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## 1991 - the Year of Industry



### On other pages...

US blocks British jet sale to Iran, says magazine - Page 3

Indian move to decentralise education - Page 5



Can great artists from tadpoles grow? - Page 6

BUSINESS TIMES  
Special NRI package likely in Indian budget - Page 7

Oman's trade surplus exceeds RO 1 billion - Page 8

## Weather

Intermittent drizzle will be experienced over Dhofar coast and the mountains during morning and night. Clear to partly cloudy and hazy skies will prevail over rest of the Sultanate.

Strong southwesterly winds will prevail over southern Oman. Along the coastal region northeasterly light to moderate during afternoon becoming light variable at night. Over the interior southerly light to moderate wind.

Sea will be rough from Raysut to Ras Al Hadd with maximum wave height of 3.0 metres and slight to moderate along the rest of the coast with a maximum wave height of 1.25 metres.

Maximum temperature for the Muscat area is 38C and minimum temperature is 31C. Relative humidity is 50%-80%.

Tide will be low at 2:21 p.m. It will be high at 6:41 p.m. and low again at 2:00 a.m.

For the Salalah area, maximum temperature is 27C and minimum temperature 24C.

Tide will be high at 9:25 a.m. and low at 12:50 p.m. It will be high again at 4:33 p.m. and low at 1:13 a.m.

Temperatures recorded in other countries: Abu Dhabi 37, Dubai 37, Riyadh 42, Jeddah 30, Bahrain 34, Kuwait 47, Amman 30, Doha 34 and Karachi 32.

TEMP	MAX	MIN
Seeb	37	32
Mina Qaboos	35	31
Buraimi	48	30
Khasab	43	31
Ibri	47	28
Nizwa	47	27
Sohar	35	29
Saiq	34	22
Sur	39	28
Masirah	31	23
Thumrait	36	25
Mina Raysut	37	22
Jabal Dhofar	22	20
Haima	44	28
Mad'ha	37	30
Marmul	44	31
Fahud	48	29

## 77 rebels, 12 soldiers killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO - Seventy-seven Tamil separatist rebels and 12 soldiers were killed in weekend clashes over a besieged Sri Lankan camp, military sources said yesterday.

They said three soldiers were killed on Sunday as a relief column of 2,000 soldiers advancing towards the Elephant Pass camp encountered heavy resistance from rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group (LTTE). The 77 rebels, including seven area leaders, died in fighting on Saturday, they said.

The weekend killings raised the death toll to 820 rebels and 87 soldiers since July 10 when the Tigers began their attack on the army base at Elephant Pass.

# BCCI closure: Court adjourns move

LONDON - Britain's High Court yesterday adjourned for eight days a petition by the Bank of England to wind up the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The judge, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, said the delay was to allow the matter to be investigated to see if some form of compensation could be provided for small depositors.

## \$220 million IMF loan for India

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund yesterday sanctioned an emergency loan of \$220 million for India under its Contingency Compensatory Fund Facility (CCFF) to boost New Delhi's efforts to overcome its tight balance of payment position.

The Board of Governors of the IMF, which met to review India's plea for short-term assistance, approved the proposal for loan made last week by its staff.

## Pakistan sees threat of war

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Army Chief has said "shadows of war" were looming over the region and he feared India might attack Pakistan over Kashmir.

Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg was speaking on Sunday to troops in the eastern Punjab province town of Sialkot near the Kashmir border, the official APP news agency said.

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Lawyers for the British central bank earlier told the court BCCI was 'technically insolvent' and should be wound up to allow compensation to be paid to the depositors.

## US PROPOSAL FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

# Baker raises hope of Israel Govt. accepting formula

JERUSALEM - US Secretary of State James Baker met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday and then raised hopes that Israel would accept the US formula for a Mideast peace conference.

## Bush ends two day visit to Turkey

WASHINGTON - President Bush ended a two-day visit to Turkey yesterday, saying he was pleased with the progress of negotiations for a peace treaty in the Middle East.

## Stormin' Norman decorated by thankful Kuwait

KUWAIT - Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf, the burly US General who led the allies to victory against Iraq in Kuwait, was yesterday awarded the Emir's highest honour.

## More killings in Croatia

OHRIID - Four more people were killed in fighting in the break-away Republic of Croatia yesterday and Yugoslav leaders said the country faced catastrophe if a "last chance" peace summit failed.

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Significant BCCI depositors and its principal shareholders are fighting the attempt to obtain a court order to wind up the bank, arguing it should be delayed to allow a rescue. Prime Minister John Major was also dragged deeper into the crisis yesterday.

## Four die in train crash in Scotland

GLASGOW - Three men and a woman were killed on Sunday night when two local trains crashed outside Glasgow, Strathclyde police said.

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Major has yet to respond to demands to say when he cleared of problems at BCCI which the government has said was under surveillance by the Bank of England for more than two years.

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There have been claims that Major or his Ministers should have known of financial problems at BCCI, one of the world's biggest banks with assets of around 20 billion dollars in 69 countries.

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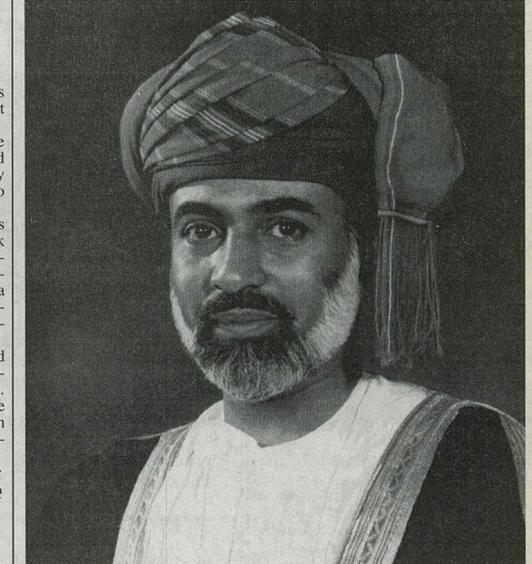
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His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received a number of greeting cables on the occasion of Renaissance Day.

## 21st Renaissance Day

The Sultanate of Oman celebrates Renaissance Day today, the 21st anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos taking over the reins of Government. A special 4 page supplement to mark the day is included in this issue and with it the Founder and Staff of "Times of Oman" send loyal greetings to His Majesty.

This year's celebrations, marked with dynamic growth and achievements in various spheres, bear witness to the growing prosperity of the Omani people — the cornerstone for development as chartered by His Majesty the Sultan since his accession on July 23, 1970.

On this day 21 years ago, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos led the re-awakening of a country which lay isolated and neglected for decades. During the two decades under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, a new modern state has been established with solid foundations based on a rich legacy and cherished Omani traditions.

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## Communists decry Yeltsin decree

MOSCOW - A spokesman for the Russian Republic's Communist Party yesterday dismissed as invalid a decree by President Boris N. Yeltsin ejecting political parties from Government offices and republic-run businesses.

Yeltsin's decree, issued on Saturday, would curtail the Communist Party's ability to influence decisions across the vast republic and represents a serious blow to Communists' power.

Vladimir Markov, a spokesman for the republic's Communist Party, said he had not read the decree in full, but it appeared to violate the Soviet constitution and the law on public organisations.

"This is an invalid decree which has only propaganda value," Markov said.

The Government-run Russian Information Agency said the decree "strikes a powerful blow at the Russian Communist Party." It quoted unidentified party leaders as saying the decree was illegal.

Yeltsin's decree said anybody can belong to any party but political activity must be carried out in "non-working hours and outside the limits of state organs, institutions, organisations and enterprises."

Yeltsin was elected on June 12 as the first President of Russia, the biggest and richest of the 15 Soviet republics. During his campaign, he called repeatedly for depoliticisation of state bodies, the military and the KGB secret police.

The decree said that Soviets working for the republic "should follow the legislation of (Russia) in their service and are not bound by the decisions of political parties and mass public movements."

The decree calls for legislation to be introduced at the national level to remove political influence from Government, the military and state enterprises.

Until recently, the Communist Party, from which Yeltsin resigned last summer, wielded enormous influence in all Government and business activity in the Soviet Union. Membership was the key to rising to the top of virtually any organisation, including the military.

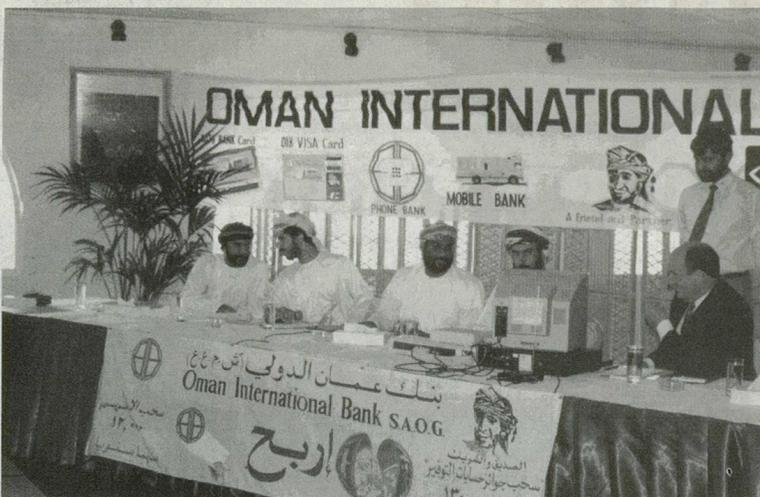
It still is able to exercise considerable influence through thousands of "cells" - factories, offices and military units across the country.

The party nationwide has an estimated 16.3 million members, nearly half of whom are in the Russian republic. Not all hold government jobs or work for the party in their workplaces, and it was unknown how many people the decree would affect.

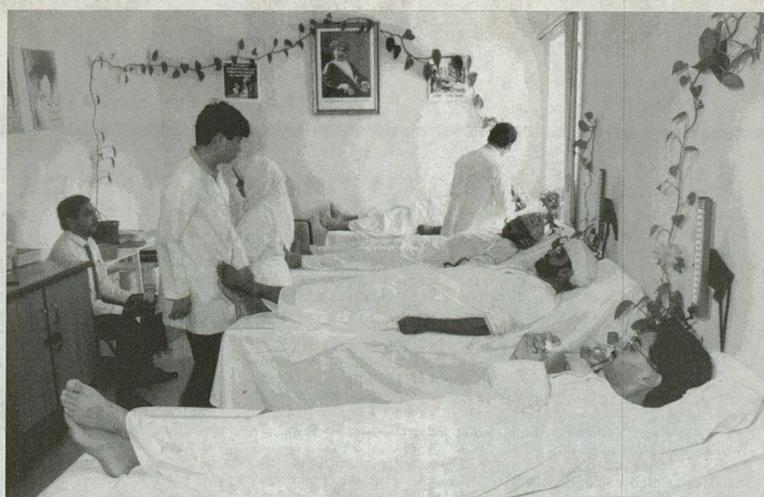
The decree will take two weeks after publication in the republic's newspapers. - AP

## Sultanate of Oman Television

- 10.00 Opening with Royal Anthem.
- 10.01 Koran.
- 10.20 Programme Preview.
- 10.35 Children Serial.
- 11.28 Gulf Serial.
- 11.50 Family Doctor.
- 12.15 Religion.
- 12.20 Foreign Serial.
- 12.40 Cultural Programme.
- 12.52 Arabic Serial.
- 1.52 "Daily Reports" Programme.
- 2.00 News Summary.
- 2.05 Closedown with Royal Anthem.
- 4.00 Opening with Royal Anthem.
- 4.01 Koran.
- 4.03 Religion.
- 4.21 Programme Preview.
- 4.25 Children Cartoons.
- 5.08 Children Serial.
- 5.40 Cultural Programme.
- 6.00 News.
- 6.23 Film on Tourism in Oman.
- 6.58 Call for Maghreb Prayers.
- 7.00 Religion.
- 7.14 Gulf Serial.
- 7.44 Children Programme.
- 7.55 Classic Music.
- 8.00 News in English.
- 8.20 Documentary Film on Oman.
- 8.40 Arabic Serial.
- 9.40 Sports World.
- 9.55 Arabic Music.
- 10.00 Main Newscast.
- 10.30 "The March of Prosperity and Construction" A special programme on Oman.
- 10.35 Tomorrow's Programme Preview.
- 10.42 Best Seller "The Judge" Part I.
- 12.10 News Summary.
- 12.15 Koran.
- 12.20 Closedown with Royal Anthem.



Oman International Bank SAOG held its seventh savings prize draw on July 16th, 1991 at the Buraimi Hotel in Buraimi. The Deputy Wali of Buraimi, Sheikh Mohammed Shihab Al Balushi was the chief guest. The draw was attended by a large number of customers and local residents. The first prize of RO 2,000/- was won by a customer of the bank's Muaskar al Murtafa's branch and the two second prizes of RO 1,000/- each were won by customers of the bank's Bahla and Al Khabourah branches. The third prize of RO 500/- each was won by four of our customers of Sinaw, Ruwi High Street, Rustaq and Bani bu Ali branches. Mr. Mohammed Ali Murad, Manager of the Buraimi branch, thanked the chief guest and invites for their support and assured them that their 'friend & partner' was committed to introducing new services and schemes thereby improving its customer service. OIB is the largest 100 per cent Omani-owned bank, operating 47 branches in the Sultanate of Oman and one in Bombay, India. (On right): The staff of Oman International Bank SAOG from their head office and main office, Ruwi, participated in a blood donation drive. Mr. John R. Wright, CEO of the bank, said these blood donation drives help in evoking public awareness for this noble cause and gives our staff members an opportunity to contribute to increase our local blood bank reserves.



## Plan to tackle oil well effects on Oman

By A Staff Reporter

Senior Government officials discussed yesterday a working plan to confront possible ill effects on Oman's environment of the burning oil wells in Kuwait.

Environment Under-Secretary Bakheit bin Said Al-Shanfari, who presided over the meeting, said the Government was closely monitoring the situation in Kuwait to ensure the safety of the people in the Sultanate.

So far, he said, there was no cause for alarm. "Owing to its geographic location, Oman has not been environmentally affected by Kuwait's burning wells."

But the Ministry of Environ-

ment, he added, was not taking any chances. An ad hoc technical committee has been organised to implement the working plan at the first sign of any environmental trouble.

The technical committee, composed of experts from the Ministry, submit daily reports on the situation in Kuwait in coordination with environment authorities of the other AGCC states and the United Nations Environment Development Programme.

The working plan involves ways of containing black rain, one of the anticipated effects of the burning wells. The thick smoke from these blazing wells could produce polluted rains that could be hazardous to human health.

Yesterday's meeting was at-

tended by the Under-Secretaries of the Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture and Fisheries, Electricity and Water, the Interior, Health, and Communication. The Deputy Assistant Inspector-General for Operations of the Royal Oman Police and a representative from the Ministry of Defence also joined the discussion.

Mr. Al-Shanfari said the working plan was drawn up by the Environment Ministry. But other Ministries had been assigned their respective roles to ensure its successful implementation.

"Our goal is to protect our environment. In order to achieve it, the cooperation of all concerned Ministries and organisations will be urgently needed," he stressed.

## BCCI closure

• From Page 1

British depositors are eligible for a maximum of only 15,000 pounds (\$25,400) compensation.

Several groups of depositors, including various British local Governments which had as much as 100 million pounds (\$170 million) invested with BCCI, opposed the granting of a court order.

The Bank of England has acknowledged that it led a scheme of international supervision of the bank for more than two years before it says it uncovered evidence of fraud.

It has been alleged that the Government was tipped off about fraud and other irregularities at BCCI at least a year ago - while Major was Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Ministry).

The British Government on Friday announced an independent inquiry into the BCCI affair. - *Reuter*

## Bush visits cements US, Turkey ties

ANKARA — President George Bush's weekend visit to Turkey has cemented already strong ties with the United States, which promised a new era of 'strategic cooperation.'

Bush urged Turkey to move towards reconciliation with Greece and endorsed President Turgut Ozal's proposal for four-way talks to solve the festering Cyprus dispute.

"I leave here optimistic about Turkey's future," Bush told Ozal over breakfast before leaving for Washington yesterday.

Ozal said he was 'very satisfied' with his talks with Bush, the first U.S. President to visit Turkey since 1959.

"Turkey is an important part of Europe but that does not interfere with the strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Turkey," Bush said.

He praised Turkey's Gulf crisis stand when it cut Iraqi oil export pipelines and let U.S. planes bomb Iraq from its oil.

Bush, who arrived from Greece, said the world was waiting for a solution to the 17-year-old Cyprus problem.

"The time has come for lasting peace between Turkey and Greece," he said. "This sad chapter of ill will must end."

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied its northern third to protect Turkish Cypriots who felt threatened by a Greek-supported coup in Nicosia.

"If a wall in Berlin can fall to human brotherhood, so can ancient hatreds on Cyprus," Bush said at the airport.

"We will remain engaged with you, our Greek allies, the Cypriot people and the U.N. Secretary-General in hopes of building a lasting peace in Cyprus," he added.

Turkey's two main opposition party leaders have been warning Ozal against making concessions, but said they were pleased with Bush's Cyprus views after meeting him in Istanbul on Sunday.

"There are no grounds for concern that the United States is going to press Turkey into giving concessions (on Cyprus)," True Path party

leader Suleyman Demirel said after the meeting.

Before he left, Bush reiterated warning to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, saying he must not resume war on his own people.

He once again called for Saddam's overthrow by the Iraqi people and said the United States would be "willing to start right from scratch" with a new Government in Baghdad.

Turkey, anxious to avoid a repeat of a Kurdish exodus to its borders in April, has agreed to station a multinational strike force on its border with Iraq to deter any attacks on Kurds.

"We stand side by side in maintaining an international force to preserve stability on your south-eastern frontier," Bush said.

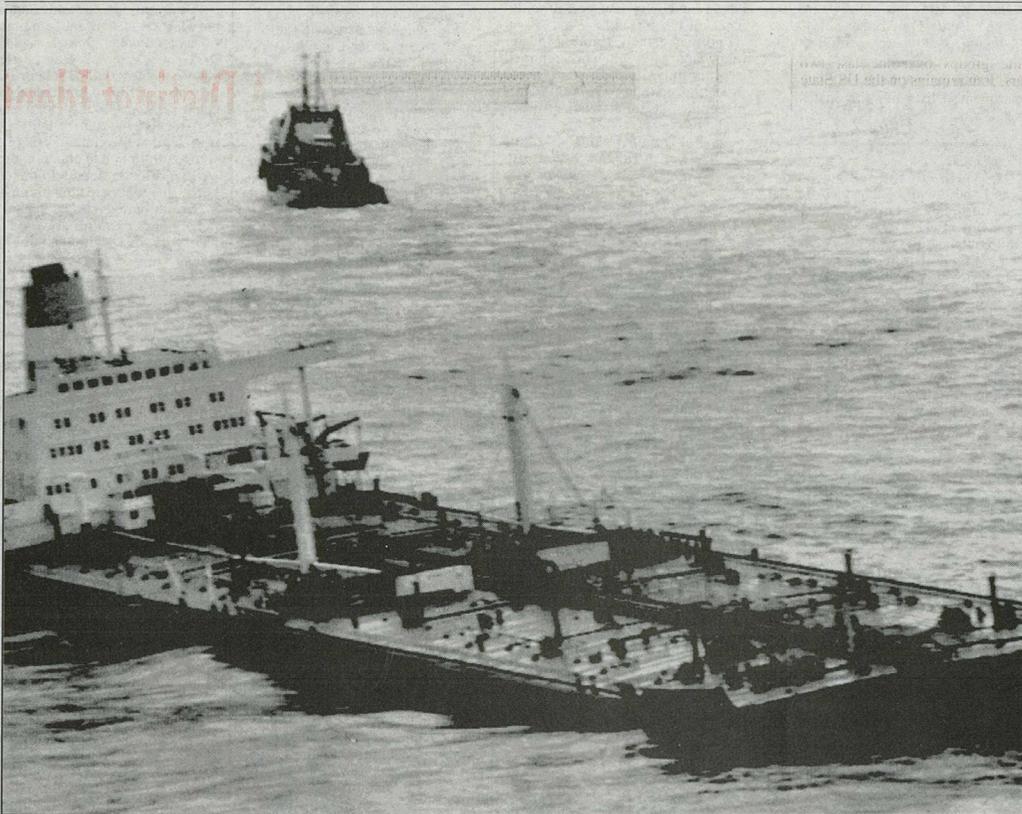
Half a million refugees fled to Turkey in April to escape Saddam's army after a failed post-Gulf

## Mridangam recital

Fifteen-year-old Nagulan Nesiiah will give a Mridangam Arangetram (the oriental drum) on Thursday at 8.00 pm at the Darseit Temple Hall.

Nagulan is a student of the Mridangam maestro Vidwan A. Santhanakrishnan. Other leading artists participating in the programme include Sangeetha Vidhushi Srimathi Padmini Ravi Jayaram (vocal), Vidwan Sri R. S. Krishnan (violin) and Vidwan Sri S. Navaratnarajah (ghatam).

H.E. Nimal Wijayarane, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Oman, will be the chief guest at the recital.



Tug-boat "Lady Kathleen" (top) towing Greek oil tanker "Kirki" out to calmer waters. The tanker, whose break-up in heavy seas on Sunday caused oil spill into the Indian Ocean was towed out so that its remaining 68,000 tonnes of cargo can be transferred. — *Reuter wire photo*

## Mystery shrouds death of Shanmugam

MADRAS — Mystery shrouds the death of Shanmugam, one of the prime accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case whose body was found hanging from a tree in a park near the Travellers Bungalow at Veraranyam on Saturday last after he escaped from the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Though the preliminary post-mortem report reportedly said it was a case of suicide, SIT officials yesterday did not rule out the possibility of homicide.

According to official sources, only the final post-mortem report would disclose the true cause of the death of Shanmugam, a prize catch which led to the unearthing of huge quantities of explosives, detonating fuses and Japanese made wireless communication sets from Shanmugam's coconut grove at his native place Kodiakadu.

Initial reports indicated that Shanmugam out of desperation

and fear could have escaped and committed suicide, but the possibility of foul play either by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) or by forces who have a stake in a park near the Travellers Bungalow at Veraranyam makes many a disclosure could not be ruled out, the sources said.

Asked whether Shanmugam could have been lured by his uncle who called on him at the Bungalow minutes before his escape with a promise of a safe passage, a top SIT official said this would not have been possible as a senior police officer was with him during the meeting.

Shanmugam would have taken the extreme step fearing that his family would disown him if at all he was left off alive by the LTTE and the SIT would not trust him if he came back, the sources said.

The suspicion that it could be suicide gained ground as according to Shanmugam's wife, her husband had tried to electrocute himself at least twice before he

surrendered to the local police after he realised that the CBI was looking for him.

However, sources in Vedaranyam said one, could not rule out the possibility of the 'involvement' of the local police in Shanmugam's escape and his death as they had close contacts with him.

The sources suspect that Shanmugam could have been done to death and then hung from a tree to make it a case of suicide.

Asked how the unearthing of the explosives was directly relevant to the assassination case and why the SIT had shown enormous interest in it, an official said this was to find out the route from where the explosives reached the country and whether a similar explosive was used in the assassination.

Replying to a question, the official said Shanmugam was not handcuffed and was not escorted by armed police as he considered

it would be a loss of pride to him.

