday de-fended the conviction of Prince Norodom Sirivudh, who was sentenced in absentia on Thursday to 10 years in prison for allegedly plotting to assassinate co-premier Hun Hen. Human rights activists and foreign lawyers have complained that the evidence against King Norodom Si-hanouk's half-brother was not nearly enough for a conviction and that the proceedings were evidence that Cambodia's courts were not independent.

They noted that Hun Sen said earlier this month that the prince, who has proclaimed his innocence, could return from exile in France to stand trial but that he would spend a long time in prison afterwards if he did. But Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse said the government was in no way involved in the case and had not interfered in the judicial

"The executive branch gave this to the judicial branch," he said.
Prince Sirivudh, Cambodia's for-

mer foreign minister who was exiled in December after being arrested on Hun Sen's demand in November, called the trial a "mockery of justice" and said it "shattered" the dream of political plurality in his home coun-

### No immediate unification, feels Taiwan

TAIPEI — Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui yesterday said China was afraid of immediate reunification with Taiwan because of its own internal problems. 'They (China) have their own problems, even more serious than ours. They are afraid to have immediate unification with (Taiwan) if they are asked to do

so," Lee told some 150 foreign and local journalists in a press conference, his first at his office in almost two years. Lee said Taiwan would not give up its efforts to increase substantive ties with other countries even though the move would anger China, which is massing some 150,000 men for a large-scale military exercise off Taiwan's

doorstep to intimidate the island ahead of its presidential elections. 'The Chinese communists should not find fault with our pragmatic diplomatic policy. They shouldn't think our ties with others would hamper their

He said Taiwan removed its state of emergency in 1991 to ease hostility with China, but until now, Beijing has made no action to respond to this move.

He said Beijing had criticised him for only paying lip service to the reunification issue, but even if Taiwan asked for unification with China immediately, Beijing would be unable to do so because it has too many internal

He said a "peace treaty" between the Taiwan and China was essential for improving mutual ties and eventual reunification.

He said progress towards democracy on this nationalist island had scared China and forced it to resort to military threats in a sign of its own weakness. Lee said that Beijing was left with no choice but to accuse him of seeking to promote independence since Taiwan's progress towards democracy -- which accelerated under his presidency -- had left the mainland powerless to fight

"Our ability to break out of (diplomatic confinement) and show ourselves in the international arena ... the fact that Taiwan can breathe now ... (this) scares

Taiwan and China separated after the end of a civil war in 1949, but both the nationalist and the communist governments, despite denouncing each other's sovereignty claim over all of China, have agreed that the two sides should reunite eventually

China has warned that if Taiwan declares independence, it will attack the island. It also sees moves by Taiwan to expand its international profile as an attempt to seek independence. Speaking a month before key presidential elections, Lee expressed strong confidence in the island's armed forces, saying "they are monitoring the

situation closely ... confident and well prepared. But he stopped short of saying what moves he would take as commander-in-chief, if China should invade Taiwanese territory Lee, whom Beijing suspects is steering the island towards independence, is running for a second term as the champion of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT).

Lee's unofficial trip to the United States last June infuriated Beijing, which

missile drills and large-scale manoeuvres off Taiwan's coast between July and November as a protest The 73-year Lee is joining the presidential race with millionaire premier Lian Chan as his running mate

considers the island part of its territory. China subsequently launched two

The move contrasted with his remarks, made at least twice, in 1990 and 1991, that he would retire after the current term ends in May Meanwhile, Lee's campaign opponent, Peng Ming-min of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, yesterday announced if he vas elected, he would immediately declare independence should China attack

He said he was willing to hold talks with China on a country-to-country basis and invite Chinese President Jiang Zemin to visit Taiwan. — AFP

### **EXCELLENT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY** FOR NON-RESIDENT INDIANS

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Meet Directors of Meenakshi Garden Resorts & Dee Estates & Properties at Oman Sheraton Hotel,

Muscat 23rd to 26th February 1996.

Note: Members in Bountiful Land Project Mysore may collect their Annual Returns cheques.

**Keys to Windsor** Castle missing

Castle — one of Queen Elizabeth's residences - was under way yesterday after a vehicle belonging to a member of the Royal Protection Squad was stolen. Three keys, which open security gates at entrances to the castle, were among security items locked in the car. The theft happened early on Thursday when the policeman was asleep at his home in Windsor, as the neighbouring town west of London is also called. A police spokeswoman said the car also contained correspondence about two past and one future events which are open to the public (in Windsor Castle grounds) and passes to park within the facility of

Award for Di interviewer

LONDON - Martin Bashir, the reporter who persuaded Princess Diana to give the candid BBC shock waves through Britain late last year, scooped two major media awards here on Thursday. Bashir won the Interview of the

Year and Journalist of the Year prizes at the Royal Television Society Awards at the London Hilton hotel. His BBC Panorama programme — in which Diana spoke of her husband Charles' adultery, her own extra-marital affair, her self-multilation and bulimia - was watched by more than 23 million Britons last November and millions more around the world.

French actor 'suns' incognito

CARACAS — French actor Gerard Depardieu admitted spending three days sunning nimself incognito on Venezuela's beaches, in an interview with the El Universal daily. Despite his efforts at avoiding detection, reporters spotted the brawny star of Cyrano de Bergerac at a Caracas hotel and promptly ended his idyllic vacation, he said.

Before leaving to meet some friends in Cuba on Thursday, Depardieu said he would work on new film by director Gerard Lousier when on his return to France, and that he was looking forward to the opening of his last three movies in which he worked with US actors Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams and British

ilm star Kenneth Branagh. Phil Collins to

write for 'Tarzan' BURBANK (California) -British musician Phil Collins will write the songs to Walt Disney's upcoming feature-length animated adaptation of Tarzan it was announced on Thursday.

"We feel that he will bring something very special to the creative process," said Peter Schneider, president of Walt Disney Feature Animation. It will mark Collins' first collaboration on n animated feature. The former member of Genesis won an Oscar nomination for his title song in the 1984 film "Against All Odds," and has contributed songs to the films White Nights and Burster.

Zoo keepers ruffle feathers

PALERMO - Six zoo keepers, who say they have not been paid for over a year, locked themselves in a cage full of birds and vowed not to come out until they received their pay cheques. The six keepers moved in with the zoo's geese and herons in the Sicilian capital's famous D'Orleans park and said if their demands were not met they would also start a hunger strike. "The local authorities take care of the animals but don't do anything for us," said one of the workers. The small Palermo zoo is owned by regional authorities who pay a private operator,

#### Iglesias' ranch to be auctioned

Salvatore Lauricella, to run the

**BUENOS AIRES** — An Argentine judge has ordered that a ranch owned by Spanish singer Julio Iglesias be auctioned on March 1 unless he pays a local songwriter \$300,000 for plagiarism, a court official said.

Songwriter Larry Moreno sued Iglesias in 1987, alleging his song Morrinas bore a close resemblance to his own tune Yolanda.

Civil court judge Carmen Ubiedo ruled in 1993 that at least eight consecutive bars of the song were taken from Yolanda and ordered Iglesias to pay damages. Iglesias appealed and lost.

'Convicts were

not replaced'

CARACAS — Venezuelan officials have denied that the government replaced prisoners

with police when Pope John Paul II blessed convicts at a prison on his recent visit. They said police were present

on security duty, not to impersonate prisoners as some Venezuelans have charged.

"Yes, there were police officers there. They were there for security reasons," said a Justice Ministry official who asked not to be named. Church leaders, who hoped the stop at Catia would draw attention to human rights abuses in Venezuela's overcrowded jails, later accused the government of spoiling the event by removing prisoners from the windows facing the pontiff. — Reuter



Princess Diana and Jemima Khan pull scarves over their heads during a reading from the Holy Quran at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore. - AFP

### Imran raises \$160,000 with Diana's visit

**LAHORE** (Pakistan) — Princess Diana shrugged off her reclusive image as she signed autographs for 35 minutes at a special dinner that raised \$160,000 for a cancer hospital run by former Pakistani cricket

The princess left Lahore yesterday, the morning after the dinner, the highlight of her two-day private visit to help the hospital.

The princess made no speech to the 600 guests who were served traditional Pakistani food at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital named after Imran's mother, who died from cancer.

But Diana was pressed into service to sign autographs after Imran said women guests could approach.

Khan said: "I am very grateful to the princess for coming here and I hope she will visit us again.

He said people who attended the function were mostly those who had contributed to the hospital in the past. "I hope they would continue to support this hospital," he added.

Then Khan said women guests would be allowed to approach the princess and soon after, the estranged wife of Prince Charles was surrounded. It took her about 35 minutes to sign all the books and she also spoke with some of the women.

Diana, again wearing Pakistani-style salwar kameez, this time in off-white, arrived at the dinner and left again at midnight.

The dinner was also attended by Imran's close family and his mother-in-law Lady Anabel Goldsmith.

Businessmen, lawyers, hospital consultants and other guests paid Rs10,000 (\$290) each.

Diana sat with Khan's wife, Lady Jemima, Lady Anabel and the hospital's chief executive Dr Nausheran Burki. She did not address the

It was a typical Pakistani atmosphere. Waiters, clad in traditional Pakistani dresses wore turbans.

A famous Pakistani Katthak dancer, Professor Saga, performed while

youngsters presented folk dances.

Imran who wore white Pakistani dress and a black jacket, looked very happy and relaxed while security outside remained tight.

Diana left Lahore in a private jet owned by Anglo-French tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, Khan's father-in-law.

Diana's arrival on Wednesday on what was described as a two-day humanitarian trip had raised speculation that Khan had invited her to boost his political ambitions.

Khan, 43, who led Pakistan to the victory in the 1992 cricket World Cup has frequently criticised the country's political system as corrupt and declared his intention to lead a crusade for reforms and human

Popular among the country's youth, Khan who has not yet formed his own party, is widely regarded as a potential alternative to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto was not invited to the dinner and state run television screened only a few seconds of footage showing Diana with her friend Jemima on her arrival at the Lahore airport lounge

The princess told reporters her visit was to help raise funds for Khan's hospital. She said she would also try to raise support for the hospital in Britain.

She was escorted to the airport by Imran Khan and his family. Police officials said she was heading for Istanbul, Turkey, but had no knowledge of her movements beyond that. — AFP

CALL FOR 3-DAY NON-COOPERATION CAMPAIGN

### Fear grips Dhaka ahead of strike

gladesh capital of Dhaka said they were worried and afraid yesterday ahead of a three-day "noncooperation" campaign called by major opposition parties in their latest effort to topple the government.

"We are facing lot of queries about what will happen. People say they are scared and worried about their personal safety," a newspaper

The "non-cooperation" with the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will begin today immediately after Bangladesh emerges from a four-day holiday at the end of Ram-

Opposition leaders including Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League said everything from transport to ports, offices and factories would be shut during the campaign, called to protest general elections held on February 15 in which the BNP won an overwhelming victory

Main opposition groups boycotted

Officials reported a poor voter turnout as widespread violence killed 16 people and wounded 500. Three more people died in post-election

"This is going to be another strike, like many more organised by the opposition since December 1994, but with wider impacts," one resident said. Opposition politicians resigned from parliament in December

"Usually lawlessness becomes the order of the day in such a situation ..

and police can hardly help," she said. Opposition activists have been handing out leaflets and pasting them on office doors, urging employees not to work from February

Many banks and factories said their workers had already decided not to turn up either in support of the opposition or out of fear.

24 to 26, witnesses said.

French troops to

remain in Africa

Chirac announced a big cut in the size of France's armed forces, said yesterday

We will respect them and that is why the size or the numbers of (French)

troops pre-positioned in Africa will not change. The reorganisation will affect

"France has cooperation agreements with a number of African countries.

Chirac said late on Thursday that France would cut its armed forces to

There are 8,200 French soldiers in the independent states of Senegal, Gab-

350,000 personnel from the current half a million over the next six years, but

on, the Ivory Coast, Chad, the Central African Republic and Djibouti with a

further 5,200 nearby on the French Indian Ocean islands of Reunion and May-

rica but added that it was possible the size of forces there would be altered.

Millon said earlier this month Paris would not dismantle any bases in Af-

Specialists had said they believed Paris would concentrate its troops in Af-

rica on three main bases, leaving only small contingents in other present garri-

sons. There was no immediate explanation for the change except that former

African colonies whose independent governments are allied to Paris are known

to have been worried at intentions to cut the number of French troops on their

Paris in recent weeks not to reduce or dismantle garrisons for fear this would

be taken as a signal that France was no longer willing to intervene to help them

its remaining far-flung overseas possessions "because France has a world voca-

French newspapers have said several worried African leaders pleaded with

Millon also said yesterday that Paris would maintain current troop levels in

There are close to 18,000 French soldiers in such territories, which include

French bases in Africa were either there before independence or were es-

French troops saved a string of African governments since the first such in-

tervention in Gabon in 1964 when a deposed president was re-instated by

Paris' best-known recent African foray was in 1977 when foreign legion paratroopers defeated Angola-based, Cuban-backed rebels who invaded Zaire's

mineral-rich Shaba province, threatening to topple President Mobutu Sese

tablished soon afterwards, in the 1960s, to prop up governments friendly to Paris and check the southwards advances of Libyan troops or Libyan-backed

that French troops would stay in Africa at their current strength.

units in France and in Germany," he told radio Europe-1.

he made no mention of the fate of forces based overseas.

In Dhaka's Gulshan diplomatic zone, residents held an emergency

set up vigilante teams to operate during the "non-cooperation" period.

Authorities plan to deploy thou-sands of paramilitary soldiers to guard main cities against feared vi-

"But the shutdown can still breed anything," one official in Chittagong "Everything is going to close down," said one official in Southern

city of Khulna. 'We are bracing for a possible collapse of the administration," said

Government employees were in a bind because non-cooperation could mean they would be fired.

another in the northeastern district of

Opposition parties had asked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and allow a neutral caretaker administration to supervise the

Khaleda refused, and later dismissed allegations that the elections had been rigged on behalf of her par-

Serbs urged

VOGOSCA, (Bosnia-Herzegovina,)

tried yesterday to encourage Serb cit-

izens of this Sarajevo suburb to stay

in the district despite a handover of

police jurisdiction to the Muslim-

police arrived in Vogosca, situated

north of the Bosnian capital, police

chiefs from the UN's International Po-

lice Task Force (IPTF) urged locals to

trust the new police.
"We will do our best to monitor

IPTF's chief of staff Detlef Buwitt

told local Serbs who had gathered in front of the police station recently

taken over by federation police.

patrols in whatever area," the

"If there are any substantial com-

plaints they can be made to the IPTF

But Buwitt's words appeared to be having little effect on the crowd many

of whom had already boarded two

buses ready to take them off to Serb-

and all of them will be full," one pros-

pective passenger said.

Yesterday's deadline for the hand-

over of jurisdiction from Serb police

to federation units had already trig-

gered an exodus from Vogosca of thousands of Serbs, with IPTF per-sonnel estimating that as few as 1,700

citizens of the suburbs former 17,000-

strong population remained.

The exodus has raised alarms over

the prospects of success for the Day-

ton peace accord, which is built on a

cornerstone of multi-ethnic com-

munities in Bosnia. - AFP

"We will have four or five buses

Shortly after the first federation

The UN police force in Bosnia

to stay in

Vogosca

Croat Federation.

station." he added.

controlled territory.

#### MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin yesterday ruled out an un-conditional pullout of the Russian army from Chechnya and called for the tiny southern republic to be granted special status within the Russian Federation, Interfax reported.

Yeltsin 'no' to

unconditional

pullout from

Chechnya

"To demand of the president that he stop the war or that he pulls out the army, this is not a solution, this is not even a road towards peace but a direct route to the extension of the conflict to the whole of the Caucasus," Yeltsin said in a speech to parliament. An advance copy of the

text was supplied to the press.

Yeltsin called, however, for a special status for Chechnya within the Russian federation but did not make clear what this would entail.

"We are ready for compromises on the question of the status of Chechnya in the context of Russia, but not at the expense of security of citizens," he said.

Yeltsin, who announced last week that he would run for a second term in June's presidential elections, is seeking a way out of the way out of the 14-month war which has killed an estimated 30,000 civilians and decimated his popularity.
Since declaring his presidential
bid, Yeltsin's statements on Chechnya

have been marred by inconsistency as he responds to pressure from hawks and doves alike. He does, however, admit that his

chances of success in the June polls would be jeopardised if fighting continues. Last week he conceded that the war had been "perhaps" a mistake. Yeltsin's advisers are said to have

drawn up seven secret plans to solve the Chechen crisis, which the Kremlin says range from withdrawing troops to waging an all-out scorchedearth offensive. Yeltsin had promised to pick one of the plans and an-

### ENDING ETHNIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

### Devolution package is last solution: Minister

minister said yesterday a devolution package for minority Tamils was the last chance to find a political solution to the country's ethnic erisis for the next 20 years.

Professor G.L. Peiris, a key figure behind many of the proposals, said there were bound to be hurdles as the legal draft fights its way through an All-Party Parliamentary Select Committee, parliament and then a national

"There are stumbling blocks of different kinds," he told a cabinet press conference. "The first is the polarised nature

of Sri Lankan politics which has been the principal reason why a solu-

cadres, the military here said yesterday

promptly to the attack and took counter measures.'

against Sinhalese villages, killing at least 125 civilians.

**Tamil Tigers attack** 

COLOMBO - Tamil Tiger guerillas stormed a Sinhalese village in north-

central Sri Lanka and killed nine people for the loss of at least 10 of their own

the overnight attack against the remote village of Mahanikawewa in the district

killed six civilians but were driven out by military reinforcements which killed

"They are losing heavily because security forces and the civilians reacted

of Anuradhapura by attacking two soldiers and a constable guarding it.

at least 10 guerillas. Five automatic rifles were recovered from the rebels.

Gunmen of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out

The chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the Tigers then

"This is a big set back to the Tigers," Munasinghe told reporters here.

The latest massacre came four months after a spate of similar attacks

The separatist LTTE has been accused of killing Sinhalese civilians in a

bid to drive them out of the northern and eastern regions which they claim as

In another development, two soldiers died in a pressure mine explosion

the northern peninsula of Jaffna late on Thursday, Munasinghe said. — AFF

villagers, 19 killed

But now, he added, there was wide recognition on all sides of the need to lift the problem away from confrontational politics and find

He said it would not be useful to consider failure. "I am bold to announce that if this

fails, for the next 20 years there will be no political solution," he said. "Everyone is aware of the need for a political solution... there is a spirit of goodwill. Minorities realise

that extravagant demands will be impracticable." The peace package offers wide-ranging executive and leg-islative powers to Tamils who make up about 17 per cent of majority-Sinhalese Sri Lanka and who have

warned against any attempt to dilute them to appease right-wing critics. The main opposition United Na-tional Party (UNP), which has 85 seats in the 225-seat parliament, can block the plan, which needs to be passed by a two-thirds majority in parliament.

language, education and employ-

many Buddhist monks criticise the

plan for in effect breaking up the country and rewarding the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have fought for a homeland in

Moderate Tamil parties have cau-

tiously welcomed the proposals but

the north and east since 1983.

Right-wing Sinhalese and

The ruling people's alliance, which knocked the UNP from 17 years in power in 1994, has 113 seats. The proposals go before the select committee, where they need a

simple majority, on March 7.

The UNP has yet to make its views on the package known but Peiris said UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe had made clear the UNP regarded the ethnic crisis as a national rather than party-political problem. This weekend Peiris will meet five Tamil parties and members of his own alliance coalition, including communists, and next week he meets Wickremesinghe, a former

prime minister. The package is due to be part of a new constitution that would also see the abolition of the executive presidency, electoral reforms and guar-

antees of fundamental rights.

The LTTE, now attacking military and government targets in the east after being run out of their north ern Jaffna town stronghold by the army in December, has rejected the

### Ex-white-only school's bid to keep blacks out

their traditional homeland.

whites-only school at the centre of a race row over its exclusion of black children had applied to South Africa's most powerful court in its attempt to keep blacks out, officials

said yesterday. Constitutional court official Martie Nienaber said the court, the highest in the land, would hear an application on the matter at 10am on Monday.

The management committee of the school in Potgietersrus, 250km north of Johannesburg, lodged the papers with the court after Supreme Court judge Tjibbe Spoelstra refused to grant permission for an appeal against his ruling which forced

the school to admit black children. Spoelstra told the Pretoria Supreme Court on Wednesday there constitutional court interfering with

Beeld newspaper said the school's application would be based on the belief that Afrikaners, as a minority group, had a right to self-determination, in international "That right includes the right to

protection and the improvement of quality of life, economic growth, development, social justice, cultural life, language and religion of the group," it said. The newspaper said the applica-

tion argued that these principals were recognised in the constitu-"The state has an obligation to

see to it that these rights are protected and developed.

the culture of Potgietersrus primary school is Eurocentric. The culture of the black parents, and so also their children, is Afrocentric.

"The difference between the Afrocentric culture and a Eurocentric culture is so big that the parents of the school were justified in taking a decision that the dominant culture and character or ethos of the school was maintained and protected.'

On Thursday, the first black children started classes at the school, sparking a boycott by most of the 600 white pupils

The case is the first where white attempts to preserve the status quo have been tested since all-race elections in 1994 ended nearly 50 years of institutionalised racial segregation. — Reuter

### Zimbabwe's bid to curb Aids boom

HARARE - Zimbabwe, faced by one of the worst Aids epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa, is considering making the deliberate infection with HIV a criminal offence, parliament was told on Thursday.

"The Criminal Law Act is being amended so that a person who is HIV positive and deliberately infects others would be charged with a criminal offence." said Deputy Health Minister, Tsungirirayi Hung-

The proposed legislation would apply to spouses who did not disclose they had the virus to their part-ners and assault of minors. Many of the cases of assault on children reported recently have revealed that the victims are infected with the deadly virus during commission of

the offence. A tenth, or one million of Zimbabwe's 10.4 million people are infected with the Human Immune-Deficiency Virus (HIV) which causes the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) and the government has reported Aids deaths of an average of 42 people daily. — AFP

#### Mandela to meet Swaziland king

JOHANNESBURG - President Nelson Mandela will meet Swazi-land's King Mswati III in South Africa on March 1, presidential spokes-man Parks Mankahlana said

The talks are expected to focus on the unrest that hit Swaziland last month as workers and students took the streets demanding an end to absolute monarchy and a restoration of freedoms suspended by a 1973 state

Mankahlana, however, would only say that the president had invited Mswati "for conversations on pertinent issues", adding that Mandela did not want to be seen as med<sup>1</sup> dling in Swaziland's internal affairs. Mandela had advised Mswati to

engage democratic reforms when the king visited Pretoria last year.

The Swazi ruler said after the general strike that crippled his country for a week last month that he would restore constitutional rule, but on his own timetable. - AFP

### Filipinos stage rally to mark fall of Marcos

MANILA — Thousands of veterans of the fight against Ferdinand Marcos took to the streets yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of his fall, warning President Fidel Ramos

in case of foreign or domestic threat.

French paratroops

tion when it comes to guaranteeing peace.

islands in the West Indies and the Pacific Ocean

against authoritarian rule. Yellow confetti rained from highrise blocks in the Makati financial district as the crowd, estimated by police at 5,000, waved banners and chanted slogans in scenes reminiscent of the end years of Marcos' 20-year

Cars honked at the street intersection under a giant statue of Marcos' arch political foe, Benigno Aqui-

Aquino's assassination by the dictator's soldiers in 1993 sparked massive protests, goading the previously apathetic middle and upper classes to join the anti-Marcos fight.

The regime finally collapsed during the popular uprising between February 22 and 25, 1986.

Yellow was the dominant colour

"Ten years after freedom and de-

of the anti-Marcos campaign.

mocracy's rebirth, the spectre of state oppression rears its ugly head again and stalks the land," the protesters led by the Freedom Coalition said in

"Past evils return in the guise of anti-terrorism bills ... escalating prices and galloping inflation," it added.

"The spirit of EDSA is dead," protest leader Renato Constantino told the crowd.

He was referring to the 1986 uprising when a million unarmed Filipinos turned back Marcos' battle tanks along the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) sent to crush an army mutiny led by then deputy military chief Ramos and then Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Marcos and his family fled to exile in Hawaii on February 25, 1986 and Marcos died there in 1989. But several of his former associates are now powerful officials under the Ramos government. Congressman Wigberto Tanada

and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay led

the protesters in assailing Ramos for

ly this month, a 10 per cent expanded value added tax and the hiring of former generals in the country's bu-

They also denounced a proposed anti-terrorism bill that allows the police to arrest suspects without warrants, look into bank accounts and tap phone lines, saying it bore the hallmarks of "martial rule" Ramos has denied wanting to re-

impose authoritarian rule, saying it would negate the country's modest economic gains under its restored democracy. He said on Tuesday that the proposed anti-terror bill had been shelved.

The protest coincided with a trans-port strike that paralysed traffic in some parts of the capital.

Key leaders of the rebellion such as former army colonel turned Senator Gregorio Honasan and the junior army officers that formed the core of the anti-Marcos military would not join 10th anniversary festivities to-



that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. - AFP

AGRA - Come February, and it's springtime, when nature unfolds all its colourful splendour and Agra, the city of Taj, bursts into life.

For 10 days there was sheer celebration in Uttar Pradesh's rich heritage of arts, crafts, culture, cuisine, dance and music.

Yes, it was Taj Mahotsav (Taj

festival) again. Organised by Uttar Pradesh tourism and held as an annual event at Shilpagram, literally next door to the magnificient Taj Mahal, the Taj Mahotsav which concluded yesterday, was indeed a fitting tribute to the legendary skills of mastercraftsmen and other exponents

of art, music and cuisine. Not only this, it exhibited the rich heritage and extraordinary legacies of this wonderful land.

The festivities commenced with a spectacular procession from Taj Mahal to Shilpagram.

Bedecked elephants and camels, drum beaters, folk artistes and mastercraftsmen....recreated a visual delight reminiscent of the golden era of the Mughal darbars.

A major attraction of the Mahotsav was the exquisite marble inlaid work, the origin of which can be traced back to the tomb Itmadud-Daulah of Moghul emperor Jahangir's wife Noorjehan between 1622-1628 A.D.

The work was on display as caskets, artefacts, table-tops, other close-to-home articles.

Marble inlay apart, the festival brought forth an array of other fine crafts like wood carvings, brass and other metalware of Moradabad, handmade carpets of Badohi, the blue pottery of Khurja, the chicken work of Lucknow, the silk of Banaras ... to name a few.

Throughout the mahotsav, there was a profusion of folk music and dance - folk dances of Bundelk hand, Sapera (serpent) dance of Rajasthan, Lavani (folk dance) of Maharashtra, Raaslila of Brajbhoomi Nautanki, Garhwali and Kumaoni folk ... performed just the way they used to be centuries ago.

The pick of the mahotsav were the savour delicacies that were favourites of 16th century royalty The art of cooking over a slow fire the dum pukht — a legacy of the nawabs to the world: the Mughlai cuisine ... preferred by the royalty for centuries and the typical preparations from the interiors of

DHAMADKA (Kutch) - Males out of 60 families comprising mostly of the finest craftsmen in cloth printing in this small bustling village 55km from Bhuj are suffering from a strange combination of kidney disorders worsened

What baffles the doctors is that this ailment known as eurolythiasis, i.e., stones in urinary track starting from kidney to ureter, bladder to urethra is not affecting the women in the village, though it catches even the infants. Doctors visiting the village have no medical explanation to it. And, as surgery is the only remedy, most of the villagers carry scars on their body. Doctors treating the villagers mostly consisting of the Khatri community are baffled at the consistency in the occurrence of this disease as some patients are just two or three years old.
As eurolithiasis is not a hereditary disease, the presence of kidney stones, especially among the kids has evoked the interest of many doctors to study the general health and living environment of the villagers to determine the causes of this disease.

Abdul Karim, a provision store owner had two operations already, was reclining on his bed as he was again having pain in the bladder. "I had one operation about four

Now the pain has started again and I

lief. We cannot just leave our jobs and take rest for a long time. But this disorder is really rendering our artisans and craftsmen devitalised," he said.

The efficiency has gone down in some while some simply refuse to work after four or five hours complaining of exhaustion and pain in abdomen." The case of Sumar Ayub Khatri a cloth dyer, is interesting indeed. Five of his grandsons have already had operations to remove kidney stones in the past one year. "We had to spend so much money on them and there are only a few earning members along with me. And out of the five grandsons operated upon, four of them

A couple of doctors are already conducting research here, studying the diet, eating habits and, significantly, the salinity of water which many believe is the cause of the disorder. has to be either their staple food that is resulting in the stones or the excessive salinity in the water, otherwise how does one explain the disorder in infants?" hypothesies Dr. Yogeshbhai Velani, who is treating the villagers and has performed about 40 operations "I am trying to find out the cause for the occurrence. The water could be the source as the total dissolved salts in this village's water source is 1,000 units while the World

that only 300 units is safe drinking factor for humans. The excessive salts in the body are, I think, the main reason for the formation of stones in the

body," he observed.
"The Khatris' staple food is mainly non-vegetarian and bajra," informed hammed, tinted cloth trader. "if food or water is the cause of the malady then why don't our women suffer," he asks. He, too, has undergone two operations to remove gall bladder stones and was in great pain as he apart from the Khatris, a few families belonging to the Khumbhar community also reside in the village.
"Although there have been patients

currence is far less compared to the Khatris, "observed another doctor.

"The most interesting aspect which baffles us is the fact that no woman this village suffers from this disorder," pointed out Dr. Velani. "When we try to infer that either the food or water is causing the disorder the question remains why the women are immune to it and how could the disease affect the infants who only have milk," wonders Sambhubahi Ghadhvi, a compounder who has been providing medicines to the villagers for many years.

"Laboratory tests have revealed that the stones mainly consisted of three or four combinations of salts, but

terrorists trying to enter Kashmir.

"No one was injured in the attack," he said.

that does not reveal why the women ar not affected by it," Dr. Velani said.

The youngest to have undergone an operation to remove the stone is two- year-old Anas. Most of the villagers have compounded their problems by consulting quacks for quick relief medicines. "Some are ignorant as to how dangerous it can become and try all, sorts of medicines. An 80-year-old man died recently after suffering for a longtime," said Abdul Karim. With medical facilities and expenses out of reach, this village is for now banking on the time-tested nature's cure of having barley water and drinking the juice of wheat grass which prevents salt formation.

### KHURANA QUITS AS CHIEF MINISTER

## BJP squabbles over successor

party was embroiled in civil war yes-terday after one of the top leaders quit as New Delhi's chief minister over a bribery scandal, damaging its hopes of

winning upcoming general elections.

Madan Lal Khurana, a high-profile leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), resigned on Thursday as the capital's chief minister after being named in the snowballing corruption scandal

He was one of 14 politicians accused by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday of accepting bribes from Surendra Jain, a businessman at the heart of the scandal which has sullied the image of virtually every Indian political party.

The BJP went into crisis session yesterday to elect a successor to Khurana, and BJP sources said the otherwise disciplined party was divided into at least three factions.

The BJP and political sources said the corruption accusations against Khurana, which follow last month's resignation of BJP president Lal Krishna Advani from parliament on similar charges, had dealt a severe blow to the

party.

BJP, which governs three states in addition to the city of Delhi, had been a major planning to make corruption a major ssue in parliamentary elections expected in April.

But the involvement of Advani and Khurana in the scandal, in which 115 politicians and bureaucrats have been accused of taking bribes from Jain between 1988 and 1991 in exchange for

Mehul Kumar, maker of two recent

successful films Tiranga and Kran-

tiveer. The 50 plus thespian, who towered over the film horizon with his

electrifying performances in the 80's

emerged on the stage against the back-drop of the national tricolour to render

dialogue writer Jaleez Sherwani's

completed within seven months and

be the actor's first release after four



MADAN LAL KHURANA

favours, has upset the BJP's plans. 'We have suffered a setback," said BJP spokesman Krishan Lal, another BJP MP added: "It would be very dif-

ficult for us to go to the people and claim we are different from the ruling Congress Party."

The BJP sources said the party's influential New Delhi chapter was squabbling over who would succeed. Churana as chief minister, and a party leader described the situation as "very

In the race for the powerful post were a former governor of Kashmir, Jagmohan Malhotra, party spokes-woman Sushma Swaraj, and the deputy in the New Delhi government, Sahib Singh Verma. The BJP's involvement in the

scandal comes on the heels of un-

the party's provincial chapters in a departure from its traditional regimented image.

BJP has vowed to take power in the general elections expected in April by contesting a record 500 of the 545 seats at stake in the lower house, the

On Thursday, Khurana, who has headed the city government here since November 1993, denied the charges of corruption levelled against him, and

vowed to step up the campaign against Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. Rao's Congress Party has not been spared from the scandal and seven of his ministers have resigned so far after detectives charged them with taking bribes from New Delhi businessman

On Thursday, the CBI filed corruption charges against 14 more politicians, including four former min-

isters in Rao's government.

But political analysts said the scandal could be potentially more damaging to the BJP than to Rao's Congress since the opposition party had planned to make corruption a main plank of its election campaign.

"The scandal exposes the BJP, which claims to be a unified and non-

corrupt party," said Muqumuddin Farooqi, a communist politician. "The BJP is now on the defensive."

The *Pioneer* daily said it would be no easy task for the BJP to find a successor to Khurana. "The scandal seems-to have left the party (BJP) completely dazed," it said. — AFP

### Indo-Pak conflict threatens international peace: US

JAMMU — Troops from India and Pakistan exchanged heavy fire along the disputed Kashmir border as the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) warned the two nuclear-capable nations posed the biggest threat to international security.

