Finally there was only one **PENTAX**

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 hu midity 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 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

77 rebels, 12 soldiers killed in Sri Lanka

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

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 guerilla group (LTTE). The 77 rebels, including

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.

Elephant Pass is a narrow causeway connecting the northern Jaffna peninsula, a Tiger stronghold, with

the rest of Sri Lanka. The relief column landed on a beach at Chundikulam, eight miles (12 km) from Elephant Pass, on July 14 and has met stiff resistance from the rebels which has at times

included hand-to-hand combat.

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.

He also sought assurances from BCCI's major shareholder, the Abu Dhabi authorities, that information on the bank's affairs would be readily available to investigators. BCCI offices in several coun-

tries were closed in a swoop by central banking authorities on July 5 amid allegations of widespread

Depositors with BCCI had been seeking a 30-day adjournment to allow for a possible rescue package.

\$220 million

IMF loan

for India

national Monetary Fund yesterday

sanctioned an emergency loan of

\$220 million for India under its Contingency Compenstatory Fund Facility (CCFF) to boost New Del-

hi's efforts to overcome its tight

IMF, which met to review India's

plea for short-term assistance, ap-

proved the proposal for loan made

Mr. G.K. Arora, Executive Director of the IMF, who was in India

loan is in response to cash-strapped

India's urgent plea for a short-term

assistance to deal with the Bop cri-

sis until it secures a multi-billion

lion under this facility in January.

is a kind of bridge loan. In addition,

reports here say that the Central

Banks of Japan and Britain are put-

ting together another loan of about

\$450 million dollars. The cash-

flow, thus generated, would avoid

New Delhi defaulting on its more

peared unusual, he pointed out, it

was a clear indication of the inter-

national financial institutions desire

to help New Delhi out of its credit

crunch which was stated to be par-

Pakistan sees

threat of war

Army Chief has said "shadows of

war" were looming over the region

and he feared India might attack Pa-

Mirza Aslam Beg was speaking on

Sunday to troops in the eastern Pun-

jab province town of Sialkot near

the Kashmir border, the official

region and shadows of war have

started appearing," APP quoted him

paign in India-ruled Kashmir state

was "gaining momentum with eve-

ry passing day and it is now im-

desperation India may commit an

adventure against Pakistan," he

would be aided by "enemies of Pa-

mandos in Indian-held Kashmir

amply speaks for our enemies' de-

Israeli tourists kidnapped earlier

this month by Kashmiri militants

who said they were in fact com-

Pakistan was capable of deterring war and defeating aggres-

Two of the three wars between

India and Pakistan since their in-

dependence from Britain in 1947

MANILA - In her final State of the Union address to Philippines

Congress yesterday, a tear-choked

President Corazon Aquino ad-

mitted mistakes but said she hon-

estly has done her best to steer the

country to democracy and progress

June, vowing to be on hand to

transfer power to the new Pres-

tion, seeking to prevent another

dictatorship like that of Ferdinand

Marcos, limits the Chief Executive

The Philippines' 1987 constitu-

But she refused to step down

in a rocky term as President.

were fought over Kashmir.

mandos masquerading as tourists.

kistan" in such a move.

signs," he said.

sion, Beg said.

possible to suppress it", he said.

The Muslim independence cam-

"It is quite likely that in sheer

The Army Chief said India

"The presence of Israeli com-

He was referring to a group of

"Events are fast changing in the

Army Chief of Staff General

ISLAMABAD

kistan over Kashmir

APP news agency said.

ticularly severe this month. - UNI

Though these measures ap

than \$70 billion foreign debts.

India had already drawn \$ 1 bil-

According to an expert, the loan

dollar credit from the fund.

According to fund sources, the

recently, attended the meeting.

balance of payment position. The Board of Governors of the

last week by its staff.

WASHINGTON — The Inter-

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 de-

Widespread fraud

British banking authorities swooped on BCCI in a coordinated operation with central bankers in several other countries, based on what the authorities said was evidence of widespread fraud.

The report by auditors Price Waterhouse said the group used fraud on "an ever-increasing scale" to cover up losses, the court hearing

on the wind-up petition was told.

Parts of the report were read out in court on the orders of the judge.

Gabriel Moss, counsel for the Bank of England, said the report made clear that fraud at BCCI was complex and had been going on for telligence had known of the ac-

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. Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock invoked a little used Parliamentary procedure to demand an emergency statement from Major after weekend press reports of BCCI links

with Palestinian guerillas. British newspapers on Sunday reported BCCI branches in London held accounts on behalf of Palestinian guerilla Abu Nidal, leader of the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council.

There have been claims that Maor 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. Surveillance Major has yet to respond to de-

mands 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.

BCCI shareholders, led by Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Zayyed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, have bitterly un-

justified and coincided with talks to reshape the structure of the bank. In evidence to the high court hearing on the Bank of England claim to wind up BCCI, Bank of England counsel Gabriel Moss said BCCI might never have been a

management had been"fraudulent and dishonest.'

Moss told the court it was in the public interest that BCCI be wound up. It would make it easier to pay compensation to depositors who had already suffered hardship.

When it froze BCCI operations in Britain, the British central bank said the action, taken without giving notice to the Abu Dhabi majority owners who had just proposed a restructuring, was based on an investigation by auditors Price Waterhouse received in late June.

The Bank of England said it had also been tipped off by a new employee at BCCI of large scale fraud. The British operations of the

bank held more than 250 million pounds (\$418 million) in 50,000 ac-

· Continued on Page 2

US PROPOSAL FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

Baker raises hope of Israel Govt. accepting formula

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 confer-

The Israeli Cabinet met shortly after Baker and Shamir completed four hours of talks over two days. No final decision was made on an Israeli response to the US proposals, Israeli sources said.

Shamir gave the Cabinet an upbeat assessment of the latest US effort and Arab response, according to the sources. He referred to the position first taken by Syria in a letter to President Bush and now adopted by other Arab countries of a willingness to enter into face-toface talks with Israel.

Syrian support Israeli Radio quoted Shamir as telling the Cabinet that Syria's support for face-to-face talks was a

but later corrected the report to say Shamir was quoting Baker's view to Baker, who left Israel for Malaysia for a meeting of the Associa-

tion of South East Asian Nations, told reporters that Shamir promised him an early answer on the proposal that has already won the endorsement of Arab states.

official had promised him an early

answer on whether the Jewish state would endorse the US proposal. The formula calls for Israel to negotiate directly with the Arabs on a settlement requiring Israel to relinquish territory in exchange for acceptance from its longtime en-

"For now, we will wait with great hope for a response from Prime Minister Shamir and his colleagues," Baker said.

Shamir's senior adviser, Avi Pazner, said the talks were inconclusive. Four Baker aides were staying behind to continue dis-

"revolutionary change" in position,

Following a 90-minute session with Shamir, Baker said the Israeli

Bush ends two day visit to Turkey - Page 2

There are still open questions and they will be clarified in the next few days," Pazner said. But Baker was considerably

more upbeat. "I think that this is a moment

historic opportunity," he said. "For 43 years, Israel has sought direct negotiations with its neighbours, and it has been right to do so. "Direct negotiations are the only way to solve problems and the only

way to secure peace, and now there is a real opportunity to get to these face-to-face negotiations. Meanwhile, Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak urged Israel to ac-

cept the US formula for a peace conference and to stop building settlements in occupied Arab ter-

Mubarak alleged that Israel has sent Jewish settlers to 65 per cent of the Arab territory it occupies. Soon. He said, there will be no Arab lands to negotiate about.

"It's now up to Israel to make up its mind. Stand up to its responsibilities and accept the basis that the international community has accepted for a peaceful settlement," Mubarak said.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who returned territory to Egypt for a peace treaty in 1979, said today he would object to cutting a similar land-for-peace deal with Syria. **Golan Heights**

"The Golan Heights will always be part of Israel," said Begin, who resigned in 1983 and was succeeded by Israel's current Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir. After the meeting between Bak-

er and the Prime Minister, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy went into session to consider the US proposition. President Bush and Baker have not said how much of the and the

Arabs lost in the 1967 six-day war ought to be surrendered. Referring specifically to the Golan Heights, which Syrian President

Hafez Assad seeks as his price for · Continued on Page 2

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

British Rail spokesman Ian McMillen said the head-on colli-sion occurred 200 yards (180 me-tres) outside Newton Station, six miles (10 kms) southeast of Glas-

McMillen said it was not known if the men and woman killed were passengers or British Rail em-

A Strathclyde Ambulance Service spokesman said 22 people were injured in the crash. Three of the injured were hospitalised overnight but none was in serious condition, hospital workers said.

Fire chief James Coyle said rescue workers arrived at the station shortly after the two electric, pas senger trains crashed at about 10:10 p.m. (2110 GMT).

"Some people were screaming for help, and we knew we had to remove some of them quickly from the track-side because we were not sure if other traffic had been stopped yet. It was a scene of pandemonium," Coyle said.

Patrick McGuire, who lives near the station, said he heard "a noise

British Broadcasting Corporation radio reported that one of the trains, the Balloch to Motherwell service, could have been travelling at speeds up to 50 mph (80 kph) when it collided with the Newton to Glasgow train that had just pulled out of the station.

The BBC said the two trains had buckled "into a horrible mishmash of metal." - AP

More killings in Croatia

OHRID - 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.

The heads of the six Yugoslav republics, the eight-member State Presidency and top Government leaders headed for the southern lakeside resort of Ohrid to seek ways to end the crisis and keep the political system functioning. "We face a catastrophic situa-

tion in the country," State Presidency Member Vasila Tuprkovski told reporters in Ohrid.

But Serbian guerillas battled Croatian forces with heavy mortars and machineguns in two towns in Eastern Croatia as the meeting was due to start raising doubts that the politicians could control the vi-

A Croatian policeman was shot dead and three civilians were killed in attacks in and around the town of Vinkovci, 120 km (75 miles) northwest of Belgrade, police said.

"Five years have passed. My

term is ending. As we came, so

should we go," she said, ac-

knowledging her husband Ninoy Aquino, whose assassination in

1983 had sparked massive unrest

Aquino was propelled to the high

Riding a wave of sympathy

al told the Emir.

cleaner brings joy heart,"Schwarzkopf said. Retreating Iraqis set ablaze

smoke over parts of the Emirate. Schwarzkopf, 56, who is retiring

in the Emirate. British and American ground

next few weeks. The General has been widely praised by his Allies - both for the

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has received a number of greeting cables on the occasion of Renaissance Day. The cables were from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the U.A.E.; Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak; Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid

Al-Maktoum, U.A.E. Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai; Sheikh Khalifa bin Sultan Al-Khalifa, the Bahrain Prime Minister and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Crown Prince and Defence Minister of Qatar.

His Majesty also received congratulatory cables on the occasion from the members of U.A.E. Supreme Council, members of the Royal Family, President of the State Consultative Council, Ministers, Advis-

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 founda-

tions based on a rich legacy and cherished Omani traditions. Today, after 21 years, there is abundant evidence to demonstrate the beneficial affect of his rule progressive programmes for social and political reforms have been implemented; large-scale development projects dot the

country and the quality of the people's lives has risen considerably.

All this grew out of the visionary zeal of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, for whom the welfare of His people has always been close to his heart and who at all times can count on the love and enthusiasm of his people

Education is free up to the university level and graduates of Sultan Qaboos University are now joining the process of building Oman. Besides university education there is also technical education and voca-

tional training centres at various levels - intermediate, secondary, and college, with the specified aim of meeting the Omanisation needs of the coun-

The successive five-year development plans aimed at spreading development in all corners of Oman has brought in bountiful benefits. The 4th Five-Year Plan, which began this year aims at achieving a qualitative improvement in the fields of diversification of the economy in all

sectors for the benefit of the Omani people. Revenues from oil represent a large share of the national income and the leadership is now concentrating on the diversification process so that

the nation does not depend on one sole source The aim is to expand the agricultural and fisheries sectors as well as mining and light industries.

· Continued on Page 2

Stormin' Norman decorated by thankful Kuwait KUWAIT - Stormin Norman rights to his forthcoming auto-

Schwarzkopf, the burly US General who led the allies to victory against Iraq in Kuwait, was yesterday awarded the Emirate;s highest hon-

The Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, bestowed the gold and blue sash of the Distinguished Order of Kuwait on Schwarzkopf, whose 37-nation force drove Iraq's occupation armies from Kuwait at the end of February. "I must say I am very happy to

be here, particularly when I see how much brighter and how much better things have become in Kuwait since my last visit," the Gener-The last time I was here in

April and the skies were so very, very dark ... to come back ... and see it so much brighter and so much

about 600 oil wells as they fled from Kuwait. More than a third of the fires have now been extinguished, substantially reducing the thick, black clouds of oily

later this year, is in Kuwait to bid farewell to the 3,700 US troops still

forces are due to complete their withdrawal from Kuwait within the

generalship in devising the audacious plan to strike deep into the Iraqi desert and cut off Iraq's Republican Guard and for his desire to keep Allied casualties to a mini-

He is reputed to have sold the eigners. - Reuter/AP

Schwarzkopf was dressed in a tan camouflage uniform with desert Cornered by reporters after the ceremony, the General was evasive when asked about the residual

biography for five million dollars.

Kuwait is the third leg of a tour

Sheikh Jaber praised the Gener-

that earlier took Schwarzkopf to

Egypt and Saudi Arabia, two key

Arab allies in the war to end Iraq's

al for his "valiant actions" and "the

distinguished leadership with which

you have conducted your opera-

occupation.

threat from Iraq. Asked if more should be done to protect Kuwait, Schwarzkopf said: Kuwait's protected.'

Asked if more was needed to stop Saddam, he said it was up to President Bush and the United Nations. "They'll make the decisions, and whatever orders they're prepared to give after that, we're prepared to carry out," he said.

He later toured the US Embassy Kuwait City with Ambassador Edward Gnehm Jr. and was to visit the army base in Doha, north of Kuwait City, where the American troops are headquartered.

It was his third visit to Kuwait since liberation. On March 12, Schwarzkopf toured the city with the acting commander of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. He filled two small bottles with sand from Kuwait's beach, saying "we are very proud to be able to do this."

During his visit in April, he presented Gen. Jaber with the Legion of Merit, the highest military award the United States bestows on for-

seven area leaders, died in fighting on Saturday, they said.

to one term of six years.

As the President addressed a joint session of Congress, hundreds of protesters staged separate rallies in the capital, demanding her resignation and a rollback on domestic oil prices.

Aquino, choking back emotions, took pains to explain many before her six-year term ends next decisions which became unpopular with the people, saying she had made them in consideration of the highest national interest. 'As President, I have never

prayed for anything for myself, only for our people," said the wom-

an who rode into office on a wave

been called an international beggar by the military rebels. Begging does not become me, yet - perhaps - it is what I had to do," she de-Aquino, Commander-in-Chief

MANILA - About 1,000 supporters of the late President Ferdinand Marcos carry placards de-

manding the roll-back of prices of oil and resignation of President Aquino yesterday.

AQUINO'S TEAR-CHOKED STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS

'I have done my best for my people'

of the armed forces, placed the responsibility of assuring clean and honest elections next year with the military and the national police. "I hope that history will judge me as favourably as our people still regard me, because, as God is my

witness, I honestly did the best I

could. No more can be asked of

any one," the President said.

her valedictory as the terms of both the President and members of the House and Senate end in June Aquino defeated Marcos in the history Presidential election of February 1986, but under a special pro-

Her State-of-the-Nation address

to Congress was also meant to be

vision in the 1987 constitution, her term was extended to June 30, 1992, so that Presidential and Congressional terms would coincide.