Shanmugam is reported to have told the SIT officials that he did not want to be handcuffed and escorted by the armed police before his subordinates who he felt would not obey his direction if they saw him in that state. The recovery of the explosives largely depended on the subordinates as it was they who knew where most of the explosives were hidden.

This was one of the reasons why Shanmugam was not handcuffed. Further, he was cooperating well with the SIT which had decided to keep him in good humour.

A senior SIT official expressed surprise as to how Shanmugam was allowed by the local police to carry on with his illegal trade for a full ten year period.

It is a mystery that he was not arrested even once by either the state police or by the customs or by the coastguard, he said. - *UNI*

## Renaissance Day

• From Page 1

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos declared in his speech to mark the 20th National Day in November 18, 1990, the year 1991 as a "Year of Industry" — which meant that special emphasis would be placed on the development of the light industries sector as well as the mining sector.

The directives aim at opening industries during this year — equivalent to the ones established during the last 20 years or more.

Agreements have been therefore, concluded to establish four new industrial estates in Sohar, Raysut, Nizwa and Sur.

A new national company for the extraction of chrome has been established with private participation on the line of the successful Oman National Fisheries.

With regard to foreign policy, the Sultanate's, strategy is based on extending the hand of friendship to all nations on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs and the solution of conflicts through dialogue.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received a cable of congratulations from Sayyid Fahr bin Taimour al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence, on the occasion of Oman's Renaissance Day.

## Baker hopeful

• From Page 1

to talk with Israel, Baker said: "The United States has not taken a position on borders."

In 1975, then-President Gerald R. Ford wrote a letter to Yitzhak Rabin, who was Prime Minister, that said: "the US has not developed a final position on the borders. Should it do so, it will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel's remaining on the Golan Heights."

The excerpt was published in Israeli newspapers. Asked about it, Baker said Ford's promise would be honoured by the Bush Administration.

Apart from the Golan Heights, which Israel annexed in 1981, the land captured in the war includes East Jerusalem, which also was annexed, the West Bank, and Gaza.

President Bush has described East Jerusalem, now part of Israel's capital, as "occupied land," indicating he believes its future is a proper topic for negotiation.

Baker had less success on another US proposal, approved by the Arabs, under which there would be a freeze on further Jewish population of the occupied lands in exchange for the suspension of the 40-year-old Arab economic boycott of Israel.

If the Israeli Cabinet gives its expected approval of the Bush-Baker proposal, the biggest issue to

be resolved in setting up peace talks would be to decide how the Palestinians would be represented. King Hussein of Jordan said yesterday his Government would be willing to form an "umbrella" to include Palestinians in a joint delegation with Jordan.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, meanwhile, reserved the right to have a say in which Palestinians would be present. - *AP*

## 50 hurt in clash

DHAKA — Government supporters and opposition stalwarts battled with guns and home-made bombs yesterday at a college in the Bangladesh capital, injuring about 50 students, police and witnesses said.

The clashes erupted at Suhrawardy College after angry exchanges between student followers of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and supporters of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, they said.

"The battle continued for at least four hours with both sides using revolvers, sawn-off guns and home-made bombs packed with metal fragments," one police officer told reporters. Officials temporarily closed the 10,000-student college after the fighting. - *Reuter*

OMAN AND MIDDLE EAST

More students enrolling in nursing

By Oswald Pereira

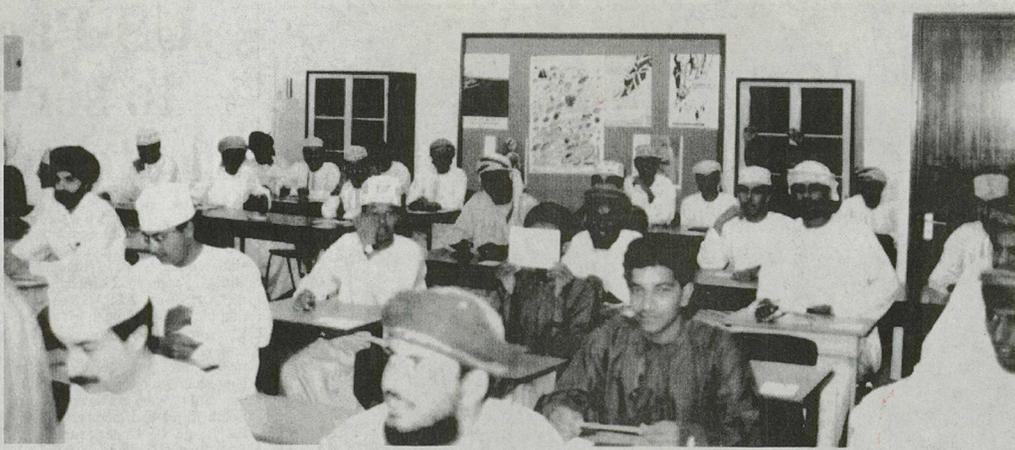
Male and female students are showing an increasing interest in joining general nursing institutes in the regions or at the Institute of Health Sciences in Muscat.

This is indicated by the large number of students currently seeking admission to such institutes.

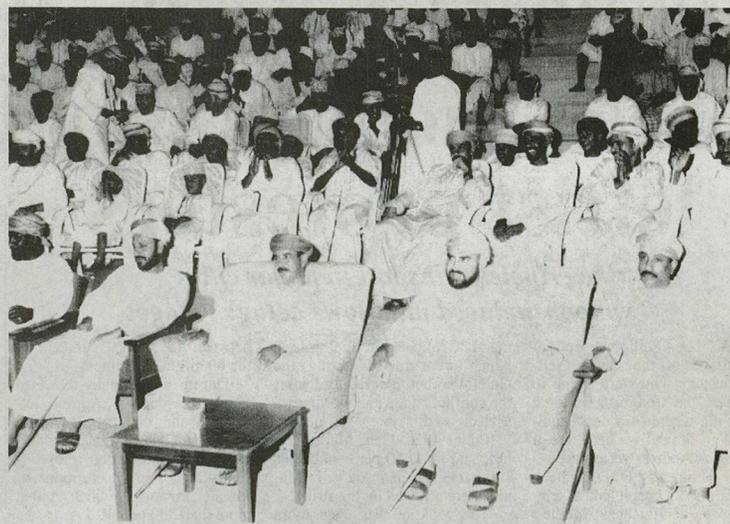
A spokesman for the Ministry of Health said that registration of new students will continue till August 17 and after that applications will be scrutinised and interviews conducted.

He said that the rate of registration reflects the awareness of students and their keenness to serve in the important and vital field of health services.

The Ministry of Health will this year open five institutes for general nursing in Sohar, Nizwa, Ibbri, Sur and Salalah. An institute for assistant pharmacists and another institute for public health, both in Muscat, will also be opened this year.



The American TOEFL examination was recently administered here in Muscat to a group of employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who were engaged in an Orientation Programme at National Training Institute. The administration department of NTI was granted special permission to administer the exam on a date not normally designated as a testing date by the Information Testing Services of Princeton, New Jersey, USA, the organising body for TOEFL. The Institute worked closely with the Information Service section of the Embassy of the United States of America, the usual administrators for the tests. The results are expected in approximately 10 weeks.



A ceremony has been held by the Sultan of Oman Armour in Shafi to commemorate its July 23 anniversary. The affair was conducted under the aegis of the Commander of the Royal Army of Oman.

US blocks British jets sale to Iran, magazine reports

NICOSIA — The United States has blocked the sale of up to 50 BAE 146 airliners to Iran by British Aerospace because western hostages held by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim extremists have not been freed, "Flight International" reported yesterday.

The aviation weekly said in an article made available to the Associated Press in advance of publication that Washington was able to do so because British-built aircraft contain US-made components.

Its avionics are produced by the Honeywell Corp. and its four turbofan engines are manufactured by Textron Lycoming.

US trade sanctions imposed on Iran in 1979 prohibit supplying the Islamic republic with US-made aviation equipment. Only aircraft built outside the United States which contain less than 20 per cent US-made components can be sold to Tehran.

British authorities, who backed the British Aerospace deal, are angry at the US move and have complained that Washington approved the sale of 12 Dutch Fokker 100 airliners to Iran last year.

The Dutch aircraft have few US-built components. At least six

have been delivered to Iran Air, the Islamic republic's national carrier.

"Flight International", published in London, quoted sources close to the negotiations between state-run British Aerospace and Iran Air as saying the deal involves the purchase of an initial six BAE-146s with options on as many as 50 more.

The magazine said British Aerospace declined comment on the report. But aviation industry sources have been saying for months that the company was negotiating with Tehran on the sale for months.

Britain restored relations with Iran last September after an 18-month break. The United States broke off relations with Tehran in 1979 and they remain severed.

"Flight International" quoted a US State Department spokesman as saying that Washington's decision to block the British deal reflected the "deep concern that even after a year of significant changes in the region, Iran has not ended support for terrorism and the Western hostages have not been released."

"We do not favour normal political, commercial and diplomatic relations with Iran until the hostages

are free and it has ended its support for terrorism."

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon and most are believed held by Shiite factions.

The missing men comprise six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

The longest held is American Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Under President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Iranian Government has been building bridges with the West and the republic's Arab neighbours to end the country's political isolation.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, has indicated that he wants to end the long-running hostage drama so ties with the West can be normalised. But his radical anti-Western rivals in Tehran oppose his policies.

Despite a significant drop in terrorist attacks by Iranian-linked Shiite groups over the last two years, Iran remains on the US State Department's list of six states which sponsor international terrorism. The others are Iraq, Syria, Libya, North Korea and Yemen.

The US block on the British

Aerospace deal will be a major blow to Iran Air, which has been seeking to rebuild and expand since the end of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

It has been opening up new routes to Asia, Africa and Europe and seeks to increase its passenger traffic from 5 million a year to 8.8 million within five years.

Iran Air currently operates 32 airliners, including Airbus A300BS and Boeing 747S and 707D bought before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The airline is understood to have recently purchased five Boeing airliners from unidentified countries to avoid US sanctions.

Iran Air tried last year to buy five or six Airbus jetliners built by a France-based European consortium. But that deal also fell foul of US authorities because the aircraft's engines are American. - AP

French group for monitoring W. Sahara vote

PARIS — A human rights group headed by President Francois Mitterrand's wife is determined to monitor a United Nations referendum next year deciding the future of the Western Sahara despite objections by Morocco's King Hassan.

"We intend today to request official permission to go into parts of the Sahara which are controlled by Morocco," Frederique Calandra, spokeswoman for Danielle Mitterrand's rights group, France Libertes, told Reuters yesterday.

"Our work will continue." King Hassan described the "vigilance committee" set up by France Libertes as "ridiculous" in an interview shown on French television on Sunday, and threatened to refuse it permission to enter Morocco.

Next year's UN referendum will give the people of the former Spanish colony a choice between integration with Morocco, which controls four-fifths of the disputed territory, or independence as demanded by Polisario guerrillas.

Somali tribes far from broad-based rule

NAIROBI — Somalia's rival factions are reporting no progress after a week of talks aimed at establishing broad-based rule in their strife-torn country.

At least two key tribal groups did not attend the talks, which ended on Sunday in Djibouti. But the United Somalia Congress, which chased Mohamed Siad Barre Somali's presidency in January, did participate.

Ali Mahdi, a Siad Barre opponent who serves as Interim President, has repeatedly stressed his willingness to step aside in favour of a broadly based provisional Government that would rule ahead of Democratic elections.

An estimated 4,000 people died in the four-week battle for the capital of Mogadishu that ended in January, most of them civilians killed in what the rebels describe as indiscriminate shelling by Siad Barre's Army.

Ali Mahdi called on Somalia's many groups, armed and unarmed, to come together in February to determine the country's future. But that effort has collapsed.

Resolutions from the week-long conference called for the implementation of a cease-fire to end sporadic clashes between rival clans and support for a two-year term of office for Ali Mahdi.

However, the results were seen as not being representative of all the nation's rival groups because of the absence of important players.

Somalia politics have traditionally revolved around clan rivalries. The United Somalia People's Front, which has been fighting the new Government in Mogadishu, stayed away, as did the Somali Patriotic Movement, which is warring against the Mogadishu Government in southern Somalia.

Siad Barre, who seized power in a bloodless 1969 coup, is reportedly in his home region near Kenya's border. Western nations and human rights groups had accused him of gross abuses, including massacres, torture and detention of opponents without charge or trial. - AP

9 perish as Turkish bus hits landmine

ANKARA — Nine people were killed and six injured when a minibus detonated a landmine planted by separatist Kurds on a south-eastern Turkish road, the Anatolian News Agency said yesterday.

It said the Sunday night incident was on the road between Sara and Yemishi villages near Midyat town, 1,100 km southeast of Ankara.

A local journalist in the provincial capital of Diyarbakir, seat of the emergency state rule, said most of the victims were Government-paid village guards, but did not say how many.

Turkish Government has since 1987 been employing civilian village guards, picked from villages in 10 southern provinces, to protect villages against attacks by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

The PKK views the guards, who number about 30,000, as a major obstacle to its independence for Turkey's 10 million Kurds.

About 1300 people have been killed in the past two months in PKK-linked incidents and more than 3,000 have lost their lives since the Kurdish insurgency started in 1984. - Reuters

Two jaguars from US die in Cairo zoo

CAIRO — A pair of prized jaguars, traded to Cairo's Giza Zoo from the San Diego Zoo in California, died of distemper within days of their arrival, Giza's director said yesterday.

The male and female were about eight years old. Zoo keeper Mohammed Hussein Amer said he has no record that the century-old zoo ever had jaguars.

The jaguars were supposed to have been vaccinated against distemper when they were born, and then once annually. They were supposed to vaccinate them before they shipped them to Cairo. But apparently they didn't, zoo keeper Mohammed Hussein Amer said.

The animals' health and resistance weakened on the way to Cairo. They died of distemper shortly after they arrived.

The stately cats were part of an animal-exchange programme between the two zoos, organised through a German middleman whom Amer did not identify. The Giza zoo obtains most of its new animals through such exchanges.

Jaguars, yellowish with black spots, range from the southwestern United States to Argentina. The species is the largest new world predatory cat. - AP

S. Lebanon guerillas attack Israeli-affiliated militiamen

RASHAYA, Lebanon — Guerillas infiltrated into Israel's self-designated security zone in South Lebanon yesterday and showered an outpost of Israeli-affiliated Lebanese militiamen with mortar fire amid heightening tension in the region. Police said a casualty report was not available and the affiliation and number of the infiltrators was not known.

The attack on the South Lebanon Army position in the village of Shwayya occurred just after midnight (2100 GMT Sunday), police said. The fate of the guerillas could not be determined.

Reporters, watching from highlands, said they counted eight 60mm mortar rounds crashing into the SLA position on the north-eastern tip of the security zone.

SLA artillerymen retaliated by shelling the villages of Ein Ata and El-Khiwat, six kilometres north of the Israeli-occupied enclave, the

Cyprus rejects Turkey's proposal for talks

NICOSIA — Cyprus yesterday rejected Turkish proposals backed by the US for talks on the future of the divided island but said priority should be given to the substance of the dispute and not the procedure.

"We reject four-way talks," Cyprus Government spokesman Akis Fantis said in response to pressure by Cypriot reporters.

US President George Bush said in Ankara on Saturday Turkey's proposal for four-way talks was "the best hope for peace and the best hope for a solution to the Cyprus problem."

Fantis said in a written statement: "as far the four-way talks are concerned, I would like to repeat that our proposal still stands."

Cyprus has proposed bringing together the Governments of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, representatives of the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"As we have always stressed, priority should be given not to the procedure but to the substance of the Cyprus problem and especially for the questions put by the (UN) Secretary General, more specifically on the issues of territory and the

refugees," Fantis said.

Cyprus has been divided by barbed wire and minefields since Turkey invaded in 1974, after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military Junta then ruling Greece.

Turkey has about 30,000 troops in the north, proclaimed a separate state in 1983 and recognised only by Ankara.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been trying to restart talks which broke down last year.

Government sources said they were pleased Bush raised the Cyprus problem several times in Turkey and felt this was a vindication of the Greek-Cypriot position that Ankara holds the key to a settlement.

"Bush urged Turkey to abandon its intransigent stand. He said the status quo is unacceptable, and that it is time for a solution. It has always been our position that Turkey is the key to a settlement," one Government source told Reuters.

"We have to concentrate on the substance and not get carried away with discussing procedures which is exactly what Turkey wants." - Reuters

New Algerian Govt. distances itself from ruling Party

ALGIERS — Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali made several new official appointments at the weekend in an apparent attempt to distance his Government from the FLN Party which has ruled since independence in 1961.

He replaced the Justice Minister, filled the vacant post of Housing Minister and replaced the directors of the national news agency APS and State Television.

Ghozali heads a caretaker Government formed to prepare legislative elections originally scheduled for June but postponed until the end of the year after street violence instigated by the Muslim fundamentalist opposition.

The country has been under a state of siege for more than a month and the appointments were seen as an attempt to forge a national consensus in the runup to a conference with opposition parties at the end of the month.

They were also seen as an attempt to show that his caretaker administration, which took office on June 18, is independent of the FLN.

Officials said Justice Minister Ahmed Benflis was relieved of his functions for personal reasons on Sunday. But political sources said he was dismissed because he failed to respect the Government's independence by attending an FLN Party meeting last week.

The FLN's central committee met for four days last week but was unable to elect a new Politburo because of internal quarrels, political sources said. Ghozali also replaced the directors of the national news agency APS and the State Television Network who were considered too close to former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.

The outgoing directors, Mohammed Hamdi of APS and Abdou Benzine, had written editorials in the FLN's weekly "Revolution Africaine" attacking old-guard FLN leaders and Muslim fundamentalists. President Chadli Benjedid withdrew voluntarily at the end of June as Chairman of the FLN to show he was "the President of all Algerians," officials said. Ghozali has also quit the FLN.

Hamadani Benkheldi, the new Justice Minister, is a lawyer and former President of the Bar Association in the easter city of Constantine. - Reuters

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# Philippines police block thousands of leftist protesters

■ **Strike cripples transport in major cities**  
■ **Typhoon-induced mudflows deluge villages**

MANILA - Philippine riot police blocked off thousands of leftist protesters who were trying to march to the Congress Building in Manila where President Aquino was due to deliver his State of the Nation Address yesterday.

The estimated 5,000 marchers, demanding big cuts in petrol prices, had earlier rejected Aquino's offer of a 25 per cent reduction in fuel prices.

Police, backed by firetrucks, blocked the demonstrators about 20 km from the Congress Building in a suburb of the capital.

In central Manila, about 1,000 supporters of the late President Ferdinand Marcos held a protest rally demanding that Marcos's widow Imelda be allowed to return to the Philippines.

The Marcos family has lived in exile in the United States since the former President was deposed in the 1986 popular revolt that swept Aquino to power.

Earlier yesterday, Aquino prayed for peace for her country at a meeting with leaders of religious sects at the Presidential Palace and at a mass in Manila's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

"Let us pray to God to unite us so that we can lift our people from their sufferings," she said.

Cardinal Jaime Sin, the country's top churchman, said the volcano Mount Pinatubo, now in its 44th day of eruptions, symbolised the difficulties the Philippines was facing.

The volcanic ashfalls that darkened towns and villages "make our landscape seemingly like one of a destructive and unforgiving winter," he said.

Pinatubo has killed 435 people and forced a quarter of million villagers to flee since it began erupting on June 9.

■ **STRIKE:** Transport workers went on strike in Manila and in other major cities after President Aquino sought to co-opt the walkout by declaring a holiday and an unprecedented ecumenical day of prayer.

The strike was called to de-

mand a rollback in fuel prices, which were raised during the Gulf War but not reduced after the conflict ended and world prices decreased.

Police Brig. Gen. Marino Filart, said up to 50 per cent of bus and passenger jeep routes in Manila were affected by the strike.

The walkout was even more extensive in Mindanao, second largest of the 71,00 Philippine islands. Police said more than 80 per cent of the transport in the Mindanao cities of Davao, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro had been affected.

Residents in Davao, 960 kilometres southeast of Manila, said about 80 per cent of all businesses closed after bombs exploded in the city late on Sunday and early yesterday.

Two people were injured late on Sunday when a blast occurred at a bus terminal in Davao, police said. Another small bomb exploded before dawn yesterday in a commercial area but there are no injuries.

On the eve of the strike police in Davao arrested more than 30 students participating in a leftist rally protesting the oil prices.

The Government feared a major confrontation when the Iglesia ni Cristo, a Protestant denomination once allied with the late President Marcos, announced it would join the strike.

Iglesia ni Cristo has a reputation as a disciplined organisation capable of mustering most of its estimated five million members to any church-sanctioned cause.

But last week, Iglesia announced it was withdrawing from the strike. After the announcement, Mrs. Aquino, a staunch Roman Catholic who often brings the catholic hierarchy into state affairs, decreed Monday as an "Ecumenical Day of Prayer."

The gesture was seen as a bid to co-opt the strike and as a bid for support from non-Catholic religious organisations, which collectively claim membership of

between 15 and 20 per cent of the 60 million Filipinos.

During a nationally-televised prayer service, Mrs. Aquino noted that the country had been struck by numerous disasters during her administration, most recently last month's eruptions of Mount Pinatubo which killed more than 300 people.

She urged Filipinos to ask God for help, because "only that can save us now."

■ **DELUGE:** Mudflows triggered by typhoon "Brendan" engulfed several Philippine villages near rivers around erupting Mount Pinatubo volcano yesterday, trapping people in their homes, relief officials said.

"There were reports that in some areas mudflows reached as high as 20 feet", Major Amado Paneda, a spokesman for the Civil Defence Office in Central Luzon, said in a telephone interview.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. At least two major bridges in Pampanga province were damaged, he said.

Helicopters prepared to rescue families trapped in their homes in a village in Concepcion, Tarlac province, 85 km north of Manila, another relief official said.

A reporter trapped in a house in Santa Rita village when mudflows struck said in a radio broadcast several people were on rooftops waiting for rescue teams.

Rain spawned by "Brendan" had loosened volcanic debris, including boulders, on the slopes of Pinatubo, which has been erupting for 44 days.

Local officials have asked the military for amphibious vehicles to ferry villagers because they fear more rains will deluge the area.

"Brendan", with winds up to 100 kph, was near Tuguegarao in Cagayan province and moving northwest, the weather bureau said. It could swirl out into the South China Sea late today. -

Reuter/AP



Slimy friend: Seven-year-old Wendy Lim plays with her family's three-metre-long pet python, Hello, at her home outside Kuala Lumpur. Hello attracts customers to the shop where Wendy's father sells herbal medicine.

# US-Pacific ties to serve 'new strategic realities'

KUALA LUMPUR — The United States is offering nations in the Asian-Pacific region a partnership reflecting "new strategic realities", a senior US official said at the start of the ASEAN (Association of South East Nations) conference of Foreign Ministers yesterday.

The three pillars of the planned new security concept at the end of the Cold War era were Japan, South Korea and members of ASEAN, said US Under-Secretary of State Robert Zoellick.

Japan is "the key beam in the security structure of the region and in the new Pacific partnership we seek," said Zoellick whose remarks came on the first day of the three-day event attended by the ASEAN Ministers and their most important allies.

