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Thursday, 12 June 2003 - VOL. 13 • Issue No. 641 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Unidentified person sets fire to 7 radiotherapy machine at Al-Jumhuri Hospital

Pity!

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, 10 June 2003 - One of several machines that were supposed to be part of a radiation therapy center at Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sanaa was set on fire Saturday morning amid shock and dismay by Hospital staff and management. "We still don't know who did it, but we are searching for clues to find him. This is an outrageous act that may be a conspiracy to ruin the image and reputation of Al-Jumhuri Hospital and its management," said Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi General Manager of Al-Jumhuri Hospital.

According to the hospital sources, the machine started burning at around 9:00 am when the hospital's GM came along with others to realize that a wooden box containing an old but valuable machine - in hundreds of thousands of US dollars - belonging to the hospital was burning.

In a special interview with the Yemen Times, Dr. Al-Hamidi said, "I was among the first to see that box burning. I rushed to the scene and gave clear orders to the security people and others in the hospital to quickly work on extinguishing the fire and calling

the firefighters as quickly as possible. An investigation into this has already been started."

"We kept on trying to put the fire out with all possible means but the fire was still raging and only when the firefighters came was the fire extinguished. It seems that it was done intentionally by a dishonest person who wants to cause us harm," he added.

When asked about the containers and why they were left there in the backyard for months he said, "Those containers were brought to us in February 2002 from the Ministry of Public Health. The Minister ordered to send those machines and put them in the backyard as the place where they were supposed to be installed was not yet built. So we had to do so and go by the orders. This happened despite the fact that we had no idea of the brands, value, and specifications of those machines," Dr. Al-Hamidi said.

According to the hospital's management, the machines were composed of a linear accelerator and other nuclear radio-therapy devices to cure cancer diseases. The machines were brought from Japan in 1996 during the time Dr.

Najeeb Ghanem was Minister of Public Health. Since late 1996 until 2002 the machines stayed in the containers and were never installed.

Yemen Times contacted Dr. Najeeb Ghanem and inquired about the containers. "Those machines were given to us by the Japanese government as part of a debt relief agreement so as to provide Yemen with needed machinery to cure cancer diseases that could not be cured with conventional medicine or surgery," he said.

"In early 1997, everything went well as we prepared all the necessary elements to start building the radiotherapy center in Al-Jumhuri Hospital. We were supposed to build the center in five months. We trained the necessary cadres. We contracted the Japanese company in order to install the machines and train staffers. We reached an agreement with the Geneva-based International Atomic Energy Agency that they would provide all the necessary assistance to us. However, the 1997 elections resulted in ending my term as Minister, and ever since then, things never moved," he said.

Continued on page 3



Shown here is the devastation of the fire, which ultimately charred the machine. According to Al-Jumhuri Hospital's GM, the fire was surely set up on purpose to damage the reputation of the hospital and its management. Yemen Times photo by Yasser Al-Mayyasi

Promoting Yemeni-Saudi security cooperation

RIYADH, June 8 (Reuters & Yemen Times) - Saudi Arabia and Yemen agreed on Sunday June 8 to work together to fight weapons smuggling amid heightened security fears following last month's suicide bombings on expatriate compounds in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef said he hoped the agreement would help "limit terrorist activity...and control smuggling operations". He was speaking after talks with his Yemeni counterpart Rashad al-Alimi.

The Yemeni interior minister al-Alimi was attending in Riyadh the 7th meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi Supreme committee entrusted with implementation of the Jeddah border treaty between the two countries. In his speech at the meeting minister al-Alimi said the joint committee would discuss work done by committees assigned with enforcing the border agreement and would work to tackle various issues on the two countries border inlets.

Dr. al-Alimi also said that the meeting was to discuss issues regarding infiltration and weapons smuggling as well as to exchange information and to extradite the wanted from both countries.

At a joint news conference broadcast on Saudi television, Alimi was asked about media reports that the Riyadh suicide bombers had used explosives smuggled from Yemen. "Saudi authorities informed us that weapons were being smuggled from Yemen... The issue of smuggling and combating it need large resources and we are trying within our resources," he said.

Saudi authorities have confiscated weapons and explosives in raids throughout the country following the May 12 blasts which killed 35 people. They blame Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network for the bombings.

Yemen is trying to rid itself of its image as a haven for Muslim militants, including al Qaeda, and has cooperated with the U.S. war on terror.

Both sides have showed enthusiasm towards promoting bilateral relations

including maintaining security and stability on their borders.

The Yemen Times has also learned that the Yemeni delegation would give information to Saudi Arabia concerning activities of al-Qaeda elements and Yemen's role in tracking down those elements since 1998 when foreigners were targeted by Abu al-Hasan al-Mehdhar in Abyan in 1998.

In this context, four al-Qaeda suspects were handed over last month to the Yemeni authorities by the Saudi Arabia.

Those suspects have been charged with attacking the French oil super-tanker Limburg on October 6 last year. A blast tore open the side of the super-tanker in the Gulf of Aden, killing one crewman and causing the leakage of about 50,000 barrels of crude oil into the Arab Sea.

Yemen buys patrol boats

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has recently signed a contract to buy patrol boats from Austil Ships Company to supply a fleet of 10 high-speed patrol boats to the Ministry of Defence.

The 37.5 metre aluminum monohull boats will provide the level of capability Yemen would require in a reliable, simple to operate vessel that is easy to maintain. In a press release issued last week, the Austil Ships company said that the "patrol effectiveness that such a combination ensures is also being provided at a low acquisition cost for the purchaser, with the total contract price for the 10 vessels, spares, and a substantial package of training for 60 personnel coming in at well under US \$55 million."

This comes in a time Yemen and the USA are cooperating intensely in patrolling Yemeni coastline. Last week's visit of Combined Joint Task Force of Horn of Africa Commander Brigadier General Mastin M. Robeson



The purchases patrol boats are considered among the most advanced in the world

to attend the graduation of a new batch of Yemeni coastguards was another signal of Yemen's focus on patrolling its borders.

On the same level, according to the Associated Press, unmanned aerial drones similar to ones used in the war on Iraq could be patrolling the US border by the end of the year to help stem

illegal immigration and increase security.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Naif disclosed on June 9 plans to take wide-ranging measures in cooperation with Yemen to prevent terrorist attacks and the smuggling of weapons and explosives across the border.

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Only in a week Traffic accidents claim 32 lives

SANA'A—Official sources at traffic police confirmed in its last week report that the beginning of 2003 had witnessed horrible traffic accidents compared to previous years.

Last week, around 32 people were killed in traffic accidents in all governorates of the republic, the weekly report issued by the General Traffic Authority stated.

About 285 people are injured, of whom about 102 received serious injuries.

Those accidents took place last week as coinciding with the death anniversary of the deceased, Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, the founder of the Yemen Times.

The official statistics indicated further that the main reasons behind

traffic incidents can be attributed to high speed driving, reckless driving and narrow streets.

The General Traffic Authority report attributed the majority of road accidents to the break-neck speed, negligence, traffic violations, bad weather, lack of continuous technical check-ups and bad condition of roads.



Lack of safety precautions and break-neck speed in highways resulted in death-toll rise

Exchange rate fluctuation on rise

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A_ A financial report issued Monday by the Yemen Strategic Studies Center called for following an efficient currency policy to stop local currency exchange rate fluctuations.

The report issued by the center said the Yemen market undergoes exchange rate fluctuations following a relative calm the currency has seen in the past period.

The report has attributed the reasons behind the exchange rate fluctuations to the current development changes such as, terror acts and US-UK invasion to Iraq.

The report said killing the former YSP Assistant Secretary General and three American doctors in Jibla at the

end of the last year has also played a negative role in exchange rate fluctuations.

The report also stated that the local and regional current incidents particularly American military massing up in the Gulf urged many people to keep big quantities of dollars to encounter any possible commitments.

Since October, 2001, exchange fluctuations have taken speedy rates as one dollar jumped to 170 rials then to 178 rials, but at the beginning of this year it recorded a price of 183 rials.

The report also pointed to the decrease in tourism revenues that hit more than 80% than it had been planned for following the 11 September 2001 events. Those events are considered one of the temporary factors affected the exchange rate. The

report noted that the national Yemeni capitals used for investment abroad is another reason behind the exchange rate fluctuations.

During the last two years, Yemen has been overburdened with loans which have been estimated at YR. 12 billion. Added to that the drop in the purchasing power of the rial due to market fluctuations that caused imbalance to the state budget. The rise in the exchange rate also negatively affect Yemen's capability of attracting foreign investment, as it is natural for investments to go to countries enjoying more financial and monetary stability. According to report, halting exchange rate fluctuation in Yemen requires and increase in foreign currency supply in addition to raising the legal reserves of deposits.

Yemenia adds new aircrafts

Yemenia (Yemen Airways) announced on Saturday that is to add two brand new Airbus 330-200 aircrafts to its fleet per an agreement signed with the International Lease Finance Corporation (ILFC). Both aircrafts will be received directly from the facilities of Airbus Industry in France during 2004.

"Yemenia is proceeding with such ambitious steps after having received the government's blessing and support in recognition of its apparent achievements. His Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave directives to further strengthen the flag carrier enabling it to play a more efficient role in the country's development plans in the years to follow." Captain Abdulkhalek S. Al-Kadi, Chairman of Yemenia said.

According to Yemenia sources, A 330-200 is ideally suited to the needs of the markets within medium and long range versatility to serve extended-range routes initially to South East Asia and near East and Europe region. The new aircrafts will carry 283 passengers in First and Economy classes offering more comfortable seats, and would have better payload carrying capabilities, and better range and take-off performance.

Al-Quds central body second meeting concluded

The second meeting for Al-Quds central body, which was organized between 4-7 June, was concluded last Saturday in Sana'a. This meeting was titled "Sheikh Raid Salah session". The meeting final statement confirmed clinging to the full national rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of their national independent state with its capital al-Quds and the right to all forms of resistance.

The statement called on all Arab

and Islamic countries to shoulder their full responsibility for protecting al-Quds and its and its identity. It also called on all Arab and Muslim peoples and all the free people of the world to offer as much as possible support for preserving civilian life of the Palestinian people. The statement on the other hand denounced the arrest of Sheikh Raid Salah, head of the Islamic Movement, the head of the Aqsa foundation for reconstruction of Islamic sanctities.



YJS demands journalists be protected

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni journalists Syndicates (YJS) board members called on the security authorities to provide journalists due protection against the threats of anonymous people. In a press statement issued last Tuesday, the YJS said that a meeting was held by the board members to discuss what can be done towards the threats of murders against some journalists were prone to by anonymous people. The YJS demanded the security authorities to protect those journalists who received such threats and whose names as targets were published in the media. The statement demanded that the horror the families of those journalists should be removed by further protection for them.

The YJS board decided to be on emergency meeting and follow up con-

tacts with officials concerned till something concrete takes place.

Last week, the security authorities announced that one person who used to threaten journalists to be murdered was arrested. He used to send his threats via fax and telephone calls. Security sources said he is being interrogated now and that preliminary investigations have found that he has extremist ideas.

Several intellectuals, politicians and media people have been listed by the extremist gang of Ali Ahmad Jarallah, suspected murderer of YSP Assistant Secretary General, Jarallah Omar. The prosecution said that Ali Jarallah was planning with his gang to murder a number of politicians, intellectuals and journalists. This news has sent shock and horrific waves down to the minds of opinion makers and journalists who feel that their lives are in danger.

New census in Yemen scheduled in 2004

SANA'A—An official source at the ministry of planing said Sunday in a press statement that preparations were underway for carrying out the next census in 2004, officially enumerating of the population, with details a to age, sex, occupation, etc.

A committee, chaired by the minister of planning Ahmed Soufan, had been set up the beginning of this year for this purpose.

The source added that the committee's tasks were progressing well, pointing out that there was a change in the quality of data and figures exceeding 40% comparing to 1994 census. The committee has been for the past six months preparing a 37- document of he project. The committee approved in its final meeting the report of documents committee prepared by a workshop of the concerned bodies that dis-

cussed census form and the requirements.

The committee ensured its continuous follow-up for getting maps or buying them as being significant for the census purposes. Thus the committee agreed to buy the new space pictures for 17 main cities as a primary stage in the census project.

The source pointed out that the supreme committee for census had approved a group of modifications for the documents to provide a complete database.

The modifications included establishments, buildings and population.

And for the first time a document will be prepared for each topic and approving a new mechanism to save date and documents providing distinguished service for all the sides benefiting from the census.

Readers' Voice
Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

What is the most severe challenge for the new Yemeni government?

- poverty
- qat
- population growth
- corruption
- illiteracy
- water crisis
- other things

LAST EDITION'S QUESTION:

Should Bush and Blair be tried if weapons inspectors realize that there were no WMDs in Iraq when the US-UK war was waged?

Yes of course they should. **52%**
We should wait and see the results first. **21.4%**
No they should never be tried. **16.9%**
I don't care. **9.5%**

Go to our website at:
yementimes.com/#poll
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UK Embassy in Sana'a marks Queen Elizabeth's coronation

SANA'A_ A reception party was hosted by the UK Ambassador to Yemen, HE. Francis Guy at her residence in Sana'a on June 9 on the occasion of the Queen Elizabeth's coronation Day.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has marked the 50th anniversary of her coronation with a religious ceremony in London. The reception party was attended by a number of Arab and foreign guests. The event was low-key compared with last year's Golden Jubilee festival for the queen's ascension to the throne on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father, King George VI. Queen Elizabeth's coronation ceremony was held the following year.

The UK support to Yemen is to increase during the coming three years, said Francis Guy in her speech at the party. Ambassador Guy also talked about joint cooperation between UK and Yemen in the anti-terror campaign and role of the British Embassy in supporting women candidates. During the 27 April elections, about 50 women candidates who intended to run for the elections were trained on running for elections.

Ms Guy expressed her disappointment for not giving the opportunity for women to be elected. She hoped that the coming period will be promising for women in the political arena.



2nd Elizabeth, the Queen

Law disrupts traffic of 2,000 trucks

All hopes dashed

By Hassan al-Zaidi
Yemen Times Staff

It seems that legal principles and regulations set up by legislators to organize transportation could in some instances become a disaster. Such a situation can be exploited by some capitalists and private companies and influential to serve their own interests even if that could result in devastation for whole families. Hence we dare say that we are living in a country where certain laws may serve wealthy people with the purpose of widening class differences in the society.

Observers believe that what is happening nowadays at the Ministry of Transport is a beginning of a dangerous situation the MPs should pay



Truck drivers during their sit-in staged recently outside Sana'a

attention to. Even though most of the MPs themselves are only part of the whole scheme.

We are talking about the new law for transportation that when passed, it paralyzed more than 2,000 trucks owned by ordinary citizens causing families to be without income. People are because of this law, standing in long queues with their trucks waiting for permission to earn their living.

While this is the scene just outside the city entrance, some "lucky" people seem to be above the law although they really don't need to get much wealthier. Hopes were that the new minister in spite of the obvious conflict of interests due to his descent from a business family, could make a difference and put to order the chaos of transportation in the country.

The new law has given the ministry of transportation the authority to allow free competition, and allocated routes between and inside the cities so that no bias could occur towards any side. If this is what actually is happening then how come long sit-in queues of protesters are getting longer every day at the entrances of the cities?

Yemen Times met with one of the protesters, Mr. Adel Sa'ad Al-Baroory, who said: "We protest against military vehicles which have been rented to transport merchants' goods from the Hodeidah port without consideration for the lines of trucks waiting for their turn to come. We demand cancellation of the permits given to the military vehicles that transport civil goods."

Another truck driver, Mr. Ahmed Al-Matary said: "We request the pres-

ident to do something about the situation, because it has caused many families to starve."

