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army officials said explosive device

AMMAN, MONDAY JANUARY 2, 1984, RABIA AL AWWAL 28, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals;

'84 expected to mark Jordan's commercial oil production'

# Oil to flow in new year, officials say

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN —** Jordan will start producing oil apparently in commercial quantities in 1984, according to well-informed government sources.

The sources told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i Saturday that a 1,500-metre deep well has started producing 400 barrels per day, which they described as a good sign that the area where exploration teams are engaged in digging contain oil in commercial quantities. The sources added that final results would appear very soon, probably within days, on production quantities.

Several foreign companies have been drilling for oil in Azrak, near the Iraqi-Jordanian border and Iraqi technicians have taken a prominent role in exploration work elsewhere in the country. The sources did not reveal the exact site where the new well has started production.

The sources said the oil produced in Jordan contains only one

the various areas where oil exploration has been going on.

In the national budget for 1984, an amount of JD 6.1 million has been set aside for oil exploration, reflecting an increase of 15 per cent from the comparative figure for 1983.

Jordan imports about 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes of oil for the refinery in Zarqa. Oil refining facilities at the Zarqa plant are being expanded to meet the country's demand for refined products until the year 2000, according to senior officials at the refinery.

Exploration for shale oil has revealed that the Kingdom has vast reserves of the rock, but since the cost of producing oil from shale is highly expensive Jordan has not yet taken up tapping its



A car ploughs through knee-deep water near the Sports City traffic junction as unexpected rains swept Jordan Sunday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## 'Sunday rains were a windfall'

**AMMAN (J.T.) —** The rains which Jordan enjoyed Sunday do not herald the beginning of the rainy season in the Kingdom, as the weather forecast for Monday by the Meteorological Department is moderate with a gradual rise in temperature.

An extension of a depression over the Red Sea extended northwards to the East Mediterranean, developing low atmospheric pressure over Cyprus Sunday morning. At the same time, a cold upper draught moved

towards the same area from North Africa causing the formation of thick clouds over Jordan which resulted in scattered rainfalls during the afternoon in the northern part of the Kingdom extending gradually southwards.

Sunday's rainfall is the first after a dry period lasting about 45 days. The situation is expected to last until Monday evening with a gradual drop in temperature, Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the Meteorological Department told the Jordan Times.

According to the department the rainy season is expected to start as late as February in Jordan. No substantial quantities of rain are expected to fall before that in the Kingdom, Dr. Abanda said.

Monday morning will be partly cloudy with scattered showers associated with thunderstorms.

Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In the Gulf of Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with probable scattered showers and winds southerly moderate and rough seas.

## No freeze planned on settlements in occupied territories

## Israel limits government spending

## Arafat hold m

TUNIS (R) — Palest were locked in ma Sunday after spendi trying to chart futu lowing Yasser Arafat from Lebanon and with Egyptian Pres Mubarak.

Informed sources of the Central Comm Arafat's Fateh group Saturday night was s

Mr. Arafat, chair Palestine Liberation (PLO) of which Fate gest faction, explained ided to meet Mr.

Cairo 10 days ago alth is still officially boyce Arab League for sig arate peace treaty w 1979, the sources sai

There was no ind long the meeting w whether a communic issued.

Diplomatic sources the issues the Centra was probably discuss ther the time was ripe Palestinian governme

The idea, first floa assinated Egyptian Anwar Sadat, has be by Mr. Arafat up to

But there were re Arab press that the was re-examining th his meeting with Mr.

Such a governme

## Arafat attend