

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Colombian gold
Geoffrey Matthews reports from Bogota on the burgeoning drug traffic

Bessie Bunter rules
The girls' own heroine bounces back



Queen's flight
A special report on Birmingham's new airport that the Queen will open tomorrow

Roman road
Stuart Jones previews the European Cup Final in Rome

200,000 at Bonn strike rally

More than 200,000 striking metalworkers from all over West Germany took part in a huge rally in Bonn to protest against lockouts in the engineering industry and to demonstrate their support for their union's campaign for a 35-hour working week. **Page 6**

Troops broke water mains

Work on installing fire-hoses in the Falkland Islands' only hospital had been abandoned before the fire that killed seven patients and a nurse last month because mains, accidentally broken by Army vehicles on three occasions had to be repaired, an inquiry heard yesterday.

Zia crackdown

A sudden spate of arrests and restrictions in Pakistan has spoiled the prospect of success for this week's conference of opposition to President Zia's regime. **Page 4**

Budd record

Zola Budd won the 1,500 metres in 4 min 4.39 sec, a world junior record, in the United Kingdom championships at Cwmbran. **Page 27**

Policemen hurt

Fourteen policemen were injured when they tried to restrain youths at a carnival in Fulham, south-west London. Twenty-four people were arrested.

Trial limit call

The commons select committee on home affairs is expected to urge strongly that the Government introduces a statutory time limit for bringing defendants to trial. **Page 2**

Biggest win

The West Indians dismissed Glamorgan for just 88 runs in a win by an innings and 226 runs, the biggest victory by any touring side over the county. **Page 27**

Leaders page, 15

On the Gulf war, from Mr Miles Copeland to human embryos, from the Rev Dr N. M. de Cameron and others. Leading articles: A10 to underdeveloped countries; Penal policy. Features, pages 12-14. Liverpool cease-fire; the makings of a Namibia settlement; a socialist speaks up for Tibet. Spectrum: the Venice Biennale. Fashion: blowing out Computers, pages 19-21. Three touch screen micros to be won; putting Britain in the picture; data professionals - not dead yet; buying micros over the counter. Nato: a four-page Special Report to mark the alliance's 35th anniversary. pages 7-10

Home News 2-4

Diary 14
Oxreaves 46
Archaeology 16
Science 16
Arts 23-27
Business 28-30
Church 16
Theatres, etc 17
Court 16
Weather 37
Crossword 22

Coal board aims at turning talks into all-out peace drive

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The peace process in the pit strike is strongly under way today as the miners' "rolling stoppage" goes into its twelfth week. Finishing touches to an agenda for talks between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mine-workers (NUM) were being agreed last night as the two sides prepared for top-level negotiations on the future of the industry.

Neither side is willing to endanger the progress of settlement by publicly disclosing any details of the forthcoming exchanges. But *The Times* understands that the coal board is determined that these preliminary contacts should be turned swiftly into an all-out attempt to end the dispute.

Miners' leaders are more cautious. Mr Peter Heath, the general secretary of the NUM, said last night: "We are obviously optimistic that we can make some progress, and would hope that the board will recognize that after 11 weeks of strike there is still a determination to preserve jobs and mining communities."

There is some divergence about the prospects for these discussions. The coal board wants a quick move into substantive discussions on the prospect for the industry, including a cutback in capacity of about four million tonnes a year, while the union has a reservation in respect of any such proposal, since there can be no pit closures.

However, the sudden silence that has descended over the dispute indicates that both sides want to retreat from aggressive public postures into a more realistic bargaining position. This was borne out yesterday by the disinclination of leading figures on both sides of the dispute to show their hand before tomorrow's crucial talks.

It is unlikely that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the board, will attend the talks. The NCB will be represented by Mr James Cowan, deputy chairman, and Mr Merrick Spanton, director of industrial relations for the NCB and Mr Kevin Hunt, his deputy.

The NUM will field all three national officers: Mr Arthur Scargill, president, Mr Michael McCabe, vice-president, and Mr Heathfield, together with the union's head of industrial relations, Mr Mick Clapham and chief executive, Mr Roger Windsor.

More than a thousand demonstrators are expected to picket the plant on a day when no supplies were due to leave the plant, but today thousands more will join them when the two-day "coke runs" resume.

Miners' leaders are anxious to prevent the 5,000 tonnes of low sulphur coal reaching Scunthorpe's works where it is needed to prevent permanent damage to furnaces, according to the British Steel Group.

Meanwhile a sit-in at the National Coal Board's Scottish headquarters in Edinburgh by fully 60 miners ended peaceably last night after 10 hours.

