

Abu-Ali died at the age of 70 from the roof of his house, according to a *Reuter* report on 12 June. He had 170 children, the eldest aged 70. His longevity is attributed to his long life and his longevity to not drinking alcohol.

AN

INTERNAL

His bride queen
On 15 June married Lisa al-Sayid in a simple Muslim ceremony in Amman and proclaimed her bride queen. A *Reuter* report stated that Husain's bride had taken up Islam and was thereby becoming queen rather than princess.

The wedding celebrations, attended by 100 guests, the couple spent the night at the Royal Palace in Amman. They were expected to leave for Europe and the Middle East for a few days, the report said.

Ali next Crown Prince
The third son, 2-year old Prince Ali bin Hussein, Crown Prince when his father succeeds to the throne, was named in a message from Husain broadcast by *Reuter* on 8 June. The message said "Prince Ali bin Hussein, my son and the son of my late wife Alia, who gave her life for the Royal duties." King Hussein said he wanted the throne to be "crystal clear."

His youngest son to be
The King is bypassing his eldest son, Faisal, 14, both sons of his late wife, the British-born Princess Alia, whom he divorced in 1973.

AFFAIRS

F-16s?
Jordan was holding talks about possible Jordanian purchase of the F-16, America's most advanced military aircraft, the Israeli *Reuter* reported on 4 June. The aircraft would replace the older US and British aircraft now used by the Jordanian Air Force, according to sources.

quoted by *Maariv's* Arab affairs correspondent.

US Defence Secretary Harold Brown denied the report in a statement reported by the Saudi *Al-Madina al-Munawara*. Brown said there were permanent talks between Washington and Amman on armaments but that nothing had been mentioned about supplying F-16s.

Joint plan with PLO

Jordan and the PLO had drawn up a plan calling for the establishment of a joint Arab fund for the people of the West Bank, the *Middle East Reporter* said on 7 June quoting *AFP*. The plan had been submitted to the Arab League but had not yet been studied by the special League committee, the agency said.

Saiqa leader Zuhair Muhsen had denied that Rumania was mediating between Jordan and the PLO, *Reuter* reported on 1 June. Muhsen said a mediation attempt by Algeria in February and March ended when the Israelis invaded southern Lebanon (ARR 160, 181).

SOCIAL: HEALTH

New cholera fears

Jordan would take all necessary measures to avert another cholera epidemic, Health Ministry Under-Secretary Rizq Rashaan said on 5 June, quoted by *Reuter*. A Jordanian team had visited Damascus recently to prepare "combat plans" in case the disease broke out again, the report said.

An epidemic last year caused 78 deaths in Syria and one in Jordan, and over 2,900 cases were treated in the two countries (ARR 77/699, 751).

IN BRIEF: POLITICAL

UNRWA will move its headquarters from Beirut to Vienna and Amman, its Commissioner-General Thomas MacElhiney confirmed to *Reuter* on 13 June.

Sudanese President Jaafar Nimairi arrived in Amman on 6 June for talks with King Husain on ways of restoring Arab solidarity (see *ARAB AFFAIRS: Inter-Arab Affairs*).

The Saudi Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Prince Majed Ibn-Abdel-Aziz, arrived in Amman on 10 June on a four-day visit to discuss development and construction with Jordanian officials, *Reuter* reported.

Information Minister Adnan Abu-Auda returned from Moscow on 6 June, *Amman Radio* reported. During the week-long visit

he discussed co-operation projects with Sergei Lapin, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

Egyptian Vice-President Husni Mubarak sent a message to King Husain suggesting that Jordan should hold talks with Israel on the future of the West Bank, at the same time as projected discussions between Egypt and Israel over the Gaza Strip, *Arabia & the Gulf* claimed on 5 June. King Husain reportedly turned down the offer.

IN BRIEF: ECONOMIC

The Saudi Development Fund on 7 June announced loans to Jordan worth \$75.5 million to finance electrical and water projects in Amman and the port of Aqaba, *Reuter* reported.

The Cairo-based International Afro-Arab Bank had agreed to lend Jordan \$10 million to build a 300-room hotel in Amman, *Reuter* reported on 8 June.

Solo Batignolles of France has won a \$30-million contract to oversee design, construction, training and equipment for the chemical fertilizer project being built at Aqaba. The plant, costing approximately \$125 million, should be operational in 1981, the London daily *Financial Times* reported on 6 June.

Japan's Nippon Electric Company had won a \$10-million order from Jordan's Telecommunication Corporation to install a satellite ground station in the suburbs of Amman, *Reuter* reported on 14 June.

Jordan and Greece signed an agreement regulating land transport and transit in Amman on 15 June, according to *Reuter*.

Trade exchanges with Sudan are to be increased from \$3.5 million to \$5 million under a protocol signed on 11 June, *MENA* reported. The protocol reduces customs duties on certain goods by 50 per cent.

The Central Bank has issued a 20-dinar (200) banknote *Reuter* reported on 12 June. There are now five denominations in circulation: the 500 fils, 1,000 fils, 5-dinar, 10-dinar and 20-dinar notes.

Transport Minister Ali Suhaimat and his delegation left Damascus on 15 June after a three-day visit, during which they attended meetings of the Higher Authority for Re-operating the Hejaz Railway. They also attended the General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian joint committee on maritime navigation.

IN BRIEF: SOCIAL

Jordan University's new President, Dr Nassreddin al-Asad, took up his post on 3 June, the *Jordan Times* reported. He was the University's first President in 1962, and has since been Jordan's Ambassador in Jeddah.

Jordan and North Korea signed a cultural agreement on 15 June which will increase co-operation in science, education, literature, art, public health and sport.

KUWAIT

POLITICAL: INTERNAL

Finance Minister cleared
Finance Minister Abdulla al-Atiqi was cleared on 14 June of allegations that he used his position to channel an Education Ministry grant to his son's stationery business. Anwar Atiqi, his partner, and Abdur-Rahman Tuwayj, Controller at the Education Ministry, Muhammad Sulaiman, another official, were implicated in the report of a special investigation committee made public on 14 June. The committee, the first of its kind, headed by Minister of Education & Administrative Affairs, Ad-Duajj as-Sabah.

The committee recommended action under the Public Administration Law to be taken against individuals and companies implicated in the report. It added that a non-Kuwaiti, Sabri Mousa Humoud, had been granted a residence permit without the required persona non grata clearance.

The report also recommended that the Central Tenders Commission have a more efficient administrative body, an administrative body, and the Education Ministry, which should extend the 14-day period allowed to reply to tenders. It said more companies could be given a chance to compete.

Rumours of corruption in the granting of tenders emerged in September 1977, when it was reported that Atiqi had won a contract for the lower bids of other companies (ARR 77/724).

Four newspapers suspended
The government stopped the publications during the first week of June. The daily *Al-Qabas* was suspended from publication for 14 days on 6 June, the weekly *Ar-Rai* was suspended for four days on 6 June, the daily *Ar-Rai* was ordered to cease publication for three days on 10 June, and the weekly *An-Nahda* was given a week suspension on 12 June. The Ministry of Information said they had all contravened the Publications Law.

A reason for the suspension of *Al-Qabas* was suggested by