Zoellick was speaking on behalf of US Secretary of State James Baker whose current Middle East peace mission prevented him from arriving in time for the conference opening.

ASEAN's traditional dialogue partners, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and the European Community (E.C.) are represented at the conference.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama called the US military presence in the area "an indispensable element for stability in this region".

Troops stationed in Japan, South Korea and in the Philippines were a guarantee for the region's security, he added.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Lee Sand-Ock expressed a similar opinion, adding that divergent security interests in the region made multilateral security arrangements

along E.C. lines impracticable. Lee said he expected that the forthcoming admission to the United Nations of North and South Korea would give inner-Korean relations a fillip and improve political relations in northern Asia.

Nakayama noted that "new thinking" of Soviet foreign policy was not so evident in the Asian-Pacific region. The Soviet Union had reduced troop numbers in Mongolia, along the Chinese-Soviet border and in Vietnam, but Moscow was boosting its military firepower in the Far East.

Foreign Ministers of the six ASEAN countries - Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Brunei - intend to confer with their dialogue partners on creating a forum to discuss regional security issues on a regular basis.

Zoellick also said that the US, concerned about Burma as a drug source, plans to launch a joint anti-drugs campaign with Southeast Asian nations.

"Without our efforts, the people of Burma will suffer longer. Underdeveloped and undemocratic, Burma will poison the region with narcotics and remain a cancer of instability," said the US official.

"The US will participate in any conference on coordinated drugs strategy, which could include joint enforcement, exchange of intelligence, extradition agreements and control over the flow of drugs money," Zoellick said.

The US official added that ASEAN and its partners must do more to ensure the release of political prisoners in Burma and insist on the transfer of authority to the elected civilian leaders in Burma. - DPA

# China's typhoon claims 84

BEIJING — A weekend typhoon that hit southern China's Guangdong province killed 84 people and injured 4,362, according to a new report that reached Beijing yesterday.

Typhoon "Amy", the seventh and strongest typhoon to lash China this year, also destroyed 38,000 homes and damaged 193,300 hectares of farmland, said Sunday's "Yangsheng Evening News" of Canton, capital of Guangdong province.

The typhoon, which struck the coastal city of Shantou on Friday evening caused extensive damage to highways, bridges, communication lines and irrigation projects, it said.

Damage exceeded 2 billion yuan (3.7 million US dollars) the report added.

The Civil Affairs Ministry refused yesterday to give updated information on casualties from the typhoon.

It was the second typhoon to hit southern China in a week. Typhoon "Zeke" hit the southern island province of Hainan on July 12, killing 30 people and causing 95.5 million U.S. dollars in damage, official media reported.

The typhoons struck as China was struggling to recover from serious flooding in 17 provinces over the past two months.

Officials say 1,781 people have died in the flooding. — AP

# Indonesian dissidents refuse to apologise to President

JAKARTA — A group of 50 Indonesian dissidents have rejected a Government demand that they apologise to President Suharto for their criticism of him.

"No way will we apologise," retired Lieutenant-General Ali Sadikin, a former Governor of Jakarta, told Reuters on Sunday.

Criticism of Suharto did not call for the apology demanded by the Government, Sadikin said. He played a key role 11 years ago in setting up a petition of 50 former Generals, politicians, clerics and intellectuals that criticised the President. He said the dissidents saw no purpose in responding to the demand by Coordinating Minister for Security and Political Affairs, Sudomo, who promised to revoke an order forbidding them from leaving the country if they apologised.

One leading member of Parliament criticised the Government saying that since it is against the law to insult the President it should take the dissidents to court and not use the issue for political leverage.

"Getting permission to leave the country is not the issue. If this (an apology) is the condition to see the President, we will not see us," said Slamet Bratanata, the former Minister of Mines and a spokesman for the group.

The dissidents are currently waiting for Sadikin to be given an appointment with Parliamentary Speaker Khakim Suhuud to pave the way for a meeting between representatives of the dissident group and Suharto, Bratanata said.

"If he (Suharto) does not meet us, it is his loss. If he does see us, we will ask him questions he may not be able to answer. It will also be his loss," he said.

Members of the group were included on a blacklist of 17,000 people forbidden to travel outside Indonesia after they signed the petition criticising Suharto 11 years ago.

Suharto's Government has recently come under increasing attack as politicians prepare for presidential elections in 1993, when Suharto will be 72 and in his 27th year in power. — Reuter

# Japanese police-gangs links to be probed

TOKYO — Police in the central Japanese city of Suzuka denied yesterday reports linking them to organised crime gangs.

Recent newspaper reports alleged police in Suzuka, in Mie Prefecture, released two Thai women illegally employed in a gangster-affiliated bar into the custody of gang members in late May.

The two women, who worked as bar hostesses, escaped from police custody while being taken to a regional immigration office for questioning, a local police official said by telephone yesterday.

Several Japanese newspapers alleged the police gave in to pressure from gangsters to release the two Thai women. The women had threatened to go public with a damning report on local police conduct, the newspapers said.

"We have not unearthed any such shady deal," Kazunori Watanabe, director of the Mie Prefectural Police Administration, told reporters yesterday.

Watanabe is heading an investigation into police conduct in relation to the two women.

One of the pair met Japanese reporters on Sunday night and denied police reports she and her companion had escaped.

"I was dropped off at a (railway) station," Kyodo News Agency quoted her as saying. "When I said goodbye to the police who drove us there, they told me to take care of myself."

The woman, whose name was not revealed, said the gang took her to another city where she resumed work as a hostess. — Reuter

# UN opens road route to Cambodia for first time in 16 years

BANGKOK — The United Nations, for the first time since 1975, will transport emergency medical supplies to Phnom Penh from Thailand via a border road link, the world body announced in Bangkok yesterday.

"On Wednesday the U.N. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General will send a relief supply of emergency medical supplies from Bangkok to Phnom Penh by road through Poi Pet," said the U.N. statement.

PoiPet is a small town on the Cambodian side of the Thai-Cambodian border, 225 kilometres east of Bangkok, which was recently opened as an official trading post between the two countries.

U.N. officials asked Thai and Cambodian authorities to use the Poi Pet-Phnom Penh road for emergency deliveries after the four Cambodian factions declared a cease-fire last month.

"This will be the first such shipment to Phnom Penh by road of relief supplies for Cambodia since 1975 and it will be accompanied by two U.N. officials," said the U.N. statement.

The supplies will include 7,000 kilograms of anti-TB, Malaria and leprosy drugs.

Cambodia shut its doors to the U.N. in April, 1975, after the Khmer Rouge came to power, and the international community shunned the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh regime after 1979, in order to pressure the Government towards a political solution of the Cambodia problem. — DPA

# 49 Vietnamese boat people sail into Japan's port

TOKYO — A total of 49 Vietnamese aboard a small boat arrived yesterday in Nagasaki Bay, southern Japan from Da Nang, central Vietnam, Maritime Safety Agency officials said.

There were 38 men and 11 women aboard the 12.5-metre boat, including two boys and two girls, according to the officials. They are scheduled to be sent to a Nagasaki City's refugee camp after a medical inspection.

Another group of 56 Vietnamese arrived by boat in Nagasaki on Saturday after sailing for nearly two months. The Vietnamese told officials that they planned to settle in Japan.

■ **REPATRIATION:** A report from Bangkok meanwhile, said a group of 134 Vietnamese boat people returned home voluntarily from Thailand yesterday after failing for two years to win refugee status entitling them to re-

settle in third countries.

An official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the group brought to 1,125 the number of boat people who had agreed to fly back to Vietnam under a voluntary repatriation programme.

Vietnamese boat people fleeing their country after March 1989 are required to prove they are bona fide refugees of conscience who do not simply seek a better life abroad.

Another group of 131 Vietnamese boat people who have spent up to two years at Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp southeast of Bangkok are due to return home next Monday, Thai officials said.

Thailand is home to about 15,233 Vietnamese who are screened under stringent U.N. criteria to determine if they qualify as refugees. — DPA/Reuter

# Vietnam and China to hold talks

HANOI — China and Vietnam are arranging a special meeting to discuss the Cambodian conflict and other issues that have strained their relations, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

"In order to promote further the improvements of relations between the two countries and to carry out exchanges of views on problems of mutual concern, including the Cambodian issue, Vietnam and China are making arrangements for meeting in the coming period," a Ministry spokesman said.

He had no details, he said. Beijing has asked Vietnam to send a member of its Communist Party Politburo and a Deputy Foreign Minister to China, said a local political source who asked not to be identified.

Hanoi and Beijing have backed opposing sides in the Cambodian conflict and relations have been uneasy since China fought a brief war with Vietnam in 1979 after Hanoi had invaded Cambodia. — Reuter

# Heavy downpours leave more than 50 dead or missing in S. Korea

SEOUL — The heaviest rains in 26 years triggered floods and landslides that left more than 50 people dead or missing, officials said yesterday.

Officials at the Central Anti-Disaster Headquarters said 35 people have been confirmed dead and 19 others missing and presumed dead in Sunday's deluge. Another 60 people were injured, some seriously, they said.

More rain and a higher death toll were expected. The "Joonggang Daily News", a national newspaper, reported that 43 people were killed and 23 others missing.

About 2,800 houses in low-lying areas were flooded, forcing thousands of people to take refuge at makeshift shelters in schools and other public buildings, the officials said. Property damage estimated at 4.9 billion won (\$6.7 million) they added.

Up to 10.8 inches of rain fell in the Osan-Suwon area south of Seoul in less than four hours on Sunday, flooding houses and farmland, disrupting service and delaying rail and highway traffic, officials said.

Weathermen said the rain in those areas measure 3.1 inches an hour, the heaviest rainfall ever recorded there. The national record is 46.6 inches an hour in Seoul in

1942. Television showed people wading through waist-deep water in residential areas, carrying their belongings on their heads. Several cars were drifting in floods that flowed over bridges and embankments.

Rice paddies and farmland were turned into a virtual sea. A farmer complained that mud washed down from a golf course under construction filled a stream, causing flooding. Helicopters plucked people from rooftops and isolated areas.

Hardest hit was the Osan-Yongin area, 64 kilometres south of Seoul, where at least 21 people were buried in landslides or drowned in rain-swollen streams, the officials said.

Five family members, including an 11-year-old boy, were killed when their house was buried under tonnes or rocks and muds at Yongin, they said.

At nearby Ansong, a section of a mountain gave in, burying two houses and killing four people, while three people drowned while trying to cross a rain-swollen stream, they added.

Lightning killed a man standing near an electric utility pole and another was electrocuted when he accidentally stepped on an electric cable, the officials reported.

A large section of the city of Osan was flooded, forcing many people to move to temporary shelter in schools and city auditoriums, they said. US officials said there was no significant property damage to the US Air Force Base in Osan, and the airfield remained open.

Throughout Sunday and late into the night, hundreds of volunteers and workers from organisations in and around the base filled and placed sandbags to hold back flood waters, they said.

US and South Korean military helicopters rescued 160 Korean Catholics stranded after a pilgrimage to a shrine in the area, officials said.

A rail line linking Seoul with Pusan, the nation's second largest city, on the south coast, was closed for more than five hours due to flooding, Korean officials added.

The state-run Korean National Railroad said it refunded fares to about 20,000 passengers who arrived late because of delays.

There were no reports of serious property damage or injuries in Seoul, which had 2.3 inches of rain on Sunday, officials said.

Officials also reported that at least 11 people were killed in three traffic accidents on rain-slick highways in central and southern parts of the country on Sunday. — AP

AFTER MORE THAN 45 YEARS IN VIETNAM

# Japanese soldier goes home

HO CHI MINH CITY — A Japanese soldier who deserted in Vietnam during World War II to fight with anti-Japanese Viet Minh guerrillas left for home yesterday for the first time in more than 45 years.

Haryoshi Matsushima, 70, who has lived quietly for years as a fruit farmer in the Mekong Delta, waved and smiled after climbing the stairs on the tarmac at Ho Chi Minh City's International Airport to board a Vietnam Airlines flight.

"I am very glad to go back to Japan to visit my brother and sisters and other relatives," he had told reporters on Sunday night.

There was little show of emotion at the airport when Matsushima, a tall, lanky man wearing blue trousers and a white shirt, left his Vietnamese wife, Le Thi Linh, his 22-year-old adopted daughter and his son-in-law,

They just waved goodbye. The former soldier, who now speaks only broken Japanese, said on Sunday he would spend 15 days in Japan, then return to Vietnam because life in Japan was too difficult.

"It's very cold in Japan and it's hard to live in Japan. Here in Vietnam it's easier to live," he said.

Matsushima, known to family and friends by his Vietnamese name, Le Ha Thanh, said he arrived in Vietnam with Japan's Imperial Army in May 1945, just three months before Japan surrendered.

He had been stationed in China for three years before that, after joining the Army in 1941.

"I defected in August 1945 because Japan had lost the war. My Army was being withdrawn back to Japan," he said.

Japan controlled Vietnam from

1940 until 1945. Matsushima said he spent five years with the Viet Minh — short for "Vietnam Doc Lap Dong Minh" or the Vietnam Independence League — a nationalist group led by communists.

Ho Chi Minh founded the Viet Minh in 1941 to fight against the Japanese and the French colonial rulers who were then collaborating with Japan in Vietnam.

After the French were defeated in 1954 and the country was divided in two, the Viet Minh continued to fight against the U.S.-backed South Vietnam Government. Saigon leaders gave the Viet Minh a derogatory label, "Viet Cong" or Vietnamese Communists.

Matsushima said he headed a Viet Minh platoon, with the rank of lieutenant, and taught the gue-

rillas to use automatic rifles and machine-guns.

He left the guerrilla movement in 1959 when he married his wife, Le Thi Linh, he said.

They grow guava fruit on their small farm.

Matsushima said he would visit his younger brother and two younger sisters in the southern Japanese town of Kumamoto.

His sisters arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on July 18 to bring him home.

Matsushima's son-in-law, Luong Hong Son, said the family had not thought of leaving the farm in Ties Giang province, 120 km south of Ho Chi Minh City, to accompany him back to Japan since none spoke Japanese. Japanese diplomats in Hanoi said last week that Matsushima would have no problems in Japan for having deserted.

— Reuter

**SOUTH ASIA AND WORLD**

# India determined to combat illiteracy

NEW DELHI — Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh yesterday welcomed a proposal to establish an International Commission on Education for the 21st century.

Inaugurating the 21st session of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO here, Mr Singh expressed confidence that the activities of UNESCO in the current decade would contribute in shaping the international order in the next century in the fields of education, culture, science and communications.

He recalled how the world conference on education for all at Jomtien last year had laid down a blueprint of action for meeting the basic learning needs.

In this context, he said that well before the attention of the international community focused on human resource development and eradication of illiteracy, late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had recognised the prime importance of literacy and had launched in India the National Literacy Mission.

Mr Singh said that the report of the first international commission "Learning to be" was widely disseminated by the Indian National Commission. "Twenty years have elapsed since then. There is need to assess our successes and failures to chalk out the course for the future,"

he said. The minister said that protection of the environment and economic development in harmony with ecological balance was one of the major challenges of the day. He was happy that the programme "science for progress and the environment" has had a strong component of environmental studies.

He said that as a founder-member, India had actively participated in UNESCO's activities. He said UNESCO needed to devote some attention to the impact of modern means of communication of educational and cultural values of contemporary society.

Education Secretary Anil Bordia, who is also secretary-general of the Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO, told the meeting that India was keen on participating in the project to combat illiteracy. — UNI

**Two more held in Rajiv case**  
MADRAS — Two Sri Lankan Tamils have been picked up from a refugee camp here for questioning in connection with the May 21 Rajiv Gandhi assassination near Madras police sources said.

The sources said the two, Perumal (55) and his brother Ramu (24) were taken to Madras on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the number of Sri Lankan Tamils taken into custody for failing to register their names with the police in the district have gone up to 502. Of these, 248 were taken into custody over the past two days. Arrangements were being made to house them in marriage halls till further government orders were issued in this regard.

Seven Members of Parliament have demanded stern action against the entire Special Investigation Team as "it is neither capable; able nor willing to conduct a sincere and proper investigation" in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Referring to the death of Shanmugam, one of the key suspects in a joint statement, the seven Rajya Sabha members said that the SIT has failed to protect the one prime informer who had voluntarily offered his services and has also expressed fears for his safety.

"We further demand that the terms of reference of the commission of enquiry be enlarged to include the power of investigation as well as to identify the conspirator within the country and abroad so that the entire gamut of the conspiracy can be exposed.

The signatories to the statement were Dr Ratnakar Pandey, Mr Vishjit P Singh, Mr S S Ahluwalia, Ms Sushila Triya, Mr Suresh Pachouri, Mr Bekal Utashi and Dr Akbar Ahmad. — UNI

that the government will go full steam ahead to ensure that at least one Navodaya school will be set up in the remaining districts of the country.

The Ramamurti report was also highly critical of the two parallel systems of primary and elementary education existing in the country - the formal stream and the informal stream. The committee pointed out that non-formal education has been placed at a lower level than formal education and a feeling has widely persisted, legitimately or otherwise, that it represents some kind of a second grade education for the poor. It therefore suggested that non-formal and formal education systems should be integrated over a period of time.

The panel strongly favoured decentralisation of education. While reviewing operation blackboard, a major plank of the 1986 NPE, the committee felt the manner in which it was worked out was more an example of over centralisation than decentralisation. It wanted authority, functions and resources to be devolved all the way down.

The UDF government's first budget, presented to the state assembly on Friday, though seemingly trying to play to the gallery, is all the same faithful to the United Democratic Front's (UDF) election manifesto.

Finance Minister Oommen Chandy, during his 65-minute budget speech, proposed several projects aimed at the overall development of Kerala, including generation of employment, and announced a plethora of measures meant to socially benefit the common people.

He announced free education up to the pre-degree (plus-two) level, enhanced the coverage and quantum of social welfare pensions and increased bonus and festival allowance for the government staff and pensioners.

Mr Chandy said state government staff would get pay parity with their counterparts in federal government service, a longstanding demand, and announced free consumption of electricity up to 20 units for the poor. The ruling front members thumped the desk and cheered Chandy.

## Move to decentralise education

NEW DELHI — The sub-committee to review the recommendations of the Ramamurti committee on education is likely to be drawn from the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE), the highest advisory body for education in the country. The committee will not only look at the recommendations of the Ramamurti committee on which action can be taken but will also review the implementation of the 1986 National Policy on Education (NPE). The policy had stipulated such an appraisal after five years.

It is learnt that the decision to review the recommendations of the committee was taken after consultation with the Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. The review will be merged with the appraisal of the NPE.

But in reality the review exercise is likely to be more about the implementation of the NPE than about the Ramamurti committee recommendations. The minister for human resource development has stated quite categorically that all the promises made on education in the election manifesto of the Congress party are to be implemented.

The committee had said no more Navodaya Vidyalayas need be opened and the existing 261 Vidyalayas may be restructured and continued with provision of adequate resources. Mr Arjun Singh, however, has already announced

that the government will go full steam ahead to ensure that at least one Navodaya school will be set up in the remaining districts of the country.

The Ramamurti report was also highly critical of the two parallel systems of primary and elementary education existing in the country - the formal stream and the informal stream. The committee pointed out that non-formal education has been placed at a lower level than formal education and a feeling has widely persisted, legitimately or otherwise, that it represents some kind of a second grade education for the poor. It therefore suggested that non-formal and formal education systems should be integrated over a period of time.

In 1986 under the NPE the non-formal education was enlarged. The chances of it being cut back or integrated seems remote for at his very first press conference, Mr Arjun Singh had said that education can no longer be confined to the classrooms. Referring to the daily conflict between the economic interest of the family and the individual educational interest of the child, he said informal education has to be given to the child at a time convenient to him.

With such diametrically opposing views it will not be easy to resolve the problem of the working child who also needs to be educated.

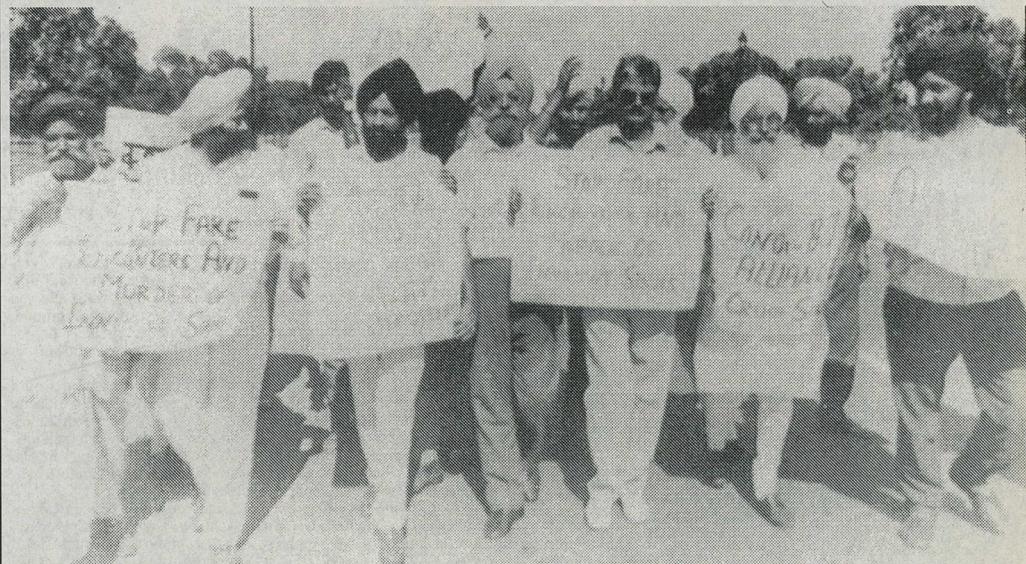
## Legion D'Honneur for Indian scientist

NEW DELHI — Noted Indian scientist, Prof GP Talwar has been conferred the highest French civilian award of "Officer de La Legion D'Honneur."

Director of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, Prof Talwar is the first Indian scientist to receive this honour. Prof Talwar, who laid a strong foundation for immunology in India, has three indigenous vaccines to his credit. These are an anti-leprosy vaccine, a sterilisation vaccine for mammals and a birth control vaccine for women.

The anti-leprosy vaccine currently in therapeutic trials in two major hospitals in Delhi as well as in rural areas in northern Kanpur town amongst a community of 3,62,000 has demonstrated that as an adjunct to multidrug therapy the vaccine can accelerate recovery from disease and can also upgrade the immunological responses of the patient.

Another injectible developed by him can sterilise male mammals without affecting their virility. Bulls sterilised by this vaccine, called Talwar, can identify the female in estrus without being able to impregnate her. Detection of estrus at the right time is crucial to the success of artificial insemination. — UNI



Activists of the All-India Sikh Conference (Babbar) march protesting against the alleged fake encounters between U.P. Police and Sikh pilgrims, many of whom were shot dead in the jungles of Pilbhit last week.

## Tamil Nadu appeal to Supreme Court on Cauvery dispute

MADRAS — An all party meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha yesterday unanimously decided to observe a 12 hour state-wide strike on July 26 to condemn the Karnataka Government's refusal to implement the interim award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and to express displeasure and regret over New Delhi's failure to discharge its constitutional obligation to enforce the award.