She assured Congress yesterday that she will be around next year to preside at the traditional ceremony of a transfer of power from her to a

est post in the land with the backing of military rebels who mutinied against President Ferdinand Mar-The mutiny led to what was popularly called the "People Pow-

er" revolution. - DPA

against Marcos.

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 depolitisation of state bodies, the military and the KGB secret

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 move-

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

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**

Opening with Royal

Programme Preview.

Children Serial. Gulf Serial.

Family Doctor.

Anthem

10.20 10.35

11.50

Religion. Foreign Serial. Cultural Programme. "Daily Reports" Programme. News Summary Closedown with Royal Opening with Royal Anthem. Religion.

Programme Preview. Children Cartoons. Children Serial. Cultural Programme Film on Tourism in

Call for Maghreb Prayers. Gulf Serial. Children Programme.

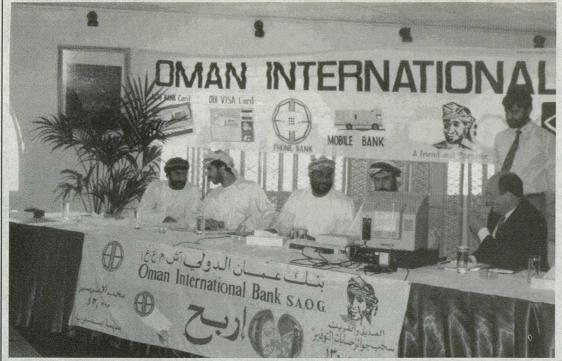
Classic Music. News in English. Documentary Film on Arabic Serial

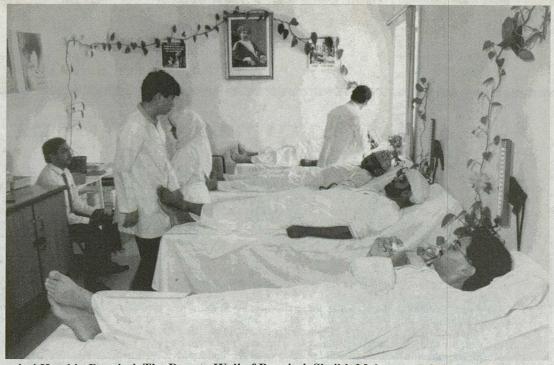
Sports World. Arabic Music. Main Newscast. "The March of Prosperity and Construction" A special programme on

Tomorrow's Programme Preview. Best Seller "The Judge"

Part I. News Summary. Koran. 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 Baloushi 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 invitees 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.

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

Mridangam

recital

Fifteen-year-old Nagulan Ne-siah will give a Mirudangam Aran-

getram (the oriental drum) on Thursday at 8.00 pm at the Darseit

Nagulan is a student of the Mir

udangam maestro Vidwan A. San-thanakrishnan. Other leading ar-

programme include Sangeetha Vid-

hushi Srimathi Padmini Ravi Jay

aram (vocal), Vidwan Sri R S

Krishnan (violin) and Vidwan Sri S

tistes participating in

Navaratnarajah (ghatam).

Temple Hall.

Plan to tackle oil well, effects on Oman

By A Staff Reporter

Senor 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 Environmental Development

The working plan involves ways of containing black rain, one 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, Electric ity and Water, the Interior, Health and Communication. The Deputy Assistant Inspector-General for Operations of the Royal Oman Police

and a representative from the Min-

istry of Defence also joined the dis-

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 s 100 million pounds (\$170 million) invested with BCCI, opposed the granting of a court or-

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. - Re-

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 coop-

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 dis-

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 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

"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

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

'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 conern that the United States is going o press Turkey into giving concesions (on Cyprus)," True Path party

Before he left, Bush reiterated warning to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, saying he must not re-Iraq a week ago. sume 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 southeastern frontier," Bush said.

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

U.S.-led forces set up a safety zone in northern Iraq in April to lure home refugees. The troops left

Bush said he would ask Congress for loans to finance the production near Ankara of 80 F-16 fighters out of 160 which Turkey wants to buy. An earlier order of 160 is half complete.

'A financing formula in part by the U.S. foreign military sales (FMS) and in part by Gulf sources s being considered," a senior Turkish defence industry official told

Turkey said last week Saudi Arabia had promised a gift of crude oil worth \$1 billion for the defence

It was the first contribution to a U.S.-proposed defence fund for Turkey to be supported by Gulf countries. -Reuter



George Bush: Successful Turkey tour

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 min-

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 noninterference 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 Ren-

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 delega-

tion 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 pattled with guns and home-made bombs yesterday at a college in the Bangladesh capital, injuring about 50 students, police and witnesses

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

Mystery shrouds death of Shanmugam

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

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 In-

vestigation Team (SIT). Though the preliminary postmortem 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 if Shanmugam 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 Ved-

aranyam 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 Shan-

mugam could have been done to death and then hung from a three 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 assassina-

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

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.

Shanmugam is reported to

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 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

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 in-

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, Ibri, Sur and Salalah. An institute for assistant pharmacists and another institute for public health, both in Muscat, will also be opened this year.

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 southeastern Turkish road, the Anatolian News Agency said yes-

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

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 southeastern 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 130 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. - Reuter

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 Mo-

no record that the century-old zoo ever has had jaguars

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 appar ently 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 pred-

rillas infiltrated into Israel's self-

designated security zone in South

Lebanon yesterday and showered

an outpost of Isreali-affiliated Leb-

anese militiamen with mortar fire

gion. Police said a casualty report

was not available and the affiliation

and number of the infiltrators was

anon Army position in the village

of Shwayya occurred just after

midnight (2100 GMT Sunday), po-

could not be determined.

lice said. The fate of the guerillas

lands, said they counted eight

60mm mortar rounds crashing into

the SLA position on the north-

eastern tip of the security zone.

Reporters, watching from high-

SLA artillerymen retaliated by

the Israelis-occupied enclave, the ending three years of occupation.

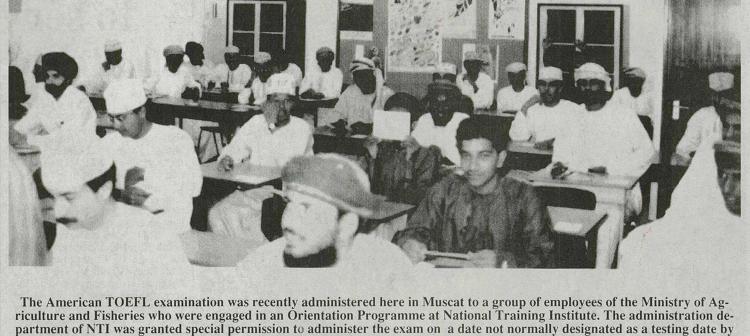
shelling the villages of Ein Ata and

El-Khilwat, six kilometres north of

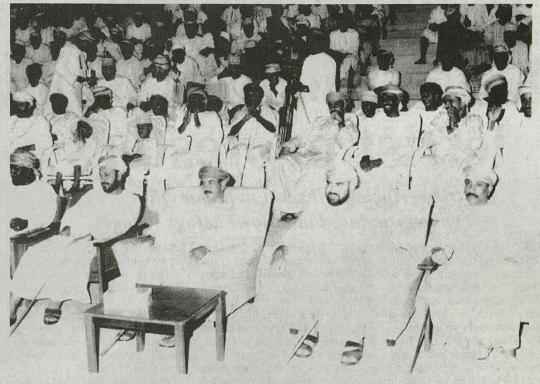
The attack on the South Leb-

not known.

amid heightening tension in the re-



Educational 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

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 air-craft contain US-made com-

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 USmade components can be sold to

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

Britain restored relations with Iran last September after an 18month 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 re-

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

are free and it has ended its support Aerospace deal will be a major blow to Iran Air, which has been for terrorism. seeking to rebuild and expand since the end of the 1980-88 war

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon and most are believed held by Shiite factions. The missing men comprise six

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 Is-

The airline is understood to

Iran Air tried last year to buy

have recently purchased five Boe-

ing airliners from unidentified

five or six Airbus jetliners built by

a France-based European con-

sortium. But that deal also fell foul

countries to avoid US sanctions.

airliners, including

lamic revolution.

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 Raf-

sanjani, the Iranian Government has been building bridges with the West and the republic's Arab neighbours to end the country's political

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's socalled pragmatists, has indicated that he wants to end the longrunning 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

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 Has-

'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 guerillas.

broad-based rule

Somali tribes far from

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

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

Ali Mahdi, a Siad Barre opponent who serves as Interim Presdent, 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' 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 imple mentation 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 ri-

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

MITSUBISHI

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," Cy-

prus 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 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

S. Lebanon guerillas attack

Israeli-affiliated militiamen

Israeli helicopter gunships hov-

ered overhead as the shelling was

under way. But the Israelis appar-

ently were not involved in the latest

two guerillas and two Lebanese ci-

vilians were killed in clashes be-

tween the pro-Iranian Shiite Mus-

lim Hezbollah, or Party of God,

killed, Israeli warplanes blasted

suspected Hezbollah outposts, on

dreds of families fled north last

week as Israel brought in re-

inforcements into the region to beef

up forward position in the south-

eastern region. Israel carved out the

440-square-mile zone in 1985,

when it withdrew the bulk of its in-

vading troops from South Lebanon,

Today, after the Israelis were

There were reports that hun-

and the Israelis and their allies.

the foothills of Mt. Hermon.

Last week, three Israeli soldiers,

unrest, the police added.

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.

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

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 settle-

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

is exactly what Turkey wants."

'We have to concentrate on the substance and not get carried away with discussing procedures which

the Mediterranean to the foothills

of Mt. Hermon, is manned by the

3,000-strong SLA and 1,500 Israeli

structured after 16 years of civil

war, began deploying in South

Lebanon on July 1 under an Arab

League-brokered pact designed to

ployed in inland villages where

guerillas of the Islamic Resistance.

a loose coalition of Shiite factions dominated by Hezbollah, are entrenched. The Government is lob-

bying for international pressure to

force Israel out of the region on the

grounds that its Army is gradually

restoring law to the volatile region.

pressed doubt that the Army, new-

y restructured after 16 years of

civil war, could control the region.

But Israeli officials have ex-

restore peace to the country. The troops have not yet de-

The Lebanese Army, newly re-

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 at-tempt 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 quarrells, 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, Mohammad Hamdi of APS and Adbou 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 Benkhed[^], the new Justice Minister, is a lawyer and former President of the Bar Association in the easter city of Con-

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hammed Hussein Amer said he has The jaguars were supposed to

Philippines police block thousands of leftist protesters

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

MANILA - Philippine riot po-e blocked off thousands of left-which were raised during the the 60 million Filipinos. ist protesters who were trying to march to the Congress Building in Manila where President Aquino was due to deliver her State of the Nation Address yesterday.

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

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

The strike was called to de-

UN opens road route

to Cambodia for first

time in 16 years

will transport emergency medical supplies to Phnom Penh from Thailand via a border road link, the world body announced in Bangkok yes-

"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

PoiPet is a small town on the Cambodian side of the Thai-

Cambodian border, 225 kilometres east of Bangkok, which was re-

cently 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 Cam-

lief supplies for Cambodia since 1975 and it will be accompanied by

This will be the first such shipment to Phnom Penh by road of re-

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

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. —

49 Vietnamese

boat people sail

into Japan's port

An official of the United Na-

tions High Commissioner for Ref-

ugees (UNHCR) said the group

brought to 1,125 the number of

boat people who had agreed to fly

back to Vietnam under a vol-

ing their country after March

1989 are required to prove they

are bona fide refugees of con-

better life abroad.

science who do not simply seek a

Another group of 131 Viet-namese 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

15,233 Vietnamese who are

screened under stringent U.N. cri-

teria to determine if they qualify

as refugees. — DPA/Reuter

Thailand is home to about

Vietnamese boat people flee-

untary repatriation programme.

TOKYO — A total of 49 Vietnamese aboard a small boat ar-

rived yesterday in Nagasaki Bay,

southern Japan from Da Nang,

central Vietnam, Maritime Safety

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 af-

Another group of 56 Vietnamese arrived by boat in Nag-

asaki on Saturday after sailing for

nearly two months. The Viet-

namese told officials that they

planned to settle in Japan.

REPATRIATION; A report from Banjkok meanwhile, said a

group of 134 Vietnamese boat

people returned home voluntarily

from Thailand yesterday after

failing for two years to win ref-

ugee status entitling them to re-

Agency officials said.

ter a medical inspection.

bodian factions declared a cease-fire last month.

two U.N. officials," said the U.N. statement.

BANGKOK — The United Nations, for the first time since 1975,

Gulf War but not reduced after the conflict ended and world pric-

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 af-

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

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 churchsanctioned 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

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 inter-

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

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

"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.

Vietnam and

China to

hold talks

nam are arranging a special meet-

ing to discuss the Cambodian

conflict and other issues that have

strained their relations, a Foreign

Ministry spokesman said yesterday. "In order to promote fur-

ther the improvements of re-

lations between the two countries

and to carry out exchanges of

views on problems of mutual concern, including the Cam-

bodian issue, Vietnam and China

are making arrangements for

meeting in the coming period," a

He had no details, he said.

Beijing has asked Vietnam to send a member of its Communist

Party Politburo and a Deputy For-

eign Minister to China, said a lo-

cal political source who asked not

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

Ministry spokesman said.

to be identified.

Cambodia. - Reuter



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.

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

SEOUL - The heaviest rains in 1942. slides that left more than 50 people dead or missing, officials said yes-

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 "Joongang Daily News", a national news-paper, reported that 43 people were killed and 23 others missing.

About 2,800 houses in lowlying 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

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 cable, the officials reported.

ing through waist-deep water in residential areas, carrying their belongings on their heads. Several cars were drifting in floods that flowed over bridges and embank-

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 Ansung, a section of 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

A large section of the city of Television showed people wad- 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 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 United States is offering nations in

the Asian-Pacific region a partneralities", a senior US official said at the start of the ASEAN (Association of South East Nations) conference of Foreign Ministers yes-The three pillars of the planned

US-Pacific ties

to serve 'new

strategic realities'

new security concept at the end of the Cold War era were Japan, South Korea and members of AS-EAN, 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

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

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

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

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 AS-EAN 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

Zoellick also said that the US, concerned about Burma as a drug source, plans to launch a joint antidrugs 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 in-telligence, extradition agreements and control over the flow of drugs money," Zoellick said.

The US official added that AS

EAN 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.

China's typhoon claims 84

BEIJING — A weekend ty-phoon 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 193,300 hectares of farmland, said Sunday's "Yangsheng Eve-ning 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 re-

fused yesterday to give updated information on casualities from It was the second typhoon to

hit southern China in a week. Typoon "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," re-tired Lieutanant-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 criticized the Pres-

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 year in power.— Reuter

(an apology) is the condition to see the President, we will not see him,' said Slamet Bratanata, the former Minister of Mines and a spokesman for the group.

The dissidents are currently

the country is not the issue. If this

waiting for Sadikin to be given an appointment with Parliamentary Speaker Khakis Suhud 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 peo-

ple forbidden to travel outside Indonesia after they signed the petition criticising Suharto 11 years Suharto's Government has re-

cently come under increasing attack as politicians prepare for presidential elections in 1993, when Suharto will be 72 and in his 27th

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 Mieprefecture,

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 damming report on local police conduct, the newspaers "We have not unearthed any such shady deal," Kazunori Watanabe, di-

rector of the Mie Prefectural Police Administration, told reporters yes-Watanabe is heading an investigation into police conduct in relation to

One of the pair met Japanese reporters on Sunday night and denied po-

lice 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

AFTER MORE THAN 45 YEARS IN VIETNAM

Japanese soldier goes home rillas to use automatic rifles

yesterday for the first time in more than 45 years.

ternational Airport to board a Vietnam Airlines flight.