Saeed Al-Showaf, a truck owner and driver says: "We have transport vehicles and we are committed to and abiding by the law and by the Hodeidah office for transportation's instruction and then suddenly, we are shocked to see vehicles given permits and starting to take over our own jobs. We have been for more than a month without any work."

Mahir, another truck driver says: "I went to the ministry and they asked me to pay YR 50,000 to grant me a permit. In fact one of the staffers there said: "give me 50,000 rials and I will give you a permit to transport any kind of goods and even without a commercial record."

Ali Mohammed from Al-Baidha said that they will continue the sit-in until their demands are met.

The protesters call for banning the military vehicles from being used and have their military plates removed. "We will demand the cancellation of permission given by the new law for those who call themselves merchants of goods that belong to them.

They work fifteen times a month, while we work once a month," he said.

Mr. Mohammed Mahmoud al-Matari, a lawyer said: "In order to make use of the legal texts, the fol-



Trucks have been still motionless

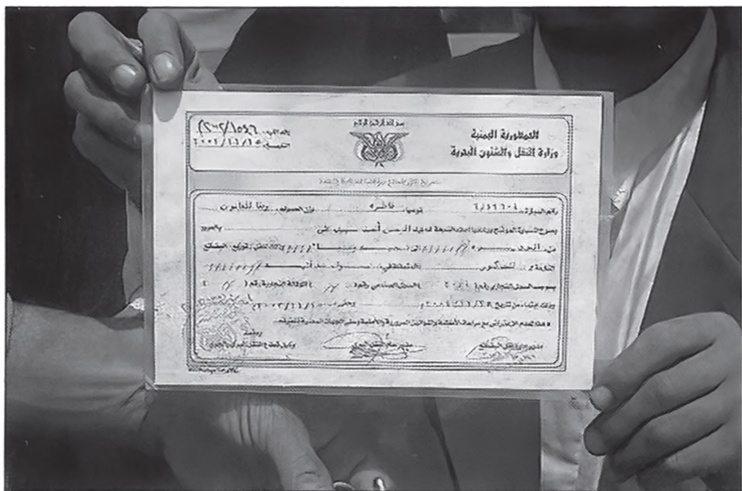
lowing should be taken into considerations:

- 1-Limitations and restrictions have to be made for the benefit of the merchants as well as goods owners.
- 2-There should be a certain kind of clarity and openness in determining the bodies that should obey the law and start their work.
- 3- Putting an end to monopoly either implicitly or explicitly according to what has been stated in the law texts. The bylaw has to be stated clearly and the merchant might claim that the truck drivers are the monopolists.
- 4- Sorting out transport syndicate-

related issues in organizing their main activities.

Article No. (7) of this law has allowed the official and non official bodies to deal with only those bodies which have permissions in order to pursue their land transportation.

It is clear that the situation will get worse of authorities do not take the appropriate measures as soon as possible. The economy depends on those truck drivers in delivering goods to the whole country and having 2,000 or more trucks not operational is not a positive sign for the future.



A truck driver is holding a permission given to him by the Transportation Ministry

Continued from page 1

Pity!

It is worth noting that the project of building the radiotherapy center at Al-Jumburi Hospital is still ongoing. Construction has been complete for most of the center, yet the hospital's management is awaiting funds to bring up-to-date equipment and machinery to be installed in the center. "Those machines that have stayed in the backyard of the hospital are quite old (7 years old) and may be useless. Hence, we will have to bring

new machines any way."

The incident raised the question of why such valuable machines have not been installed or dealt with by the successive ministers of health who followed Dr. Najeeb Ghanem. Is it corruption? Is it mismanagement? Is it simply carelessness? Those questions will be asked frequently in the near future, but all will definitely need answers, and many decision-makers should be held accountable.

Work from home

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Freelance translators from Arabic to English are required with the condition to agree on the following conditions:

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- 3-The deadlines for delivering of translated material is strict and precise.
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Those interested in this opportunity are urged to send their CVs with contact information as quickly as possible to fax (01) 268276 for evaluation.



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APTECH graduates to work in Gulf countries

Yemen Times learned that the managing board at APTECH Computer Education in Yemen has lately received a letter from the head office of APTECH worldwide placement network in India. The head office in the letter requested APTECH Yemen centers to send the files of any graduates

of APTECH Yemen who have finished a one or two year diplomas courses and are interested to get a job in any GCC countries. This is based on the increasing demand for IT specialist, especially those who have graduated from such a highly reputed institutions such as APTECH.

Musicastoria's concert brings delight to Sanaa

The Italian musical group "Musicastoria" brought great delight to guests who attended a musical night on Friday June 6, when the group gave a concert in the Sanaa Cultural Center. The concert, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Italian Embassy marked a spectacular conclusion for the third "Italian Week in Yemen", which was held in Sanaa and Aden from 31st May to 6th of June.

Established in 1996, the "Musicastoria" music group seeks to renovate and promote the musical her-

itage of Southern Italy by applying modern technology and instruments to traditional folk songs. The group, at its first tour outside Europe, has performed a number of national and international scenes, such as R.A.I., the State Television, and two Austrian tours in 1999 and 2001. This is their first tour out of Europe.

Musicastoria group consists of Antonella Citro (singer), Grancesco Granozi, Angelo Santucci, Gaetano Troisi, Danilo Gloriente and Pietro Pisano.



Week's millionaire announced



Mr. Mohammed Ali Hussein Asharafi has won YR. 1,000,000 at the Phone & Million Competition at the Sana'a Trade Center last week. The winner has appeared in different media means such as, newspapers and ads road signs. A number of people as well as media representatives have attended the prize ceremony and congratulated the winner.

يعيد الطاقة إلى حياتك

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SHARK ENERGY DRINK

شاركت مشروب الطاقة



1st month

2nd month

4th month

6th month

10th month

12th month

14th month

16th month

18th month

Rania enters her third year

22nd month

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Happy birthday "Rania"

After the president amnesty decision

The pardoned react

BY HASAN AZZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The reactions expressed by the 16-member group from the YSP included in the pardon decision by president of the republic varied from one man to another. We at the Yemen Times reviewed their reactions and came out with the following:

Ali Salem Al-Biedh, former vice-president and head of the YSP politburo, was given a death sentence. This man did not give any comment yet and nothing is known from his side.

Mohammed Ali Al-Qairas, former MP and Sa'ada governor, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment said that all were partners in this unity and mistakes were made by all. He appreciated the president's decision but he demanded face value return of their assets and properties taken during the '94 war.

Muthana Salem Askar, Advisor to the previous defense minister was sentenced to a 10 years imprisonment. sees this decision as an important step and that to return home should be a right guaranteed to all. But he sees that this step should be followed by other steps in order to rectify the mistakes that happened in the unity process. He also stated that their demands are to implement the principles of the Unity and to assure equal rights for all citizens and social justice.

Haidar Abubakr Al-Attas, the then prime minister was sentenced to death, considered the decision a starting-point for endorsing unity and overcoming mistakes of the past. He was grateful to

the president for closing this file and ending all the cruel consequences resulting from the '94 civil war. He pointed that they had been waiting for this decision for long but maybe there were reasons for the delay. He added that their return requires preparation of a number of circumstances so that all would return.

Anees Hassan Yahya, Deputy prime minister and member of the YSP politburo, was sentenced to 5 years in prison commented that this was a brave and positive decision. And he confirmed his will to cooperate and return home.

Salih Shaef, mentioned that the decision was a courageous political step in the right direction and there are many steps that must follow and there is a list of demands that concern the national case which was presented by the opposition parties and leadership of the YSP.

Qassim Yahya, advisor to the minister of defense then, was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment stated that this is a strong decision and that reasons for staying abroad are over. But he also hoped that the leadership would return their properties and possessions that were taken during the '94 crisis. He denied having any conditions for return and said that he would return when his personal circumstances allow it.

Ahmed Obaid Bin Daghr, member of the YSP central committee and head of the agricultural committee at the parliament in 1993 said that this pardon would open the way to solving many issues which Yemen should have overcome earlier. And he also stated that robust procedures and measures should be taken to return possessions and houses of the pardoned.

In quest about offering quick services to the expatriate,

State Post Authority launches express parcel service via Internet

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The State Post and Saving Authority has recently kicked off a new project based on international parcel service system via the internet.

The system works locally, Arab and internationally. The system provides a facility for post offices administrations and persons for following up location of their parcels in any country in the world. This new system offers the expatriates and customers a modern service characterized by speed and comprehensive quality. It also involves express post services, postal parcels, ordinary post dispatches, international accountancy and watching distribution.

Yemen post authority has in this regard sought advice and help from experts from Tunisia and Morocco working in the world post union. Those experts helped install the system and train specialized staff to operate this system and thus Yemen has now become the fifth Arab country applying the system after Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan and among 50 countries following this system.

The post authority has not added any extra costs to be born by those dealing with these postal services. The system's supply with equipment an preparing it



Post office building interior

for service cost \$32 thousand in addition to payment of 10 thousand as annual subscription to the world post union in return for managing the system.

On the other hand the post authority is in the process of launching new postal stamps portraying Yemen's historical, archaeological and cultural aspects, in addition to youth activities

and child creativities in world peace through their drawings.

The new postal stamps cover the following themes:

- Historical stamps that include four categories and postcards.
- Stamps depicting Yemen's participation in the world cup finals for the juveniles scheduled in Helsinki

- next August.
 - Child creativity in drawings on environment and world peace,
 - Yemeni folk costumes and others on old Sana'a to promote for Sana'a as capital for culture for the year 2004.
- These postal stamps will be put into circulation in July or August this year.

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project

General Procurement Notice

Loan/Credit No. 3625

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in the amount of US\$ 27.53 million equivalent toward the cost of the health Reform Support Project (HRSP), and it intends to apply the proceeds of this credit to payments for goods, works related services and consulting services to be procured under this project. The project will include the following components:

Part A: Strengthening health Service Delivery

1. Decentralized Operational Management

Improving the management system and procedures of Governorate and district health offices support of the decentralization of resource management required for establishing an operational district health system in accordance with the Local Authorities Law, through the carrying out of civil works for the rehabilitation of health offices and the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

2. Delivery of a Package of Integrated maternal and Child (PIMAC) Health Service

Supporting the delivery of PIMAC health services in district hospitals and health centers, including: (a) the development of clinical standards and protocols as well as service delivery guidelines; (b) upgrading the skills of health care providers; (c) the provision of drugs, medical supplies and medical equipment; (d) the provision of reproductive health/family planning supplies; and (e) the rehabilitation of about eight (8) district hospitals and about sixteen (16) health centers in eight (8) districts within four (4) different Governorates, through the carrying out of civil works and the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

Part B: Strengthening Public Health Programs

1. Malaria

- (a) Strengthening the national malaria control program activities by:
 - (i) developing a national system for the assessment and review of national malaria treatment policies; and (ii) the strengthening of the capacity of about seven referral laboratories, through the carrying out of civil works and the provision of goods, consultant services and training.
- (b) Improving malaria integrated vector management in high-risk and epidemic-prone areas, including: (i) the promotion of

personal protection measures; (ii) residual house spraying; (iii) use of insecticide treated materials; (iv) environmental management; and (v) larviciding, all through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

- (c) Establishing mobile teams for epidemic detection and response through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.
- (d) Strengthening the institutional capacity of the health education program by revising the organizational structure for health education management and upgrading the human resources skills through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

2. Health Education

- (a) Strengthening the institutional capacity of the health education program by revising the organizational structure for health education management and upgrading the human resources skills through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.
- (b) Supporting the development of a communication for behavior change program to address the priority health problems, including, inter alia, reproductive health/family planning, malaria, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, through the provision of goods, consultant services, training and conducting mass and interpersonal communication campaigns.

Part C: Improving Health Systems Management

1. Health Finance and Management

- (a) Supporting the development of human resources in the areas of financial analysis by: (i) conducting an annual analysis for public expenditures programming to improve resource allocation; (ii) preparing national health accounts to provide detailed analysis on total health spending in public and private sector; and (iii) the preparation of health insurance studies to assess the feasibility of developing a health insurance program, through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.
- (b) Developing health management by establishing the national center for health management training and developing a national health management training program through the carrying out of minor civil works and the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

2. Health management Information System (HMIS)

Developing a health management information system, including: (a) a

management decision support system; (b) a health information system; and (c) a geographic information system, through the provision of goods, consultant services and training.

3. Credit Administration and Project Coordination

Providing support to the CAU for carrying out its responsibilities under the Project through the provision of goods and consultant services.

Procurement of contracts financed by the credit will be conducted through the procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines. Consulting services will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines; Selection and employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999).

Specific procurement notices for contracts to be bid under the World Bank's international competitive bidding (ICB) procedures and for large-value consultants' contracts will be announced, as they become available, in Development Business and the name of technical magazines, newspapers and trade publications of wide international circulation and in local newspapers.

Interested eligible bidders who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive an invitation to pre-qualify/bid under ICB procedures, and interested consultants who wish to receive a copy of the advertisement requesting expressions of interest for large-value consultants' contracts, or those requiring additional information, should contact the address below.

Dr. Naseeb Al-Qirbi
Health Reform Support Project
Credit Administration Unit, 4th Floor
Ministry of Public Health and Population
P. O. Box: 1330 - Al-Hasabah
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Tel: 00-967-1-252224
Fax: 00-967-1-251622
E-mail: hrsp@y.net.ye

Iran says its has no hidden nuclear facilities

TEHRAN, June 10 (Reuters) - Iran denied on Tuesday having any hidden nuclear facilities that should have been declared to U.N. inspectors, following a critical U.N. report of Tehran's nuclear programme which Washington called "deeply troubling".

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report accused Iran of failing to declare the import of uranium in 1991 and of failing to show where and how it was processed.

"We do not have any site in Iran which is necessary to declare to the Agency based on its regulations," Atomic Energy Organisation chief Gholamreza Aghazadeh told a news conference.

"In the era of satellites, how could such huge facilities be hidden?" he asked. "The IAEA was informed of our activities even months before it should have been."

Washington has accused Iran of violating the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which Tehran has signed, by using undeclared nuclear material to test a uranium enrichment system.

Uranium must be enriched for use, either slightly enriched for nuclear fuel or heavily enriched for a bomb.

Iran said this year an enrichment plant would be built in Kashan in central Iran with fuel from Isfahan, where a uranium conversion facility (UCF) is nearing completion.

"We have no other uranium enrichment plant except one in Kashan," Aghazadeh said. Oil and gas-rich Iran insists its nuclear pro-

gramme is purely for civil energy purposes.

But the Atomic Energy Organisation chief admitted Iran had imported uranium in 1991, a shipment the IAEA said in its report should have been declared.

"Some 1,800 kg (3,960 lbs) of uranium was imported from China 12 years ago for a UCF," Aghazadeh said. However 1,000 kg of the uranium from the shipment remained intact, while another 800 kg had been subject to tests, he said.

"The tested material is under the supervision of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation," he added.

The IAEA, United States, Russia and the European Union have all called on Iran to sign an additional protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty allowing more thorough inspections of its nuclear facilities with little fore-warning.

But Iran insists U.S. sanctions should first be dropped and other countries should assist its nuclear programmes.

"As a signatory of the NPT, we expect to get some benefits. Commitments are mutual and should be clarified," Aghazadeh said. "Then we will be ready to sign the additional protocol."

Iran says its first nuclear power plant, under construction with Russian help in the southern port city of Bushehr, is due to be completed next year.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei is due to formally present the agency's report in Vienna next week.

Hamas leader Rantissi vows to fight Israel

GAZA, June 10 (Reuters) - Wounded Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi vowed after surviving an Israeli attempt to kill him on Tuesday that the Palestinian militant group would continue to attack Israel until every last "Zionist" was gone.

"We will maintain our jihad (holy war) and resistance until we kick out every single criminal Zionist from our land," he told al-Jazeera television by telephone from a hospital following the helicopter missile attack on his car in Gaza.