A resolution to this effect proposed by Ms Jayalalitha was adopted at the meeting attended by Federal Labour Minister and State Congress (I) president K Ramamurthy and representatives of the DMK, the communist parties, PMK, Janata Dal besides the AIADMK. Apart from 12 national and state level parties, 56 other parties also attended the meeting.

In her presidential address at the meeting earlier, the Chief Minister said Karnataka's intransigence in honouring the award was a threat to national unity and integration.

Karnataka Government's "unfair attitude" was a cause for concern to all those who were committed to building a united India, she added.

The Karnataka Government has been denying Tamil Nadu the right to share the Cauvery water since 1974 violating all agreements. This should no more continue, a resolution passed at the meeting said.

Describing the Cauvery water as the lifeline of Tamil Nadu the resolution said it was sad that the federal government despite repeated pleas by the Chief Minister, the state legislature and MPs from the state had not taken any action to make the Karnataka government implement the interim award.

It urged the federal government immediately take action to render justice to the people of the state.

The meeting endorsed all the actions taken by the state government in regard to the implementation of the interim award and extended support and cooperation to the Chief Minister to further pursue her effort to enforce the order.

Ms Jayalalitha said Karnataka had extended its ayacut in violation of the 1974 agreement and the inflow into the Mettur dam had dwindled forcing the farmers in the Cauvery delta known as the granary of the south to forgo the Kuruva crop.

The Karnataka Government was planning to further extend the ayacut since the final award of the tribunal would take a few more years, she said.

The Chief Minister said the tribunal was constituted under the 1956 Inter State River Water Disputes Act passed by parliament and three judges constituted the tribunal. Its award was binding on the riparian states. The federal government should see that the interim award was implemented as per Article 256 of the Constitution, Ms Jayalalitha said.

Ms Jayalalitha said the tribunal, constituted after 20 years of negotiations, had failed to yield any result.

It was a matter sorrow for the people of Tamil Nadu that the Karnataka Government was ignoring the interim award of the duly constituted tribunal which gave its award after hearing both sides.

She said the rejection of the award by the Karnataka Government was unlawful and unjust. The Tamil Nadu Government had decided to go to the Supreme Court to seek justice in this regard, she added.

Ms Jayalalitha said the ayacut of Karnataka which was only 6.83 acres has risen to 11.20 acres by 1990 because of the unlawful extension of the irrigation area. — UNI

## UDF budget true to election manifesto

TRIVANDRUM — The Karunakaran government's first budget, presented to the state assembly on Friday, though seemingly trying to play to the gallery, is all the same faithful to the United Democratic Front's (UDF) election manifesto.

Finance Minister Oommen Chandy, during his 65-minute budget speech, proposed several projects aimed at the overall development of Kerala, including generation of employment, and announced a plethora of measures meant to socially benefit the common people.

He announced free education up to the pre-degree (plus-two) level, enhanced the coverage and quantum of social welfare pensions and increased bonus and festival allowance for the government staff and pensioners.

Mr Chandy said state government staff would get pay parity with their counterparts in federal government service, a longstanding demand, and announced free consumption of electricity up to 20 units for the poor. The ruling front members thumped the desk and cheered Chandy.

Mr Chandy offered incentives to small coconut-growers, a string of long-term measures to boost paddy cultivation and productivity and a massive programme to en-

courage rain-fed farming and production of tuber and cash crops.

Mr Chandy said the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had brought the state's finances to a perilous brink by discarding development and incurring non-development expenditure.

The UDF government's first budget shows an uncovered deficit of Rs 551 million despite additional resources mobilisation efforts. The LDF government's fifth and last budget presented on March 15 this year had shown nil deficit for the same year.

The present budget, therefore, establishes that the figures projected then by the LDF Finance Minister were unreal as the year 1990-91 would close with a deficit of Rs one billion, while the revised estimate for the year presented by the previous government was only Rs 522 million.

However, Opposition leader E K Nayanar (former Chief Minister) described the revised budget as a stop-gap, a hotchpotch one drawn up to win applause. It was unrealistic and radically different in approach to that of the LDF Government.

According to former LDF Finance Minister V Viswanatha Menon, it was not a budget, but another version of the Congress (I) election manifesto. The budget was

conspicuously silent about the job scheme costing Rs ten billion banded about in the Congress election manifesto, he said.

After "Ramayana" and the "Mahabharata", now the "Bible", Malayalam film producer M Punnose's magnum opus, the mega-teleserial "The Stories From The Bible" will be ready for screening on the Indian television from Christmas Day.

Six episodes of the 39-part serial have so far been shot in the desert locations of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Kulu and Manali.

The "Garden of Eden" episode was shot in the beautiful locales of Kallar, Kerala. "Noah's Ark" in Kanyakumari and the "Tower of Babel" in Tirunelveli district.

The story of Abraham, which runs into three episodes, was entirely shot in Rajasthan at locations like Jaisalmer, Pushkar, Govind Ghat, Bhagavan Pura, Hokrah, Jodhpur and Ajmer.

Hundreds of sheep, mules, camels as well as junior artistes participated in the shooting which went on continuously throughout the month of June.

The serial is being filmed in the same order as the events described in the bible. Starting from creation, Adam and Eve, the serial will cover Noah's Ark, Tower of Babel, the

stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and move on to the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Each story deals with a distinct period in history with different costumes and customs sets are erected at locations to suit each story.

The entire serial is expected to be shot during the next 12 to 15 months of continuous filming.

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are under construction at Punnose's own studio, Novodaya, year Ernakulam, the episode, including the destruction of the cities by heavenly fire, will be shot in August.

The role of Abraham has been enacted by Kabir Bedi, and Radha Seth plays Sara. The other principal artistes are Raza Murad as Noah and Shammii Kapoor as King Nimrod.

Punnose has produced over 100 films in different languages under the banner of "Udaya" and "Navodaya" during his 45 years association with the film industry.

He has a number of "firsts" to his credit-south India's first 70-mm movie "Padayottam" the first Malayalam cinemascop film "Thacholi Ambu" starring Sivaji Ganesan and India's first 3-D film "My Dear Kuttichathan" which was dubbed in four other languages. — UNI



Rocket pods weighing over 50 kg, which accidentally fell off from a IAF MiG-21 on routine exercise over Chandigarh sector II, just outside the boundary wall of a government girls high school.

## Ajit Singh for Dal executive meet

NEW DELHI — Senior Janata Dal leader Ajit Singh yesterday sought an immediate meeting of the party's national executive to discuss the latest developments, including the issues raised in his controversial letter to Mr V P Singh.

He did not attach much importance to the threat of disciplinary action against him for making this letter public or to his supporters being ignored in appointment on Sunday of several party office bearers.

Talking to media persons, he said if releasing the letter was a case of indiscipline then Mr V P Singh himself had indulged in this sort of indiscipline several times in the past, such as when he released his letter to party president S.R. Bommai before the Puri convention in February in which he had disapproved of the "drawing room" politicians.

As for the decision of the party's Political Affairs Committee on Sunday to immediately fill the vacant positions in the party and announce the new office bearers, Mr Ajit Singh said the very fact that several "Heavyweights" like Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Mr R K Hegde, Mr Ram Vilas Pawan, Mr George Fernandes

were not present at the meeting explained how valid these appointments were, Mr Ajit Singh also did not attend.

On July 20, Mr Ajit Singh had written a letter to Mr V P Singh holding him and Mr Bommai responsible for the party's poll debacle and demanded the latter's resignation.

The PAC met twice on Sunday to consider the implication of this letter and, among other things, decided to ask Mr Ajit Singh why he made it public.

Mr Ajit Singh said he had received no communication so far seeking his explanation, but if and when he does, an appropriate reply would be given.

He said he had "no quarrel" personally with Mr Bommai but since he was concerned, like many others, about the state of the party, it was necessary to ask the right questions.

Mr Ajit Singh said the party leadership might have discussed his letter but had not answered the issues raised by him.

He said it was not a fact that nobody sought Mr Bommai's resignation at the meeting of the Dal national executive early this month. "Mr Sharad Yadav demanded his resignation."

He said he had been raising the issue of party organisation or lack of it at every available opportunity and party fora and did so at the national executive too. But there has been no response.

Referring to Mr V P Singh's insistence that 60 per cent of the party posts at all levels should go to weaker sections and minorities, Mr Ajit said it made little sense to him. In the Janata Dal parliamentary party elections, these sections had been completely ignored, though Mr V P Singh himself is the leader of the parliamentary party. The erstwhile Lok Dal, he said, had always followed this principle though this was not provided in its constitution.

He said there was no sign of this happening. So, Mr Ajit Singh demanded that the national executive be convened immediately to consider various issues including the ones raised by him and the party's leadership's reaction to them.

Mr Ajit Singh said "I have only one objective — the party should be strengthened and run well. — UNI

**Noted vocalist dead**  
BANGLAORE — Renowned Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan Dr Basavaraj Raj Guru died here yesterday. He was 71.

He was admitted to the hospital following a heart attack. He died in the early hours of the morning.

He is survived by wife, three sons and two daughters.

Dr Rajguru, who became a student of Gnanayogi Panchakshara Gavai at the age of ten, gave his

## Militants kill family of seven

AMRITSAR — Suspected Sikh militants gunned down seven members of a family in India's troubled north Indian state of Punjab, police said yesterday.

Five gunmen stormed a farmhouse at Chachowali village, 80km from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, on Sunday night and killed the owner, Kartar Singh, and six of his family, including two women and three children, police said.

The killer belonged to one of the militant groups fighting for a separate homeland in Punjab, police said, adding that the incident could have been over a property dispute.

One police official said militant groups were increasingly being hired by people in the prosperous agricultural state to settle personal scores and land disputes.

More than 3,200 people have been killed this year in the Sikh campaign for a separate nation called Khalistan, or land of the pure. — Reuter

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## Cash-strapped media selective on Bush's trips

WASHINGTON — Belt-tightening in the news industry and the restless habits of George Bush are changing the way reporters cover the presidency.

"The problem is primarily an economic one, because as fewer people travel on those planes the cost goes up," said Charles Biberbauer of Cable News Network, President of the White House Correspondents Association.

And, with news bureaus hit by the recession like everywhere else, fewer reporters are traveling with Bush.

On the flight to last week's economic summit in London, about 150 reporters were aboard. Bob van Eimeren of the White House travel office said there have been up to 250 on similar trips in the past.

"I think that any number of news organisations are looking at White House charter bills with a jaundiced eye," said George Watson, Washington Bureau chief for ABC News.

Even in normal times, the bills for flying on the press charter or on Air Force One are substantially

more than first-class commercial fares, partly because the bills also cover the cost of filing facilities and ground transportation.

Bills have soared as the television networks have experimented with pool photography and hard pressed editors have decided to skip some trips.

"We are kind of taking it on a case-by-case basis," said Karen Deyoung, an assistant managing editor of the Washington Post.

"But it is a subject of some concern when the cost of what would be essentially a \$500 round trip fare on a commercial airline goes up to \$2,000 or \$3,000."

Journalists say it isn't just the cost that is making them rethink how to cover the White House beat.

Bush has traveled more than any other President at a corresponding point in his first term, but the trips have included jaunts to do little more than fish or hunt quail.

"We have scaled back," said Bruce Drake, senior news editor at National Public radio. "It's a com-

bination of Bush doing so many more trips and a decent percentage of the trips not promising heavy news."

On one occasion, a three-day fishing trip to Florida in April, there was so little interest that the press charter flight was canceled. Except for reporters in the pool that flies on Air Force One, reporters who made the trip had to take commercial flights, which are cheaper but not so convenient.

"I think we probably traveled a little bit more in the old days. It was a little more routine," said Evan Thomas, Washington bureau chief for "Newsweek" magazine. "Nobody at 'Newsweek' ever told me to save money by traveling less. However...some of it is wasted, people flying hither and yon without any particular purpose."

"We're absolutely committed to full coverage of the President, but we don't feel any pride in paying an arm and a leg to do it - we're looking for less expensive ways to travel," said Jonathan Wolman, Associated Press bureau chief in Washington. — AP

# Times of Oman

Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.  
—Stephen Leacock (Canadian humourist)

## Making Afrikaners eat their words

As in any other divided society, political symbolism enjoys a privileged centrality in South African life. It is only three years since we saw the extraordinary sight of two rival ox-wagons traipsing round this country to commemorate the Great Trek, one despatched by the government, one by the hard-line Conservative Party.

This is a country where the politics of sport has been regular front-page news for more than 20 years; and where intense political debate can centre on whether carrying a spear is a cultural act and whether Zulus need their weapons as comforters - just as Linus has to have his blanket.

The calendar is studded with political holy days - Sharpeville Day, the Day of the Covenant, Soweto Uprising Day and, most recently, February 2, the day when FW de Klerk launched the new South Africa.

The most symbolic town in South Africa is Verwoerdburg, near Pretoria, built amid the beautiful countryside once farmed by Jan Smuts. Established in 1964 to house the new Afrikaner middle-class, the town was dominated from the start by the civil service elite.

As the government machine helped itself to the prodigious spoils available in the highnoon of apartheid, the salaries, pensions and benefits of that elite went through the roof. The result, by the early 1980s, was that Verwoerdburg had surpassed even the plush northern suburbs of Johannesburg to become the community with the highest per capita income in the country. But now the council of Verwoerdburg finds itself in much the same position once enjoyed by the city fathers of Stalingrad (now Volgograd).

Logically, the name Verwoerd ought not to carry a heavier burden of shame or woe than Malan, Strijdom or Vorster; apartheid was not the work of one man. But the latter are common names, while there is only one Verwoerd family in the country. And, undeniably, Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd was the high priest of apartheid. The others just ruled the country but he held it spellbound.

All of which means that the name Verwoerd is so grave an embarrassment that it turns investors and home-buyers away from Verwoerdburg. A recent telephone-poll of local residents found 67 per cent wanting the name changed.

But the problem is shared. As anyone who has waited at Port Elizabeth's H F Verwoerd airport knows, your gaze always returns to the bust of Verwoerd in the foyer: that confident Dutch face fascinates with its cheerful inhumanity. But in South Africa all airports are named after prime ministers, and it is difficult to imagine D F Malan airport (Cape Town) or P W Botha (George) will keep their names.

Already, the Namibians have done away with J G Strijdom airport (Windhoek). But there remains the giant H F Verwoerd dam on the Orange River, symbolising the awesome, granite strength of triumphant Afrikanerdom, and the innumerable Verwoerd streets, roads and drives.

The rush to get rid of the Verwoerd name is resented by the Conservative Party, which points out that Afrikaners once dreamed of tearing down such hated symbols of colonialism as the statues of Queen Victoria and the pictures in Parliament of the British monarchy. Ultimately things were left as they were out of consideration for the English-speakers.

Why should the same not apply now? The Verwoerd family, echoing the words of former justice minister Jimmy Kruger when he heard of Steve Biko's death under torture, says the agitation for name changes "leaves us cold".

Perhaps the most embarrassing example is that of the H F Verwoerd building at the University of Stellenbosch, where Verwoerd was a professor of psychology. That Verwoerd's son and grandson teach there has not prevented petitions for a name change.

Ironically, the ANC is distinctly cool about this rush to ditch the Verwoerd name. It says there are far more important issues to worry about and place names should be democratically decided. Gill Marcus, an ANC spokesperson, pointed out, rather bitterly, that the burghers of Verwoerdburg had once been Verwoerd's strongest supporters and that their wish for a name change was due to economic reasons.

The ANC would prefer such decisions to arise from "mass action", in which the name change is the climax of a victorious ANC campaign. It is galling to such spirits to see their historic enemies pre-empt them. But that is what De Klerk has done: he has removed apartheid from the statute book at such speed that it is seen as his achievement, not theirs.

Astonishingly, the ANC does not claim it as a victory. It has obtained the legal substance of what it wanted but is forever straining after symbolic victories. One wonders if that symbolic hunger can ever be sated. In a country where poverty, not apartheid, is now the problem, one longs for the day when the truth dawns - on all sides - that you cannot eat symbolism.

## The Centre won't hold

The failure to prevent civil war in Yugoslavia ought to prompt a rethinking of Western policy, not only towards Yugoslavia but also towards the Soviet Union and revolutionary trans formations in general.

Western policy-makers have been conditioned by the doctrine of geopolitics to think of national security interests in terms of the relationship between states.

But in times of revolutionary change the threat to peace arise out of relationships within the state.

When a totalitarian system collapses, the foundations of states such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union are destroyed. Geopolitics is the wrong doctrine for dealing with the situation. It is played like chess and creates a desire to keep the pieces intact.

Geopolitics prides itself on being realistic, as result, its bias goes unnoticed. Yet the bias can be seen in the attitude of the United States towards the Kurdish and Shia Muslim rebellions in Iraq, and the independence declarations of Slovenia and Croatia.

Geopolitics fosters a reactionary attitude to revolutionary change. In situations where such change is desirable it often leads to the wrong policy decisions.

The collapse of the Soviet empire is best understood as a conflict between the centre, which embodies the system, and the people, who tend to define themselves in terms of nationality.

In the former satellite states of Eastern Europe, the conflict has been resolved in favour of the people: the centre has simply abdicated. Not so Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union; there, the revolution has yet to reach its climax.

The conflict between nationalities has received ample attention but the problem of the centre is not well understood.

Yet the centre is the main threat to peace, because it contains the bulk of the military forces, whose main concern, now that the communist system has broken down, is their own survival. That concern remains even if the civilian authority is genuinely interested in economic and political transformation.

That is the case in Yugoslavia. The federal Prime Minister, Ante Markovic, introduced radical economic reforms and established a non-communist political party; but 60 per cent of the federal budget goes to defence, and the democratically elected parliaments of Slovenia and Croatia are unwilling to stay in the federation.

# Can great artists from tadpoles grow?

By giving free rein to free expression in children's developing art work, with the little technical instruction or copying, we might actually be limiting their ability to produce satisfying work as they grow older.

That view is emerging, not from crusty traditionalists, but from the recent research into children's drawing.

Look at the picture of two apples (below centre). Astonishingly, it is the work of a six-year-old child.

How is it that this child is able to produce an "artistic" impression - foregrounding the subject, supplying a background, varying the colouring?

The answer lies, not in innate ability, but in the fact that the child lives in China, and has been taught techniques of representation.

On a trip to China in the late Eighties the American psychologist Ellen Winner found that the high standards seen in the picture are commonplace. Schools follow a formal curriculum, which includes both close observation and detailed instruction.

She describes how, in one first-grade lesson, she saw a teacher begin by showing a video of penguins in the Antarctic.

The children were then shown a formula for drawing penguins, together with demonstrations of the right and wrong ways of adding the head, eyes, wings and feet.

Finally the Chinese children had to draw their own penguins,

## School art starts with squiggles and torso-less figures. But as children get older, they need to learn specific techniques to be creative, argues Jones French.

copying from the teacher's version, and their text books. Winner adds that they were allowed to provide their own background, although the accent was on realism - "there are no flowers at the South Pole".

Few people in Britain would want to see such heavily didactic methods, with their Identikit results, employed in our schools. But is their anything to be learned from the Chinese approach?

According to Maureen Cox, a psychologist at York University, the answer is a qualified "yes". An authority on children's drawings, she has misgivings about the way we teach art which is so often founded on the un-questioned assumption that self-expression is everything, particularly at the primary stage.

She is not the only one. A recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectors found the teaching of art to be poor in one third of our primary schools. And in their interim report earlier this year, the national curriculum working group on art pointed out that "traditional preoccupations in many schools...have encouraged an uncritical reliance on creative 'self-expression'...insufficient attention has been given to the progressive development of key

skills." So what is to be done? The national curriculum, by including art appreciation, and an impressive range of activities, will help.

But Maureen Cox would like to see more specific emphasis on the teaching of drawing, which is the foundation of creative work, and was seen as a basic skill by all the great artists.

Learning how to draw has the added advantage of being able to transform art education - so often seen as a time filler, or just for the talented - into an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience for all.

When they first begin to draw, most children cheerfully execute lines, circles and squiggles without any clear intent, combining these forms to draw tadpole-like figures, as in the drawings below left, by the time they reach about three years of age.

They seem not to mind if their drawing are discouraged by well-meaning adults who are quick to point out that "your arms don't come out of your head".

Children in the six to eight age group may be similarly put off by tactlessly-framed criticisms of the apparent "air gap" between ground and sky in many

of their pictures.

But by the time they reach nine or 10, most children become conscious of the shortcomings of their representations - and intensely frustrated by them.

It is then, according to both Maureen Cox and HMI, that the standard of work in schools begins to fall off. Advice such as "use your imagination" or "look at it closely" is of no practical value.

In the absence of proper discussion - and, crucially, instruction - the majority of young adolescents write off their own artistic talent, and therefore write off the subject.

One solution is for teachers and parents to find out more about the development of drawing skills in children, so they are tuned in to the problems and challenges.

Another is to encourage children really to observe - to describe, then draw, how a friend looks from the front, back, side; a doll's house from the front or the corner.

Additionally, children can be stretched by setting specific goals. For example, see how children of different ages respond - sometimes ingeniously - to the challenge of drawing a person picking up a ball (drawings be-

low right). By setting a clear task it becomes possible to discuss aspects of representation. Do arms extend to pick up balls? Do people bend? And so on.

It is also helpful to follow Chinese practice, and encourage children to copy the drawings of experts.

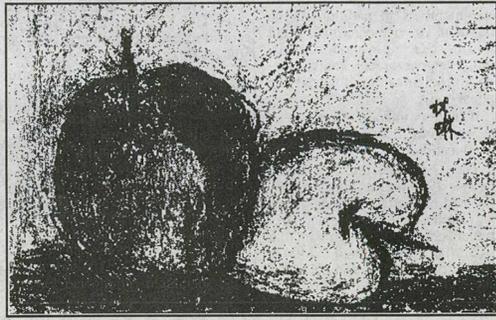
Copying the drawings of others affords youngsters some personal satisfaction, for it is easier to copy from two dimensions than from life, and allows for discussion of exactly how professional artists cope with the various problems, of light, perspective and movement, and of translating three dimensions into two.

Some art teachers favour the use of viewing grids to help pupils with the problems of perspective.

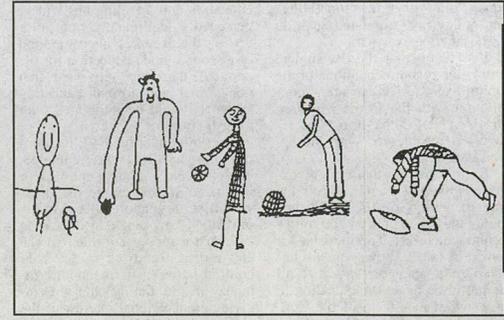
Others use techniques such as turning a picture upside down to enable children to "see" the lines not always perceived when looking at a scene in its normal orientation.

We have come a long way since E A Branch, author of a series of art text books, popular in British elementary schools in the Thirties, was able to talk quite openly of children's "really stupid blunders".

And no one would like to see the regimentation of the Chinese system inhibit the joyful boldness and spontaneity of youngsters in the West. But perhaps it is time, in this general period of change in education, to give our children the basic tools to be creative.



How do you pick up a ball? Do you bend over, or do your arms get longer. Children between five and ten have different ideas on the subject as can be seen from their drawing (right) from left to right in ascending order of age.