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.

speaks only broken Japanese, said on Sunday he would spend 15 days in Japan, then return to was too difficult.

Vietnam it's easier to live," he Matsushima, known to family and

rived 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 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 com-

munists. 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 Viet-

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

and machine-guns. He left the guerilla movement in 1959 when he married his wife,

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

Minh City on July 18 to bring

him home. Matsushima's son-in-law, Luong

Japanese diplomats in Hanoi said last week that Matsushima

HO CHI MINH CITY — A Japanese soldier who deserted in Vietnam during World War II to fight with anti-Japanese Viet Minh guerillas left for home

aruyoshi 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 In-

They just waved goodbye.
The former soldier, who now

Vietnam because life in Japan 'It's very cold in Japan and it's hard to live in Japan. Here in

friends by his Vietnamese name, Le Ha Thanh, said he ar-

Vietnamese Communists.

Matsushima said he headed a Viet Minh platoon, with the rank of lieutenant, and taught the gueLe Thi Linh, he said.

They grow guava fruit on their small farm. His sisters arrived in Ho Chi

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.

would have no problems in Japan for having deserted.

India determined to combat illiteracy

source 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 in-

Two more held in Rajiv case

MADURAI — 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 Sun-

Meanwhile, the number of Sri Lankan Tamils taken into custody for failing to register their names with the police in the district have gone upto 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 to 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 he 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 con-

spiracy 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 Uttashi and Dr Akbar Ahtury in the fields of education, cul-

ture, 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 recongnised 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,"

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 foundermember, 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

SOUTH ASIA AND WORLD

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

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 Talsur, 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.

Move to decentralise education

committee to review the recommendations of the Ramamurti committee on education is likely to be drawn from the Central Ad-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 mplementation 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 adsteam ahead to ensure that at least one Navodaya school will be set up in the remaining districts of the

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 nonformal 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

also dissatisfied with the existing system of imparting adult literacy. Subsequently even the ministry had reservations about the efficacy of adult education centres and decided to phase them out. Instead it decided to adopt the campaign method for imparting literacy in the shortest possible span of time after whipping up a demand for it.

But Ramamurti panel was not as enthusiastic about it. It suggested that the Mahila Samakhya approach be tried out. Instead of starting with adult literacy, the start should be in creation of awareness for essential needs and from there worked backward for adult literacy.

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

the Ramamurti panel that the new committee will be able to look at impartially. Several other recommendations of general nature like removing sex bias in text books or giving a greater thrust for women's education and early childhood care and education should find acceptance.

The committee also recommended restructuring of the UGC and appointment of five full time members in addition to the chairman and vice-chairman. Right now the UGC is without a chairman. The government wants someone from humanities to head the august body.

If there is unanimity on any issue it is on the need for more funds

The CABE was reconstituted in October 1990 and its first meeting was held in March this year. Apart from representatives of state governments and elected members, the CABE has 30 nominated members representing various categories of

Tamil Nadu appeal to Supreme **Court on Cauvery dispute**

neeting 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, 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,

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.

on to the birth, crucifixion and res-

urrection of Christ. Each story

deals with a distinct period in his-

tory with different costumes and

customs sets are erected at loca-

be shot during the next 12 to 15

morrah are under construction at

Punnose's own studio, Novodaya,

year Ernakulam, the episode, in-

cluding the destruction of the cities

by heavenly fire, will be shot in

enacted by Kabir Bedi, and Radha

Seth plays Sara. The other prin-

cipal artistes are Raza Murad as

Noah and Shammi Kapoor as King

films in different languages under

the banner of "Udaya" and "Nav-

odaya" during his 45 years associa-

tion with the film industry.

Punnose has produced over 100

He has a number of "firsts" to

The role of Abraham has been

months of continuous filming.

The entire serial is expected to

The cities of Sodom and Go-

tions to suit each story.

August.

actions taken by the state govern ment in regard to the implementation of the interim award and extended support and cooperation to the Chief Minister to further pur-

sue her effort to enforce the order. Ms Jayalalthia 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 Ku-

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

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

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

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 add-

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. -

Muharrum

BOMBAY — Illuminated 'Sabils' have sprouted all over the city in commemoration of the tenth day 'Moharrum' - the first month of the Islamic year - which will be observed today in honour of the martyrs

The Sabils (decorated pandals with earthern jars of water kept alongside roads for thirsty passersby) are put up alongwith models of the battlefield in prominent spots to remember the agony of Hussain. UNI

equate resources. Mr Arjun Singh, child who also needs to be educathowever, has already announced

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.

UDF budget true to election manifesto TRIVANDRUM — The Karcourage rain-fed farming and pro-Joseph, Moses, Joshua and move

unakaran 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 Democractic Front's (UDF) election

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

mon 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-

duction 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 nondevelopment 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 byt he previous government was only Rs 522 million.

However, Opposition leader E 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 Gov-

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

scheme costing Rs ten billion bandied about in the Congress election manifesto, he said.

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

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 entire-

ly 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 par-

ticipated 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

tightening in the news industry and

the restless habits of George Bush

are changing the way reporters cov-

economic one, because as fewer

people travel on those planes the cost goes up," said Charles Bierbauer of Cable New Network,

President of the White House Cor-

the recession like everybody else,

fewer reporters are traveling with

And, with news bureaus hit by

On the flight to last week's ec-

onomic summit in London, about

150 reporters were aboard. Bob van

Eimerein of the White House travel

respondents Association.

"The problem is primarily an

er the presidency.

his credit-south India's first 70-mm movie "Padayottam" the first Malayalam cinemascope film "Thacholi Ambu" starring Sivaji Ganesan and India's first 3-D film "My Dear Kuttichathan" which was dubbed in four other languages.

'sabils'

who died in the battle of 'Karbala'

Ajit Singh for Dal executive meet

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

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 Vi-

explained how valid these appointments were, Mr Ajit Singh

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 de-bacle and demanded the latter's resignation.

to consider the implication of this letter and, among other things, decided to ask Mr Ajit Singh why he made it public.

seeking his explanation, but if and when he does, an appropriate rewould 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

issues raised by him. nobody sought Mr Bommai's resignation at the meeting of the Dal national executive early this

He said he had been raising

The PAC met twice on Sunday

Mr Ajit Singh said he had received no communication so far

his letter but had not answered the He said it was not a fact that

leadership might have discussed

month. "Mr Sharad Yadav delas Pawan, Mr George Fernandes manded his resignation".

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 ig-nored, 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 at the national executive meeting early this month was decided to call another meeting during this month itself to consider the changes in the party constitution in accordance with the recommendations of the Hegde Committee.

But 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 re-

action 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 surname Rajguru. — UNI

He was awarded the prestigious Padmashri in 1975 and the Padma Vibhushan award in 1990, besdies central and state academy awards. He was also awarded the honorary directorate by Karnataka Uni-

The ancestors of Dr Rajguru were the teachers in the court of Keladi Kingdom and hence the

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

the Sikh campaign for a separ-

ate nation called Khalistan, or

land of the pure. -Reuter

militant groups were increasingly being hired by peooffice said there have been up to 250 on similar trips in the past. ple in the prosperous ag-"I think that any number of ricultural state to settle news organisations are looking at personal scores and land dis-White House charter bills with a jaundiced eye," said George Wat-More than 3,200 people son, Washington Bureau chief for have been killed this year in

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.

Cash-strapped media

selective on Bush's trips

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

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

"We have scaled back," said Bruce Drake, senior news editor at National Public radio. "It's a commore trips and a decent percentage of the trips not promising heavy

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 as 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 to me to save money by traveling less. However...some of it is wasted, people flying hither and you 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 Afrikaaners eat their words

s 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 oxwagons traipsing round this country to commemorate the Great Trek, one despatched by the government, one by the hard-line Conservative

This is country where the politics of sport has been regular frontpage 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

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 Eng-

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

Perhaps the most embarrassing example is that of the HF Verwoerd building at the University of Stellenbosch, where Verowerd 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, nor 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 nunger 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 can-

The Centre won't hold

he 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

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 in-

dependence 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 pol-

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

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

That is the case in Yugoslavia. The federal Prime Minister, Ante Markovic, introduced radical economic reforms and established a noncommunist 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?

developing art work, 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 traditonalists, 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 sixyear-old child.

How is it that this child is able to produce an "artistic" impression - forgrounding 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 repre-

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 curriculam, 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 addthe head, eyes, wings and

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 ap-

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 unquestioned assumption that selfexpression is everything, particularly at the primary stage. She is not the only one. A re-

cent report by Her Majesty's Inspectors found the teaching of art to be poor in one third of our primary schools. And in its interim report earlier this year, the national curriculum working group on art pointed out that "traditonal

preoccupations in many schools.....have encouraged an uncritical reliance on creative self-expression' ... insufficient attention has been given to the progressive development of key

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

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

They seem not to mind if their drawing are discouraged by wellmeaning 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

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.

of their pictures.

But by the time they reach nine or 10, most children become conscious of the shortcomings of their represetations - 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

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

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

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

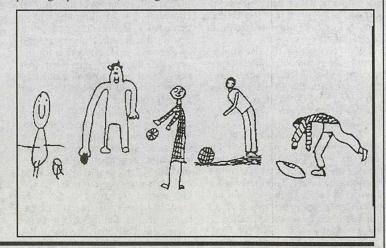
Copying the drawings of others affords youngsters some personal satisfaction, for it is easier to copy from two dimensions than from life, and allows for discussion of exactly how professional artists cope with the various problems, of light, perspective and movement, and of translating three dimensions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

Some art teachers favour the use of viewing grids to help pupils with the problems of per-

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 or-

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



Ghost-buster with a magic touch

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 dowsers. 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 ex-

pected. 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 Over the years Randi came to realise that although outright fraud

Steve Connor talks to James Randi, scourge of miracle fakers

anormalists.

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 Csic-- the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

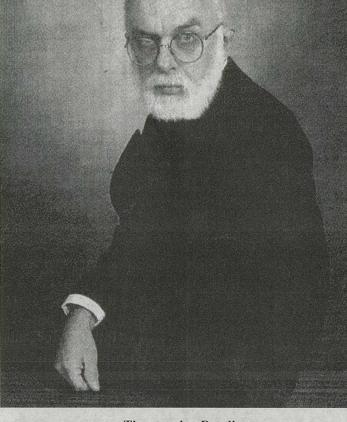
Randi is bemused by the accolades. "It's a little embarrassing," he says, "because I keep asking myself why a professional conjurer without any sort of college degree is advising scientists on how not to deceive themselves. That's what it's all about self-deception.'

The perfoming magician be-

and trickery on the scale of the Piltdown 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" re-

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 re-

action 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

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 apsychology at Edinburgh University, who is also in the business of explaining the explicable, believes Randi's activities serve a

indications pointed in the same di-

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 paranormalists 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 "Cimes" archives July 1975

GOODS IMPORT

As per statistics released by the Directorate of Customs the total imports into the country during amounted to 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 bag-

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 secondhand 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 ofinterest to Oman and the respective countries were discussed.

NATURAL GAS FOR DO-**MESTIC 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 & Acet-

OIGC is producing 1750 cuft per hour oxygen & 1000 cuft/hour

Between

deadlines

Millions of people are hooked to reading the horoscope. For-

mer 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

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

husband a piece of advice.

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.

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

n 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 crystalgazers. 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 incharge of the page would just recycle previous pieces. nd there was one avid Dixon

quire if America's most celebrated fortune-teller had a failing memory. The caller complained her horoscopereading for that day was identical to last week's. he amused editor promptly told

follower who phoned in to in-

him: "Madam, maybe there has been not much movement in the sky these days."

he poor who can't afford a newspaper rely on the neighbourhood palm-reader for a quick look on what's beyond.

here'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

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

Llama mascot

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

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.

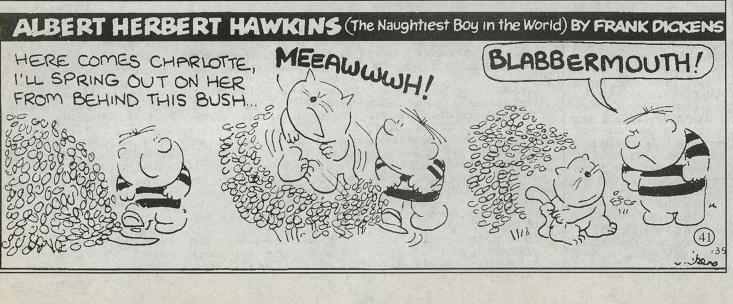
Caveman style

Dangerous meal Ten of the world's most danger-ous snails have been seized at Syd-

ney 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 profilic 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

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.

they carry a lung worm parasite."



Business Times (شرم ع: ع) NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN LIMITED (S.A.O.G) NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN LIMITED (S.A.O.G) Head Office P.O. Box 3751 Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman Tel: 708894, Fax: 707781, Telex: 3281 NBO ON, Cable: NATBANK

Times of Oman, Tuesday, July 23, 1991

Nomura Chairman, Vice-Chairman quit

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.

Nomura's Chairman, Setsuya Tabuchi, and Vice Chairman, Yoshihisa Tabuchi, announced their resignations at a news conference and were demoted to the status of advisers, the company said. The

"The post of adviser is chiefly an honorary one without voting rights," a Nomura spokesman said. "It's virtually the same thing as re-

In the scandal, Nomura admitted compensating major customers for billions of yens in market losses and having had financial dealings with an organised crime

Yoshihisa Tabuchi had been Nomura's President until he resigned on June 24 after the scandal was first disclosed. He then became

mixed in Asia yesterday, while the

dollar closed higher after a choppy

market dwindled to its thinnest lev-

el in almost seven years. A lack of

positive factors and the continuing

brokerage scandals pushed in-

vestors to the sidelines. The 225-

share Nikkei average ended down

more than 160 points at 22,705.29,

"Investors are not moving at all," said Tadashi Kawakami of

Merrill Lynch Japan. "Until we see

some hope for an end to the scan-

dals, the market will remain in a

admitted vesterday it had com-

pensated favoured customers for in-

that 17 other small and medium

sized brokerages were suspected of

ended firmer after making up for

early losses in choppy, position-

itially pushed the dollar to 1.7425

marks, the lowest level in Tokyo

since June 5. The US unit was later

Raysut Industrial Estate Project

1. List of Tenderers in alphabetical or-

1) Consolidated Contractors Co. Oman

2) Galfar Eng'g & Contracting LLC
3) General Enterprises Co.
4) Hamdan Trading Group.
5) Hydromatic Construction Co. LLC.

boosted on short-covering and against \$370.25 stop-loss buying, closing at 136.65 Friday. - Reuter

Overseas speculative selling in-

A Japanese newspaper reported

On the currency front, the dollar

Japan's fifth largest brokerage

Volume on the Tokyo stock

Tokyo session.

its day's low.

correction mode

vestment losses.

driven trade.

Opened on 13.5.1991 TENDER NO. 24/91

7) Regret 8) Regret

Opened on 20.5,1991

TENDER NO. 29/91

Supply of Vehicles & Refuse Collection Equipment

1. List of Tenderers in alphabetical or-

686,900/-

No Total

No Total

1) C.Jayant and Company

Suhail and Saud Bahwan
 Tech-Care Electronics

1. List of Tenderers in alphabetical or-

Opened on: 20/5/1991 TENDER NO. 30/91

covering clients' losses.

