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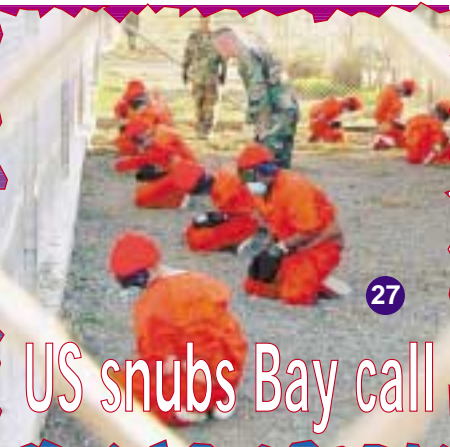
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Jackson loses plea in custody battle 24-25



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BUY BAHRAIN

ANKARA: The Premier yesterday urged businessmen to promote Bahraini products more aggressively.

Stressing the importance of setting up processing factories to create work opportunities for job-seekers, he said that "local items like dates and 'rutab' can serve as raw materials for such industries".

Addressing a top business delegation in Ankara, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa said Bahraini exportable products had to be competitive and promoted abroad professionally.

He was speaking on the sidelines of his official visit to Turkey at the

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invitation of his counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Premier also revealed plans to protect agricultural resources, expand green areas and develop agriculture as a vital economic pillar to generate growth.

While he urged businessmen to profit from the promising regional investment opportunities and promote Bahraini goods in the GCC, he stressed the need to attract more foreign investment and joint ventures to buttress the booming economy.

"The private sector represents a catalyst and a cornerstone in the national economy," he said.

He urged businessmen to profit from the Turkish know-how through industrial and economic joint ventures.



The Premier is welcomed on arrival in Istanbul where he attended a signing ceremony to set up a Bahrain-Turkish Economic Council

The world this morning
2AM LATEST BREAKING NEWS

■ Hamas leadership row

GAZA CITY: Hamas yesterday chose Ismail Haniyeh to be its prime minister but the 43-year-old pragmatist leader later denied he had been nominated. "Hamas is still continuing its internal consultations to determine who will be asked to head the government," he said. "Such an important position requires consultations between leaders in the (Palestinian) territories, in prisons and in exile. Nothing official has been reached so far, and when a decision is made, it will be published," Haniyeh said. He headed Hamas's list of candidates in the January 25 parliamentary election in which the movement scored a landslide victory.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and advisers, meanwhile, proposed a clampdown that included barring all Palestinians from working in Israel and from travelling across Israel between Gaza and the West Bank once the Palestinian parliament is sworn in.
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■ Birmingham scare

LONDON: Police said they removed a suspicious substance for testing last night from a property in the central English city of Birmingham before allowing evacuated residents to return to their homes. Police erected a 100-metre cordon around the property and evacuated residents to allow an army bomb disposal squad to remove the substance. Police said later that the incident was not related to terrorism.

■ Greece train tragedy

ATHENS: Two people were killed and 30 injured yesterday when an intercity train collided with a truck and derailed near the northern Greek city of Serres. "We have two dead people, one man who is thought to have been driving the truck and a woman passenger on the train," a fire brigade official said. The train, on the Athens-Thessaloniki-Alexandroupoli route, consisted of four coaches and was carrying about 101 passengers.

■ Lahoud told to quit

BEIRUT: Leaders of the anti-Syrian camp which holds the majority of seats in Lebanon's parliament yesterday called on President Emile Lahoud to resign by March 14. They called on the pro-Syrian president "to resign immediately and will give him until March 14", the leaders said after the majority group held a meeting in Beirut. They called on MPs of the parliamentary majority to sign a petition calling for the ouster of Lahoud, but did not specify what measures they would take if Lahoud refused to budge.

■ Protest at airspace violation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan last night said it had lodged a protest with New Delhi after an Indian aircraft allegedly violated its airspace over the Arabian Sea.



■ Seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher of Germany plays ball with a young fan as he takes a break during Ferrari's tests at the Bahrain International Circuit yesterday. F1 fever - 4 and Honda sign off in style - 46

Secret Saddam tapes revealed

NEW YORK: Saddam Hussein told aides in the mid-1990s that he warned the US it could be hit by a terrorist attack. *ABC News* reported, citing 12 hours of tapes the network obtained of the former dictator's talks with his cabinet.

One of Saddam's son-in-laws also explained how Iraq hid its biological weapons programmes from UN inspectors, according to the tapes from August 1995, the television network reported yesterday.

The terrorist attack Saddam predicted could involve weapons of mass destruction. "Terrorism is coming. I told the Americans," Saddam is heard saying, adding he "told the British as well".

"In the future, what would prevent a booby trapped car causing a nuclear explosion in Washington or a germ or a chemical one?" Saddam said. But he insisted Iraq

Death squads probe

BAGHDAD: Iraq yesterday said it was investigating reports of "death squads" within the police force that targeted the Sunni minority. The move came after US Major General Joseph Peterson, in charge of training the Iraqi police, told the *Chicago Tribune* 22 policemen, dressed in commando uniforms, were arrested in late January in Baghdad as they took a Sunni away to be shot.
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would never launch such an attack. "This story is coming, but not from Iraq," he said. The State Department had no comment on the report, which aired on *World News Tonight*. ABC News said the CIA found the tapes in Iraq and that the 12 hours were provided to it by Bill Tierney, a former member of a UN inspection team who was translating them for the FBI.