## Ghost-buster with a magic touch

James Randi is no stranger to the world of pseudoscience. A performing magician, he has shown how to bend a spoon by gently stroking it in the style of Uri Geller; he has exposed psychics who have used modern electronics to communicate with "spirits" - usually an accomplice with a walkie-talkie; he has demonstrated the techniques used by bogus astrologers and dowzers. His latest debunking escapade is a six-part Granada television series, which will attempt to explain and deflate more of the extraordinary claims made by par-

came interested in science when he worked briefly in the Banting-Best laboratories in Canada, where insulin was discovered as a treatment for diabetes. He had to monitor sugar levels in test-tubes, and now and then obtained a reading 10 times bigger than what was expected. The temptation was to ignore it and "fudge" the results. It was a good job he didn't, because he subsequently found his boss was testing the accuracy of his staff by deliberately introducing aberrant sugar levels.

Over the years Randi came to realise that although outright fraud

## Steve Connor talks to James Randi, scourge of miracle fakers

anomalists.

James "the Amazing" Randi has made his mark in mainstream science, too. In 1989 the American Physical Society presented him with the Forum Award "for his unique defence of science and scientific method...against pseudoscience, frauds and charlatans. His use of scientific techniques has contributed to refuting suspicious and fraudulent claims of paranormal results.

"The MacArthur Foundation awarded him its prize of \$272,000 for individuals of 'genius'; he is also a founder member of an organisation of distinguished scientists and academics called Csicop - the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

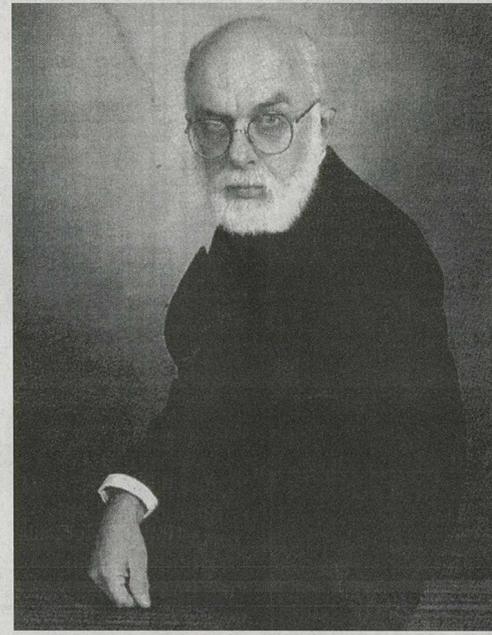
Randi is bemused by the accolades. "It's a little embarrassing," he says, "because I keep asking myself why a professional conjurer without any sort of college degree is advising scientists on how not to deceive themselves. That's what it's all about - self-deception."

The performing magician be-

and trickery on the scale of the Piltown Man hoax are rare, scientists are far from infallible. The most celebrated instance of scientific self-deception he helped uncover was the case of "ghostly antibodies" three years ago. A team of French researchers led by Jacques Benveniste of the National Institute for Health and Medical Research in Paris published a scientific paper in Nature saying the researchers had produced some "unbelievable" results.

In essence they had added something to water, diluted it billions of times, so there was no chance of any molecules of that substance being left behind, and had then run a test for its presence. To their disbelief, they discovered that it, or its "memory", was still there. Homeopaths seized on the results as vindication of their branch of alternative medicine using highly diluted substances.

The scientific world was understandably sceptical. John Maddox, editor of Nature, took the bold decision to publish Benveniste's results, on the understanding that he could later send in a three-man



The amazing Randi

team of "ghost-busters", including Randi, to monitor the experiment.

Randi remembers his initial reaction in Benveniste's lab. "The Nature paper did not agree with the facts. We found that out as soon as we looked at the lab books. They said the results were consistent and repeatable.

"They weren't." The investigators were also concerned that Benveniste did not carry out a true "blind" study - where the scientists could not distinguish test samples from controls.

"They blinded them only at the point at the end of the tests when they were doing the readings.

By then it was too late if there was a possibility that someone had spiked the tubes," says Randi. "On the second and third day we imposed a double blind and for the first time in five years they got a wobbly line well below the line of significance."

Randi introduced a bit of theatre into the proceedings when he wrote down the code that could identify the true samples from controls, and put it in an envelope which he stuck to the ceiling. It was a ruse to see whether anyone would attempt to tamper with it during the night. He also put chalk marks around a nearby ladder to see if anybody moved it. To this day, he believes that someone - not Benveniste - did just that.

This in itself did not invalidate Benveniste's results, but Randi took it as a sign that someone in the lab was prepared to be a little more enthusiastic than necessary. Other indications pointed in the same direction.

Although Benveniste has since claimed to have repeated the results, the scientific establishment has largely dismissed his research, and Randi is now back on the path of debunking real charlatans. Robert Morris, professor of parapsychology at Edinburgh University, who is also in the business of explaining the explicable, believes Randi's activities serve a useful purpose. "But we need less entertainment and show business and more careful follow-up. He is unsure whether Randi's television series will produce any meaningful results. "How do we know it's a fair test? Television is not a good medium for that."

Nevertheless, Randi will pursue the paranomalists in demonstrations that he hopes will expose them. Are there any cases in the series he cannot fully explain? "Yes, but that's because I couldn't look into it fully," he says; the amazing Randi does not believe in miracles. Talking of which, he scans my bookshelf, asks me to choose any two books and prepares to perform a favourite trick. "Want to see a miracle?" he asks.

## From "Times" archives July 1975

### GOODS IMPORT

As per statistics released by the Directorate of Customs the total imports into the country during 1974 amounted to R.O. 135,562,407 while during the same period goods worth R.O. 430,282 were exported.

The exports as compared to imports could be roughly calculated at 3.15 per cent.

The study of the statistical data tends one to appreciate the amount of goods exported by a country, which practically depended on almost everything imported for its rapidly growing progress and development.

The export figures represented goods of Omani origin other than crude oil.

In the matter of gold imports, it was stated in the report that it could not find entry in the statistics because it was mainly brought in by passengers as a baggage.

There being no import duty and no import control levied on gold it was released without any declaration to be made by the passengers. Motor vehicles imported from U.A.E. represented mostly second-hand vehicles.

### AMBASSADORS CALL ON ZAWAWI

H.E. Mr. Qais Zawawi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs received in his office North Yemeni Ambassador to the Sultanate.

Later, he received American Charge d'Affairs, followed by the French Charge d'Affairs.

During the meetings with them bilateral relations and mutual matters of interest to Oman and the respective countries were discussed.

### NATURAL GAS FOR DOMESTIC USE

Plans are already on the way to produce as many items as possible needed in all walks of life. One such is gas for domestic use. The correct estimate of the amount we spend on the import may be better known to the economic experts.

But it is heartening to note at the same time that industrial gas is being produced in sufficient quantities in Oman to meet the almost entire local needs and demands of industrial houses and hospitals in the country.

There are two companies Al Darwish Gas Plants & Oman Industrial Gas Co. Ltd. Darwish producing only Oxygen while OIGC is producing oxygen & Acetylene.

OIGC is producing 1750 cuf per hour oxygen & 1000 cuf/hour acetylene.

## Between deadlines

Millions of people are hooked to reading the horoscope. Former American First Lady Nancy Reagan is one of them.

When the Reagans were still in the White House, it was widely believed then that Mr. Reagan often consulted his wife on certain matters of the state. And that, in most occasions, Mrs. Reagan would first consult the stars before giving her husband a piece of advice.

According to pundits, the former President even had some important appointments cancelled just because his wife worked up to an ominous line in Mr. Reagan's astrological sign.

I pity people who avidly follow the horoscope section in the newspaper. The truth of the matter is that bored deskmen sometimes do the stargazing themselves just to finish the page early.

Don't ask me how they do it, because I won't hesitate to give their dark secret away.

In a paper where I worked before, the horoscope came from an American features agency which swore the soothsaying was done by no less than America's dean of crystal-gazers, Jeanne Dixon. Wonderful!

The trouble was that delivery was sometimes erratic. So, instead of waiting for Miss Jeanne Dixon's latest sighting of the stars, the editor in-charge of the page would just recycle previous pieces.

And there was one avid Dixon follower who phoned in to inquire if America's most celebrated fortune-teller had a failing memory. The caller complained her horoscope-reading for that day was identical to last week's.

The amused editor promptly told him: "Madam, maybe there has been not much movement in the sky these days."

The poor who can't afford a newspaper rely on the neighbourhood palm-reader for a quick look on what's beyond. There's this old joke about a mason who resigned from his job because a fortune-teller had warned him that, unless he was extra-careful, he could be killed either by fire or stone. He took the prognostication too seriously that he won't even come near a fire.

But just the same, he died. Not from a falling stone or an act of arson. He was run over by a speeding car.

The fortune-teller was proved correct, though. The car was using Firestone tires!  
—Felipe Olimpo

## The odd spots

### Dredge it!

A plan to transform the Oriskany, an old United States aircraft carrier, into an American theme park and berth it off Tokyo has not met with universal approval in Washington. "If the Japanese want an aircraft carrier," Duncan Hunter, a California Republican, said when the matter was raised in the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, "let them dredge Pearl Harbour."

### Llama mascot

Bolivia's peasant farmers are getting very upset about the proposed export of 380 llamas to the United States. They say the llama is a "strategic natural resource" in danger of extinction. The export company counters that the loss of 380 llamas won't make much of a dent in the country's 2 million-strong llama population. However, a company spokesman does sheepishly admit that the llamas' fate in the US is to be "mascots for the well-heeled."

### Caveman style

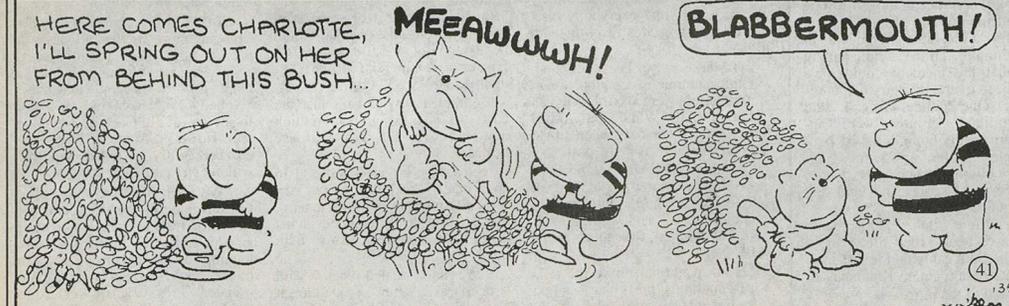
Rebels belonging to the United Democratic Christian Army recently abducted 18 students from St Mary's Girls' School in northern Uganda. One escapee said that the rebel commander screened the girls first: the physically unattractive were set free, the rest taken on as wives.

### Dangerous meal

Ten of the world's most dangerous snails have been seized at Sydney airport from a woman travelling from Nigeria who said she had intended to eat them. The Giant African Snails, or Achatina Fulica, which can weigh up to half a pound, are the most voracious and sexually prolific snails in the world and are barred from Australia. "They are considered by most authorities to be the most dangerous land snail in the world," Don Cummings, a quarantine officer, said yesterday. "They can also be the vector of meningitis as they carry a lung worm parasite."

The snails are hermaphrodites and can lay 1,200 eggs a year. In 1975 one snail was found in American Samoa. Two years later the authorities destroyed a million snails. By 1980 a further 26.4 million snails had been killed.

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



Nomura Chairman, Vice-Chairman quit

TOKYO - The Chairman and Vice Chairman of Nomura Securities Co. - the world's largest brokerage - resigned yesterday because of criticism that the company had not taken full responsibility for a recent stock market scandal.

Suharto tells businessmen to share wealth

JAKARTA - Indonesian President Suharto has told the nation's leading businessmen that if they do not transfer some of their shares to the country's cooperatives, the law will force them.

Special NRI package in new budget likley

NEW DELHI - A special incentive package for non-resident Indians (NRIs) is among the major proposals likely to be incorporated in the federal budget for 1991-92 to be presented in Parliament tomorrow.

Exchange rates table with columns for Foreign currency per one Omani Rial and Omani Rial per one unit of foreign currency. Includes currencies like Australian Dollar, Austrian Schilling, etc.

Tokyo stocks slide, dollar moves up

TOKYO - Share prices were mixed in Asia yesterday, while the dollar closed higher after a choppy Tokyo session.

New executive vice-president for Gulf Air

Mr. Abdullah Al Mulla joined Gulf Air on June 1, 1991 as Executive Vice President, Support Services.



Computer firms for Taiwan trade show

Taiwan's information and communications industry, will be strongly represented at the Taiwan National Products Exhibition next month.

Uneven US economic recovery forecast

WASHINGTON - Despite a consensus that the recession has ended, economists say some areas of the United States will continue to stagger while others bounce back.

Dollar gains in Europe

LONDON - The dollar gained against the mark and yen in early European trading yesterday and European stock markets opened lower in what looks to be a quiet trading day.

Tenders - the company bids

- Opened on 13.5.1991 TENDER NO. 24/91 Raysut Industrial Estate Project. I. List of Tenderers in alphabetical order: 1) Consolidated Contractors Co. Oman LLC.

Bundesbank expects lower inflation

BONN - German Bundesbank president nominee Helmut Schlesinger said on Sunday he expected that inflation would turn down again in 1992 after this year's expected rise in the cost of living of up to four per cent.

Aid donors set to stop funds to Zambia

LUSAKA - Aid donors, furious with Zambia for failing to implement a tough economic reform programme, are ready to stop funds to the nation before its first multi-party election in two decades, Western diplomats say.

European stock markets follow Tokyo's lead and opened lower

European stock markets followed Tokyo's lead and opened lower, the 225-share Nikkei average fell 161.07 to 2,270.29 after Wall Street ended unchanged on Friday.

## China's industrial stockpiles swell

BEIJING — The cost of living in urban areas increased by 11 per cent as compared to the previous year and state factory warehouses bulged with unsold goods, the government reported yesterday.

Zhang Zhongji, spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau, said however that China's economy enjoys "continued favorable development."

Zhang hinted at inflationary pressures, noting that the money supply was larger than needed, but refused to give figures and issued no strong warnings. He spoke at a news conference.

He also sought to minimise the impact of recent floods on the economy. He said the summer harvest was down only 2 per cent nationwide from last year and food prices will not be significantly affected.

Flooding in widespread parts of China, especially the east, has killed 1,781 people and left millions homeless. Other officials have described the impact in dire terms, noting that planting of autumn rice and other crops will be delayed.

Zhang, however, said there is no plan to adjust the national grain production target. It is set optimistically high at 435 million tonnes, equal to last year's record-setting crop.

Economists have repeatedly warned in the official media in recent months of the danger of a resurgence of inflation as the government pumps loans and investment into inefficient state factories.

Zhang's report on the first half of 1991 showed the economy

moving toward a new boom. He said state investment in industry was up 21 per cent over the same period last year, industrial output increased 13.4 per cent and retail sales increased nearly 13 per cent.

He put overall economic growth at 6.1 per cent, hitting almost exactly the national target.

At the same time, Zhang said the cost of living in June in 35 major cities was 10.9 per cent over June 1990.

He said retail sales prices rose an average of just 1.8 per cent in the first half of the year over the first half of 1990, and attributed the big jump in living costs to increased prices for services such as transportation.

The nation's warehouses held about 200 billion yuan (\$ 37.7 billion) worth of finished products at the end of May, he said, about 80 billion yuan (\$ 15 billion) of which had no buyer. The government does not slow or halt production of goods in low demand because it would create unemployment, which is politically dangerous.

The government has urged factories to shift production to new items and improve product quality, but many of state factories are too large and poorly managed to adapt to market conditions.

Incomes continued to increase faster than the economy, contributing to inflationary pressure. Zhang said urban per capita income rose 11.6 per cent to 1,039 yuan (\$ 196) annually, while in the countryside per capita income was up 10.7 per cent to 328 yuan (\$ 62). —AP

## Japanese firms cut capital spending in North America

TOKYO — Japanese firms are cutting back on capital spending in North America due to the recession in the United States, a survey by a leading economic newspaper said yesterday.

A survey by the national Nihon Keizai Shimbun of 208 Japanese subsidiaries in the United States and Canada showed a planned 16.9 per cent cutback to \$1.769 billion in equipment and plant investments for the Japanese fiscal year 1991, beginning April 1 and ending March 31, 1992. The drop follows a 2.6 decline in fiscal 1990, it said.

The drop was a result of cutbacks by almost all firms, including 17 auto and auto parts companies, as well as electronic goods makers such as Toshiba Corp. Toshiba slashed investments by a third in fiscal 1990, the survey found. The recession in the United States has made increased investments unattractive. Most Japanese firms also remain cautious due to the yen's recent fall against the dollar, it said. The survey said an exception to the overall trend was NEC Corp. The electronics giant is investing \$355 million to expand a semiconductor plant in the United States. —AP

## \$5m for China flood relief

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Hang Seng Bank have each donated HK\$5 million to help in relief work following the severe floods in central and eastern China.

Mr. William Purves, Chairman of Hongkong Bank, and Sir O. W. Lee, Chairman of Hang Seng Bank said "The devastation caused by the flooding has aroused great sympathy in Hong Kong. We had no hesitation in responding to the Chinese Government's appeal for assistance."

With the export of crude oil in the Sultanate starting in 1967 the country's international trade picture witnessed both a transformation and expansion, although it was only after His Majesty Sultan Qaboos took over the leadership of the country in 1970 that the benefits of oil revenues filtered through to the people thereby boosting demand for imports. In that year total export receipts stood at RO 92.5 million of which over 99 per cent were from oil exports (RO 92.1 million), while imports totalled only RO 7.6 million. However, during the two years that followed export revenues grew at an average annual rate of about 17 per cent reaching RO 2110 million in 1990 while recorded imports had grown at a much faster rate of almost 28 per cent annually reaching RO 1031 million in 1990.

In the twenty year period under review the country has experienced comfortable surpluses in the trade balance which is the balance of export receipts over import payments on goods. There was a substantial rise in the trade balance surplus in 1974 as oil prices quadrupled in the world market. From RO 29 million in 1973, the trade balance surplus rose to RO 205 million in 1974. Oil prices grew at a very small pace during 1975-1978 period. The government however continued its serious efforts at modernising the country by rapidly constructing the necessary infrastructure, schools, hospitals etc which in turn gave a further boost to import demand. With the rise in imports, the trade balance, though remaining in surplus, dropped below RO 200 million for the entire 1975-1978 period.

In 1979, 1980 and 1981 the

## OMAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# Trade surplus exceeds RO 1 billion

trade balance surplus rose significantly to RO 294, 616 and 789 million respectively as OPEC raised its official oil prices. The revolution in Iran and the start of Iraq-Iran war triggered further increases in prices.

The eighties witnessed a slack in the demand for oil as nations stepped up efforts to conserve energy and search for alternative sources. Oil prices declined, to begin with, at a slow pace as the OPEC nations succeeded to absorb, at some scale, the forces pushing the prices down by reducing their oil output. However, prices fell drastically in 1986 in response to major disagreement among OPEC countries in adhering to the agreed reduced quotas. At the same time there were further increases in production outside OPEC. Consequently the Sultanate's trade balance surplus fell in 1982 to RO 537 million and remained between RO 500 and RO 600 million during 1982 — 1985 period. In 1986 the surplus plummeted down to RO 113 million, but recovered in 1987, only to fall again in 1988.

In 1990 the Sultanate's trade balance improved substantially. For the first time the surplus exceeded RO one billion. Oil prices had risen up considerably during the second half of the year following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in early August 1990. The Sultanate's oil export receipts reached RO 1934 million thus registering an annual growth of over 39 per cent (RO 546 million).

From the above review it can be clearly seen that oil is a significant source of exports earnings for the country. In the early Seventies, it accounted for more than 99 per cent

of total export revenues. Although its weight has comparatively declined, largely due to the appreciable growth witnessed in non-oil exports and re-exports, it is still the major source of earnings. In 1990 it accounted for over 91 per cent of export receipts.

Non-oil exports of domestic origin have traditionally been dates, dried fish, dried lime and other fruits and vegetables. With modern transportation and refrigeration, exportable items have increased in varieties and quantity. However it was only in the Eighties that the non-oil exports of domestic origin reached significant amounts. From RO 4.6 million in 1980 these grew steadily to RO 68.9 million in 1990. The 1990 non-oil exports consisted of fish (fresh, chilled, frozen or dried) to the tune of RO 17.3 million, copper cathodes of RO 12.6 million, live animals of RO 6.7 million, fruits and vegetables (fresh or dried) of RO 3.0 million, and other products which mainly includes domestically manufactured goods amounting to RO 28.9 million.

Re-exports gained significance in the late Seventies when they reached RO 26.9 million in 1978. It registered a steady growth and peaked at RO 110.0 million in 1983. After that re-exports underwent successive small declines to reach RO 84.9 million in 1987, but picked up again and in 1990 it stood at RO 107 million. Large part of re-exports is directed to the GCC countries and consists mostly of machinery and transport equipment.

Imports have risen sharply since 1970 as domestic activity gained momentum and the standard of living of the nation as a whole improved substantially. As of 1970,

almost 40 per cent of the value of imported goods was on food and live animals. While the imports of food and live animals have been rising steadily, in value terms, its share of total imports has declined sharply to about 10 per cent by 1975, though, it picked up again thereafter to about 16 per cent in 1990. In value terms the figure was almost RO 165 million. It is the imports of machinery and transport equipment that registered the highest increase during the twenty-year period. From RO 1.3 million in 1970 and accounting for about 17 per cent of total imports the value of machinery and transport equipment imported rose to RO 372.5 million in 1990 accounting for over 36 per cent of total recorded imports for the year. Manufactured goods stood at RO 184 million in 1990 thus accounting for over 18 per cent of total imports. Together with machinery and transport equipment, these two groups of imports account for more than half the value of recorded imports.

Starting almost from scratch in an effort aimed at transforming the nation into a modern state, whose people were previously deprived of basic education, modern health facilities and basic infrastructure, the country sought and allowed foreign firms and expatriates to operate in the Sultanate. Foreign contractors, consultants and companies opened businesses in the country according to the newly established procedures. Teachers, doctors, nurses, technicians, labourers etc were recruited from abroad. Together with the nationals and local enterprises the country was truly being transformed. Oman, as an open economy lays no restrictions for the foreign companies or employees

operating in the Sultanate to remit their profits and or any other forms of funds abroad nor are the nationals restricted to place or invest their funds abroad. Services and private transfers have, therefore, constituted significant components of fund outflows which have grown up considerably to RO 590 million in 1990 compared to RO 58 million in 1973. Of the services and private transfers outflows workers remittances rank first in size. In 1990 it was estimated to have totalled RO 340 million. There were 275888 expatriates in the private sector and over 30,000 in the civil service in 1990.

Profit remittances of foreign companies operating in the Sultanate reached RO 149 million in 1990. Other services is estimated to have triggered a net outflow of RO 146 million. Major inflow of funds resulted from interest derived from funds invested abroad. Net inflow of interest (interest receipts less interest payments) peaked in 1986 when it reached RO 145 million. In 1990 this stood at RO 30 million.

Unlike the trade balance which had registered surpluses since 1970 the current account balance position (which is the balance on trade, services and private transfers), has varied registering surpluses in some years and deficits in others. In 1990 the current account balance produced a record surplus of RO 444 million. The largest current account deficit was registered in 1986 when it stood at RO 392 million.