Pakistani troops fired "over 2,000 rounds" on Indian troops late on Thursday from South Charva post in Sambah sector, 45km from this winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, Indian officials said yes-

The firing occurred as CIA Director John Deutch told the Senate Select Intelligence Committee in Washington that "the Indian 'subcontinent ... presents the greatest threats to world security

Deutch said military confrontation between the two nations needed to be avoided at the risk of triggering a nuclear arms race between New Delhi

We are concerned that India is considering the possibility of a nuclear test. And we have judged that if India should test, Pakistan would follow,"

Relations between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since 1947, remain "unsatisfactory," Deutch said, adding that "the potential for conflict is high.

"Since each of these nations possess nuclear capability, every effort must be made to support our US policymakers who are seeking to avoid military confrontation," he said.

"We are especially concerned about Pakistani efforts, some in cooperation with China, to acquire additional nuclear technology," he added.

The escalating clashes over Kashmir and an Indian missile test have also increased Washington's concern over tensions on the subcontinent. US officials fear Pakistan might respond to India's test-firing of the nu-

clear-capable Prithvi missile by deploying nuclear-capable M-11 missiles In the case of Indian nuclear test, the United States warned in January

However, the Indian BSF spokesman said the shooting across the militarised border involved only medium and light machine guns in what he

said was an exercise to provide cover "for Kashmiri militants and Pakistani

Pakistan denies the charge but provides moral and diplomatic effort to

On January 27, tensions between the two nations soared when an

claimed that an Indian rocket attack had killed more than 20 people in the

border town of Rawalakot. India rejected the Pakistani charge as "base-

that far-reaching economic sanctions would follow such a move. India conducted its first and only nuclear test in 1974 and has denied plans to conduct others.

Neither India nor Pakistan has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The declared nuclear powers are Britain, France, Russia, and the

US officials are currently considering imposing sanctions on China for transferring nuclear technology to Pakistan. — AFP

### Tension flares over NTR museum plot

HYDERABAD — Tension flared up yesterday over ownership rights of a museum complex dedicated to the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama

Trouble started when three of Rama Rao's sons alongwith some supporters and policemen entered the complex claiming ownership amidst vociferous protests from legislators of Rama Rao's faction of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Three sons of NTR - N. Ra-

makrishna, N. Jayashankar Krishna and N. Saikrishna - arrived at the complex, comprising three buildings spread over 3,000 square yards in the Banjara hills area, with police protection to "resume the activities of NTR charitable trust and realise his dreams". Rama Rao died in January. Minutes after the group entered

the well fortified compound situated right opposite NTR's residence, folowers of Rama Rao's widow. Lakshmi Parvathi, including some legislators, gathered and started raising slogans condemning what they called illegal entry by rowdy elements with connivance of the po-

Parvathi and the party's working president, Dr D Venkateshwara Rao, who are away in Bangalore, were expected here later in the day, yes-

Both the warring groups have been staking claims over the trust with the NTR faction contending that Parvathi was the chairperson of the trust while NTR's sons argued that she had nothing to do with the

#### Kerala to celebrate liberation day THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government would observe March 31, the day before the total ban on liquor comes into effect in the state as 'liberation from liquor State Chief Minister A.K. Antony

said the ban on arrack and the campaign against drinking were important steps before enforcing total prohibition in the state. It was to discourage drinking that government had hiked the excise duty

on one litre arrack from 20 per cent to 200 per cent ad valorem, he said. Committees to monitor the implementation in all districts with the dis trict collectors as chairmen. — PTI

### Settle issues before polls, Farooq urges government to his earlier statement on mislook into it.

of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Farooq Abdullah said yesterday that federal government must settle the issues of political and economic packages and re-settlement of Kashmiri migrants before holding polls in the troubled northern state. Talking to a group of mediaper-

sons in this winter capital of the state, he said these issues were more important before undertaking any exercise of elections in the Asked what course of line his

party was proposing to take if the federal government did not concede the demand of restoration of pre-1953 status of the state, Abdullah said "we will hold a meeting of the working committee of the party when elections would be announced and decide accordingly at However, he said it was for the

Election Commission to decide whether the elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir in March or at any other time.

To a question on whether he favoured the demand of a political party for institution of a high-level commission regarding the causes of militancy in the state, Abdullah said "I am not afraid of commissions nor I support or demand any

commission for such purposes."

appropriation of funds by government officers in the state, Farooq, who is also National Conference chief, said "corruption has extended in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the authorities had un-

earthed only one major scandal involving over Rs1.4050 billion in the Anantnag district of the Kashmir Valley so far and there could be many more such scandals in the administration. The government must ire into

these sensitive matters and take action against the erring officials, he About the hawala scandal, the

former chief minister said everybody knew that money from foreign countries was coming to India, it was being sent to India. Hawala matters have thrown

light about the involvement of people in anti-national activities, he said adding "it is only one channel that has come to light and there is a possibility of many more channels about foreign funding to militancy

Abdullah refused to comment on the offer of unconditional talks by four top Kashmiri militants with the federal government saving that

Addressing reporters yesterday,

he said "Indian security forces have the capacity to get them released from their captors within 24 hours, but the action may involve ten per cent risk." The Al Faran group kidnapped the four tourists in July and killed a fifth hostage in August. The hostages are two Britons, a German and an American.

"The representatives of the countries to whom these hostages belong should take a decision whether they are interested in any action for getting these hostages released soon," Abdullah said.

The National Conference leader regretted that the Al Faran had continued to hold the hostages despite appeals from various religious, social and political organisations inding the Organ Conference (OIC).

There has been no word from the Al Faran which had maintained intermittent contact with authorities about their demand. The government had rejected its main demand of releasing jailed separatists in return for the hostages. It also ruled out a military operation to rescue the tourists even as the Al Faran held out repeated threats of executing the hostages unless its de-

### Doordarshan to cover all remote areas

television, Doordarshan, will soon be able to cover events even in the remotest corner of the country at short notice, with the acquisition of Outside Broadcast (OB) system.

This is made possible with the public sector Bharat Electronics (BE) Ltd, handing over the first flyaway Outside Broadcast (OB) system to Doordarshan. The flyaway OB system, a mod-

ification of the earlier OB system, is a fully equipped television studio which can be packed in boxes and carried from place to place by air and can BE deployed within a short time in any open space, according to a be press release in this southern city on Friday. Aimed at imparting full mobil-

ity to Doordarshan outdoor TV production requirments, the new sys-

Briton J.W. Armstrong wrote a

book in 1944 called The Water of

Life in which he claimed to have

cured himself of tuberculosis with-

in six weeks. He said he sub-

sequently treated patients for gan-

grene, cancer, leukaemia and heart

treatment combines one or more

glasses of fresh urine a day, regular

body massages by using stale urine

at least four days old and a strict

diet barring alcohol, tobacco, tea,

The most widely recommended

BANGALORE — India's state-run tem is fitted with eight state-of-theart Charged Coupled Device (CCD) cameras for video recording, besides the other commonly used studio equipment.

So far the BE has supplied 13 colour OB vans to Doordarshan for TV coverage, generally used for covering events like sports, Republic Day parades and parliamentary proceedings.

The 13th OB van supplied by

the BE in 1993 is the Asia's largest equipped with nine CCD cameras for coverage of outdoor TV pro-BE has also supplied Door-

darshan with transportable C-band TV uplink terminal. Currently, about 80 per cent of Doordarshan transmission hardware equipment requirements are met by the

### India's child development services praised

mand was met. - PTI

WASHINGTON - The World Bank has praised India for its Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme offering early child education alongwith supplementary nutrition.

In a publication on early childhood development, the bank said the pro-

gramme, now in virtually all states, of fers supplementary nutrition for chil-dren up to six and for pregnant and nursing women.

It also offers pre-school education, immuniSations, health checkups and medical referral services for pregnant and lactating women. It offers health and nutrition education. A recent review of nearly 30 nutritional impact studies confirmed that the ICDS programme had had a positive impact on children under six. — PTI

### Dilip Kumar

dian film actor Dilip Kumar, his wife Saira Banoo and leading cinema per-sonalities Madhuri Dixit, Meenakshi Seshadri and Kavita Krishnamurthy (play back singer) are among those to be honoured with 'Ugadi Puruskars' (awards) in this port city of south India. The Madras-Telugu academy, organisers of the programme, would also present scholarships of Rs6,000 each to 32 students who had secured first position in the tenth class in 1994-95 of different states and union territories, a press release said here

the Federal Information and Broad-casting Minister, Purno Sangma at the

awards to bring students from all corners of the country under a common platform, symbolising national integration. — PTI

### AMITABH BACHCHAN Laloo accused of patronising corrupt officials

PATNA — The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, of patronising corrupt officials responsible for the animal husbandry scam by extending their services in utter violation of es-Addressing a press conference here, BJP national secretary Sushil

Kumar Modi, charged the chief minister with "using the vigilance department as a tool to blackmail the corrupt officials. Modi alleged that despite a communication from the vigilance de-

partment to the secretary of the animal husbandry department on November 27, 1993 stating that criminal cases were pending against ten officials with the vigilance department, they were promoted and posted in important dis-He released a document purported

to have been written by the secretary of the animal husbandry department to the chief minister stating that since a vigilance case was pending against a former manager rank official. Dr Girijanand Sharma, he was not fit for reappointment. "Notwithstanding the adverse remarks of the department secretary Sharma, who was alleged to be involved in defalcation of Rs340,000 was reappointed for six months by the order of the chief min-

ister," he alleged.
Similarly, Modi alleged that several other corrupt officials against whom the vigilance department had filed cases were granted extension of service.

of the former chief secretary, Kamala Prasad, of April 1, 1991 to the departmental heads and district magistrates that an officer would stand retired unless an order was passed by the government before his scheduled date of retirement to extend his service or

and Dr Girijanand Sharma were given extension or were reappointed without a formal proposal from the finance department and approval by the state

Meanwhile, Union Minister Jannath Mishra, held Chief Minister Laloo Prasad, "technically, morally and ethically responsible" for the multicrore animal husbandry scam which

"Laloo Prasad being the chief min-ister and also holding the finance portfolio cannot escape the responsibility for the scandal, "he told a news conference here.

Joining issue with his cabinet col-league, Union Minister of Chemicals day, for his reported statement that he (Dr Mishra) and Laloo Prasad were (Yadav) know what is CBI and how it functions." — PTI



Eid prayers

The faithful congregate outside the Bandra mosque in Bombay for Eid

#### delegates gather discuss urine and is always available.

and doctors inaugurated a global conference yesterday devoted to what organisers say is a potential free cure for a host of killer diseases including Aids - human

Nearly 600 delegates from 17 nations gathered in the capital of Goa for the first World Conference on Auto-urine Therapy.

The three-day meeting, organised by the Indian chapter of the Water of Life Foundation, brought together leading proponents of a 5,000-year-old therapy considered taboo in much of the world because it involves drinking one's own

"I once thought it was a strange practice," said retired Admiral L Ramdas, former chief of India's ommend the treatment say urine

Delegates came from Austria, Australia, Britain, China, Dubai, France, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and the United States. More than 70 came from outside

a young boy urinating into a glass. mer Indian prime minister Morarji Desai, who stunned the world when he revealed that he drank a glass of his own urine every day. He died last year at the age of 99.

Doctors and therapists who rec-

contains hormones, enzymes, vitamins and minerals that can cure diseases from heart disease to can-

But many mainstream doctors debunk the claims, saying small doses of urine are not harmful but surely no magic medicine.

said the number of participants in the meeting proved urine therapy's wide following, but doubts needed to be put to rest.

'Now you have to find the scientific answers," he said. Urine therapy was advocated in ancient Hindu scriptures. The Bible

says: "Drink waters out of thy own cistern." Modern proponents, many of them keen on holistic medicine, argue it is drug-free, costs nothing

pecially well-suited for tooth and eye problems.

to Aids are curable by urine therapy," Thakkar said.

mune Deficiency Syndrome. Tara Aust, a German-born dev-

conference that she was diagnosed with cancer of the lymph nodes, intestine and liver in 1988. She passed up chemotherapy for urine therapy and survived. This is part of loving yourself,

### to be honoured VISAKHAPATNAM - Veteran in-

The awards would be presented at a function in Madras on March 17 by

music academy auditorium. The academy has instituted the

### Amitabh, the commando duced by Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL) and directed by

trail, plays the role of a commando fighting against the corrupt and anti-national in his second movie launched

on Thursday in this film city.

The actor faced the camera at Filmalaya studios for the mahurat (launching) shot of Mrityudaata pro-



couplet-- Har modh par insaan bikh raha hai, kahin noton ke naam par, Kahin dharam ke naam par. (Everywhere the man is being auctioned, somewhere on the name of rupees, somewhere on the name of religion.)
He stars opposite Dimple Kapadia in the film, which also has Karisma Kapoor, Pran and Paresh Rawal in the Earlier this month, ABCL launched a film, directed by Indra Kumar, featuring Amitabh as the hero. The shooting of Mrityudaata gets underway from today with a sevenday schedule and the film would be

reappoint him after such a proposal was prepared by the finance de-partment and duly endorsed by the state cabinet. He, however, said senior officers of the department including Dr S.B. Sinha, Dr R. K. Das, Dr P.S. Prasad

and Fertilizer, Ramlakhan Singh Yaagainst institution of a CBI inquiry into the case, Dr Mishra said, "does he

tremendous energy and stamina."

The conference's poster depicted Participants paid tribute to for-

Actress Sarah Miles swears improves her health.

Wilfred D'Souza, health minister of Goa state and a surgeon,

> Dr G.K. Thakkar, president of India's Water of Life Foundation, said urine therapy cured him of amoebic dysentery and eczema, while transforming him into a "bold orator". He said urine is es-

Most diseases ranging from the common cold to cancer and arthritis

Other doctors said urine therapy had relieved many patients of painful Aids symptoms but there was no proof it could cure Acquired Im-

otee living in Australia, told the

she said. "What is wrong with your body functions? It is part of your-

### TIMES OF OMAN

**ESTABLISHED: 1975** 

### Chirac's costly reforms

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac's bold plan to transform the French military into a professional force capable of projecting power rapidly across the world will cost more and cause more job losses than he admits, say experts. Chirac launched probably the most important initiative of his presidency on Thursday when he announced that France would abolish conscription over six years and develop leaner, meaner forces to meet the security challenges of the 21st century. Since France no longer faced the threat of "invading hordes" but varied missions to protect vital interests or keep the peace in far-flung locations, it needed a rapid deployment force of 30-60,000 career soldiers, not a giant

But to some ears, Chirac's pledge that France could end military service, maintain all major weapons programmes and restructure oversized defence industries while reducing the defence budget and preserving jobs sounded suspiciously like a free lunch. "I don't see how his numbers add up," one European military attache said after watching Chirac's televised announcement of the most radical overhaul of the armed forces in three decades. in particular, the attache questioned the president's statement that the equipment budget would be 15 per cent less at the end of the six-year reform than at present, while maintaining plans to buy new fighters, tanks, submarines and helicopters.

Chirac was vague on the timing of these arms programmes and suggested they would be stretched out over a longer period, which industry sources say raises costs. At one point Chirac said irritably: "The question (of cost) makes no sense. No one can answer that seriously." He said conscription would stay until 2001 and made clear he expected savings towards the end of the six-year transition.

Yet the French government urgently needs to cut spending in the next two years to meet the deficit target to qualify for a single European currency in 1999. "He looked confident and in command of his dossier. But it amounted to saying: "It won't really hurt because I'm here to make sure it doesn't," another diplomat commented. Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the far-right National Front Party, blasted Chirac's mathematics as "a pitiful force." "How can Jacques Chirac claim to be saving our arms industries by cuting the armed forces' equipment budget

The president brushed aside parliamentary reports that say France will have to axe 50,000 jobs in its bloated military industrial complex and retire thousands of superfluous officers. "Do we have too many workers in our armaments industry? The question cannot be answered like that today. It's impossible.

I have heard astounding things, I have even heard we had 50,000 too many professionals in his sector. That's absurd," he said.

On the future of the officer corps, he said: "Naturally there will be normal departures ... but there is no plan to retire officers. I guarantee

Chirac suggested the social dislocation bound to be caused by dissolving regiments, closing bases and barracks and shutting down armaments factories could be minimised by stretching the reforms over six

France already has more than three million people out of work -11.7 per cent of the workforce and rising — and many medium-sized towns in largely rural areas depend for their economic survival on defence installations. "Despite his self-assurance, the president did not really convince us that this project, which will cost more than he says, is financially compatable with a policy of reducing the defence budget and cutting public deficits," France-inter radio political commentator

While an opinion poll showed 75 per cent of voters supported abolishing military service, it was not clear that Chirac wold retain public support once the inevitable social consequences of his decision become Former socialist Defence Minister Paul Quiles suggested Chirac had

underestimated the cost of attracting recruits to serve for three years in a career army and of resettling them afterwards in civilian society.

Another potential problem is that few young people will want to be the last conscripts to do military service.

If his plan goes ahead as announced, six more classes of 18-yearolds will have to serve in the army knowing that their lucky youngers will be spared the widely-loathed experience. Many will have the vote in the 1998 general election and may not reward Chirac's party for sending them to the barracks.

### The battle in the newsroom

A FEW of my friends asked me why we are sandwiching small ads inside the reports on World Cup cricket.

Simple, my dear friends. The sandwiches bring us money. And

Well before the start of the World Cup, our ad department drew up a plan. A plan to give a better coverage for our readers. A plan to make money, too. The campaign clicked: the World Cup countdown and the Super

Challenge have been very successful. In the second phase of our campaign, we decided to sell "sand-

wiches". Details were sent to prospective clients.

The response was good. There were many takers and we shortlisted

Each was given a deadline to finalise the deal.

The ad department rang up the first client just an hour before the deadline was to end. The client was ready to sponsor only the scoreboard sandwich. We could not digest that. We said a big "No" and "Sorry" and rang

up the second client. And the deal was struck. • LEARNING Arabic, a daily column by Musa Abd El Ghaffar in

Leisure, is working wonders.

One of my friends surprised me the other day with his more than a smattering of Arabic.

I knew he always wanted to join some Arabic course. He never joined any course and his Arabic vocabulary was con-

fined to two or three words. But he stunned me during a wadi-bashing on an Eid holiday. Two or three occasions we wanted help and each time his "smattering" was

more than helpful. "At last you joined some course," I didn't want to acknowledge the

smattering, but I couldn't help it.
"No," he gave me one of his mischievous smiles.

'You seem to have picked up quite a few words," I admitted grudg-

What followed was a pep talk. And the concluding "read your paper" was a vicious upper cut which hit me below the belt Well. I had better.

• THERE was another battle. A Danes versus some of the Keralites

The first salvo was fired by one of our readers who suggested we scrap classified ads on Thursday to accommodate more India, especially Kerala, news.

That was asking for too much. Asking for trouble? Yes, the next day a Danish gun boomed: Scrap India page. Scrap Kerala news. Instead carry news about the Danish

towns of Karrebaeks and Sengeloese. The battle lines were drawn. Some Keralites said the first warrior's demand was parochial. Others blasted the Danish demand to scrap the India page. "Karrebaeks is violence-hit. Carry news about Hammel, another Dane joined the battle.

Finally, the first Danish letter writer made a ceasefire offer: The world, of course, is not all that serious. But someone seems to

miss the point. Always. • "I WISH I COULD," our business editor wondered after reading

the letters demanding the scrapping of the stock prices page.

One of our typesetters said he would say a big "yes" to the demand.

Their frustration was understandable. We get the stock prices from

the Indian news agency, PTI. Some days, PTI just doesn't send the report. That's a big blow to our battle with the deadline: Stories to fill up an entire page have to be dug out (even from the dust bin), subbed and typeset — and we may be late by at least an hour.

If we could have scrapped the stocks page, we would have done it a long time ago.



#### The uprooted

A little Bosnian girl and her mother sit behind a pile of blankets in their bed on Thursday. They are refugees from the Srebrenica enclave which was overrun by rebel Serbs last summer. The child's father was among the 7,000 missing and feared massacred by Serb soldiers. Their bed is their only private space, living in one room together with 20 others accommodated in the same makeshift shelter, in what used to be an office building in the village of Durdevik south of Tuzla. - AFP

### Black money victims leave India's elections open

INDIA'S political corruption scandal has netted a fresh catch of victims of all political colours, leaving analysts guessing who will gain advantage from the affair in general elections expected in two months.

As India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) announced charges on Thursday in the \$18 million bribes-for-favours scandal against 14 more politicians, including four ministers who resigned this week and two opposition leaders, few were prepared to predict where the affair would end.

Key to the issue is whether India's wily 73-year-old Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is playing the nets or whether he is just another big fish trying to avoid being caught.
"Which came first, the chicken

or the egg the prime minister's grand design or the resolve of the Supreme Court that enough was enough and if the government would not do their duty the court would compel obedience to the rule of law?" the Statesman newspaper asked yesterday

When the scandal broke in mid-January, the accepted wisdom was

the prime minister the affair lay us of that person", a clear reference fallow since it was uncovered in 1991, only to resurface in the runup to elections and the first victims included the leader of the main opposition party and a cabinet minister who posed a possible threat to Rao's leadership.

The opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was certain of the political Its president, Lal Krishna Ad-

vani, denounced the charges against him as a political frame-up and resigned his parliamentary seat, saying he would not run in the elections and would quit public life if he was proved guilty.

His colleague, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP's leadership candidate in the elections, accused Rao of accepting \$850,000 from the illegal foreign exchange, or hawala, dealer S.K. Jain, the man whose diary of payments to politicians is at the centre of the scan-

But then the affair seemed to take on its own momentum. The Supreme Court ordered the

CBI to pursue the probe against every individual involved "irto Rao himself. The CBI appeared to absolve Rao at Thursday's Supreme Court hearing, saying there was no reasonable basis for the accusation made by Jain on March 11, 1995, the date on which he is reported finally to have said he paid Rao money.

But the Supreme Court would not let the matter go, and the solicitor general agreed that the investigation of this accusation would continue.

Rao has said the investigation must take its own course, and seven members of his council of ministers have now resigned and been charged since January.

While the resignations have had little effect on the running of the country, as the administration is now in its lame-duck phase prior to the elections, it has demoralised senior ranks of the ruling Congress

Rao, whose party suffered setbacks in several state polls over the past year and is coming to the general elections from behind, appears to have made a virtue of the situation. He is bypassing the Congress Working Committee, the party's The CBI, after all, reported to respective of the position and stat- top body, in discussing electoral Varghese said. — PTI

plans, allowing a much greater voice for the district committees with their younger blood. "There is a feeling that Rao has initiated something important, and he may well reap the harvest," said political analyst George Varghese. The BJP, meanwhile, which had been confident it would be the largest party after the elections, is in dis-Its campaign pledge to clean up corruption in politics is in tatters,

and it faces a bruising fight for succession in Delhi state, where its Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana is the latest victim of the

The parties of the left appear to have been less damaged by the scandal than their opponents, and some analysts believe they will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the afficient

But leftist parties in India are still very much regional parties, and their periods in national government have been characterised by internal wrangling. They have still to agree on a candidate behind whom to unite this time. "Their alliances are fast changing, and none of them are going to be able to swing anything by themselves,"

### **New worries** surface about Japan mortgage firm plan

By Linda Sieg

JAPAN'S main opposition party appears to have abandoned efforts to block passage of an unpopular plan to use tax money to wind up ailing mortgage firms, but worries have surfaced that some in the ruling camp are getting cold feet.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) wants to keep an eye on public opinion," said political analyst Tetsuro Murobushi, referring to the biggest party in Japan's ruling coalition. "If things look bad, they might propose freezing spending for the scheme and then unfreeze it when the situation im-

Ever since taking office at the start of the year, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has been battling strong opposition party and popular antipathy to the plan, which calls for the spending of at least 685 billion yen (\$6.58 billion) of public funds to wind up the bad loan-laden mortgage firms, known as Jusen.

Critics say the plan means using public money to pay for mistakes by politicians, bureaucrats, bankers, mortgage firm executives and agricultural financial institutions during and after Japan's 1980s "bubble" era of asset inflation.

The main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) had vowed to use its battle against the mortgage firm plan to stall passage of the 1996/97 state budget and force Hashimoto to call general elections, which are not mandated until mid-1997. However, the opposition lacks

the numerical clout to force the government to drop spending for the scheme from next year's budget. At the same time, it does not want to be blamed for blocking the passage of the budget at a time when Japan's nascent recovery from a four-year slump is still quite fragile.

Senior Shinshinto officials told Reuters they would drop their plans to boycott parliament's lower house plenary session to vote on the budget. "We have to pass the budget because it is part of Japan's economic stimulus measures," one said.

Analysts suspected some backroom deal between the ruling coalition and Shinshinto. "Shinshinto did what an opposition party in Japan is supposed to do — they opposed in public and cut a deal in private," one political analyst said. An LDP official said on

Thursday that the ruling parties which hold a clear majority in both houses of parliament wanted to pass the budget in the key lower house on March 4. Just as the path for the mort-

gage firm scheme looked clear, however, signs emerged that some in the LDP were growing even more jittery about voters' re-Domestic media, noting that

former LDP secretary-general Hi-roshi Mitsuzuka had suggested altering the plan to increase the bur-den on banks which founded the housing loan firms, said moves were afoot within the LDP to study altering the proposal.

Analysts said that should there be a general election within

months of passing an unchanged mortgage firm plan, the LDP's chances of winning big would be weakened. "If the ruling coalition passes the budget with no amendments, the general public would get more angry," political analyst Masaya Ito said.

One clue to public reaction could come from how the ruling coalition's candidate fares in ra mayoral election in Kyoto, west-ern Japan, on Sunday, Murobushi Other analysts said there was

unlikely to be any major change in the scheme concerning covering initial losses from the mort-gage firms' bad loans. But they said the LDP could consider altering a government pledge to shoulder half of whatever losses — estimated to be at least 1.2 trillion yen (\$11.5 billion) — emerge "I don't think there is enough trouble to freeze (the plan)," said John Neuffer, senior researcher at Mitsui Marine Research Institute. "Where they might try to appease voters is in act two. But the bottom line is that all these guys want to get re-

### What rubbish?

MUNICIPALITIES in many Indian towns may be tempted to emulate a recent move made by their counterpart in New York where the authorities have turned their garbage dump into a tourist attraction. Student groups, visitors and even foreign dignitaries are being treated to a two-hour guided tour of Staten Island's Fresh Kills

Dump, the largest of its kind in the world. Understandably, nothing at the dump is fresh at all, the stench is choking and rats and seagulls have a free run of the

Garbage management has always been high on New York's list of civic priorities. It has, of course, meant different things to different people. Gay Talese, in The Kingdom and the Power, a history of the New York Times, recalls a drama involving Harrison Salisbury, the well-known journalist whose forte was entering forbidden countries and despatching news from

At one stage he fell from grace, was made to sit in head office and given a "punishment assignment" reporting on New York's garbage. An unhappy Salisbury wrote nothing for a few days, then applied himself with determination to the task. He produced a four-part survey on the problem which fetched him the Pulitzer Prize and retrieved his freedom to travel. The New York sanitation department has put Fresh Kills on tourist itineraries hoping to give people a better understanding of the rubbish discarded by man.

The disposal crew are reportedly delighted at the appreciation received from tourists. Closer home, things are less hunky-dory in places like Calcutta. The Dhapa dumping ground on the eastern fringes of the city is no less in-famous than Fresh Kills, and has inspired many jokes and limericks in Bengali. But there are numerous mini-Dhapas all over the city which can, by no means, be turned into tourist attractions. In fact, they are quite a tourist repellent and the chief minister, Jyoti Basu, fears, an investment

repellent too.

All previous resolutions to rid the city of garbage have come to naught. It is to be seen whether the current drive to spruce up Calcutta to allure investment from abroad makes any difference. Until then, all Calcutta can do is to admire New York's ingenuity which can make filthy lucre from mere filth. — Times of India

### From Our Archives

FEBRUARY 1981

### GTO to spend RO63m to boost networks

MUSCAT — The executive chairman of the General Telecommunications Organisation, Mohammed Nur, announced this week that RO63 million had been allocated for new projects to be implemented during the second Five-Year Plan. The expenditure will be split into two phases, the first to start

immediately and the second to get underway in 1983. Some RO40 million will be spent during the first stage. The

schemes include 16,000 telephone lines and 18 switchboards in and around the Capital Area, 2,000 lines in Salalah and the erection of microwave nets from Nizwa to Salalah, Nizwa to Ibri and Muttrah It also comprises the establishment of a nagivational tele-

communication coast station and satellite land stations to link outlying areas through cables and microwave nets. The second phase includes a further 10,000 telephone lines and

an expansion of the switchboard in the Capital Area; 1,000 lines in Sohar; 15 switchboards for various towns; and a technical centre to train Omani personnel.

#### READERS' FORUM An adult child Ask not what Kerala ...

O.K., Malayalees, except the letter writers, are cheap, egotists, stupid, and would stoop to any level and are without any sense of humour. What about the "elite" with all the humour and wisdom in the world.

What have they to offer. Let us, for a change, highlight the state of affairs in the state all the people, including myself, have contributed to a great extent by our indifference. The unpardonable situation where the electricity is cut 35 to 45 per

cent will affect everyone, including the "elite" and the affluent, in one way or the other.

The acute shortage of drinking water has already affected many and the situation will get worse in a few weeks. The authorities had money for non-productive expenses.

Newspapers were vying with one another to glamorise the autocratic

rule of the previous chief minister and his helicopter rides as well as irresponsible use of the facilities he usurped on account of his position and the weakness of the coalition parties to stand up to him for fear of losing their seats. How could one explain the telephone bills totalling Rs8 million? Has

any one ever thought how humanly impossible for one person to use the telephone to ring up such figures?

No one has asked whether these calls are for the state business, personal or for party purposes. Even to make visits strictly on personal reasons helicopters were used, running up huge bills which the state could hardly afford. Where

was the sense of justice and moral indignation? The so-called "humour" of Keralites have permitted these excesses. I wish to suggest that support from like-minded Keralites should be

garnered to tackle the grave situation being faced by the state. I propose a) The construction of re-charge dams in valleys and non-productive paddy fields, using membranes for collecting and storing rain water.

These could feed the localities in times of emergencies. Oman has very successfully installed many dams of this type. b) Installation of reserve osmosis (RO) water purification plants to

convert sea and brackish water to potable grade. c) Large-scale implementation of the solar power generation scheme for which the World Bank has sanctioned a large amount. These units

could power domestic, commercial and industrial units. Some of the RO plants could be powered by these units. d) Construction and maintenance of roads and bridges urgently re-

The government could be impressed upon the seriousness and sincerity of NRIs who could, with their knowledge and financial leverage, do much to alleviate the sufferings of the state.

It is my personal feeling that we could propose financing of these projects in a way similar to the BOOT (build, own, operate and transfer) system being implemented in Oman for various infrastructure projects. Similar method was implemented in Maharashtra for a road scheme

Let us, for some time, forget our varying views on Malayalees' attitudes and ask, "to borrow from us late president Kennedy," not what Kerala can do for us, ask what we can do for ourselves" because most of us and our children will one day return to the state and it is in our interest that we make the place more bearable. Ajith Kumar,

ARSHAD Alam wishes to remain as a child, forever (Leisure, February 19) I wish he were a child. He may not be a child, but his writing is childish. And now I understand why most of his ideas are childish. Because he has not grown up. He thinks like a child.

We excuse blunders of a child. Not of an adult. Alam is an adult

Radhakrishnan,

### Aren't they cowards?

I THINK Syd Reale has not properly read or tried to understand my letter on the cowardice of Australian cricketers (Readers' Forum, February

It was clear that the Australians did not want to face Sri Lankan

cricket fans and media soon after the Muralidharan issue. It seems the Australian Cricket Board was waiting for an excuse, and the Colombo bomb blast provided it with one. Despite repeated requests and safety assurances from the Sri Lankan

government and the organising committee of the World Cup, the Australians decided to pull out of their Sri Lankan match.

India and Pakistan displayed bravery by playing in Sri Lanka. It was wicked politics as well as sheer cowardice on the part of the Australians which resulted in the boycott of matches in Sri Lanka. They should thank the organising committee for not throwing them

out of the World Cup. One should have thorough knowledge and sound judgment on an issue before making comments on it.

Vinod V. Shenoy, Horrifying saga of suicide

EVERY six minutes an Indian commits suicide (Times, February 20). Isn't it horrifying to learn about the changing face of Indian society, hitherto known for its high traditional values?

In all arguments, our main defence laid on the high standard of traditional values of love, respect, tolerance, integrity and universal peace passed on from generations to generations. It seems to me that over the years we have lost the meaning of these

values which is now directly reflecting in our present-day society. People have shifted their priorities from these values to values money can People with power and wealth have attained high places in society

and have become trend-setters. The harmony we achieved among people of different religions, is at risk due to unscrupulous actions of some self-centred people. We always dreamt suicide a society where there will be peace, prosperity and complete independence. However, those who passed on

those dreams to this generation will be utterly disappointed to know the way we messed up things and ended up in a society where in every six minutes someone commits suicide. Does it mean that the so-called modern education, upbringing and the way of thinking have contributed to this suicide saga? Or, have we polluted our society so much that it is most unfit for the next generation

Raghavendra Prabhu,

Letters, signed with full name and address, may be sent by mail (Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Oman) or by fax (799153).

### French foreign legion slogs on in Africa

SKIMMING the desert as alarmingly tall-looking camels scattered from the path of his Puma helicopter, the commander of the last French foreign legion Colonel Emmanuel Beth of the 13th Demi-Brigade de legion Etrangere (DBLE) had his mind on four days of war games for the 700-strong force ranging across northern Djibouti from the humid coast to the desert and up into cloud-shrouded mountains.

"We all work together," he said when asked about competition between various units in Djibouti, the largest base for the French army,

navy and air force in Africa.
"My regiment is the sole Foreign legion regiment stationed abroad. It is very specific. There are no other regiments of this type in the French army," he said.

He spoke to Reuters as his men prepared to thrust north in manoeuvres to hone their skills at mobile attack, contrasting with the Hollywood view of legionnaires defending a white desert fort with corpses, as in the 1939 film Beau

The Legion's "kepis blancs" -white, stiff caps with round tops -are replaced on manoeuvres, and at war, by Green Berets.