"We will fight them with all our might. This is our land not their land and we will defend it," he said, sending a direct warning to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"Sharon, ...you and all Israelis will not be safe until you leave this land."

Rantissi said he had jumped out of his car after a first missile struck. Witnesses said seven rockets were fired in all.

He said he was wounded in the leg and chest.

Rantissi, 56, is a senior political aide to Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and has taken the informal role of spokesman for the Islamic group.

He has taken centre stage over the past week in



Wounded Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi is interviewed from his hospital bed in Gaza, June 10, 2003. Al-Rantissi vowed after surviving an Israeli attempt to kill him in a helicopter attack on Tuesday that the Palestinian militant group would continue to attack Israel until every last "Zionist" was gone. REUTERS

rejecting calls by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to cease attacks on Israelis in line with the U.S.-backed "road map" for Middle East peace.

Sudan to send extra forces to fight in west-paper

KHARTOUM, June 10 (Reuters) - Sudan will send military reinforcements to the troubled western area of the war-torn African country where a new rebel group has recently taken up arms against the government, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

The government-owned Al-Anbaa newspaper quoted Interior Minister Major General Abdel Rahim Mohamed Hussein as telling parliament that 12 battalions,

equipped with 364 vehicles, were ready to move to Darfur, one of Sudan's most arid areas.

Darfur's Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), which has been fighting government forces since early February, accuses Khartoum of excluding the remote region from development and state power.

Analysts say the SLM/A appears to be emulating southern rebels who are now

negotiating a peace deal with Khartoum to end a 20-year-old civil war, mainly fought in the south. But Khartoum has said it will not negotiate with the western group.

Al-Anbaa said the interior minister "revealed a new plan whose implementation has already begun to resolve the security situation in Darfur".

It quoted him as saying that government forces already in the Darfur area were being retrained "to enable them to

play their role".

The SLM/A came to light in early February when it seized Gulu, the capital of Darfur's Jebel Marrah province, although it may have been active since last year.

Clashes between African farming communities and Arab cattle herders are frequent in Darfur and are fuelled by rivalry over dwindling water resources and pasture caused by desertification.

Turkish army admits jets flew near Greek plane

ANKARA, June 10 (Reuters) - Turkey's military admitted on Tuesday its fighter jets had flown close to a Greek passenger plane, but said they had not broken international law.

The Greek Foreign Ministry said two Turkish warplanes set off a crash avoidance alarm on board an Olympic Airways Boeing 717 by flying within a 10-mile radius of the passenger jet on Monday.

The flight from Athens later landed safely in Istanbul.

The Turkish military General Staff agreed its F-16s had flown near the plane but said they had not threatened it.

"Allegations Turkish planes harassed a plane belonging to a civilian airline over the Aegean...are completely wrong and a provocation. Passing a civilian plane at 10 km (six miles) is not a breach nor a harassment," the military said in a statement.

The General Staff also said that under international rules it was not obliged to inform Greek authorities when its warplanes flew over the Aegean Sea.

NATO partners Turkey and Greece have long been at odds over airspace and territorial rights in the Aegean, and their military aircraft sometimes engage in mock dogfights.

Greece says its airspace extends 10 miles (16 km) from its coastline, while Turkey argues it is only six miles.

Despite the standoff and the stalemate on the divided island of Cyprus, Athens has backed Turkey's efforts to join the European Union.

But last month Greece warned

Turkey its EU bid could be undermined if the Aegean dispute is not resolved.

"It has been observed that Greek

officials are trying to take advantage of the Aegean dispute by bringing it on to the EU agenda," the Turkish General Staff said in its statement.

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عمارة مكون من ثلاثة أدوار، خمس شقق، وثلاث فتحات (معرض) في الدور الأرضي، مزودة بموقف سيارات. وتقع غرب ورشة عبدان، مناسبة لتكون مقراً لفرع بنك أو لأي شركة، بإيجار شهري قدره 8000 دولار. للإستفسار 71772070 أو 71828315.

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A building consists of 3 floors, 5 flats, and three showrooms and a car parking. It's location is at Al-Zubeiri Street, western of Adbhan workshop. It could be taken as a company office or a bank branch...etc. Monthly rent: 8000\$, Contact: 71772070 or 71828315

VACANCY

The European Union is funding a project in the water sector, to 'Support the Aden NWSA Restructuring'. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been established to implement the project, under international consultant supervision, in partnership with the Aden Local Corporation for Water and Sanitation.

Applications from suitable candidates are invited for the following posts:

PROCUREMENT OFFICER/CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR

The successful candidate will manage the tendering, contracting and administration of the project investments. Training and supervision will be provided. Applicants should have the following skills and experience:

- University level education in an appropriate subject
- Good English and Arabic
- Excellent computer skills in Word and Excel
- Experience of working in an international organisation
- Some experience in an engineering, procurement or contracts management environment

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

The successful candidate will assist the Co-project Manager to prepare the projects for the investment programme at the technical level, and provide supervision of construction works once the investments are implemented. Training and supervision will be provided. Applicants should have the following skills and experience:

- University level education in an Engineering or Technical subject
- Good English and Arabic
- Basic computer skills for reporting purposes
- Experience at the Technical Level of construction works, preferably in the water sector.
- Some experience of international contracts and conditions
- Willing to work in difficult site conditions during the construction phase

Applications for the above posts, including detailed Curriculum Vitae and references, in the English language, should be submitted by 26.06.2003 to the following address;

Support for the NWSA Restructuring Project,
Project Implementation Unit (PIU),
P.O. Box 6058,
Khormaksar - Aden
Attention : Mr. David Hardman.

Indonesia says 7 troops killed in Aceh battle

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia, June 10 (Reuters) - Seven Indonesian troops were killed and another seven wounded in one of the fiercest battles with Aceh rebels since an offensive was launched in the province last month, the military said on Tuesday.

Aceh military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Firdaus Komarno said the fighting broke out in the rebel stronghold of Biruen, on the north east coast, late on Monday and was continuing on Tuesday.

"It can be said to be the worst during the ongoing operation because of the number of TNI (military) casualties," Komarno told Reuters.

"Our operation in that area will still continue because this area is one of their strongholds, this is one of our target areas," he added.

Scores of people have been killed in the offensive aimed at crushing the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), which has been fighting for independence in the resource-rich province for 27 years.

According to the military, the latest battle brings to 20 the number of government troops killed in the offensive since it began on May 19. Its figures put the number of GAM fighters killed at 160, with 210 captured and 103 surrendering. It says three policemen and one civilian have been killed.

Rebel sources say scores of civilians and hundreds of government troops have been killed.

More than 25,000 people have fled their homes because of the latest fighting which Indonesia has said could last between two to six months.

FOREIGNERS A PROBLEM

Indonesia's chief security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said the offensive was going according to plan but the presence of foreigners in the province was problematic and indicated their activities could be curbed.

"There are new problems such as the presence of foreign people including tourists, journalists and NGO staff, which if we don't regulate, will cause problems especially for their own safety and security as well as for the integrated operation," Yudhoyono told the leading El Shinta radio station.

Last week in Aceh's west, a German tourist was wounded by the military and her husband shot dead after they did not identify themselves to a night patrol.

International aid workers remain in the province on Sumatra island despite a government order last month to leave due to safety reasons.

Some human rights officials have said they are suspicious of Jakarta's motives and concerned that abuses may take place if foreigners are barred.

The head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Jakarta, Michael Elmquist, said the numbers of refugees in the province were "not alarming" and did not believe there was a food shortage.

"Our people are still there but they are not able to go outside of Banda Aceh, it is just too dangerous," Elmquist said referring to the provincial capital.

Indonesian troops and the rebels have been fighting for 27 years in a conflict that has killed at least 10,000 people.

France begins deploying bulk of Congo force

BUNIA, Congo, June 10 (Reuters) - France began on Tuesday deploying the bulk of a 1,400 strong international force who are ready to use firepower if needed to quash raging tribal bloodshed in the eastern Congolese town of Bunia.

Packs on their backs and rifles on their shoulders, about 40 troops of the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment filed across the muddy airport, the French tricolours on their sleeves bright against the dark camouflage of their uniforms.

"If we need to use force we are allowed," Captain Frederic Solano told reporters. "For the moment, our mission is to secure and protect the town and to try to find a political resolution."

The United Nations says 500 civilians have been massacred in inter-ethnic fighting around the northeastern town in the past month and 50,000 have been killed since 1999.

A small United Nations force, MONUC, has been unable to stop the bloodshed as ethnic Hema and Lendu militias battled for control of Bunia and the surrounding countryside of lush hills and mud hut villages, an area rich in gold mines.

The new French-led force has a stronger U.N. mandate, but is only due to stay in Bunia until September 1, intended as a temporary measure to allow the U.N. to reinforce MONUC.

Bunia residents are worried that even if the multinational force is able to restore calm in Bunia itself, rebels may take their violence into the outlying countryside, beyond the reach of the peacekeepers.

Aid agencies and rights groups say a powerful intervention force needs to be deployed much more widely to control the militias, many of whom are supported by regional governments who want a



French troops, forming part of a new multinational peacekeeping force in eastern Congo, arrive in the town of Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo, June 10. France began on Tuesday deploying the bulk of a 1,400 strong international force who are ready to use firepower to protect residents from tribal bloodshed in the eastern Congolese town of Bunia. REUTERS

stake in Congo's mineral-rich soils.

Troops from other European nations including Britain are expected to contribute to the French-led force, which was approved by the European Union last week and represents the bloc's first military deployment outside Europe.

Non-European countries such as South Africa and Canada are also

expected to participate in the force, which will contain about 1,000 French troops backed by jets and armoured vehicles.

Around 100 French special forces have been in Bunia since Friday, an advance party sent to secure the airport and prepare the way for the bulk of the troops, who are expected to arrive at a

rate of 200 per day via a logistics base in Uganda.

General Jean Paul Thonier, the commander of what has been dubbed "Operation Artemis", is expected in Bunia on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Bunia was once again engulfed in gunfire as Lendu militias attacked the Hema rebels who currently

control the town. Neither MONUC nor the French advance party intervened.

The war in the Democratic Republic of Congo began in 1998, and the north-eastern region of Ituri has seen some of the worst atrocities. The civilian population has been massacred, raped and looted. There are also many accounts of militias eating parts of their victims.

Delayed debate on Afghan constitution begins

KABUL, June 10 (Reuters) - Afghans launched a national debate on the constitution on Tuesday to determine what kind of country emerges from interim rule, but the process has been hurried and hijacked by powerful factions, analysts and diplomats said.

Afghans must decide if they prefer a presidential system of government, a strong parliament or a return to a monarchy.

They will also choose what interpretation of Islam to adopt, less than two years after the fall of the hardline Taliban regime.

Also crucial will be how much power the central government wants to wrest from regional warlords and governors who have been reluctant to cede control over revenues and personal armies, blamed by officials for undermining security in the country.

Analysts and diplomats say that the constitutional process is being rushed and that public consultations are superficial.

"You are reaching a very small number of people and you are not going to provide the sense among the general populace that yes, we have been consulted," Aziz Huq, a consultant for the International Crisis Group, said by telephone from London.

Recently back from Afghanistan, he said months had been wasted during which time international agencies could have educated people about what was at stake in the crucial process.

"Just because the constitutional commission was delayed didn't mean the international community could not help foster public understanding of the issues."

Afghanistan has lived through Soviet occupation, civil war, hardline Islamic rule and a U.S.-backed interim government during the last 24 years, and many outsiders argue that ideas of democracy and equality still need to be instilled.

POWERFUL GROUPS

Officials are confident that the con-

stitution can be drawn up as planned by late October.

"Teams from the constitutional commission have left Kabul for three regions today — the east, south and Bamian," said Farooq Wardak, a spokesman for the commission.

Two teams travelling to the north have been delayed until Thursday due to the lack of aircraft, and three remaining teams will set off on June 20.

Wardak said the consultation process would last for 50 days, winding up on July 31 — a full month later than the original timetable drawn up in March.

That schedule allowed two months — July and August — for the commission to draw up a report on public reaction.

A preliminary draft of the constitution has already been written by a specially-appointed committee headed by Vice President Nematullah Shahrani, but has not been published.

The constitutional process culminates in a special Grand Assembly, or Loya Jirga, in October.

Some Western diplomats in Afghanistan fear that the constitutional process has been hijacked by powerful interest groups in the government who have influenced the draft and who are in a position to influence the public debate.

"If this goes the way I fear it will go, the constitution will lack total legitimacy, and the price will be paid later," said one.

He and others have pointed the finger at former anti-Soviet mujahideen parties close to the Tajik-dominated Northern Alliance which helped the U.S. military topple the Taliban in 2001.

He added that the climate of fear and insecurity across much of the country, where local governors and warlords have large personal militia, could prevent an open debate on the constitution and thus further alienate the population.

Mauritanian leader back in palace after coup fails

NOUAKCHOTT, June 10 (Reuters)

- Mauritania's president has returned to his heavily guarded palace after crushing a coup in the northwest African country that has detained Islamists and befriended Israel under his rule.

Officials said President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya went back overnight to the palace, which was stormed on Sunday by rebel soldiers who came close to ending his 19-year rule. A ring of tanks and loyalist troops now protects the building.

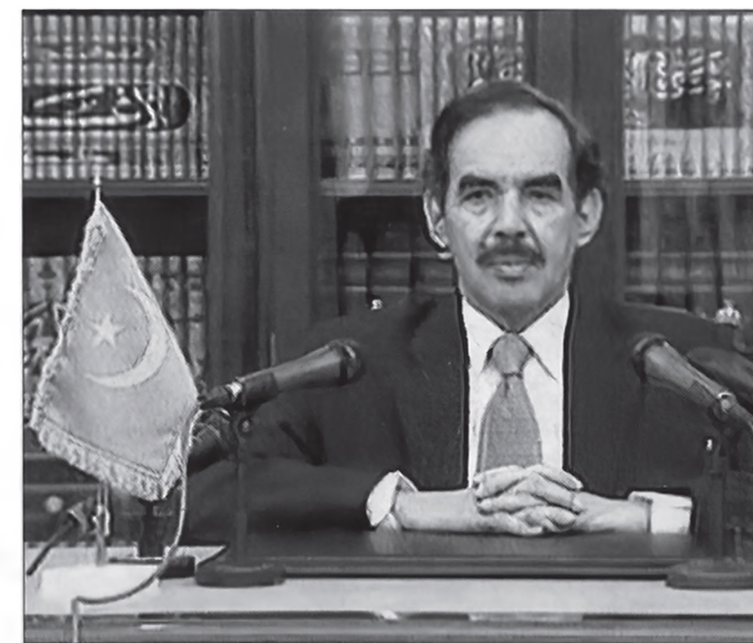
Taya looked worn as he made a statement on national television late on Monday to name a loyalist from his northern home region to replace the army chief of staff, who was killed in the fighting.

Doubt still hung over the fate of Sala Ould Henena, the former officer believed to be behind the plot. Officials had earlier said they believed he had been killed in the battle, but some then said it was possible he was only wounded.

Henena was dismissed from the army for stirring opposition to the Israeli ties, but it was unclear whether that was the main motivation of the rebels — who never got a chance to make a statement before being ejected.

The coup attempt's timing, days after the arrest of dozens of Islamists, has led to speculation of a possible connection. Police sources said 32 Islamic leaders charged with threatening national security had links to a foreign network of extremists.

But Mauritania has plenty of inter-



Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya is pictured during a television broadcast to the nation on June 9. Mauritania's president, in his first broadcast since fighting erupted early on Sunday, said on Monday his forces had succeeded in putting down an attempted coup. REUTERS

national divisions that also fuel internal rivalries — both black African and Arab populations are further divided into tribes and clans.