Tokyo stocks slide,

dollar moves up

spoke on condition of anonymity, said the new resignations responded to continuing criticism of the company

'Criticism of the company has been heavy, with many people saying that we haven't done enough to take responsibility," he said.

In addition to Yoshihisa Tabuchi's earlier resignation as President, Nomura and three other large brokerages linked to the scandal -Nikko, Daiwa and Yamaichi Securities - were directed by the Finance Ministry to restrict business activities for four days.

On Sunday, news reports said at least 18 other small and mediumsize brokerages also compensated favoured clients for their stock

The practice is not illegal, but violated a 1989 administrative directive from the Finance Ministry. It also infuriated investors who were not compensated.

Nomura said Yukio Aida, a special adviser, would become honorary chairman. The positions of

yen and 1.7522 marks against New York's 136.40 and 1.7475 on Fri-

three-week slumber, soaring to 11-

month highs. Hopes of a further cut

in interest rates sent the All Or-

dinaries index up nearly 20 points

to 1570.3, its highest since August

Fraser said on Friday there was

scope for an easing in monetary

sisted in Taiwan. The weighted in-

dex plunged nearly five per cent to

end at 4,895.84 as nervous in-

vestors continued on Saturday's

Hong Kong stocks were lower. The blue-chip Hang Seng index closed at 3,988.35, down from a

record high of 4,009.35 on Friday.

In Singapore, the Key Straits Times industrial index rose more than 20 points on a technical cor-

rection to end midday at 1,475.98.

the Far East. North Sea Brent crude

for September delivery was quoted

at \$20.20 per barrel, little changed

\$370.55 per ounce in late trade

against \$370.25 in New York on

Tenders — the company bids

Rials Omani

402 123 000

) Waleed Associates

from New York levels on Friday.

Spot crude prices were steady in

Gold bullion was quoted at

Reserve Bank Governor Bernie

Lack of investor interest per-

10 last year.

Australian shares awoke from a

would be left unfilled for the time being, it said.

At his news conference vesterday, Setsuya Tabuchi said Nomura had completed its own investigation into the scandal.

Tabuchi said he did not an ticipate being called to testify before Parliament at planned hearings on the stock market scandal.

News reports had speculated that Yoshihisa Tabuchi would reveal details about Nomura's compensation payments to major clients if summoned by Parliament and might provide information that would embarrass both major corporations and the Finance Min-

But the governing Liberal Democratic Party last week refused an opposition demand that securities company officials be called to tes-

Tabuchi said Aida was chosen as honorary chairman because of his strong international background and high ethical standards. - AP

New executive

vice-president

for Gulf Air

Mr. Abdulla Al Mulla joined Gulf

Mr. Al Mulla, who has a B.A. in

Air on June 1, 1991 as Executive

Business Administration from Cairo

University and a Masters degree in fi-

nance obtained from Websters Uni-

versity, Geneva, was previously Di-

rector of Banking and Currency Issue

"Gulf Air was the first attempt a

cooperation by G.C.C. countries and

it has been successful" said Mr. Al

Mulla, who feels that citizens of the

four owner states of Bahrain, Oman,

Oatar and the United Arab Emirates

should take justified pride in their Na-

tional Airline. Mr. Al Mulla is en-

joying the challenge offered by his

new position. Married with a 1 year

old son, Ali, he feels that Bahrain wil

be a pleasant place to live and plans

to bring his family to join him soon.

at the Qatari Monetary Agency.

Vice President, Support Services.

come is little more than \$500. Probosutedjo, a prominent busi-nessman, urged ethnic Chinese, who control most of Indonesia's major private companies, to mix with the rest of society and to be loyal to the

Some economists have said the appeal effectively amounts to charity for the country's thousands of argely inefficient cooperatives.

Under the scheme, companies eratives to buy their shares and the dividends would be used for re-

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 to-

The other proposals are a cut in defence expenditure in real terms and a modified scheme of subsidies for the food and fertiliser sectors, "The Economic Times" reported yesterday.

It said the special incentive package for NRIs would aim at encouraging investments from them in India in new ventures and also in existing Indian companies.

New schemes are understood to have been worked out to enable investment by NRIs in large Indian companies, the Daily said. The norms for portfolio investments by NRIs are also being relaxed. At present, an NRI can invest only up to five per cent of the total equity of an existing Indian company.

Another likely measure aimed at non-resident Indians is to allow import of gold by them on payment of customs duty. There is considerable opposition to this proposal on the ground that allowing import of gold by NRIs will make it virtually impossible for the law enforcement agencies to nab gold smugglers. However, the finance ministry has pressed for allowing the import of gold by NRIs on payment of customs duty as they think it will make gold easily available within the country, curb smuggling and also contribute some revenue

to the government. The Daily said the extent of duty on such imports will depend on the difference between international and domestic prices of

working to remove impediments in the way of non-resident Indian (NRI) investment in housing in India, according to the 'Financial Ex-

The federal department of economic affairs has set a target of selling 10,000 houses to NRIs in order to realise \$1 billion of in-

A major proposal to this end is to involve Indian banks in the US, Europe and the Middle East to market housing projects of the builders in India and to receive deposits from NRIs to buy real estate back

The Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Reserve Bank of India are also considering the proposal to give exemption from wealth tax and first-time gift tax to these investments, the Daily said.

The government is considering making land available for NRI housing. The federal urban de velopment ministry expects the land requirement to be over 250-300 acres spread over 15 cities.

According to financial experts though the scheme is being given importance by the government in the light of the tremendous resource crunch faced by the country, some crucial decisions remainmostly relating to giving concessions to NRIs and the builders.

While NRIs are willing to invest an average of \$60,000 to acquire a residential property in India they demand that they not be taxed under certain provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Another impediment to be resolved is the builders demand that foreign exchange to the extent of 10 per cent of the sale price of the house be released to enable them to import fixtures and to finance other The federal government is aspects of constructions.—UNI

Uneven US economic recovery forecast

Courtesy: National Bank of Oman Limited (S.A.O.G), July 22, 1991

Exchange rates

Buving

0.03114

0.01070

0.01059

0.3319

0.0735

0.794

0.05667

0.2190

0.1944

0.0495

0.06440

0.014810

0.000294

0.002804

0.560

0.1360

0.05618

0.2169

0.01555

0.648

0.1052

0.1021

0.2191

0.00960

0.6060

0.2531

0.1043

Omani Rial per one

Selling

0.3021

0.03173

0.01110

1.027

0.01081

0.3358

0.0753

0.809

0.05759

0.2222

0.1969

0.06535

0.0504

0.01521

0.00030

0.002845

0.569

0.1403

0.05718

0.2214

0.01590

0.657

0.1063

0.1032 0.2223

0.01000

0.06162

0.2571

0.1054

unit of foreign currency

Foreign currency

92.51

2.98

13.28

1.24

5.08

19.84

3322.00

352.00

4.52

62.89

1.52

9.41

9.69

4.50

9.48

100.00

per one Omani Rial

Currency

Australian Dollar

Austrian Schilling

Bangladesh Taka

Bahraini Dinar

Belgian Franc

Cyprus Pound

Danish Kroner

Deutsche Mark

Dutch Guilder

French Franc

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen

Jordanian Dinar

Malaysian Ring

Pakistan Rupee

Pound Sterling

Singapore Dollar

Sri Lanka Rupee

Swedish Kroner

Qatari Riyal

Saudi Rial

Swiss Franc

UAE Dirham

US Dollar

Norwegian Kroner

New Zealand Dollar

Italian Lira

Hong Kong Dollar

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Renminbi

WASHINGTON - Despite a now is the strongest region, at least consensus that the recession has ended, economists say some areas of the United States will continue to stagger while others bounce

"The recovery is going to be as varied as the recession was," said Mr. Mark Zandi of Regional Financial Associates, a West Chester, economic forecasting firm.

The Administration of President Bush and most private analysts believe the national recession ended sometime during the April-June quarter. Still, just as some areas escaped the downturn entirely, other regions will see their economies continue to shrink.

Michael Boskin, chairman of Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, told a recent White House news conference:

"I think it is crucial to point out that there is a wide variety of differences across regions and industries, and the recovery will not occur at the same time and at the same pace in different parts of the country and in different industries

Some industries are still contracting, while others grew during

the recession, Boskin said. The manufacturing sector, for instance, is showing signs of recovering and will boost the econ-

omies where it is located. Commercial real estate, on the other hand, is overbuilt in many areas and will curb economic growth in those regions, possibly for years.

Despite the apparent economic recovery nationally, Zandi said last week. "the mid-Atlantic states from Maine to Virginia are still mired in recession. They entered the recession first and will emerge

On the other hand, some areas such as the southwest "never really had a recession," Zandi said, "The southwest went through its recession in the mid-1980s after the oil collapse. The oil and financial sectors have restructured since then. And it's likely that part of the country will experience stronger

growth into 1992. Zandi said the farm belt "right

as measured by employment. "It went through its turbulent times in the late '80s,' when the value of farm land plunged and

many farmers were thrown out of Other areas of industrial midwest are also "starting to see some strength, primarily due to a large

manufacturing base," Zandi said. He pointed to improvements in the automobile industry and noted that overseas demand for manufactured goods remains strong. Indeed, exports were one of the

few signs of strength along the East

The Fed's Beige Book reported that representatives at the ports of Baltimore, Charleston and Hampton Roads (Norfolk) indicated that exports were rising and were expected to increase faster than imports over the next six months.

But a big question mark is California, which represents about 12 per cent of the US economy, Zandi said. The state's problems include "a slumping entertainment industry, cutbacks in defence spending and a whole slew of quality-oflife questions causing people to move," the analysts added. - AP

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

Gold dropped 30 cents to \$370.40 in ounce and oil rose slightly to \$20.19 a barrel for the September futures contract for internationally traded Brent blend crude oil.

The dollar hit 1.7590 marks and 136.84 yen after closing at 1.7510 and 136.65 on Friday. Dealers said they expected the U.S. currency to move in small ranges due to the lack of U.S. economic indicators to give it direction.

"People have been trading the downside for a week now, it is time to shift sides," said one trader.

Remarks by Bundesbank president-designate Helmut Schlesinger on Sunday saying the German Central Bank preferred a dollar/mark rate of 1.78 instead of 1.84, confirmed market sentiment.

"It appears as though Schlesinger has no problem with a dollar at 1.78," said another trader.

European stock markets followed Tokyo's lead and opened lower. the 225-share Nikkei average fell 161.07 to 2,2705.29 after Wall Street ended unchanged on

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares slipped 0.8 points to

2,540.7 in early trading. British June retail sales and trade figures are due to be released but traders do not expect the num-

bers of have much influence on the market. The bourse was also quiet in Paris where the CAC-40 index

dropped 8.82 points to 1,754.72. The only news likely to affect the market is a possible easing of interest rates by the Bank of France at a money market tender later in the day. But most dealers doubted it would happen. "There's nothing going on," is

how one German trader summed up activity on Frankfurt's 30-share Dax index which fell 6.83 points to 1.617.16.

"It is going to be a dull bourse today," said another deal-er."There's no selling pressure, but no one is interested in buying." -

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.

'We don't want to commit robbery, though if we wanted to it would be easy," the official Antara News Agency yesterday quoted the President as saying.

The government would use the law if businessmen did not voluntarily transfer the shares, Suharto said. He first made the demand in a speech to the nation in January,

Suharto told companies to distribute up to 25 per cent of their shares to cooperatives. Many have handed over barely one per cent.

Many economists have attacked the scheme as impractical and see it as a political sop to counter criticism that the fruits of a fastgrowing economy have yet to work their way down to most of the population.

In a weekend interview, Suharto's half-brother Probosutedjo laid the blame on the country's ethnic Chinese, an economically powerful minority, for preventing the spread of wealth of the indigenous masses whose average annual in-

interest of the nation, not just to

would lend the money to cooppayment. -Reuter

Computer firms for Taiwan trade show

munications industry, will be strongly represented at the Taiwan National Products Exhibition next

This rapidly developing sector, one of the high growth export industries of the country, experienced a 13.9 per cent increase during 1990 and seems set to go even higher as the market remains buoyant.

In a recent report tabled in Business Taiwan", is stated that Taiwan manufacturers are currently producing more than one-third of the world's PC's and Taiwan's Market Intelligence Centre (MIC) of the Institute for Information Industry estimates that the island's market share in the world of newly developed 80486 computer chips is expected to account for 58.7 per cent of global production, a figure that is up by 22 per cent from last year. "From this we can see that local makers have no trouble catching up with the newest trends," said Lee Fu-Pang, MIC's industry an-

The exhibition, at the Dubai World Trade Centre from August 25 to 29, 1991, has already attracted more than 100 companies from the Republic of China, displaying a diverse range of products sentatives of the information and communications industry. A major objective of the par-

ticipating companies is to meet businessmen from the Middle East and begin discussions that will result in the establishment of trading One such company, Elitegroup Computer Systems Co., is one of

Taiwan's largest PC mainboard manufacturers, and according to the trade journal "PC Week", the 9th largest manufacturing company in the Taiwan information in-For this company, recently

named "the fastest growing company in the Taiwan information industry" by 'PC World', and recording total sales revenues of \$133 million in 1990 and with subsidiaries in the US, Germany, UK, Canada, Singapore and Japan, the Middle East presents enormous potential for trade. Elitegroup will be displaying a variety of their products and latest technology in an effort to test the waters of the Middle East markets, assess the feasibility of establishing a subsidiary in the

Jofforts Computer Industrial Co Ltd, is another computer company who will be exhibiting, and intro-

chines and PCB assembly products. Jofforts are dedicated manufacturers of computer systems, telecommunication and electronic assembly products, and are interested in locating distributors in each of the Gulf countries. In the same vein, Datatech En-

terprises, a company with broad product lines from computer systems barebones, mother-boards, add-on cards and switching power oplies, and annual sales toppling US \$190 million, is looking to add the Middle East to their existing international export network. Repre sentatives from Datatech are coming to Dubai next month specifically to meet businessmen from each of the Gulf countries.

A spokesperson for the organisers of the exhibition, Taiwan Sherick Corporation, reported that they have been receiving many enquiries from Gulf businessmen. wishing to make contact with these Taiwan companies, and establish a trading partnership in the Republic of China The Taiwan National Products

exhibition is the first of its kind in the region, aimed at displaying the wealth of industry, products and services from the Republic of Chi-

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.

Schlesinger, named to succeed outgoing central banker Karl Otto Poehl on August 1, told Deutschlandfunk Radio he expected "a certain slowdown" in German economic growth in 1991. He was optimistic that the Central Bank could reach its target of lowering the inflation rate next year, he

On the Soviet economic crisis, Schlesinger said these problems were "not unsolvable." The difficulties had started only in the latest phase of the Soviet economic reforms.

gotiations would be opened on government and private loans to the Soviet Union. But this was not an issue that

since Moscow needed \$12 billion in cash until the end of this year to ensure its liquidity and was saddled with a total debt of \$65

plement a tough economic reform programme, are ready to stop funds to the nation before its first multiparty election in two decades, Western diplomats say. But Bank of Zambia governor Jacques Bussieres said the country

there and everything must be the same way. The important thing is to have the willpower and the ca-

fort to control finance and keep the programme on track. I'm sure donors will acknowledge that."

ger to extend his 27 years in power in October elections, angered financial institutions in May by saymaize, for six months.

cerned, this is the end of the road," a diplomat said.