But the legion mystique since its founding in 1831 endures, and Beth, 42, explained the special code of what is still one of the world's toughest and most disdiplined fighting forces.

"If anyone wants to take any pictures of legionnaires, it is essential that before doing so you ask for their permission. Some of them may not want their pictures pub-

lished," he said. Seventy per cent of the DBLE is made up of foreigners. The largest bloc is now 35 per cent from East-ern Europe and Russia following the end of the Cold War and collapse of the Soviet Union. The legion boasts of having men from

110 nationalities "The legion is a refuge for all the world. There are all motives -from broken hearts to no money. Each legionnaire has a story. But it is forbidden for us to ask personal

"When you join, there are not many questions about your past but, once in, you have to be very straight -- no drugs, no criminal activities. The age limit for joining is 41 but all is possible, when you arrive you have a new identity," he

"My regiment is multi-purpose because 60 to 70 per cent. come from another regiment and they are at their best age, on average 23, and all have civilian life experience," Beth said.

Anyone who signs a five-year contract and gives his real name is automatically assumed to have given a false one. Having no passport

igible for French nationality after his first term but 60 per cent also

Serious criminals, such as murderers and drug-dealers, are supposedly weeded out in training even if they lie. Since the mid-1980s, however, unemployment is

the main motive of recruits.

Five per cent of the DBLE in Djibouti are Britons from a record high of 18 per cent, shortly after their victory in the Falklands in 1982. The remainder include three Germans, two Uruguayans, a lone Chilean and Beth's South Korean

Djibouti asked the French military including the legion to stay on after its independence in 1977 to protect the Sicily-sized state from its Ethiopian and Somali neigh-

Its economy now depends on the 8,500 French military and civilian personnel in Djibouti. Offduty legionnaires and other French troops support hundreds of restaurants, bars and nightclubs and have attracted a civilian army of

'Another characteristic of the legion is that our motto is 'the legion is our country' but it is also your family," said Beth. Only some 800 of the 3,500 French servicemen and women based in Djibouti are married and have their familes with

New legion recruits each have four months basic training in France to learn French, legion discipline, drill and shooting.

But in case they forget their discipline in the nightspots of Djibouti, barrel-chested legion and marine military police patrol the capital day and night. The legion, in particular, has a reputation for harsh punishments for any wrong-

The legion warns its men about Aids but a legionnaire's worst peacetime enemy still takes its toll

"We educate the men about Aids but sadly, after say a dozen drinks, some men just forget all their education," said an officer.

The pay is the same as in any other French armed forces. "I can't complain about the money," said an English-speaking corporal. "But the dust gets bloody everywhere."

The DBLE includes an infantry platoon with reconnaissance divers who head a landing by swimming eight kilometres with all their equipment. Twelve mortars, Milan anti-tank missiles and light armoured cars with 90mm cannon back them all up.

The legion also features snipers with .50 calibre rifles with an effective range of 1,200 metres "They're good for light armoured vehicles, choppers and even planes," said a sniper, lifting one of the heavy guns before jumping off the helicopter and disappearing into

### 'Frankfurt Boy' home ruined man

The 61-year-old Schneider, extradited to Germany after being detained last May in Miami following a year-long manhunt, built his fortune by giving some of Germany's drab post-war city centres sparkling

notoriety in April 1994 when he abruptly vanished with his wife, Claudia, leaving creditors to pick up the pieces of a property empire which had collapsed under the

handing over a tape to German tele-

"We stand as a single married couple today facing the rubble of our personal fortune ...," said Schneider, who could face up to 10

bars will be a far cry from the flamboyant castle-like villa in the Tauwhere he ran his empire, or his

The bald-headed Schneider, who gave up wearing his toupee during his Florida exile, now awaits the filing of formal charges against him, expected in the next

He denies that he backed loan requests with fraudulent documents and property valuations, instead

**Tees January** IF ANYONE asked me "When did your father die?" I would not be able to give the date of the year of his demise. But if the same person asked me about the date of Bapu Gandhi's death, I would answer at once "January

Why do you ask me such a silly question? You think I am a On my father's death an-

niversaries the family organise a bhog and keertan. On Bapu's death anniversary only our netas visit his samadhi on Rai Ghat to

make floral offerings provided press-photographers are present and TV coverage assured. It has become a meaningless sarkari ritual: the common people are not involved and in no way does it remind us of the Mahatma's In his recently published collec-

by the eve and dawn of in-He says "The Indian National Congress was the earliest organisation to realise, and act on, the

fact that Mahatma Gandhi with his

covery, V.N. Narayanan writes that

the Mahatma had become irrelevant

tion of essays The Divine Dis-

irritating insistence on nonesty, truth and austerity, would be an acute embarrassment to the governance and politics of India." The Congress agreed to the partition of

After the partition of the country, the Congress-led government of India refused to pay Rs55 crores due to Pakistan till the Mahatma went on fast to compel the government

WITH

MALICE TOWARDS

One & All

Khushwant Singh

wanted to disband the Congress Party; the Congress Party refused to disband itself. It was abundantly clear, writes Narayanan, "the Mahatma's usefulness to the making of the new nation had ended with the birth of the country. They made him the Father of the Nation and the child disowned the parent promptly and unmistakably." He then goes on to quote Ajit Bhattacharjee to the effect: "Everybody

Everybody understood. In that hour of decision, they had no use for Bapu. They had decided to drop

It is significant that months be-

fore the Congress Party decided to ditch the Mahatma, the Mahatma sensed that he had become redundant and announced in a tone of finality "I will leave Our Bapu, our Mahatma, our

spiritual mentor and guide has indeed left us as surely as we have disowned him. We have waged wars against our neighbours, we continue to kill each other in the name of religion. We firmly reject his idea of simple living and more than ever before hanker to acquire wordly wealth by every means, fair or foul. What kind of people have we become?

### Italy's anti-graft crusader Howard, a on track to enter politics

ITALY'S anti-graft crusader Antonio Di Pietro was on track yesterday to enter the political fray ahead of April's general elections after clearing a first set of corruption allegations.

A court in the northern city of Brescia on Thursday rejected a demand by the public prosecutor to indict Di Pietro, the hugely popular former star judge of the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption campaign which changed the face of Italian

politics in the past three years. Di Pietro's spokesman, Elio Veltri, said on Thursday that the court's decision cleared the way for 'new possibilities for his involvement in politics.

The former investigating magistrate was suspected of misappropriation of funds and abuse of power when computers were installed in his Milan courthouse.

But the court decided there was no case to answer. The Brescia court is expected to examine two

on misappropriation charges on February 26 and March 6.

Left-wing leaders have already opened their courtship of Di Pietro who with his 83.7 per cent popularity rating, according to a January survey by the Directa Institute is a hot political commodity.

Di Pietro, whose popularity was not dented by the misappropriation charges, also symbolises for many Italians the notion of justice itself.

The first person to phone in congratulations was Romano Prodi, leader of a centre-left alliance that calls itself the Olive Tree.

Massimo D'Alema, leader of the party of the Democratic Left, the main constituent of this alliance, yesterday morning welcomed the prospect of "a dialogue opening between Di Pietro and Olive Tree" adding that he hoped for "a serious convergence over objectives and

Since leaving the magistracy a year ago, Di Pietro has been mulling the launch of his own political

corruption in politics and finance.

This aim has tantalised both the left-wing and right-wing camps, although until now he has not expressed a clear preference for ei-

However, on December 9 he published a political platform seen as close to the centre-left.

His entry onto the political stage was subsequently delayed by the legal troubles. Since they began Di Pietro has refused all comment on political events, and said that he would make no decision until his innocence was upheld.

Di Pietro was charged of having profited in 1989 from the situation of Remo Gaspari, a civil service minister, who had been placed under investigation by Di Pietro's own authorities, to get the minister to nominate Di Pietro as head of the new computer services.

He was also accused of abuse of power in having allegedly given preferential treatment over the soft-

company, ISI, run by two former

Now he has to clear the two remaining hurdles - requests for judgement coming up for consideration on February 26 and

One concerns a loan of 120 million lire (\$75,000) that Di Pietro took out in 1990 with a businessman, while the other is linked to the affair of computerisation of the

Milan tribunal. Silvio Bonfigli, one of two judges for the prosecution, conceded that Thursday's ruling had "symbolic value for the two other" requests for trial, hinting that Di Pietro was likely to be acquitted

Di Pietro's accusers — who have close links with former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, himself embroiled in a corruption trial in Milan — are also slated to appear on Monday before the Brescia .tribunal for forcing Di Pietro to step down the magistracy. — AFP

### takes on Keating election" in 1993, has again sur-

re-made man

By Bernard Hickey

JOHN Howard, the man who would be Australia's next prime minister, tips back his Akubra bush hat and squats down for a barbecue lunch with a family deep in Australia's modern heartland -- the middle-class

This is John Howard with the new image, caring, a man of the people campaigning hard to finally wrest power from his long-time political rival, Prime Minister Paul

Sweating in the shade under a gum tree, Howard is wooing the voters of the red-brick and blue-gum suburbs made famous in Australian television soaps like Neighbours. an appeal to voters not to trust Ho-

He shakes a rattle in front of the young couple's baby and is then handed a blackened sausage in a white bread roll.

"The only way we will beat youth unemployment and revitalise the heart and soul of our communities is to have a strong and vibrant small business sector," Howard later says in a speech to these suburbanites gathered for the picnic in the grounds of the north Dianella guide and Scout Hall in Perth.

Howard, 56, has worked hard to soothe their fears about what his coalition of Conservative liberal and National parties might do if it wins the March 2 election and ends 13 years of Labour government rule. He says he will not cut their wag-

es, nor dump their beloved medicare

national health insurance scheme, nor raise their taxes. Painting himself as a moderate who will not change much and hurt even less, Howard promises he will help these suburbs' small business people create jobs for their young

unemployed. Paramount in Howard's thinking has been the 1993 election experience when the coalition pledged radical tax, labour law and medical insurance reform and was rejected by voters unhappy with Labour but unwilling to embrace major changes.

Howard's appeal this time round is that it is time for a new government, though not for major change. It seems to be working: his coalition has held a hefty opinion poll lead over Labour of six to eight percentage points for the last year.

But Keating, the man who won

prised political pundits by closing the gap on Howard in the final days

before polling.

While Howard is trying to win over a young family in Perth, across the other side of this huge island continent, Keating walks past a line-up of flashing poker machines in a provincial town's working-class club, shaking hands as he goes. Keating, 52 and prime minister

since 1991, knows he must win back those wavering traditional Labour voters. In the last week he has ventured into the rural towns and cities he must retain to win the elec-The main thrust of his attack is

ward's message of a change of government without reform. "His subliminal theme is 'It's time'," Keating says to an audience of party supporters and club mem-

bers at the Grafton Bowling club in northern New South Wales state. "And I ask 'it's time for what?'. 'And he says 'it's time to look

like you'. The throng of pensioners and workers standing around Keating roar their approval, shaking the already wobbly and antiquated ceiling

fans whirring above their heads. "They're just running this phony hollow campaign sprinkled with promises," he says as the applause dies down 'We all know, don't we, that Ho-

ward just wants to be himself and that means stabbing medicare in the stomach and cutting wages.' The crowd, many cradling bot-

tles of beverage, murmurs approval. The signs of Keating's late campaign surge were most striking in a visit to the working-class suburb in

west Sydney. Visiting a burnt-out Catholic cathedral, Keating breaks from his minders and the media and crosses the road to greet about 1,000 schoolgirls cheering him on from a nearby school.

The girls gave him a rock-star reception as he climbed the fence to wave to them. The television footage of his rapturous welcome dominated that night's news bulletins.

"I don't think I would have kept my suit intact if I had fallen over the fence," he later quipped in a ra-

# Schneider returns

JUERGEN Schneider, a bricklayer turned property magnate who was always proud to be known as a "Frankfurt Boy", returned home yesterday to face charges that his vast empire was actually a house of

office blocks, hotels and malls. But Schneider's fame turned to

weight of five billion marks (\$3.4 billion) of debt. Days before he was captured, Schneider broke his silence by

vision, making an emotional plea to return home without facing charg-

years in prison if convicted. His new accommodation behind nus Hills near Frankfurt, from

house in sun-soaked Miami. six months or so.

Deutsche Bank AG, set out to ruin

Schneider, who prided himself on having earned a doctorate and insisted on being called "Dr Schneider", built or bought dozens of glamour properties and was feted for bringing prosperity to formerly communist East Germany.

One of his properties was a Leipzig building which housed Auerbach's Cellar, featured in Goethe's play Faust.

Schneider made clear in jailhouse interviews from Miami that he aims to portray himself as a helpless victim of Frankfurt-based Deutsche, Germany's largest commercial bank.

His disappearance sparked a wave of criticism of German banks for failing to screen his huge projects while being far more stringent in lending to ordinary citizens. Deutsche wrote off 1.2 billion marks (\$825 million) of debt left it by Schneider. It also footed millions of marks in outstanding bills dismissed as "peanuts" by Deutsche Bank's chairman - for

hundreds of small tradesmen left in the lurch by Schneider. German police investigated leads from the Philippines, Iran, Switzerland and the Gulf for news about Schneider as media reported he had used his good contacts with

Police tracked down the couple by tracing a man whom Schneider was using as a courier. They followed him from Frankfurt to Geneva and then Miami, where Schneider and his wife were found

Tehran to disappear, or might even

to be living under false names. The tycoon was arrested as he walked out of a bank. - Reuter

WHEN historians look back on 1995, they will view it as a critical turning point in an era of growing international migration. It was a year in which the backlash against immigrants, once believed to be a xenophobic reaction limited to rich, industrialised countries, went glo-

Throughout the world, in developing and developed countries alike, immigrants are the target of fierce campaigns to track, persecute and ultimately drive them away. Developing nations that once complained about European or North American anti-immigrant policies are now meting out the same treatment to their own im-

onstrates the "equal opportunity" nature of anti-immigrant xenophobia. Last year many countries there launched major crackdowns against unwanted entrants. Libya deported tens of thousands of African migrant workers after blaming them for "spreading AIDS and stealing jobs." Gabon completed an anti-immigrant sweep in March in which more than 50,000 migrant workers were forced to flee the country, many on overcrowded

In Zambia, government leaders

have blamed immigrants for "plun-

dering" the country. Ethiopia, Ken-

ya and Congo have launched cam-

paigns against unwanted foreigners.

South Africa has declared illegal

immigration from neighbouring

countries to be a national security threat and has deployed its army to stop the influx. Even in East Asia, where much of the region is enjoying an ec-

People watching a cock fight during the celebrations of the 207th anniversary of the victory over Chinese Qing's troops in Hanoi yesterday. Vietnamese across the country participate in a range of activities as part of celebrations for Tet, the Lunar New Year. — AFP

onomic boom, there have been much downs against immigrants out of fear that temporary labour migration could become permanent settlement. Despite a heavy dependence on foreign labour, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries in the region have applied strict rules against unwanted foreign workers. Those in Hong Kong, for example, face mandatory jail sentence.

Nativist sentiment is on the rise as well in Latin America. The government and labour leaders in Argentina blame illegal immigrants

woes, while Venezuelan officials have complained about the "permanent" invasion of foreigners into their capital. Mexico, Panama and

Salvador - countries quick to condemn anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States - each deported hundreds of illegal settlers last

Authorities in Russia complain that their country is being "swamped" by Third World immigrants. Ever fearful of a Chinese migrant invasion of its Far Eastern region, Russia has launched periodic sweeps, including "Operation Foreigner," which ended in 1995 and resulted in the deportation of more than 7,000 Chinese found to have entered the country illegally.

states are raising barriers against all immigrants. Even traditionally tolerant European nations like Italy, Switzerland and Norway have climbed onto the anti-foreigner bandwagon

Across the Atlantic, American lawmakers are debating some of the most restrictive legislation in decades to limit both legal and illegal immigration. Foreigners in Canada are also feeling increasingly unwelcome. When Quebec separatists lost a referendum to secede from Canada last year, they promptly blamed immigrants and the "ethnic vote" for their loss.

The increasing global backlash signifies that international migration cannot be viewed as merely a problem between rich and poor

Fierce worldwide campaign against immigrants of the problem must recognise that nativism and xenophobia are characteristics found in abundance

throughout the world. But the rising anti-immigrant tide also reflects the emergence of international migration as the most serious social and political crisis of the 1990s, one that is certain to worsen as population pressures, unemployment and economic disparities between countries become

ever more acute. In 1993, the UN Population Fund asserted in its annual report that international migration "could become the human crisis of our age." A quick glance at the rising backlash against immigrants around the globe suggests that

#### The backlash in Africa dem-Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other Throughout western Europe, countries. Any honest discussion Seeing with sounds: Acoustic microscopy

IN places where an optical or electronic device remains blind, acoustic microscopy manages to probe the depths of opaque materials without destroying them. For the first time, French scientists have applied this technique to the nuclear reactor at Chinon. With unequalled precision and in such a hostile environment, they have succeeded in determining the state of

ACOUSTIC microscopy is like ultrasound scanning. Both techniques rely on the reflection of ultrasound waves to visualise the inside of opaque objects. There is only a difference of scale. Whereas with an ultrasound scan, a foetus appears on the screen close to life-

size, the microscope explores far

the steel parts and the quality of

smaller areas, detecting details var- surface, the less clear the quality of ying by a tenth to a thousandth of a millimetre. This acuity requires the use of very high frequencies: from 15 megahertz (millions of cycles per second) to several gigahertz (billions of cycles per second), compared with only 2 to 10 megahertz for a medical ultrasound

An acoustic microscope is mainly made up of a detector, whose purpose is to emit a beam of ultrasound waves and to pick up its It is combined with a system which visualises the internal image of the sample on a monitor. By varying the frequency, it is possible to penetrate more or less deeply inside

the material, with the resolution be-

ing inversely proportional to the

depth. In other words, the further

the part being analysed is from the

the picture will be. The principle of the acoustic microscope, which was thought up in the 30s, only took concrete form in 1970 in the United States. But it did not leave the laboratories to en-

ter the economic field until the mid-

It became an industrial tool mainly thanks to Bertrand Nongaillard, a professor at the University of Valenciennes and winner of the Chavasse prize (a kind of Oscar for acoustics). Today, the acoustic microscope is commonly used to detect the tiniest manufacturing defects on the surface or deep inside (inclusions, air bubbles, gluing defects, etc.), on high value added products. Moreover, in 1988, together with three of his uni-

versity colleagues, Bertrand Non-

gaillard created the Biosonic com-

pany, installed in the North of croscope to examine opaque materi-France. In addition to selling specific

material (the price of an acoustic microscope varies between a hundred thousand and a million francs), the company has developed a system of checking a diamond-ceramic cutting tool, used in the area of drilling, while it is being produced. Its acoustic microscope systems are also able to measure the thickness of a thin layer of varnish, paint or alloy deposit with an accuracy of a few mi-

crometres. Today, Biosoni recruits its customers in such varied areas as aeronautics (quality of superalloy coatings), electronics (defects in gluing between the various layers of a component), and the automobile (welding).

So the use of the acoustic mi-

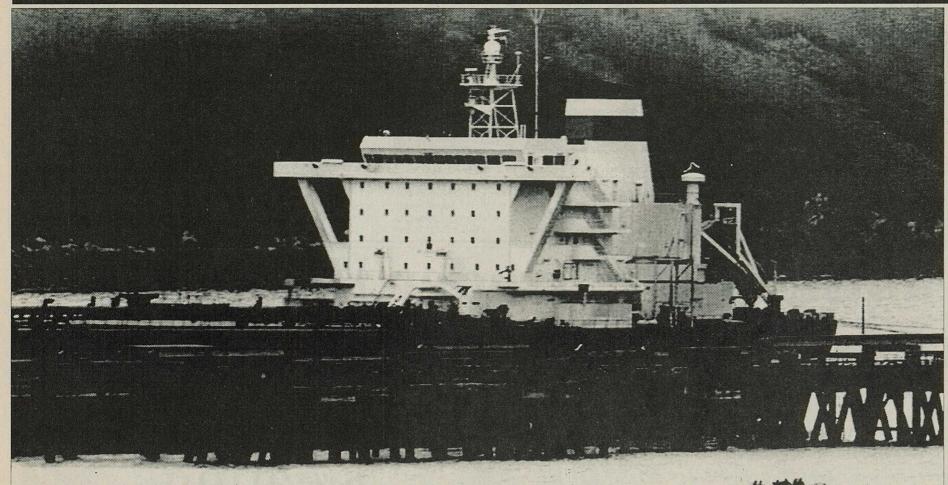
als is not new. However, what made the investigation carried out at the Chinon nuclear power station a world first, were all the improvements making it possible to use the system in an inaccessible environ-

Indeed, researchers at the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the University of Montpellier 2, in collaboration with engineers at the Control Department of Irradiated Materials at Electricity de France, have developed an ultrasound generator and detectors able to withstand exposure to strong radiation. They are operated by robotised arms which also facilitate tie manipulation of radioactive samples. Outside the " hot cell", they are linked up by a system which picks up and analyses the high frequency

The acoustic images thus obtained made it possible to visualise the micro-cracks and the tiny holes in the partition screws of the nuclear reactors, a sign of the weakening of the resistance of the material. It was also possible to count the number of micrometric pores in a bar of uranium dioxide (UO2). This is a fundamental parameter which serves to define the quality of the fuel in a nuclear reactor.

The tests carried out at Chinon are of considerable economic importance, as they are useful for quantifying the ageing of the elements which are the most exposed to radiation. They should shortly help engineers at Electricite de France to determine the lifespan of a nuclear power station, with greater accuracy than today. — Emmanuel Thevenon

Omani Rial per one



### London, Paris stocks higher

LONDON — Share prices in London moved slightly higher early yesterday, taking their lead from a strong overnight performance on Wall Street and with sentiment underpinned by positive German M3 money supply data. But dealers said that gains would be limited by domestic political concerns, after another Con-servative MP resigned from the ruling party, reducing the government's already razor-thin parliamentary majority to two. The FTSE-100 index of leading shares was showing a gain of 8.1 points at 3,748.1 In Paris, the CAC-40 index opened 21.53 points higher at 1,974.79. Analysts said equities took their lead from the strong performance overnight on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 93 points to 5,608.46. The announcement that German M3 money supply rose by \*8.4 per cent in January from the average figure for the last quarter of last

year, also boosted sentiment.

The figure was smaller than analysts had expected and was seen as reviving chances that German rates might soon be cut, which in turn would allow monetary policy to ease elsewhere in Europe. US-quoted stocks benefitted from the gains on Wall Street, with drugs giant Glaxo up four pence at 927, tobacco and financial services conglomerate BAT three pence higher at 580 and Reuters up five pence at 697.— AFP

### Euro rate cuts in offing?

FRANKFURT — Prospects for cuts in European interest rates and a rally for the dollar suddenly strengthened yesterday with tho publication of German M3 money supply figures which, while high, were weaker than had been expected.

The Liberian-registered supertanker Sea Empress is docked by a jetty at Milford Haven a week after smashing onto rocks off the Welsh coastline. - AFP

Within minutes of publication of an estimate that the M3 figure had shown growth of 8.4 per cent in January, German bonds and French stocks, and the dollar and the franc rose

Analysts here and in Paris had interpreted recent warnings from the Bundesbank as preparing the way, for an increase of 9.00-12.00 per cent, owing mainly to changes in the way in which the data is compiled

The M3 figure is the main indicator used by the central council of the Bundesbank in setting rates. Experts said that the door now seemed to be open for an easing of German, and consequently European rates, beginning possibly with a cut in the German

repurchase rate, now 3.30 per cent, from the first half of March The latest figure of 8.4 per cent was by comparison with the average figure

for the last quarter of 1995. By comparison with the average figure for the last quarter of 1994 the data

for January showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. The comparable figure for December was 2.7 per cent after 1.9 per cent in November, 1.7 per cent in October and 1.6 per cent in September.

The bank has set a target range for growth this year of 4.0-7.0 per cent. -Dealers had said that an increase in January of 10.00 per cent or more would have diminished the chances of a cut in German rates soon, and some

analysts even said that it might cause the bank to tighten its monetary policy. The German economy has shown sudden signs of slowing down in recent months and the number of people unemployed has surged to 4.1 million. Official figures showed yesterday that sales by German industrial companies were

four per cent lower in December 1995 than in December of 1994. A cut in rates would normally stimulate investment and consumption and

"Fear has flown out of the window," said Industrial Bank of Japan expert Adolf Rosenstock, noting that the figure for growth of M3 by comparison with the figure for the last quarter of 1994, of 3.0 per cent, was below the target range set by the bank for this year. -

The Bundesbank would reduce its key rates towards the end of March or at the beginning of the second quarter and that the easing of monetary conditions would be repeated throughout Europe "with the exception possibly of Switzer-

At Hypo-Bank, analyst Oliver Schlick took the same view, holding to his forecast that the Bundesbank would reduce its rates during the second quarter. The central council of the Bundesbank was in a very comfortable situation,

"M3 will be within the target range in February, inflation is low and the economy is expected to rally in the second half of the year," he said.

The discount rate has been 3.00 per cent and the Lombard rate 5.00 per cent

The bank said in a statement that "after showing strong growth in December, the M3 money supply also rose strongly in January on a seasonally-

The amount of money in savings accounts and in current accounts had increased "very sharply". The amount of money in long-term accounts, which had fallen almost continuously last year, had also increased quite strongly. Investors had put their funds into such accounts because capital markets were yielding low rates of interest and becaiuse of uncertainty which had

emerged on these markets towards the end of the month. Demand for loans had also increased. Public organisation had sought "an exceptional high" amount of credit from banks.

Expectations of a high M3 figure had pushed down the dollar, causing the Bank of Japan to intervene on three successive days to support it.

At Banque Française du Commerce Exterieur in Paris, expert Alain Bellet said: "in the end this figure is not a disaster and re-opens the possibility that German rates might be cut, perhaps from the first half of March with regard to the repurchase rate of 3.30 per cent.

Even if this figure is above the range which the Bundesbank has set for the whole of the year of 4.0-7.0 per cent, it shows that the M3 supply might soon fall within these limits soon.

But the dollar would have to rise above 1.4550 and then 1.4600 marks for some time before dealers would consider that its recent weakness was a thing of the past, he said.

The Bund contract for March here rose by 0.51 to 97.79 per cent from 97.54 per cent immediately before the announcement, and advanced later to

#### Labour slams govt for sloppy response to tanker mishap

LONDON — Britain's opposition Labour Party has accused the government of negligence after a tanker caused an ecological disaster by spewing some 65,000 tonnes of oi into the sea off southern Wales.

The holed vessel was refloated

late on Wednesday and towed to a mooring in the refining and loading port of Milford Haven. But two huge oil slicks have coated beaches along the coast and killed countless sea

Salvage workers are preparing to offload the oil which remains on the 147,000 tonne Sea Empress yes-

The managing director of the company responsible for crewing the Sea Empress said human error was responsible for the accident.

The early information we have is that there was nothing wrong technically with the ship whatsoever," Peter Cooney told BBC radio. But Labour called for an independent inquiry into the week-long drama and said the government should have immediately sent extra tugs when the vessel first ran aground.

"Tugs were offered, it seems, and turned down. It is scandalous and we have got to get to the bottom of it and ensure that it never happens again, Labour's shipping spokesman Graham Allen told a news conference.

'The government failed to act. In that sense they were directly negligent," added Lord Stanley Clinton-Davies, a former European Union environment commissioner.

Transport Secretary Sir George Young said £10 million (\$15.4 million) would be allocated by insurers to cover the cost of the damage and defended the government's actions.

"If stronger tugs had been available to pull the ship clear at the start this may have been done at the expense of further damage," Young

He said the inquiry would be conducted by a body from his de-partment, the marine accident in-vestigation branch. "They will criticise my department if they feel my department deserves criticism, he told parliament.

But Labour transport spokesman Clare Short told Young: "It is not credible that a unit of your own department can investigate a possible failing of their own ministers

Marine pollution control teams sprayed dispersants on two oil slicks, one measuring up to eight miles long that were endangering the 100,000 rare birds and colonies of seals living on nearby islands and the South Wales coast.

Environmentalists predicted the spill, the worst in Britain since the tanker Braer spilled 80,000 tonnes of oil when it broke up off the northern tip of Scotland in January 1993, could be worse than the Exxon Val dez accident.

That spill polluted 1,500 miles of shoreline in Alaska's Prince William Sound in 1989. — Reuter

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### **Exchange rates**

Foreign currency

for one Omar	ni Rial	unit of foreign currency						
Selling	Currency	Buying	Selling					
3.39	Australian Dollar	0.2902	0.2947					
26.23	Austrian Schilling	0.03753	0.03812					
0.974	Bahraini Dinar	1.015	1.027					
103.41	Bangladesh Taka	0.00927	0.00967					
76.57	Belgian Franc	0.01284	0.01306					
3.55	Canadian Dollar	0.2778	0.2817					
1.19	Cyprus Pound	0.825	0.840					
14.41	Danish Kroner	0.06847	0.06939					
3.74	Deutsche Mark	0.2645	0.2677					
4.19	Dutch Guilder	0.2361	0.2386					
11.66	Finnish Markka	0.08468	0.08578					
12.86	French Francs	0.07683	0.07778					
19.94	Hong Kong Dollar	0.0493	0.0502					
92.76	Indian Rupee	0.01036	0.01076					
4032.26	Italian Lira	0.000241	0.000248					
270.86	Japanese Yen	0.003651	0.003692					
1.825	Jordanian Dinar	0.539	0.548					
0.768	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.281	1.301					
6.56	Malaysian Ringit	0.1481	0.1524					
3.78	New Zealand Dollar	0.2598	0.2643					
16.27	Norwegian Kroner	0.06047	0.06147					
87.57	Pakistani Rupee	0.01107	0.01142					
1.66	Pound Sterling	0.590	0.601					
9.41	Qatari Riyal	0.1052	0.1063					
9.69	Saudi Riyal	0.1021	0.1032					
3.60	Singapore Dollar	0.2742	0.2774					
299.40	Spanish Pesetta	0.00300	0.00334					
135.14	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.00700	0.00740					
17.60	Swedish Kroner	0.05580	0.05682					
3.04	Swiss Francs	0.3252	0.3292					
9.49	UAE Dirham	0.1043	0.1054					
2.58	US Dollar	0.381	0.388					
Courtesy: National Bank of Oman Limited (SAOG) 19/02/96								



Fresh Australian mutton

#### MARKET ROUNDUP

Following are the retail prices of Livestock and fish, as of yesterday LIVESTOCK: Australian sheep - R.O. 25 per head Omani cows, calves and bulls - R.O. 1.200 per kg. - R.O. 1.200 per kg.

(Source - Al Essa Livestock) Frozen New Zealand lamb — Bzs. 0.900 — Bzs. 0.550 sheep liver — Bzs. 0.850 sheep kidney — Bzs. 0.850 mutton leg

mutton leg (boneless) - R.O. 1.150 — Bzs. 0.675 veal leg — Bzs. 0.475 chunks thick flank — Bzs. 0. 525 — Bzs. 0.600 top side — Bzs. 0.950 tender loin bobby veal — Bzs. 0.575

beef mince — Bzs. 0.475 Indian lamb - R.O. 1.400 - Bzs. 0.600 FISH: Mackerels — R.O. 1.000 for 5 - R.O. 7.000 for one Tuna Fish - R.O. 22.000 for one (big) King Fish - R.O. 1.000 for two Barracuda

- R.O. 1.000 for 60 Sardine - R.O. 2.500 per kg. Pomfret - R.O. 1.000 for 4 Red snapper - R.O. 2.000 per kg. Squid (Source - Muttrah fish market)

### Taiwan, HK stocks up; Nikkei drops

HONG KONG — Taiwan stocks closed sharply higher yesterday in a bright start after the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday but Japan shares sank for the seventh straight day. Hong Kong stocks closed a day of wild swings moderately higher, while in Singapore the blue-chip index ended slightly firmer

In Taiwan, brokers said some of a government-promoted \$170 billion (US\$6.2 billion) fund entered for the first time to support the market. The index ended up 55.98 points or 1.16 per cent at 4,865.00, the first day after the New Year holiday. Japan's Nikkei share average fell with most investors sidelined before the end of the week and the month. Worries over the government's ability to get its mortgage firm plan through parliament also dampened the mar-The 225-share Nikkei average shed 40.56 points or 0.20 per cent to 20,300.38. It was the first time in 13 months that the Nikkei had dropped for seven consecutive days. "Despite the Nikkei's bearish moves, rises in hightechs and some individual issues showed strength," said Harushige Kobayashi, deputy general manager at Yamaichi Securities.

Hong Kong stocks were pulled in every direction by a tug of war between bulls and bears in the futures market, players said.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index gained 51.96 points to end at 11,390.41 after seesawing in a nearly 200-point range between roughly 11,252 and 11,450.

"As we near February futures' expiry, which falls next Wednesday, we'll see even more volatility like that seen these two days," said Samuel Lau of China Everbright Securities

on bargain hunting, paring earlier losses, brokers said.

The unweighted STII reached the day's high of 2,465.99 at the close, up 11.18 points and off the day's low of 2,448.21. The weighted OCBC 30 share index was up 2.57 to 642.23.

Singapore's 30-blue chip Straits Times Industrials index (STII) ended firm

The Australian share market closed firmer but virtually unchanged from its midday levels as investor interest waned in the afternoon. At 4.10pm local time the all ordinaries index was 10.1 points higher at 2,264.2. Thai stocks fell for a fourth day, down 1.4 per cent as investors sold mainly

in bank and finance sectors on concern over domestic inflation and banks' earnings growth. Seoul stocks closed lower, dragged down by blue chip manufacturers led by Samsung Electronics.

Philippine shares ended mixed though the composite index slipped slightly. Stock markets in Indonesia, Malaysia and China were closed for holidays.