Henena's known anger at the links with Israel is shared by many in the largely Muslim country. Mauritania in 1999 became only the third Arab League state to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Israel gives a bit of economic help, but diplomats say Israelis assist with security advice as well.

Some Mauritians suspect Taya also courted Israel as a way of appearing more moderate to the West after backing Iraq in the first Gulf War. Politicians linked to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein have been detained since he was ousted.

Authorities have yet to give figures for the number who died on either side. Nor have they said how many rebel soldiers, mostly from an armoured unit, had surrendered or been arrested.

*War is over but...***Rumsfeld sees no quick end to attacks in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, June 10 (Reuters) - U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Tuesday he expected remnants of Saddam Hussein's forces to go on attacking U.S.-led troops in Iraq for months but they would ultimately be routed out.

Since Baghdad fell to the Americans on April 9, 39 U.S. soldiers have been killed by assailants. In the latest fatal incident, an American soldier was shot dead at a checkpoint near the Syrian border late on Sunday.

"Do I think that's going to disappear in the next month or two or three? No. Will it disappear when some two or three divisions of coalition forces arrive in the country? No," Rumsfeld told a news conference in Lisbon.

"It will take time to root out the remnants of the Saddam Hussein regime and we intend to do it."

The U.S. military said on Tuesday that U.S. troops had staged raids on Monday to crack down on guerrilla fighters north of Baghdad, detaining 384 people and suffering four wounded.

With Iraq's political future still in question, a scion of Arabia's Hashemite dynasty, Sharif Ali bin Hussein, returned to Iraq on Tuesday, 45 years after a revolution toppled the British-backed monarchy and killed his cousin, King Faisal II.

A multinational force that will seek to keep the peace in the devastated country is beginning to take shape. An advance unit of 35 Italian troops flew into the southern city of Basra on Tuesday.

A Qatari plane with relief supplies also arrived there on what was billed as the first commercial flight to postwar Iraq.

The United States has said its failure

to find Saddam Hussein may be emboldening the fallen leader's Baath party supporters to attack U.S. forces in Iraq. The former Iraqi president has not been seen since the fall of Baghdad.

"It might give heart to the Baathists who may want to hope that they can take back that country, which they are not going to succeed in doing," Rumsfeld said late on Monday.

"We'll just keep looking for him. We'll find him," he told reporters on the flight to Portugal at the start of a four-day European tour.

Rumsfeld said the string of attacks on U.S. forces was due to Saddam sympathisers in the north of the country. "There is no one who thinks that it's a well-organised nationally directed campaign," he said.

Iraq helpers

At Tuesday's news conference, Rumsfeld said Iraqis were being recruited in large numbers to help foil the attackers.

"We are bringing on board continuously hundreds and most recently thousands of Iraqis who are participating in joint patrols," he said.

"So the idea that there won't be any help until coalition countries arrive in the fall is exactly false, because the security situation in the country is improving as we proceed."

The Italian unit that arrived in Basra is the advance guard of a 1,700-strong Italian peacekeeping contingent due by the end of June. It will come under British control.

A British military spokesman said an

advance party of Dutch troops was due in Basra on Thursday. The Netherlands is to send 1,100 marines to the British-controlled zone in southern Iraq.

More than 10 countries have also pledged troops for a 7,500-strong Polish-led force to be deployed in south-central Iraq. There are currently 146,000 U.S. troops and about 14,000 international troops in Iraq, according to Rumsfeld.

The arrival of a monarchist in Iraq lent more diversity to a political scene in which Shi'ites, Kurds and the traditional Sunni Muslim ruling class are all competing for influence.

But it was unclear how many Iraqis would want the monarchy restored. Only 2,000 tribesmen and intellectuals turned out to welcome Sharif Ali at the royal mausoleum in Baghdad after his arrival from London in a privately chartered jet.

"We are very happy. This is the moment we were waiting for all our lives," Sharif Ali, flanked by a dozen bodyguards, told the cheering crowd.

The Qatar Airways flight that arrived in Basra, carrying nine tonnes of food and medicine, inaugurated what the airline says will be the first regular commercial service to Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March.

The airline said last week twice-weekly flights from Doha would initially serve international aid groups working in Iraq.

The U.S.-led authority ruling Iraq said in a statement that Baghdad international airport, which U.S. troops have sealed off as a military area since they captured it in early April, was due to reopen to commercial traffic in mid-July.



U.S. military police detain two Iraqi men in Al Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, June 9, 2003 after the two were caught carrying an AK-47 gun in their vehicle. A U.S. Army patrol came under small arms fire from a mosque in the restive city earlier on Monday, but sustained no injuries according to the United States central command. REUTERS

US Navy ups anti-terror drive off Horn of Africa

MANAMA, June 10 (Reuters) - The United States Navy said on Tuesday it had bolstered its military presence in waters around the Horn of Africa as part of "on-going counter-terrorism operations" in the region.

The Navy's Bahrain-based Maritime Liaison Office said it had increased coalition naval strength in the area to assist operations on land, sea and air.

"Coalition forces are alert to potential air and maritime threats and are

currently on patrol in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Gulf," it said in a statement to merchant shipping.

"Anyone suspected of assisting or transporting terrorists should expect to be boarded, and will risk the sinking or seizure of (the) vessel, and will be detained and jailed," it said.

The Navy warned commercial shippers to be aware of the increased presence and to cooperate fully with queries from sea or air.

The waters around the Horn of Africa are some of the most dangerous and pirate-infested in the world, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

The IMB has warned that any vessels straying too close to Somalia's coastline would almost certainly be attacked by armed militia.

So far, however, the IMB has not linked terror groups to increasing acts of maritime piracy and hijackings off the Gulf of Aden and Somalian waters.

Traffic chaos as new French strikes hit railways

PARIS, June 10 (Reuters) - Much of France was gridlocked again on Tuesday as the third national strike in a month over planned pension reforms slashed train services and caused huge traffic jams.

The unrest is a serious threat to the year-old centre-right government. Mass strikes in 1995 thwarted the last conservative government's attempt to touch pensions and ultimately led to its fall from power in 1997.

The strike, capping a week of sporadic transport chaos and coming as the pension reform bill was due to enter parliament, was joined by some postal, bank, port and telecoms workers, hospital staff and police. A fifth of teachers walked out.

Public transport was severely hit in Paris and Marseille and disrupted in Toulouse, Bordeaux, Nice and Lyon. International flights were little affected, with some delays but most services running.

The SNCF railway operator said nearly a third of staff were on strike, leaving one in three trains running. There were 300 km (200 miles) of tailbacks around Paris as morning rush-

hour commuters switched to private cars.

"I'm fed up with this strike," said German tourist Kirsten Paffrath, waiting at Gare du Nord station for a train home. "We came to Paris for a long weekend and with the metro down we've had to walk everywhere. It's been very annoying."

Some trains in and out of Gare du Nord station in Paris had to be delayed after striking workers lit flaming torches on the track, producing clouds of billowing smoke.

Yet judging by the dearth of people, many had rescheduled their trips to avoid the chaos seen in recent days.

"I'm surprised at the lack of commotion. I hoped it would be worse," remarked a striking rail worker on his way to a rally.

PENSION CASH CRUNCH

Unions are seething at plans to make people pay into the system for longer to counter a financing crunch as the post-war "baby boom" generation retires.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin will present the reform bill to parlia-

ment later on Tuesday. He wants state employees to work for 40 years like private workers, up from 37.5 years.

Marc Blondel, head of the Force Ouvriere union, said 37.5 years should be standard for everyone. "Our aim is not to bring down the government. We want a proper pension system," he said.

On the domestic front, teachers staged their 11th strike this academic year and discussed fresh action on June 12 to coincide with the start of high school leaving exams. They are worried at separate plans to hand responsibility for hiring school staff to local authorities. Some teachers have threatened to sabotage exams by awarding high marks all round.

The government has vowed to take action to avoid disruption, including the possible use of police to guard exam papers. It has summoned extra staff to oversee Thursday's exams and warned teachers of the grave consequences of disrupting tests.

Unions have not given their blessing to action to sabotage the exams, wary of undermining the still strong public sympathy for their strikes.

Blair criticised over "dodgy" Iraq dossier

LONDON, June 10 (Reuters) - Britain's influential spy watchdog criticised the government on Tuesday for releasing a dossier on Iraq's alleged weapons concealment programme without checking its contents with intelligence services.

The document — dubbed the "dodgy dossier" by Britain's media because much of it was plagiarised from a student thesis — was one of three published by Prime Minister Tony Blair to justify preparations for war on Iraq.

The Intelligence and Security Committee said Blair's February document, which set out the role of Iraq's security services in hiding banned weapons from U.N. inspectors, had not been cleared with the Secret Intelligence Service, known as MI6.

"It is imperative that the agencies are consulted before any of their material is published," the committee said in its annual report. "This process was not followed."

Pre-empting the report last Sunday, Blair's office said his communications chief Alastair Campbell had apologised to MI6 chief Richard Dearlove and promised to take more care in future when publishing intelligence material.

The committee is also opening an investigation into claims that the government pressured intelligence chiefs

to "sex up" an earlier dossier which set out the evidence of Saddam Hussein's alleged biological and chemical weapons arsenal.

The issue has dogged Blair in recent weeks as pressure mounts for him to show evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction that he said justified war. Weeks after Saddam was toppled by U.S. and British forces, none has yet been found.

A U.S. Senate committee will also investigate the validity of intelligence information about the threat Iraq posed.

"There is not a shred of evidence, absolutely no evidence at all, that we have doctored or manipulated intelligence," Blair told a news conference on Tuesday. "That would be absolutely gross if we did so. We have not done so."

The committee of parliamentarians, which reports directly to Blair, said it was too soon to deliver a full verdict on the role of intelligence in the Iraq war.


But it criticised the prime minister and his senior colleagues for not overseeing closely enough the long term priorities of the intelligence and security agencies, and warned of gaps in intelligence on potential hot spots around the world.

"Intelligence assets are most useful




Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair leaves his official residence 10 Downing Street in London June 10, 2003. Britain's influential spy watchdog - The Intelligence and Security Committee - criticised the government on Tuesday for releasing a dossier on Iraq's alleged weapons concealment programme without checking its contents with the intelligence services. REUTERS

when they can warn of and disrupt hostile action rather than being used to deal with current crises," the committee said. "With the focus on current crises, the agencies' long-term capacity to provide warnings is being eroded."



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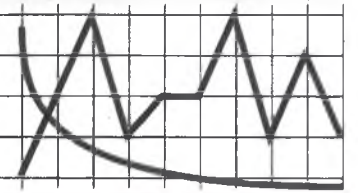
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YT Business



Aden: heading for the top 100 container portable

By KAREN DABRAWKA
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In 1992 Aden had no container cranes and was handling containers at the Ma'alla Terminal using ships' equipment only. It handled 9,283 TEU that year and was listed at No. 321 in the League Table, out of 382 ports. Port No. 100 in 1992 was Abidjan, which handled 188,728 TEU that year; Aden worked only 5% of this volume. The next year, in 1993 when the first container crane was delivered to Ma'alla, Aden's volume actually fell to 7,968 TEU, putting it at No. 335. It might have seemed that Aden could never hope to enter the list of the top 100 ports.

The situation did not change much until 1997, by which time Ma'alla had two new cranes and had started to pick up business. It handled 13,500 TEU that year and was placed at No. 303, just outside the Top 300 ports. Brisbane was No. 100 this year and needed to handle 316,549 TEU to reach this position because container volume recorded around the world was growing rapidly. Expanding world trade, more break-bulk cargo being 'containerized' as technology improved, more cargo transshipped at hub ports in order to reach its final destination, and ports becoming more creative in generating higher figures so that they could improve their position in this important table, all added to the numbers!

By 1999 the combined volume of the Aden Container Terminal (ACT) and Ma'alla reached 121,675 TEU, putting Aden inside the top 200 ports at No. 196. Aden's throughput since 1992 had averaged 40% per year over this time, compared with around 12% per year for the top 100 ports. No. 100 in 1999 was Zhongshan with 430,000 TEU. Aden was catching up, and its volume had reached 28% of Zhongshan's by this stage.

The year 2000 saw another leap as



Aden container terminal is getting ready for expansion

Aden's volume more than doubled as the ACT gained ground in a highly competitive regional market to reach 247,913 TEU, No. 147 in the World League and 53% of the throughput recorded at the 100th port, Izmir. What happened in 2001? The Containerization International Yearbook 2002 records the figures for 1999 and 2000 but does not cover 2001, as it takes time to collect and tabulate the data. But projecting forward it is likely that Port No. 100 in 2001 handled 515,000 TEU. In 2001 Aden handled 377,348 TEU, a rise of 52% over 2000 and about 73% of the volume at Port No. 100. This will probably put Aden at No. 124 in the League when the next League Table is published. When will Aden enter the top 100 container port table? Probably not in 2002, because an expected rise in Aden's container volume of around 30% in 2002 over 2001 will generate a

throughput of 490,000 TEU and may place Aden at No. 114 in the world league. And by 2003, Port No. 100 may be handling at 620,000 TEU or more, so that Aden would have to grow by another 26% in 2003 to reach this target. However, in common with many of the top container ports around the world, Aden offers international shipping more than one container terminal. The ACT specializes in container transshipment and Ma'alla, situated in the commercial heart of the city, is an ideal place for Aden's import and export container traffic. It is very likely that growth at both terminals will soon lift Aden's total throughput to put the port inside the Top 100 League, a record that all involved would be proud to achieve.

Prior to the 8 year closure of the Suez Canal in 1967 and before containerization was at all important to

cargo handling, Aden was the world's top ship fuelling port and the main regional transshipment center, handling many different types of cargo. The growth in container volume at Aden is of great importance to the port and has helped to raise the number of large ships calling Aden from less than 900 in 1995 to well over 1,900 last year.

Aden is also becoming an important bulk cargo handling center, with imports of grain, cement and other commodities growing very rapidly and exports of bulk limestone due to commence this week. So it is perhaps not surprising that the International Bulk Journal contacted the Port Authority last month inviting them to supply data for entry into a new publication, to be called the Top 120 Dry Bulk Ports.

This will be a comprehensive listing of the world's top 120 dry bulk ports,

ranked in terms of cargo throughput volume and commodity, to be published in July.

It is interesting to reflect that Aden's container volume in 2002 will be over 50 times greater than in 1992. If Aden had handled 490,000 TEU in 1992, this would have put the port inside the top 50 in the world. But such has been the speed of development of container services that Port No. 50 in 2002 will probably be handling 1.3 million TEU.

The competition between ports around the world is tough, especially in the Middle East, but this helps world trade and those who gain from the lower freight rates. Eventually it brings better prices in the shops.

So these numbers are not just about positions in a table, because the end result is the impact they have on the quality of life that we can all hope to enjoy.

The Road Ahead

Maid in Yemen

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
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They say, behind every great man stands a woman, that may be correct, but are women behind every great nation? What is the role Yemeni women play in the development of Yemen?

Yemeni women represent a little over 50% of the total population, yet their production level is still small compared to the outcome of male production, in addition to that, there are no real efforts done to motivate and welcome women to participate in different fields of industry. In other words, half of our country's potential still lies untapped: our women.

Recently we have heard many arguments about women's participating in the elections and the role women play in the future of our country; we hear about women demanding more in terms of political participation and to hold more important governmental posts, but when it comes to business and industry, there are only a few business women worth mentioning, and in most offices there are at least twice the numbers of men compared working women, however, there is a big contrast between what women want in the media and what they do to take part in business!

My point is simple. women do not hold many important positions in today's businesses because they do not aspire to. exceptions are always there but in general most women think that they will not be capable of handling more important posts with more responsibilities; they sacrifice promising careers because they were brought up to be housewives, to get married off to someone rich and make a family. But in the west, women do whatever they can to grow in business, and in turn their participation in the economic development is significant.