Aid donors insist Zambia cut

the subsidy by five to 10 per cent a month if it wants more balance of payments support.

Two previous attempts to raise maize meal prices have led to bloody anti-government riots. Zambia has reneged on two International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes since 1985 and this plan is seen as its last chance for international funding. "There are millions of people

starving elsewhere in Africa and our aid is also needed in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Why should we wait forever while the Zambians mess us around?" said one diplomat representing a donor nation. Economists said the unfunded domestic budget deficit was at 11 billion kwacha (\$145 million). Keeping the maize meal subsidy until the end of 1991 would cost six billion kwacha (\$78 million). Zambian inflation is about 100 per cent.

This week's measures are believed to include better tax collection and a new stance on maize meal subsidies. But diplomats and economists doubt whether Kaunda's cabinet has developed a successful plan for Finance Minister Rabson Chongo to take to Paris.

Zambia normally gets its for-

LUSAKA - Aid donors, furious with Zambia for failing to im-

has devised emergency measures to appease donors at an informal "Economic reform is not like a piece of music where every note is

pacity to take corrective measures. That is what the government has been doing," Bussieres said.

President Kenneth Kaunda, ea-

ing he would delay subsidy cuts on the country's food staple, "As far as donors are con-

eign reserve from copper and donor inflows. Strikes in April sharp ly cut copper output. Industry sources said expected 1991 production has dropped from 445,000 to 400,000 tonnes

Zambia's foreign debt is over billion. With a population of nearly eight million, this gives the country the highest per capita debt in the developing world. It paid off arrears to the IMF

and World Bank before meeting donors in March, but is now back in arrears with both institutions. Last Monday it made a pay

ment of \$7 million to the bank 44 days late, only just avoiding penalties imposed on arrears of 45 days and cut-off at 60 days. It still owes the bank \$13 million in ar-The combination of all these

factors has made the situation a bit tight. But we have paid the arrears that were due in order to avoid being in the bad grace of the World Bank last week and we will be making another payment this week," Bussieres, a Canadian, said.

He blamed suspicious donors, who have gone slow on promised payments since March, for compounding Zambia's problems.

4) Main Offer. 6) J & P (Oman) LLC. 610,530,000 7) Shanfari and Partners Co. LLC. Alt. Offer..... 757,800.000 8) Yahya Costain LLC 11. List of tender amount in ascending 11. 139,056,420 REGRET 12. 161,988.810. Opened on: 29/4/91 Tender No. 27/91 13. 219,106.850. Rials Omani Bundesbank Opened on 1/4/1991 Al Khadra bin Daffa Flood Protection Tender No. 22/91. Works Supply of Medicine I. List of tenders in alphabetica order: expects lower 3) 4.069.543.000 I. List of tenders in Alphabetical order: 5) 4,294,249,764 6) 4,300, 845.719 inflation

 Al Nahdha Al Omaniah Co.
 Bogest Trading & Contg. Co. LLC. 3) Consolidated Contractors Co. Oman. 4) Desert Line Projects LLC. 5) Galfar Engineering & Contracting

6) Shanfari Trading & Contracting Co. II. List of Tender Amount in ascending

Rials Omani

 Al Fairuz Trading & Contracting Co.
 Al Hashar & Co. 1) 569,547.091 2) An Hashian Eng'g Services LLC. 4) Bahwan Eng'g Co. LLC 5) European Motors LLC. (Zubair Auto-3) 594.824.297 4) 661,299.015 5) 687,397.924 6) Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. 6) 716,134,837 7) Oasis Trading & Equipment 3) Shanfari Automotive Co. LLC. Regret 8) Regret 9) Suhail & Saud Bahwan Opened on: 30/4/91 10) Wattayah Motors LLC. 11) Wilayat Co. Ltd. Tender No. 28/91 Dy. Wali's Office & House at Mahoot 12) Zawawi Trading Co.

List of Tenderers and their Tender II List of tender amount in ascending 1) Al Fahal Contg. Co. Rials Omani R.O. 425,000,000 34.528/ 2) Al Mubarak Contg. Co. 67,980/-R.O. 436,266.850 Opened on 8/4/91 132,000/-406,564/-359,464/-Supply of Surgical Items 575,000/-641,035/-

I. List of tenderers in alphabetical or-1. Al-Khuwair Pharmacy. 2. Ebin Rushed Pharmacy 3. Hassan Haider Darwish 4. Ibn Sina Pharmacy.

5. Industrial Management Technology & Contracting.
6. Mazoon Pharmacy. Refurbishment of Sultanate of Omar

11. Omani Drug House

13. Waleed Pharmacy

 Muscat Pharmacy.
 Mustafa & Jawad Trading Co. . Muttrah Pharmacy. 10. National Pharmacy

5) Volt Electrical and Mechanical Con-II. List of tender amount in ascending 3. 58,953.400 4. 59,180.175

6. 100.075.100 7. 100,654.420 115,287.520 9, 127, 447, 100

Al Farabi Pharmacy.

. Al Hashar Pharmacy 3. Al-Razi Pharmacy. 4. Ebin Rushed Pharmacy Opened on 1/4/1991. Tender No. 22/91. Supply of Medicine I. List of tenders in alphabetica order:

Al Farabi Pharmacy Al Hashar Pharmacy. Al-Razi Pharmacy.
 Ebin Rushed Pharmacy. . Ibn Sina Pharmacy. Mazoon Pharmacy Muscat Pharmacy Muttrah Pharmacy

3, 23,440,000

37,706.000

48.009.450

80,704,000

117,850.000

9. 124,670.900. 10. 205,277.470

11. 241,849.740

12, 244, 118, 850

Opened on 8/4/1991

der:
1. Al Khaleej Garments.

2. Al Khalid General Trading.

6. 57,541.465

9. National Pharmacy 10. Oman Drug House. 11. Oriental Drug Stores LLC United Drug Stores LLC. 13. Waleed Pharmacy II. List of tender amount in ascending

Supply of Staff Uniform for the Min-

I. List of tenderers in alphabetical or

3. Al Salam Trading Stores.4. Bahajjaj General Trading & Contract

He said it was likely that ne-

concerned the Germans alone billion. —DPA

Aid donors set to stop funds to Zambia

meeting in Paris today.

"Zambia has made a major ef-

BEIJING — The cost of living moving toward a new boom. He 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 de velopment.

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 spokes 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

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

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

OMAN FLOUR MILLS

BANKS & INVEST. COS. SEC

OMAN NAT INS CO

SERVICES SECTOR
GULF HOTELS (OMAN)

OMAN HTIS CO LA

MDRN PLTRY FARM

NATIONAL ELECTRI

OMAN FISHERIES C

SWEETS OF OMAN

OMAN TXTL MILL

OMAN ORG FRT CHM

AL AMAL INDUSTRIES

OMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT UNITS - FIRST ISSUE 1991

NAT CO FOOD PRODS 50

ALKHUWAIR DEV BVC 504

said state investment in industry was up 21 per cent over the same

most exactly the national target.

the first half of the year over the

first half of 1990, and attributed

the big jump in living costs to in-

creased prices for services such as

about 200 billion yuan (\$ 37.7

billion) worth of finished prod-

ucts at the end of May, he said, about 80 billion yuan (\$ 15 bil-

lion) of which had no buyer. The

government does not slow or halt

production of goods in low de-

mand because it would create un-

employment, which is politically

factories to shift production to

new items and improve product

quality, but many of state fac-

tories are too large and poorly

managed to adapt to market con-

faster than the economy, contrib-

uting to inflationary pressure.

Zhang said urban per capita in-

come 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

Muscat Securities

TRADING CHART FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 1991

6.250

6.230

6.250

6.250

2.860

2.600

1.340

37440

1350

270

1272

1200

25036

1494

25468

1.250

3.460

1.200

Incomes continued to increase

The government has urged

The nation's warehouses held

over June 1990.

At the same time, Zhang said

North America due to the recession period last year, industrial output increased 13.4 per cent and retail in the United States, a survey by a leading economic newspaper said yesterday. sales increased nearly 13 per cent. A survey by the national 'Nihon He put overall economic growth at 6.1 per cent, hitting al-

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 the cost of living in June in 35 equipment and plant investments for the Japanese fiscal year 1991, be-ginning April 1 and ending March 31, 1992. The drop follows a 2.6 demajor cities was 10.9 per cent He said retail sales prices rose an average of just 1.8 per cent in

cline in fiscal 1990, it said.

Japanese firms

cut capital

spending in

North America

TOKYO - Japanese firms are

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 ven'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

\$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 east-

ern China. Mr. William Purves, Chairman of Hongkong Bank, and Sir Q. 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.'

1.450

2.220

5.210

1.080

5.340

2.300

3-350

5.320

13

5.150

1.020

OMAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Trade surplus exceeds RO 1 billion

With the export of crude oil in cutting back on capital spending in the Sultanate starting in 1967 the country's international trade picture witnessed both a transformation and expansion, although t 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 twenty 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 pe-

In 1979, 1980 and 1981 the

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 exreeded RO one billion. Oil prices had risen up considerably during the second half of the year follows. lowing 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 percent

its weight has comparatively declined, largely due to the appreciable growth witnessed in nonoil 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, exportables 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 RO68.9 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 equip-

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,

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

their profits and or any other forms of funds abroad nor are the na tionals 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 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 RC 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 posi tion (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 ha 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 occured 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 to 1984: the highest being RC 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

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

Plant Reopens The Kelvinator (India) plant here re-opened on Thursday after a 58-day lockout after the management and the agitating emoloyees, 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

Bhilwara group plans to set up a Rs 1.15-billion 100 per cent exportoriented textiles complex in Khargore 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 istory, 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 pre-

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 com-

While no comments were forthoming from the management, the Economic Times,' quoting sources, said the unit is facing radical re-

structuring It said the unit will remain shut for at least three months

he 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

Improved car paint from Ford

LONDON - A £500,000 paintesting 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 waterborne 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 Hurn, 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 pos sible 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 probank 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 of ficial document. -UNI

EC urges greater stress on environment

KUALA LUMPUR — The European Community (EC) said yesterday its future ties with the sixmember Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) would have to address the issues on human rights and the environment.

But Asean nations said no group should impose its standards of human rights and environmental issues on others or try to make them conditions for trade and in-

"I would refer here to the fundamental evolution of attitudes in European public opinion about human rights and democracy," EC Commissioner Abel Matutes told an annual meeting between Asean and its seven 'dialogue" or trading "I am sure that we agree on the

attention that this issue should receive in our further cooperation," Matutes added Foreign Ministers of Asean —

which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sinsuch a link at a meeting last week. Malaysian Foreign Minister Ab-

gapore and Thailand — rejected

dullah Ahmad Badawi, on behalf of Asean, told the conference: "Environmental issues and the question of human rights have emerged as few caveats 'Attempts to impose the stan-

dard of one side on the other or interpreting it in a selective or narrow manner would disrupt the traditional goodwill and cooperation and tread upon the sovereignty of

EC Ministers in a meeting in Luxembourg last May urged their Asean partners to put pressure on Burma's military rulers to respect human rights and hand over power to opposition politicians democratically elected a year ago.

The EC accounts for 15 per cent of about 20 billion dollars of Asean's annual exports. The EC is an Asean dialogue, partner along with Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Some groups in Europe have

also called for economic cooperation and aid to be linked to the preservation of Southeast Asian rainforests. Malaysia and Indonesia have denied allegations that they are destroying their rainforests. Netherlands Foreign Minister

Hans Van Den Broek, who is the current president of the council of ministers of the EC, said in his opening remarks that comprehensive security "Encompasses close economic cooperation and integration as well as the human dimension, including democratic values and respect for human rights.'

"We are pleased to share our experiences with others in this field in an open dialogue," he add-

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

New system to check tyre blow-outs

LONDON: A type of tyre safety system so far only available on luxury cars may soon be available to all drivers, as a result of a British development that is currently being prepared for commercial production.

The new low-cost device comprises a temperature and pressure sensor capable of detecting the first tell-tale signs of an imminent blowout, or sudden tyre deflation, linked to a small radio transmitter that fits inside the tyre, which passes a signal

to an instrument panel display unit. According to Otter Controls of Buxton, northern England, which is perfecting the equipment, it can be used with any type of tyre at present fitted to cars or trucks, and easily transferred when tyres are changed It can also be retro-fitted to older vehicles. The company predicts that a unit will be available commercially in 1992 for less than £200.

The sensor, invented by Scottish engineer Mr Nigel Buchanan, uses simple bi-metallic switches similar to the type of unit that switches off an automatic electric kettle, combined with micro-electronic circuitry and a miniature radio transmitter.

Smaller than a spark plug, the miniature device has a standard tyre valve fitted to the top. Inside, a bimetallic disc for temperature sensing and a pre-stressed metal disc for pressure each drive a rubber keypad on a printed circuit. Under normal conditions, the sensor transmits a steady radio pulse which is received by wheel arch-mounted antenna and

monitored by the dashboard unit. If the tyre internal temperature exceeds a pre-set limit, or the inflation pressure falls below a set threshold, the relevant disc activates the keypad, which changes the radio pulse, immediately triggering a warning. This display identifies the affected tyre and the nature of the fault. Otter is currently developing

ways of powering the device, and discussing a number of options with vehicle manufacturers. These include the use of small Nicad batteries, possibly with a centrifugal switch so that the system only functions when the vehicle is moving, to prolong battery life. Alternatively in a more novel an proach, a strip of piezo-electric film an advanced type of polymer which provides power when distorted, could be fitted inside the tyre. Otter Controls is a world leader in

the thermostatic controls for a wide variety of applications from kettles and washing machines to process control and telecommunications equipment. The company also supplies DC motor controls to the world's major car manufacturers.

Too many cars on few crowded islands Everything about motoring in ex-Astronomical land prices have

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 na-

tionwide mass transit system humming alongside a perpetual traffic mess, the question arises: Will the Japanese love affair with the automobile ever end? It's difficult to say if the market

has reached a saturation point," Yoshio Kondo of the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said of this year's decline in car sales. "Some say the market will continue to increase."

This small, crowded island nation is hardly in a position to take many more vehicles.

The two-lane highways that form Tokyo's main traffic arteries are so clogged during rush hour that

executives have been known to hop out of their chauffer-driven cars and walk to work. Some residential streets are so narrow that vehicles can barely squeeze through, even without oncoming traffic.

City people tend to head for the countryside all at once on national holidays. In August 1990, authorities recorded what they described as the longest traffic ever, involving about 15,000 vehicles backed up for nearly 85 miles on a highway in western Japan.

Motorists serenely park their cars illegally, compounding the congestion. Legal street parking is woefully inadequate and garages are prohibitively expensive, costing up to twice as much as the loan payment on a

Tokyo police are lax in enforcing parking regulations, and almost 230,000 cars are parked illegally at any given moment.

pensive in Japan, not just parking. Driving lessons can cost more than \$1,460. Insurance on a new car and mandated inspections add a few more thousand dollars annually and highway tolls can be nearly as costly as the fare on a Bullet Train.

Despite the cost and hassle, Japan had nearly 55.2 million registered automobiles in 1990nearly one for every two people. So far this year, however, the car market is down.

Auto sales declined 4.1 per cent in the first half of 1991 from the same period the previous year, and fell 19 per cent in June

Sales have been slowed by high interest rates, concern about the economy and increased fines that took effect this month. Kondo said.

But he said the "desire to buy cars is still deep-rooted among Jap-

made housing so expensive, he said, that "many people think. 'Well. I can never own a house. but at least I can own a car. Many see the car as their only 'castle,' a kind of solitary room.'

