

purchases would total only 120,000 tonnes (MEED 20:12:86).

● The Defence Ministry has denied a report that it tried to buy 12 West German Transall C-160 military transport aircraft. Munich-based **Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB)**, which builds the aircraft with French co-operation, said in early January that Iran had initiated purchase talks in early 1986, but the deal was vetoed by the Bonn government (MEED 10:1:87).

● Hungary's exports to Iran in the first nine months of 1986 dropped to \$29 million — only one-third of the previous year's level, **Moscow Narodny Bank** says. Imports climbed nearly 10-fold, to \$64 million.

● Czechoslovakia is discussing the establishment of joint industrial projects, including a machine tool works, an industrial pump manufacturing factory and a repair shop for power stations. Czechoslovakia will buy some of the schemes' products, Foreign Trade Minister Bohumil Urban says. He visited Tehran in mid-January for the fifth session of the joint economic commission.

● Romania is negotiating the possible purchase of 2 million tonnes of Iranian crude oil a year, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh says. A senior Romanian official visited Tehran in early January.

● Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Belgrade in mid-January for talks about various issues, including the non-aligned movement, the state radio reports.

● The local **Chimi Karun** plans to set up a complex producing furfural, and acetic and formic acid. It has invited prequalification documents from foreign firms. The company is part-owned by **National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)**.

● About \$100 million in foreign exchange has been allocated to small industries to help them to increase output, Commerce Minister Hassan Abedi Jaafari says. The sum — apparently for fiscal 1987/88 — will be used to import raw materials.

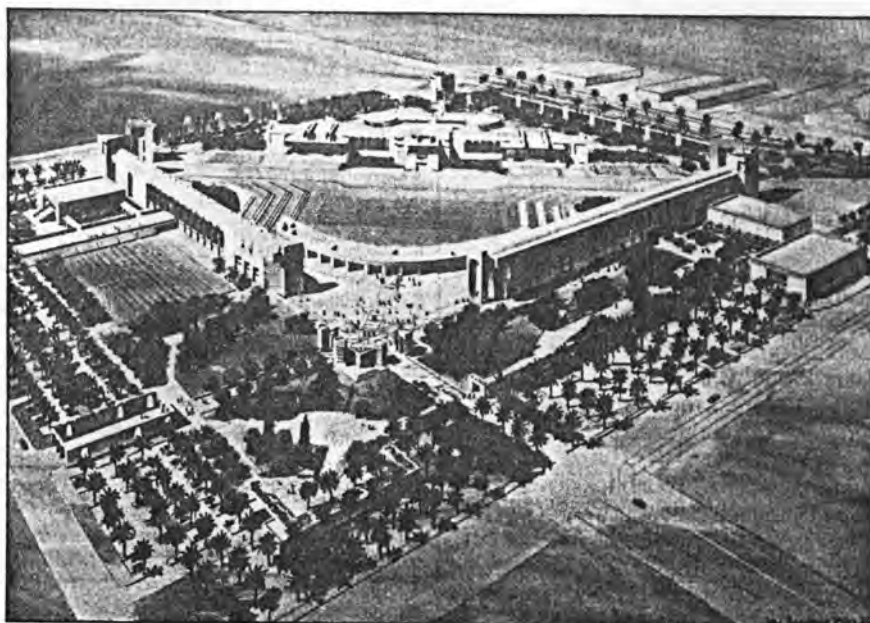
● Pakistan is to supply 1 million tons of wheat between February-May.

● Iran has rescheduled debts from Sudan totalling \$80 million, the Kuwait daily Al-Watan reports from Cairo. The Energy & Mining Ministry in Khartoum says Sudan is to import 250,000 tonnes of Iranian crude oil according to the terms of a \$100 million barter deal concluded recently (see Iran). Sudan's Prime Minister Sadiq el-Mahdi visited Tehran in late December (MEED 3:1:87).

IRAQ

Basra water bids reach evaluation stage

Three companies have submitted complete offers ranging from ID 200 million-360 million (\$645 million-1,160 million) for the Basra water supply project. The bids are now being evaluated by the client, the **Baghdad Water Supply Administration (BWSA)**, and the consultant, the UK's **Binnie & Partners**. This process is expected to take some time, although BWSA is understood to be



Makiya parades its success First prize in the competition to design a ceremonial parade ground for the Iraqi city of Tikrit went to UK-based architect Makiya Associates. The company was founded by Mohamed Makiya, who remains the principal consultant and designer; his work is the subject of the inaugural exhibition at London's Kufa gallery. The gallery, in Westbourne Grove, aims to promote Arab-Islamic culture through exhibitions of architecture, the visual arts, music and literature; the programme will include poetry readings, concerts, workshops, seminars and lectures

keen to award the contract in 1987 (MEED 20:12:86).

The bidders are:

□ India's **Continental Construction** — it is understood to have submitted at least six offers, ranging from ID 200 million-300 million (\$645 million-970 million)

□ France's **Sobeas** — its bid is around ID 204 million (\$658 million)

□ India's **Som Datt Builders** — its offer is understood to have been about ID 363 million (\$1,170 million).

West Germany's **Kloeckner Industrieanlagen** put in a bid for the contract's mechanical and electrical portion only.

IN BRIEF

● **Iraq National Oil Company's (INOC's)** plans for 1987 include development and start-up of production in new oil fields, deputy oil minister and INOC president Issam Abdel-Rahim al-Chalabi said on 13 January. Further exploration work will be carried out; a substantial increase in proven oil reserves was recently announced after evaluation of 15 fields (MEED 29:11:86). Al-Chalabi noted that an increase in oil export capacity will become available in mid-1987, following commissioning of the Turkish pipeline expansion. The Baiji lube oil refinery is also expected to start up. Existing plants already meet local demand, Al-Chalabi said, and the new refinery should provide considerable surplus for export. He also disclosed further plans to widen the private sector's role in operation and management of petrol and gas filling stations. Contracts to transport and distribute liquid fuels are expected to be tendered by the **State Organisation for the Distribution of Oil Products & Gas**. The **State**

Organisation for Gas — which has been set up to develop the dry and liquid gas industries — will begin work in March (MEED 6:12:86).

● A tender for construction of a detergent factory at Baiji has been announced by the Light Industry Ministry's **State Organisation for Industrial Projects (SOIP)**. Documents are available from SOIP's legal department, at a cost of ID 200 (\$645), until 2 February. Closing date for bids is 31 March; a ID 250,000 (\$806,450) bid bond is required. Raw materials for the factory will probably come from the recently completed linear alkyl benzene (LAB) unit built at Baiji for the Baghdad-based **Arab Company for Detergent Chemicals (Aradet)** — MEED 11:10:86).

● A tender for a contract to build a waste treatment plant for dairy farms at Abu Ghraib has been called by the **State Organisation for Industrial Projects**. Documents cost ID 250 (\$800) and are available until 25 January. Closing date for bids is 1 March; a ID 50,000 (\$161,300) bid bond is required. This is one of four projects lined up by the Light Industry Ministry for 1987 (MEED 10:1:87).

● Japan's **Marubeni Corporation** is still negotiating terms for a contract to supply medical equipment to sections of Baghdad's medical city complex, stage 2B (MEED 29:11:86; 28:9:84). The sections are the 650-bed surgical hospital and the 220-bed paediatric unit. The Tokyo trading house says the outlook for obtaining Japanese government financial support for the project is poor.

● The **State Trade Organisation for Grains & Foodstuffs** — set up to take over the responsibilities of the State Organisation for Agricultural Marketing — is in charge of importing, marketing and storing grains, red meat, fish, poultry and eggs. Other organisations now under its umbrella are: **State**