Ironically, it would be easier for Yemeni women to have good business careers, because our cultural system and society support looking after the young in the event of a working woman, there are always the grandparents, neighbors or in-laws who create a support system for their kids if the mother is busy or late, I feel this is a risk worth taking especially when working women can double the tiny 2.7 growth rate of our country, and there are women who understand this and are active in this endeavor.

Meet Mrs. Hooria Mashoor, vice president of Women National Committee, she is not only one of the very few women who have been struggling for the development of this country since its birth, but such a sincere lady doing such praiseworthy efforts is exactly what this country needs; a one who actually participate in its development and work hard for the progress of this country before they demand for more.

In conclusion, women are an asset badly utilized, from an economic point of view; half of the population is still economically inactive. And I sincerely believe that behind every great nation stands great women like Mrs. Hooria Mashoor.

Endnote: Why do we expect less from women in business? Why aren't women so much interested in businesses? It is sad that there are no real efforts to motivate women to be active economically; indeed, women need a ministry if that is what it takes to double the growth rate.

Investment environment versus security and stability

By ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED ABDULLAH
YEMEN TIMES, ADEN

If we were to agree that legal legitimacy is the strong protector of all citizens' rights and duties, and if we recognize that this represents basically components of the state, constitution, laws and regulations that must be equally applied to all, what is then imperative is that the state would commit itself to application and effective implementation of all laws and regulations before any other side. By this commitment the state would give confirmation on its credibility to what the legal legitimacy stipulates. Legal legitimacy is the indispensable principle through which security and stability is maintained. We are attaching our hopes to the new government, crossing fingers that it would restructure the 'house' from within and listen to what is proposed and suggested in official and private gatherings.

A lot of effort needs to be done; appraisal of all officials according to the public good has to be done irrespective of favoritism and position. Intellectual and well-studied estimations and evaluations have to be made with respect to all the government sectors and sections

under the umbrella of the constitution and regulations of the state. This is more important now than ever, especially with the new turn to developing investment in Yemen, and enhancing trade relations.

Because investment is the key word to improving the country's economy, and hence any messing up with the investment laws would result into crucial effects on economy. Issuing laws passes through many stages, starting from discussion at the cabinet, again discussed at the parliament by the concerned committee, in presence of the government representatives in prelude to referring it to the presidency to pass. After all this series would such laws be subject to the temperament of this minister or that? Amendments entered on the previous investment law issued under the republican decision No. 22 for the year 1991 and the following laws amending it. No. 14 in 1995 and also law No. 29 in 1997 had been subject to many discussions and procedures.

Therefore, once a law or regulation is approved the next step is naturally to be activated and put into effect. What is not understood is why the point of article No. 18 of the investment law for the year 2002 related to exempting production requirements of other projects by 50%

from customs duties, is not implemented throughout all the period those projects were carrying out their activities? If any party had any kind of reservations they should have been given before the law had been issued, not after that.

Ironically, the investment law (22 year 2002) has guaranteed much flexibility and incentives and facilities to attract investments and to keep pace with inside and outside economic variables and meet requirements for reforms in our country. It is strange why some executive authorities of the state, such as the finance ministry and customs authority impede implementation of such laws.

What we are hoping now is that the parliament has to activate its monitoring authority. This in addition to the fact that article No. 64 of the same law stipulates issuing the executive bill of the law No. 74 in a reasonable period of time from the date of its issuance, it was issued on July 20, 2002.

If we were to aim at better economy performance, we have to encourage investment and that will never happen in a country where stability and security is just a myth. Laws must be accurately implemented and those who violate must be punished in order to see a real difference.

In Hadramout

Three gigantic projects launched

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh has recently laid foundation stone for three YR 5.4 worth investment and services projects in the governorate of Hadramout planned to be funded by the public and private sectors.

The projects include construction of College of Medicine buildings in Mukalla. The over YR 2 billion worth project is to be financed by a number of businessmen and to be implemented by Bin Laden Group.

The second project is to be implemented by Yemen Fish Company at an estimated cost of YR 3 billion. It includes building an institute for training on fish industry and a factory for producing ice. The project is expected to produce 10 tons of fish a week and also supplying fishermen with fishing boats to help them fishing and selling their merchandise to the company. In Shahr city a foundation stone was laid for a project of

fishing port and harboring boats at a cost of YR 2.200 billion with a water flat depth reaching 6 meters. IN its first phase the port includes building two sea barriers; the first 1200 meters long and the second 600 meters long. In addition the projects include building a lighthouse to guide boats. The port harboring capacity is around four-thousand boats.

The projects aims at compensating the fishermen for what they have lost as a result to blasting the French super oil tanker Limburg and to contributing to increase of annual production of fish. The project is to be implemented by Al-A'moudin Group under governmental funding and it would urge fishermen and fish cooperatives to provide fishing boats with bigger loading capacity and bigger supply.

Building this port project would consequently help preserving fish production, both refrigerated and frozen. The present production of fishermen in the city of Shahr is estimated at about 25 tons per day; sometimes it reaches 100 tons per day.

Words of Wisdom



These days, people routinely, talk about the relationship between sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

About Al-Haifi's "What American is all about"

BY JAMES WILLAMAN
jameswillaman@earthlink.net

As an American, I would be remiss in my duty as a citizen if I did not draw to your attention several factual discrepancies contain the usually bright and penetrating writing I have come to expect from the Yemen Times. What I would mainly take issue with is the list of "good" presidents the editorial, "Is This Really What America Is All About?" contains.

For instance, both Johnson and Clinton are designated as administrations displaying an "important caliber of leadership". On what, exactly, were these designations earned? For one as obviously versed in American history as the writer of this essay seems to be, I would not think it necessary to bring to his attention that, in the area of foreign policy, neither of these presidents showed the leadership or vision on par with the others that made his list—a list, you may have surmised by now, that I would considerably shorten until it consisted of only Lincoln and (Franklin not Theodore) Roosevelt.

Johnson is probably the most underserving chief executive that earned his membership into your very exclusive, but not very selective, club. I assume that the writer remembers that it was Johnson who condemned my nation to its most costly, torturous, and divisive conflict, namely the Vietnam War. Vietnam is a war that to this day is the ultimate symbol of maddening futility and gross, meaningless suffering. Johnson, your pardon of American leadership, referred to Vietnam as a "raggedy assed little fourth rate country". Johnson, the idol and ideal of an American president, drew us into a conflict that ended over 50,000 American lives and, perhaps, over a million Vietnamese. Personally, I would think that this would include Johnson's name

in an entirely different sort of list by this I mean a list diametrically opposed to the one provided.

Clinton's inclusion is equally baffling. What, I am forced to ask the writer, did Clinton do to be included in your list? I can not think of a single foreign policy victory, outside of the Yugoslavian bombing campaign, that had any positive outcome. I am forced to ask: What about Somalia where Clinton's life costing, or life wasting, decisions about supporting our troops with the correct equipment (specifically helicopter's that carried more armor and firepower) was compounded by his disastrous decision to cower to public before the public opinion polls and remove American forces from that utterly desperate and rapidly imploding country? What about the cruise missiles that wrongly struck the African chemical factory? What about "Desert Fox", Clinton's almost forgotten attack on Iraq that was, supposedly, in response to Saddam giving the UN inspector's a hard time? Why, simply, was Clinton included when his tenure was almost totally devoid of any semblance of success and thoroughly marred by scandal and debacle?

The biggest single mistake the writer made was in the name he notably excluded. Nixon. Nixon, in the realm of foreign policy, was America's single greatest president since Washington. Setting aside his moral dysfunctions, as seems to have happened automatically with Clinton, he achieved more at less cost than any other president. He ended the Kennedy/Johnson war in Vietnam, he established diplomatic links with China, he was the first president to visit the Soviet Union, he crafted the SALT arms reduction accords, he secured an Egyptian/Israeli peace, and was the first president in two decades to spend more on social programs than the military. Why did Nixon not make your list?

And, to put aside my previous paragraphs which could, I admit, seem

almost politically dogmatic, you must understand one thing about America. America, because of its overwhelming resources, has never had to be 'morally compromising'. That is to say, that once America believes it is morally right, it automatically becomes morally absolute. Once America has made up its mind, its choice likewise becomes absolute, black and white, right and wrong (hence you have "you're with us or against us"). This makes America keenly uninterested in half measures like weapons inspections and seriously enchanted with the prospects of "final" or "complete" victory.

I say this not to condemn my nation's psychology, but to suggest that the moral certitude that lead us through our Civil War and World War II and our Revolutionary War, has a dark side. A side that can also condemn us to feats and fits of self inflicted torture and ruin like Vietnam and our dalliances in Latin America in the late 70's and 80's. In short, you can not have the "good" America without the "bad" America. Like all countries, we are a complex nation and can seem to possess duplicitous and diametrically opposed natures. This can make our actions and attitudes difficult to comprehend. All I am asking for is a clear presentation of American history whenever your paper ventures to rest its editorial clout, and, I needlessly add, its reputation, to such an analysis of my nation. The need for analysis, I must add, is undeniable, and conduction of such analysis is ultimately beneficial.

But to see an attempt at such analysis of America so becloud the understanding of my nation is not in my interest as a citizen of the United States nor is it in yours as a citizen of Yemen. And, I believe, it was not your intention to further confuse the subject but to try and bring some light to it. The attempt is admirable and appreciated, but, in this case, mistakenly inaccurate and unintentionally misleading.

OUR OPINION

Winning wars and winning hearts

Last edition's column on the essence of finding weapons of mass destruction to give some legitimacy the US war against Iraq infuriated so many responses from American readers who justified the war and added that the US and UK have won the war and hence will be responsible for building the new Iraq.

Well, I take this occasion to stress that winning wars is not winning hearts. The US may have succeeded in defeating the former Iraqi regime and winning the war, but it will require a lot of effort to win the hearts of Iraqis.

It is not impossible, but it would be quite difficult to win the hearts of Iraqis who continue to suffer two months after the war is over of many problems including lack of stability and security, and also lack of basic services such as communication, electricity, and water supply.

Nevertheless, even if they do get all those services, will the US-UK coalition win the hearts of Iraqis? That is in doubt. Basically, any invading power will probably not find a place in the hearts of the invaded nation even if they have all they need to live a decent life. The main reason is because they will be lacking their freedom. They will still be feeling captive and under invasion. Only when the invading forces win the people's hearts will they be true winners in this war. But winning the battle in the field is simply not enough.

What American and British forces should do now in order to heal the wounds is to show care and dedication to Iraqi citizens. They should work hard to receive the locals' trust and confidence. They should remember that Iraq belongs to the Iraqis and the Iraqis only, and any force that comes whether for 'liberation' or 'invasion' should be considerate of the feelings of citizens and not try to diminish their pride and dignity. What Iraqis are going through right now is not simple. There is a transformation process from a dictatorship to an unknown system with no clear marks or boundaries. They have suffered bombings, deaths, injuries in a war that followed decades of oppressiveness and constraints. They are not certain of the future. They do not know what tomorrow holds for them and their families.

Now is the right time to win Iraqis' hearts, and that is a difficult task as long as the coalition forces continue to focus on their interests and give lesser priority to what Iraqis need.

The Editor

Not quite the time to go home

BY ABDULLAH A. S.

In response to the article of "It's time to come back home" I have gone through your article - It is really interesting program - But are you aware about the unemployment - If you meet Yemenis in the UK - then what will they respond to you? You have been in the UK for one year and you have come back home and fulfilled your ambitions - But I'm sure you have great supporters and Sheiks beside you; otherwise you would have not come to Yemen. You program will not be successful because we are not in a position to bring back Yemeni immigrants.

Let me plan for you one program - The title is "The unemployment of Yemenis & the discriminations among Yemenis and foreigners? Don't you know that the foreigners who are working in Yemen are getting more than the Yemeni citizen? It does not matter whether he/she is an American, British, Indian, Philippines, Bangle, Sudan, Iraqi, and Palestinian.

You should keep in your mind that Yemenis have been exploited by their Yemeni brothers - If a Yemeni & an Indian apply for job and both have the same qualifications, have the same capabilities - I'm sure they will select the

Indians - Because his Yemeni brother / boss will keep and try whether he/she is from his village town or not? Then his simple answer in his mind would be let the foreign get instead of this Yemeni?

Dear Akram, don't you know the Yemenis over there in the UK? How can an open minded, educated British - Yemeni person would come back to his home? Are you ready to approach with your plan to Prince Nasim?

It is possible to be presented such programs in the United Arab Emirates - Bahrain - Qatar - and our Omani brothers. These countries & their leaders have fulfilled their dreams & ambitions. So, now if their leaders, their minister of immigrants and their educated men like you have a plan to bring back their nationalities, then I'm sure they would succeed in their plans, dreams, ambitions.

I had great conversations with our African - Yemenis who have fled from East Africa. I was told that officials at the port have humiliated them, treated them not as human beings. They were told that they have lost their Yemeni roots! What about Prince Nasim Hamed? Is that because he was born in the UK - but those African - Yemenis were born in a place previously called "The black continent" / Africa.

Recently, Yemenis who have fled

from Iraq were crying for help. But they have been ignored while the Sudanese Govt. has sent special trip plane to Iran to evacuate their nationalities on the border of Iraq & Iran. See how distance from Sudan to Iran?

There was one question being asked by Nadia Al-Saqqaf "What are you going to call this program" and you kept smiling & you don't know yet. You know the real thing that is why you smiled - Moreover you know that Prince Nasim and his followers would not accept to hear from you your fake program and plans?

Forget about our president's dreams - He should ask himself that bringing back Yemeni immigrants or those former leaders who fled home on board to his special plan would bring back Yemeni immigrants. Things are totally different than those former leaders. Your plan is to bring back the Big Boss losers - Then it would not be easy to bring back the junior immigrants. He/she is exercising his/her rights over there and they will implement here in Yemen with the help of the Amnesty International & human rights organizations

I hope I wouldn't hurt you that much - I wish Yemenis to come back home when the time comes - I love to see Yemen as one great nation - God Bless Yemen.

Letters to the Editor

About president's amnesty

Ido not expect Yemen Times to publish this "letter to the Editor". Past experiences indicate that the respectful editor publishes articles sent by foreigners and seems to disregard letters sent by fellow Yemenis. After all, it's his paper and he may choose to publish what he sees fit. I have extensively contributed as much material as I care to remember to the editor all of which have fallen upon deaf ears. I do not claim to be a PhD academic writer or journalist and indeed I have my flaws. However, a reply or acknowledgment as promised on your website would have been nice.

Well, coming to the main point, I have a comment about the amnesty given by

HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh to those ex-members of the Socialist party who committed atrocities against tens of thousands of innocent Yemenis during the war in 1994. I lost my father as a direct result of that war as he was on duty at the Jumhoria Hospital in Sana'a when the hospital was struck by a scud missile. President Saleh has shown great compassion, dignity, forgiveness and mercy to those who in my view should stand trial for war crimes.

I would like to ask his Excellency how he thinks the families and relatives whose loved ones perished in the war of 1994 would react to this amnesty. Personally, I feel bitter and defeated. I feel that my father who paid the ultimate sacrifice and shed

Letters to the Editor

his blood for our great country has been completely disregarded, neglected and betrayed. And we ask in vain, why oh why is an Arab's life so cheap and expendable in the eyes of the West? You have your answer, because our entire culture is based upon a total disregard for human life and the sanctity of life. We have forgotten our martyrs who died whilst defending this nation, for fifty years, the West continues to remind itself of the sacrifices of those killed in World War 2. We on the other hand, can't even wait nine years before we completely choose to forget our martyrs and heroes and forgive our enemies. I know that my comments will once again fall upon deaf ears therefore you may rest assured that I

would not be contributing any more articles to Yemen times. I would not be reading it either. Even though it was a paper which I genuinely adored and enjoyed reading. I can no longer continue to read or send comments to an editor who has expressed total disregard to his readers. To whoever reads this, wake up and open your're mind.