It is common in Tokyo to see people sitting in their parked cars, engines turned off, reading newspapers or engaged in con-

Cars are also a must for the young man who wants to date. They've even got a name for a boyfriend with wheels: "Ashikun" or Mr. Foot, a reference to his ability to get around.

Kondo said the latest trend in Japan is toward "leisure cars" such as minivans and fourwheel drive vehicles. That could indicate more car owners will be using their vehicles primarily for recreation — exporting the traffic jams to the countryside. — AP

puter manufacturer, shut down its hi-tech instruments plant at Gurgaon near capital New Delhi last Friday.

The daily also said that some of

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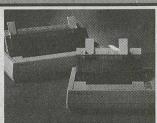


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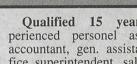
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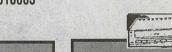
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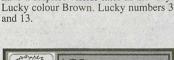
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LEO

CANCER

A quiet day is indicated. Catch up with

any belated correspondence. You may

have a surprise visitor later in the day

(June 21-July 22):

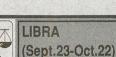
(July 23-Aug.22):

There should be an opportunity to do something you have long wanted to do today. A social function could be most exciting. Lucky colour Purple. Lucky



are not sure about. Make up your own mind how you wish to spend your time. Lucky colour Blue. Lucky numbers 2





fusion about an arrangement. A friend will need your advice. Lucky colour Red. Lucky numbers 7 and 34.



SCORPIO (Oct.23-Nov.21):

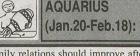
An appointment later in the day should be kept on time, as you may meet an attractive member of the opposite sex. Romance is not involved. Lucky colour Green. Lucky numbers 5 and 50.



You would benefit from a change of scene. A good time for a short journey would be mid-day. Finances require extra care at this time; Expenses are heavy. Lucky colour Black. Lucky numbers 1 and 18.



A good day for romantic encounters is shown. You may get an opportunity to take part in an exciting excursion, so don't refuse! A windfall is likely. Lucky colour Yellow. Lucky numbers



Family relations should improve after a disagreement on one subject is settled. Discretion is needed over something told you in confidence, or there'll be trouble. Lucky colour Grey. Lucky



PISCES (Feb.19-Mar.20):

dicated. You are likely to meet a member of the opposite sex who will introduce you to a new group of go-ahead people. Lucky colour Violet. Lucky number 2 and 32.

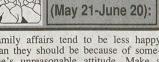


lationship. Try to spend some time



Friends may discuss plans for an outing, but it could be costly for you. Better state frankly you can't afford all that is suggested. Others may really feel the same. Lucky colour Pink Lucky numbers 1 and 51.

GEMINI



Family affairs tend to be less happy than they should be because of someone's unreasonable attitude. Make a firm stand against this kind of awk-wardness. Lucky colour Orange. Lucky numbers 3 and 40

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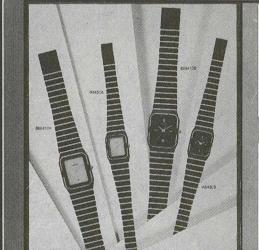
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Entries for today's quiz must be sent to us on or before July 28, 1991. Employees of "Times of Oman", and Sarco and their associated companies and their families are not eligible to enter.

ANSWERS:

QUESTIONS: 1) What is diaresis? 2) How many grains are there in a

3) What is the capital of St. Lucia? The correct answers to Timesquiz No. 131 are 1) The currency of Iceland is krona, 2) The capital of Syria is Damascus and 3) The

official language of Singapore is Chinese, Malay, Tamil and English. NAME: _ ADDRESS: _

The winner to Timesquiz No. 131 is Manek Kaikobad, P.O. Box 7075, Muttrah



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Sultan's Armed Forces — The nation's pride

Armed Forces the world over is to defend the State's sovereignty and independence and safeguard the freedom of its people paving the way towards a peaceful and stable nation which will lead to the prosperity and well being of the people. These goals have been achieved through the buildup of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) which is meant to secure peace and defend the renaissance achievements under the wise leadership of HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Supreme Com-

The achievements have been the legitimate fruits of the firm will, the deep-rooted faith, the honest values and related to the origins of the civilisation of this great country.

It led to the revival of the glorious might of Oman, which is now taking its appropriate place amongst the nations of the world, emerging as a powerful country and highlighting the renaissance era as Oman's golden age.

The contrast between the present Oman and the situation before the Seventies is evident. The older generations can easily distinguish the difference. The SAF is not an exemption.

It has witnessed extensive and varied development in all aspects of specialisation. Besides, the units existing before the renaissance were very limited, now new units have been formed and developed to play an effective role within the SAF as a highly trained and well equipped fighting force, for the maintenance of the security of the nation and defending its heritage and achieve-

The remarkable development achieved by the SAF represented by the Royal Army of Oman, the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Royal Guard of Oman, has been under the Royal auspices of HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Su-

the development of a capable force and the training and qualifying of manpower to meet their responsibilities and national tasks.

The SAF has varied military schools, the best being the Staff and Command College, the Sultan Qaboos Military College, the Sultan Qaboos Air Academy, the Officers' Training School and the RNO Training Centre as well as The SAF SChool. There are many specialised schools for training and technical qualification in the various SAF

Today we feel honoured and confident with SAF's vast and extensive development in the fields of training, armament and the formation of its units which will make it a capable force that can defend our dear country and contribute in the process of the comprehensive national development. The SAF has achieved that development with the help of Almighty God and the wise leadership of the Supreme Com-

HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said the Supreme Commander in his royal address to the nation on the occasion of the 20th National Anniversary paid tributes to his brave Armed Forces for its distinguished preparedness and alertness to defend the country. That royal tribute is a badge of honour to all SAF individuals and will encourage them to put more efforts and sacrifice themselves for the nation.

The Royal Army of Oman

With the advent of the renaissance in 1970 and the royal directives of HM the Supreme Commander, great strides have been achieved in the process of development of the Royal Army of Oman . . . the scheme of RAO development was well planned, thoroughly studied and a scheduled programme was set.

en a special and keen interest in RAO formations and units as an example of its achievements during the renaissance era.

> The Sultan of Oman's Armour Force (MSO)

The efforts were concentrated between 1985 and 1990 to develop a command structure and support system capable of ensuring the most effective use of well trained men.

The RAO had been provided with modern and sophisticated equipments. The Sultan of Oman Armour Force witnessed great strides, extending its infrastructure within the progressive armament and modernisation of

The Sultan of Oman Artillery

It witnessed great development, making use of the most up to date systems in order that the force may play its main role defending the country's great achievements.

The Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment

New modern and uptodate weapons were introduced along with the development of the command structure of the regiment to enable it to perform its vital duties. The free-falling team of RAO represents the Sultanate at dividuals; the RAO began a long the international sports tourna-

RAO - Support and Supply

The role of the Supply Services force has been in the forefront due to the modernisation and up to date systems of supplies . . . and due to its vital role during peace and war. This can be seen during the units ex-

The Signal Force, SAF Transport Force, Elect and Mechanical Engineering and the Firqat Forces all have vital roles in the SAF performance.

All these units and others, have achieved development in the process of armament, qualification of manpower and other military fields.

tised and training at all levels has been carried out to ensure that every combatant's level is upgraded. Many institutes and schools were established for this

The Exercises and Manoeuvres The RAO units witnessed ef-

fective training during the past years . . . the exercises were carried out locally and abroad . . . thus upgrading the combatant's capabilities at all levels which ensured the Omani soldier is well informed and trained to carry out

RAO's Contribution in Civil National Deve- lopment

RAO has a great role in the civil development. It extends its help to the citizens whenever required in coordination with the other specialised government agencies

RAO Individuals

To mark the 20th National Anniversary on both military and civil levels and to express the gratitude and devotion of the Omani soldier to his Supreme Commander HM Sultan Oaboos and to emphasise the role of RAO and its well trained inmarch starting from the gateaway of Umm Al Qawrif Camp in Dhofar Province to Midan Al Fateh in Al Wattaya (1,023 km). All the units participated in the march which was completed in

It started on October 31, 1990 and was planned that the individuals reach Muscat on the first day of the Anniversary cel-

Royal Air Force of Oman The Royal Air Force of Oman

has made great advances since the Seventies when the SAF started the long process of updating and modernisation. A powerful modern airforce

has been built. It was provided with modern aircraft squadrons,

and anti-aircraft rocket batteries anced, well trained, effective 1988. Procedures have been prac- as well as the other necessary force capable of meeting the desupport equipments.

Stages of Development In the beginning it was provided with various aircraft squadrons which joined the service at intervals being the basic built-up of the Royal Air Forces of Oman.

In the year 1974 the service underwent a change when its headquarters were moved from BAF to its present site. At the same time a contract was signed to purchase various aircrafts.

Later on and with the increase of the defensive capacity of the Royal Air Force of Oman it was decided to provide it with antiaircraft rocket batteries as well as the Jaguar tactical aircrafts, radar and some modern advanced sys-

In 1983 some more advanced Jaguar aircrafts were purchased and also some strikemaster aircrafts to train the Omani pilots in RAFO Masirah Air Base. A contract was also signed to develop rockets air defence.

Military Police Squadrons

The Military Police Squadrons are meant to provide the necessary security protection for the air bases nationwide.

RAFO and its Role in Civil Development

RAFO also plays an effective role in the process of the nation's comprehensive development and aid to citizens in remote mountainous areas. RAFO also participated in the maritime air reconnaissance and maritime pollution prevention and locusts control. All these tasks were carried out in cooperation with the Ministries of Agriculture and En-

Royal Navy of Oman (RNO)

At the time of the accession of HM Sultan Qaboos in 1970, the Royal Navy of Oman's Force consisted of some lightly armed dhows of (Boom) type. In less than two decades, the

Navy has become a well bal-

mands and challenges and has expanded its operational areas for defending the country's territorial

The RNO has introduced four fast attack crafts (missile), fast patrol boats, landing, logistics and offshore ships, coastal freighters, hydrographic capability and a sail training ship. It also improved the command and control facilities. RNO has undertaken these steps in line with the other services schemes of modernisation.

The RNO constructed Said bin Sultan in consolidation of its operational potentialities. It also established a modern naval training centre in Wuddam as well as the diving, hyperbaric medical facilities and hydrographic survey

They are considered the first of their kind in the Sultanate and are supposed to play a distinguished role in the field of the specialised services. RNO has also improved the RAS Musandam Naval Base.

Music Band

The RNO Music Band was set up in February, 1983. It has an important role in the military life of the Navy. It has since then been developed to contain a team of bagpipers.

Sea training is conducted on board SNV Nasr Al Bahr for ratings while officers join SNV Al Mabrukah to consolidate the knowledge gained and obtain experience of living at sea. Sail training is provided on board SNV Shabab Oman.

The SNV Shabab Oman had made three major long deployments.

It visited the United States of America in 1986 to participate in the bicentenary celebrations of the statue of liberty. Then it departed on another long voyage to take part in the Australian bicentennial celebrations in 1987-

It made its European cruise in 1989 to France to participate in the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Human

Role in the Development Pro-

The RNO ensures freedom of passage through the sea . . . courses within the territorial waters, protects the fishery and other marine mineral resources, protects the marine environment, prevents smuggling, secures navigation in the high waters and offers fire control services. The RNO also provides the SAF Front Posts with supplies and offers its support in deploying SAF units along the coast. In addition the RNO conducts the Sultanate coastal hydrographic survey. It also assists other services with its naval transport facilities.

The RNO plays a vital role in the preservation of environment and pollution prevention along the Sultanate's lengthy coastline. . . and ensures cleanup of oil res-

The RNO and the Colours

Due to the traditional Islamic concepts regarding the colours and significance with regards to the morale of the soldiers and its upgrading of the fighting capability, HM the Sultan Oaboos bin Said, the Supreme Commander, graciously presented the RNO with its Colours on November 3, 1990. HM also inaugurated the new sports sta-The Royal Guard of Oman

The RGO is considered a

main and important part of SAF. It was expanded and reorganised in line with the development of

It has made great strides in the process of modernisation and progressive training and was equipped with varied armament to enable it to play its role effectively within SAF.

play its part with other units and formations to defend the country and its achievements.

Qualifications of the Manpow-

The RGO continues its efforts qualifying its individuals according to the need of the force. The RGO has established its own military schools for this purpose; the RGO technical school and the training regiment.

These schools train the young men. The training in the RGO is different due to special important responsibilities.

Exercises and Manoeuvres

The RGO carries out a series of exercises and manoeuvres to upgrade the standard of its individuals and test its equipments. The RGO individuals have proved themselves during the many exercises and showed themselves capable of the modern advanced weapons introduced

Museum

HM the Sultan Qaboos bin Said the Supreme Commander, has ordered Bait Al Falaj Fort to house the SAF Museum. It was inaugurated on December 11, 1988 . . . Bail Al Falai Fort was chosen to house the museum due to its historic significance.. The fort was built during the reign of the Sultan Said bin Sultan. It had gained that special significance due to it being the seat of the government of Al Abu Said dynasty in the past.

The fort comprises of two stories in which exhibits are displayed . . . In the external area of the Museum, antique SAF & RGO weapons are displayed which represent the development of SAF during and before the renaissance era. The SAF will remain the hon-

est guard of the renaissance achievements which have been achieved under the wise leadership of HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Supreme Commander.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

TUESDAY BA128 UL210 GF052 GF784 KU2651/2717 GF155/1155 UT564

The Times Crossword No. 92 By PMP Back protuberance

ACROSS Bonded Bell sounds Ajar Eggs Entice Tie Jesus the Container Fall Damage Frighten Cricket run Just Summoned 30 Dirt Dry Twosome (Singing) Made secret signals Baseball stick 35 Cyst 37 Exigency Meadow rule Classify 45 47 Freeze

Cheese and buts . .' No Charged particles Compact Depart Atrocious Compositions Stumbled Unhappy Toward shelter Goes to court Circuit Sail support

DOWN Corn spike Upon (Pref.) Adults Lasted Lacerated First woman Mommy's mate Marc Anthony's mate

66

18 Build 20 Crimson 23 Zeroed in 24 25 European country Vehicle 26 Nimble 27 Beast 28 To and 30 Gulf Cooperation Council (Abbr.) 36 Came 38 More aged 39 Lady 41 Estimate 42 43 the season . . . Favourite 46 Foot digits 48 Rims 49 Aromatic seed 51 54 Common fever Bad 56 Yes votes

58

60

Poem

America's uncle

Collection

12

Anger

Nymph

Boxed

Answers to Puzzle No. 91



Radio TUESDAY Opening, the Holy

Quran, preview of

morning programmes & weather forecast. Morning magic News bulletin 7.40 Morning magic

8.00 Euphonic landmarks Classical encore 10.00 Focus on festivals 11.00 News headlines 11.05 Better than gold 12.00 Preview of afternoon programmes and

headlines 12.03 Comedy capers 12.30 The way we were 1.00 News headlines

1.02 Science in progress 1.15 The religion which is told. 1.30 In concert 1.57 Weather forecast and

TV programmes 2.00 In and around Salalah News bulletin 2.30

2.40 Short story Weather forecast and programmes Preview of evening

programmes. 3.02 Music of the masters 4.00 Swing and things 5 00 Sonic boom 6.00 News headlines

6.02 Faces and places 6.30 News bulletin Weather forecast and pharmacies on duty Guest of the week (Profile).

7.00 Country road show 9.45 The Holy Quran 10.00 News summary, preview of morning propharmacies, close-

Pharmacies

National Anthem.

down.

