

## US forces stop 'illegal' supply of oil to Syria

● Talks begin on post-Saddam set-up ● Iraqis protest against US presence ● Bush calls Chirac ● Moussa urges Iraqis to unite

### AGCC seeks end to threat to Syria

WASHINGTON — US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said yesterday that US forces have shut down a pipeline used to supply oil to Syria, but he could not say how long it will last, nor how long it will take to repair.

During a "question-and-answer" session with reporters, Rumsfeld said that coalition forces had destroyed the pipeline. "We have destroyed infrastructure as that country," he said.

However, Rumsfeld said, coalition forces are working on securing the pipeline. "I hope they have cut it off," he said.

There were allegations that 20 violations of UN sanctions, Syria has received 130,000 to 200,000 barrels of oil daily through the pipeline, which opened in 2001.

Earlier, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that it was a "regrettable" by providing answers to queries that it was a "sanctions" issue.

But Mr Straw said that it is not Syria a "major" issue. "In Washington I'd on Monday" saying, "We see different perspectives."

UN President George W. Bush stated yesterday that coalition forces would pursue the war in Iraq until every element of the Saddam Hussein regime is crushed.

AGCC — Gulf Arab states rejected yesterday UN resolutions that Syria was developing chemical weapons and following Iraq officials, and said a foreign intervention in Iraq should be quick. "We think the threat to Syria should stop. We don't think Syria means a war or to exclude any situation. We want any intervention of Syria's security," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani said yesterday.

"We are not in this with great care and if there is any problem to be solved it is to be solved by direct negotiations by both sides," he said after an emergency meeting of foreign ministers in the Gulf states in the Saudi capital.

The council is studying the role of the United Nations in stabilising Iraq, and called for an immediate end to the attacks since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime. "We can

imagine that the task of rebuilding Iraq can be completed without full participation by the United Nations," Sheikh Hamad said in his opening remarks to the meeting.

"The future of the new and unified Iraq can only be brought about by providing the appropriate conditions to enable the Iraq people to practice their right in managing their country," added Sheikh Hamad, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the AGCC.

"We call on all concerned parties in Iraq to immediately and decisively return to get on and to the stability and lasting, and restore peace and stability as a fundamental priority."

The Iraq war will have repercussions for the region, Sheikh Hamad said. "We must work to unify our position and formulate that in a joint policy to achieve peace and stability in this strategic region of the world" — Reuters, AFP



● Nico Schwingenschlögl, Graham Hill and Tyrone Ballentyne receiving their prizes at the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi yesterday

## German Rider wins RED BULL SuperCross in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI — German SuperCross rider Nico Schwingenschlögl won the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi yesterday, beating South African rider Graham Hill and Tyrone Ballentyne of the UAE.

The event was held at the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club. Schwingenschlögl, 27, from Germany, finished first with a time of 1:01.56. Hill, 31, from South Africa, finished second with a time of 1:02.12. Ballentyne, 30, from the UAE, finished third with a time of 1:02.18.

The event was part of the Red Bull Super X series, which is a combination of SuperCross and Supercross. It is a very demanding and technical event, requiring riders to have a high level of skill and fitness.

Schwingenschlögl is a three-time world champion in SuperCross. He has also won the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi in 2002. He is currently ranked 10th in the world in SuperCross.

Hill is a two-time world champion in SuperCross. He has also won the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi in 2001. He is currently ranked 15th in the world in SuperCross.

Ballentyne is a one-time world champion in SuperCross. He has also won the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi in 2000. He is currently ranked 20th in the world in SuperCross.

The event was a great success for the UAE. It was the first time that a Red Bull Super X event has been held in the UAE. It was also the first time that a German rider has won the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi.

The event was a great day for the UAE. It was a great day for the fans. It was a great day for the riders. It was a great day for the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi.



Gen. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum presenting the trophy to Nico Schwingenschlögl at the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi yesterday



Zakary Khalilid, White House's special envoy to Iraq, talks to reporters at the US-government meeting of Iraqi opposition groups at Fakhri Palace in southern Iraq yesterday

### Commander surrenders

BAGHDAD — The commander of a 1000-man army unit who controlled the east area along the Syrian border has surrendered to US forces, according to US officials.

The commander, a senior officer, was captured by US forces in a surprise attack on the east area of the Iraq war. "I am ready to help. Think you're liberating Iraq and making it stable," said General Mohammed Bazzaz after making his formal surrender.

"I hope we have a good knowledge with the US and UN," said Bazzaz, who is currently in the hands of US Colonel Carlos Diaz. — AFP

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UN President George W. Bush stated yesterday that coalition forces would pursue the war in Iraq until every element of the Saddam Hussein regime is crushed.

The victory in Iraq is certain, but it is not complete," Rumsfeld said, adding a warning that the United States will be disappointed from international terrorists and weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Bush took a small step yesterday when he spoke in French. President Jacques Chirac, when the latter called him, towards bridging their deep differences over the war in Iraq, speaking for the first time in two months.

The 20-minute telephone conversation — their first contact since February 7 — came at Mr Chirac's initiative, with his spokeswoman Catherine Colonna calling it a "positive" exchange.