Hamza Zabara
Hamza230e@Hotmail.com

Dear Hamza,

Having a letter not published doesn't mean that we are disregarding it. But we are also limited in terms of space and time. We are all human. Any how, I apologize on behalf of the paper of any mishandling of any letter to the editor. But I hope having your letter published here

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Fundamentals on corruption

Not that this matter has not been dealt with by this observer and many other writers and even politicians, but we really must get to a clear understanding that the issue of corruption should not just be a talking matter. In fact, the phenomenon has dealt a severe blow to our aspirations for development and for luring any investment, foreign or local into the economy. The most serious problem associated with corruption is that everyone knows it exists, everyone dreads its existence, everyone sees its results right before our very eyes: in the extravagant housing of many government officials, and in the great social and economic gaps developing in our society. But beyond that, there has never been any serious effort to make it clear that it is impossible to have a properly functioning government, if corruption is allowed to reign supreme in all the functions of government. One observer once noted: "our government was the only body politic where corruption has been implanted as a cardinal rule of public administration and not merely an issue of a few exceptions here and there". The late famous poet and literary personality of Yemen, Abdullah Al-Baraddoni (who was incidentally blind) once wrote in 26 September Newspaper that "the worst corruption that ever existed throughout history is found in Yemen now".

Maybe the fact that all of Yemen's government institutions are relatively new and the many years of political instability that have come and gone over the last fifty years or so created an environment that nurtured the seeds of corruption, but then again the more obvious fact is that letting corruption slide by without any form of deterrence or punitive action is really a more palatable reason. Others claim that it was the deprivation of so many centuries of despotic rule interlaced with periods of anarchy and foreign occupation that have interlaced the history of Yemen, but then again, if we know that a problem exists and all these excuses are now simply history, should we not also begin to set our house in order, now that the appropriate legislations and institutions are in place. Surely, one remembers the cassette tapes during the elections, with the political parties showing off their flare for turning national folklore into political tit for tat against each other and each party trying to outdo the other in showing their nationalist loyalty and their determination to wipe out corruption if their candidates are elected. One is also aware that these parties did have candidates and officials, who were in positions that one would expect would be solid grounds for them to be able to display real meaningful efforts to clean up at least their areas. But the truth is that once in office, it all goes back to "business as usual", making sure that their cut in the cake is not grabbed by someone else.

Because corruption is so widespread in Yemen, there is sadly a widespread sense of acceptance now that evil is the only way to go if you want to go anywhere in this world. In fact, the danger is deeper, because widespread poverty and destitution has overtaken the society - largely due to the existence of corruption - the situation has made evil to some become a necessity for survival, let alone making it in this world. In other words, corruption is indeed eating at the moral fabric of our society and unless it is checked now, we can never really hope to expect that the future holds any real potential for development and equitable improvement in the standards of living of the people of Yemen. Yes, we can speak of our spiritual and traditional adherence to a solid moral conscientiousness. But the spectacles of extravagance and overindulgence by so many in our society, who have found their niche in the well entrenched network, or networks of corruption in our government, business and even social regimes are bound to ferment seeds of discontent and disapproval among the majority of the population, who truly wish to live honest and incorruptible lives.

Yes, we agree with the Prime Minister (and the President) that corruption must be faced. We only hope that such high level recognition of the seriousness of the matter can be translated into meaningful steps to: Enforce strict civil service honor codes and legislations that will put the corrupt behind bars, or at least out of government. Institute rigid financial and administrative controls that deter the weak from thinking that the government treasury is an "all you can grab" pot for the "clever" public servants, who will later repent for their wrongdoings by building a mosque or a school and handing out meager peanuts on holidays to the poor that line up their palatial gates on holidays. Make government more transparent by letting the public know a little more about government finance and from where its funds are coming from and where are they going. It all boils down to these fundamental principles, if we really have any hope of putting back the values we truly adhere to where they should be. It is not enough to adhere to values if they cannot be translated to real concrete steps that will show that we have no place for evil in our society, especially in government.

YEMEN TIMES
Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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TX: 605350
P.O. Box: 13195

Qatar (Doha): Dar Al-Sharq Printing, Publishing & Distribution
Tel: 4654265
Tel: 4661865
P.O. Box: 3488

Dubai: Dar Al-Hikma
Tel: 09971596589158
P.O. Box: 2007

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Letters to the Editor

will compensate for what happened.
—Editor

It is "Yemenites" not "Yemenis"!

I have noticed that most if not all the Yemeni media are using the Word: Yemenis, that stands for the inhabitants or the native people of Yemen, while the correct terminology is "Yemenites".

The word "Yemenites" is the correct expression standing for the native people of Arabia Flex and not Yemenis which is totally wrong! Kindly check the historical books that are tackling the history of Old Yemen. I had been using this expression when corresponding with international media for more than 15 years, though it is

generally used by the West media but still we witness it in our own media.

It is simply like the word "Mocha" which is the name of one of the Yemenite old seaports on the Red-Sea, but several people ignore it because they see it on foreign products such as coffee brands and on western franchises!

In the ancient times Yemenites used to export coffee beans through the seaport of Mocha and "Mocha Coffee" named after that seaport and branded as such!

Our history is the greatest among the region, but who has the guts to record millions and millions of information and this is how the source is blindly denied?

Karam Abbass Al Hashmi
deyazan@hotmail.com

Ok guys, we're lost

Do we need a map for 'Road Map'?



BY YAZAN AL-SAGHIRY
Yazanonline@hotmail.com

A stage of freedom and liberation has ended. And now, all of us are waiting the White House to tell us about the next step we should take in that thrones road. Talking about the road. I think USA is very optimistic about that "road map". The quartet committee-headed by USA of course-forgets a very important rule: "Read the history to anticipate the future". Well, I have to confess, I'm not a soothsayer, neither a pessimistic, but I read the history, and believe me, it is not that shiny one. I'm not so glad to disturb their happiness of taking the 'conditional' acceptance of Sharon government. But if they ask me I would say: this 'Road Map' would have- for sorrow- to join the club of many 'tinny' unimplemented agreements-on the Israeli side of course-besides, let us go back to reality a little bit, no one can imagine an Israeli prime minister recognizing a Palestinian state, not to mention that prime minister is Ariel Sharon or 'the bulldozer'!

So, the first question was that, is Israel able to recognize a Palestinian state as the road map assumes?

Also, what about the refugees and their right to return home after many years of suffering and vagrancy? By the way, the Israeli officials, couple of weeks ago, answered that question by 'No'!

What about 'AIQuads'-Jerusalem-as a capital for that Palestinian state?

When Ariel Sharon was elected 'again', he made a very lovely statement about dismantling some of the settlements in the Palestinian areas, and he called it s 'painful relinquishments'. He was talking about dismantling some of the settlements and he said 'painful relinquishment'! So, what would he say about withdrawing form the occupied territories or confessing a Palestinian state? I think his inner self would say: 'impossible or imaginary relinquishments'. Talking about the settlements, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the road map assuming in the first phase "Israel immediately dismantles settlement outposts erected since March 2001" and "Consistent with the Mitchell Report, GOI- Israel-freezes all settlement activity (including natural growth of settlements)". But the bad news is, the first phase itself ended on 31/5/2003, which means it is over now!

As the Arab proverb says: 'the rain

starts with single drops', Sharon and his war government asked Mahmoud Abbas to 'excuse' Israel from admitting establishment of a Palestinian state in the Israeli "unequivocal statement" - as it was supposed in the Road Map but on the other hand, the Palestinians have to recognize a 'Jewish' state in their "unequivocal statement"! This is first thing that can 'alone' bury the (road map) before it was born. This important step comes in the first phase, which means it is essential even for the Quartet committee, other recommendations.

Now, even if the Road Map paved it foggy way, we have to be careful about the Israeli old-fashioned trick called 'the security of Israel'. Israel knows very well that the Palestinian leadership can't control the security because; it made sure to destroy the Palestinian authority infrastructure totally as well as it made sure to provoke the Palestinian civilians by its multi barbaric incursions every couple of days since Sharon became a prime minister-before 'the bulldozer', there were a lot of invasions but they didn't aim directly at the infrastructure of the Palestinian authority. Now, they destroy even the building of the police! So, how would the Palestinian police be able to control the security situation? But this is not a problem for Israel because, I believe, personally, that the 'Road Map' is not going to reach that stage, and I think Sharon shares with me this gloomy vision!

However, the Palestinian proved to be real peacemakers by accepting that 'Road Map', because, there was a bet that they are not going to. Especially, when USA tried to disturb the world vision that President Yasser Arafat is not a democratic leader to his people, so he is not going to allow any Prime Minister to be his partner in ruling the country. And to assure that wrong vision, they put it in the road map itself; 'As rapidly as possible, constitutional committee circulates draft Palestinian constitution based on strong parliamentary democracy and cabinet with empowered Prime Minister, for public comment/debate'. But the great struggler was greater than they thought. After that, he has to face a challenge of accepting Mohammed Dahlan as a minister of internal security under the pressure of Mahmoud Abbas the 'fresh' Palestinian Prime Minister. Although President Yasser Arafat was not convinced, but he accept it, which shows him as a great leader who puts the country's interest above anything else.

In Victor Estrovsky's important book 'the way of deceiving in Mosad', he said; as for Yasser Arafat, this man was incredible, because he refused to

leave Lebanon till the last Palestinian fighter of his army leaves it, he had the chance to escape from something can be described as a 'certain death' but he didn't. This witness came from an Israeli Katsa- an Israeli officer in the Israeli officer in the Israeli intelligence (Mosad).

On the other hand, comes Sharon (the bulldozer), with his blood-stained history. He is the hero of the massacres of Sabra and Shatila as well as he is an effective part in murdering the Egyptian POWs after the six days war in June 1967. He is the most radical racial extremist on earth. This man is one of most disgusting samples of the downgrading of human beings. One, he insisted to provoke the Muslims by going to one of the holiest Muslim places which is Al Aqsa Al Sheriff, and as a result the Intifada erupted against this filthy aggression. Also, he didn't forget about showing his radicalism on Christians as well, when he fired on a church and destroyed it partly in order to murder the Palestinian fighters - Christians and Muslims- who were defending Jenin against the fierce Israeli invasion. By the way, during these savage operations of Israeli forces killing unarmed thousands of people in huge massacres, George Bush made his funny statements about Sharon by describing him as 'Man of Peace'! But, it is not that strange phrase when we know that Bush was referring to his own Peace.

Finally let me close my article by teasing Sharon, these are the closing phrases in the 'Road Map'.

"Parties reach final and comprehensive permanent status agreement that ends the Israel- Palestinian conflict in 2005, through a settlement negotiated between the parties based on UNSCR (United Nations Security Council Resolutions) 242, 338, and 1397, that ends the occupation that began in 1967, and includes an agreed, just, fair, and realistic solution to the refugee issue, and a negotiated resolution on the status of Jerusalem that takes into account the political and religious concerns of both sides, and protects the religious interests of Jews, Christians, and Muslims worldwide, and fulfills the vision of two states, Israel and sovereign, independent, democratic and viable Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security".

Anyone of these five points: ending the occupation that started in 1967, ending the conflict depending on UNSCR 242,338,139, solving the problem of the refugees with a fair solution, negotiating about Jerusalem considering the political and the religious interests of all the religious and confessing a Palestinian state; can surely bring Sharon a heart attack.



Challenging Bush's world view

BY FRED HIATT
THE WASHINGTON POST

Until now, most Americans, including even President Bush's political opposition, have accepted his basic vision of a reordered post-9/11 world — a world fundamentally changed in almost every aspect.

The critics have nibbled at the edges of the vision, for example by questioning the extent of the tilt toward government power and away from personal liberty. They have tried to use the vision to further preexisting goals, for example by proposing AIDS treatment for Africans or schooling for Third World children as the best means to "drain the swamp" of terrorism. And they have launched oblique attacks by targeting, often in stinging and personal terms, those perceived as its chief theorists, such as Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

But the organizing principles accepted in the shocked aftermath of the assaults on the World Trade Center and Pentagon for the most part have not been challenged. Congress has accepted the idea that terrorism allied with weapons of mass destruction represents a threat comparable to that posed by communism during the Cold War. It approved the largest reorganization of the federal bureaucracy in decades, on the assumption that this major threat will persist into the indefinite future. In foreign policy, old allies have been demoted, new friends embraced and past priorities shelved. The CIA and other secret forces have been granted wide-ranging new powers to assassinate

in Yemen, confine in Cuba and wage shadowy war in places most Americans had not heard of two years ago.

This context helps explain some of the emotion infusing the debate over the failure to discover chemical or biological weapons in Iraq. The controversy both reflects and feeds doubts and frustrations that had begun to build among Bush opponents with respect to his larger orthodoxy.

Some of the frustrations are political. From the Democratic viewpoint, the war distracts attention from economic troubles and justifies big new contracts to Republican friends at Lockheed and Halliburton. It allows the president to portray the Clinton administration as somnolent while dangers mounted. From the midterm election to the sunlit carrier landing, the war seems to have worked maddeningly well for George Bush.

Substantively, as 9/11 recedes and no follow-on attack occurs on American soil, the depiction of al Qaeda as primal enemy comes into question. Did we overreact? Have we merely entered a world into which Europe long ago preceded us and in which terrorism should be viewed as a constant, unpleasant but not society-altering fact of life? From a human perspective, it is normal to hope and believe so, whether you are Democrat or Republican — to believe that life has not fundamentally altered, that our children will not have to accept as routine jets overhead, orange alerts, barriers and bollards scarring the nation's capital.

Some allegations over Iraq's undiscovered weapons — that Bush manufac-

tured evidence to justify a war for oil or empire, for political advantage or ideology — don't make much sense, unless you believe that President Clinton's defense secretary was similarly inventive when he brandished a five-pound bag of sugar on national television as a stand-in for the Iraqi anthrax he said could destroy much of Washington. The more damning possibility, in fact, is that Bush did not move aggressively enough to guard nuclear and other sites in Iraq to prevent possible dispersal.

But the president's blithe and sweeping statements on the subject ("we found the weapons of mass destruction") stoke doubts about many other airy claims, including his warnings about a wider terrorist threat. Debate about both, beyond the shock of 9/11, can only be healthy. The administration's evident surprise at finding no stockpiles in Iraq thus far begs for an inquiry into methods of intelligence and certainly affects its future credibility. Similarly, much remains unknown about al Qaeda and like-minded networks, the depth of their leadership and their staying power.

In the end, though, those who hope the terrorist threat has been overstated are likely to be as disappointed as those who believe Saddam Hussein had no chemical or biological weapons program. Given the catastrophic damage that a small group could wreak with a biological agent or nuclear weapon, and the hatred of the West still being taught in schools in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and elsewhere, today's vigilance is preferable to yesterday's complacency, and the reorientation Bush imposed after 9/11 was as justified as it was belated.

Let Al-Jazeera be seen in Canada

BY ANTONIA ZERBIASIS
FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Long after much of the Western media have packed up their satellite phones and abandoned Iraq to the looters, the Islamists, the corporate carpetbaggers, and the U.S.-installed overseers, Al-Jazeera, the 24/7 Arabic TV news service carries on.

Al-Jazeera is the channel that takes a licking and keeps on ticking. It's been called biased and seditious by many of the countries to which it broadcasts, it's been denounced by the Pentagon, banned from Islamic nations and the New York Stock Exchange and, most recently, been accused of collaborating with Saddam Hussein.

If that's true, and it may be, is it any different from CNN playing footsie with the Pentagon, or covering up Saddam's atrocities to maintain its Baghdad bureau?