MUSCAT (Day Duty) Tuesday - Al-Farabi, Mutrah Ibn Sina, Ruwi Market Street (NIght Duty) Tuesday - Muscat, Bait Al-Falaj Muscat, Ruwi Market Street Al-Khuwair, Khuwair Fanja, Seeb SOUTHERN REGION (Day Duty) Tuesday - Salalah,

Nahdha Street

(Night Duty)

Tuesday - Al-Arabiyah

Salam Street

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Museum times

Natural History Museum, Al Khuwair, 602565 (extension 172), 605400 (direct). Opening times: to 12 noon; Fri-



and 4 pm to 7 pm; Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am to 2 pm. Oman Museum, Information City, Qurm. Telephone: 600946. Opening GF784/4784 times; Saturday to Wednesday 8.30 am to 2.00 pm.

Oman Aquarium at Marine Sciences and Fisheries Centre, Al Bustan. Tel 740061. Opening times: Saturday to Wednesday 8.00 am to 2.00 pm. Thursday 8.00 am to 1.00 pm. Friday closed. Children's Science Museum, Shatt al-Qurm area, Qurm. Opening times: Sunday to Wednesday 9.00 am to 1.00, 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm, Thursday and Friday 4.00 pm to 8 pm. Closed on Sat-

Armed Forces Museum, Bait al Falaj.

Tel:312645, 312646. Opening times;

Sunday and Wednesday for general

public and Monday for school children:

8.:30 - 12:30.

EX BA129 WED EX KL802 WED DAC HKG/BKK EX GF168 WED BOMB PCO LHR/BAH EX GF074 WED BOMB EX GF504 WED BAH/DXB RUH/DXB RUH/AUH KHI

STD 0115 0515

CA/BAH HR.DHA BEY/DXB

BAH/DOH CDG ADD/AMM/DXB EX GF942MON AMM/DXB EX MEF438MON EX GF508MON LHR/BAH BAH/DOH/SHJ AUH DHA/DOH EX GF548TUE AMS HKG/BKK LHR/AUH RAH

IST/ATH/DOH EX GF510/002 BAH/DXB

B767 11011 B747

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BKK/HKG DXB/NOBO

DHA/LHR BOM AMS DAR/NBO CDG KHI/DAC UP TO 31.07

SIN OPS GF171 UPTO 28.09 DOH/LHR AUH/CAI UPTO 28.09 BAH/LCA GWD
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AUH/KRT
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OPS GF523
BOM
BAH
DXB/RUH - 31.07
AUH/RUH EFF 01.08
BAH
OPS GF545

KHI LHR/BAH BKK/KHI BAH/FJR DAM/DOH/AUH SHJ LHR/DXB

Airlines

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UPTO 22.07

/BAH/LCA EFF29.

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GF004 GF153 GF508 KL802 SUNDAY DOH/LHR KHI AMS BAH/CDG GF052 GF1152/152 DXB CDB EX GF550SAT KHI TC771 UT568 0755 ES GF168SAT LHR/DOH BOM EX GF508SAT EX GF008SUN GWD 1135 1135 1210 1240 1510 1535 1400 BAH/AUH GF5407 EX GF540SUN SHJ/DOH/BAH

OPS GF4704MON na Dhabi: BAH-Bahrain: BEY-Berru; BKK-c CDG-Charles-de-Gaulle (Parris; DOH-Doha-li FR Formanikur; GOH-Coust WD Gwadur; B-Dibodi Faffe, Gohardi KKK-Stasah; KRT S-Dibodi Faffe, Gohardi Wi, MAA-Madras, S-Mounter; RKT-Ras, Tu Khannali; RMB dney; THR-Tehrain; TXA-Teasonic; RMB

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TIMES SPORT

Old regime repels tide of recession

cording to some of this week's smaller newspapers, declined a 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 middleaged 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

'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 goahead, two-run double in the seventh inning on Sunday as San Diego stopped Philadelphia's fivegame 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, Jerald Clark hit into a forceout 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

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 Dodg-ers and ex-teammate Bob Ojeda 9-

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 complished 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 un-

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

Ryne Sandberg singled and Bell hit

Pirates 6, Reds 0

pitched his second consecutive

shutout - and second of his career

as surging Pittsburgh completed its

domination of stumbling Cin-

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 de-

in 12 games and fell to 1-9 on their

current 18-game swing against Na-

tional League East teams. - AP

The Reds lost for the 11th time

fending world series champions.

In Pittsburgh, Randy Tomlin

his 18th home run.

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.

In the process, he turned back Trevino and Dave Hill.

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

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 lunchtime in the Stewards' Enclosure champagne bar (cheapest nonlabel 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'

Regrettably, it must be reported that the regatta's counterrevolutionary 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

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

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

At the Stewards' Enclosure Bandstand Entrance, a curious mime was played out. A svelte lady stood coquettishly, her skirt fanned out, like Marilyn Monroe in the celebrated picture. A steward 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 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

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

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 boat.

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-

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 marathonrunning and horse-racing but, in the former, large numbers compete and, in the latter, betting encourages general tension about

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 novely 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



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 third Hayashi-Ha World Cup Karate Tournament scheduled to be held at Palasport in Italy from July

Godan-fifth degree black belt (Japan) holder A M Shajahan, technical director and chief examiner of the Japan karate-do Tayashi-ha Shiitoryu-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 organ-

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,

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 Pistoles 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.

Pistoles 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 Kuhnen 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 hon-

estly 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

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 Andretti was approacheable," according to his father and teammate. Mario Andretti, who wound up a distant sec-

"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 he way to a race record of 99.143 mph, breaking the mark of 95.991 mph set in 1987 by emerson

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 barriers, knocking him out of the race and leaving Andretti in

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

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

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 Milwankee, where Michael first won, said: "Michael was just unapproachable today. But I had a cal problem. good race and I'm happy to be sharing this with Michael." - AP

Doctor's note may save Seles NOTTINGHAM - Monica week absence was due to shin

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 Participation in the Federation

Cup is a prerequisite for Olympic The International eligibility 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 fivesplints and a stress fracture in her "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 lat-

est twist in a long battle over her participation in the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup, which opened 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

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

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.

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

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 Dear-

the pressure of national television and all challenges by Nicklaus,

"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

BIRMINGHAM — Jim Albus 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

> 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

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 But he does more than just 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 vic-

tories this year. He and Nicklaus battled it out for the U.S. Senior Open Championship last year at Ridgewood. Nicklaus fired a 5under-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 ounds 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 threeway playoff with Billy Casper and Arnold Palmer.

Stone, in fact, built a sixstroke 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

'Everybody who has ever played there has stories about it," Albus said. "I remember watching 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 subpar 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 goblings. 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



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

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

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

its name. The strong Esteghlal 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

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

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

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 in-

"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.

vourites, Britons Nick Faldo and Smith is due to report to Edg-Ian Woosnam and Spaniard Seve Ballesters, were left in the shadbaston today for more treatment on the right index finger injury, origows. Ireland's Eamonn Darcy was the best European in joint fifth inally sustained before the third Test when he was hit by West In-Ballesteros, poised to strike for dian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose

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

while playing for Hampshire.

Morris will make his Test debut

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 chamoion, 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 peoton 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 ooss 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

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 Claudo Chiappucci, four minutes 42 seconds down on the Spaniard.

Liett'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 nineman break on the only climb of the day, the 877-metre Col De La Saulce, around 60 kms from the fin-

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.

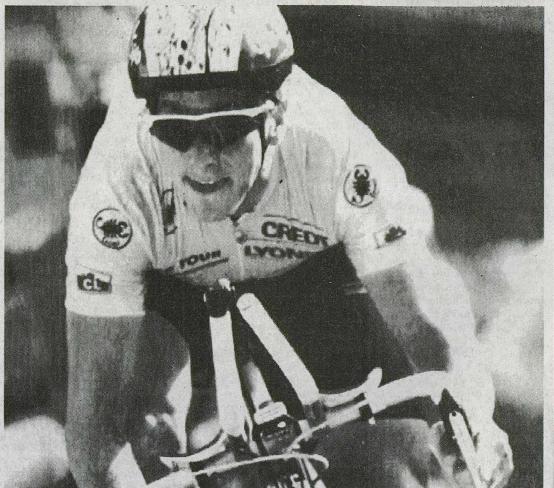
I was extremely tired after Val Louron (Friday's stage). I've never been so tired in the Tour. I went too deep into my reserves.

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

"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



US cyclist Greg LeMond in action

Argentina romp home

SANTIAGO — Argentina didn't seem to miss Diego Mar-

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 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

SOUTHPORT — Australian

Ian Baker-Finch led the eclipse of

the European superstars who were

expected to hold all the aces at the

Australians and Americans fig-

ured prominently on the leader

board, even though the Royal Birk-

dale links course was supported to

victory with one round to go,

flopped badly and did well to share

ninth place with German Bernhard

Langer and Australia's Greg Nor-

Three of the pre-tournament fa-

favour the Europeans' game.

British Open Golf Championship.

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

"When a team wins 13 out of 14

onard Rodriguez.

and Roger Chapman, both of

whom stop well short of being household names beyond their own

Faldo, the defending champion,

"The conditions have to favour

and Woosnam, the U.S. Masters

champion and world number one,

had to settle for a portion of 17th

the Europeans. They play in them

all the time," no less an authority

than five-times champion Tom

Perhaps if the wind had blown

harder, the Europeans might have

ustified their reputations. Royal

Birkdale was in its most benign

mood for the final two rounds on

with many others players, suffered

Faldo and Woosnam, along

place with seven other players.

Watson said at the start.

Saturday and Sunday.

front doors

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 Le-

has a bright future.

points in a difficult tournament, I believe there is little more to say,"

In the first

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

"That's for the media and fans to

Simeone scored with a header

Luiz Henrique scored 10 minutes into the second half for Brazil. Chile finished the second round 0-

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 Iguran (Colombia), Alex Aguinaga and Raul Aviles (Ecuador), Eugenio La Rosa, Jorge Hirano and Jose Del Solar (Peru).

Royal and ancient officials said

yesterday that the type of grass and

the mineral content of the soil un-

derneath the greens were at the root

of the problem. They said officials

of Royal Birkdale were very con-

cerned and might even dig up the

greens and re-lay them before the

did not mention the greens after

rounds of 71, 71, 64 and 66 for an

his burst of five birdies in seven

The Florida-based Queensland-

holes at the start of the final round.

er, who has made an art form out of

finishing second, said after his tri-

umph that the memory of those

near misses had made him stronger.

"All the times I didn't go out

Not surprisingly, Baker-Finch

He spreadeagled the field with

Open is played there again.

eight-under-par total.

Windies squeeze to success

ANTERBURY — West Indies beat Kent by just four runs here yesterday to preserve their 15-year unbeaten run against English coun-

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 In-dies 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

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-ahalf 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

With Mike Harwood in second

place, Australia had their first one-

two in Open championship history.

back with satisfaction on their

showing. Fred couples and Mark

O'Meara shared third place and

Bob Tway and Jodie Mudd, after

his Open record-equalling 63 on

Sunday, were locked in fifth spot

the Ryder Cup match against the

Americans at Kiawah Island,

South Carolina, in September as

the time and place to reassert their

the biennial contest since 1983 and

their team, sure to be spearheaded

by the third who disappointed

here, will be raring to go.

They have not been beaten in

Now the Europeans will look to

The Americans can also look

MAHWAH — In just one said. "It would have been physnonth, Monica Seles has gone ically hard for me to take the secfrom princess to problem child. Capriati didn't let it reach a

First, she dropped out of Wimbledon with leg injuries and mys-

teriously disappeared for five weeks. Upon her return, the 17year-old pulled out of the Federation Cup and jeopardised her chances to play in the Olympics.

player in women's tennis lost to somebody even younger. And, she said, if her match against 15-yearold Jennifer Capriati lasted any longer, she might have packed up and left.

self coming in here," Seles said after losing 6-3, 7-5 to Capriati in the Pathmark Tennis Classic final. pressure on the leg.' There was a lot of pressure on

Seles was fined \$20,000 by the Sunday for participating in a non-

same offence, \$2,500.

The Federation Cup began yes-

Seles, who reportedly received \$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.

Seles succumbs to Capriati

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 On Sunday, the top-ranked after her first victory over Seles in three tries. "I just wanted to get my first serve in the next game.' ly moved to a 40-15 lead and won

"I didn't expect a lot out of my-I really didn't want to put any

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 tougherthan-expected semifinal match on Friday night against Kathy Rinaldi and did not look in top form against Capriati.

Women's Tennis Association on sanctioned exhibition too close to a regular event.

The fine follows one of \$6,00,00 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

terday in Nottingham, England.

blazes to gold SHEFFIELD — A slow start doesn't seeµ to bother Michael

Bates

Bates. It didn't keep him from winning a gold medal in the 100-metre dash at the World University

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 "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 goins 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 Sat-"My workouts have been going well all week. I knew something like this would come. It came to-

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 Mitchel 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

US soccer set to soar

soccer coach Jim Lennox, only two things stand in the way of the game's big-time development in the United States.

She didn't, but Capriati quick-

"I feel pretty good," said Cap-

when Seles netted a backhand re-

riati, who received at least

\$100,000 for playing in the 28-

player exhibition. "I thought I

played well. I thought I had to

the fourth game of the first set to

take control of the match, received

an added \$30,000 for winning the

Capriati, who broke Seles in

play well to beat her.'

tournament. - AP

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,"

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

Lennox said. "It does not get much

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

If a league doesn't come soon, the best American players will continue the drift towards Europe. "The majority of the players are

national league to show it off."

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 of Germany to play

"I know it sound like hypocrisy just to abandon the U.S. and to go overseas," said Andracki. "But if you are going to get better you have to do that.

John Harkes was a university Games player two years ago and played on the American team at the World Cup finals in Italy last year.

Last season he collected a winners medal in a league cup final at Wembley stadium, the home of English soccer and next season he will play in the first division for sheffield, ironically in the city where the 16th university games are being staged.

"John has done something we all would like to do," said Jeff Agoos, a defender on the university games team who has played along-

"He's been successful and proved that Americans can play soccer.

In 1994, the United States hosts the next world cup, the biggest tournament in the game. But Lennox believes the last world cup was a poor advertisement for the game.

"If we have a world cup in the U.S. like we had in Italy I am going to give up soccer," he said. "If that was not the worst world cup there ever was

was just disgraceful. You got teams just trying to get three points from three games with negative soccer," Lennox said. "The ground rules have got to

"The quality that was played

be changed so that somehow there's some priority in playing to win, not playing to avoid losing.'

and win have made this all the But they could have a problem. on the greens which became motmore worthwhile," he said. "I feel The course is supposed to favour The leading Britons in joint tled and bumpy as the event pro-"It would have been hard," she if he plays on Thursday. —Reuter 12th position were David Williams like I'm in a dream world.' the Europeans. - Reuter Baker-Finch: whoops and cheers for the champ

Eclipse of Europeans

SOUTHPORT — Ian Baker- Faldo in the final round. 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 23year-old at St. Andrews in 1984. Different from the ones last year, when he was blown away by Nick

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 breat countryman Mike Harwood by two strokes with an 8-

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 fi-

"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 as-

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

All along the way, though Bakfooter on the third. A superb 3-Iron-"my best shot all day" — put er-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

"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 nicked a piece off par with a

12-foot putt on the second hole,

sliced another stroke off with a 10-

and he holed that out to go 3-under for the round in four holes. It didn't matter that Jodie Mudd

him 6 feet from the pin on No.4,

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.

