



**THE BATTLE FOR SHEBA FARMS**  
WEEKEND REVIEW



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# GULF NEWS



**30th YEAR**

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★★ LATE EDITION

## US moves to stem global panic

FED PUMPS RECORD RESERVES INTO MARKETS AS BUSH VOWS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE

### ESCAPE FROM BUS BLAZE



MEGAN HIRONS/Gulf News

**Alert driver saves dozens**

Firefighters clear the wreckage of a burned-out bus in Bur Dubai yesterday. An alert bus driver saved the lives of possibly 50 passengers when he smelled smoke and asked them to get out on busy Khalid Bin Waleed Street in Bur Dubai. The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority's bus No 21 was on its way to Ras Al Khor from Al Ghubaiba. As soon as everyone left the bus, it caught fire and the blaze quickly spread. The bus was gutted and the adjacent bus stop partially melted in the fierce heat. No one was injured.

Report on Page 3

## Yemen arrests 30 suspected militants over suicide bombings at US embassy

American teenager and husband among victims as Washington issues travel warning

Sana'a (Reuters & AP) Yemeni authorities have arrested 30 people suspected of belonging to Al Qaeda following an attack on the heavily fortified US embassy in Sana'a, a security source said yesterday. Two suicide car bombs set off a series of explosions outside the embassy compound on Wednesday, killing 16 people including six attackers. The dead were all Yemeni apart from an Indian woman who was walking past. "The security authorities want to investigate whether the suspects

are linked to the attack," the security source said. A Yemeni security source said Washington would send investigators to Yemen to help the authorities. The arrests came as Washington issued a travel warning for Yemen, asking US citizens to "defer non-essential travel". The State Department also confirmed that a young American woman and her Yemeni husband were killed in the attack. A spokesman said yesterday officials have verified reports the family of Susan

Al Baneh that the 18-year-old was among the victims of Wednesday's attack. Her brother says Al Baneh, who was recently wed in Yemen in an arranged marriage, was outside the embassy with her husband apparently waiting to complete paperwork. The Yemeni Interior Ministry listed the dead as six Yemeni soldiers, four civilians and six attackers. Yemeni security sources said the attackers were disguised in military uniforms and had made their cars look like those driven

by Yemen's security forces. They had planned to use their disguises to get inside the compound to the main embassy building which is some distance from the gate. Yemeni security forces set up check points in Sana'a, particularly around embassies and areas where foreign diplomats and business people live. A US embassy spokesman said the embassy would stay open after Al Jazeera television said it had closed after the attack.

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**New York (Reuters & AP)**

The US Federal Reserve pumped a record daily total of \$105 billion of temporary reserves into the banking system via repurchase operations yesterday as global central banks stepped up intensive efforts to free up near paralysed short-term lending markets. Yesterday's total exceeds the previous biggest daily injection the Federal Reserve had ever added to the banking system, of \$81.25 billion in September 2001 after the attacks on New York and Washington. The Fed also made an extra \$180 billion available to central banks worldwide to lend on to local commercial banks in a bid to get dollars circulating in overnight and term money markets, reaching a total of \$247 billion. The drastic steps were aimed at combating shock waves from the worst financial upheaval since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Asian markets closed lower, but the Fed action helped send European stocks higher after three days of losses. Wall Street initially rallied, but trimmed gains as the morning wore on.

The interventions came as US President George W. Bush expressed concerns yesterday about the turmoil in financial markets and said his administration was prepared to go beyond the "extraordinary measures" already taken to strengthen and stabilise them. "The American people can be sure we will continue to act to strengthen and

**IMPACT**

**GULF SHARES END IN RED**

UAE shares slumped yesterday amid investor worries over the deepening of global financial crisis. At close, the Dubai Financial Market General Index was down 3.02 per cent to 3922.64. Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange Index declined 2.64 per cent to 3730.31. About Dh18 billion was wiped away from the markets yesterday. In the region's other bourses, Doha posted a gain of 3.66 per cent, Muscat 0.5 per cent and Bahrain was up 0.36 per cent. Kuwait, however, was up 0.44 per cent. "Investors are reacting to what is happening in the US," said Sharif Abdul Khalek, manager, institutional accounts, Beltone Financial Securities.

