

KARACHI, Pakistan—Asif Ali Zardari is known as a polo-loving playboy who tainted the governments of his wife, Benazir Bhutto, with corruption scandals that landed him in jail. Saturday, he is likely to become president of Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state sliding deeper into turmoil.

Mr. Zardari's unusual path to the presidency follows the assassination of Ms. Bhutto last December and the ouster of President Pervez Musharraf in August. In a matter of months, Mr. Zardari has emerged as a sort of accidental leader of a party that had long revolved around his wife. It now must embrace him, in spite of his past, and sell Mr. Zardari's presidency to the people of Pakistan and the outside world.

The election comes amid heightened tensions with the U.S., Pakistan's largest foreign donor. On Thursday, Pakistan accused U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan of leading a cross-border raid into a Pakistani village that killed 20 people, including women and children. In a sign of rising anti-American anger, the Parliament passed resolutions Thursday condemning the at-

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move that could help reduce its reliance on U.S. air power and potentially allow more American forces to withdraw from the country than had been proposed.

If it clears hurdles in Washington, the multibillion-dollar deal would give the Iraqi government a powerful new weapon to use against the country's Shiite and Sunni insurgents. But the rapid rebuilding of Iraq's military forces with U.S. equipment such as F-16s could also be viewed with concern by other countries in the region, because of the placement of advanced weaponry in the hands of a nascent government of a country still struggling for stability.

The Air Force says it has 300 planes and helicopters in Iraq and Afghanistan, mostly in Iraq, but declined to provide a further breakdown, making it difficult to assess the impact of the proposed sale on overall air power there. Senior American officials have long argued that Iraq would need the U.S. to keep fighters and attack helicopters deployed throughout the country indefinitely, even as American ground troops start to withdraw.

Iraq now appears determined to significantly expand the air power of its military, which has be-

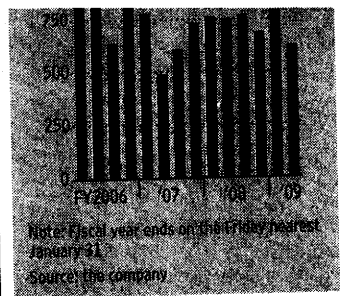
Martin Corp., is the most sophisticated weapons system Iraq has attempted to purchase so far. The Pentagon recently notified Congress that it had approved the sale of 24 American attack helicopters to Iraq, valued at as much as \$2.4 billion. Including the helicopters, Iraq has announced plans this year to purchase at least \$10 billion in U.S. tanks and armored vehicles, transport planes and other battlefield equipment and services, benefiting companies such as General Dynamics Corp., Boeing Co. and Raytheon Co.

Last year, the U.S. had worldwide foreign military sales of \$23.3 billion, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

The weapons deals, which will use Iraqi funds, come as Baghdad and Washington work to finalize a new long-term security pact that calls for American military forces to leave Iraq's cities by next summer as a prelude to a broader withdrawal from the country.

U.S. officials initially said the pact's withdrawal provision only applied to American combat troops, but Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki recently told reporters that he wants all American

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purchases a Dell factory would likely be contracted to continue making computers there for Dell, said one person with knowledge of the talks.

Dell's factories were originally tailored for a PC market that was driven by corporate customers ordering large volumes of desktop PCs. But over the past three years, growth has shifted to laptops sold to consumers at retail stores. Dell has lagged behind competitors in coming up with a streamlined system to build portable PCs.

A Dell spokesman asked to comment referred to a company filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this year that said Dell is "continuing to expand our use of original de-

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Have Knife, Will Travel: A Slaughterhouse on Wheels

'Custom Butcher' Gives Small Farms
New Option to Sell Local Produce

BY LAUREN ETTER

LOPEZ ISLAND, Wash.—To have his hogs butchered legally, farmer Bruce Dunlop could haul his animals by ferry and truck 150 miles to the nearest federally sanctioned slaughterhouse.

Instead, he just calls on his friendly roving neighborhood slaughterhouse.

Up rolls a diesel truck pulling an 8-by-12-foot trailer fitted with a sink, a 300-gallon water tank and a cooling locker with carcass hooks. A butcher in a floor-length apron kills, skins, guts and trims the pigs into slabs of meat that are then hung in the cooler and trundled to a packaging plant. Soon the meat is stocked in the freezers of shops on the island and across Washington state and Oregon.



Bruce Dunlop

It's not exactly meals on wheels. But Lopez Island's mobile slaughterhouse—the first to be sanctioned by the U.S. Agriculture Department—now shuttles from farm to farm three or four days a week, collecting fresh carcasses of cows, pigs and sheep that will become steaks, sausage, bacon and hamburgers. Without the rolling abattoir, says Mr. Dunlop, 53 years old, "we'd be pretty much out of luck."

Federal rules and consolidation of the nation's meatpacking industry have made it increasingly costly and cumbersome for small farmers to bring their animals to slaughter. According to the rules, animals intended to be sold as meat must be killed at a slaughterhouse with a federal inspector present. (Some

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ards to avoid performance or safety problems. The U.S. currently uses a wide variety of planes for air support in Iraq, so it's unclear how big a role Iraqi F-16s could play.

The U.S. has previously seen weapons meant for fragile allies end up in unfriendly hands, as with Iran in 1979. The U.S. will have to consider how advanced F-16s and their weapons, such as satellite-guided bombs, should be.

The F-16 purchase must be reviewed by the Pentagon, Congress and the State Department. The F-16s would allow the Iraqis to carry out their own airstrikes in insurgent positions, sometimes allow state inspectors to do the job.)