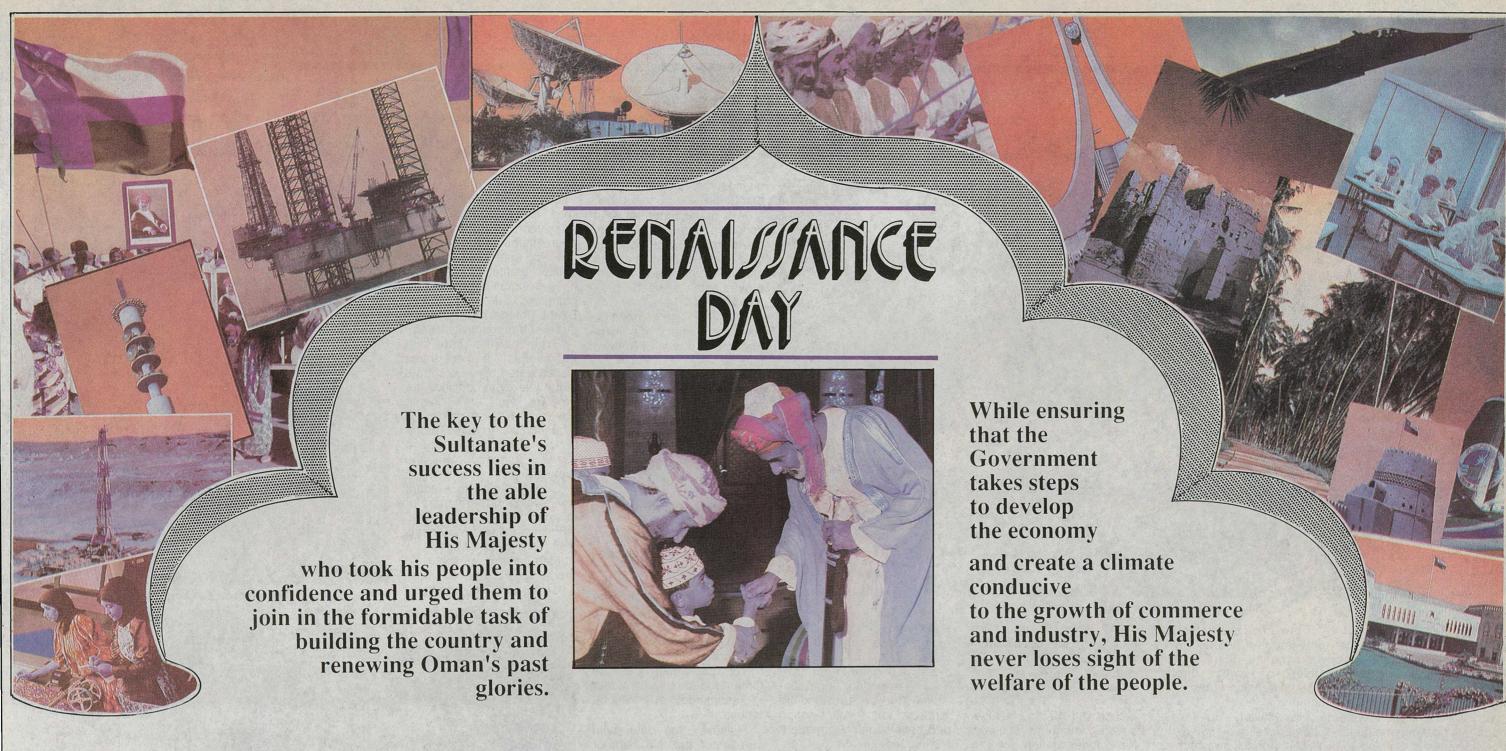
A great drive on No. 6 and the long putt on No. 7 put Baker-Finch at 9-under for the tournament and in the control position he'd never enjoyed in a major event.

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

with the best. They need an alternative route to what there is al-

Founder, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali; Managing Director and Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Anees bin Essa al Zedjali; Annual subscription: RO 35. Published by Al-Essa Printing and Publishing House,



Times of Oman, Tuesday, July 23, 1991

A magnificent story of success

nation and illiteracy, Oman to-day pulsates with prosperity Betv

the 21st century, armed with sound and enlightened national RO 3,521.9 million. and international perspectives and policies.

is a magnificent story of suc-

the able leadership of His Magree of success. jesty 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 tradi-

tion and modernity and careful planning, Oman has been able shocks plaguing other developing countries.

ginning of a bright new era. Among his first acts were the lives and activities of the peojoin the mainstream.

Dedicated, hardworking and enterprising Omanis joined His riod, nearly RO 16 million have crease in revenues, exports and Majesty in steering the country been earmarked for new in- employment and a buoyancy in

backward countries of chapter of development began the Arab world, in for Oman, the second largest 1970, steeped in isolation, stag- country of the Arabian pe-

Between 1970 and 1990, Oman's Gross Domestic Prod-Thanks to the Renaissance uct has increased over thirtyled by His Majesty Sultan Qa-fold. In 1970, the country's boos, the Sultanate is poised to GDP was RO 106.8 million. make a spectacular entry into According to provisional es-the 21st century, armed with timates, the GDP in 1990 was

By Middle East standards, Oman's reserves of oil are mod-Now a leading Arab country, est and are currently estimated with a thriving commerce and at 4.3 billion barrels, which inindustry, supported by a good dicate that the current level of cultural and economic progress per day could be maintained for of the private sector. a turther 20 years. Prospects of new finds are also promising.

From the beginning of the It's incredible that so much Renaissance era, the Governhas been achieved in a short ment has taken steps to dispan of 21 years. But the key versify the sources of income, to the Sultanate's success lies in achieving a considerable de-

> 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 to avoid the pitfalls and culture refinery, a copper smelter and medium and light industry producing flour, textiles, electrical When His Majesty took over the reins, it signalled the be-food items and a host of other

Originally industry was diabolition of restrictions on the rected towards import substitutes based on indigenous reple. He also called upon Om-sources. But now the industrial anis abroad to return home and policy is being geared towards

har, 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 infrastructure, Oman's social, production of 700,000 barrels turn helped in the development

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

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

At present, the Omani econ-During the Fourth Plan pe- omy is performing well with in-

rom one of the most to prosperity. Soon a new dustrial estates in Raysut, So- 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 phar-

macists will be constructed. A total of RO 48 million has been set aside during the plan for new hospitals in Nizwa, Je-bal 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 mea-

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 pcople and reducing the mortality

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 pro-

During the Fourth-FiveYear 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 vear 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 gener-

ating and self-dependent. · Continued on Page IV



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Our Sincere felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and the People of Oman on the occasion of the 21st Renaissance Day

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Omanis expressing their joy and loyalty towards their able leader.

Towards self-sufficiency in food



Raising the quality of agricultural products

riculture.

progress.

Since then the mod-

ernisation programme has

acquired new dimensions

and achieved remarkable

50.6 per cent of the total cul-

counts for 12.6 per cent of

Oman cultivates fruit, veg-

n the past few years, Oman has intensified its drive to upgrade agricultural methods in a bid to technical advice through enhance production and improve the quality of crops.

By mechanisation and modern irrigation methods, the Sultanate is working towards the goal of selfsufficiency in food pro-

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 gramme.

The emphasis is on improvement of productivity by a programme of support and 2,500 extension farms in the

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 deof land under cultivation is velopment of water renot the main aim of Oman's sources, as well as raising agricultural development pro- the quality of agricultural

The government laid em- 8 per cent and the Southern region 5.9 per cent.

phasis on the development of agriculture from the first To raise production of years of the Renaissance. crops, during the fourth Five-When the first Five-Year De-Year Plan period, large subvelopment Plan was sidies will be provided to launched in 1976, it included farmers for mechanisation several important schemes and development of modern for modernisation of agtechniques.

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.

etables, cereal and fodder For the first time, farmers crops. The Batinah is the will be provided a subsidy of major agricultural region in RO 2,000 to RO 3,000 each the Sultanate with about for purchase of tractors.

Efforts will be directed totivated area. The Interior ac- wards increasing the yield of crops such as onions, pothe cultivated area., Shar- tatoes, carrots, cucumber, giya 10.4 per cent, Dhahira garlic, lady fingers, water

melons, mashed melons and measures. 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

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 Rus-

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 hec-

There are a total of eight million date palm trees in Oman and the annual output estimated at 154,000

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

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 Continued on Page III >

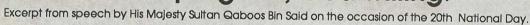


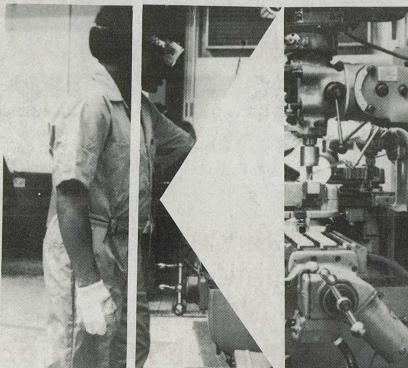
Date palm sector facing constraints

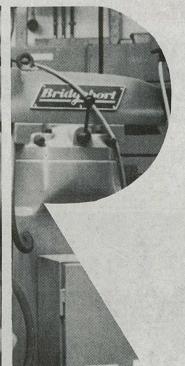


Fisheries an important source of national income

"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."





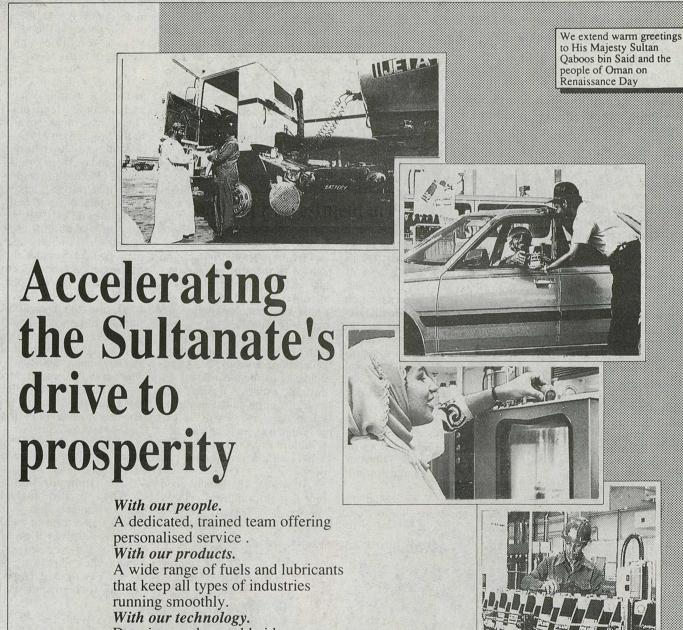


We, at Khimji Ramdas look back on this day, at the sultanate 's phenomenal progress over the last 21 years. And we are proud to be part of Oman's advancement.

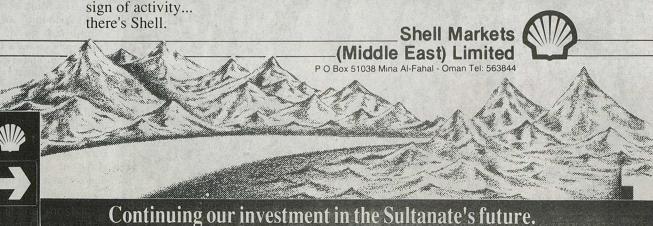
Khimji Ramdas pledges always, to strive towards achieving His Majesty's ambitions. We already see the dawning of Oman as a powerful Nation with the shaping of its industry. The day is already here with Oman on the same level as many other modern nations. We acknowledge once again, His Majesty's leadership, which has led Oman to this position.



Khimji Ramdas, P.O. Box: 19, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.



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



touched.

This exemplifies His Ma-

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RENAISSANCE DAY



Model plan to maintain main Aflaj

Towards self-sufficiency...

From Page II

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In 1981, the Oman Bank lion eggs and 13,600 tonnes 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 fish-

eries 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 Annual production is es- the potential annual fishery another step on the road to self-sufficiency in food.

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It was a real start from scratch.

Albeit a difficult task, His Majesty's Government never tanate. When he took over wavered in its commitment to the reins in 1970, there were 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 By any standard, it was a were 262 schools and in-

That early, Oman Omanising the educational system, hence the need for more teacher training institutes. As part of the modernisation gramme, the institutes were reorganised into Training Teacher Colleges in the academic year 1984-

Unwavering commitment to youth

male teachers had graduated by 1989. Subsequently, three other teaching colleges opened in Nizwa, Sohar and Ibri, and five

in Muscat, Salalah, Sur and Rustag, from which 1,200 male and female teachers will graduate each year.

Three new teacher training colleges are to be opened this year, thus ac-

> ernment'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

celerating the Gov-

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 fantastic leap. Though it stitutes, including 213 pri- of six colleges: education and Islamic sciences, sciagriculture,

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Equal opportunity for all: A primary school for girls

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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 paedeatrics, gynaecology and obstetrics, internal diseases, surgery, psychiatry, cardiac diseases and an outpatient

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.

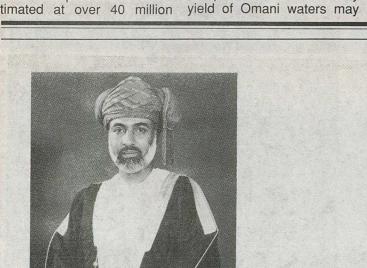
So the Ministry of Education and Youth sponsors 80 overseas scholarships for

qualified Omanis to train in courses not available at the university, such as economics, accountancy, pharmacology, dentistry, water clearly a big boost to Oman's 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.



Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on the occasion of the

21st Accession Day

Easy access to acquire knowledge

training institute for teachers.

didn't happen by fiat. The mary schools, three sec-

task of developing an educa- ondary schools and a

Strong Roundations for



1991 - the Year of Industry

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 selfreliance 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.



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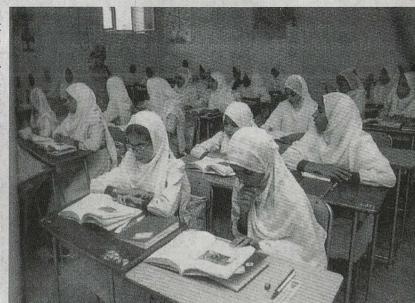
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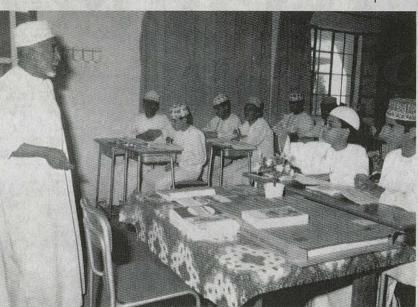
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qualified Omanis to train in courses not available at the university, such as economics, accountancy, pharmacology, dentistry, water sciences, etc. While the Government has been vigorous in educating the youth, it has not neglected the welfare of the 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

fantastic leap. Though it stitutes, including 213 pri- of six colleges: education tion system in 1970 was awe-

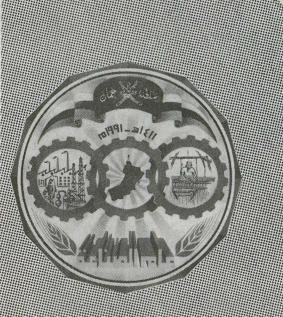
J. G. BOLLEVE

didn't happen by fiat. The mary schools, three sectask of developing an educa- ondary schools and a training institute for teachers.



Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on the occasion of the 21st Accession Day

Strong Roundations for



1991 - the Year of Industry

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 selfreliance 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.



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