Al-Jazeera's reporters have been bombed and even killed by American forces; they've been beaten up by mobs in Detroit, tossed out of Iraq by Saddam and harassed by the British in Basra.

And still, they keep on keeping on. Not that you can see their reporting out of Iraq, or Afghanistan, or occupied Palestine, or anywhere, of course — unless you have an illegal satellite dish or you pony up \$9.95 U.S. per month for access through <http://www.jumprtv.com>.

But, if the Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA) can convince the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to allow its members to carry Al-Jazeera, with English subtitles, it will land somewhere in the nosebleed section of the

digital dial, along with other ethnic services.

It won't be easy

The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), a democratically elected national advocacy organization, and the strident, hard-right B'nai Brith is fighting the CCTA application.

Almost every time a commentary, editorial or letter supporting the channel is published somewhere, they have a scathing rejoinder, calling the channel a supporter of anti-Israel terrorism and citing a hateful incident from 2001, when a viewer opinion, read on air, referred to Jews as, brace yourself, "apes and pigs."

But, judging from studies of Al-Jazeera conducted by the Columbia Journalism Review and others, any hate-filled language heard on the channel does not come from its journalists but, instead, from interview subjects on shows and in news coverage.

Still, in an April 17 report in the Canadian Jewish News, CJC president Keith Landy calls Al-Jazeera "virulently anti-Semitic" — although he presents no specific examples. The paper also has Landy accusing the channel of having "denied or trivialized the Holocaust" while "lioniz(ing) suicide bombers and terrorists as martyrs" and airing "hate-filled diatribes against Israel."

Meanwhile, the Canadian Arab Federation, the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations and the Canadian Islamic Congress support Al-Jazeera's addition to the dial, arguing, "it would broaden the horizon of the Canadian public" on issues in the Mideast and Afghanistan.

"There are two Canadian rights which

must be upheld here — freedom of speech and freedom of religion," said Dr. Mohammed Elmasyr, national president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, in a recent news release.

What's surprising about this debate is that it has been carried on mostly in the National Post, a paper with a pro-Israel bias, and one that is quick to denounce anti-Semitism wherever it finds it — and it seems to find it everywhere.

But, contrary to what you might expect, the paper's editorials editor Jonathan Kay, as well as an editorial, both recently urged the CRTC to approve Al-Jazeera.

The editorial said that "content-based censorship has no place in a democratic society that puts its faith in a free marketplace of ideas."

"We may not like the way the world looks on Al-Jazeera," writes Kay. "But if this is how a big chunk of the world sees our civilization, why would we want to sweep it under the carpet?"

Besides, even if some of what is said on Al-Jazeera is objectionable, is it any more hateful, say, than what is often uttered on American TV?

As Muslim-Canadians and Americans have pointed out, their religion and their prophet Muhammad have been trashed in the vilest of terms by supposed Christians such as evangelist Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, and the ever-charitable Jerry Falwell. Where are the protests when their hate is spewed here?

No, as risky as it is for Al-Jazeera to be seen here, it should be available in Canada.

It's one important way for us to know what is really going on to people and places most other media organizations deem no longer newsworthy.

Letters to the Editor

You have it all wrong
I think you folks in the Middle East have it all wrong about the general population in the US. We are a Christian-founded nation that was born to end tyranny. We do not subscribe or even condone tyranny and we certainly would not let our government colonize another country. We would vote out the party that did such a thing. As humans, we are very loving and giving. I know right now that millions of people are donating their private money, clothes, supplies, etc to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq. I know that if our government would let us go and it was safer that many thousands of us would rush to get on a plane and go over and help those countries and others to rebuild and get out of poverty. We fear those who hate us and do not quite understand why they do. We want to love them and love on them with generosity. When immigrants come to our country they are given every opportunity that we natural born citizens have to succeed with the exception of becoming the President of

the US. If it weren't for immigrants we would not have our nation. We are all born from immigrants with the exception of the American Indians. So, we learn to love and tolerate one another despite our differences. That is how the 9/11 terrorists were able to succeed. They were able to just move in and start a life. Many Arab people live in the US. They are free to worship in their own manner just as many other religions can. We may not ascribe to their beliefs but we usually respect them. No one in America can respect the hatred and violence demonstrated by any radical religion or political view that calls for killing, beating, chopping off body parts or any other cultish practices that hurt, kill or demean human beings. And by the way, the God I serve would never condone such behavior either. So why don't you spread the truth about Americans. Maybe a world that gets along loving one another and respecting our differences and agreeing on world behavior that disavows terrorism and guar-

Letters to the Editor

tees good quality of life for all is what we need to develop; looking not to the past but moving on toward a positive future. Peace be to you all.

Ann L, USA

About the Social Security Fund

As a reader of your esteemed newspaper I hope you or your readers could help us find answers through your paper! Many friends of mine are eager to address this issue to you and voice it to concerned organizations for clarifications.

The issue concerned is Social Security Funds that are collected from us by the government monthly. We are employees in joint-ventures government and foreign companies operating in the oil sector. The oil companies pay 15% of employees' salaries from its account for the employee as security to employee given to the Social Security Fund organization. Some of the employees have been for about 18 years in service and throughout, their salary was deducted 6% as social security per month.

The funds are used by this organization for investments and then earns profits and interest from them. While the employee deductions and accruals are not given interest at all! Social security for the employee has to include interest. It should be like an account deposit. Also whenever an employee needs to quit the country or rather have his money in his/her hand the organization deducts 20% of the money in account as service. Many suspect there is foul play on employees' funds going on in this parasitical body

I hope you or people concerned could shed some light on this issue. Briefly, it is all about 15% of employees' money + 6% of the salary. This money has no interest given while the organization benefits from its own investments. Employees do not benefit. Deceased employees' families could get paid monthly, but only meager payments are given. On some occasion, you need to involve bribery and corruption to get anything you want.

Mohammed Abdullah basmeirmold@hotmail.com

Why Islam (1)

BY NADIA AL-SAQAF
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Introduction

Islam is probably the religion most ignored or misunderstood by people in different parts of the world. One of the reasons may be the inactivity of Muslims at introducing Islam to other non-Muslim nations. Another reason is perhaps the psychological barrier between the West and the Muslim world created by a series of wars between the two sides. A third reason may be the intentional attempts of some anti-Islam thinkers and clergy to distort Islam or prevent the westerners from reaching the truth of Islam.

However, the truth remains that Islam was and is and will be. Islam is now the religion of more than one billion humans and it gains new followers every day, not only through the natural increase of the world population, but also through the increasing numbers of new embraces. The starting point is to know Islam. Without this knowledge, an individual's attitude is often prejudiced, pre-determined, and stereotyped. For a person to be objective, he must base his attitude on adequate knowledge.

Why Islam:

A question that is not really understood on its own. It could hold many meanings at the same time. The reason why I chose this to be the title of my series and a topic of many issues to come, God willing, is that I myself needed to know more about this religion that I embrace, and in the same time wanted to convey to the world, both Muslim and non-Muslim, facts and information about this religion in a simple layman language.

But before I start about why Islam as a religion, I want in this issue to explain why a religion anyway. And from this point after we decide the need for a religion, then maybe we can see into what religion do we really need.

The need for religion

The importance of religion lies primarily in the moral and socio-moral aspect of man's existence.

We know that one of the most significant differences between man and other living beings is the moral and the socio-moral aspect of man's existence. Man is not merely a physical being. On the contrary, man has a strong moral aspect to his existence. This moral and socio-moral aspect of man's existence is the foundation on which the legal and social structures that we see in all the societies have evolved overtime. It is in fact the acceptance, appreciation and realization of mutual rights and responsibilities, which has resulted in the strong bonds of family, friendship, tribe and society.

Broadly speaking, 'religion' is generally composed of two sets of things: First, the ideas and concepts, which a particular religion wants its adherents to ascribe to. These ideas are generally termed as 'beliefs'. Second, any 'practices' - which may also include worship rituals - promoted by that religion.

It is therefore important before we accept the need for religion to accept the need for an organized system that would control and monitor the various aspects of our lives, and in the same time, would fulfill our emotional needs as humans.

It is obvious that the latter two points are beyond discussion, because any sane person would accept the need for a system to govern our lives and that is why we have legislation and governments as such and call it civilization to abide by the law. And the second point, which is the emotional need of humans, comes obviously from him, as being a moral being.

The point now, what kind of religion do we need? The Religion must address essential humanistic needs - physical needs, societal needs, emotional needs and psychological needs all in an intelligent and non biased way. For many civilizations have tried instating rules and legislation but invariably they have failed or say not reached the ultimate goals because of the human inadequacy to understand everything there is. So who should set out this system that all humanity should abide by?

Take an example first, if you should buy a complicated electronic gadget, then whom would you refer to for guidance on how to use it and what to do with it? The manufacturer of course if you can interact directly with the creator, else through a manual or instructions book.

Taking this metaphor further, it becomes obvious that a religion set by the creator of human beings is the one that ascribes best to the way of life they should follow. And this being is what in English we call God. And the holy books he sent to earth are the manuals that help in understanding the whole system.

Now the second question is who is god? Is it the nature that we see? Is it what Muslims call Allah? Is it Jesus? Is it Ram? Is it Buddha? Or any of the numerous gods we hear of? Or is there no God at all?

The answer of this question is our next topic, so be there.

Tourism and tourist services.....

In dire need of improvement

SALAH SALEH AHMED
YEMEN TIMES, TAIZ

Tourism with all its aspects is considered a worldwide a most profitable industry that enhances capital income and improves economy. In spite of this fact it is unfortunate that in Yemen, with all its promising tourist aspects participates in the national income with less than 2%, a consequence of a pathetic situation and dire mistakes.

A particular aspect of tourism is the services providing luxury and entertainment for tourists, or even the basic needs such as hotels and guest houses. There is no encouraging service infrastructure, such as electricity, water and roads, and the tourist places are quite a few and unattended to. High taxation and hence high service prices, non-existent publicity through brochures and pamphlets, and no organized cultural events such as fairs, exhibitions and the like. As such there isn't any professional training or specialized courses dealing with promoting tourism and improving the tourist cadre's skills. All those are many aspects of one problem, and in order to get a feel of what the real issue is, we spoke to a number of hotel owners and managers in Taiz, here is what they said:

State is not supporting us:

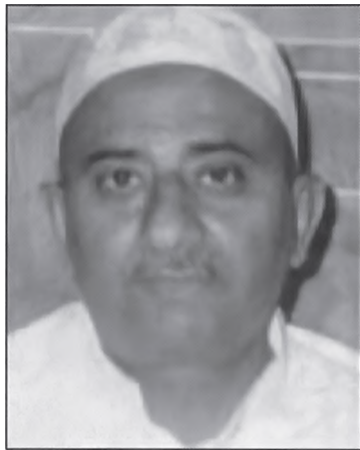
Mohammed Ahmed Ali, Manager of Royal Hotel said: "The state is not concerned about supporting tourism; the government does not encourage tourism through customs exemption instead taxes are getting higher and higher by the day in spite of the down phase of economy. Even the municipality permit before the local councils it used to cost 5000 YR now it costs 25000 YR. The lease amount that we pay is 80,000 YR and if there is a relative tourist activity then it's 130 -150 thousand YR, all this in circumstances where there are no services of water which is supplied only once a month so we are forced to buy it for the hotels consumption and electricity bills are soaring high."

Regarding solutions and demands he commented that they demand the planning and development office to stop the chaotic and wrong practices and the tax authority to deploy a policy that encourages tourism not discourages it.

No organized publicity:

Head of Yemen Tourist Hotel, Mr. Ahmed Radman Mohammed Othman pointed to the fact that there is no real organized publicizing and hence the job which is originally of the government has been made the responsibility of the private business owners to manage. Particularly for developing tourism in Taiz, he emphasized that there is no keen interest by Ministry of Tourism to do so, in fact roads and streets have been as they were for the past 10 years, in fact they are becoming worse. Another point which Mr. Radman commented on is the unclear separation between authorities' responsibilities and domains. "Not only that there is no distinct assignment of responsibilities in the government offices, but the taxes are unreasonably high; we must pay 5% for city enhancement, 2% supporting tourism, 7% production taxes. What's more is the services charge which was increased to 280%. And last but not least is the ugly blackmailing that is practiced by all government offices especially environment and health authorities that have been annoying all hotels without a fair reason. All these points put pressure on hotel industry and if nothing is improved unfortunately we might as well close down like 22 May Hotel and Al-Majeedi Hotel" he added.

Ahmed Radman demanded for development of the city and to provide tourist places and to take care of cleaning the internal city and enhancing the



Mohammed Ahmed Ali

flood drainage system. He asked for workshops and seminars and courses to be organized for training the cadre working in tourism, and especially thanked the Yemen Times for what it has done for improving tourism in Yemen.



Mr. Sadiq Muhsin Salah

celed custom taxes. These investors have been given free of charge pieces of land for investment in this field. And all is required is publicity and marketing.

When asked about absence of organized publicity, he replied that there is,

taxation and fees but at the time being we are still following the 283 decree and to implement it fully."

they still exist but little has been done to combat it."

Finally,

Hotel Tourism reality in Taiz has a long way to go before it could fall within accepted terms. It requires many facilities and services that should be improved immediately. If nothing is done and if the old policy still persists a true catastrophe will take place. The true responsibility befalls on the head of the Environmental and Tourism Office that is turning a deaf ear to the complaints. It's not true that his job should be confounded to producing maps kept endlessly in the office store rooms or a tourist guide that was not been even noticed. There is more than the Cairo Fort to be restored. True that it is a general policy that comes from the central authorities in the Capital Secretariat but the branch office can do many projects and has the authority to improve the situation in Taiz.

There should be a plan, a complete



Such touristic potential is essential for hotel tourism industry

Head of Environment and Tourism Taiz Branch: "We are just mediators":

Talking to the authorities concerned, we spoke to the Environment and Tourism Office in Taiz, head of the office Mr. Sadiq Muhsin Salah said: "In Taiz alone there are more than 38 tourist hotel of various categories and stars, and what they are suffering from is not something internally present only, for this is a global problem and the economy down phase is worldwide. There is not much foreign tourist action and they at least for the time being are depending on internal tourism. As for their complaints regarding high taxation and fees; the decree by the council of ministers No. 283 approved many discounts and incentives for encouraging tourism and enhancing the situation. We know about the problems these hotels are facing and a number of hoteliers have raised this issue to us before this. But this does not mean cancel all taxes and fees because it's not an issue that only we are authorized to deal with; there is a legislation council that approves and authenticates any decision. We just work as an intermediate agency and we convey the problems and circumstances of the local market to this authority and demand assistance for them."

Mr. Salah commented on the infrastructure problem saying that in the first place this infrastructure depends on the private sector and anyway the country has undergone good improvements in this field especially with the new investment law which granted investors many privileges and can-

proof being that the ministry had many international participation last year. The Taiz office worked on publishing the first tourist guide for Taiz that contained tourist information, we also produced tourist maps and restored the Cairo Fort. "We are trying our best within our scarce resources." He added.

About the Ministry of Tourism's plan for Taiz, he said: "The plan is to continue encouraging investors and highlight the national products in local and international markets. It was obvious last year the large number of number of tourists who came from neighboring countries especially KSA and Japan. We hope to reach the aspired for levels. There is also a will to decrease

hotels without restaurants we visit them once a month. We know about the blackmailing and we have produced a declaration to all our staff regarding this aspect. Unfortunately

strategy that tackles all the aspects of tourism and sincerely combats corruption. Only then would the tourist scene improves and better tourism would materialize.