But the number of plants under federal inspection has dwindled to 308 nationwide, down from 1,750 three decades ago. Today, many farmers and ranchers must travel hundreds of miles or out-of-state for a legal slaughterhouse. Wyoming, for example, has no plants under federal inspection. It has 27 state inspectors, but under federal law, the meat can't be shipped across state lines.

On this island off the coast of Washington, a group of about 15 farmers decided that, rather than haul animals to a slaughterhouse in Sumner, Wash., they'd bring a slaughterhouse to their animals.

Mr. Dunlop, originally from Montreal, moved to his idyllic, 15-acre farm 12 years ago, fulfilling a lifelong dream. He began making and selling gourmet

and other electronic systems—could give it some of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the region. The planes can be equipped with advanced missiles and bombs, and would give Iraq a more potent air force than it had under Saddam Hussein, when the Iraqi air force mainly consisted of Russian and French fighters.

With a fleet of U.S.-made fighters, Iraq would be able to better match up against neighbors like Iran, which relies on Russian and Iranian-made fighters and aging American jets. U.S. analysts cautioned, however, that Iraq would still have one of the weaker air

The request is being reviewed in the normal course of business in the foreign military sales process," the spokeswoman said. The requests don't guarantee a sale as sometimes governments seek the information for planning pur-

25 countries. The Israeli air force also operates F-16s, as do Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, UAE, Oman and Bahrain.

The F-16's ubiquity may help it avoid opposition on technological grounds. In contrast, the latest U.S. fighter, the F-22 Raptor, has a special law prohibiting its export. Some U.S. fighter-jet sales have been ensnared in broader diplomatic tussles, however, such as F-16s for Pakistan that were hampered by the country's nuclear ambitions.

The U.S. recently announced F-16 sales to Morocco and Romania. Those sales, each for roughly

ing, related equipment and support included, offer an indication of how lucrative the Iraq deal could be for Lockheed Martin and its suppliers, which include Raytheon, Boeing and engine makers such as General Electric Co. and United Technologies Corp.'s Pratt & Whitney.

Morocco's purchase of 24 F-16 jets is worth as much as \$2.4 billion. The Romanian deal, for 48 new and upgraded planes, is worth as much as \$4.5 billion.

Over the summer, the Defense Department announced that the Iraqi government wanted to order more than 400 armored vehi-

up to \$3 billion, and six C-130 transport planes, worth up to \$1.5 billion. The C-130s are also made by Lockheed.

Such sales come at a time when the defense industry is looking increasingly at foreign government to offset an expected plateau or decline in the growth rate of Pentagon spending on weapons systems. Middle Eastern buyers, flush with oil revenue, are a big market for everything from U.S. transport planes to armored vehicles. Foreign countries also tend to buy years worth of services, training and support, making deals more lucrative to the manufacturers.

Slaughterhouse on Wheels

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want to just say, 'Sorry, you can't do this' because it hadn't been done before."

The Agriculture Department approved the unit in 2002 after determining that there was sufficient need and that farmers could dispose of waste through composting.

The cooperative hired two butchers, and the Agriculture Department assigned an inspector who would follow the slaughterhouse around. To pay for butchers and other expenses, the cooperative charges a fee for each animal killed: \$105 for a cow, \$53 for a pig, \$37 for a sheep.

At the crack of dawn one morning recently, the mobile unit pulled up behind a pickup truck at Mr. Dunlop's farm, a lively hollow where goats munched on wild roses and hogs rolled in mud.

Mr. Dunlop rounded up 10 of his 50 hogs. Butcher Dave Soler, a husky 24-year-old in a belt ringed with half a dozen knives and a sharpener, pulled on his

apron and knee-high rubber boots. Jim Donaldson, the Agriculture Department inspector, put on a hard hat and lab coat.

From a small straw-lined pen attached to an old barn, Mr. Dunlop guided each animal into a wooden corral. "Here, pig," he cooed at one, shaking a bucket of corn pellets. In a flash, Mr. Soler stunned the animal with a bolt gun, then cut its throat and hoisted it into the trailer with a winch. He stripped off the hide, and Mr. Donaldson inspected the pig's organs to ensure it was healthy. Within an hour, the hog's carcass was hanging in the locker.

By around 1 p.m., the other nine hogs had been butchered. Mr. Soler took off his blood-soaked apron, climbed into the co-op's white Ford pickup and steered the trailer 50 miles to a packaging plant in Bow, Wash. The meat would be processed, vacuum-packed, labeled and sold in the co-op's retail outlet in Bow. Some products would also

be distributed on the island. At Blossom Grocery, an Asian health-food store, the freezer is packed with sausage, steaks and other cuts from animals killed in the mobile unit. At the Bay Café chef and owner Daren Holsch says he features island meat on his menu as often as possible. Still, some of his lamb come from New Zealand because the supply is more consistent and costs less, he says, even with fuel and shipping costs.

Scott Meyers of Sweet Grass Farm Beef started raising Japanese Wagyu cattle on his grass pasture once the mobile unit was up and running. "It gave me access to the marketplace," he says. "Without that, I wouldn't have even considered" raising beef.

Mr. Meyers says the mobile unit offers his animals a "sublime death because they avoid the stress of traveling long distances. Such care makes his beef taste better, he says, as he introduces part of his herd: "This one's Violet here's Splits and Buttercup."

The Summer, Wash Slaughterhouse has been closed for 3 years.