The men claimed that the strike was withholding holiday pay to which they were entitled. But Mr Albert Wheeler, Scottish area director, told the demonstrators that no one would qualify for holiday pay unless he worked the week before his annual three week leave.

With up to 60 oil tankers now moored near the southern straits of the Gulf, 55 of them are at anchor off the United Arab Emirates, the military and verbal assaults of both Iraq and Iran yesterday threatened to strangle the Gulf sea-lanes more surely than any attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz.

While the Arabs turned to the Organization of Islamic Conference to seek a new ceasefire in the war, this time by proposing a force of "Islamic peacekeepers" along the Iraq-Iran frontier, the Iranian president again told the Gulf states to stay neutral in the conflict or suffer the consequences.

Addressing the Iranian Parliament, President Khamenei said that his country would not permit Iraq to close her oil routes. The Arab states should remain neutral, he said. "We did not tolerate bullying and unreasonable demands in the Persian Gulf under any circumstances."

The Organization of Islamic Conference's mediation committee, whose members include the leaders of Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia and the Palestine Liberation Organization, is to meet in Jeddah on June 9 to discuss the latest proposals for ending the war. The Malaysian Foreign Minister said yesterday that a disengagement of forces along the front lines would involve an armistice and a peace-keeping force, although he gave no indication from which nations such an army would be withdrawn.

The fact that the Iranians are still demanding the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein as the minimum price for peace, such ideas are likely to receive short shrift in Tehran.

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman, continued his own peripatetic around the Gulf yesterday, travelling on to Kuwait to discuss the plan for some form of disengagement force, in which no doubt he would welcome the participation of a PLO contingent.

Missiles for Saudis, page 6
Letters, page 15

Iran warns Gulf states: 'Stay out or take consequences'

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

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John Francone in sparkling mood at Fontwell Park after breaking the all-time record for National Hunt winners (Photograph: Chris Cole, Report page 28)

Chaos faces tourists in ferry strike

By Our Labour Reporter

Thousands of holidaymakers face chaos from midnight tonight because of a 48-hour strike on British ferries.

At least 60 per cent of cross channel routes will be halted and the rest face disruption as seamen attempt to block the harbours of foreign-owned vessels.

The strike has been called by the National Union of Seamen in protest at the Government's plan to sell the state-owned Sealink private interests.

The union was yesterday confident of winning the "full support" of its 7,000 members in British-based companies.

The action will affect Sealink, European Ferries - the operators of Townsend Thoresen - and P & O.

Sealink hopes some services will run tomorrow including Dover to Ostend, Dover to Dunkirk, and half the normal number of sailings from Harwich to the Hook of Holland, but there will be no Sealink services to Ireland or the Channel Islands.

Missiles for Saudis, page 6
Letters, page 15

Arab hijackers died of blows by 'men on scene'

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

An Israeli commission of inquiry has found that one, and possibly two, young Palestinian bus hijackers captured alive by Israeli forces died from beatings by unnamed "men on scene" during their interrogation in a field near by.

The commission, headed by retired Major-General Meir Zorea, was appointed by Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, after press photographs showed two of the hijackers being led away from the bus alive shortly after it was stormed by security forces and the hostages rescued.

The commission's report has been classified "top secret" because of certain details but the minister's media adviser released some of the findings, which were cleared for publication.

The key passages said: "One of the hijackers died of skull fracture as a result of a blow to the back of the head by a blunt instrument during the time between his removal from the bus, at the earliest, and his evacuation from the site, at the latest."

The second terrorist died of a skull fracture as a result of a blow to the back of the head by a blunt instrument during the time between his removal from the bus, at the earliest, and his evacuation from the site, at the latest.

The cause of death was established in the Forensic Medicine Institute here after the bodies were exhumed from their graves in the Gaza Strip by order of the commission.

The incident occurred on April 13 when four young Arabs hijacked an Israeli civilian bus and forced the driver to proceed with the passengers to the Gaza Strip. When the security forces brought it to a halt in Dir el-Ballah, the

hijackers threatened to blow up the vehicle unless the Israelis released convicted Arab terrorists.

Two hijackers were shot and killed during the assault by the rescuers but Majdi Ahmad Ali Abu Jama and Subhi Shehade Hassan Abu Jama survived and were dealt "severe blows to the head and body" by the Israelis.

The commission found that these blows had been "an operational necessity to prevent a possible threat to human life". The aim had been to stun the hijackers and prevent them from detonating a bomb on board the bus.

The dazed survivors were then taken off the bus and escorted by security forces to an adjacent field for a preliminary examination to check the possibility of the bodies having been booby-trapped or that additional terrorists might be present.

"During the stage following the removal from the bus", the report said, "the two terrorists were dealt severe blows by men on the scene."