By Gaurav Ghose/  
Financial Features Editor

stabilise our financial markets and improve investor confidence," he told reporters in a brief statement outside the Oval Office at the White House. Spokeswoman Dana Perino declined to comment on what possible further steps were under consideration.

In Bush's first remarks on the financial crisis, he said the recent steps by his administration and the Federal Reserve were necessary. "The American people are concerned about the situation in our financial markets and our economy, and I share their concerns," he said.

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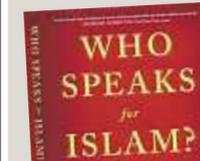
**BOOK EXCERPT**

**WHO SPEAKS FOR ISLAM?**

- Most Islamic radicals are from stable upper-middle class families, and are well-educated. They do not fit the classic image of a poor and unemployed individual driven to religious fanaticism by circumstance.
- Many Muslim violent radical activists share the same political aims as Muslim moderates. Both groups want improved economic conditions, greater security and an end to civil tension; but they differ on how to achieve these aims, with the moderates favouring better education and the radicals wanting more democracy.
- Most Muslims do not trust America when it calls for more democracy in the Middle East, and think that America spread chaos and civil war.

These are some of the important findings in the definitive study published by Gallup in the book, Who speaks for Islam? from which Gulf News is publishing excerpts every week of Ramadan.

Full report on Page 16



**IN DEPTH EDUCATION**

## HOW GOOD IS YOUR ENGLISH?

As the UAE becomes a global player, a need for a common language for business and education has surfaced. Today, that language is English. In preparing UAE pupils to be on par with their global counterparts in the job markets, the Ministry of Education introduced English proficiency examinations last year in its schools. Gulf News looks into the exam, its purpose and effects.

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**On the web**

For an interactive test on English, visit [www.gulfnews.com/nation](http://www.gulfnews.com/nation)



**IRAQ**

## Seven American soldiers killed in helicopter crash

US military rules out hostile fire

Baghdad (AP) Seven American soldiers were killed in southern Iraq early yesterday when their helicopter crashed as it was flying into the country from Kuwait, the US military said. The military said the CH-47 Chinook helicopter did not come under attack, and that it believes the crash was an accident. "At this time we are uncertain of the cause, but hostile fire

has been ruled out," military spokesman Major John Hall said. "The other three helicopters in the flight did not have incident or injury." The four-helicopter convoy was flying from Kuwait to the US military base at Balad north of Baghdad. It was the deadliest helicopter accident for US troops since a Black Hawk crash killed 14 soldiers in 2007.

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**RAMADAN AND PRAYER TIMINGS**

**IFTAR 18.21**  
Fajr 04.47 Shuruq 06.07  
Dhuhr 12.19 Asr 15.44  
Maghrib 18.21 Isha 19.51

**IMSAAK 04.37 (tomorrow)**  
Add 4 minutes for Abu Dhabi, deduct 4 minutes for RAK and 6 minutes for Fujairah



**TRAGEDY**

## Mystery shrouds bodies found in Creek

Mother and baby found tied together with a piece of cloth

BY SUNITA MENON AND ALIA AL THEEB  
Staff Reporters

Dubai Mystery surrounds the deaths of a young Indian couple and their 20 month-old daughter after police fished their bodies out of Dubai Creek on Wednesday. A neighbour of the family said he saw Girish Kumar rushing out of the house with the baby and his wife Shabija running behind him. There were burn injuries on her legs and hands, he said. A colleague and close

friend of Kumar said he was a "smart young man who was very diligent at his work. I met him on Monday. He looked quite relaxed. When I heard about his death I was shocked," he said.

**Woman's suicide bid**

Police said the woman and the baby were tied together with a piece of cloth. Police only said two bodies were fished out. But a friend said police called Kumar's brother, Manikanttan to say they have fished out three bodies. "The bodies were

identified by the brother," said the friend. The Kumar family came from Kozhikode in the south Indian state of Kerala.

In an unrelated incident, police arrested an Iranian woman who doused herself with petrol and threatened to set herself on fire on Monday at Safa Park. The woman wanted her son who is in jail for drug addiction, released.

A policeman sneaked up behind her as she was shouting and snatched the lighter from her with which she was threatening to set herself on fire.

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