Separately, the dollar powered above 105 yen by late Asian trade after the monetary authority of Singapore was seen buying on behalf of the Bank of Japan at 104.50-60 yen and above. - Reuter



Rogue financial trader Nick Leeson arriving at Singapore's Changi airport surrounded by police after being expelled by Germany to stand trial on charges of fraud and forgery over the collapse of Britain's Barings Bank in February 1995 (file photo). A year after he brought down Britain's oldest merchant bank, Nick Leeson has become a celebrity author back home — but in Singapore's penal system, the one-time financial whizz-kid is just another statistic. -AFP

### S'pore may cut corporate tax

SINGAPORE — The Singapore government, is expected to announce a cut in corporate taxes along with a package of goodies for the public in its upcoming pre-election budget, analysts said. Economists and businessmen told AFX-Asia, an AFP-affiliated financial

news wire, that a one-percentage-point cut in the corporate tax rate to 26 per cent was expected to be part of the budget for the year to March 1997.

The budget, to be unveiled by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong next Wednesday, will be made public amidst a huge fiscal surplus, low inflation, and expectations of a looming general election.

Goh, who is seeking another five-year mandate, has indicated that the polls could follow the parliamentary budget debate scheduled for March 11-21.

"There will be a tax cut because the budget surplus is getting bigger and bigger so the government has to recycle its wealth," said Quah Hong Chye, a

Economists also expected Finance Minister Richard Hu to announce other measures to return some of the government's surplus to the public — in particular the lower-income groups.

The measures could include a personal income-tax rebate, public-housing

benefits, and government contributions to top up individuals' pension, health care and educational funds administered by the Central Provident Fund. Economists estimate that the current public sector surplus is about 10 billion Singapore dollars (\$7.14 billion) or about 13 per cent of gross domestic

product if cash-rich government statutory boards are included. "Such a huge surplus, if not reinjected into the economy, could cause severe

deflation," said Chris Chong, head of research at Kay Hian James Capel Research Pte. Ltd., predicting that a large chunk will be channelled into infrastructure. "The rest could go back in either tax cuts, rebates, giveaways or through increased subsidies," he added. There are already signs that the surplus has had a dampening effect on the economy, said an economist at a French bank who cited sharply lower money-

supply figures announced recently At the same time there is little sign of inflation — the consumer price index rose a modest 1.7 per cent over 1994 levels.— AFP

### GDP growth slows down in US

omy grew at a slower than expected annual rate of 0.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1995, down from a revised 3.6 per cent in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported here yesterday

The consensus forecast from Wall Street economists had been for a 1.6 per cent increase in gross domestic product in the final three months of last year Yesterday's announcement repre-

sents the government's first estimate of fourth-quarter GDP growth. The data will be reviewed twice before the figure becomes final.

For the year, the economy grew at a rate of 2.1 per cent, compared with a rise of 3.5 per cent in 1994, the smallest annual GDP increase since

The slowdown between the third and fourth quarters reflected slower consumer spending, a decline in inventory investment and continued government cutbacks, the Commerce Department said.

Government shutdowns, sparked by a budget dispute between President Bill Clinton and the Republican-dominated Congress, lowered fourth-quarter GDP growth by about one-quarter percentage point, the department said.

Computers accounted for a large share of GDP growth in the quarter, as spending on computer technology increased at the fastest rate since the early 1980s, according to the department

In the fourth quarter, final sales output minus inventory changes rose 1.8 per cent, following a 3.4 per

cent increase in the third quarter. Inflation, as measured by the GDP chain-weighted price index, rose 2.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, compared with a revised 2.2 per cent hike

in the third quarter. The trade sector added \$20.2 billion to fourth-quarter growth, according to the Commerce De-

Exports increased by \$20.5 billion, or 10.9 per cent, while imports increased by only \$300 million, or 0.1

per cent, in the quarter. Personal spending rose at a \$9.3 billion annual rate in the fourth quarter, or 0.8 per cent, compared with a \$31.6 billion increase in the third Spending on durable goods rose

1.0 per cent in the quarter, compared

with a 9.3 per cent rise in the third

quarter, while spending on nondurables fell 1.4 per cent compared with a 0.5 per cent rise in the third Non-residential fixed investment increased at an \$11 billion annual

rate in the fourth quarter, or 6.2 per cent, after rising \$9.1 billion in the Spending on producers' durable equipment rose 6.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, compared with a 4.9

per cent rise in the third quarter. Residential investment rose 4.5 per cent in the fourth quarter, after

gaining 9.2 per cent in the third.

Business inventories rose by \$20.4 billion in the fourth quarter, following an increase of 33.2 billion in the previous quarter. Government purchases fell by \$11.9 billion in the fourth quarter, or 3.7 per cent, compared with a drop of 2.2 billion in the

#### **TENDER BOARD TENDER No. 150/95**

Opened on 31.01.1996 Sewage treatment facility reuse and disposal of treated effluent and other associated works at Ibra I. List of tenderers in alphabetical or

1. Al Ansari Trading Enterprise LLC. 2. Al Matar Trading & Contracting 3. Civil Contracting Co. LLC 4. Consolidated Contractors Co. LLC

5. Galfar Eng'g & Contracting Co. LLC 6. Oman Gulf Co Omani Egyptian Concrete Works Co.

8. Qurum Contractors LLC. 9. Target LLC.

II. List of tender amount in ascending

1, 753, 498,000 2. 883,552.000 3. 1,091,345.785 4. 1,100,159.000 5. 1,307,915.140

6. 1,337,933.539 7. 1.619.789.570 8. Regret **TENDER No. 151/95** Opened on 31.01.1996 Sewage treatment facility re-use and dis-posal of treated effluent and other asI. List of tenderers in alphabetical or-Civil Contracting Co. LLC.
 Consolidated Contractors Co. Oman

3. Galfar Eng'g & Cont. LLC. 4. Omani Egyptian Concrete Works Co. 5. Qurum Contractors

6. Target LLC. II. List of tender amount in ascending order: 1. 1,772,050.098 2. 2,342,146.000

3. 2.593.590.170 5. 2,838,848.185 6. Regret Tender No. 161/95 Opened on 31.01.1996 Supply and delivery of diesel to rural de-

salination plants I. List of tenderers in alphabetical or-1. Bahoot Trading & Cont. Co. LLC. 2. Oman Refinery Co. LLC 3. Shell Marketing (Oman) Ltd.

II. List of tender amount in ascending

. 55,440,000 2. 146,954.000 3. 162.128.170 **TENDER No. 144/95**  Opened on 18.12.1995 Supply of 22 Nos. 11.5 KV, 3MVAR Capacitor banks (outdoor type) List of tenderers in alphabetical

order: . Bahwan Engineering Co. LLC Civil Contracting Co. LLC
 Oman Services & Supply Organisation . Zubair Electric LLC

II. List of tender amount in ascending order
1. (Main) 239,470/-(Alt.2) 186,322/

2. (Main) 344,626/

(Alt.) 308,062/-422.316.000 422,633,600 564.529.000 Tender No. 145/95 Opened on 18.12.1995

Electrical Distribution works 33KV and 11KV network extension to general hospital at Nizwa I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order
1. Bahwan Engineering Co.

2. Civil Contracting Co 3. Galfar Engineering & Contg. 4. Modern Light Trading & Contg. 5. Oman National Electric Co. 6. Qurum Contractors

Volt Electrical & Mechanical

II List of tender amount in ascending order: No. Main of 1. 224,223.340 Main offer 2. 247,500.000

3. 262.119.490 4. 268,950.000 5. 282,059.360 6. 290,481.400 312,917.000 Alt offer 257,257.110 291,775.000 309.545.340 305,800.000 329,222.410 344,440.000

Alt. II offer 318,317.010 356,070.000 372.860.100 367,400.000 404,948.610 421,715,800

**TENDER No. 128/95** Opened on 04.12.1995 Electrical distribution works (433 V and 11 KV network extensions) at Salmah village in Dhank, Ibri 1. List of tenderers in alphabetical

order: . Al Falahy and Co. Golden Gulf Co. II. List of tender amount in ascending order: 1.79,860.000 2. 88.803.188

3. 89,945.174 Tender No. 130/95 Opened on 04.12.1995 Adaptation of Oman Vacational Qualifications (OVQS) I. List of tenderers in alphabetical order: 1. Business and Technology Education

Council 2. City and Guilds of London Institute 3. RSA Examinations Board II. List of tender amount in ascending order: 1. a) R.O. 159,150.000

GBP 261,010.000 b) R.O. 225,657.000 GBP 370,080.000

2. a) R.O. 198,652.190 G B P 329, 998.000 b) R.O. 297,918.690 GBP494,898.000

3. a) R.O. 1,151,599.00 G B P 1,850,850.000 b) R.O. 1,489,789.000 GBP 2.394,390,000

# Carbon tax accord on the horizon

**ABU DHABI** — Gulf Arab states and the European Union have made headway in attempts to end a dispute over a controversial oil tax that could hurt regional economies, a Gulf Arab official said yesterday.

Mushtaq Saleh, ambassador of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) to the Brussels-based EU, said the two sides had held several meet-

ings on the carbon tax and more talks would take place this month.

He told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al-Ittihad that economic and

financial experts from the two strong commercial partners had finalised a repot on a 'constructive' bilateral relationship.

"The report includes positive aspects for laying down a common ground for the relations between the AGCC and the EU," he said.

the relations between the AGCC and the EU," he said.

"During our meetings, we felt that the EU is trying to ease the impact of the carbon tax after member states failed to reach a consensus on it."

The EU has proposed a tax of \$3 on each imported barrel of oil as from 1993, to rise gradually to \$10 by the year 2000.

But member states have failed to reach a collective agreement on the pro-

ject, leaving each member to take its own decision on the tax.

AGCC states have repeatedly voiced concern over the tax on the grounds it

will slow down growth in oil demand and depress their income, already slashed to nearly one third from its 1980 level due to weak crude prices.

The EU has defended the tax as an environmental measure aimed at curbing the emission of carbon dioxide, blamed for global warming. But AGCC coun-

ing additional revenues as crude oil is already heavily taxed there.

He said oil producers were now earning an average 17 cent per dollar from the sale of oil while 60 cents were earned by the government in consumer countries and the rest were in storage and shipping costs.

tries and other oil producers have contended industrial nations were only seek-

"Any additional taxes on oil, which is already heavily taxed, simply means a further decline in our income. This will adversely affect our purchasing power and our investment in oil production and technology, and consequently this

will affect the social conditions in our countries," Saleh said.

AGCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE

produce around 13 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, accounting for nearly one fifth of the world's total crude supplies.

Oil exports provide more than 80 per cent of their total earnings and this has made their economies highly vulnerable to crude price fluctuations.

AGCC's annual oil export revenues have averaged around \$70 billion over

AGCC's annual oil export revenues have averaged around \$70 billion over the past five years, nearly one-third of their 1980 level. But in real terms, their value does not exceed 15 per cent due to global inflation and the decline in the U\$ dollar, the official price of crude. Saleh said AGCC states, which control around 45 per cent of the world's total proven oil reserves, were the fifth biggest trade partner of the EU and supplied it with more than 25 per cent of its oil imports.

He said the EU was benefitting from its relationship with the AGCC countries, in an apparent reference to the large surplus in its trade balance with them, estimated at more than \$10 billion in 1994. -AFP

### Du Pont to set up subsidiary in India

BOMBAY — US chemicals giant Du Pont Co. plans to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in India to produce agrochemicals, *Economic Times* reported yesterday.

The newspaper said the \$39-billion group, the world's largest chemical company planned to invest about \$2 million in the venture this year and between \$6 million by

"A string of new products will be introduced, with a formulating and marketing unit," the *Economic* Times said

"An agriculture research and development centre of world standards will also be set up to establish its agricultural products business here," it added.

The newspaper said Du Pont saw India as a potential site for global sourcing and estimated an additional investment of between \$20

million and \$40 million by 2005.

The research and development centre would biologically evaluate and field test potential products, formulate development studies to suit crop protection requirements in Indian conditions and provide crop protection training to farmers utilising Du Pont's global resources.

Du Pont, which has tied up with India's Thapar business house "to produce nylon in India, was chased out of the western state of Goa last year by environmentalists and local activists who alleged that a proposed factory would cause pollution

The Thapar-Du Pont joint venture later decided to relocate in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, but local environmentalists and activists have launched a protest movement against the factory. — AFP



A delivery boy loads a couple of pizzas into his bicycle in front of Pizza California, the first restaurant in Beijing to offer home delivery. The Chinese-Japanese joint venture has been trying to expand its business by offering previously unheard of services such as food delivery and staying open every day during the seven-day Lunar New Year holiday. — AFP

### India on target for deficit cut: Montek

NEW DELHI — India's Finance Secretary Montek Singh Ahluwalia said that the government is "in reasonably good shape" towards meeting its target of a fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the fiscal year to end March 31.

Speaking to reporters, Ahluwalia said that tax revenues have grown strongly, and the government will also benefit from large inflows in licence fees from the privatisation of telecommunications.

He declined to provide a specific estimate for the fiscal deficit, however, noting that the government is currently preparing a report for parliaThe government is likely to announce the figure at the end of February, when it holds a vote on a temporary spending measure.

Ahluwalia also said that the government is not currently considering any measure to increase the ceiling on foreign investor shareholdings in listed Indian companies, which is currently set at 24 per cent.

"We do not envisage any change at present," he said.

In recent weeks, Indian stock markets have seen large inflows of foreign funds, and a few small-capital stocks have reached their 24 per centlimit on foreign holdings. That has prompted some calls for an increase in the ceiling.

But Ahluwalia said the govern-

ment wasn't likely to raise the ceiling for the time being. "We don't envisage any changes

at present," he said.

However, Ahluwalia said the government was considering slightly modifying guidelines on companies

that issue global depository receipts (GDR) to make it easier for them to bring funds raised abroad into India,

In response to some requests from

In response to some requests from companies, Ahluwalia said the gov-

more than the current ceiling of 25
per cent of GDR proceeds to be
brought into India immediately for
working capital use. Currently, 75
per cent of the proceeds from a GDR
issue must be kept abroad until the

company is ready to use the funds for an investment project.

He added that the government has exceeded its \$5 billion cap for the fiscal year on approvals for foreign

fiscal year on approvals for foreign commercial borrowings by companies. He said that because some approved loans haven't been executed, the Finance Ministry has decided to approve some additional loans, and said approvals currently and at about \$6 billion.

Ahluwalia also noted that the Indian rupee has remained quite calm in recent weeks, following a recent move by the Reserve Bank of India to stabilise the currency.

He downplayed some concerns over recently high forward premiums for dollars, arguing that they mainly showed that India's forward foreign exchange market isn't highly developed and thus doesn't accurately reflect market sentiment toward the

"The forward premium is not a good indicator of what sentiment is,"

### German and Indian firms in locking system tie-up

NEW DELHI — German automotive lock major Hulsbeck and Furst Gmbh (HUF) has tied up with Minda Switch Auto Limited to tap the burgeoning Indian automobile component market.

Announcing the tie up in the national capital, U Hulsbeck, managing director of HUF said it will have an equity stake of 36.75 per cent, while Minda will hold 38.25 per cent in the new joint venture, Minda HUF.

Hulsbeck said this is the first joint venture in which HUF holds less than 50 per cent holding. HUF has production facilities in Spain, Portugal, UK, US, Brazil, South Ko-

rea and China, besides Germany.

He said HUF agreed to a minority holding in its Indian joint venture taking into consideration Minda's track record in auto component industry.

Ashok Minda, managing director, Minda Switch Auto said the new company plans to export 20 per cent of its total sales by the year 2000, which he said would be in the range of Rs160 million.

Minda said apart from its existing customers, which include most of the majors in the auto industry, Minda HUF has bagged orders from DCM Daewoo and General Motors India for the manufacture

and supply of locking systems.

He said the company is also negotiating with Mercedez Benz and Ford in India. HUF is the main supplier of locking systems for Benz and Ford worldwide.

The DM 350-million HUF is the largest manufacturer of locking systems in Europe with a market share of over 30 per cent. While Minda is the largest manufacturer of automotive locks and switches in the country. — PTI

### IMF to police Russian loan

MOSCOW — A \$10.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund will help Russia's economic recovery but the IMF will police the deal tightly to ensure conditions are met, managing director Michel Camdessus said yesterday.

Camdessus, on his second visit to Moscow in just under a year, said the funds would be released only if Russia met targets on spending, revenues and monetary growth.

"They know perfectly that if they

exceed the monthly budgetary limits established in our programme we would interrupt disbursements," he said. "That is the beauty of monthly monitoring."

The IME loan is a clear vote of

The IMF loan is a clear vote of confidence in Russia's economic performance before President Boris Yeltsin faces a strong communist challenge in June's presidential elec-

One IMF official said Russia could receive up to four \$300 million tranches of the loan before the election.

But Camdessus said the loan was for Russia, not for Yeltsin, and he hoped a future government, even a communist one, would adopt policies that would allow the IMF to keep paying out.

"I am not here to buy votes for President Yeltsin," Camdessus said. "I am here to design the financing programme to bring Russia to a full-fledged market economy."

Russia has already taken many steps to dismantle the Soviet-era centrally-planned economy and create a market economy, but the transformation has driven millions below the poverty line.

Yeltsin said yesterday that policies to protect the poor should be given priority now.

"We called on people for a long time to tighten their belts, and people did this, but their patience is exhausted," he told parliament in his annual state of the nation address.

In a clear warning to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, he said: "the government will either carry out its duty to defend the social and economic rights of people or this will be done by another government."

Chernomyrdin, the former head of state gas monopoly Gazprom, has emerged as the main guarantor of economic reform after Yeltsin sacked reform chief Anatoly Chubais in January.

Camdessus said Chernomyrdin welcomed the monthly monitoring of the IMF programme.

"Chernomyrdin sees this as an instrument which is useful for him," Camdessus said. "He is very proud -- and rightly so -- to have complied with our agreement in 1995 and he intends to continue it in 1996."

The spending and revenue targets are one condition of the IMF loan, but Camdessus said Russia had also promised to improve banking supervision, scrap export tariffs on oil and gas and eliminate "stabilisation funds" at Gazprom and others.

Economists said the firms used the funds to hide profits and avoid taxation.

Camdessus said Russia had to do more to ensure taxes were paid, especially to fund increased social spending. "Russia has allowed a culture of tax evasion to develop and must fight this," he said. "If you are serious about social policy, you must be serious about tax collection." — Reuter

### Power project work to resume on May 1

BOMBAY — Work will resume on May 1 on the power station being built in the Indian state of Maharashtra by Enron Development Corp. of the United States, the head of the state-owned electricity board

State electricity board chairman, M.P. Pinto said that agreement had been reached with the Houstonbased Enron the terms of an amend-

ed power purchase agreement.

"We have reached an agreement," he said. "The details will be sent to the state cabinet and to the federal government now and we ex-

pect work to restart by May 1."

Maharashtra's government scrapped the \$2.8-billion agreement with Enron in August, arguing that the costs of the project were to high, but agreed to a renegotiated deal earlier this year.

The renegotiated deal pegs the tariff per unit of electricity at Rs1.86, down from the original Rs2.40 per unit.

State electricity board officials said the amended power purchase agreement had increased the capacity of the first phase of the project to 826 megawatts from the original 695 megawatts, while the second phase would generate 1,624 mega-

watts.

The power station being built in the port of Dabhol, south of Bombay, is India's largest private power project and the largest single foreign investment since New Delhi began free-market economic reforms in July 1991. — AFP



Workers shout slogans and hold banners as they march past the Greek parliament building during a strike organised by the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE). They demand pay increase of more than 10 per cent. — AFP

### Euro-Palestinian trade fair

**BETHLEHEM** — European companies sounded out the prospects of doing business on the Palestinian market here yesterday at the start of a two-day fair in the autonomous West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"Foreign investors are still hesitant to invest in Palestine and so we are trying to give them confidence," said the director of the Palestinian Economy Ministry, Samir Hleileh.

Economy Minister Ahmad Korei said the main problem was high unemployment in the Palestinian territories. "If the rate does not slow down, the whole peace process will be in real danger," he warned.

The fair at the Bethlehem University campus, organised by a Palestinian-European chamber of commerce, also drew participants from Arab countries, especially Jordan.

Stands from Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary were the centre of attraction. "Their products are much less expensive than, for example, France or England," explained east Jerusalem merchant Ahmad Awad. "But I won't be signing any contracts just yet. For now, I want to study what's on offer."

Patrick Vincent of the French company Socopa, which imports and exports livestock and meat, said he came looking for new customers. "I already have a few clients in Palestine. I came to see them and to try and find new ones. Palestine is a small market but it has the capacity for development," he

For Mohammad Berrada, managing director of the Moroccan company Somagaz, which deals in household goods and textiles, the Bethlehem fair was "just a chance to make contact

# Worker shortage hits oil palm revenue in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's oil palm plantations lost 1.3 billion ringgits (\$520 million) in revenue over the past two years due to an acute shortage of workers, officials were quoted yesterday as saying.

dropped by 700 million ringgits last year and 600 million ringgit in 1994," said Abdul Rahman Teh Mohamad, chief executive of the United Planting Association of Malaysia.

The oil palm and rubber plantations needed another 22,836 workers, about 15 per cent of the total necessary work force, Abdul Rahman was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times*. The country's growing economy, which has expanded by more than eight per cent annually since 1987, has resulted in an acute shortage of workers in the agricultural and construction sectors.

Malaysia's palm oil production accounts for 52 per cent of the world's total output and 64 per cent of the country's total exports. It exported 11 billion ringgit worth of palm oil and palm oil products last year. The oil palm plantations needed 80,377 workers but could only attract 68,160 last year, out of which 43 per cent were foreigners, said Abdul Rahman quoting a recent study carried out by the association.

The total area planted with oil palm was 76,330 hectares.

palm was 76,330 hectares.

Abdul Rahman said the rubber estates required 68,507 workers but could only get 57,888 last year to work on the 283,300 hectares of land. Out of this figure, more than eight

per cent were foreigners. — AFP





### in diamond deal MOSCOW — Russia signed a cooperation agreement with South African di

Russia, De Beers

MOSCOW — Russia signed a cooperation agreement with South African diamond giant De Beers yesterday after months of negotiations, ensuring the company's position as sole buyer of all Russian rough diamond exports.

A joint statement received by AFP said Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov and De Beers Deputy Chairman Nicholas Oppenheimer signed the deal here, which outlined "the general principles which will govern the future relationship between the Russian diamond industry and De Beers."

"The memorandum recognises and takes full account of the requirements of the important Russian cutting industry. It also provides for De Beers' position

as the sole and exclusive buyer of all rough diamond exports," the statement said. The general principles would be expanded into a formal three-year trade contract "as soon as possible," the statement said.

The Almazy Rossil-Sakha joint stock company, the sole agency authorised

to export through rough diamonds from Russia, will negotiate the trade agreement with De Beers, the statement added.

Russia has been renegotiating an export contract with De Beers to permit the De Beers' calling over the Country Salling Overnisation (CSO), to handle 95

the De Beers' selling arm, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), to handle 95 per cent of sale of Russian diamond exports.

The present contract, which expired in December, was extended until March 1996 to give time for the two parties to consider a new deal.

Russia has grown increasingly dissatisfied with what it considers low prices for its diamonds during the last few years and has begun to sell some stones on markets in Antwerp and Tel Aviv, where they command higher prices.

In London, De Beers confirmed that Russia had signed a cooperation agreement with the South African diamond giant yesterday, after months of negotiations.

The Russian government and De Beers "have signed a memorandum of the general principles which will govern the future relationship between the Rus-

De Beers added that the outline agreement would be expanded "as soon as possible" into a formal three-year contract. Talks between De Beers and Almazy Rossil-Sakha, the Russian diamond export body, will commence next

sian diamond industry and De Beers," the South African company said in a

Russian women selling food and cigarettes in Moscow yesterday (left), as IMF chief Michel Camdessus and President Yeltsin talk after signing the loan accord. — AFP