The capital account balance has for many years recorded an inflow of funds. It largely comprises of the official capital, oil sector capital and commercial banks capital. Non-oil and non-bank private capital movement is not easy to monitor given the openness of the economy. Official capital is largely government foreign borrowings and repayments, grants, and net lending and equity participation.

Significant outflow of funds in the capital account occurred in 1990 when it stood at RO 199 million. This was largely due to the governments net loans repayment position of RO 147 million. Also a net grant of RO 22 million was provided by the Sultanate to friendly countries.

The Sultanate experienced moderate deficits in the overall balance during 1973-76 and 1978 of between RO 2 and 35 million while 1977 saw a comfortable surplus of RO 76 million. Significant surpluses in the overall balance of payments were recorded during 1979-84; the highest being RO 484 million in 1981. A small deficit of RO 29 million in the overall balance was seen in 1985, while in 1986 it widened substantially to RO 295 million. Another deficit was observed in 1988 though of a moderate scale. Comfortable surpluses were registered in 1987, 1989 and 1990 of RO 72, 138 and 137 million respectively. — "Al-Markazi"

The EC's insistence of linking human rights, democracy and environment to trade and economic matters is expected to be strongly debated when the two groups meet in direct talks today. — Reuter

## INDIAN COMPANY BRIEFS

**Capacity Expansion**  
Baroda-based Gujarat Suspension Limited, is planning to expand capacity for coil springs production in a project estimated at Rs 6.60 million. The firm is planning to enter the capital market with an issue of Rs 2.4 million equity share of Rs 10 each for cash at par in August this year.

**Plant Reopens**  
The Kelvintor (India) plant here re-opened on Thursday after a 58-day lockout after the management and the agitating employees, signed an agreement on Wednesday in the presence of the state labour commissioner assuring maintenance of harmonious relationship and normalise production.

**Textile Project**  
Maral Overseas Limited of the Bhiwara group plans to set up a Rs 1.15-billion 100 per cent export-oriented textiles complex in Kharagpur district of central Madhya Pradesh state. The project, which will be implemented by 1994-95 in four phases, would cover all aspects of textiles manufacturing.

**Record Turnover**  
For the first time in the country's history, the turnover of Mahindra and Mahindra has crossed Rs 10 billion for the year ended March 1991, as against Rs. 9.21 billion in the previous year.

The company secured an order for export of 10,000 vehicles to Iran and the shipment of vehicles has already commenced.

During 1990-91, the company earned an operating profit of Rs 897 million against Rs 854 million in the previous year.

**Plant Shut Down**  
Hindustan Computers Ltd. (HCL), the country's largest computer manufacturer, shut down its hi-tech instruments plant at Gurgaon near capital New Delhi last Friday.

While no comments were forthcoming from the management, the "Economic Times", quoting sources, said the unit is facing radical restructuring.

It said the unit will remain shut for at least three months. The daily also said that some of the workers at the Gurgaon factory had been asked to submit their resignations. The workers, however, are said to be resisting the move and are demanding hefty compensation in case they are retrenched. —UNI

## Muscat Securities

TRADING CHART FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 1991

NAME OF COMPANY	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VOLUME IN RIALS	OPNG	HIGH	LOW	CLOS	BID PRICE	OFFER PRICE	PAR VALUE	NO. OF CONTRACTS
<b>INDUSTRY SECTOR</b>										
OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6000	37440	6.250	6.250	6.230	6.250	6.100	6.200	1	2
RAYSUT CEMENT	15090	43581	2.860	2.900	2.860	2.900	2.890	2.910	1	5
DHOFAF CRYSTALLINE	4480	20829	4.650	4.680	4.680	4.680	4.680	4.690	1	1
PACKAGING CO								2.000	1	
OMAN NATL DAIRY								2.200	1	
OMAN REFRESHMENTS								3.620	3.700	1
NATIONAL DETERGENT								6.500	6.950	1
ARBEJ VEGEIL SERV	500	1350	2.600	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.600		1	1
CONST NATL INDUS								0.400	1	
OMAN CABLE INDUS								7.500	5	
NATL MINR WATER	200	270	1.340	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.300	1.450	1	1
NATL BISC INDUS								2.050	2.220	1
DHOFAF SVCS CO									1	
REEM BATTERIES									1	
NATIONAL BEVERAGES								3.100	3.500	1
NATIONAL GAS								5.150	5.210	1
MUSCAT INDL GASES	100	285	3.100	2.850	2.850	2.850		2.900	1	1
<b>BANKS &amp; INVEST. COs. SEC</b>										
COMM BK OF OMAN								1.020	1	
NATL BK OF OMAN								1.110	1	
OMAN BK CORP								1.250	1	
BANK AL AHLI OMANI									1	
BANK OMAN BAH KUW	400	420	1.100	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.080	1	2
BANK OMAN BAH KUW 25%	36200	11896	1.100	1.080	1.070	1.080	1.070	1.090	1	8
OMAN INTNL BANK								1.700	1	
OMAN DEVELOPT BANK									1	
OMAN INVT FINCL CO	1900	8930	4.700	4.700	4.700	4.700	4.680	4.750	1	2
OMINVEST 50%	10000	12000	1.710	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.680	1.700	1	3
DHOFAF INT DEV INVS 50%	2000	2500	1.750	1.760	1.750	1.750	1.720	1.750	1	1
OMAN SECURITIES CO 50%	1200	2052	2.210	2.210	2.210	2.210	2.170	2.230	1	2
FINANCIAL SVCS CO 50%								2.450	1	
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>										
OMAN NATL INS CO	10200	54324	5.320	5.340	5.310	5.340	5.320	5.340	1	13
AL AHLIA INS CO	2700	6345	2.300	2.350	2.350	2.350	2.350	2.400	1	4
OMAN UNIV INS CO									1	
DHOFAF INS CO 50%	400	1272	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.550	3.700	1	1
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>										
GULF HOTELS (OMAN)								2.200	2.300	1
<b>ALUMINIUM DEV EVC 55%</b>										
OMAN HTLS CO LTD									1	
MORN PLTRY FARM	1000	1200	1.250	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.230	1	1
PORT SVCS CORP	7260	25036	3.460	3.480	3.400	3.450	3.450	3.470	1	8
OMAN AVIATION	320	1494	4.670	4.670	4.670	4.670	4.630	4.690	1	2
NATIONAL ELECTRIC								2.250	2.400	1
OMAN FISHERIES CO	2990	25468	8.670	8.670	8.500	8.500			5	20

VOLUME OF TRADING IN THE REGULAR MARKET FOR TODAY IS : R.O. 256692 SHARES : 102920 CONTRACTS : 92

Trading Price List parallel market

NAME OF COMPANY	BUYING PRICE	SELLING PRICE	NOMINAL VALUE
SWEETS OF OMAN			3.350
NAT CO FOOD PRDGS 50%			
COMPUTER STAT INDUS			1.700
OMAN TXTL MILLS			0.970
OMAN ORG FRT CHNL			
BATHINA DAIRY PRDGS			
NATL ALUM PRDGS			
AL AMAL INDUSTRIES			1.800
OMAN WATER PUMPS			
AL RAUDHIA QUARRIES CO			
MUTTAH INSOFOOM CO			5
MCT TOURIST CORP			1.000
AHLIA LETTAMBEEN			
OMAN AGRI DEV CO			5
JABAL AKHDAR TRD 50%			10
SOHAR POULTRY			10

VOLUME OF TRADING IN THE PARALLEL MARKET FOR TODAY IS : R.O. 000 SHARES : 00 CONTRACTS : 0

OMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT UNITS - FIRST ISSUE 1991	BUYING PRICE	SELLING PRICE	NOMINAL VALUE
	110.077	111.189	100.000

## Improved car paint from Ford

LONDON — A £500,000 paint-testing laboratory just completed by Ford at its Dagenham plant near London will improve paint quality and open the door to new and exciting high-gloss colours for cars.

All types of solvent and water-borne material, from primer surfacer to top coats, can now be evaluated in the new test centre, which is one tenth the size of a normal paintshop. It can reproduce any spray process while simulating characteristics such as humidity and temperature found in any manufacturing plant.

The manager of paint and organic material testing for Dagenham's body and assembly operations, Mr Ray Hum, says: "This means that we have solved a problem facing every car manufacturer. Laboratory testing establishes a paint's quality but in the past it has not been possible to test it in a manufacturing situation before production begins. That is when unexpected technical drawbacks may be discovered, sometimes causing major disruptions to production."

"With this new test centre, we have the technology to eliminate problems before production starts and obtain the best-quality paint to suit the climatic conditions which will vary from plant to plant."

"The laboratory will bring significant improvements to the appearance of our vehicles, with improved gloss and other quality factors to give Ford an important edge over its competitors." —LPS

## New Bank

NEW DELHI — The Government has approved in principle a proposal to set up a new international bank to take over the existing network of overseas branches of nationalised banks.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is drawing up detailed proposals in this regard, according to an official document presented to Parliament. Meanwhile, the government has turned down a proposal by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) to provide interest-free loans to Mauritius, according to another official document. —UNI

## Too many cars on few crowded islands

NAGOYA — It's Friday evening in this port city and we are stuck in traffic that crawls at a pace better timed by calendar than clock.

Then, after the last few agonizing blocks to the station, we're speeding to Tokyo on the "Bullet Train" at about 125 mph.

With a fast and efficient nationwide mass transit system humming alongside a perpetual traffic mess, the question arises: Will the Japanese love affair with the automobile ever end?





## TIMES SPORT

# Old regime repels tide of recession

The Princess of Wales, according to some of this week's smaller newspapers, declined a flashy marquee 30th birthday party not, as some have suggested, because she wishes to spend more time without her family, but because she felt that ostentatious expenditure was inappropriate during a recession.

You had not, frankly, expected such scruples to have reached the Henley Royal Regatta but, even here, there was evidence that the working of the government's opaque financial plan was now hurting people for whom tightening the belt had previously meant no more than going down a dress size without dieting or eyewateringly squeezing into your lucky old striped flannels. Their backs to the river — the approved viewing position at Henley — two middle-aged men, schoolboy caps covering what were probably balding locks, exchanged pleasantries in the Stewards' Enclosure, the Regatta's tabernacle.

"How's business?"  
"I'm still here. Put it that way."  
"But you won't be changing the Roller this year?"

## Padres rein in on Phillies

Bruce Hurst pitched a five-hitter and Scott Coolbaugh hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning on Sunday as San Diego stopped Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Hurst (11-5) allowed a two-run homer to Dave Hollins in the fourth, then shut out the Phillies for his third complete game.

Fred McGriff singled off Terry Mulholland (9-9) leading off the eighth. Jerard Clark hit into a force-out and Benito Santiago singled.

Tim Teufel doubled in a run, ending San Diego's scoreless streak at 22 innings, and Coolbaugh hit his second double for a 3-2 lead.

**Mets 9, Dodgers 4**  
In New York, Dwight Gooden, on the verge of being ejected for arguing in the second inning, settled down and led the New York Mets in beating the Los Angeles Dodgers and ex-teammate Bob Ojeda 9-4.

Ojeda (7-8) failed to hold a 3-0 lead in his first start against his former club and got pounded for eight runs and six hits in a 2 2/3 innings.

New York had five doubles in the six-run third inning. Four of them were consecutive, tying the National League record, last accomplished by St. Louis against Pittsburgh on August 30, 1952.

Gooden (10-6) won his third consecutive decision, allowing all four runs and seven hits in seven innings. Tim Burke finished with one-hit relief.

**Braves 5, Cardinals 1**  
In St. Louis, Steve Avery became the youngest player in Atlanta history win 10 games in a season and Ron Gant hit a two-run homer as the Braves won for the ninth time in 11 games.

The 21-year-old Avery (10-5) allowed two hits in a 7 2/3 innings, struck out five and walked two in 97-degree heat. Juan Berenguer finished with one-hit relief as Atlanta beat St. Louis for the ninth time in 12 games this season.

Omar Olivares (3-2) gave up four runs and four hits in six innings, struck out seven and walked three. The Cardinals made four errors, including three by third baseman Todd Zeile, that led to two unearned runs.

**Giants 3, Expos 2**  
In Montreal, Trevor Wilson, Francisco Oliveras and Jeff Brantley combined on a five-hitter.

Wilson (5-9), who had lost his previous three starts, allowed four hits in six innings, struck out six and walked one. Jeff Brantley finished for his eighth save.

Mark Gardner (5-6) gave up three hits in six innings.

**Cubs 4, Astros 2**  
In Houston, George Bell broke a 1-1 tie with a three-run homer in the eighth inning as Houston lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Frank Castillo (3-0) allowed nine hits, struck out four and walked one in his second complete game, tying him with Greg Maddux for the club lead.

With the score tied 1-1, Jim Clancy (0-3) walked Mark Grace, who went to second on wild pitch. Ryne Sandberg singled and Bell hit his 18th home run.

**Pirates 6, Reds 0**  
In Pittsburgh, Randy Tomlin pitched his second consecutive shutout — and second of his career — as surging Pittsburgh completed its domination of stumbling Cincinnati.

Gary Redus was 3-for-4 with a triple and double, scored twice and drive in a run as Pittsburgh won the season series 10-2 over the defending world series champions.

The Reds lost for the 11th time in 12 games and fell to 1-9 on their current 18-game swing against National League East teams. — AP

## Despite the recession, status and hem-lines are still the preoccupations at the sporting event where the sport is incidental. The Regatta's schoolboy fashions are a sign of its mentality. Mark Lawson reports on the Henley Royal Regatta.

"Bloody right."

What did he mean by "I'm still here?" That his business was surviving or that he was still able to attend Henley? Certainly, many regulars are said to be missing this year.

The corporate hospitality tents are like a camp-site in the off-season rather than the Cornwall in August of the '80s regattas. On July 5, at the lunch-time in the Stewards' Enclosure champagne bar (cheapest non-label fizz £31 a bottle) there was a lot of elbow room.

The line from many at Henley is that the removal by the recession of the company lager louts — or, more likely, Krug thugs — has restored the event to something called the Real Rowing Enthusiast. If true, this would suggest something of a revolution in world sport. First, someone who knows about football becomes managing director of Tottenham Hotspur.

Next, the weather forces Wimbledon, on the middle Sunday, to let in actual tennis fans at low prices. And now, we were told, people were going to Henley for the rowing. By comparison, the events in Eastern Europe in 1989 would look like Buggins' turn.

Regrettably, it must be reported that the regatta's counter-revolutionary forces, the old regime, were still looking pretty well-organised last week. It was all uniforms and rules. Henley is an example of what gets called an exclusive event but there can be few such literal examples of what exclusivity means: it involves constantly telling people that they can't come in here.

Everyone wears little tags, as if they were suitcases or bouquets, but the tag that allows you into the Stewards' Enclosure is almost certainly not valid for some of the enclosures within the Enclosure. For the first-time visitor, it is like trying to play a new board game when the man-

ufacturers have left the rules out of the box.

The dress regulations are a particular perplexity. The men are kitted out like Andre Agassi before the Wimbledon committee had a word with him. Their blazers make them look like vast sides of salmon or Blackpool rock.

The almost-statutory caps allow those middle-aged men who have never ceased to be schoolboys a rare opportunity to let fashion match mentality. You keep being reminded of that Dennis Potter television play, in which the 40-year-old Colin Welland wore short trousers and acted a teenager.

It is tougher for the women, who are subject to Italian-church restrictions about the exposure of flesh.

At the Stewards' Enclosure Bandstand Entrance, a curious woman was played out. A stewardess crouched and gazed at her hem-line, like a golfer lining up a putt. He shook his head. She bent slightly at the knees, dropping the cloth the requisite extra inch towards her shins. Reluctantly, she was waved through, still walking in a precautionary crouch. For some reason, the Henley committee seems to live in a froth of sexual terror about what might happen if one of the chaps dressed as schoolboys glimpsed a female knee.

If the obsessive clothes code encourages the belief that Henley is more a social than a sporting event, the behaviour of the spectators also resurrects the prejudice.

Somehow magicked from the backs of Range Rovers in the car parks were trestle tables set for 10, with white linen, floral displays, silver, and nests of different crystal for different drinks. On July 5, the Regatta chairman

announced that random drug testing had been introduced for competitors. Real trouble, though, will come if they ever start to breathalyse the guests.

With impressive honesty about the motives of many of those attending, the official regatta shop offers glasses shaped for brandy, champagne, claret, sherry, whisky and white wine, as well as ice-buckets, wine coolers, coaster mats and something called Spode loving cups. While the rowers are taking part in the Sculls on the river, the guests are competing in the out-of-the-skulls.

The entry in this event is down, following the corporate withdrawals, but the Real Rowing Enthusiasts were doing an impressive impersonation of Krug thugs.

There cannot be another major sporting event to which the sport is so completely incidental. Perhaps this is inevitable, given the nature of the game.

You can only hope that rowing is more interesting to do than to view. At Henley, with the positions at the finish restricted to those with the truly exclusive tags, you are lucky, from your deckchair, to get a flash of boat and spray.

The same spectating problem, it is true, applies to marathon-running and horse-racing but, in the former, large numbers compete and, in the latter, betting encourages general tension about the result.

With rowing, which requires you to watch (usually) two distant dots you have no money on, it is the little wonder that the crowd concentrates on the Pimm's or class peacockery.

And so, in 1991, Henley has not been saved for the Real Rowing Enthusiasts but, rather, for the proper nobs. A scrap of conversation drifting across the Stewards Enclosure — "No 'e's not 'ard, not what I fink of as actual 'ard" — was much more of a novelty last week than during the Thatcher boom years when the big-salary set got their oar in alongside the big-inheritance regulars and Henley resembled Pinter and Rattigan plays being performed on the same stage. Yet, with even some of the Rattigan characters now absent or subdued, perhaps, the message of this year's Henley Royal Regatta really was: we're all in the same boat.



Skirting the issue: boats provide the basis for the Henley Royal Regatta but who you know and where you can go are questions that matter.

## Indians for karate meet

MADRAS — Karatekas Tapan Biswas and D Jayavelu have been selected to represent India in the third Hayashi-Ha World Cup Karate Tournament scheduled to be held at Palasport in Italy from July 26.

Godan-fifth degree black belt (Japan) holder A M Shajahan, technical director and chief examiner of the Japan karate-do Tayashi-ha Shitoryu-kai of India has been invited by the world committee to act as one of the referees in the tournament, according to a press release from the organisation.

The release said Biswas, employed in Rourkela steel plant, is a black belt holder and had participated in many national events.

Jayavelu, hailing from Tamil Nadu, is also a black belt and has vast experience, having participated in many national level events, the release said. —UNI

## Pistolesi triumphs

TAMPERE — Unseeded Claudio Pistolesi of Italy beat first seed Veli Paloheimo of Finland 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 yesterday to win the \$100,000 ATP challenger series Midnight Sun tournament.

The 23-year-old Pistolesi took home a first prize of \$14,400 and 89 ATP-points — his best tournament performance since a Grand Prix win in Bari 1987 — which will return him into the world top 100-ranking for the first time since beginning of January last year.

Pistolesi managed to cancel two service breaks in the first set and one in the second, with Paloheimo leading 4-1 in each set. The Italian played a varied game and shone with forehand winners down the line from his backhand corner.

Earlier in the tournament, Pistolesi beat Tomas Nydahl, of Sweden, Bart Wuyts of Belgium, Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden and Patrick Kulhen of Germany. —AP

## Eddery joins select brand

BATH — Pat Eddery became only the fifth jockey to ride 3,000 winners in Britain when he piloted Morocco to victory here yesterday.

"When I started in racing, I honestly never thought I would get this far. I opened up with a losing run of 50," the 39-year-old Eddery said. Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott, Dough Smith and Willie Carson are the other men to achieve the feat. "I've no chance of catching Sir Gordon's total of 4,870. That's phenomenal, but I still enjoy riding and the championship means everything to me," added Eddery, who has been champion jockey eight times. —Reuter

# It's Andretti all the way

TORONTO — When the weather heats up, so does Michael Andretti.

The 28-year-old charger won again on Sunday, leading every lap in the Toronto Molson-Indy to earn his fourth victory in the last six races and chip a little off Bobby Rahal's Indy-car point lead.

In the intense heat and humidity that cloaked the 1.78-mile 11-turn temporary downtown circuit with haze, Andretti was "unapproachable," according to his father and teammate, Mario Andretti, who wound up a distant second.

"He's just real tough, as tough as I've ever come up against," the elder Andretti, who wound up a distant second.

"He's just real tough, as tough as I've ever come up against," the elder Andretti said after sharing the victory podium with his eldest son. "With a little better luck at times, he'd be way out front instead of trying to catch Bobby."

The Indy-cars have raced in 10 events this season. Andretti has finished six of them, adding second-

and sixty-place finishes to his victories. But, in the other four, Michael was not running at the end.

"If we had finished them all, we'd be out of sight," Andretti said. "But this has been a strange season, real up and down. I keep saying maybe we're back on a roll and then something happens to slow us down. This time, I'm not going to say it."

But four wins since the start of June is certainly some kind of streak, especially in a season in which no other driver has won more than once.

Rahal, who has finished fourth or better in every race but one — including a third-place on Sunday — remained ahead of the younger Andretti in the points 139-116.

"I predict in Bobby keeps finishing the way he has, I'm going to have to win another three or so races to catch him," Andretti said.

After the race, though, Andretti was thinking more about what a great weekend it had been than about points.

Running in front of a record Toronto crowd of 61,264, Michael,

who set a track qualifying record in winning the pole, led all 103 laps on the way to a race record of 99.143 mph, breaking the mark of 95.991 mph set in 1987 by Emerson Fittipaldi.

"The car was just about perfect, the pit stop were fantastic and it was just about a perfect weekend," he said. Quite a few of the other 23 starters would not have agreed. In fact, only 12 of them were running at the end of the event.

Al Unser Jr. the defending race and series champion, passed Emerson Fittipaldi on the first lap to take second place and immediately began to pressure Andretti's Lola-Chevrolet.

But a broken suspension on lap six caused Unser to hit one a concrete barrier, knocking him out of the race and leaving Andretti in charge.

By lap 31, Fittipaldi was gone with a bad fuel pump. Rick Mears was out with an engine failure and Arie Luyendyk had joined Unser on the sidelines because of an electrical problem.

Andretti said, "I saw a lot of

cars were going out of the race and I just thought, 'please don't let my car be one of those.'"

A week earlier, at the New Jersey meadowlands, an engine problem knocked him out while he was challenging for the lead early in the race. But, this time, there was nothing to stop Andretti.

The only time he appeared in any danger was when he entered the pit lane on lap 76 for the last of his two scheduled stops. Danny Sullivan, who was having battery problems, was rolling slowly into the pits.

"That was the closest call I had all day," Michael said. "Danny was in the pit lane with no power and I was just able to squeeze between his car and the wall. That was really hairy. But, other than that, everything was perfect all day. You dream about these weekends."

The elder Andretti, whose best previous finish this season was third at Milwaukee, where Michael first won, said: "Michael was just unapproachable today. But I had a good race and I'm happy to be sharing this with Michael." — AP

# Doctor's note may save Seles

NOTTINGHAM — Monica Seles needs a doctor's note to play in the 1992 summer Olympics. Unless she proves her late withdrawal from this week's Federation Cup was caused by injury, the world No. 1 player could join Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini as Olympic outcasts.