Mr Arens in a radio interview said the commission questioned dozens of people, including eyewitnesses and men who admitted beating the prisoners, but had been unable to establish who had administered the fatal blow or blows.

The Defence Minister said those who beat prisoners in violation of the law will be investigated and put on trial if possible.

The minister strongly condemned the conduct which led to the two deaths and said it was "in clear contradiction of the basic rules and norms incumbent on all and especially the security forces. Not even the special circumstances of this case justify such behaviour," he said.

Mr Bosanquet, Made for television

reader that he became a television personality and, as anecdotes about his own bovine existence began to spread, he became a star. He left ITN after a series of disputes in 1979.

His third wife Joan was with him when he died peacefully at his London home.

Reginald Bosanquet dies of cancer, aged 51

By Richard Dowden

Reginald Bosanquet, the face and voice of independent Television News in the 1970s, died of cancer on Sunday night, it was announced yesterday. He was 51.

From 1967 to 1979 he drew the news out of the corner of his mouth with the authority of a publican holding forth to his regulars.

Sir Alistair Burnet of ITN said yesterday: "He was a man made for television. In countless homes he was welcomed as a friend."

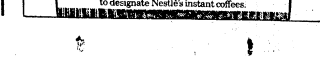
Mr David Nicholas, ITN's editor, said: "His life was a mixture of talent and warmth and sadness. He had a sort of irreverence and a tremendous compassion for the plight of ordinary people."

He joined ITN as a reporter in 1955 but it was as a news

reader that he became a television personality and, as anecdotes about his own bovine existence began to spread, he became a star. He left ITN after a series of disputes in 1979.

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Obituary, page 16
Tributes and photographs, back page



Live railing kills holiday youth, 16

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

A youth aged 16 was killed at Margate, Kent, yesterday when he touched seafront rails which vandals had wired to electricity junction box. Police have appealed for witnesses who might have seen the tampering with the junction box at Westbrook, Margate, to the south of Margate.

The youth, Michael Wellard, from Boxley, Kent, was on a day trip with a male companion. He ran into a grass bank from the beach and tropped the railings. He was gassed in the air by the shock and probably died instantly.

The police were called to investigate reports that a number of people had had heart attacks on the seafront at Westbrook. A man and a little girl suffered minor ailments and some dogs suddenly started yelping.

A police spokesman said: "Some 500 yards of live electric railings became live. Electricity seeped into the wet ground from the railings and part of the cliff-top lawn also became affected."

Police are appealing for witnesses who might have seen the tampering with the junction box at Westbrook, Margate, to the south of Margate.

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Call for 'national wakes week' in June

By Tony Samstag

The Spring holiday weekend, the coldest and wettest on record in many places, has prompted the English Tourist Board to call for a review of Bank holiday policy and the possible abolition of individual days in favour of a national "wakes week" in June.

Nineteen of 28 resorts and tourist attractions surveyed had blamed the weather for a decline in business this year, Mr Michael Montagu, the board's chairman, said yesterday.

The point of a review would be "not to lose eight days holiday but to consider whether the nation would be better served by either an extra entitlement to be taken when public liked or perhaps best of all when they would describe as a national wakes week in June, when the whole place can just shut down and everyone can go off for a proper holiday."

Such a holiday would "cheer everyone up", he said, and would also increase the numbers of those who "would have a holiday in their own magical England during June when historical records show the weather to be at its kindest".

Instead of going abroad, School half term could easily be moved to the same week, he added.

Calls for a rationalization of Bank holidays have persisted since the late Seventies, when Whitsun was made a movable spring Bank holiday and May Day was established as a holiday by the Labour Government. Earlier this month the English Tourist Board confirmed that Long and parts of the Southeast had suffered the coldest and wettest Spring in 1984, since records began in 1941.

The previous wettest in London was 1954, when 24mm of rain fell during the three days; yesterday the total was well over 30mm and the rain continued well into the afternoon. Final figures will not be available until later today.

The previous coldest temperature was recorded in 1981. This year's Southeast temperatures were 10.6C (51F) on Saturday, 9C (48F) Sunday and a maximum yesterday of about 11C. Conditions are expected to improve from today.

A Bristol boy, aged 17, died last night after a hole he was digging on a beach at Devon, collapsed and buried him alive.

In Southampton 100 rival gang members were involved in a running battle at a holiday fair. There were two arrests.

Obituary, page 16
Tributes and photographs, back page

Worst Spring holiday weather on record

By Our Labour Reporter

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Obituary, page 16
Tributes and photographs, back page

Obituary, page 16
Tributes and photographs, back page

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For those who want more than just decaffeinated coffee.

The taste of Gold Blend, too.

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