### BOMBAY STOCKS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1996

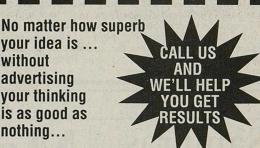
SPECIFIED SCRIPS:	APOLLO HOSP 39.00	) BOM.OXYGEN 860.00	) DIGIFLEX(I) 14.50	GOLDIAM INT 32.00			MIDWEST (I) 10.25	PAAM PHARM 38.75	RINKU POLY 10.25	SPAN DIAGNOS 13.00	TRANSFREIGHT 130.00
A.C.C	APOLLO TUBES 11.00 APPLE AMUSEM 20.75	BOM.PAINTS 22.00 BOMBAY SWAD 120.00	DIGITAL WORD 23.00 DINTEX DYE 15.00	GOM INDUSTRI 12.50 GOODEARTH FI 16.00		DEX:3492.95 DEX:1606.88	MIDWEST IRON 14.75 MIKDO TEXT 24.00	PACIFIC IND	RISHI LASER	SPARTEK	TRANSGENE B
ARVIND MILLS 111.50 ASHOK LEYL 128.75 ASIAN PAINT 367.50	APPLE CREDIT	BORAX MORARJ 34.00	DLF CEMENT 12.25	GOODEARTH OR 25.50			MILKFOOD	PAL CREDIT	RISHIROOP R	SPIC FINE CH	TRANSPOW.ENG 26.00 TRAVANC CHEM 50.00 TREND DESIGN 11.50
BAJAJ AUTO	APS-STAR IND 12.00 ARAVALI DAIR 12.50	BPL ENG. LTD 25.00	DOLPHIN LAB 18.00	GOODRICKE 70.00	INDU NISSAN	KIRLOS.CUMM 355.00 KISAN MOULD 14.00 KIT-PLY IND 39.00	MIRC ELECTR 125.00 MIRZA TANNER 77.50	PAN ASIA GLO	ROHINI STRIP 10.50 ROHIT PULP 85.00	SQUARE D-BIO 111.25 SRE.RAY.ALK 18.75	TRF LTD
BARODA RAYON 315.00 BHARAT FORGE 162.00	ARAVALI SEC	BPL REFRIGES 23.00 BPL SAN UTIL	DOON VALLEY 18.00 DR.BECK & CO 94.00	GOODYEAR (I) 85.00 GOPALARTH OR 25.50	INDUST.METER 72.50 INERTIA IND 22.00	KITTI STEEL 16.50 KJMC FIN 45.00	MITTAL LAMIN 96.25 MOD.INSUL 14.75	PAN CLOTHING 16.25 PANCH.STEEL 67.50	ROLLATAINER 135.00 ROLTA IND 19.50 ROM INDUST 19.50	SREECHEM RES 11.00 SREI INT.FIN 34.00	TRIDENT PROJ 18.50 TRIDENT ST 19.00
BHEL	ARIHANT ENT	BR.INDUS 190.00	DR.REDDY 270.00	GOODLASS	INFOSYS TECH 505.00 INGERSOLL 302.50 INLAND PRINT 42.50	KLG SYSTEL	MODEL FIN	PANDIAN GRAP	ROOFIT INDUS 50.00 ROSE.PATEL 34.50	SRF LTD 60.00 SRG INFOTEC 40.00	TRISTAR SOYA 14.00 TRIVENI ENG 62.50
BSES LTD 166.00 CADBURY (I) 347.50	ARIHANT ST 16.50 ARIHANT THER 15.00	BRAWN PHARMA 14.50 BRIDGE SECUR 11.25	DSJ FIN.CORP 34.00 DSJ RESORTS 13.25	GOODYEAR (I) 85.00 GOPALA POLY 36.00	INNOV.PRINT 35.00 INSILCO 19.75	KM CAPITAL 11.00 KND ENGG.TEC 70.00	MODERN MALL 60.00 MODERN MILLS 18.00	PANTALOON TX 18.00 PANYAM CEMEN 1025.00	ROTO PUMPS 35.00 ROTOFLEX IND 43.00	SRI ADHIKARI 27.00 SRI DIGV CEM 50.00	TRIVENI GLAS 55.00 TRIVENI OIL 14.00
CASTROL IND 420.00 CEAT LIMITED 68.00 CENTURY 5850.00	ARLABS	BRITE AUTO 62.50	DUGAR FIN 14.00	GOPLEE LEASE 50.00 GORDON HERB 29.00 GOTHI PLASCO 12.25	INT.COMBUST 82.50 INT.CONVEYOR 36.00	KNOLL PHARM 670.00 KODAK INDIA 460.00	MODERN STEEL 14.00 MODERN SYNT 36.50 MODERN TERRY 50.00	PAPER PROD 122.50 PAPPILON EXP 65.00 PARAGON FIN 12.25	ROYAL CUSHIO 128.00 ROYAL ENFIEL 42.00 ROYALE MANOR 15.00	SRI LAK.SAR	TTG INDUS
CENTURY ENKA 1965.00 COCHIN REFIN 154.00	ARROW SEC	BSL LTD	DUJODW.PROD 10.00 DUJOHN LAB 12.00	GOVIND RUB	INT.INSTRUM	KONARK SYN	MODERN THRED 85.00 MODI ALKALI 11.25	PARAMOUNT CO 13.00 PARASRAM IND 26.00	RPG RICOH 19.50 RPG TELE 86.00	SRI SIMH.CEM	TTK PRESTIGE 69.00 TUBE INVEST 136.00
COLGATE	ARUN MANTEX 13.50 ARUNA SUG.FI 14.50	BUREAU OF IN	DUNLOP INDIA 47.50 DUPHAR 160.00	GOYAL FIN.(I)	INTEG.HINDUS 55.00 INTEGRA CAP 15.00	KOPRAN	MODI OLIVETT 18.00 MODI XEROX 187.50	PARASRAM SYN 25.00 PAREKH PLATI 112.00 PARENT.DRUGS 55.00	RTS POWER CO 75.00 RUCHI INFRA 235.00 RUCHI SOYA 36.50	SRICHAKRA TY 28.00 SRIMAN ORG 18.00 SRIMAN PETRO 18.50	TUDOR INDIA
ESCORTS	ARUNA SUGARS 24.50 ARUNODAY 23.00 ARVIND CHEM 33.00	C.P.E.C 19.00	DUTRON POLY 11.00	GRAMOPHON CO 33.00 GRAN HEAL PH 13.00 GRAND FOUND 39.00	INTER COMPUT	KOTAWALA SEC 26.00 KOTHARI FERM 15.00 KOTHARI GLOB 19.50	MODIPON 55.00 MODISTONE LT 11.00 MOHATTA HECK 18.00	PARKE DAVIS 130.00 PARMAX PHARM 11.00	RUNGTA IRRIG 50.00 RUPAL CHEMIC 22.00	SRINI SMELTR 14.50 SRINIWAS SHP 56.00	TUTICORIN
FINOLEX IND	ARVIND INTER 14.75 ARVIND POLY 19.00	CACHAR METAL 21.00 CALCOM VISIO 11.00	DYNAMIC IND	GRAPCO INDUS 15.00 GRAUR & WEIL 160.00	INTERCRAFT	KOTHARI IND 25.00 KOTHARI PION 13.00	MONALISA MUL 16.50 MONARCH DYES 12.25	PARO LEASING 85.00 PARSOLI CAP 10.00	RUPAL LAMINA 11.50 RUSHABH CAP 13.00	SRISHTI VID	TVS LAKSHMI
GARWARE POLY 200.00 GLAXO INDIA 210.00 GRASIM IND 620.00	ARYAMAN FIN	CAMPH.& ALL 45.00	E.I.D PARRY 116.00	GREAVES LTD 55.00 GREAVES MORG 27.00 GREENFIELD 175.00	INTL.TRAVEL 85.00 INTNL.SECUR 10.00	KOTHARI PROD 162.50 KOTHARI SUG 30.00	MONICA ELEC	PARTH HOUSIN 14.50 PASARI SPIN 10.00 PASCHIM PET 14.00	RUSHABH PREC 76.00 RUTTONSHA IN 18.50 S & Y MILLS 13.75	SSM MILLS LT	TWE.FIR.CENT
GUJ AMB CEME 335.00 GUJ NARMADA 54.00	ASHOK-ALCO 63.00 ASHOKA REFIN 20.00	CANGROWTH	EARNEST HEAL 14.50 EAST C.STEEL 32.00	GRIND NORTON 260.00 GRM OVERSEAS 16.50	INTRON	KPR TELEPROD 15.75 KREBS BIOCHE 60.00 KRISHNA ENGG 13.50	MONSANT.CHEM 580.00 MONTARI IND 12.00	PASUMAI IRR 20.00 PASUPATI FIN 15.75	S&S INDUS 18.00 S&S POWER SW 185.00	STALLION GAR 53.00 STANDARD IND 23.00	UCAL FUEL 140.00 UCAL POWER 13.25
GUJARAT FERT 137.50 HIND CIBA 2830.00	ASHOKLEY FIN 90.00 ASIA PAC.FIN 10.00	CANSTAR(80L) 18.20 CANTRIPLE-MF 14.25	EAST.MIN &AL 13.00 EAST.OVERSEA 41.00	GRUH FINANCE 18.00 GSB FINANCE 12.50	IP RINGS	KRISHNA FILA 141.25 KRISHNA FINS 82.50	MOOLCHAND EX 36.00 MOON DRUGS 12.75 MORARJEE 154.00	PASUPATI SPG	S.A.ENTERPR	STANROSE MAF 45.00 STAR PAPER 45.00 STAR PREC.EL 14.50	UDAIPUR PHOS
HIND LEVER	ASIA PACK	CAPITAL TRUS 12.00	) EASTERN SILK 45.00	GSL (INDIA)	IPITATA	KRISHNA PLAS	MOREPEN LAB 132.50 MOSER-BAER(P) 14.50	PATEL ROAD	S.I.PAPER	STD.BATTERY 25.00 STD.CHROME 15.50	UMA PETRO 17.00 UNICHEM LAB 260.00
HINDALCO 1150.00 HOUS DEV FIN 2735.00	ASIAN CABLE	CAPRIHANS 117.50 CARBON EVERF 55.00	EICH:TRACT(P) 73.00 EICHER MOTOR 48.00	GUJ. AUTO GE 65.00 GUJ.AMB.EXP 18.50	ISPAT ALLOYS 12.00 ISPL IND	KRM INTER 29.00 KRONE COMM 65.00	MOTHERSON SS 117.50 MOTI ELECT 16.25	PATNI ENGG	SAMTEL ELECT 42.00 SAMTEL IND 81.50	STD.SURFACT	UNICORP IND 27.00 UNIFIED AGRO 13.00
I.C.I.C.I	ASIAN CONSOL 12.75 ASIAN ELECTR 590.00 ASIAN FLORA 11.00	CARR. AIRCON 176.00	EIMCO ELECON 70.00	GUJ.APOLLO E	ITC CLAS.FIN 83.00 ITC HOTELS 162.00	KSB PUMPS 200.00 KRITI INDUS 11.50	MOTI PROTIN	PAUSHAK	SANDESH LTD 45.00 SANDOZ INDIA 415.00 SANDU PHARMA 20.00	STEEL TUBES	UNIFLEX CABL
INDIAN HOTEL 710.00 INDIAN ORG 38.00	ASIAN HOTELS 302.50 ASIAN I NETW 16.00	CAUVERY SUG 19.00 CEAT FINANC 27.50	ELBEE SERVIC 97.50 ELDER HEALTH 26.00	GUJ.FLOURO 75.50 GUJ.GAS 146.00	ITI LTD	KRM INTER	MRF LTD 2510.00 MRINAL CAPIT 28.00	PEARL ENERGY 41.00 PEARL ENG.PO 14.50	SANDUR LAMIN 17.00 SANDUR MANG 60.00	STEPAN CHEM 290.00 STERL.COMPUT 77.50	UNIPLAS(P)
INDIAN RAYON 535.00 INDOGULF FER 52.00	ASIAN INDUST 20.00 ASIL INDUS 44.00	CEEJAY FIN	ELEC.CONTROL 15.50 ELECON ENG 42.50	GUJ.H.CHEM 17.50 GUJ.HOTELS 30.00	J L MORISON 64.00	KUBER FLORI	MRINAL DYG	PEARL GLOBAL	SANDVIK ASIA 1920.00 SANGAM INDIA 25.00 SANGHI CORPO 28.50	STERL.HOL.FN 20.00 STERL.HOL.RS 71.00 STERL.SECURI 28.00	UNIPRODUCT(P) 57.50 UNITD CARBON 1225.00 UNITECH (P) 115.00
INDUST.FIN.C	ASLO STEEL	CENTAK CHEM 132.50	ELECTRA(JAIP) 20.00		J&N FIN.SER 19.50 J.B.CHEMICAL 157.50	KUNAL OVERSE 84.00 KUNSTSTOFFE 15.25	MSL INDUST	PEBBLE INV 10.75 PEERLESS SHI 24.50	SANGHI (COHPO	STERL.SECURI 28.00 STERL.STRIPS 10.50 STERL.TEA 32.00	UNITED BREW 37.50 UNITED CRED 29.00
ITC BHADRA 114.00 JAIPRAKASH I 32.00	ASSO RUBBER 170.00 ASSO.ALCOHOL 28.00	CENTRAL RLY 180.00 CENTRAL ROAD 75.00	ELECTREX (I)	GUJ.JHM HOT	J.F.LAB	KWALITY CRED 62.00 KWALITY DAIR 12.50 L D TEXTILE 36.00	MUKERIAN PAP 28.00 MUKUND FLEX 12.25	PEGASYS CAST 10.25 PENNAR ALUM 16.00	SANGHVI ASBE 25.00 SANMAC MOTOR 13.50	STERLITE COM 66.00 STERLNG TOOL 67.50	UNITED LEA(N) 15.00 UNITED PHOSP 305.00
JINDAL IRON	ASSOC.STONE 52.50 ASTRA IDL 180.00 ATASH SECURI 12.50	CENTURY INT 16.25	ELEGANT PHAR 14.50		J.K.CHEMICAL 20.00 J.K.INDUSTRI 78.00	L M L LTD 96.00 L.G.BALABROS 362.50	MULLER & PHI 165.00 MULTI ARC	PENNAR PATER 21.00 PENNAR PROF 19.00 PENNAR STEEL 35.00	SANTARAM SPN 10.25 SANTOSH FINE 14.00 SARDA PAPERS 29.00	STI GRANITE	UNITED WE.BK
JK SYNTHETIC 28.75 LARSEN & TOU 259.00 MADRAS REF 72.50	ATCO INDUSTR 85.00 ATL TEXTILES 26.00	CEPHAM MILK 14.00 CEPHAM ORG(P)	ELGI EQUIP 300.00 ELGI FINANCE 29.00	GUJ.PETRO 16.00 GUJ.PROPACK 80.00	J.K.PHARMA	. LABH CONSTR	MUNJAL SHOWA 310.00 MUNOTH INVES 20.00	PENTA:SOLEC 41.50. PENTAFOUR PR 28.00	SARDA PLY 42.00 SARIKA PAINT 13.50	STIEFEL UND	UNIV LUGG 10.50 UNIWORTH INT 21.00
MAH & MAH 285.00 MAHANGR TELE 178.00	ATLANTIC SPG 30.00 ATLAS COPCO 205.00	CESC LTD 130.00Y CENTURY PORT 11.50	ELPRO INTER 26.00	GUJ.RODREL	JAGDAMBA FDS 15.25 JAGSON FIN 12.00	LAKHANI (I) 102.50 LAKHANPAL 117.50	MURD.CERAM	PENTAFOUR S 143.75 PERF CIRCLE 240.00 PERFECTPAC 25.00	SARLA CREDIT	STONE INDIA	UPASANA FIN
MASTERSHARE 14.30 MICO	ATLAS CYCLE	CEPHAM ORG(P) 19.50	EMAAI PHARMA 22.00	GUJ.THEMIS	JAGSON PHAR 200.00 JAI.CORP LTD : 85.00	LAKME LTD 270.00 LAKSHMI ELEC 155.00	MY FAIR LADY	PERM MAGNETS 180.00 PERTECH COMP 46.00	SARVODYA LAB 13.00 SATNAM OVER 56.00	STRESSCRETE 132.50 STRESSCRETE 10.25 STURDY POLYM 10.50	USHA BELT(P) 121.25 USHA INDIA 16.00
MRPL 29:75 MUKAND 178.00	ÀTUL GLASS	CG GLASS LTD 15.25 CG IGARSHI M 13.50	EMPEE SUGARS 10.50 EMPIRE FIN 23.00	GUPTA CA.INT	JAI.PAR.SPR	LAKSHMI MACH 11100.00 LAKSHMI OVER 40.00 LAKSHMI SYN 98.75	MYS PAPER 13.00 MYS PETRO 81.00	PETRON ENGIN 67.50 PFIMEX PHARM 10.75	SATYAM CEMEN 23.50 SATYAM COMP 55.50	SUASHISH DIA 157.50 SUBHAKTI TEX 16.00	USHA ISPAT 75.00 USHA MARTIN 39.00
NESTLE LTD 310.00 NOCIL 41.50 ORKAY IND 13.00	ATURIA CONT	CHAMBAL BREW 16.00	) EMTEX IND 85.00	GYAN DEVELOP 25.00	JAIMATA GLAS 60.00 JAIN IRRIG 91.00	LALBHAI FIN	N K INDUST 70.00 N S L LTD 26.00 N.R.AGARWAL 24.00	PHAR E.LABS	SAUR.CEM.LTD 85.00 SAUR.PAPER 64.00 SAVANI FIN. 13.00	SUBHASH SILK 35.00 SUBROS LTD	USHA UDYOG L 55.00 USHDEV TRADE 36.00 UTI 2000 16.10
PFIZER	AUROBINDO PH 112.50 AUSTIN ENGG 27.00	CHANDNI ENGG 12.50 CHANDRA PRAB 21.00	ENGINE.VALVE 550.00 ENKAY TEX.IN 50.00	H-LON HOSIER 35.00 HALDYN GLASS 14.25	JAIN PLASTIC	LAXMI PRCISN	NACHMO KNITX 50.00 NAG.FINANCE 27.00	PHIL CORPN 49.00 PHIL CARBON 50.00	SAVERA HOTEL 38.00 SAVITA CHEM 72.00	SUDARSH.CEM 16.50 SUDARSHAN CH 202.50	UTI 5000
PREMIER AUTO 56.50 RAYMOND LTD 335.00 RECKITT COL 222.00	AUTO AXLES	CHARTERED CA 49.00	ENSA STEEL 36.00	HANIL E.TEX 11.25	JAISAL SEC	LEADING EDGE 34.00 LEAFIN IND 19.00	NAGAR.CONST 144.00 NAGAR.F.(NRI) 22.75 NAGPUR ALLOY 42.50	PHOENIX ELE	SAW PIPES	SUDITI IND	UTI M.GAIN
RECKITT COL 222.00 REL.CAPITAL	AUTOLITE CAP 38.00 AUTOLITE(I)	CHANDNI ENGG 12.50 CHANDRA PRAB 21.00	ENVIRO-CLEAN 15.00 EPC IRRIG 30.00	HANUMAN TEA 31.00 HAPPY HOME 12.00	JALGAON RE-R 29.00 JALPAC INDIA 12.50	LEDO TEA(P)	NAGPUR ENGG 50.00 NAGREEKA EXP 30.00	PI INDUS.LTD 82.00 PIDILITE IND 365.00	SBI HOME FIN 39.00 SBI-MGN-MULT	SUJANA STEEL 26.00 SUKHCHAIN CE 18.50	V.J.INFOSYS 12.00 VADILAL DAIR 17.00
SBI MAGNUM90 11.65	AUTORID FIN 53.00 AVANTI FINAN 21.00	CHARMINAR ST 16.75 CHARTERED CA 49.00	EPIC ENZYMES 29.00 ERA CONSTRUC 37.00	HAR.PETRO 10.50 HAR.SHEET GL 39.00	JAMNA AUTO	LIC H.FINAN	NAHAR EXP 33.00 NAHAR INDUST 28.50	PIONEER EMB	SBI-MGN-TRIP 157.00 SCHABLONA (I) 11.00 SCHEMATIC FI 14.00	SUKJIT STRCH 90.00 SUL INDIA 20.00 SULZER(IND) 260.00	VADILAL ENT
NON-SPECIFIED SCRIPS: 20TH CEN.KIN	AVERY INDIA	CHEMAGRO INT 15.00	ESCORT FINAN 38.00		JANAK INTER 14.50 JANZEN CAST 12.00	LINK PHARMA 20.50 LKP MER.FIN 27.50	NAHAR INT(5)	PIRAMAL HEAL 170.00 PIRAMAL SPG	SCHEMATIC FI	SULZEH(IND)	VALIANT COMM 12.75 VALLABH POLY 11.00
21ST CEN.MGT 32.50 A.J.BROTHERS 12.50	AVS INDUSTR 22.00 AVS WORLD TR 60.00	CHEMFAB(P) 67.50 CHEMO PHARMA 31.00	ESQUIR MONEY 25.00 ESSAR OIL 26.75	HARR.MALAYAL 65.00 HARTRON NETW 11.00	JATTA POLY	LLOYD ELECT	NAHAR SUGAR 20.00 NALCO CHEM 390.00	PITTIE CEM 72.00 PITTIE FIN 16.50	SEARLE IND 120.00 SEASONS TEXT 13.50	SUMERU LEASI 44.00 SUMEX CHEM 16.00	VALLABH STEL 17.00 VALPLUS BIO 26.00
A.P.RAYONS 81.25 ArR.ENTER 49.00	AVTAR FIN	CHEMOX CHEM 51.00 CHEMOX LAB 42.00	ESTER IND(PU) 28.50	HARYAN_STEEL 80.00 HARYANA FIB 10.00 HAVELL'S IND 24.00	JAY BUS.MACH 35.00 JAY RAPID RO 29.00	LLOYDS FIN 100.00 LOK.HOUS&CON 67.00	NAMASTE EXP	PLASTIBLEND	SECALS	SUMITRA PHAR 14.00 SUN GRANITE	VALUE LINE
A.V.COTTEX 44.00 AAREY DRUGS 11.25	B&A PLANT 40.00 B.F.L.SOFTWR 138.00	CHEMPLAST SA 130.00 CHERRY FASH 128.75	ETP CORPORTN 14.75 EUPHARMA LAB 70.00	HAWKINS COOK 72.50 HB LEAS.PUB 20.50	JAY YUSHIN	LOKMANYA IND 17.50 LONGVIEW TEA 30.00 LORDS CHEM 12.50	NARENDRA PRO 11.25 NARMADA C.PE 12.50	POLYPLEX 77.00 PONDS INDIA 960.00	SESHA. PAPER 80.00 SH.AMBE PAPR 37.00	SUN SOURCE 11.00 SUN STAR CH 33.00	VAPI PAPER 75.00 VARDHMAN SPG 135.00
AARTI DRUGS 36.00 AARTI INDUST 45.00	BAGWE UDYOG 11.00 BAID LEASING 11.00	CHESLIND TEX 12.25 CHICAGO PNEU 217.50	EURO GOLD JE 36.50 EUROPEAN SOF 590.00	HB PORTFOLIO 38.00 HCL 21.00	JAYANT VITAM 14.50 JAYASWAL NEC 37.00	LOY.TEX MILL 62.50 LUMAX IND 120.00	NARMADA CEM	PONNI SUGARS	SH.BHAWANI	SUND.CLAYTON 310.00 SUNDEEP MER 33.00 SUNDRAM FAST 640.00	VARIND.AGRO
AARVEE DENIM	BAJAJ STEEL 28.00 BAJAJ AUTO F 84.00 BAJAJ ELEC 115.00	CIMMCO BIRLA 26.00 CINDRELLA FI 11.25	EVERLON SYN 11.25 EXCEL GLASS 102.50	HDFC BANK 34.50 HEERA ISPAT 10.00	JAYAVANT PRO 24.00 JAYBH.FABRIC 25.00	LUNAR DIAM	NAT.ENGG.CO 16.50 NAT.PEROXIDE 4900.00	PRADEEP MET 16.75 PRAJ IND.LTD 142.50	SH.PRECOATED 10.00 SH.RAJES.PAP 16.00	SUNIL AGRO F	VARUN SHIP 22.75 VASHISTI DET 36.00
ABAN LOYD 105.00 ABB LTD 655.00	BAJAJ PLAST 27.50 BAJAJ PLAST 32.00	CINDRELLA HT 15.00 CIPLA 377.50	EXCEL IND 310.00 EXIDE IND 55.00	HEG LTD 33.00 HERBERTSONS 60.50	JAYBH.MARUTI	LUPIN LAB	NAT.PLASTIC	PRAKASH IND	SH.STEEL WIR	SUNKU AUTO	VASPAR CONT, 16.25
ABBOTT LABS 235.00 ABC INDIA	BAJAJ TEMPO 445.00 BAJAJHIND.LT 105.00 BAKELITE HYL 26.00	O CITURGIA 100.00	EXTOL COMM	HERITAGE FO:	JAYSHREE TEA., 175.00 JBF.IND.LTD 26.00	M-TOUCH FIN	NAT STEEL	PRATAPPUR S 21.00 PRATIKSHA CH 10.00	SHAH ALLOYS 23.00 SHAHI SHIPP 42.00	SUNSTAR LUB. 28.50 SUPER BAKERS 24.75	VBC FERRO28.00 VELVETTE INT13.00
ABS INDUST 80.00 ACE INTEGRAT 10.25	BAL PHARMA	CJ GELATIN 14.00 CLASS.DIAM 33.00	FAG PRECISIO 85.00 FAL INDS 47.50	HIGHLAND IND50.00 HIKAL CHEMIC 50.00	JBM TOOLS (175.0.0.240.00 JCT ELECT	M.J.PHARMA	NATCO PHARMA 90.00 NATCO POLY 11.50	PRAVEEN PROP 12.50 PRECIMET DIA 32.50	SHAKTI PRESS 14.00 SHAKTI PUMPS 10.50	SUPER FORGIN 25.00 SUPER SALES 115.00	VENLON POLY 47.50 VENUS EYEVIS 17.00
ACE LAB	BALA TEC.FIN	CLASSIC PRES 13.50	FAST CAPITAL 22.50	HIM.FUT.COMM 62.50	JENBURKT PH 13.00 JENSEN?NICH 80.00	M.P.AGRO 52.00 M.P.GLYCHEM 10.50	NATH PULP	PRECISION EL	SHALIMAR PNT 80.00 SHAMKEN MULT 25.00 SHANTI GEAR 217.50	SUPER SYNCOT 16.00 SUPER TANNER 24.00 SUPERIOR AIR 24.00	VESUVIUS IND 46.00 VHEL INDUST 50.00
ACME MFG 17.50 ACROW INDIA 55.00	BALAJI INDUS 260.00 BALKRISH IND 95.00	COASTAL PAP 24.00 45.00	FEM CARE PH 26.00	HIMADRI CHEM 44.00 HIMALAYA GR 53.00	JHAVERI WELD	M.S.INVESTM	NATURAL BIO	PREM.A.ELEC 92.50 PREMIER EXPL 16.50	SHANTIVIJAY 50.00 SHAPER CHEM 25.50	SUPREME IND 370.00 SUPREME ORIE 37.00	VIBRANT INV 16.75 VIC.GLASS 60.00
ADANI EXPORT 440.00 ADESHWAR COT 155.00 ADITHY ALKAL 15.50	BALMER LAW F 60.00 BALMER LAWRI 52.50 BALRAMPUR C 257.50	O COATS VIYELL 106.00	FERRO ALLOYS 35.75	HIND EVEREST 95,00	JIND.DRUG(P) 116.25 JINDAL DRILL 117.50	MACHINO PLAS 45.00 MACKINON MAC 13.50	NAV CHROME	PREMIER HOUS 27.00 PREMIER INST 200.00 PREMIER POLY 21.00	SHARDA SOLV:	SUPREME PETR 25.50 SUR.ROSH LTD 52.50 SURAJ DIAM 73.00	VICKERS SYS
ADORE MULTI	BALWANT TEXT 55.00 BANARAS BEAD 75.00	COCHIN MIN	FICOM INDUST 12.50 FICOM ORG 65.00	HIND.COMPOSI 31.00 HIND.CONSTN 63.00	JINDAL DRUGS 430.00 JINDAL FERRO 92.00 JINDAL HOTL 14.50	MADALSA INT	NAVSARI 160.00 NAYAGARA PAP 16.00	PREMIER VINY 19.50 . PREMIUM INT 11.25	SHASUN CHEM 61.00 SHAW WALL.GE 40.00	SURAJ SECUR 30.00 SURANA STRIP 23.00	VIDEOCON FIN 128.00 VIDIANI ENG 38.00
ADV.OERLIK	BANCO PRO(P) 105.00 BANK OF PUNJ 16.25 BANK OF RAJ 240.00	5 COMPETENT AU 33.00	FIDELITY FIN 11.00	HIND.DORR 95.00	JINDAL PHOTO 145.00 JINDAL POLYS 425.00	MADHUR FOOD 26.00 MADHUR HSG.F 81.00	NB FOOT WEAR 21.00 NDA SECURIT 15.00 NEDUNGADI BA 37.50	PRËS HM POLY	SHAW WALLACE 67.50 SHEETAL DIAM 15.75 SHEETAL FIL 10.25	SURANA TELE 16.50 SURYAJYOTI S 12.50 SURYAMUKHI	VIJ.SHANTI B
ADVENT COMP 17.00 AEC INDIA P 36.00	BANKA (I)	CONSORT.FIN 27.00 CONT.COFFEE 15.00	FILATEX INDI	HIND.FIN.MAN	JINDAL STRIP 220.00 JMA INDUS(P) 19.00	MADHUS.IND 62.50 MADRAS ALUM 930.00	NEHA INTER 16.50 NEO SACK 24.50	PRIME INDS 19.50 PRIME METALS 10.00	SHETRON LTD 35.00 SHILPAX LAB 19.00	SURYANAGRI F 13.00 SURYAVA SPIN 55.00	VIJAY SHANTI 13.75 VIJAY SOLVEX 80.00
AEGIS CHEM 38.25 AEKTA LTD 10.00	BANS. SYNTEX 18.00 BARODA ELEC 47.50	CONT.PETRO 11.00 CONTI.CONTRL 10.00	FINOLEX CABL 19.00	HIND.OIL EXP 162.50	JMC PROJECTS 55.00 JOHN FOWLER 65.00 JOLLY BOARD 980.00	MADRAS CEM 11400.00 MAFAT.FINANC 23.50 MAFATLAL DYE 25.00	NEPC AGRO	PRIME SECUR	SHIPP.CORPN	SURYO FOODS	VIJAYA COM
AFT INDUST	BASANT AGRO	O CONWAY PRINT 24.00	FLAMOUR FIN 25.00	HIND.PET.(PP) 228.00	JORD ENG 37.25 JOSTS ENG 105.00	MAFATLAL FIN 160.00 MAFATLAL IND 420.00	NEPC-MICON 43.50 NETWEST FIN 12.00	PROCTER&GAMB 565.00 PROF.DIAM 14.50	SHIVA FERT 14.00 SHIVAJI WORK 52.50	SUZLON FIBRE 20.00 SVA UDYOG 115.00	VIKRANT.TYRE 31.00 VIMTA LABS 15.00
AGRO DUTCH F 10.00 AHLCON PAREN 16.50	BATLIBOI & CO 32.00 BAUSCH & LOMB 42.50	CORE BIOTECH 42.00 CORE HEALTH 109.00	FLAWLESS DIA 14.00 FLEX CHEMIC 60.00	HIND.RECT 205.00 HIND.SANITAR 184.00	JRC FINVEST	MAGIC.TRAD	NETWORK 33.00 NETWORTH FIN 20.25	PRUD.POLYWEB 14.50 PRUDENT.CAP 40.50	SHIVALIK LOH	SVADESHI MIL 25.00 SVAM SOFTWAR 10.00	VIN. SYNTH 18.00 VINATI ORG 15.50
AHMED.ELECT	BAYER DIAGNO 110.00 BAYER INDIA 1750.00 BDH INDUSTRI 12.25	CORPOR.COUR 11.50	FLEX FOODS 11.50	HIND.SYNTEX 52.50	JYOTI RESINS 150.00 JYOTI STRUCT 185.00	MAH.APEX COR 26.00 MAH.GLASS 11.50	NEULAND LAB	PRUDENT.M.SU 28.00 PSL HOLDINGS 69.00 PSM SPINNING 27.00	SHR.ISHAR AG	SVC SUPERCHE 12.75 SWAN MILLS 820.00 SWARAJ ENGIN 335.00	VINDHY TELE
AIRCO PESTI	BEE ELEC 15.50 BEE-AM CHEM 13.25	COSCO INDIA	FLEXO FILM	HIND.ZINC 10.50 HINDOO SPG 45.00	K C TEXTILES 20.00 K DHANDAPANI 14.00	MAH.SCOOTER 224.00 MAH.SEAMLESS 26.00	NICCO.FINAN 22.00 NICHOLAS PIR 280.00	PUDUMJEE 118.00 PUDUMJEE AGR 75.00	SHREE CEMENT 62.00 SHREE KRISHN 19.00	SWARAJ MAZDA 29.00 SWASTIK ASBE 15.00	VINTEK RF.PR 13.00 VINYL CHEM 37.50
AKAI IMPEX 21.50 AKAR LAMIN 16.00	BELAPUR SUG 47.00 BELL CERAMIC 24.00	COSMO FERR 17.00 COSMO FIL(PR) 121.25	FOMENTO HOTE 28.00 FOODS & INNS 85.00	HINDUJA FIN 123.75	K.B.STEEL	MAHADEV CORP 15.75 MAHADEV IND 16.50 MAHAMAYA INV 25.00	NIDHI GRANIT	PUN.ALKALI	SHREE POMANI	SWET CHEM AN 11.00 SWIL LTD 45.00 SWISS GLASS 11.50	
AKAR TOOLS L	BELLS CONTRL 29.00 BENARES HOT 100.00	COST PLUS CA 10.00 COX AND KING 220.00	FORTUNE FIN	HIPOLIN LTD 37.00 HIRAN ORGOCH 16.50	KAASHYAP FOU 10.00 KABRA DRUGS 15.50	MAHARAJA INT 18.00 MAHAVIR SPG 116.25	NILCHEM IND 11.25 NILKAMAL PLS 32.00	PUN.FIBRES 23.00 PUN.POWER 18.50	SHREE SHYAM 40.00 SHREE SYNTH 32.00	SWITCH.TECH 35.00 SYMPHONY COM 35.00	VIRAJ ALLOYS
ALACRITY HSG 29.00 ALAGENDRAN F 11.50	BERGER PAINT 65.00	CRANEX LTD 23.00 CRB CAPITAL 60.00	FOSECO INDIA 244.00 FOUNDRY FUEL 10.50	HITECH DRILL 25.25 HITECHI JEWE 280.00	KABRA EXTR	MAHIND UGINE	NIPPON DENRO 26.00 NIPPONDENSO 101.25 NIRMA LTD 440.00	PUN.TRACTOR 510.00 PUN.WOOLCOMB 50.00 PUNWIRE 194.00	SHREEJI IND	SYNCOM FORM 16.50 SYNTH & CHEM 17.25 SYP AGRO FOO 19.00	VIRAL SYNTEX
ALANG MARINE 36.00 ALBERT DAVID 25.00 ALBR MORARJI 108.75	BETA NAPTHOL 41.00 BETA SECUR 22.00	CRB SHARE CU 260.00 CREDEN.SOUND 12.25	FULFORD (I) 180.00 G.G.AUTOMATI 39.50	HI&TECH GEAR 72.00 HK AGROCHEM 10.00	KAILASH FICO 11.25 KAJARIA CER 122.50	MAJESTIC IND 52.00 MAKERS LAB 20.00	NIWAS SPG(P) 14.00 NIYATI LEAS 78.75	PURVI ELECTR 16.00 PVD PLAST MO 20.00	SHREYAS INTE 30.00 SHREYAS SHIP 19.50	SYSTAMATIX C 10.25 SYSTEMATIX 13.25	VITARA CHEM 50.00 VIVID CHEM 17.50
ALCHEMIE ORG 35.00 ALCOBEX MET 21.00	BETEX (P) 75.00 BH.EARTH MOV 65.00	CREDIT RATIN 188.00 CREST COMM 33.50	G.G.DANDEKAR 5800.00 G.K.W.LTD 55.00	HMG IND	KAKATIYA CEM 72.50 KALINDEE RAI 16.75 KALPA.POWER	MALABAR BLDG	NORTECH IND	QST LTD	SHRI BHAGAVA	T & I GLOBAL	
ALEM.GLASS 620.00 ALEMBIC CHEM 1475.00 ALEXCON FOAM 12.00	BH.RASAYAN	CRESTCHEM LT 11.50 CROMPTON GR 252.00	G.P.ELECTRON 52.50 G.R.MAGNET 40.00	HOTEL RUGBY 145.00	KALYANI BRAK 102.50 KALYANI FORG 45.00	MALWA COTTON 180.00 MAN IND.(I) 17.50	NOVA ELECTRO 35.00 NOVA PETRO 23.00	RAJEN.MECH	SHRI VARDHMA 25.00 SHRICON IND 45.00	TAINWALA CH 24.00 TAK MACHINE 42.50	VORA CONST
ALFA LÁVAL(I) 215.00 ALFAVISION S 43.00	BHAGWANDAS A 12.50 BHAGWANDAS M 16.50 BHAGWATI AUT 13.00	CROSLAND RES 500.00 CRYSTAL CABL 17.00	G.T.C. 45.00 G.V.FILMS 13.00	HOTLINE GLAS 12.50	KALYANI SEAM 28.50 KALYANI SHRP 23.00 KALYANI STEL 49.00	MANÉK.HARI.M 27.00 MANGAL FIN 46.00 MANGALAM CEM 50.00	NOVA PUMECH	RAJHANS FOOD	SHRIRAM BEAR : 115.00 SHRIRAM HOND 170.00 SHRIRAM INV 25.50	TAM.JAI.MILL	VRUNDAVAN AG 10.25 VSM FIN &EXP 20.50 VST INDUS 190.00
ALKYL AMINES 60.00 ALL METAL PR 10.00	BHAGWATI GAS 14.25 BHAGYA NAG 28.00	CUBEX TUBING 45.00 CUTFAST ABR 65.00	GAGAN GASES 10.00 GAJRA BEVEL 25.00	HYD.INDUS	KAMADGIRI SY 25.00 KAMAKSHI HSG 280.00	MANGALAM TIM 10.00 MANIYAR PLAS 26.00	NRB BEARINGS 138.00 NRC LTD 50.00	RAJOO ENGIN 37.00 RAJSH.SUGAR 23.75	SHRIRAM TRAN 19.50 SHRISHMA 15.50	TAMILNADU(PP) 88.75 TANEJA AERO 13.25	VST TILLERS 75.00 VTC INDUST 50.00
ALLIANCE CR 14.50 ALLIANZ SECU 10.25 ALOK TEXTILE 62.50	BHAGYASHREE 11.25 BHAKRA IND 13.50 BHANDARI HOS 16.00	D&H WELDING 10.00	GAMMON INDIA 320.00	HYTONE SYNTH 14.25	KAMANWALA IN	MANNESHMANN 47:50 MANOJ HSG.FI 15:50 MANS.BOTT(P) 14:50	NRS TEXTILE	RALLIS INDIA	SHRIYAM SEC	TANFAC IND	VULCAN ENG
ALP EXPORTS 12.25 ALPHA HI-TEC 12.00	BHANDARI IND 27.00 BHANSALI ENG 19.75	DABUR INDIA 252.00 DADRAWALA P 17.75	GANDHI SP.TU 19.25 GANDHI.HOTEL 18.00	I.G.PETRO 65.50 ICHALKARNJI 30.00	KANDAGIRI SP 25.00 KANDHARI RUB 13.00	MANSI FINANC	NUCLEUS SEC 33.00 NUCOR WIRES 18.00	RAMA NEWSPRI 10.20 RAMA PAPER 51.00	SHYAM TELCOM 117.50 SI.PROP.DEV 18.00	TATA ADVANCE 21.00 TATA CONSTR 28.00	VYSALI PHARM 10.00 W.I.INDUS 22.00
ALPHAGEO (I)	BHARAT BIJLE 1520.00 BHARAT COMM 33.00 BHARAT GEARS 50.00	DAGGER FORT 29.00 DAI-ICHI KAR 47.50	GANESH ANHYD 18.00		KANEL OILEXP	MANUGRAPH IN	NUFAB IND	RAMA PETRO 41.50 RAMA PHOSPH 11.25 RAMA PULP 28.00	SIBAR AUTO	TATA ELXSI	W.S.INDUSTR 37.00 WALCHAND HIN 900.00 ' WALCHANDNGR 205.00
ALPINE INDUS	BHARAT HOTL 207.50 BHARAT PAREN 17.50	DALMIA BH	GANGOTRI TEX 63.00 GANIPITAK YA 11.00	IDEAL OPTICS 11.25	KANORIA IND 34.00 KAPRINAS PHA 46.00	MARDIA COPP 16.00 MARDIA EXTR 15.00	OBEROI ASSOC 80.00 OCEAN AGRO 40.00	RAMA VISION 10.50 RAMADA HOTEL 39.50	SIGMA CEMENT 11.00 SILCAL METAL 27.00	TATA HYDRO 118.00 TATA INVEST 210.00	WALL ST.FIN 18.00 WARREN TEA 112.50
ALSA MARINE 17.00 ALTOS IIN 121.25	BHARAT PETRO 295.00 BHARAT PIPES 10.00	DAMANIA PHRM 11.00 DATALAB (I) 50.00	GARDEN (P) 32.50 GARDEN COTT 17.00	IFB FINANCE 30.00 IFB IND.LTD 144.00	KARAN INDUS	MARDIA STEEL	OCL INDIA 240.00 ODYSSEY VID. 13.00 OIL COUNTRY 14.75	RAMMAICA (I)	SILKON SILK       20.00         SILKTEX LTD       14.00         SILTAP       450.00	TATA METALIK	WARTSILA
ALPINE INDUS	BHARAT SEATS 39.00 BHARAT STARC 25.00 BHARAT TEXTS 10.00	DATAPRO INF 11.25	GARWARE SHIP 11.00	IGGI RESORT 24.00 IIT CAPITAL 10.75	KARNATKA FIN 13.75 KATARE SPG 18.00	MARUTI INDUS 15.00 MARUTI ORG 44.00	OK PLAY (I)	RANBAXY LAB 700.00 RANE COMPUTR 12.75	SILVERLINE I	TATA TIMKEN 36.00 TATA UNISYS 380.00	WELCURE DRUG 13.25 WELDFLUX I 21.50
ALSA MARINE 17.00 ALTOS INDIA 82.00	BHARAT BHUSAN 10.00 BHARTI HEALT 55.00	DAWN MILLS 470.00 DB(INT)ST.BR 30.00	GAZI FINANCE 11.50 GCCL INFRAST 22.00	INALSA LTD 15.00 INANI MARBLE 36.00	KAVERI ENG 29.00 KAVINI ISPAT 20.00	MARUTI SEC 11.00 MARUTI SYN 17.25	OLY.MGT.FIN	RANE MADRAS 330.00 RANK AQUA ES 22.00	SIMBH.SUGAR	TATA YODOGAW 47.50 TATIA FIN 10.50	WELLMAN INC
ALU FLUORIDE	BHARTI TELE 92.00 BHARTIYA INT 18.25 BHILAI WIRES	DCL POLY 25.50	GEC ALSTHOM 70.00	IND.BANK MER 18.50	KAYEL SYNTEX	MARVEL CAPIT 16.00 MARVEL VINYL 38.00 MASTEK	OMEGA LAB	RAPICUT CARB 52.00 RAS RESORTS 12.00 RASANDIK ENG 13.00	SIMPLEX CAST	TATIA HL FRM	WELSPUN (I)
AMAR DYE-CHM 55.00 AMAR POLY 10.00	BHILWARA SP 22.00 BHILWARA TEX 11.00	DCM FINANCIA 18.00 DCM LTD 72.50	GEEKAY EXIM 157.50 GCCL INFRAST 22.00	IND.DYEST 27.00 IND.GLYCOL 45.00	KEDIA CONTIN 12.75 KEDIA DISTLL 69.50	MATHER &PLAT 17.50 MATHEW EASOW 17.00	ONIDA SAKA 10.50 ONIDA SAVAK 17.00	RASHTRIYA CH 11.25 RASOI LTD 45.00	SINGHAL SWRP 25.00 SINTEX IND 55.00	TECIL CHEM 22.00 TEKTRONIX (I) 39.50	WENDT(INDIA) 400.00 WEST COAST 92.00
AMARA RAJA B 59.00 AMARJOTHI SP 20.00 AMBUJA ELEC 16.00	BHOR INDUSTR 45.00 BHUPENDRA CA 17.00 BHUPENDRA IN 60.00	DECAN CEMENT 48.00	GEC ALSTHOM 70.00	IND.LEAS.DEV 19.00	KEDIA VANAS	MAX INDIA L	ONWARD TECHN 122.50 OPTEL TELE 39.00 OPTIMA SOFT 52.00	RATHI ISPAT	SIP INDUS.       26.00         SIPANI AUTO       18.00         SIRIS LTD.       146.00	TEL.CABLES	WEST.(I) SEC
AMCO VINYL 13.00 AMERICAN DRY 32.50	BHUSHAN ST 62.50 BHUWALKA ST 59.00	DECORA TUBES 17.00 DEEPAK FERT 13.25	GEEKAY EXIM 157.50 GEI ENGINEER 10.00	IND.PRAKAS-B	KENGOLD (IND) 26.00 KERALA CHEM 420.00	MAXWORTH ORC 12.75 MAYAR FINANC 18.75	ORBIT EXPORT 12.50 ORBIT POLY 11.50	RAVALGAON 7900.00 RAVILEELA GR 11.00	SIRMOR SUD 56.00 SIRO PLAST 24.50	TEXMACO	WEST.PAQUES 76.00 WESTON COMP 19.00
AMEX CARBON 10.00 AMFORGE(P) 82.50	BIHAR CAUSTC 46.00 BIMETAL BEAR 410.00	DEEPAK NITR	GEM CABLES 12.50 GEMSTONE INV 20.00	IND.SEAMLESS 70.00	KERALA SOLV		ORCHID CHEM 85.00 ORGANIC COAT 22.50 ORIENT ABRAS 60.00	RAVLON PEN	SIRPUR PAPER	THAPAR EXP	
AMIGO EXPORT	BINACA SYNTH	DELTON CABLE 18.00	GERMAN REME 156.00	IND.SHAVING 227.50 IND.SWIFT LT 27.00	KESORAM 70.00 KESWANI SYN 47.50	MCDOWELL 31.50 MCLEOD RUSEL 152.00	ORIENT CERAM 280.00 ORIENT CERWO 35.00	RDB INDUSTRI 14.25 REAL VAL.APP 29.75	SIYARAM SILK 52.50 SMITHKLIN.PH 244.00	THERMAX LTD 343.00 THIRU A.SUG 120.00	WILLIAM FIN
AMPRO PRODUC 10.50 AMRAPALI IND 17.00	BINNY LTD 52.50 BIOFIL CHEM 40.00	DENIM FASH 22.50 DENIM FASH 16.00	GIC BV CBS 15.25 GIC BV QDS 10.00	INDAG RUBBER 11.00 INDCAP FINAN 13.00	KEYNOTE CORP 80.00 KFA CORPN 320.00	MEDIA VIDEO 14.00 MEFCOM CAPIT 20.00	ORIENT CONT 127.50 ORIENT HOTEL 550.00	REALTIME FIN 29.50 RECON LTD 55.00	SMZS CHEM 50.00 SNOWCEM (I) 60.00	THIRUMALAI	WIM PLAST LT 33.00 WIPRO 460.00
AMRIT BANASP	BIRLA 3M	DERBY TEXT 16.00	GIC R91 CBS 20.00	INDIA GELAT 117.50	KG DENIM	MEGHANA FIN	ORIENT INFO	REDEX PROTEC 21.50 REINZ-TALBRO 23.00 REKVINA LAB 15.00	SOFTRAK TECH 16.00 SOFTWARE SOL 71.00 SOL LTD 28.50	TIL LTD	
AMTEK AUTO	BIRLA GLOBAL	DETROIT IND 16.00 DEV FASTNERS 14.50	GINNI FILAM 19.50 GIRISH HOTEL 19.00	INDO AM.CRED 12.75 INDO AM.OPT 11.50	KHATAU JUN 10.00 KHOD.INDIA 15.50	MENON BEAR 15.50 MERCATOR LIN 20.00	ORIENT PRESS 111.25 ORIENT SYNTE 14.00	REL.CHEMOTX 15.00 REL.I.INFRAS 51.00	SOL.PHARMA	TINA OVERSEA 62.50 TINNA OILS 20.00	WORLD DIGIT
AMZEL AUTO 87.50 ANAGRAM FIN 97.50	BIRLA VXL LT 29.00 BIRLA YAMAH 40.00	DEWAN RUBBR 76.25 DEWAN H.FIN 15.00	GKN INVEL TR 86.25 GL HOTELS 135.00	INDO ASHAHI	KIDUJA IND	MERCURY CAP 23.00 MERIND LTD 200.00 MERVEN DRUG 11.50	ORIENT.BANK	REL.PETRO(PP)	SOLID CARBID	TIPS & TOES	WORLDWIDE TE 23.50 WYETH LAB
ANANT RAJ IN	BIRMINGHAM T 36.50 BL.CHIP TEX 10.75 BLB MUTUAL S 26.50	DEWAN TYRES 40.00 DGP WINDSOR 126.00	GLOBAL FIN	INDO BOS.GEM 38.00 INDO CASTLE 10.50	KILBURN ENGG 34.00 KIN.HONDA 120.00	MESCO PHARMA 38.00 METALMAN PI 28.00	ORIȘSA ȘPONG 16.50 OSCAR GLOBAL 20.50	RELIABLE FIN 28.00 REMSONS IND 126.00	SOMA PAPERS 70.00 SOMA TEXTILE 20.00	TITAN ALLOYS 11.00 TITANOR COMP 67.50	YASH MANAGE 17.00 YASH PAPERS 24.00
ANDHRA PETRO 12.25 ANDHRA VALL 119.00	BLOW PLAST 150.00 BLUE BL.FIN 20.00	DHAMPUR.SUGA 135.00 DHAR CEMENT 17.25	GLOBAL TELE 104.00 GLOBAL TRUST 49.50	INDO COUNT 14.25 INDO FLOGATE 24.00	KINETIC CAPI 11.50 KINETIC ENG 300.00	METAZINC (I)	OSW.AG.FUR 25.00 OSWAL AGRO 17.25	RENCAL CHEM 14.75 RENCO GEARS 28.00	SOMANI CEM	TMT(INDIA)	YOGI PHARMA 60.50
ANIK STEELS	BLUE BLEND	DHARAMSI CHM 31.00	GMS INDUS 11.00	INDO GULF IN 37.00	KINJAL METAL 43.00 KIRAN OVERSE 11.00	MEWAR LEASIN 66.00 MEWAR POLYTX 14.75	OSWAL SUGAR 13.75 OTIS ELEV 315.00	RENEW. POWER 10.00 REPL ENG 46.00 REVATHI CP 490.00	SOMDATT FIN	TOOR SPINNER 10.25 TORR.GJ.BIO 19.00 TORRENT CAB 38.00	YUKEN INDIA 70.00 ZANDU PHARM 4200.00
ANSAL BUILD 14.50 ANSAL HOUS 19.00	BMB MUSIC 49.00 BMD INDUST 205.00	DHARANI SUG 30.00 DHRUV ESTATE 12.00	GOA ELECTR 10.00 GODAVARI DRU 25.00	INDO MATSU 75.00 INDO NATIONL 550.00	KIRAN PRINT 16.50 KIRAN SYNTEX 11.00	MEWAT ZINC 39.00 MICRO FORGE 10.00	OTOKLIN PLAN 35.00 OUDH SUGAR 620.00	REVATI ORGAN 11.00 . RGN SECURITY 45.00	SONI CAPITAL 24.00 SONIA TEXTIL 24.00	TORRENT PHAR 158.00 TOURISM FINA 20.00	ZEE TELEFILM 150.00 ZENITH COMP 15.00
ANSAL PROP 55.00 APCOTEX LAT 250.00 APEEGO LTD 24.00	BOC (I) LTD	5 DHUNSERI TEA 45.00	GODFREY PHIL 180.00	INDO ZINC 37.50	KIRL INVEST 20.00 KIRL OIL 127.50	MID EAST POR 11.50 MIDEAST 47.50		RHONE POULEN 490.00 RICO AUTO 144.00 RIDDHI SI.ST 16.00	SONU SYNTH(P) 16.00 SOURCE FIN 11.25 SOUTH.HERBAL 66.00	TOWELS INDIA 14.00 TPI INDIA 45.00 TRAFALGAR HS 680.00	ZF.STEERING 77.50 ZICOM SECURI 12.00
APLAB LTD 15.00 APM IND 21.00	BOI-D2+90B 177.00 BOI-FBG91(A) 10.00	DIAMOND IND 25.00 DIANA TEA CO 100.00	GOETZE	INDRAD AUT(P) 25.00 INDSIL ELSML	KIRL PNEUM 25.00 KIRL ELECTRO 27.00	MIDEAST INTG 12.00 MIDLAND IND 13.25	P.C.I. CHEMI	RIGA SUGAR	SOUTH.MAGNES 10.00 SOUTHERN GRN 13.50 SOUTHRN IRON 15.50	TRANS CORP	ZILLION MEDI
APOLLO FIN I 13.00	BOM.BURMAH 165.00	DIG.EQUIP 120.00	GOLDEN SECUR 24.00	INDTRADECO 39.00	KIHL.FENNOUS	MIDLAND FLAG	PAAM DROGG	HINNI FETHO	SUU I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	TRANSCILLI	ZODIAC CLOTH 77.80