Participation in the Federation Cup is a prerequisite for Olympic eligibility. The International Tennis Federation said on Sunday it awaits proof that Seles was unable to play.

"If it is accepted that her withdrawal for this event was due to injury, then she would be eligible to play in the Olympics," said Debbie Jevans, director of women's tennis for the ITF.

If the doctor's note is rejected, Seles can watch the Olympics on TV. Seles pulled out from the Yugoslav team in the Federation Cup on Saturday.

It was the first tournament for Seles since her victory in the French Open in early June. She said last Thursday that her five-

week absence was due to shin splints and a stress fracture in her left leg.

"I really didn't want to put any pressure on the leg," Seles said. "I don't think it would be good for me to play in the Fed Cup, and maybe get hurt again."

Seles' withdrawal was the latest twist in a long battle over her participation in the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup, which opened yesterday.

Seles said during the French Open she wanted to skip the Federation Cup because her Yugoslav teammates were so weak. But after the ITF warned she could be barred from the Olympics, Seles signed up to play for Yugoslavia.

She then disappeared, pulling out of Wimbledon at the last moment and issuing a mysterious statement saying she had been injured in a minor accident.

Heinz Grimm, chairman of the ITF's Federation Cup committee, said "of course I have many doubts about what's going

on," but admitted it would be difficult to ignore a medical certificate saying Seles was injured.

A player must be in good standing with her national federation and with ITF to qualify for the Olympics.

An official of the Yugoslav Tennis Federation said on Sunday that Seles was still in good standing with his organisation. But Grimm said the ITF will consider Seles in good standing only if her absence in Nottingham is accepted as being due to injury.

Grimm said Sabatini and Navratilova definitely cannot play "in next year's Olympics because of their absence from the Federation Cup.

Sabatini, ranked third in the world, has a poor relationship with the Argentine Tennis Federation and has said she does not care if she is excluded from the Olympics.

Navratilova, ranked fifth, is skipping the Federation Cup to lead the Atlanta Thunder in the five-week team tennis season in the United States. — AP

# Albus has an up'Hills' task

BIRMINGHAM — Jim Albus isn't worried about Jack Nicklaus or Lee Trevino. He's already proven he can handle them.

It's Oakland Hills that has Albus worried. The famed golf course outside Detroit will host the U.S. Senior Open this week and Albus has to be considered among the favourites to win.

"I'm undefeated in Michigan," Albus said. "I'm one-for-one."

And indeed he is. Albus, the only player without a logo on his shirt, shocked everyone — including himself — by winning the senior players championship last month at the TPC of Michigan course in nearby Dearborn.

In the process, he turned back the pressure of national television and all challenges by Nicklaus, Trevino and Dave Hill.

"I'm not in their league," Albus said. "They're there every week. I have to play well and do it every week. But it's nice to know that you can do it. I have

that behind me now and that's nice." The reason Albus isn't a household word, even in golfing households is because he's spent his life in the slow lane. He's the pro at piping rock country club in Locust Valley, N.Y. that's on long island where the money is old.

But he does more than just sell sweaters and give lessons. Albus has been one of the best golfers of the club pros in the New York metropolitan area for more than a decade. He played in a few PGA events, mostly the Westchester Classic.

But when he turned 50 a couple years ago, he was eligible to play in some senior PGA tour events, golf's mulligan in life. The \$150,000 he won at Dearborn put him high enough on the money list to gain a spot in the U.S. Senior Open.

He has spent his time working around the club since his triumph. He has played in only one tournament since then, finishing 12th in the Newport Cup.

"I'm playing well." Albus said. "I'm going to be surprised if I'm not in the hunt. I'm feeling good."

That might be good enough. Nicklaus is a three-time winner in senior events this year, but his heart doesn't seem to be in it lately. He almost withdrew from the British Open after a poor practice round.

"I just don't have the desire anymore," Nicklaus said. "The desire doesn't come by just saying I want to do it."

Trevino also has three victories this year. He and Nicklaus battled it out for the U.S. Senior Open Championship last year at Ridgewood. Nicklaus fired a 5-under-par 67 in the third round to take a one-stroke lead over Trevino. But Trevino won the championship by two strokes with a final-round 67.

Albus tied for 27th at Ridgewood, fading in the final two rounds after a 70-72 start.

"You know Jack and Lee are going to be there at the end," Al-

bus said. "I think you can take book on them being there."

This is the second time the U.S. Senior Open has been played at Oakland Hills. In 1981, another club Jim Stone from Independence ended up in a three-way playoff with Billy Casper and Arnold Palmer.

Stone, in fact, built a six-stroke lead by the fifth hole in the 18-hole playoff. But Palmer, mounting one of his famous charges, battled his way back into contention and won with an even-par 70 against Stone's 74 and Casper's 77.

Oakland Hills is that kind of golf course. After the first round of the 1951 U.S. Open, Ben Hogan, seeking his third Open title, studied his scorecard which showed a 76 and said, "This course is a monster." And the challenging south course has been called the "monster" ever since.

"Everybody who has ever played there has stories about it," Albus said. "I remember watch-

ing the 1985 PGA championship there on television, watching Andy North screw up the last hole and winning anyway. You also remember the double chip by T.C. Chen."

North's 279 was the only sub-par total in 1985. Chen had a four-shot lead evaporate with a quadruple bogey on the fifth hole of the final round, the result of hitting the ball twice on his approach shot.

"There must be a lot of go-blings. I know it's the one they call the monster."

Oakland Hills was founded in 1916 and has been the scene of five U.S. Opens and two PGA Championships. The 1922 Western Open and the inaugural Carling's World Open in 1964 also were held at Oakland Hills.

All 18 tees have been rebuilt since 1985 and many fairways and bunkers have been reworked slightly. But it remains one of America's premier golf courses and will identify the best of the seniors in a hurry. —AP

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# Times Sport

Times of Oman, Tuesday, July 23, 1991

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## Oman draw level with China

DHAKA — China's Liaoning football club drew 1-1 with the Al-Nasr Club of Oman in the 10th Asian Club Championship soccer tournament yesterday.

Oman took an early lead through an astute grounder by Muhamed Ali who shot from top of the box in the 31st minute of play.

China, the defending champions, netted the equaliser through Gao Xu in the 78th minute. Gao dribbled past two opponents to score a spectacular goal.

Seven teams — one each from Iran, China, Indonesia, Oman, North Korea, Thailand and Bangladesh — qualified for the last round of the tournament. Jordan, the eighth team to qualify, backed out of the championship before it resumed on July 19.

The tournament began in 1990, but was deferred because of the Gulf conflict that led to war early this year.

The contesting teams are the top soccer clubs in their respective countries, giving the tournament its name.

The strong Esteghal club from Iran, which already has bagged the two points needed to reach the semi-finals, is expected to win the championship.

Pelita Jaya, the Indonesia team, also has secured a place in the semi-finals, winning two points.

**Oman to play India**  
NEW DELHI — 25-member Oman Football team including five officials will arrive on July 31 for the Asian group "B" pre-Olympic football championship to be played Hyderabad from August 4.

Oman, in their opening league match on August 4, will take on hosts India, while Syria take on Lebanon in the other fixture of the day.

The participation of Lebanon in the championship is doubtful, as the All India Football Federation has so far not heard from them. However, an association spokesman said their participation in the tourney would be known by today.

If Lebanon fails to take part in the five-nation tournament, a fine would be imposed on the team by the Asian Football Confederation. The Syrian team would arrive Hyderabad on August 1. — AP/UNI

## Test cap for Morris

LONDON — Glamorgan opener High Morris was called into England's squad for the fourth Test against West Indies at Edgbaston yesterday following a gloomy update on Robin Smith's finger injury.

"Robin has told us that his injured finger is still troubling him and obviously there is sufficient doubt for us to call in Hugh," said chairman of selectors Ted Dexter.

Smith is due to report to Edgbaston today for more treatment on the right index finger injury, originally sustained before the third Test when he was hit by West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose while playing for Hampshire.

He has already scored 281 runs in five innings in the series and his absence would be a huge blow to England.

Morris will make his Test debut if he plays on Thursday. — Reuter

## LeMond leaps to limelight

GAP — Greg LeMond, who refuses to lie down when everyone says he is dead, launched a surprising counter-attack to claw back some lost time in the Tour De France yesterday.

The American defending champion, reeling from seven lost minutes in the Pyrenees on Friday and said to be suffering from an infection, stole a march on his rivals in the flat 16th stage from Ales to Gap.

Seven kms from the end of the 215-km ride into the foothills of the Alps, LeMond broke away on his own though he was soon followed by Italian Marco Lietti.

The two got clear of the main peloton including all the race favourites with Lietti Eventually taking the stage victory and LeMond placing second and stealing back 26 seconds from his rivals.

It was a remarkable coup for the American, especially as his "Z" team boss Roger Legeay said earlier he might have to withdraw before Tuesday's punishing 17th stage to the alpine resort of L'Alp D'Huez.

But three-times winner LeMond

always seems at his best when he is written off and his closing burst after a tiring day with temperatures soaring as high as 42 degrees Celsius showed he may have recovered faster than expected.

Miguel Indurain of Spain retained the race leader's yellow jersey with a three-minute lead over Charly Mottet of France.

LeMond is fifth, behind Italians Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci, four minutes 42 seconds down on the Spaniard.

Lietti's win was the third in a row for his Ariostea team and the fourth in a row by Italians after previous victories by Chiappucci, Bruno Cenghialta and Moreno Argentin on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The stage was marked by a nine-man break on the only climb of the day, the 877-metre Col De La Saulce, around 60 kms from the finish.

The instigators were Bugno, Chiappucci and former Tour winner Laurent Fignon of France.

But they were caught by the main group just before LeMond

launched his counter-punch.

LeMond said later he had made his break to win back time and not to take stage victory.

"I told myself that if I improve in the coming days, this time could help me win the tour," he said.

"I was extremely tired after Val Louron (Friday's stage). I've never been so tired in the Tour. I went too deep into my reserves.

"If we had a mountain stage yesterday or today, I would have lost 15 minutes.

"I don't know if I will be among the best tomorrow, but I hope so. In cycling, you never know. You can be good one day and bad the next."

Fignon, who is sixth overall behind LeMond, dismissed the American's break as irrelevant and said Indurain's lack of response to the earlier breakaway had shown the Spaniard's tactical limitations.

"He wasn't able to be there when he needed to be," he said. "Our breakaway failed, probably because we started it too far from the finish. But it might have worked if Charkly (Mottet) had been with us." — Reuter



US cyclist Greg LeMond in action

## Argentina romp home

SANTIAGO — Argentina didn't seem to miss Diego Maradona.

Playing without their suspended captain, Argentina won its first South American Soccer Championship in 32 years by beating Colombia 2-1 on Sunday.

The victory gave Argentina (2-0-1) five points in the round-robin finals of the America Cup, one more than second-place Brazil (2-1). Argentina, which won six of seven games in the tournament, needed the victory after Brazil beat Chile 2-0 in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader.

"I think we fully deserved the championship title," Argentina coach Alfio Basile said. "After all, we played against every possible style of soccer and beat them in tough, balanced games."

Argentina, the 1986 World Cup champion and runnerup to West Germany in the 1990 World Cup, got goals from Diego Simeone in the 10th minute and Gabriel Batistuta in the 20th minute.

Anthony De Avila scored for Colombia 25 minutes into the second half and Colombia (0-2-1) almost tied the score with 13 minutes left. But goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea saved Ivan Valenciano's

short shot.

The victory was somewhat of a surprise. Argentina did not play well in last year's world cup final and was reeling from the loss of Maradona, who was suspended on April 7 after testing positive for cocaine use following an Italian league match between Napoli and Bari on March 15. The length of the suspension was later set at 15 months. It was the 13th South American title for Argentina, but its first since 1959. Basile said his team has a bright future.

"When a team wins 13 out of 14 points in a difficult tournament, I believe there is little more to say," Basile said.

He said his main objective was preparing for World Cup qualifying games in 1993. He said it's too early to tell if his changes were working.

"That's for the media and fans to say," Basile said.

Simeone scored with a header off a centering pass from Fabian Basualdo and Batistuta, the tournament's leading scorer with six goals, beat goalkeeper Rene Higuita with a 30-yard, right-footed shot following a through pass from Leonardo Rodriguez.

In the first game, Mazinho

scored in the seventh minute and Luiz Henrique scored 10 minutes into the second half for Brazil. Chile finished the second round 0-1-2.

Brazil coach Roberto Falcao said he will use the America Cup experience to prepare for the 1994 World Cup, the first in the United States. In this tournament, he did not use his Europe-based stars, such as Careca, Maradona's teammate on Napoli.

"We will now analyse how our players performed, and then decide whether we will need some of our players now in Europe for the World Cup," Falcao said.

Leading scorers in the South American soccer championship after the final matches on Sunday:

Six goals — Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Five-Ivan Zamorano (Chile), Three-Branco (Brazil), Anthony De Avila (Colombia), Luis Mozon (Paraguay), Peter Mendez (Uruguay).

Two — Caniggia and Diego Simeone (Argentina), Mazinho II and Luiz Henrique (Brazil), Hugo Rubio (Chile), Arnoldo Igunan (Colombia), Alex Aguinaga and Raul Aviles (Ecuador), Eugenio La Rosa, Jorge Hirano and Jose Del Solar (Peru).

## Windies squeeze to success

ANTERBURY — West Indies beat Kent by just four runs here yesterday to preserve their 15-year unbeaten run against English country sides.

Fast bowler Patrick Patterson bowled Kent's Antiguan Tony Merrick with the fourth ball of the final over to end the home side's rousing attempt to make 342 to win in 70 overs.

Kent were propelled towards their first victory over the West Indies since 1933 by superb batting from Matthew Fleming and Graham Cowdrey who both hit centuries. The pair added 192 for the fourth wicket at almost a run a ball after Kent had slumped to 80 for three.

Fleming, with only one previous first-class hundred to his name, hammered 116 off just 109 balls while Cowdrey anchored the innings with 104 in three-and-a-half hours at the crease.

Earlier in the day, West Indies opener Phil Simmons narrowly missed out on recording the fastest first-class century of the English season. — Reuter

## Seles succumbs to Capriati

MAHWAH — In just one month, Monica Seles has gone from princess to problem child.

First, she dropped out of Wimbledon with leg injuries and mysteriously disappeared for five weeks. Upon her return, the 17-year-old pulled out of the Federation Cup and jeopardised her chances to play in the Olympics.

On Sunday, the top-ranked player in women's tennis lost to somebody even younger. And, she said, if her match against 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati lasted any longer, she might have packed up and left.

"I didn't expect a lot out of myself coming in here," Seles said after losing 6-3, 7-5 to Capriati in the Pathmark Tennis Classic final. "I really didn't want to put any pressure on the leg."

There was a lot of pressure on Seles all week. She met the media on Thursday for the first time since her withdrawal from Wimbledon and explained that she was suffering from a stress fracture in her left leg. She had a tougher-than-expected semifinal match on Friday night against Kathy Rinaldi and did not look in top form against Capriati.

Seles was fined \$20,000 by the Women's Tennis Association on Sunday for participating in a non-sanctioned exhibition too close to a regular event.

The fine follows one of \$6,000 by the wta last month for her withdrawal from Wimbledon. Pathmark classic tournament director John Kroff said he would appeal Seles' fine and that he would pay Capriati's fine for the same offence, \$2,500.

The Federation Cup began yesterday in Nottingham, England.

Seles, who reportedly received a \$200,000 appearance fee, was broken five times in 10 service games. Her shots lacked their usual crispness and she didn't have her usual court quickness. She even questioned herself as to whether she could continue if the match went to a third set in the 102 F heat.

"It would have been hard," she

said. "It would have been physically hard for me to take the second set."

Capriati didn't let it reach a third set. She ended a string of seven consecutive service breaks by getting a lucky roll on a shot off the top of the net in the 11th game to grab a 6-5 lead.

"After I lost serve three times in a row I was hoping to get just one more chance," Capriati said after her first victory over Seles in three tries. "I just wanted to get my first serve in the next game."

She didn't, but Capriati quickly moved to a 40-15 lead and won when Seles netted a backhand return of serve.

"I feel pretty good," said Capriati, who received at least \$100,000 for playing in the 28-player exhibition. "I thought I played well. I thought I had to play well to beat her."

Capriati, who broke Seles in the fourth game of the first set to take control of the match, received an added \$30,000 for winning the tournament. — AP

## US soccer set to soar

SHEFFIELD — According to soccer coach Jim Lennox, only two things stand in the way of the game's big-time development in the United States.

Soccer and the United States. In charge of a successful college team at the World University Games, Lennox believes a bright future waits for young American soccer players. But huge obstacles are standing in their way — the U.S. sports establishment and the quality of the game itself.

Football, baseball, basketball and hockey don't want an outsider stealing their popularity even if soccer is growing faster at high schools and colleges, he said.

"Soccer is the silent sport," Lennox said. "It does not get much attention or people take a negative approach to it."

"The other sports don't want their slice of the cake to get any thinner and it's difficult for soccer to get in."

"Because of that lack of attention, not many people know how many kids are playing the game and playing it well," Lennox said. "Fundamentally, we need a full pro national league to show it off."

If a league doesn't come soon, the best American players will continue the drift towards Europe.

"The majority of the players are looking for a chance to go abroad and play in a better, professional league," said the U.S. University Games goalie, Bill Andracki.

"They would like to go to England or Spain or Germany to play with the best. They need an alternative route to what there is al-

## Bates blazes to gold

SHEFFIELD — A slow start doesn't seem to bother Michael Bates. It didn't keep him from winning a gold medal in the 100-metre dash at the World University Games.

Now he hopes it won't impede his U.S. Olympic team aspirations.

The University of Arizona running back came from behind to run a personal-best 10.17 seconds in the 100 metres on Sunday. That's still a long stride away from elite American sprinters such as Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell, but he knows he's gaining.

"I'm just one of the low-key types right now, but I hope I can get to their level," Bates said.

Like his career, his race began quietly until he pulled away from the field. Another American, Boris Goins, led early, but finished a distant second in 10.34.

It was the first international title for Bates, who will postpone his senior year of football eligibility to work on his sprinting.

"I'm looking forward to having the fall season to train exclusively (in track)," he said. "My times, I hope, will keep going down next year."

"Making the Olympic team is my top goal right now. Running's been in the background a little bit for me because of football, but now's the time for me to go for it."

Bates was left behind briefly by Jacek Marlicki of Poland on his left and goes on his right. He drew even at 50 metres and pulled away.

"I had to play catchup coming out of the blocks. The last fifty metres felt really smooth tonight," said Bates, who ran a wind-aided 10.18 in the preliminaries on Saturday.

"My workouts have been going well all week. I knew something like this would come. It came today."

Bates knows there is work to be done. The long list of U.S. sprinters with faster personal-bests in the 100 includes Burrell, the world record-holder Lewis. The two-time Olympic champion, Dennis Mitchell and Andre Cason.

"I can't consider myself in their class now," he said, "but my sights are set on track for a while, and I'm improving, so I have something to look forward to." The swimming events were rounded off by a golden performance by the United States men's 400-metre medley relay team of William Schwenk, Brian Pajer, Dan Kutler and Eric Hansen. — AP

## Baker-Finch: whoops and cheers for the champ

SOUTHPORT — Ian Baker-Finch, so mechanical on the course, so emotional off, took charge of the British Open on the final day at last and carried away the trophy.

He cried when he hugged the trophy, cried more when he spoke to the crowd. He wept with his wife and daughter and mates from down under, who toasted him with champagne and relished Sunday's 1-2 finish of Australians.

These were different tears from the ones Baker-Finch shed for an hour after blowing the lead as a 23-year-old at St. Andrews in 1984. Different from the ones last year, when he was blown away by Nick

Faldo in the final round. Intrepid, efficient and accurate from the tee to the green, Baker-Finch learned from those failures and didn't repeat them as he shot a 66 to beat countryman Mike Harwood by two strokes with an 8-under-par 272.

Baker-Finch's one regret was the mob of fans that crushed around him dangerously on the 18th fairway, denying him a chance to savour his stroll to the final hole.

"I didn't really smell the roses until I got through the crowd," he said wistfully.

In truth, his ceremonial march

began when he left the seventh green with his fifth birdie tucked away after a 15-foot putt and his first British Open title virtually assured.

From that moment on, no one threatened and Baker-Finch never seriously faltered. There was as little drama on the course as there was in the sky, with the breezes unusually tame on a warm, golden afternoon on the coast of the Irish sea. Bees and butterflies played among the wildflowers and fans lazed on the slopes beside the greens.

All along the way, though Baker-Finch's caddy kept him pumped

up, pushing him to go for the pins, not play safe, not let up.

"You're the champ, pard, you're the champ," said the caddy, Peter Bender.

Bender knew about winning in the British Open, having caddied for Greg Norman when he won in 1986.

"Greg's more a power player," Bender said. "Ian wears you down. He's kind of jabber, keeps stabbing you, cutting you, nicking you."

He nipped a piece off par with a 12-foot putt on the second hole, sliced another stroke off with a 10-footer on the third. A superb 3-iron — "my best shot all day" — put

him 6 feet from the pin on No. 4, and he holed that out to go 3-under for the round in four holes.

It didn't matter that Jodie Mudd had just grabbed the clubhouse lead with a 63, a stroke better than Baker-Finch's day-old course record and the lowest final-day score in the British open's 120-year history. Nor did Fred Couples' 64 pose any threat, or the 66 that Norman shot or the 69 that Baker-Finch's partner, mark O'Meara, was pursuing.

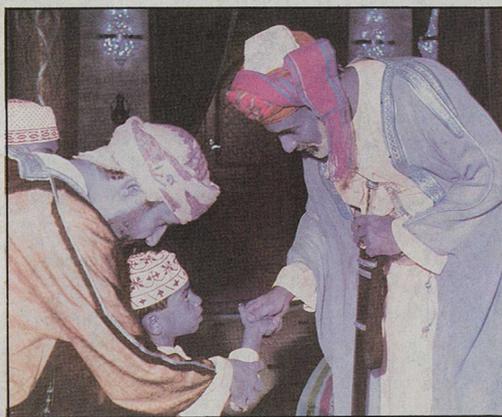
A putt drive on No. 6 and the long putt on No. 7 put Baker-Finch at 9-under for the tournament and in the control position he'd never enjoyed in a major event.

"He was just like a horse," Bender said. "He put his blinkers on and just went about his business. He played almost a perfect round. I just told him to play with confidence, play aggressively. When a guy is playing that good, why pull back on the reins."

All through the day, Baker-Finch drove and hit irons with machine-like precision. He got into trouble just once, when he conservatively hit a 3-wood on 10, a 395-yard par-4, and dumped the ball in a fairway bunker. He had a bad lie, knocked it out with a sand wedge about 30 yards and wound up with his first bogey. — AP

# RENAISSANCE DAY

The key to the Sultanate's success lies in the able leadership of His Majesty who took his people into confidence and urged them to join in the formidable task of building the country and renewing Oman's past glories.



While ensuring that the Government takes steps to develop the economy and create a climate conducive to the growth of commerce and industry, His Majesty never loses sight of the welfare of the people.