The French president told Mr Bush of "France's willingness to act in a pragmatic way" on issues relating to the post-war reconstruction of Iraq, Colonna said.

"Continued growth of the economy is critical, not to get rid of Iraq, despite the deep and dangerous economic crisis," he said. Mr Rumsfeld said only a few Iraqis still remain controlled, and Iraqis were now choosing to deal with remaining Iraq fighters in smaller cities and towns they had bypassed earlier.

Meanwhile, the search for a new Iraq leadership began yesterday with US officials meeting opposition leaders, but tensions were still running high with 22 people killed in a Baghdad bombing last night.

A rally of around 20,000 mostly Shi'ite Muslims, including a monk and another Saddam Hussein's Sunni regime, gathered at the meeting held near Baghdad in southern Iraq, denouncing the scope of the changes sweeping Iraq and the political legacy Washington's attempt to rebuild the country.

Iraq's leading Shi'ite group boycotted the meeting and a key opposition leader said only a representative would debate over the role of the United States and several decisions over how to craft a representative government.

The special White House envoy to the Iraq opposition, Zakary Khalilid, told the meeting in the city of Uthmaniyah that the United States had "no intention of ending Iraq" after the fall of Iraq leader Saddam Hussein.

"We want you to establish your own democratic system based on Iraq's traditions and values," he told the 40 delegates on hand, who included local and tribal opposition leaders as well as religious

officials. The opposition group adopted a statement declaring that a future Iraq government must be democratic and based on the rule of law, and that no leader should be imposed from outside.

The statement included:

1. Iraq must be democratic.
2. The future government of Iraq should not be based on communal identity.
3. A future government should be organized as a democratic, federal system, but on the basis of consociationalism.
4. The rule of law must be guaranteed.
5. That Iraq must be built on respect for diversity including respect for the role of women.
6. The meeting discussed the role of religion in state and society.
7. The meeting discussed the principle that Iraqis must choose their leaders, not have them imposed from outside.

That political violence must be rejected, and that Iraq must immediately restore

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## Three Palestinians, three Israelis die in violence

NABLUS — An Israeli army helicopter in Nablus shot the three of a Palestinian militant boat and an Israeli army rifle boat yesterday, while two Israeli army workers were shot by a Palestinian who was shot a fleeing vessel on the Golan Heights.

Israeli Lieutenant Daniel Mandel, 24, was killed in the same incident, an army spokesman said, while two soldiers in his unit were wounded, one seriously.

The army added the other two who were identified as soldiers.

### IRAQ IN TRANSITION

Four-page special report inside



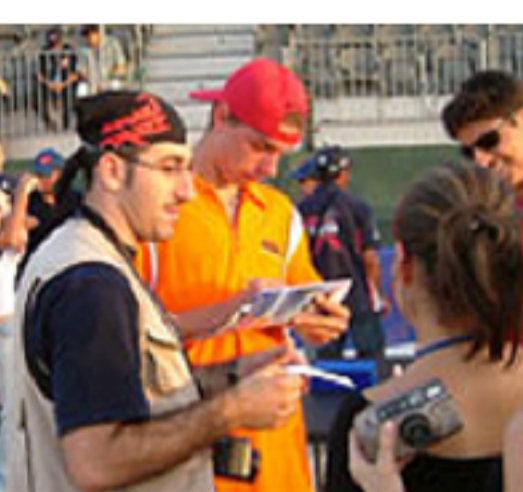
German rider wins RED BULL SUPERCROSS in Abu Dhabi

By A Correspondent 4 October 2003

**ABU DHABI** - More than 5,000 motor racing fans gathered here yesterday to watch the best SX-Bike riders in the UAE compete in the first **Red Bull Super X in the City** event, which was held under the patronage of Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Following three elimination rounds, the 32 competitors were reduced to just 14 for the action packed final. Each 15-minute race involved completing as many laps as possible of the specially created dirt course at the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club, which included a number of spectacular jumps to enable the riders to show their areal skills.

The Final was won by **Nico Schwingenschlögl of Germany** who beat of fierce competition to lift the winner's trophy and take the cash prize. South African rider Graham Hill and Tyrone Ballentyne were placed second and third, with Saoud Abdulla Al Moosa of the UAE in fourth place.



Racers, Fans & Girls ... even in the UAE !

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HH Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan and Nico S.

Prices also were awarded to Nick Grams of South Africa for Best Jumps and Mohammed Al Balooshi and Jassef Nasser for Most Promising UAE National Riders.

Red Bull's UAE Communications Manager, Alberto Chahoud, said: "Red Bull is famous for organising the most exciting extreme sports events and the Red Bull Super X in the City has proved a massive success. This is the first time we have held an event of this nature in the region and are looking forward to hosting others in the future.



● Nico Schwingenschlögl, Graham Hill and Tyrone Ballentyne receiving their prizes at the Red Bull Super X event in Abu Dhabi yesterday

We are impressed by the number of participants and spectators who contributed to a great day's racing, and would like to thank Abu Dhabi Municipality, Abu Dhabi Police and Civil Defence for their support and assistance in organising this unique event."

The participants were all UAE-based riders, representing the UAE, Britain, Italy, the USA, Germany and South Africa, who were short-listed from dozens of hopefuls to compete.