# Classifieds

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**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE** 

accommodation Sharing available for a single lady in Ruwi at a central location. Contact 707362 after 6 p.m.

Sharing accommodation available for executive bachelor and family. Star T.V. and telephone facilities. Contact 793319.

Spacious rooms attached bath/toilets for executive/ couple. Contact Moosa Ibrahim Partners, Bldg. 2nd floor, flat 11 next to OTCCO bldg. opposite Gulf Supply & Services Co. Ruwi.

2 bedroom in Medinat Sultan Qaboos first floor flat, spacious, bright new carpets, R.O.200 month inc. water lease min. 7 month. Company payments only. Contact 602645.

Accommodation available in Al Khuwair for bachelor or ladies. Contact working 697253.

Sharing accommodation available for bachelors at Wadi Kabir R/A (new bldg.) R.O.25/-. including water & Contact Sabarish Elec. 701953.

Sharing accommodation available in Ruwi (next to softy ice-cream) for executive bachelors/single working lady/couples. Very reasonable rent. Contact 785664.

Single room with separate entrance in Muttrah. Near Dawood Hajeeri & Zadjali, used furniture shop, Way 2003, Bldg. 184/325. Contact

Furnished sharing room for an executive bachelor opposite Al Nadah Hospital. Pager 9103340.

Spacious 3 rooms with separate toilet for R.O.70/- at Hamariva behind Al Hassan Electricals. W. No. 5923, H.No.

Sharing accommodation available for a Goan catholic bachelor in Ruwi. Contact 795479/750824.

Sharing for Filipino only. One room good for couple or two ladies, with 2 toilets/ one kitchen. Flat mates are all professional workers. Location Ruwi. Pls call 9140413

Single room w/ bath attached at Darsait near Sabir. Contact 799363.

Accomodation available (furnished) for 3 months Pls. contact 789108.

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**BIG GIFT SAVINGS SCHEME** Yesterdays R.O.100/-Winners

) KHADIJA MOHD AL BULUSHI ) ISMAEL & JOSELA ALMOSA Sultan Qaboos University Br.) SAID RASHID AL SHAMSI ) MUBARAK MARHOON AL SULAIMY (Samail Br.) 5) KHALID MOHD AL ABRI

(Al Hamra Br.)

WIN OVER HALF MILLION R.O. EXCITING PRIZES! VILLAS● CASH ● GOLD ● SWISS WATCHES

**Hourly Swiss Watch Winners** 

) SALEH NASSER AL NAAMANI ) ZAWAŃ IBRAHIM AL HOTI ÁI Khoudh Br.) B) MOHD SAID ABDULLAH ) SALIM RASHID AL MA'MARI (Śaham Br.) 5) SAID FARAJ SAID Salalah Br.)

Accommodation Wanted

Sharing accommodation wanted for a Keralite couple in Ruwi area. Tel. 704921.

#### FOR RENT

Three bedroom flats at Muscat, single and double bedrooms Rex Road. Tel. 702870.

3 x 2 bed flats in one building Al Khuwair. Contact Pager

#### SITUATION WANTED

Two and half years Oman experienced store keeper seeks immediate placement. Contact 560247.

Wanted a suitable opening for a graduate in law and computer literate with about 10 years experience in office administration/legal activites visit visa. contact 9135075.

Four and half years experienced computer programmer cum operator, DCA (Basic, Dbase, Fox base, foxpro, lotus, wordstar, MS Excel, MS-Windows) seeks suitable placement. Contact C/o. Boby 792830.

Computer programme - for financial accounting, inventory, payroll and for petrol pump works. Contact pager no. 9146618 Baburaj.

Young male post graduate in economic having 4 years experience as account assistant/ office assistant knowing typing seeks suitable placement. Contact 551457.

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TIMES OF OMAN

to our readers (Lineage only)

ACCOMMODATION WANTED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS FOR SALE

☐ GREETINGS ☐ SITUATION VACANT ☐ SITUATION WANTED

Tick one of the items above and fill in this

coupon (no photocopies please) in not more than

25 words. Post the filled coupon along with a copy

of your labour card (this measure has been taken

to avoid misuse of this space) to:

Classifieds Depts., Times of Oman,

P.O. Box 770 Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman

SITUATION WANTED

Electronics engineer (B.E.) diploma in computer hardware maintenance, certified netware engineer (C.N.E.) seeks suitable placement. Tel. 787668.

AMIE in mechanical with 10 years experience in erection and maintenance of pumps and air-conditioning. Now on visit. Contact Mr. Anbu 701870.

16 years Oman experienced light duty driver seeks suitable placement. Contact 700595 Ibrahim M.R.

Qualified instrumentation and control engineer on visit seeks suitable placement.Contact Mohammed Sadik 796329.

Doctor holding MOH with experience. Contact 9102246.

3 years experienced sales lady. Contact 708132 Gamal.

Restaurant supervisor 6 years experience (3 years in Oman) knowing fast food, Lebanese food & French. Con-708132 Gamal.

Female nurse with MOH licence and three years experience in Oman seeks suitable placement in the capital area. Contact 703874 Vincent.

24 years graduate, banking experience in fully computerised system, accounting, admn. cash etc. seeks suitable placement. Contact Khalid 708919.

Electronics Dip. holder with 6 years in sales of entertainment electronics, household appliances and electrical seeks immediate placement. Contact 797173/787262.

Available young and experienced technically qualified sales representative presently on visit. Contact 706379.

Experienced person knowing real estate incharge and building maintenance holding Omani driving licence seeks placement. Contact Biju 705073.

14 years Gulf experienced civil engr. (site) seeks employment preferably with consultants. Contact Farooque Shaikh, P.O. Box 347, P.C. Ruwi.

Graduate with Diploma i Mechanical trade from defence of India, highly experienced in Machine shop and computerised store keeping needs suitable placement. Contact 797286.

Lady graduate, PG Diploma in computer applications, on visit, knowledge and experience in programming, MS Word, Excel, seeks immediate placement. Contact Mathews 788453.

Computer/data entry operator 7 years experience, seeks suitable part/full time position. Contact 692371.

2 years experienced female teacher physics, chemistry biology (B.Sc, B.Ed) seeks suitable placement. Contact 602710 Satish.

Electrical technician with 12 years experience in Power/ petrochemical plants, control panel wirings, irrigation pumps seeks placement. Contact 560026.

Electronics engineer (B.E.) For hire all kinds of diploma in computer hardware maintenance, certified netware engineer (C.N.E.) seeks suitable placement. Contact 787668

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B.Com graduate on visit. good speed in typing seeks placement as clerk/office boy/ accounts asst. Contact Sabarish 701953.

Graduate (B.Sc. Physics main) having 7 years experience in Oman as a office assistant with excellent computer knowledge (MS word -6 & Excel 5) seeks suitable placement. Contact P.O. Box 640 Code 114, Muttrah.Tel.789584.

Female physics lecturer, Ph.d.Degree Delhi University about three years teaching experience in a college, seeks suitable placement. Contact 542495.

Dip. in electronics and communications with 6 years sales experience in a large showroom needs suitable placement. contact 797173/ 787262.

B.Com graduate computer literate holding valid Omani D/ licence, 3 years experience in accounting. Contact after 8 pm (R) 541468.

15 years experienced female secretary on visit seeks suitable placement. Contact 797083 Mrs. Rodrigues.

B.Com graduate computer literate with 17 years experience in accounts currently on visit seeks suitable placement. Pager 9113488.

4 years experience staff nurse presently on visit visa seeks suitable placement. Contact 703100.

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Wanted sales representative for a direct marketing company to work on salary plus commission. apply to P.O. Box 715, code 114, Muttrah.

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### **GREETINGS**

Oman. Tel. 411420.

Happy birthday to my friend Tony and Benny. Many happy returns of the day to both of you - GG

Dear Theja, wish you many happy returns of the day. From Mummy, Daddy, Munnu, Gaurav, Pandu Pinni, Ramu Babai, Uma Aunty and Gopi Uncle.

Dear Sharmeen, wish you a very happy birthday. From and

Dear Mr. Pillai, wish you a

very happy birthday. From your wife and Cousin. Dear Viswanoth, happy

turns of the day. From your friends, Ravi, Raj and Vijayan. Greetings to Christopher

birthday and many happy re-

and Jojo Viera. Good luck and best wishes - Kuya Ger.

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9116903.

787029.

WIESBADEN (Germany) — Germany's former national football manager Helmut Schoen, who led Germany to the 1974 World Cup, has died, it was announced here yesterday. The 80-year-old Schoen, who managed the German teamfrom 1964 to 1978, also won the European Championship in

Super

League

loses key

legal battle

SYDNEY — Media tycoon Rupert

Murdoch's breakaway Super League
lost a major legal battle yesterday but
immediately pressed on with plans to
establish its rebel rugby league competition in Australia.

establish its rebel rugby league competition in Australia.

A federal court ruling in favour of the Australian Rugby League (ARL), the sport's ruling body since 1908 and Murdoch's adversary in a bitter 11-month battle for supremacy, cast doubt over the Super League's immediate future.

In his 220-page ruling, Judge James Burchett said eight clubs that defected to Super League ranks are bound by a loyalty agreement with the ARL until the end of the 1999 season.

But News Limited chief executive

Ken Cowley later announced that Su-

per League would seek immediate leave to lodge an appeal against the

court ruling.
"Our legal advisers have examined the judgment carefully and believe there are substantial grounds for appearance.

peal," Cowley said in a four-paragraph statement issued to the media yes-

Super League, backed by Mürdoch's global media empire, planned to kick-off on March in direct com-

Lawyers representing the ARL said the court ruling would prevent

Super League from starting as planned in 1996, with the breakaway clubs legally forced to play under the ARL

banner.
"The ARL won 10 out of 10. It's a complete clean-sweep," said ARL

lawyer Mark O'Brien.

ARL chairman Ken Athurson said he expected the eight clubs, including

champions Sydney Bulldogs and Bris-

bane Broncos, to compete in the 20-team ARL premiership when the 1996

"It is our plan to kick-off with competition involving 20 teams next week," Arthurson told reporters out-

week," Arthurson told reporters outside the Sydney courtroom.

But Arthurson held open the possibility of a compromise settlement with News Limited, the Australian arms of Murdoch's business empire that divided the sport last April by announcing its plans for Super League.

"I have said at all times the API.

season kicks-off next Friday.

petition with the ARL.

mediate future.

Saturday, February 24, 1996

### Sampras triumphs in aceful battle

MEMPHIS (Tennessee) — Topseed Pete Sampras served his way into the quarterfinals of the Kroger St Jude men's tennis tournament with a 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-1) victory over Briton Greg Rusedski on Thursday.

Thursday.

The two big servers took turns blasting aces past each other until the tiebreakers, when Sampras showed why he is the world's number-one player. He won the first set when Rusedski sent a passing shot wide and the second set on his 10th ace of the match. Rusedski had 20 aces for the match.

"It seemed like he was in a great rhythm, and when he's hitting it 125 miles an hour, there's nothing you can do," Sampras said. "He's a dangerous player. I just played the big points a little bit better and that was the difference.'

With second-seed Andre Agassi out of the tournament after being upset by Luke Jensen; other top seeds cruised into the quarters

along with Sampras.

Third-seed Michael Chang celebrated his 24th birthday with a 6ebrated his 24th birthday with a 6-3 6-4 victory over Spain's Carlos Costa. The fourth seed, Thomas Enqvist, who fought off three match points in his opening match against qualifier Keith Evans, had to go three sets to beat New Zealand's Brett Steven 7-5 3-6 6-2. and fifth-seed Todd Martin, the two-time defending champion had littime defending champion, had little trouble with Australia's Todd

Woodbridge, winning 6-3 6-2. Chang displayed a 125-mile-anhour serve and a sharp volley to go with his usually steady groundstrokes in overcoming Costa's heavy top-spin groundstokes.

"I made my pro debut here in 1988, so I'd like to win this tournament before I retire," Chang said.

Martin ran his winning streak to 12 straight in Memphis. — Reuter

### Inter-Con tennis tourney

By A Sports Reporter

MUSCAT — The 15th annual Muscat Inter-Continental Hotelwill be held from March 8 to 29. Entry forms are available at the

hotel, and entries will close on March 3.

There are 14 events, including five junior categories — under-18 junior singles, under-14 boys' singles, under-12 boys' singles, under-14 girls' singles and under-12 girls' singles - which will be played on March 14 and 15.

The men's singles will be divided into three categories, men's invitational for top coaches and players in Oman, men's 'A' singles and men's 'B' singles.

Omani men's singles entries will be free, the hotel said in a

Entry fees are RO4 per person, per event. The tournament is cosponsored by BP Middle East and Supa Sportsman LLC.

### India plan to sue Canadians

NEW DELHI — Indian hockey officials said on Thursday they might file a defamation suit against Canadian officials after some Indian players were accused of fixing a match in last month's Olympic qual-

ifying tournament.

"We are considering the filing of a suit," C.S. Narayan, spokesman for the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF),

"They (Canadians) have not been able to get a place (in the Olympics). That's why they are making all sorts of allegations," he said.

India's hockey coach and six

players met on Wednesday to consider their reply to the allegations that India deliberately played badly to help Malaysia draw a match 0-0 and qualify for Atlanta at the expense of Canada.

Last week, the International Hockey Federation (IHF) named a five-strong panel to probe the Canadian claims ahead of a hearing in

Brussels on March 2. "We have still not filed a reply," Narayan said, adding it was expected within two days. The IHF has set

Sunday as a deadline for the reply. The IHF has sought separate statements from the six players and coach Cedric D'Souza and its of-

ficials have seen a video of match in

### Manchester United hope for a City bonus

huge favour if they beat Newcastle United in the English Premier League to-

controversial penalty in their fifth round tie at Old Trafford last weekend, would see victory over Newcastle only in terms of alleviating their own relega-

Keegan's league leaders would boost their own growing hopes of catching Newcastle in the title chase.

Newcastle, who went down 2-0 at West Ham in midweek, lead the table with 60 points from 26 matches, followed by Manchester United, whose 2-0 midweek win over Everton took them up to 54 points from 27.

Middlesbrough last week but unlikely to pull off a second successive major upset. Newcastle, who face Manchester United at home on March 4, boosted squad yesterday when Blackburn's England midfielder David Batty

agreed to join them subject to personal terms. He will not play today but could make his debut against Manchester United next week.

There is a superb match in prospect at Ewood Park when third-placed Liverpool, whose championship hopes are still alive, make the short trip to a Lancashire Derby against improving champions Blackburn.

The champions will have Stuart Ripley back after his recovery from an ankle problem and he could team up with fellow winger Jason Wilcox for the first

Rovers will be without Norwegian midfield star Lars Bohinen, who still has a calf injury, and striker Mike Newell, who begins a two-match ban.

week when they beat Arsenal on goal difference in the semifinals, travel to rel-

If Villa slip up Tottenham will pull level with them on points but the Londoners need to recover their form after an indifferent spell and beat Sheffield Wednesday who have lost only twice in their last 12 visits to White Hart Lane.

The other main match of the weekend sees Leeds at home to First Division irmingham in the second leg of their League Cup semifinal.

Leeds, 2-1 up from the first leg, will be without the injured Gary Speed, Richard Jobson and John Pemberton, so Swede Tomas Brolin, who has missed the last four matches through injury and loss of form, could return.

Lucas Radebe could win a place in central defence for the first time since helping South Africa to win the African Nations' Cup, with Paul Beesley's place under threat. Reuter

# hibernation

### Bayern Munich aim to end losing streak

BONN - Bayern Munich need to regain their pride and momentum to end a two-match losing streak when they face Bayer Uerdingen in the Bun-

this season as the "dream team" are battling not just opponents on the pitch, but themselves as well.

Captain Lothar Matthaeus said the

"We have to be hard as nails on ourselves," he told *Kicker* magazine in an interview. "We cannot find fault

with others, as we did after the Karlsruhe match. Only after each of us examines his own performance can we lay into others.'

coming out of the winter break. Bayern remain three points behind Borussia Dortmund, who take on Han-

complained. "First come the demands, then comes the performance. It has to be the other way round.'

Even star Juergen Klinsmann has to snap out of a funk and spur the team to victories, he said.

MUSCAT — Gulf Air will sponsor the first All-Filipino Table Tennis

Tournament beginning March 2 to March 28 at the Philippine Embassy in

Ali Abdul Khaliq, area manager of the airline in Oman. The tournament is in-

itiated by Philippine Ambassador San-

chez Ali, who called on all Filipinos to

support the activity by participating in the five events to be held. "The tourna-

ment is a prelude to the bigger inter-

AGCC tourney which is being planned for later this year. The top players in

the tourney will play in that event in which all the best players within the AGCC will come to Oman to com-

"A healthy body has a healthy mind and sports gives you a healthy body. For me, table tennis is the best

form of exercise. It can be played the

whole year round, requires very little

space and the equipment and playing

gear used are inexpensive. Players develop concentration, reflexes and

speed. Table tennis is a non-contact

sport and does not cause injury while playing. It's a game that makes you sweat profusely but does not tire you."

pete", the ambassador said.

Al Khuwair.

goals this season, said after Germany's 2-1 win over Portugal on Wednesday that it was time to clear the air.

that we can look one another in the eye," the *Bild* daily quoted him as saying after the invigorating win in Porto.

Trainer Otto Rehhagel, under attack in the media for failing to galvanise his players into playing with conviction, played down the importance

was looming Meanwhile, Dortmund striker Heiko Herrlich is expected to miss the league leaders' match against Hansa Rostock with a torn ankle ligament.

he was acquired from inter Milan a the start of the campaign:
"He has shown what we expected,"

ALI ABDUL KHALIQ

bassy's conference room.

do (pager 9137100).

The tournament's five events are

men's singles, ladies' singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles and the team

competition. Matches will be played

every Saturday, Monday and Wednes-

day from 7pm to 11pm at the em-

rules are available at the embassy. More information may be obtained

from the organisers of the tournament, Erick de Jesus (pager 9821392), Bon Laimez (tel. 590355) and Patrick Par-

Registration forms and tournament

After a week in which leaders At-letico Madrid proved they already have one hand on the Spanish cham-pionship, the Barcelona-Betis game harsh winter weather hammered northern Germany and forced the club to postpone its first two matches of the is one of two key top-of-the-table clashes that could decide vital Uefa All-Filipino table tennis

Second-placed Barcelona -- who letico's title aspirations -- must win to have any chance of closing the eightpoint gap at the top, and know that Cuellar may be the man to open the

Kodro over the summer. But Kodro has failed to fill the gap left by Brazilian World Cup star Romario, and with Jordi Cruyff also injured, Bar-

MADRID — Angel Cuellar, the Barcelona fans have been waiting impatiently for Cuellar's league debut at

Betis have drawn and won on their last two visits to the Nou Camp stadium, where they can always count on strong support from fans live in Barcelona.

win to maintain their chances of returning to Uefa cup action next sea-

seem to be the only real threat to At-victory at Compostela is even more

of retaining the championship, but with Italy's Juventus barring the way to a European Cup semifinal place

pions -- who need to play in Europe

travel to Compostela without full-back Quique Sanchez, who is in bed-The absence of Sanchez may

120 billion pesetas (\$100 million) --

give a chance to Miguel Soler, who has been unable to find his form since signing from Sevilla in the Compostela have surprised every-

Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson (left) speaks with boxing legend Mohammed Ali at the students' union ballroom of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During the programme, which kicked off Black History Month, Ali was honoured for his contributions to the

body in Spain by keeping up with the pace in third in only their second season at the top level. Compostela have a trick up their sleeve for the Real match - they have threatened to become the first club in the country to take advantage of the European Union ruling on workers' rights by using more than three foreign players in the game.

Midtable Celta Vigo must be wishing they had a similar card to

play in their visit to Atletico Ma-

With three emphatic wins in both cup and league over the past few

uellar set for crucial days, Atletico have brushed aside any lingering doubts over their staying

with Atletico forward Lyuboslav Pe-

nev exchanging punches with Va-

lencia chairman Francisco Roig. Both Roig and the Bulgarian player

have lodged official complaints after

The misunderstanding between the two goes back to Penev's time as

a player at Valencia. — Reuter

"I have said at all times the ARL has been ready to sit down and compromise provided all parties were involved," Arthurson said.

At an earlier press conference Cowley described the court ruling as a temporary, albeit painful, reversal.

"We will be examining all options including an immediate appeal in or-The only possible good news for Celta is the possible absence of Atletico forward Kiko Narvaez, who is doubtful for the game after being carried off the field with an ankle injury

including an immediate appeal in order to bring Super League out on to the playing field where the game belongs," Cowley said. in Atletico's 5-3 cup semifinal win at Valencia on Thursday.

Radomir Antic's side played superbly and should have won by a longs," Cowley said.
"While we respect the law at all times, we are not walking away," said times, we are not walking away," said much bigger margin in a game when three substitutes - Juan Carlos Go-mez, Roberto Fresnedoso and Le-Cowley, who refused to answer quesonardo Biagini - all proved them-selves with fine goals. The tie ended

tions from reporters.

Cowley was flanked by Murdoch's son, Lachlan, who played a prominent

role in negotiations with players and clubs, the Super League chief executive John Ribot.

Super League and ARL lawyers will return to federal court on Monday

when Judge Burchett will give de-tailed instructions to both sides. The ARL are seeking massive damages and an order preventing Super League from starting in 1996. — Reuter

### 10th straight home win for Detroit

**DETROIT** — Igor Larionov, Slava Fetisov and Dino Ciccarelli each had a goal and an assist as the Detroit Red Wings defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3 for their 10th straight home

victory on Thursday.

Keith Primeau and Greg Johnson also tallied for the Red Wings.

"We want to be consistent for all three periods," Ciccarelli said. "To-

night we had control and let them make a game out of it for the last 15 minutes

In New York, Marty Mcinnis had two goals and an assist as the New York islanders held on to beat the New York Rangers, 5-3, snapping their home unbeaten streak at a team

record-tying 24 games.
Tommy Soderstrom made 33 saves, including several key stops in the third period, helping the Islanders hand the Rangers their first home loss

since October 22.

"Inevitably, it was going to end at some point and tonight was the night," said Rangers goaltender Glenn Healy. "They played extremely well tonight and they deserved to win."

In Philadelphia, Eric Lindros and Eric Desjardins scored 73 seconds apart in the first period and Dan Quinn

collected three assists, leading the Philadelphia Flyers to a 5-3 victory over the Washington Capitals. John Leclair, Trent Klatt and Ke-vin Haller also tallied for Phil-

"We played a really good game, but we let them back in it when we had a 4-1 lead. That's the one bad thing we did tonight, letting them

back in it," said Quinn.
Pat Peake scored a pair of thirdperiod goals for the Capitals.
In Chicago, Brian Noonan scored
3:14 into overtime as the St. Louis

Blues rallied for a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks, offsetting a hat-trick by Tony Amonte. Al Macinnis took a slap shot from

the right point that Chicago Defence-

man Eric Weinrich deflected through goaltender Ed Belfour's pads. The puck sat in the centre of the crease for a moment before Noonan, stand-ing untouched at the top of the crease, pushed it across the goal line. — Reuter

the Uefa Cup is the most likely way to qualification for continental com-The six-times European cham-

obstinate Betis defence.

face a hard task against nearest ri-

vals Auxerre for a place in the quar-

The wealthy Paris club, who

have lost their last three league

matches, are now under threat from

both Auxerre and Metz in the race

for the championship and will find

second-placed Auxerre a tough nut

pended defender Oumar Dieng and

another defeat would place Paris

trainer Luis Fernandez, whose re-

lationship with club chairman

Michel Denisot has deteriorated in

the last few weeks, in an un-

"The players must take their re-

"They must not lose and they

The cup programme features an-

other clash between First Division

sides with Lille hosting Monaco, re-

covering after a slow start to the

The team from the principality

are fourth in the league while Lille

PSG travel without injured mid-

to crack in the cup.

comfortable situation.

sponsibilities," he said.

terfinals of the French Cup today.