Times of Oman, Tuesday, July 23, 1991

## A magnificent story of success

From one of the most backward countries of the Arab world, in 1970, steeped in isolation, stagnation and illiteracy, Oman today pulsates with prosperity and progress.

Thanks to the Renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Sultanate is poised to make a spectacular entry into the 21st century, armed with sound and enlightened national and international perspectives and policies.

Now a leading Arab country, with a thriving commerce and industry, supported by a good infrastructure, Oman's social, cultural and economic progress is a magnificent story of success.

### Incredible

It's incredible that so much has been achieved in a short span of 21 years. But the key to the Sultanate's success lies in the able leadership of His Majesty who took his people into confidence and urged them to join in the formidable task of building the country and renewing Oman's past glories.

By a judicious blend of tradition and modernity and careful planning, Oman has been able to avoid the pitfalls and culture shocks plaguing other developing countries.

When His Majesty took over the reins, it signalled the beginning of a bright new era. Among his first acts were the abolition of restrictions on the lives and activities of the people. He also called upon Omanis abroad to return home and join the mainstream.

Dedicated, hardworking and enterprising Omanis joined His Majesty in steering the country

to prosperity. Soon a new chapter of development began for Oman, the second largest country of the Arabian peninsula.

Between 1970 and 1990, Oman's Gross Domestic Product has increased over thirty-fold. In 1970, the country's GDP was RO 106.8 million. According to provisional estimates, the GDP in 1990 was RO 3,521.9 million.

By Middle East standards, Oman's reserves of oil are modest and are currently estimated at 4.3 billion barrels, which indicate that the current level of production of 700,000 barrels per day could be maintained for a further 20 years. Prospects of new finds are also promising.

From the beginning of the Renaissance era, the Government has taken steps to diversify the sources of income, achieving a considerable degree of success.

The non-oil sectors' contribution to the GDP increased from 32.95 per cent in 1970 to 54.81 per cent at the end of June 1990.

Thanks to the diversification programme, Oman today boasts of major cement plants, an oil refinery, a copper smelter and medium and light industry producing flour, textiles, electrical components, plastic materials, food items and a host of other products.

Originally industry was directed towards import substitutes based on indigenous resources. But now the industrial policy is being geared towards exports.

During the Fourth Plan period, nearly RO 16 million have been earmarked for new in-

dustrial estates in Raysut, Sohar, Nizwa and Sur, while the Rusayl estate will be expanded at a cost of RO 5.1 million.

The Sultanate has also achieved significant growth in agriculture, crop and livestock production, as well as the fisheries sector. As a result, the share of agriculture and fishing has increased since 1970, currently accounting for about 10 per cent of the total GDP.

Development of the commodity-producing sectors has led to a corresponding expansion in trade, finance and related services, which have in turn helped in the development of the private sector.

### Incentives

The Government over the years has provided a number of incentives to encourage the growth of the private sector.

In the fourth Five-Year Development Plan, a special sum of RO 129 million has been allocated as support to the private sector.

Private sector competition will be further encouraged during the plan period with special attention being devoted to the needs of young entrepreneurs and professionals.

Major projects for boosting water production and electricity generation, development of gas fields, construction of new industrial estates, fishing harbours, aquifer dams, hospitals, schools and roads will be part of Oman's investment expenditure expected to reach RO 2,107 million during the plan period.

At present, the Omani economy is performing well with increase in revenues, exports and employment and a buoyancy in

share trading and commercial banking activity. There has also been a boost in production in the vital sectors such as gasoline, kerosene, electricity, water, vegetables and fruits during the first months this year. 1991 is certainly going to be a good year for the Omani economy.

While ensuring that the Government takes steps to develop the economy and create a climate conducive to the growth of commerce and industry, His Majesty never loses sight of the welfare of the people.

### Strides

Health, education, housing and social welfare which have been accorded high priority in Oman, have made great strides in the last 21 years.

With only two hospitals in 1970, today there are 47 hospitals, 79 health centres and three maternity centres with an overall total of 3,450 beds.

At the end of 1989, the Ministry of Health had 919 physicians, 3,274 nurses and 3,293 para-medical personnel. The Sultanate had one doctor per 1,160 population and one nurse per 420 population.

During the current plan, a number of new hospitals, health complexes and health centres will be built and institutes for nurses and assistant pharmacists will be constructed.

A total of RO 48 million has been set aside during the plan for new hospitals in Nizwa, Jebel Akhdar, Sur and Musandam, as well as RO 9.8 million for the expansion of existing hospital.

### Immunisation

The expanded programme of immunisation has reached about 95 per cent of children in Oman and given them security against the six serious communicable diseases of tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles.

The Sultanate's health care system has given equal importance to both the preventive and curative aspects.

Special and intensive programmes for control of tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases have helped in vastly improving the health of the people and reducing the mortality rate.

Even when oil prices fell in 1986, His Majesty directed that the allocation for education should not suffer. The Sultanate has come a long way in the educational field, so vital for the Omanisation programme.

During the Fourth-Five Year Plan, a total of RO 51.4 million will be spent on new school buildings and improvements, while RO 8.8 million has been allocated for youth complexes and social development centres.

In addition, in the field of higher education, RO 8.8 million has been earmarked for the construction of buildings for the

future faculties of arts, business and economics at the Sultan Qaboos University.

Oman has from the start of the Renaissance resisted the temptation to rush into mass construction, despite the pressure on housing. Slums, the bane of other developing countries, are conspicuous by their absence in Oman.

Careful planning, cooperation between the various Ministries and departments concerned and the provision of housing for the lower income groups are the special features of the Sultanate's housing policy. During the current plan, RO 32.7 million has been allocated for low cost housing and restoration.

Under the social housing scheme, the Government provides the infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity, while the residents pay only a monthly installment of RO 25 towards the cost of the house.

Through this scheme, Oman hopes to achieve its goal of adequate housing for all by the year 2000.

Social security is one of the most important aspects of social welfare in Oman. The philosophy of social security stems from a wider and more comprehensive concept that is intended to develop the abilities of individuals of needy families and make them income generating and self-dependent.

Continued on Page IV



Omanis expressing their joy and loyalty towards their able leader.

# 21

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# Towards self-sufficiency in food



Raising the quality of agricultural products

In the past few years, Oman has intensified its drive to upgrade agricultural methods in a bid to enhance production and improve the quality of crops. By mechanisation and modern irrigation methods, the Sultanate is working towards the goal of self-sufficiency in food production. The total area of land suitable for agriculture is about 100,000 hectares of which 60,000 are under cultivation. The area under cultivation increased at an average rate of 7.2 per cent per annum during the period 1984-89. But an increase of the area of land under cultivation is not the main aim of Oman's agricultural development programme.

The emphasis is on improvement of productivity by a programme of support and technical advice through 2,500 extension farms in the country. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos proclaimed 1988 as the Year of Agriculture when various important measures were taken to develop the vital agricultural sector. Following the successes achieved in 1988, His Majesty announced that the Year of Agriculture would be extended into 1989. His Majesty stressed the need for preservation of grazing land, and the prudent conservation and development of water resources, as well as raising the quality of agricultural products.

The government laid emphasis on the development of agriculture from the first years of the Renaissance. When the first Five-Year Development Plan was launched in 1976, it included several important schemes for modernisation of agriculture. Since then the modernisation programme has acquired new dimensions and achieved remarkable progress. Oman cultivates fruit, vegetables, cereal and fodder crops. The Batinah is the major agricultural region in the Sultanate with about 50.6 per cent of the total cultivated area. The Interior accounts for 12.6 per cent of the cultivated area., Sharqiyah 10.4 per cent, Dhahira

8 per cent and the Southern region 5.9 per cent. To raise production of crops, during the fourth Five-Year Plan period, large subsidies will be provided to farmers for mechanisation and development of modern techniques. This year alone RO 30,000 has been earmarked as the subsidy amount for purchase of 150 tractors. In addition, 500 farmers will be given modern farming equipment at subsidised rates. For the first time, farmers will be provided a subsidy of RO 2,000 to RO 3,000 each for purchase of tractors. Efforts will be directed towards increasing the yield of crops such as onions, potatoes, carrots, cucumber, garlic, lady fingers, water

melons, mashed melons and mangoes. In a major programme to conserve water, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is to spend RO seven million on aflaj maintenance and improvements between 1991 and 1995. This year, 240 aflaj will be covered under the programme at a cost of RO two million. The traditional aflaj systems, invented by Omani ingenuity thousands of years ago, is the main means for obtaining irrigation water. The Ministry is also evolving a model plan to maintain some main aflaj. These include Falaj Daris in Samail and Falaj Al Maisar in Rustaq. Despite intensive development and diversification in the agricultural sector, dates are still the most important crop in Oman. The total area under date palm cultivation is 20,000 hectares. There are a total of eight million date palm trees in Oman and the annual output is estimated at 154,000 tonnes. However, the date palm sub-sector faces a number of constraints, the most serious of which are low productivity, poor quality, high production costs and limited market and storage facilities. The Date Palm Improvement Project being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries aims at overcoming these constraints by developing scientific plantation methods, mechanisation of horticultural practices, stringent control of diseases and pests and other important

measures. Under the project, guidelines for rehabilitation and renovation of orchards have been mapped out. Field application of scientific plantation methods have been initiated at date palm orchards in Oman Al Dakhil (Interior) to trigger off increased productivity levels. Experts of the Date Palm Improvement Project have visited a number of orchards in the Interior to convince the growers that they should adopt new and improved technologies to raise profitability. Many growers have already signed up with the project. Oman is also to embark on a major programme for development of agro-based industries using the country's vast resources of dates. Manufacture of the date products has commenced on



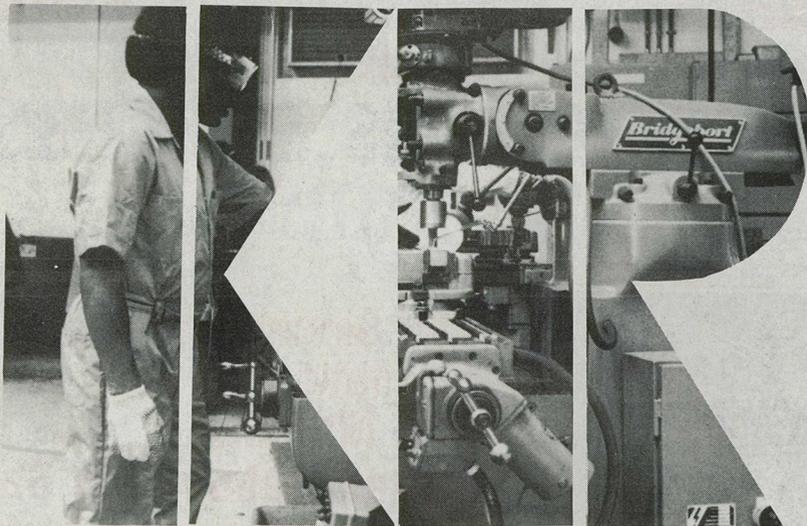
Date palm sector facing constraints



Fisheries an important source of national income

**"As we embark on a new decade of our march, we advance from this strong foundation to broader and greater ambitions. This requires us all to keep before us the tasks and responsibilities which we must accept in order to maintain our progress, God willing."**

Excerpt from speech by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on the occasion of the 20th National Day.



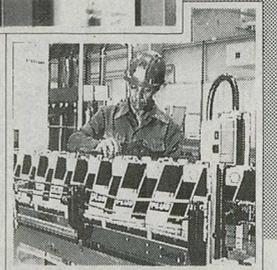
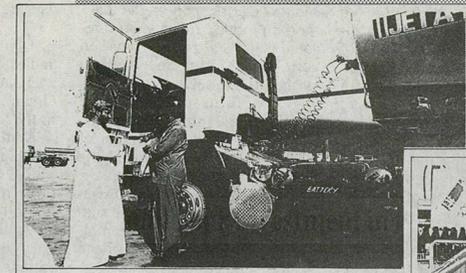
We, at Khimji Ramdas look back on this day, at the sultanate's phenomenal progress over the last 21 years. And we are proud to be part of Oman's advancement.

Khimji Ramdas pledges always, to strive towards achieving His Majesty's ambitions. We already see the dawning of Oman as a powerful Nation with the shaping of its industry. The day is already here with Oman on the same level as many other modern nations. We acknowledge once again, His Majesty's leadership, which has led Oman to this position.

**KR**  
**Khimji Ramdas**

Khimji Ramdas, P.O. Box : 19, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

## Accelerating the Sultanate's drive to prosperity



We extend warm greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the people of Oman on Renaissance Day

**With our people.**  
A dedicated, trained team offering personalised service.

**With our products.**  
A wide range of fuels and lubricants that keep all types of industries running smoothly.

**With our technology.**  
Drawing on the worldwide resources of the Shell Group for up-to-date equipment and technical expertise.

**With our investment.**  
In the local manufacture of high quality lubricants and in modern fuel facilities. In places that include remote corners of the Sultanate. Wherever there's a sign of activity... there's Shell.

Shell Markets  
(Middle East) Limited

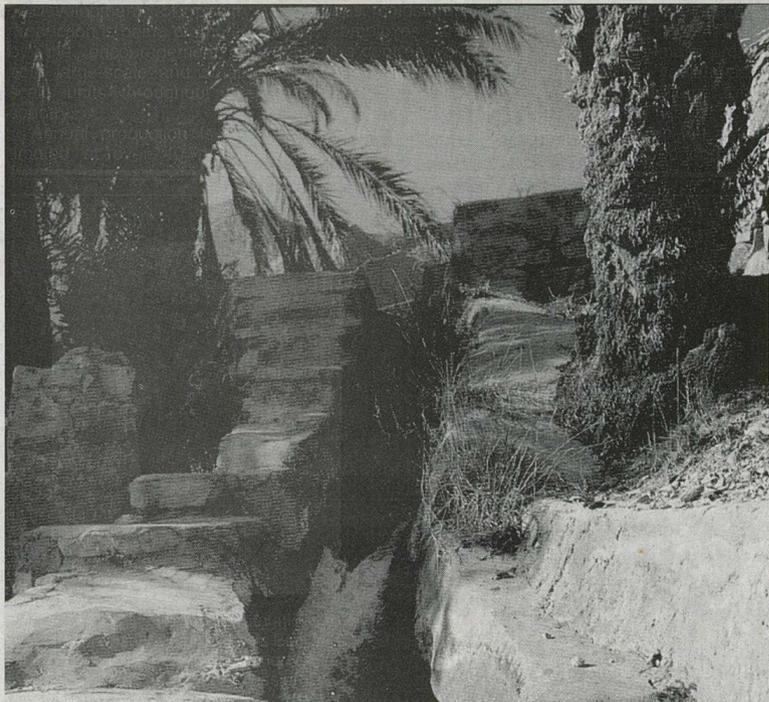


P O Box 51038 Mina Al-Fahal - Oman Tel: 563844



Continuing our investment in the Sultanate's future.

RENAISSANCE DAY



Model plan to maintain main Aflaj

## Towards self-sufficiency...

From Page II  
a pilot scale and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is exploring the feasibility of transferring the technology on an industrial scale through public or private enterprise.

The Ministry has also embarked on projects to improve the production of goat, sheep and poultry. There are an estimated 700,000 goats and 200,000 sheep in Oman. Development of poultry production is being promoted by the encouragement of both large-scale and small-scale units throughout the country.

Annual production is estimated at over 40 million

eggs and one million broiler chickens. The aim is to reach an output of 227 million eggs and 13,600 tonnes of broiler meat by the end of the year 2000.

As the fisheries resources is considered one of the important sources of national income, Oman took a number of steps to develop this sector.

### Growth

Fishing harbours, marine workshops, coldstores, fisheries complexes and fish marketing centres were constructed to help the growth of the fisheries sector.

It has been estimated that the potential annual fishery yield of Omani waters may

be as high as 300,000 tonnes.

In 1981, the Oman Bank for Agriculture and Fisheries was set up with a capital of RO 19 million.

Loans were granted at low interest rates to both companies and individuals. The bank also arranges technical assistance, identification of projects and feasibility studies.

The agriculture and fisheries sector has made great progress in the last 21 years. The 14 major projects launched this year to assist small and medium farmers in increasing yields, is yet another step on the road to self-sufficiency in food.

# Unwavering commitment to youth

When oil prices dropped in 1986, the Government was forced to cut some of its budgets. But His Majesty Sultan Qaboos personally saw to it that the one for education was not touched.

This exemplifies His Majesty's concern for the education programme of the Sultanate. When he took over the reins in 1970, there were only three boys' schools in the country - in Muscat, Muttrah and Salalah - with a total of 909 students.

There were no girls' schools, only a few Koranic classes in some towns and villages in the interior.

Twenty-one years after, Oman has a full-grown university and close to 800 other schools for all levels of education, with a total enrollment of almost 350,000 and a teaching force of more than 15,000.

By any standard, it was a

some. School buildings were almost non-existent and qualified teachers had to be recruited from abroad, mainly from Egypt, Sudan and Jordan. Textbooks had to be written and published and a purely Omani curricula had to be formulated.

It was a real start from scratch.

Albeit a difficult task, His Majesty's Government never wavered in its commitment to give the Omani youth the opportunity for progress through education.

### Admitted

Just within the first five months of his accession, 16 primary schools were opened with an additional enrollment of 9,641. And, for the first time in Oman, Omani girls were admitted to schools.

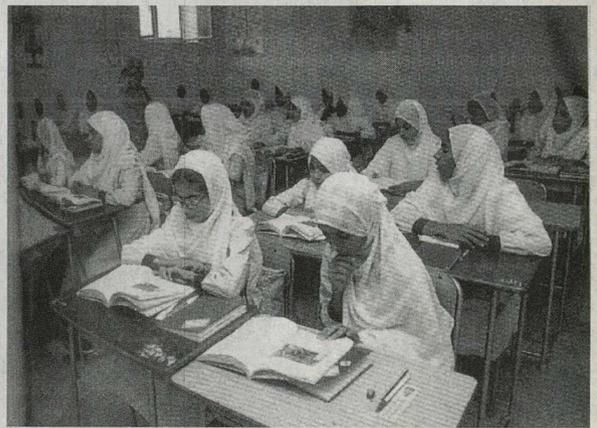
The Sultanate, since then, had been unrelenting in its pursuit for better education facilities. By 1975, there were 262 schools and in-

That early, Oman was determined at Omanising the educational system, hence the need for more teacher training institutes. As part of the modernisation programme, the institutes were reorganised into Teacher Training Colleges in the academic year 1984-85, from which 1,300 male and female teachers had graduated by 1989.

Subsequently, three other teaching colleges were opened in Nizwa, Sohar and Ibbi, and five in Muscat, Salalah, Sur and Rustaq, from which 1,200 male and female teachers will graduate each year.

Three new teacher training colleges are to be opened this year, thus accelerating the Government's effort to Omanise the primary school training staff. Two of the new colleges for men will be in Sohar and Nizwa and one for women in Ibbi.

Of course, the crowning achievement of the development of the educational system was the opening of the Sultan Qaboos University at Al Khoudh in September 1986. The university comprises of six colleges: education and Islamic sciences, science, agriculture, en-



Equal opportunity for all: A primary school for girls

gineering, medicine and arts. The university had its first graduates a year ago. This year it will have its first batch of engineering graduates - clearly a big boost to Oman's dream of industrialisation.

Aside from its spacious and well-manicured campus, the university has a well-equipped computer centre, a modern library and a teaching hospital for medical courses.

### Furnished

The 500-bed hospital, built at a cost of RO 52 million, is furnished with advanced equipment for diagnostic purposes, and has specialised sections for paediatrics, gynaecology and obstetrics, internal diseases, surgery, psychiatry, cardiac diseases and an outpatient clinic.

In its six years of existence, the university could not be expected to address all the required fields of discipline in both private and public sectors.

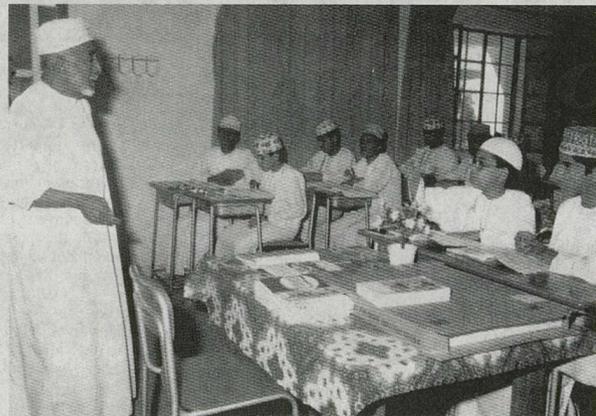
So the Ministry of Education and Youth sponsors 80 overseas scholarships for

qualified Omanis to train in courses not available at the university, such as economics, accountancy, pharmacology, dentistry, water sciences, etc. While the Government has been vigorous in educating the youth, it has not neglected the welfare of the adults who have not had the opportunity to obtain an education in the past.

Since 1973, the Ministry has been setting up adult classes and other centres meant to eradicate illiteracy. The anti-illiteracy campaign has evoked enthusiastic response from adult citizens and by latest count, more than 28,000 had taken advantage of these adult education classes - men and women alike.

In his early days in power, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos had this commitment: "Our aim is to spread education throughout the Sultanate so that all may have their share of knowledge according to their abilities."

The fulfillment of that commitment is clearly at hand.



Easy access to acquire knowledge

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stitutes, including 213 primary schools, three secondary schools and a training institute for teachers.

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Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on the occasion of the 21st Accession Day

## Strong Foundations for a Great Future

The accession of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said 21 years ago ushered in an era of unprecedented progress and prosperity. Today, the Sultanate of Oman can rightfully take its place amongst the world's modern nations as a result of His Majesty's astute policies, and the dedication of the people.

The task of achieving self-reliance needs to be expedited in all areas of the economy. New avenues of gainful employment need to be opened to Omani youth so that they too can continue with this task of nation building.

We, at Bahwan Automotive Centre take pride in re-dedicating ourselves to this noble task. As one of the first commercial establishments to initiate special training programmes for Omani youth in Oman and abroad, we have substantially enlarged the Omani workforce within the Company.

Our long term objective of self-reliance will soon become a reality because we are confident of the future that lies before us.

On this Accession Day, we greet His Majesty with respect and gratitude.



1991 - the Year of Industry



Bahwan Automotive Centre

P.O.Box 6168 Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman Tel:561377

RENAISSANCE DAY



Model plan to maintain main Aflaj

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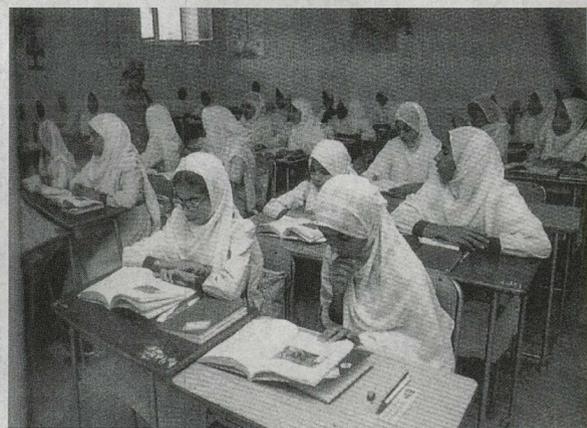
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