Tough task for PSG

PARIS — Troubled French soccer are pinning all their hopes on the league leaders Paris St Germain cup to save their season. The players think they can win," said Lille trainer Jean-Michel Cavalli, whose team lost 4-1 at Le Havre last Saturday. "They lost because they didn't give it all they

Little Blenod, playing in the fielder Vincent Guerin and susequivalent of the Fifth Division, will be looking for another upset against former European champions Marseille, currently in the Second Division.

> in eastern France, knocked out First Division Bastia and Le Havre in the previous rounds.

> lightly," said Marseille trainer Gerard Gili, who saw his side take the lead in the Second Division by beating Caen 1-0 on Sunday.

a great advantage in that type of competition. We must be careful because we can't afford to lose. A defeat would do a lot of harm to our are fighting to avoid relegation and club's image." — Reuter

### **Dutch clubs vote for** sports-only channel

the fight.

whelmingly in favour of a planned sports-only television channel for the Netherlands late on Thursday.

ropean champions Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord of Rotterdam, opposed the Dutch Soccer Association's (KNVB) plan to sell exclusive live soccer broadcast rights to a new channel, in which the KNVB itself has a 10 per cent stake. Other consortium members are

with the rest split amongst cable owners SKM, energy utility Nuon and for-mer disc jockey Willem Van Kooten. The KNVB will get over one bil-lion guilders for the rights over a sev-

The new channel aims to go on air by mid-August, KNVB chairman Jos

Staatsen told the association's annual The commercial sports-only channel - which will devote half its air-

time to soccer — plans to show 10 Dutch league and cup matches live each season and another 30 games in

would take three years before every-one in the Netherlands could see it. "By August only 25 per cent of (Dutch) households will be able to watch the new channel," he told the meeting, citing expected delays in ne-

gotiations with cable operators and the sale of decoders and filters. The KNVB said viewers would be charged 24 guilders per month to ac-

opposed the new channel because i

cess the new channel. Ajax and Feyenoord have said they plan to see if they can sell themselves the TV rights for their own home

The KNVB's proposal, unveiled two weeks ago, sparked a storm of protest from rival bidders, politicians

Opponents criticised the way in which the KNVB conducted the bidding the European commission in Brussels said it would look at the monopoly implications and many voiced fears about the 10 per cent of Dutch households that do not have cable television being denied access to the national game. — Reuter

#### Jordan leads Bulls' charge consecutive victory, a 102-86 win ATLANTA — Michael Jordan "I needed to play veteran ball and

scored 34 points as the Chicago Bulls overcame a 17-point deficit to post their seventh straight win, a 96-91 victory over the new-look Atlanta Hawks on Thursday. Scottie Pippen had 16 points and

10 assists, Luc Longley scored 20 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 20 rebounds for Chicago. Ron Harper added 12 points for

the Bulls, who improved to 48-5 this season in their drive to become the first team in NBA history to win 70

use my head. In Cleveland, Robert Horry scored

27 points and Hakeem Olajuwon and Sam Cassell added 13 apiece as the Houston Rockets defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 86-80. Terrell Brandon had 24 points for the Cavaliers, who have

dropped two straight after a season-high eight-game winning streak. Danny Ferry added 17 and Bobby Phills 14 as Cleveland had a six-game home winning streak snapped.
At Utah, Karl Malone scored 26 over the Toronto Raptors. John Stockton had 14 points and

12 assists, and Chris Morris added 10 points for Utah, which won for the 14th time in 17 games.
In Portland, Aaron McKie scored

points and Rumeal Robinson, playing for the suspended Rod Strickland, added 18 as the Portland Trail Blazers routed the Denver Nuggets, 107-78, snapping their five-game losing streak.

Robinson scored 11 points in the first quarter as the Trail Blazers raced

Strickland, who was suspended

prior to the game for disciplinary rea-

106-90 triumph over the Golden State Warriors. Hersey Hawkins scored eight of his 16 points in a second-quarter run, Ervin Johnson had 11 points and 11 rebounds and Sam Perkins added 13

#### to a 28-12 lead and never trailed in The Canadians protested soon af-"I just wanted to relax and let the points for Seattle. ter the lacklustre Barcelona draw be-Michael Jordan dunks in two of his 34 points during his NBA game points and Jeff Hornacek added 22 as B.J. Armstrong scored 27 points game come to me, especially in the coasting to their largest margin of tween India and Malaysia. - Reuter against the Atlanta Hawks in Atlanta. - AFP the Utah Jazz cruised to their fourth victory this season. for Golden State. — Reuter Founder, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali; Subscription: RO 35 per year. Printed and published by Muscat Press & Publishing House, from the Office of Times of Oman, P.O. Box 770, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman,

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City, knocked out of the FA Cup by Alex Ferguson's men after conceding a

But as far as Manchester United are concerned, a City victory over Kevin

United look set to pick up three more points tomorrow when they make the

## Dream team bid to break

desliga this weekend.
Still shaking off their winter hibernation, the Bavarians, billed early

squad's highly paid players had to start working as a team and not let jeal-ousies sour their chances for success.

He was referring to last weekend's humiliating 4-1 loss at home to Karls-ruhe, Bayern's second in a row since

"A few people at Bayern have it too good," the 34-year-old skipper

such pressure."

Klinsmann, with only six league

We have to address everything so

"We have to win everywhere, on Sunday in Uerdingen as well," he said, dismissing any suggestion that a crisis

Trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld also defended Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who has scored only three goals since

he said. "It was not a mistake to sign Rostock are also recovering after

places at the end of the season.

celona striker who was carried off in his first game for the club, is set to

make his re-appearance this weekend in the crucial game against his old

club, Real Betis

Barcelona signed Cuellar along-side Real Sociedad's forward Meho

from their Seville home who now Currently sixth, Betis also need to

For seventh-placed Real Madrid a Real know that they have no hope

had," he said. "They already had

Monaco in mind.' A maximum of four First Division clubs will make it through to the next round.

Blenod, a club from a tiny town "We're certainly not taking them

"They will be at home and that's

### AMERSFOORT (Netherlands) — It will also show another 200 hours Top Dutch soccer clubs voted overof soccer highlights in an attempt to bring some gain to smaller clubs. Ajax chairman Michael Van Praag

Only four clubs, including Eu-

Philips Electronics, the owners of PSV Eindhoven, Internationale Nederlanden Groep, Koninklijke PTT Nederlanden and entertainment firm Endemol, each owning 17 per cent,

Antonio McDyess led Denver

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 19 points and Shawn Kemp added 18 as the Seattle Supersonics cruised to their eighth consecutive victory, a







SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1996

## Waugh twins open Aussies' campaign in style

VISHAKHAPATNAM — Twins Mark and Steve Waugh piled up a record World Cup stand on Friday as Australia began their controversial campaign with an easy

97-run victory over minnows Kenya But the easy win was dampened by the news that top strike bowler Craig McDermott may miss the rest of the World Cup after tearing a calf muscle while bowling in Kenya's

Mark Waugh hit 130 - his first World Cup century — and Steve chipped in with 82 during a 207-run stand for the third wicket as the favourites ran up a mammoth 304 for seven.

Kenya managed 207 for seven in reply. The highlight was a 102-run stand between opener Kennedy Otieno, who made 85 between an



attack of cramps, and skipper Maurice Odumbe (50).

The 30-year-old McDermott limped off the field after sending down just three overs, during which he dismissed Deepak Chudasama. Team officials feared he may be out of action for at least a month.

Coach Bobby Simpson said it was too early to take a decision on McDermott's future in the tournament but hinted he was unlikely to play in Tuesday's key clash against hosts India in Bombay "He has torn a calf muscle and the physiotherapist is having a look. It looks bad but I can't say anything right now how the injury will

progress," Simpson said. The Waugh brothers stand was the highest in the World Cup, surpassing the undefeated 195 for the third wicket between West Indians Gordon Greenidge and Larry Gomes against Zimbabwe at Worcester, England in 1983.

The total fell just 24 short of Australia's best of 328 for five, made



Steve Waugh: Glorious run continues

off 60 overs against Sri Lanka in the inaugural World Cup in 1975.

Mark Waugh's sixth one-day hundred - his third as an opener since moving up the order earlier in the season - made him Australia's third highest century-maker behind Geoff Marsh (nine) and Dean Jones

The brothers showed no signs of rustiness after a forced lay-off since Australia's last international in the World Series at home a month ago. Mark Taylor's men were scheduled to open the World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka last Saturday, but forfeited the match in strife-torn Colombo because of security fears to the players.

But what was expected to an easy outing at the crease began horribly as skipper Mark Taylor and Ricky Ponting fell cheaply to make Australia a shaky 26 for two by the eighth over.

Taylor, who said earlier he was "sick of net practice", saw his stint in the middle last only 13 deliveries as an uppish drive off seamer Martin Suji was well held in the covers by

Hitesh Modi. Ponting, stepping into retired David Boon's shoes at number three, made six off 12 balls before edging seamer Rajab Ali into the gloves of wicketkeeper Kennedy Otieno.

But Kenya, who gave Australia first strike on an easy-paced wicket, chased leather thereafter as the Waugh brothers flayed the inexperienced attack before departing in the space of seven balls in trying to step up the run-rate.

Martin Suji had a hand in both

dismissals, catching Mark at point off Ali before taking a brilliant return catch in the next over. Ali also bowled Michael Bevan for 12 to finish with three wickets. Australia lost Stuart Law and Ian Healy cheaply before the overs ran

Kenya, who lost their opening rpatch to India by seven wickets, play Zimbabwe next in Patna tomorrow

Australia take on India in

Bombay on Tuesday.

Mark Taylor said: "We were disappointed to lose Craig - that's a bit of a blow for us. We were a bit rusty but, all in all, it was a fairly convincing win and we couldn't ask for more. Kenya gave us a very good game. We are going to need that before taking on India. The better the opposition, probably the stronger it will make us for the

future games. He said the India match would be 'a very good game. I dare say there should be a full house."

Maurice Odumbe said his side had had no answers to the Waugh brothers. "We just could not contain them. We played pretty well but unfortunately our batting slowed down towards the end. We had hoped to get around 240."

Mark Waugh revealed he had not realised he and his twin had broken. a record, adding: "They are certainly good batting wickets over here and you are going to see a lot of runs. Hopefully in the next game in Bombay there might be a few runs from our guys and not too many from Sachin Tendulkar." - AFP



SCOREBOAR	RD
Australia	
M. Taylor c Modi b Suji	6
M. Waugh c Suji b Al	130
R. Ponting c Otieno b Ali	6
S. Waugh c and b Suji	82
S. Law run out	35
M. Bevan b Ali	12
I. Healy c E. Odumbe	
b Karim	17
P. Reiffel not out	3
S. Warne not out	0
Extras (b-1 nb-2 w-10)	13
Total (seven wickets -	
50 overs)	304
Did not bat: C. McDermott,	G.
McGrath Fall of wickets: 1-1	02-
26 3-233 4-237 5-261 6-301	7-

301 Bowling: Suji 10-1-55-2, Ali 10-0-45-3 (1nb, 4w), Odoyo 8-0-58-0 (2w), E. Odumbe 4-0-21-0 (1nb, 2w), Karim 10-1-54-1, M. Odumbe 4-0-35-0 (1w), D. Tikolo 3-0-21-0, S. Tikolo 1-0-14-0

Kenya S. Tikolo c Ponting b Reiffel . M. Odumbe c Reiffel b Bevan H. Modi b Bevan E. Odumbe c Bevan b Reiffel

D. Tikolo not out Extras (lb8, nb2, w5) Total (7 wkts) Did not bat: A. Karim, Rajab Ali Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-30, 3-132, 4-167, 5-188, 6-195, 7-206 **Bowling:** McDermott 3-0-12-1, Reiffel 7-1-18-2, McGrath 10-0-44-1, Warne 10-0-25-1, S. Waugh 7-0-43-0, M. Waugh 5-0-23-0, Bevan 8-0-34-2

Result: Australia won by 97 runs Man of the match: Mark Waugh. Reuter, AFP



Mark Waugh receiving the man-of-the-match award for his magnificent 130.

### Taylor sticks to Lanka decision

VISAKHAPATANAM — Australian captain Mark Taylor said he still believed his team made the correct decision in not travelling to violence-hit Sri Lanka for their scheduled opening World Cup game in Colombo.

Taylor revealed that a private chat with West Indies skipper Richie Richardson had convinced him Australia were right to forfeit the points from the game because of doubts about the team's security.

The Australian players watched television coverage of Sri Lanka's belated first World Cup outing against Zimbabwe in Colombo on Wednesday, but Taylor said no one connected with his squad had been having second thoughts. "As I said at the time, no one likes to pull out of games of cricket," said Taylor. "But when I had a chat with Richie after the opening ceremony in Calcutta I found their players were thinking exactly the same as we are.

There was a rumour going around that the players wanted to go but the West Indian board forced them not to play. Well, that wasn't true. They weren't comfortable with going either.

"I think we reassured each other. Obviously you think 'have we made the right decision?' No one will ever know if we have, but we thought it was right at the time and I still think it was right. We stuck by it and so did the West

Indies." Australia and West Indies pulled out of their Cup matches in Sri Lanka after more than 80 people were killed in a bomb attack by suspected rebels in Colombo on January 31.

Handing Sri Lanka the initiative in Group A has nevertheless given Australia little margin for error in their other matches over the next two weeks against Kenya, India, Zimbabwe and West Indies.

"Really we haven't got too many easy games, but if we win three I don't see a problem," said Taylor, who believes his side's confidence has been lifted by the Indian public. "When we first got over here we were a little bit concerned but the people of India have made us feel very comfortable. The people over in Bombay were fantastic...everyone at the grounds and on the buses just want to see the cricket too. "At the moment I think the main emotions we're feeling are relief that we're finally going to play and excitement. "We just want to play the game. We know World Cups only come around every four years, so we want to give it our best shot and hopefully win it." Taylor believes the presence of Kenya and the other non-Test playing countries will have a beneficial effect on the World Cup's future development

#### Today's Match

#### Pakistan vs UAE

PREVIEW ON PAGE IV



#### POINTS TABLE

#### **GROUP A**

STATE OF THE PARTY					
	M	W	L	T	P
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	6
India	2	2	0	0	4
West Indies	3	1	2	0	2
Australia	2	1	1	0	2
Kenya	2	0	2	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0

#### **GROUP B**

		State of		20.40	
	M	w	L	T	P
South Africa	2	2	0	0	4
New Zealand	3	2	1	0	4
England	3	2	1	0	4
Holland	2	0	2	0	0
UAE	2	0	2	0	0
Pakistan .	0	0	0	0	0

David Tikolo (centre) greets Shane Warne before leaving the field as Kenya lost to Australia.

### Warne worried over long-term future

VISAKHAPATNAM — Shane Warne has admitted to long-term concern about the state of his spinning finger.

Hailed by Pakistan's Abdul Qadir last week as the best leg-spinner in history, Warne is to have a bone scan after the tournament and has even discussed the possibility of

Warne had two cortisone injections during the last Australian summer and had another just before leaving for the sub-continent earlier this month, but has continued to experience difficulties.

"Yes, I am worried about it long-term," said Warne, who in December became the first bowler in Test history to take 50 wickets

in a calendar year for three years in succession.

"Everybody's got little niggles but this is worse than a little niggle. The doctors think it's a little bit of arthritis and that there are some torn and stretched ligaments in there, but no-one really knows the full thing. When I get back I'll be having a bone scan, so we'll have to wait and

Warne, 26, claimed his 200th Test wicket in only his 42nd Test in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Perth last December but admitted he experienced increasing discomfort during that

"Rest doesn't necessarily work. I think rest helps the body but it doesn't help the finger too much. I think the more I keep going the better. When you leave it and come back it's really hard. At the moment it usually takes seven or eight balls to start warming up. Once it's done that,

"It was a big inconvenience last summer. I suppose in the latter half of the year, the effect of the cortisone was beginning to

"I didn't bowl all that well in the last Test, but I never have in Adelaide. Even so, statistically-wise it was one of the best summers I've had.'

"It is a bit of a worry to me. There's been a little bit of talk, but I'd be pretty reluctant to have Warne has also spent two days

in bed in India with a stomach complaint, and on Christmas eve shut the same troublesome finger, the third on his right hand, in a door at his Melbourne home.

test and first-class cricket,

managed just two. - Reuter

Sachin

is best:

Lara

newspaper.

NEW DELHI — Brian Lara lavished praise on the batting skills of India's Sachin Ten-

dulkar yesterday, even suggesting he may be the best in the world at present.

"He is a very good batsman. Perhaps he is the best in the

world now," Lara was quoted as saying by the Asian Age

"If he plays consistently, he will go down in history as a great cricketer." Tendulkar played a key role in India's five-wicket triumph against West Indies at Gwalior on Wednesday, scoring a dashing 70. Lara, holder of the world individual record scores for

Australia's World Cup campaign has already been beset with problems off the field, and having forfeited their scheduled first game against Sri Lanka in

There is tight security around the Australians' beach-front hotel, but Warne insists the squad have put the controversy of recent weeks behind them.

"The concerns I had were the ones everybody had," said Warne. "I think the West Indies had the same concerns and that's why they didn't end up going to Sri Lanka. — Reuter





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Who will	score	the	maximum	runs	in	the	series?	

2. Who will take the maximum wickets in the series?\_\_\_\_\_

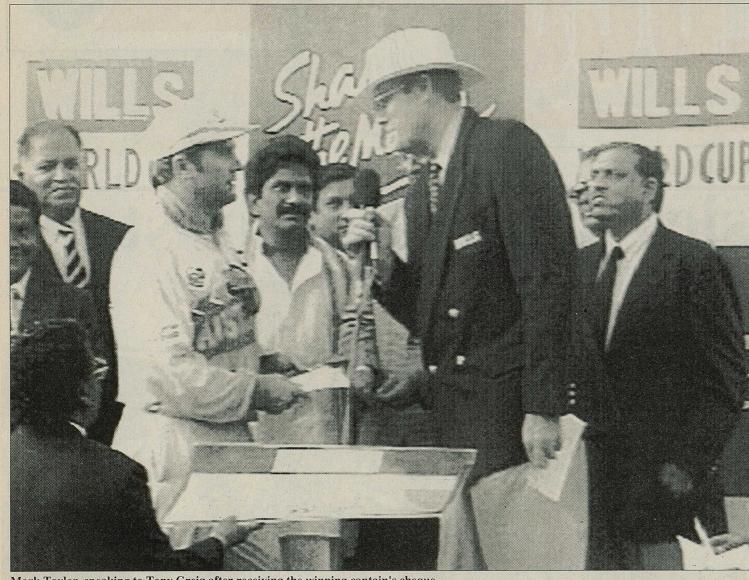
3. Which country will win the '96 World Cup? Name: -----Address: -----

Occupation: ----- Tel: ----- Age: \_\_\_\_ Nationality: -----\* Entries should reach us latest by 14th March, 1996 \* OMASCO staff and their family members are not eligible to enter the contest. \* Send in as many entries as possible but photocopies will not be permitted. \* In case of more than one correct entry winner will be decided by draw

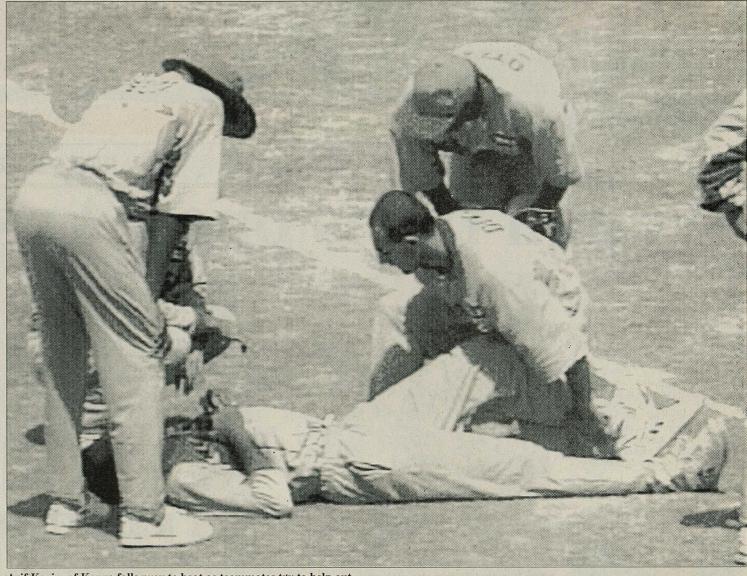


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# WORLD CUP '96 TIMES OF OMAN Saturday, February 24, 1996 Glimpses of Australia's comfortable win over Kenya



Mark Taylor speaking to Tony Greig after receiving the winning captain's cheque.



Asif Karim of Kenya falls prey to heat as teammates try to help out.



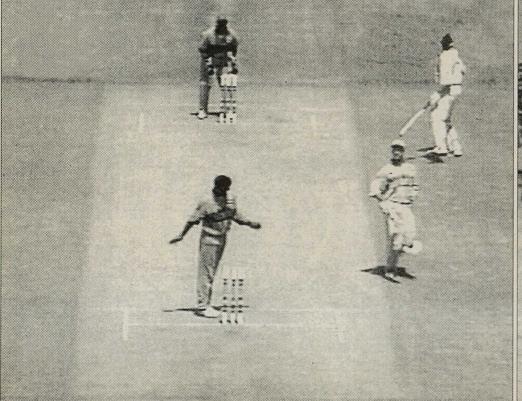
Ricky Ponting is superbly caught by wicketkeeper Otieno.



Mark Waugh lofts the ball in the air to be caught at long-on.



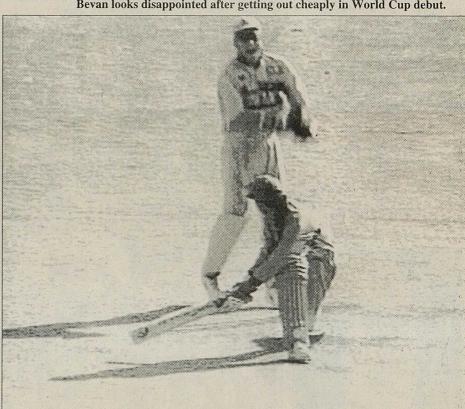
Bevan looks disappointed after getting out cheaply in World Cup debut.



Stuart Law falls prey to a direct throw.



Kennedy Otieno raises his bat after completing his half-century.



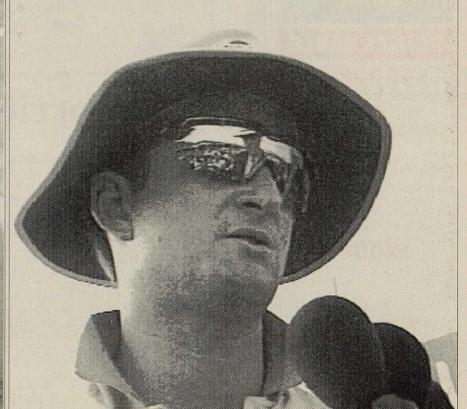
Hitesh Modi is bowled around his legs by Bevan.



Edward Odumbe coming off the ground.



Bevan (left) and Taylor look quite happy after their first World Cup win.



Mark Waugh speaking to the press after the match.

### West Indies need soul-searching

once the undisputed kings of oneday cricket, find themselves in a serious if not necessarily critical condition at the sixth World Cup.

The 1975 and 1979 champions were well beaten by India in Gwalior on Wednesday after forfeiting their match in Colombo against Sri Lanka on diplomatic advice following last month's bomb

"For West Indies, the emphasis should be on the fact that things are getting desperate for them,' wrote former skipper Viv Richards in a newspaper column. "They will have to rally themselves and rally themselves pretty quickly."

Despite repeated assertions from captain Richie Richardson that West Indies do not depend unduly on Brian Lara, the dismissal of the world Test record holder for only two on Wednesday dealt his team a blow from which they were not to recover.

Ian Chappell, captain of the great 1970s Australian side, commented: "The West Indies' problems are two fold when Lara is dismissed cheaply. "It boosts the confidence of their opponents and has a dampening effect on the Windies' hopes of a really big to-

Lara remained at the crease for

some moments after he was given out caught behind after some deliberation by Pakistan umpire Khizar Hyatt, sparking speculation that he had not edged the

But Steve Tovey, officiating as the third umpire on Wednesday, had no doubts. "Khizar always takes his time," said the Netherlands' umpire. "Lara definitely edged the ball and, if he hadn't,

inating force in the World Cup.

the Indian Express.

He predicted

NEW DELHI — West Indian Michael Holding,

one of the finest fast bowlers to grace the game,

argued yesterday that spin would be the dom-

has now become pretty much accepted practice.

Spin is definitely here to stay," Holding wrote in

India's Anil Kumble and Mushtag Ahmed of

Pakistan would prove to be the tournament's key

in the direction of spin once again, what with the

leaders in the fast bowling era, the West Indies,

slower men. And patience is what the spinners

registering a decline in their stocks.

"In the last four or five years, the shift has been

'There is more patients being shown to the

'What was taboo in the first three World Cups

Match referee Raman Subba Row said he had not reported Lara for dissent. "Mind you, if he had stayed a bit longer it might have been interesting," Subba Row conceded.

Two major weaknesses were revealed in Wednesday's match, which followed a comfortable victory over Zimbabwe in West Indies' opening game.

Spinners hold the key: Holding

bowling sensations.

Firstly, the West Indian batting is clearly fragile with Roland Holder, batting at number five, making a duck on his World Cup debut. And Roger Harper is a useful batsman but number six is at

least two positions too high. One solution could be to give the wicketkeeper's gloves to Jimmy Adams, who has not been selected for either of the opening matches, which would shorten the

night fast bowling sensations than overnight spin

Holding, once known as "Whispering Death,'

and now a television commentator, believes the

success of spinners is limited-overs cricket has

boomed as batsmen have learnt to handle fast and

no need to shuffle down the wicket to get close to

the pitch of the ball. They prefered to play from

their crease, chipping and driving," he said. I imagine the spinners will continue to bamboozle bats-

men around the world unless the art of chipping

spinners. "Now its the other way around, with

many captains using spinners to bowl the final

overs when the batsmen are going for the runs. -

He added that teams used to believe fast

were more difficult to score off than

and driving returns," Holding said.

'Against the faster bowlers, the batsmen found

lem lies paradoxically with West Indies' traditional strength.

There was no doubting the commitment and skill of pace bowlers Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop and Ottis Gibson on Wednesday but on a typically slow, low Indian pitch they were largely impotent after a fierce opening burst from Am-

They still remain dangerous in the opening overs, and early breakthroughs would seem essential for success in the remainder of the tournament. On a happier note, West Indies should still qualify for the knockout stages where three good performances in a row could yet give them the Cup for the third time.

Officials travelling with the team are adamant that the West Indies, including Lara, who pulled out of the recent unsuccessful tour of Australia, are united behind Richardson.

"The problem with Brian is that he sees the game so clearly," said one official. "He is a brilliant captain of Trinidad and does not nec essarily always agree with tactics on the field in international match

"But they will win the Cup - I have never seen Curtly so de-

### **MATCHES FACTFILE**

MATCHFILE of Pakistan's World Cup opener with the United Arab Emirates today and South Africa's game against England tomorrow

Pakistan v United Arab Emirates Group: B (with South Africa, New Zealand, England and Holland)

Strengths and weaknesses: Pakistan's bowling attack ranks alongside that of Australia and South Africa as the best in the tournament. The batting, however, can be erratic. The fielding is least consistent. Consistently poor.

The United Arab Emirates, it is, now generally accepted, are the worst side in the tournament with little to boast about and, when compared with the opposition, too many weaknesses to list. Men to watch (subject to selection): Wasim Akram

will be the focus of Pakistan's attention, not only as both bowler and batsman but as captain; the way his team responds to his leadership will be crucial in the weeks

Seamer Johanne Samarasekera is the only Emirates player to look the part at this level, the Colombo-born Sri Lankan bowling nine overs for 39 against the South Africans and removing Andrew Hudson.

Cup head-to-head: The Emirates are making their debut in the tournament Previous records: Pakistan are the reigning

champions after beating England in the 1992 final. Form book: Pakistan lost 2-1 to Sri Lanka in one-dayers at the start of the year before failing to reach the Champions Trophy final, then drawing 2-2 with New Zealand.

The Emirates' last real success dates back two years to their ICC Trophy triumph in Nairobi to qualify for the Cup. Mauled here in their tournament opener by South Africa by 169 runs, they were brushed aside as dismissively by eight wickets against England.

Venue: Gujranwala, a small town known for its stainless steel industry. The municipal ground, with a 12,000-capacity, is not a regular international cricket

South Africa v England (Group B) Strengths and weaknesses: South Africa's bowling

and fielding performance against the New Zealanders was breathtaking and set the standard for the rest of the tournament. The batting is said to be unimaginative, but the point has yet to be proved as no side has been able to

England's batting line-up is beginning to show signs of form but the strike bowling looks moribund on flat wickets and the fielding at best competent and, at worst,

Men to watch (subject to selection): Brian McMillan has yet to bat in anger in the Cup so far, but his slip catching and pace bowling, with the odd run out thrown in, have marked him out as the hub of the South African

Graeme Hick has been carrying the England batting almost single-handedly since the side arrived at the tournament. His current average of 189 speaks for itself particularly since his one dismissal in two outings was not his fault and largely the work of his captain Mike

Atherton, who was acting as his runner. Cup head-to-head: England 2, South Africa 0. England beat them four years ago both in their group encounter, with Andrew Hudson's 79 being cancelled out by a 77 from Alex Stewart and an undefeated 75 from Neal Fairbrother, but also in a semifinal rendered farcical by a rain rule which robbed the South Africans of a chance of victory. That day Hick scored 83 and Hudson

Previous records: England - losing finalists in 1979, 1987 and 1992. South Africa - losing semifinalists in

Form book: South Africa thrashed England 6-1 at home in a one-day series just before the Cup. Since then they have got stronger and stronger and England worse

Venue: Rawalpindi, 15km from the national capital of Islamabad. South Africa will feel at home after thrashing the United Arab Emirates by 169 runs in their opener. —

### need. Spin bowling is a difficult art and it takes time to develop. "You certainly find more over-South Africans stamp superiority

Australia's Shane Warne,

licious moment. Everybody who had been at the Iqbal Stadium was buzzing with excitement after one of the greatest fielding exhibitions of all time by the South Africans.

There was the horizontal Steve Palframan's catch to dismiss New Zealander Craig Spearman. Or Brian McMillan's classic, diving back from a wide first slip to dismiss Roger Twose. Better still was Jonty Rhodes' extraordinary dive, flip-up and searing throw from backward point that scattered the stumps as Adam Parore puffed hopefully in. Others recalled Gary Kirsten's twist-and-throw that stranded opener Nathan Astle.

Everybody, that is, except South African coach Bob Woolmer. Pressed, he admitted the fielding had been "close to awesome." But he couldn't help mentioning that one Pat Symcox misfield on the last ball of the innings. It had cost a run. Without a trace of irony, Woolmer pointed

Javed asks

Thackeray to

be his guest

NEW DELHI — Pakistani batsman

troversial Indian Hindu leader Bal

Thackeray to the World Cup final in

"I am inviting Mr Thackeray to be

"I hope Mr Thackeray accepts the

whose right-wing

uest during the final. In fact,

him feel he will be the guest of all of Pakistan," Miandad, playing in a record sixth World Cup, told Calcutta

invitation and prove that sport unites, and not divides, people," he added

Shiv Sena (Shivaji's Army) party

rules the state government in Ma-

harashtra in coalition with the Hindu-

(BJP), is a known Pakistan-baiter.

revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party

istani cricket teams will not be al

lowed to play in India. Pakistan

twice cancelled scheduled tours to

India in 1992 and 1993 after Thack-

eray threatened to disrupt their

wicket at the Wankhede Stadium in

Bombay two days before the Pakistanis were scheduled to play there.

that Mr Thackeray is threatening our

cricket team. People of his stature should not be talking about breaking

legs."
Thackeray has not yet responded

World Cup with India and Sri Lanka,

may have to play a quarterfinal or

semifinal in India - but not at Bom-

World Cup organisers have

scheduled the two quarterfinals to be

hosted by India in the southern cities

of Bangalore and Madras. The semi-

finals will be played in Calcutta and

Pakistan, which co-hosts the

to the invitation.

In 1992, his followers dug up the

Said Miandad: "It's disappointing

He has repeatedly said that Pak

Lahore next month.

from Lahore.

Thackeray,

out: "There's always room for im-

No side has come anywhere near matching the South Africans in the field during the World Cup so far. Australia are expected to come

closest. The rest manage only a caricature of the real thing.

Take India against Kenya in Group A at the weekend at Cuttack. Seamer Javagal Srinath finds the ball pushed back to him, with the -striker skidding to a halt beside him in mid-pitch. All he has to do is pick up, turn and gently lob the ball to the incoming fielder.

Srinath shied wildly instead. The

ball missed the wicket, cracked his teammate on the shin and bobbled away for overthrows. Television commentator Tony

Greig, trying to contain his mirth, judged: "These are the little mistakes that could cost India the World Cup. What a mix-up that was. They had both batsman down at one end of his bunch of butter-fingered team-

called a "flat-track bully." Now he is

being hailed "a classic and a grateful

Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas —

even before the Englishman's un-

He is simply a great batsman. He is God gifted. He has natural timing and

plays copy-book cricket," said Zah-

eer. "He is a player who is born for

Zealand player John Bracewell, was

made in the days when Hick, while

carving up attacks at first-class level,

was struggling to acclimatise to inter-

Worcestershire against Somerset -

The Zimbabwean-born 29-year-

The "bully" tag, from former New

on Thursday.

national level

The accolade came from former

defeated 104 not out against Holland critics at last.

the ground and yet they were able to

RAWALPINDI — World Cup stro- has had a fractured career, dropped

keplayer Graeme Hick was once repeatedly as the doubts kept re-

England, meanwhile, managed three dropped catches against New one of which would have dismissed Astle for a handful rather than the century he claimed -- and two more against the United Arab Emirates. New Zealand were almost as poor on Tuesday, two chances

and another going begging

Pakistan, who go into action against the Emirates today, are unlikely to be much better. Their fielding can be distinctly village-green. Last November, against Australia in the first Test, they missed five catches in the first innings, organised a special emergency fielding session, and missed three more in the second.

when the fielder failed to react.

Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin, meanwhile, who took over as team fielding coach just before the Cup, has been openly scathing of

Gifted Hick comes of age

argued, always undid him.

Genuine pace, it was

But he returned to the side against

Skipping, intriguingly, may have

Zaheer argues Hick is among the

the West Indies last year with an un-

defeated 118 and then added 141

against the South Africans to nail the

habilitation, the player's suspect foot-

top strokemakers in cricket today,

bracketing him with Salim Malik and

Amir Sohail of Pakistan, Sachin Ten-

dulkar and Azharuddin of India, West

Indian Brian Lara and Australian

"They are all fine players and have all shots," he said. "Lara is a

classic player. Tendulkar is a player

an art of batting looks pretty. "But it

work improved by the exercise.

Mark Waugh.

old — who once hit 405 not out for of timing. If Salim Malik gets going,

fine fielding from other quarters here, with the West Indies claiming two direct hits against Zimbabwe, whose Alistair Campbell took a sensational reaction catch at slip off his

own wicketkeeper's glove.

The South Africans, however, whose all-round shot-stopping pressurises batsmen into beginners' mistakes and who carry no fielding 'passengers', make a habit of it. Palframan and McMillan held stunning catches against the Emirates as well.

To cap that, it came out after Sunday's game that Rhodes had almost not played, struggling with a "ham-'string tweak" and the after-effects of Rhodes put the performance

down to Kirsten. "On Tuesday it was Gary Kirsten who set the standard when he ran out Nathan Astle and then had a direct hit to get rid of Chris Harris. That got us all going,"

is treat to watch Hick play his strokes.

He hits his strokes with elegance. He

runs in 78 Tests and whose all-time

idols were Rohan Kanhai and Barry

Richards, uses the word with caution.

It is not to be wasted on just any old

"The art of strokeplay is a way of

mmunication between stroken-

layers and cricket lovers," he lyr-

icises. "Perfect strokeplay touches the

heart of a cricket fan, as a lover's

message touches the heart of the be-

the ball which is stopped by other

batsmen. The word strokeplayer itself

Hick may appreciate the compli-

ment and the poetry, but his England captain Mike Atherton is more inter-

is a big word. Using this word for :

batsman itself is a big compliment."

ested in his runs just now. — AFP

"A strokeplayer is a man who hits

Zaheer, who scored over 5,000

has grace."

### Fans surround Azhar during Eid prayers

From R. K. Bhatnagar

GWALIOR - The devout Muslim in Indian skipper Mohammed Azaruddin was visible on Wednesday when he offered Eid prayers at the Moti Masjid in Gwalior in the morning much before the India-West In dies cricket tie. India won the match by five wickets.

Azhar in a spotless white kurta-pyjama and a white cap reached the mosque at 9.35am, much before the prayers commenced. The alert security staff ushered Azhar in side the Moti Masjid before the cricket fans could notice him. According to eyewitness account after Azhar had fin ished the prayers, there was a mad rush towards him with the fans wanting to get closer to him wishing Eid Mubarak. Even flowers were showered on him. The security men were all at sea

trying to handle the situation. Azhar was however, not amused. Visibly upset, Azhar pushed and shoved, trying to escape from the melee. Pleading to be left alone, he pushed away a fan who had managed to embrace him. The crowd was however, unrelenting. The jostling continued for about 15 minutes before the police were able to clear the way. Azhar rushed away, his face red with anger and flower petals sticking on his head. In a hurry, he forgot his slippers. Some admirer made away with them to preserve them as memento.

ver the Indian cricket car tain has confirmed reports about his impending divorce from his wife Naureen who lives in his Hyderabad house with her two sons (Asad and Ayaz). It is learnt that Azhar has decided to settle down in Bombay. At the same time, his family led by his father has decided to stand by Naureen who continues to stay with her in-laws in Hyderabad inspite of the divorce. In Hyderabad Azhar has a fleet of seven cars.

According to commentators rumours have been afloat for quite sometime that he has divorced his wife and plans to marry Bollywood actress Sangeeta Bijlani. His personal life has seen some unsavoury moments in the recent times, when he had a fight with a news photographer in Bangalore last month. The lensman's attempt to capture him and Ms Bijlani together earned him Azhar's "It is not important," he said on Wednesday when asked about reports of his divorce, finally admitting that he had annulled his marriage with Naureen. It happened some time ago.

Don't give the divorce too much importance. It will not affect my cricket," he said as he picked up his favourite bat, thrust his hands into a pair of gloves and walked away to

He did not have too much time on hand to go into details but enough to confirm that he did not have to initiate legal proceedings. "Under Muslim law, I need not," he said. Azhar was clearly dismissive of the speculation that he had allowed the turmoi

### **WORLD CUP DIARY**

 BAS Zuiderent won the latest stage of Holland's World Cup generation game when he scored a sparkling 54 against England. Zuiderent is 18. Nolan Clarke, the former Barbadian player, old enough to be his father at the venerable age of 47,

made a duck

• ENGLAND may need to produce another rain dance to avoid defeat against South Africa at Rawalpindi in Pakistan at the weekend. Last World Cup, the English side were facing a tight semifinal finish against them, their opponents needing 22 runs of 13 balls, when the rain came down. Under a farcical rule, since abandoned, a new target of 22 off seven balls was announced. only to be revised to 22 off a single delivery by the time the batsmen got to the wicket. The way Hansie Cronje team are playing at the moment, the best Michael Atherton can hope for is a major downpour and a share of the points. A POLICE contingent of 1,000 officers spent

the night before Australia's opening Group A against Kenya yesterday watching over the pitch at Vishakhapatnam in India. They split up into two shifts of 500 to make sure there were no

last-minute security problems. One officer said: "This is a safe town — we are doing this to give peace of mind.'

 AUSTRALIAN pace bowler Glenn McGrath got the Eric Cantona treatment from the packed crowd at their opening World Cup game against Kenya. "Ooh, aah, Glenn McGrath," they chanted. The refrain — substituting the French footballer's name — was made famous by English football crowds supporting Cantona, once with Leeds and now with Manchester United.

• PLAY yourself in, the cricket coaches say. Get the pace of the pitch and a sight of the ball before going for your shots. It clearly slipped Kenyan skipper Maurice Odumbe's mind against Australia Coming in with his side rocking on 31 for two, he took guard, looked around ... and thrashed his first ball off Paul Reiffel to the cover boundary. Odumbe carried on in similar vein, surviving a scare when he played a ball down onto his own stumps without dislodging the balls before going for 50 off 53 balls.

• FORMER England skipper Tony Greig, currently operating as a World Cup television commentator, knows his cricket. He's not always as pertinent on other subjects. Ad-libbing over a section of film depicting a local temple during a break in play, he came up with the blinding obvious: "It dates back to the 14th century ... so it's very old indeed."

• ENGLAND quick bowler Darren Gough narrowly escaped injury when a missile was thrown at him from the crowd during Thursday's game against Holland at Peshawar in Pakistan. England

supremo Ray Illingworth said: "He could have been seriously injured. He was very lucky. "A man was later arrested by police following the incident. INDIAN newspapers on Thursday jubilantly

front-paged India's crushing five-wicket victory in their World Cup match against West Indies in Gwalior. "After Gwalior, India will be tough to beat," the Asian Age declared in a headline reflecting the raised hopes of Indian fans that their team could win the Cup. The Times of India hailed Sachin Tendulkar as "India's cricket wonder" after his dashing innings of 70 set up the home team's win on Wednesday. "As India raced to victory at the Roop Singh Stadium, 34,000 spectators turned newspapers and every bit of paper and wood into torches. There were wild battle cries," said the Times.

• INDIA's mobile phone companies say business is booming as the cricket-crazy nation tries to keep up to date with the latest scores from World Cup matches. "One of them lured customers by transmitting the latest scores on pagers free of cost," the Asian Age newspaper reported. "Others are roping in top executives who are scared to leave their television sets yet have to run their • INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council (ICC) match

referee John Reid and his colleagues have declared war on World Cup sledgers and rascists. "We are out to stop sledging, the verbal abuse of players, the pressure of intimidation, and we are also on the look-out for racial abuse," he said. But he added: 'So far there has been no problem with discipline and everything has run smoothly with most of the games being quite low key. We as match referees will be watching even more closely once the bigger games start coming up." Reid, a former New Zealand all-rounder, also said they wanted to hand out bans rather than fines. "The match referees got together for a meeting in Calcutta b tournament started and we agreed that fines seemed to be having a limited effect," he said, explaining that fines were not always passed on by teams. Reid's fellow match referees at the tournament are England's Raman Subba Row, Clive Lloyd of the West Indies, India's Mansoor Pataudi and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka.

 SRI LANKA will not be forced to turn up for their aborted match against West Indies in Colombo on February 25, World Cup organisers said. The team had to go through the motions of turning up for the earlier game in the captial against Australia, even though they knew their opponents -- like West Indies -- had already forfeited the game because of security fears. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convenor-secretary of Pilcom, said the International Cricket Council, the world governing body, had asked them this time not to make any arrangements to stage the West Indian

### Smith faces race against time

PESHAWAR — England batsman Robin Smith faces a race against time to save his World Cup — and the rest of his international career from sinking without trace.

If Smith fails to convince England supremo Ray Illingworth that he is raring to go tomorrow after shaking off a bad groin strain, the 32-year-old middle order batsman could miss out on the Group B game against South Africa. That will give him little time to re-establish himself as a front-line choice for the rest of the tournament or even beyond.

The South African-born player, increasingly struggling in recent seasons to hold onto his England slot, will be particularly keen not to sit things out again on the Rawalpindi stadium balcony. Confidence is something that the likeable Smith has

Ian Bishop demolished his face with a bouncer last year. That double fracture of the cheekbone, compounded by a groin strain in a practice match just before the cup which almost led to him being replaced, has made it a difficult year for the Hampshire player. Illingworth turned the screw at the start of the season by saying: "Robin has got to produce for us. He's played 50-odd Tests but always seems a bit nervous. He's got to

That will be just as true now, with England struggling badly from patchy form ever since the disastrous end to the South African tour which culminated in the final Test defeat at Cape Town and a 6-1 one-day thrashing Smith, who was used as an opener

stand up and be counted.'

last summer in the Tests, has one thing going in his favour as he tries to regain his place in the team. Mike Atherton is struggling for

form, Alec Stewart has yet to convince, while left-handers Neil Fairbrother and Graham Thorpe are only just beginning to look the part. Only Graeme Hick among the top

five, with an 85 against New Zeaand a century against the Dutch, has played to commanding in-

But "The Judge," as Smith is nicknamed, knows the selectorial jury may not be out for much longer.

How he will cope with the slow low Asian wickets - he is a player who looks at his best facing pace, with his square cut one of the most murderous back-foot shots in the game — will be intriguing. — AFP

knock a few balls.

### Gough hit by spear, man held

rested after a small wooden spear narrowly missed England paceman Darren Gough during Thursday's World Cup game against the Netherlands, match referee John Reid said yes-

Pakistani police acted swiftly after match officials used their walkietalkies to report the incident, which occurred in the afternoon when was fielding on the boun-"Umpire Steve Bucknor called me

on the walkie talkie to say a missile had been handed in," said Reid. "He told me the part of the ground where the incident happened. It was to the left of the scoreboard at the far end where Gough was fielding. "I immediately called the chief of police who reacted very quickly and a young man was arrested and put in prison on Thursday night."

In 1987, England seamer Phillip Defreitas was stoned by a section of the crowd in the same part of the Arbab Niaz Stadium during a one-day international against Pakistan. Reid said he was match referee at a oneday tournament in Pakistan in 1994 when Australia's Shane Warne and South African Darryl Cullinan were struck by missiles from the crowd.

The former New Zealand captain said he warned Pakistani authorities then that extra security precautions were needed to protect players. help to promote the game in the rest "They have taken several measures including building a high perimeter fence around the ground and separating the pavilion area from the terraces," he said.

"Darren Gough was lucky. Thank goodness he was not seriously hurt. It's difficult to legislate for one nitwit, but it was an isolated incident the cricket and not to cause trouble England team manager Ray II-

lingworth said he was relieved Gough had not been injured. "When there are bigger crowds in the later rounds it will be difficult to stop this kind of thing no matter how great the security," said Illingworth. "It's just a question of asking people to behave sensibly and not jeopardise players'

The incident has put security back in focus at the tournament, particularly with potential flashpoint games still to come such as the Pakistan-England clash in Karachi on March 3. It will be the first time the two sides have met since ball-tampering allegations were made against Pakistan during their tour of England

England won Thursday's match against the Netherlands by 49 runs.

• CRAIG White vowed to bounce back as England's all-rounder after being ruled out of the rest of the World Cup through injury.

White, who damaged his rib cartilage during England's eight wickets win over the United Arab Emirates, said missing the remainder of the tournament was "the biggest kick in the belly I've ever had". The Yorkshire pace bowler and middle order batsman, who flew home on Monday, has been replaced by Warwickshire captain and all-rounder Dermot

White's injury is a carbon-copy of the problem which caused him to miss the second half of England's 1994-95 Ashes tour of Australia. White said: "It hasn't really hit me yet but when I have been at home for a few days and I'm watching the lads on the television it will be really

tough, especially if they get through to the final. "This injury is worse than last time because I was just starting to feel established, feel I was impressing the right people and that was going to have a good World

"In South Africa (on the recent tour), I felt I was starting to prove my critics wrong, and I'm still aiming to be England's all-rounder for the next four or five years." White broke down delivering the ninth ball of his spell against the Emirates at the Arbab Niaz Stadium.

'I tried to put a bit more into the ball and it worked as I beat the batsman for pace," he said. "But I then felt the injury, as though I had been stabbed in the rib cage."

White has now had three serious setbacks in an international career of less than two years. In addition to the current injury and the similar problem 14 months ago, he also suffered a double stress fracture of his left ankle

But White, who bowled off-spin until 1993, denied his body is not up to the job of bowling fast. "It must be a weak area of my body, and I will work on strengthening it when I get back to fitness," he said.

White will need at least six weeks rest and will miss Yorkshire's preseason tour of Zimbabwe, but he added: "Speaking to (England) physiotherapist Wayne Morton, he has told me if I don't rush it, it shouldn't be too long before I'm back."

The English-born, Australianraised player's premature return home marks the end of a long schedule. having toured Pakistan before Christmas with the England A team and then played in South Africa with the senior side. — AFP, Reuter

### Dutch call for help to develop their game

coach David Trist has called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and England to help the Netherlands become a competitive force in

"Thirty years ago Sri Lanka were nowhere and now they must be in with a chance of winning the World Cup," said Trist.

'To get there someone must have rated and supported what they were doing, and what we are asking is for the powers that be to do the same for us now.

Trist said the standard of Dutch cricket could be raised if the ICC and England pledged administrative and financial help, including some of the £60 million the English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) received from a recent television

Money was badly needed to develop the Dutch game, he said. their first World Cup despite the fact that only about 6,000 people in the country play the game.

The Dutch do not have any indoor practice facilities or a single grass pitch in the whole country - all games take place on

"One million pounds would be a start as it would enable us to put a management and development plan firmly in place by the end of 1997, so that by the year 2000 I believe we would already be able to see satisfactory results," said Trist.

Initially, the money could be used to develop grass pitches - two are already being prepared in Amsterdam and Deventer. It could also help fund a playing home for the Royal Dutch Cricket

Association which currently has no Trist believes cricket's ruling

expand as much as possible, something which would ultimately benefit everyone.

He points out that three Dutch players — all-rounder Roland Lefebvre (Glamorgan), fast bowler Andre van Troost (Somerset) and seamer Paul-Jan Bakker (formerly with Hampshire) — have played on the English county circuit.

"In rugby union, the larger nations have helped foster the sport amongst other countries and it has boosted the game enormously," he

"Ten or 15 years ago, the likes of Canada and Italy were getting hammered, but their game was backed. They are now drawing crowds, producing a quality product and also enriching the sport as their World Cup is now just that — not merely a collection of the old established teams.'

three associate ICC member countries in the current World Cup - the Netherlands, Kenya and the United Arab emirates — is a step in the right direction by the game's world governing body and he would

The man who has coached successfully with Canterbury in New Zealand and Eastern Province in South Africa would like a review of the way funds are allocated to smaller countries. Trist said the ICC could also

arranging warm-up tours for them

help associate countries by

made up of amateurs and

like to see it continued.

before the next World Cup in England in 1999. 'Unlike the other sides we have come into this event completely cold," he said. "We could only afford to make a short tour to Delhi at Christmas, but because we are

could get time off work so the visit was of only marginal use." Trist, 48, who played first-class

fostering the idea of small-scale

cricket in his native New Zealand, is

tours for his players and is hopeful

of trips to England and South Africa if sponsorship can be attracted. We knew the World Cup would be our equivalent of Mount Everest as some of our players have never even played three-day cricket, but if we can move forward as a result of our experience and even ultimately

worth it," said Trist. "We're not asking for a lot and we don't want to be a drain on the resources of others, but I believe the time is now for Dutch cricket to expand — a window of opportunity is presenting itself." — Reuter

of Europe then it will have been

### PESHAWAR — A man has been ar-

### Miracle-man Wasim ready to lead from the front

**GUJRANWALA** — All eyes will swear under oath that they were be trained on Wasim Akram as not involved betting syndicates reigning champions Pakistan make their long-awaited World Cup entry against the United Arab Emirates here today.

The result, a foregone conclusion, will be irrelevant. The tone of his leadership will not. Pakistan, twiddling their thumbs on the sidelines for ten days since the start of the tournament, could not lose to the Emirates even if they batted with rusty saucepans and bowled slow full-tosses with

But the success of Wasim's position as the hub of the team as strike bowler, aggressive lower-order batsman and, most importantly, as captain of a team of captains — will be vital for the tougher matches to come.

Pakistan's squad contains six former team leaders but coach Intikhab Alam, himself sacked at the start of the year before being reinstated, is not concerned. "It will not make any difference. All the players have been told what to do. They have to follow the game plan which Wasim Akram wants to implement (...) There is great understanding among all the players," Intikhab said.

In recent years, squabbles, sackings and player revolts have regularly affected a team widely regarded as the most talented yet most undisciplined in the world.

There was also unsubstantiated

wagering on results

Even the legendary Imran Khan, who led the side to the 1992 trophy, admitted worries a few months ago after a dreadful year of results that included a Test defeat to Zimbabwe and a series reverse against Sri Lanka.

"I feel so sorry for Wasim Akram. The side is riddled with cliques, there's been this constant squabbling over the captaincy and other issues," he said. "The talent has been squandered. I don't see how they can rebuild in time for the World Cup.

Imran and the rest of the world, however, soon began to change their minds. The key moment came in Australia in December, with the team 2-0 down to Australia in a Test series — the games lost by massive margins of an innings and 126 runs and by 155 runs — and on the verge of disintegration.

Somehow, Wasim wrenched the crisis around and inspired a miracle tournament. Mushtaq Ahmed took nine wickets for the second game in a row, Pakistan won and Wasim enthused. "The morale is back, we are all

other," he said. The crucial ingredient that day - and now was national pride. The Emirates, branded the

together, they're working for each

worst cup team by country mile,

are likely to get a pounding on Sunday because of it. The only issue is whether they will lose by more than the 169-run margin against South Africa or the eight wickets against England.

The prospect of a bowling attack led by Wasim, Wagar Younis and leg spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, Pakistan's version of Shane Warne, would leave any opponents quaking. Paceman Aqib Javed and promising off-spinner Saglain Mushtag offer back up.



If Pakistan have any flaws, it may rather be in the batting, which has been unpredictable over the last 12 months but Amir Sohail, Saleem Malik and Inzamam-ul-Haq would all

challenge to get into most teams. Then there is a prospect to relish, the return of former captain

after retiring two years ago for an unprecedented sixth World Cup. To many people's surprise, he has impressed during the warm-up games. His relationship with Wasim and the rest of the team will be as eagerly watched as his majestic square cuts.

"We are eagerly looking forward to getting down to business," said Pakistan captain Wasim Akram, setting his sights on emulating the feat of his idol Imran Khan who led the team to World Gup glory in Australia four years ago. "We know our track record in the past five months has not been that encouraging, but this time we are mentally better prepared and the team is also strong and experienced."

While other cup teams have played as many as three matches, the Pakistanis will be making a belated entry into the tournament. Pakistan have also not played any competitive cricket since returning home from the tour of Australia and New Zealand in late December.

Akram insists this could be to Pakistan's advantage because they have had more time to prepare for the tournament and are fresh for the battle ahead. This has been a long break but

we've been training hard for the tournament and the players are simply raring to go into the contest," he said. "Others may have grown a bit stale but we'll be

Javed Miandad is set to become the only cricketer to play in all six World Cups since the premier limited overs tournament began in 1975. At 39 he is the second oldest player in the competition after 47-year-old Nolan Clarke of the Netherlands, but Miandad remains a batsman who can destroy any attack and turn a match within the space of few

His career record is rich testimony to his prowess. In his 228 one-day internationals he has scored 7,327 runs, including eight centuries and 50 half-centuries. Miandad fought back with characteristic determination to clinch a place in the Pakistan squad after a knee injury and indifferent form kept him out of

the game for two years. Akram said Pakistan would open their batting with dashing left-handers Amir Sohail and Saeed Anwar and Miandad would come in at number four or five.

Anwar was sidelined with typhoid at the start of the 1995-96 season but regained his place with three successive centuries in the domestic one-day championship. This means experienced right-handed opener Ramiz Raja, who scored a fine century in a warm-up match last week at Karachi, may not play today.

The UAE are resigned to going down to their third successive defeat "What can I say about Pakistan? They are obviously the world champions and one of the strongest outfits in the competition. Perhaps we may learn some new skills from them," said UAE captain Sultan Zarwani.

The Cup organisers, stunned by poor crowds at some of the early matches, are hoping today's game will attract a big turnout from Pakistani fans keen to see the home side go into action.

Teams from: Pakistan -Wasim Akram (captain), Aamer Sohail, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ramiz Raja, Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Ata-ur-Rehman, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain

UAÊ - Sultan Zarawani (captain), Saeed Al-Saffar, Vijay Mehra, Saleem Raza, Shahzad Altaf, Shaukat Dukanwala, Ganesh Mylvaganam, Azhar Saeed, Mazhar Hussain, Arshad Laiq, Muhammad Aslam, Johanne Samarasekera, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ishaq Muhammad.

He said the TV networks which

beamed the ceremony all over the

world, had told Pilcom that it was

Besides, the board too had

received thousands of messages

from cricket fans all over India.

some journalists of not being

matches. - PTI

Referring to a complaint of

provided official facilities, Bindra

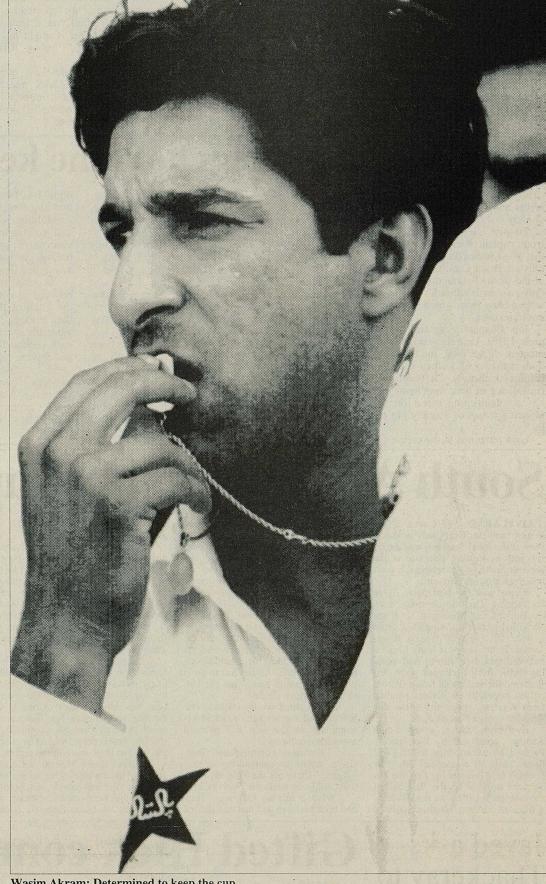
case of non-sports journalists who

were, in any case, not covering the

said it had happened only in the

received extremely well by

- AFP, Reuter



Wasim Akram: Determined to keep the cup

### Miandad hits the perfect six

GUJRANWALA — There seems to be no half-way house with Pakistan's most controversial cricketer. Some love him and some

What nobody tries to do, however, is to bowl short outside the off stump to Javed Miandad. One wristy square out and a few microseconds later and the ball invariably rattles into the boundary boards just behind square. They say that Miandad, who was

expected to survey the World Cup from an armchair in an old people's shome rather than from the crease, still has the touch that has earned him almost 9,000 Test and 8,000 one-day runs and a place among the greats.

That touch earned him a late,

unexpected call-up for his sixth world tournament is a row, a feet that will probably never be equalled, let alone surpassed. Even Imran Khan could only manage five.

"Public pressure persuaded me

NEW DELHI — Indian cricket

board chief Inderjit Singh Bindra

charges being levelled against the

its convenor, Jagmohan Dalmiya,

had 'political overtones'.

with authority that all these

allegations are politically motivated, mischievous and

Chandigarh.

World Cup organiser, Pilcom and

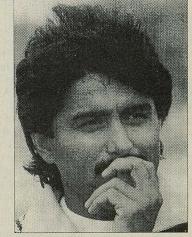
'In the process, Dalmiya is

being made a scapegoat. I can say

baseless," Bindra told Press Trust of India on phone from

Bindra said the Board of

said yesterday the tax evasion



JAVED MIANDAD

back," said Miandad. "If I thought I might not be up to it, then I would have stayed at home. His chances of getting bat against the United Arab

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

concealed from anybody. "Besides,

and its transactions were totally

necessary permission for all the

transactions for the current World

Cup had been obtained from the

"The fact that the reports are

appearing in a very small section of

the press proves that somebody is

trying to act funny for extremely

petty reasons," he said. As far as

the transactions were concerned,

Bindra said, the position was no

different from what it was in 1987

Reserve Bank of India".

transparent and nothing had been

Emirates' peashooter attack look slim, since Pakistan's openers are unlikely to return early to the pavilion.

That will give him the chance to save his legs for the tougher battles to come ... and to reminisce quietly while younger men do the donkey

He should have plenty of memories. At 17, he was scoring over 300 in a first-class match for the Karachi Whites. At 19 he was making his Test debut, scoring 163 against New Zealand and, two matches later, becoming the youngest man to score a double Test

There have been more controversial moments, however, including his infamous face-off with fired-up Australian paceman Dennis Lillee in the middle of the pitch in the early eighties. Then there was the altercation with Mike Gatting after the England skipper had waved him off to the Pavilion after being

Charges against Pilcom have political overtones: Bindra

when India and Pakistan jointly

hosted the reliance World Cup.

letter had been received from the

Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) and its counsel had

replied to it in the normal course.

or notice from the authorities, he

Indies' refusal to play their

After that, there has been no query

respective matches in Sri Lanka on

security grounds, Bindra reiterated

that the two teams were bound to

Referring to Australia and West

He, however, confirmed that a

Miandad will want to avoid controversy this time, after making the tournament by the skin of his teeth. Pakistan delayed naming their World Cup squad, reportedly because of differences between selectors over whether Miandad should be included. Checks were hurriedly made on his fitness before the shock summons was made.

Miandad, who revealed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had also played a part in his revoking his retirement "I cannot say no to the country's prime minister" - will also want to quit the international stage with a bang rather than a

The fire to perform, it seems, it still there: "My aim is still to perform and I love to score more than anyone else, more than the opposition, more than my own teammates. And after the World Cup I will be gone." — AFP

pay a penalty of \$3 million each

was binding on all the playing

discussed threadbare with the

ountries. The matter has been

International Cricket Council, he

of the opening ceremony at the

Bindra also rejected all criticism

Eden Gardens in Calcutta. Refuting

said except for a brief disruption of

the laser show because of the strong

the charge that it was a fiasco, he

wind and a couple of mistakes by

the compere, the ceremony was a

besides forfeiting their respective

matches as per the resolution which

# Atherton eat his words

RAWALPINDI — South Africa plan to ram a few of Mike Atherton's words right back down his throat when the World Cup rivals meet here tomorrow.

Atherton's verbal attack on Hansie Cronje's men — just after they had beaten England 1-0 in a Test and when annihilated them 6-1 in the one-dayers — will not have been forgotten.

The English opening batsman had claimed that there was "little room for flair within the Afrikaner mentality" and that they layed 'attritional cricket." Cronje merely laughed off the jibe at the time. He and his side, however, will be looking for the last laugh

tomorrow All the signs are that they will succeed with a vengeance. While Atherton and Co have stumbled and groped from one crisis to another since the start of the year, the South Africans have honed their squad into a world-class unit.

The side's bowling and fielding in the victory against New Zealand left most experts fighting over superlatives and flicking back through the archives in a forlorn search for a performance to match

Cronje — despite the burden of his Afrikaner mentality followed his gameplan to perfection. Allan Donald was wisely held back as a change bowler and went on to take three for 43. Left-arm spinner Pat Symcox was brought in to check the Kiwi left-handers and responded with ten overs for a mere 25.

Then the South African captain defied convention by launching a personal blitzkrieg with the bat, making a thumping 78. A more cautious skipper would have paced his innings but Cronje's tactics immediately knocked the stuffing out of the New Zealand resistance.

The Group B table show England and South Africa are equal, with four points each. About as equal as diamonds and cut glass. What will worry English fans is that Atherton's 'Lancashire mentality' has not exactly been bursting with World Cup flair

The 27-year-old's qualities as a defiant batsman are unquestioned his 185 not out in the Johannesburgh Test was proof enough. More worryingly, however, it is his judgement that is increasingly in doubt.

His attack on Cronje's side, apart from souding ungracious, prompted South African coach Bob Woolmer to brand the comments "unfair and naive." He added pointedly: "Hansie Cronje is an astute captain and I think if Mike is prepared to say that, then he has underestimated Hansie (...) This may have contributed to England's relative lack of success against us.

A wider trawl through captain Atherton's recent sayings do not offer convincing evidence that he is any more on top of the game now. Instead of leaerning something from the South African debacle. Atherton blamed it on end-of-tour tiredness. "I believe those matches will have very little relevance to what happens out here," he added.

Before the New Zealand game, he argued: "If we hammer New Zealand in our first World Cup mach, everything that happened in South Africa will go out of the window. England lost but still no humble pie

And after Thursday's win over the Dutch — a clear improvement but with plenty of glaring faults still to remedy — Atherton again seemed to strike the wrong tone, a win over the minnows prompting the judgement: "I was pleased, generally. We are feeling confident. We can beat most teams. It is surprising that a man who

has scored 1, 20 and 10 in his first three World Cup innings (following a dreadful run in the South African one-dayers after an early 85) and who has also demoted himself down the order, can find anything at all to feel good about.

Atherton seemed closer to the mark when he admitted in South Arican that England had "got into a bit of a rut. We have slid into mediocrity.

What he really needs is actions rather than words. As Cronje will want to prove tomorrow, they really do speak louder. However, South Africa's

teenage spinner Paul Adams, who tormented England on their recent tour to the republic, is likely to be back in action against Mike Atherton's men tomorrow.

Atherton has been playing down the threat posed by Adams and insists England can bounce back from a run of mediocre form in one-day matches to beat the highly-fancied South African team 'We know they are a competitive side, a very good fielding unit who bowl tightly, but I think their

batting is suspect and, as with any side, if you get two or three wickets you can put them under pressure,"

The England skipper said Adams would pose a threat only if the pitch at the Pindi stadium turned. "If the ball turns Paul Adams will be a decent bowler, but if there is no turn he'll be there to be whacked just like anyone else," said Atherton.

Adams, 19, who will make his World Cup debut if he plays tomorrow, was a key member of the South African side that crushed England 6-1 in the one-day series in the republic last month.

"There is no psychological problem playing South Africa, even though we lost 6-1 in the one-day series. That's got no relevance to the World Cup," he said. "These are different conditions. This is a different scenario and we are looking to turning the tables."

South Africa are not impressed by England's chequered performances in the Cup so far. Whether they have got their act together is very doubtful, looking at what they have been doing here, South African coach Bob Woolmer told reporters. "They will have to play very well to beat us," he said.

Woolmer said South Africa's main objective was to maintain their drive and commitment after two fine displays in all departments in beating the United Arab Emirates and New Zealand.

South Africa's brilliant fielding has been one of the highlights of the tournament, with the swooping Jonty Rhodes the scourge of

batsmen seeking a quick single. Both sides plan to announce their line-ups after they have inspected the pitch just before the match. It is expected to be typically

Teams (from): England - Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Neil Smith, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Robin Smith, Neil Fairbrother, Jack Russell, Darren Gough, Dominic Cork, Phillip Defreitas, Richard Illingworth, Dermot Reeve, Peter Martin.

South Africa - Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hudson, Steve Palframan, Darryl Cullinan, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Shaun Pollock, Pat Symcox, Craig Matthews, Fanie de Villiers, Paul Adams, Allan Donald

- AFP, Reuter

Graham Thorpe of England is trapped leg-before-wicket by Netherlands' Roland Lefebvre for 89 during their World Cup game in Peshawar. England won the match. -AFP

# S. Africa aim to make