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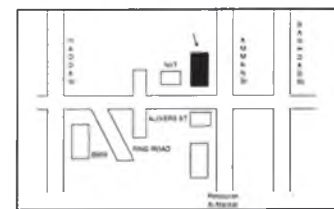
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نياتا حسنا
قالت مبرولت يا ايا احمد
المهنون
خالد ياسن القدسي واخوانه
وجميع ائب القدسي واكرم السقاف
وندي زين اسكندر
وجميع الاهل والاصداق

Thousands of mini as well as micro-buses in the capital

Relentless traffic measures needed

By Adnan Abdulaziz
For the Yemen Times

One cannot drive through the roads of Sana'a without a road map because the maximum speed is naught at most junctions.

This made me reach out for the famous "Road Map" assuming that it will guide me and so many other fools like me through Sana'a murky streets.

I couldn't comprehend it, because its interpretation is buried deep in Bush's mind, and I promptly threw it out of the window.

Imagine you are driving zero speed or less, and breathing in fumes emitted from the tailpipes of vehicles, especially diesel ones and whenever you come to a halt you start inhaling and exhaling huge amounts of these gases. I can see what are called "dababs", minibuses and minibuses, in their thousands, and I wonder if they ever reach their destination and I even ask myself "Can they provide sustenance to their owners". God is merciful.

how long you beep, honk, hoot, or blow the horn they will not give a damn and finish their "business" and speed-along. Loitering nearby and looking like scarecrows are the miserable policemen with their hands out, handing out traffic violation tickets to "dabab" drivers. The effect of these tickets is to whet the appetites of the "dabab" drivers. Above all, it is the incapability of the transport authorities to set a maximum limit to the number of "dabab" on the roads, which makes them multiply like bacteria.

This is happening all over the country and in all our cities. Traffic rules and regulations are being flagrantly disobeyed. Vehicle safety laws are non-existent. The authority of the traffic policeman is a dream. Roads are used by all. They should not be a means of death caused by noise or atmospheric pollution or road unworthy vehicles. The authorities should not allow every Tom, Dick and Harry who has a little money and wishes to buy a "dabab", a microbus or a minibus to buy one and start expending the extremely noxious fumes into the air which we breathe

maniacal, suicidal, murderous drivers from killing themselves and killing us all. I do not think that giant computers can conjure pictures of our cities five to ten years from now and if they are capable of doing so then the pictures will definitely be horrifying. If six years ago the number of "dababs" on the roads was about ten thousand then what is their number now? "Dabab" drivers show no courtesy or politeness towards others and care less about the rights of other road users, young or old. They only see standing in front of them a potential passenger who will pay fifteen or twenty rials at the end of the ride. How they maneuver the vehicle and reach that passenger is worth watching. They will blow their horns, flash their lights and getting closer, they will start yelling their destinations. Watching that is pathetic.

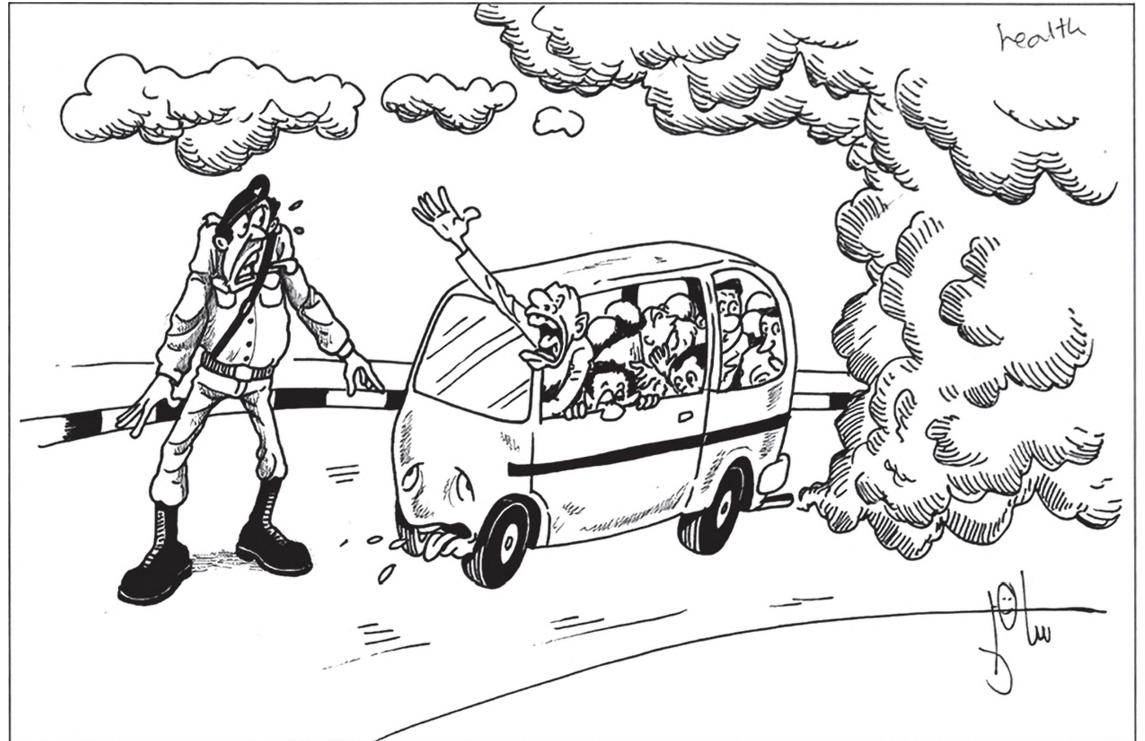
Traffic measures needed

Only God knows why motor cyclists remove the silencers and sound mufflers from their motor cycles, contributing immensely to the noise and air pollution. Motor cycles should be banned permanently from the streets. A massive program should be initiated on the radio and television to educate the masses to the necessity of understanding traffic rules and regulations, traffic laws and rights of road users.

Television films describing driving etiquette and simple motor mechanics are to be shown from those countries whose driving considered a model to be emulated. The importance of the many road signs and yellow and white lines should be printed in booklets and be mass distributed nationwide and sold to all drivers, compulsory. Strict driving tests should be taken by future and potential drivers. Health tests for the eyes, ears, nerves, relax actions, psychological and mental health should not be taken lightly. Road unworthy vehicles should be declined renewal of annual licenses and sold for scrap. We have think seriously, quickly and earnestly to organize traffic on our roads. Traffic rules must be applied strictly and mercilessly with no compunction or remorse. The army should be deployed to assist the police, using force if it comes to that, until every citizen of Yemen can say "Yes, traffic rules are implemented in this country; the roads are safe to drive on". For offenders, jail sentences should be meted out with full pressure of the law, submitting to no one. The untouchables of government officials, members of parliament, their drivers, children, and all should be seriously questioned. The arrogance of Sheikhs, their henchmen, and stooges must be stopped. Traffic offenders and violators should be made to pay on the spot fines, not bribes, to honest Traffic Magistrates, under police protection of course.

and commences killing us ever so slowly. For god's sake, tell me how can we live with this carcinogenic pollution? Certainly, the first persons to get affected by these fumes are the drivers of these "dababs" themselves.

Does not the responsibility fall upon the authorities - health, traffic, and transport, of protecting these dumb,



Comprehensive study also needed

To ease the pressure of migration from the country to Sana'a and other big cities, a study has to be made to provide short and long term loans to buy agricultural and farm machinery. This means that villagers can go back to their villages and start agricultural work on their land farms.

Machinery and equipment to dig wells must be included in the loan amounts. This will make the villagers live off their lands, become self-sufficient and independent. This will start the process of reverse migration and ease the congestion, pollution and the thousands of "dababs" of the street s of Sana'a and our other cities. We also have to make plans to transport people in our cities in larger groups, using the smallest number of bigger buses and

coaches. This method is used in most countries of the world; some of the most backward countries use big buses and coaches instead of "dababs". Do not tell me we are the most backward of all! The command and control of the traffic policemen must be reinstated. The dignity of this civil servant should be upheld. It is our right to breathe clean and fresh air.

Pollution affects the rich and the poor. We all breathe the same air and use the same roads. This environmental disease, in all its forms, is knocking at our doors. Separate measures have to be taken immediately to protect the health, well being, and mental stability of all drivers, pedestrians, and road users.



Smoke emitted from car's engines

Actually, what causes congestion on our streets is the adamant resistance of "dababs" to stop parallel to the kerb. Halting in whatever way they like, cross-wise, diagonally, on their sides, laterally and also upside down is the order of the day, thus asserting to all that the street is owned by their fathers and nobody can do anything. No matter



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Vacancy Announcement Senior Financial Adviser

An immediate vacancy exists at the European Commission Technical Advisory Office in Sanaa (ECTAO) for the post of the Senior Financial Adviser.

The purpose of this position is to ensure that project finances and assets are administered in a proper and correct manner, and that optimal use of European Commission resources leads to effective implementation of EC-supported activities. The position will be based in Sanaa, although occasional travel may be required. The initial, renewable fixed-term contract will cover the period until December 2003. The incumbent will directly report to the Head of ECTAO and will perform the following tasks:

- Assist in Financial and Contract Management of some 60 EC-supported Projects with current Annual Disbursements in the amount of some EUR 18 million;
- Provide Advice on Financial Management and Procurement Procedures to Implementing Agencies and Beneficiaries;
- Assist in Contracting of Independent Auditors and subsequently Monitor and Support Audits on Project Level;
- Verify Financial Project Progress, and Assist in Maintaining ECTAO's Project Data Base;
- Verify and Record Invoices of Technical Assistants and Consultants;
- Settle and Verify Financial Queries raised by the European Commission, and Prepare corresponding Reports.

The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- Advanced Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related Field, including Experience in Project and Contract Management;
- Minimum of five years Experience on a Senior Management Level;
- Advanced Computer Skills (MS Office Professional, including MS Access);
- Fluent Reading, Writing and Spoken Arabic and English, as well as Excellent Report Writing Skills in English;
- Sensitive and Cooperative Approach, as well as Excellent Interpersonal Communication Skills.

Candidates should submit their applications including detailed CV, contact details of three referees, as well as expected minimum remuneration, in MS Word or PDF format not later than 20 June 2003 by e-mail to: ec-tao@y.net.ye

Information on the European Commission's activities in Yemen are available at: <http://www.deljor.cec.eu.int>

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces in Yemen, 8 June 2003.

Main headlines:

- Government program: Lay off of thousands of workers and employees, establishing private sector airways companies
- Official inclination for canceling agriculture ministry
- A national body to follow up killing incident of Jaralla Omar, declared
- Transport movement between west and north of the capital hampered
- A number of worshippers in the Grand mosque arrested

On opening the "legal attachÉ" office in the American embassy in Sana'a. Mr Marwan Dammage says in an article the statement issued by the American embassy did not clarify the task of and function of the legal attachÉ office the united states wishes to create at its embassy in Yemen. The idea was submitted by director of the FBI Mueller when he met President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Aden last week. Information coverage of the meeting did not point to the American request and the 26 weekly newspaper did not mention even that meeting. American embassy statement did not specify the nature of the Yemeni reply to the American request that was announced by the American side and the Yemeni side did not even comment on it. A "legal attachÉ" office is an American deluding title. Since the events of 11/9 2001 the American authorities have not shown any interest, whether their behavior was outside the united states or even inside it with regard to legal and international controls. Although Yemen has been always used to receive American officials but most

of them military, it seems that the time of American justice and legal organizations' interest in Yemen has not come yet. Unlike of what are used to, the Americans did not show interest in the escape of seven prisoners accused of being involved in blasting the American destroyer Cole, from a prison in Yemen. Establishing a legal attachÉ office would be the latest declared development in the relations between the two countries as the security side is dominant on these relations. These relations took a special turning since 1995. The outward feature then was the project of demining and facilities offered to the American forces in Aden port known in coincidence with the attack on the destroyer Cole, and the latest phenomenon was also the graduation ceremony of a batch of coast guard force which receives an American interest.



Al-Umma weekly, organ of al-Haq party, 5 June 2003.

Main headlines:

- \$600 thousand for treatment of new MPs, ad hoc committees with specialists
- Central council for al-Quds foundation holds its meetings in Sana'a
- Continuation of human rights violations in Yemen
- Yemen Socialist Party calls for a national meeting to discuss the issue of killing Jarallah Omar
- A symposium on environment at Information Faculty

Columnist Abdullah Al-Dahmashi says in an article that the American administration has announced that it would not allow the political system in Iraq to resemble that in Iran or pro-Tehran. At a time Washington does not conceal its threats in repeated

warnings to Iran against any interference in Iraq's affairs, the American vision of the new Iraq extends to the Iranian depth as part of a new strategy for containing its continuous threats of the American interests in oil and security and America's ally the Zionist entity. Hence there is nothing new in the American political and military priorities more than the image where Iran becomes similar or pro new Iraq.

Precluding the establishment of an Iraqi regime similar to the Iranian regime is not dictated by causes of precaution of the establishment of a sectarian Shiite unification in the two countries but rather imposed by strategic determinants of the American foreign policy towards the region in particular and the world in general. The only way to protect the new Iraq against influences of the neighboring countries is that those neighbors must be of the same image of Iraq. The American steps began moving in that direction from Evian summit where it has condemned the Iranian endeavors for nuclear armament to be integrated with what it describes as fighting terror in order to place the Iranian leadership in confrontation with of the new challenges. From the American perspective the Iranian threat to the new Iraq is capable of containment with a strategy taking its reasons in terror, weapons of mass destruction and democracy to cover up its strategic aims that are based on toppling the regime. This has now been proved after the occupation of Iraq and would not change in its pursuit towards Iran. Throughout thirteen years Iraq has offered a live experiment proving that abiding by the international legitimacy and dealing in credibility with the American pretexts would not achieve the aspired for results but in the amount preparing the circumstances suitable for dealing a pre-emptive

military strike towards toppling the Iranian regime.



Al-Shumou weekly, 7 June 2003.

Main headlines:

- Domination of power centers prevent accountability of corrupt ministers and officials
- GPC & Islah leaderships call for straightening the course of unity and offering apology for the 1994 war
- Islamic Bank criticizes the government policy
- Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar criticizes the American ambassador, American embassy to open a legal attachÉ office
- Local company does not abide by tender law
- Large number of corruption issues discovered in Baidha' governorate

The political editor of the newspaper says no doubt that Iraq occupation by the American forces has removed a burden from the back of the Gulf States that have been looked at as have offered lavish and unlimited logistic help to the United States. Arab public opinion considers this a crime against the nation. The Arab masses managed, by their rallies and demonstrations, to offer themselves against the Gulf leaderships and to frighten them. That matter made those leaderships offer logistic support to the American forces whereas the media and political action offered sympathy with Iraq. Perhaps this contradiction between the declared and the clandestine regarding the American-Gulf cooperation made the Gulf States follow a flexible policy with the region's countries. Thus the Gulf States were forced to display a

proof of good intention towards Yemen by accepting it partially in the GCC. This partial acceptance did express a real conviction of the GCC states as much as they have been compelled by the circumstances to follow this course as a sort of tactics for a while. It is aimed to demonstrate it as an announcement that there is an exploration of facets of cooperation and Arab integration beginning from the region's countries. The Gulf States now find the secessionist leaders of the YSP their hope for acting and giving them directives to announce their opposition and offer conditions such as reforming the course of the unity, equal citizenship and removing sequences of the 1994 summer war. These slogans were intended to be frozen for a while till receiving orders for changing them into an opposition political action supported with money.



Annas weekly, 9 June 2003.

Main headlines:

- Corruption and terror in the government program arouses controversy at the parliament
- Parliament chairmanship committee issue still under consideration, opposition criticizes the GPC parliamentary bloc
- A young man killed in the capital by a gang
- Government to replace 25 thousand foreign employees by Yemeni graduates
- Opening a legal attachÉ office at the American embassy in Sana'a arouses questions.

Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawsha'ie writes an article on some uncivilized phenomena in Yemen saying there are many negative phenomena but the

most dangerous of which are those relating to non-respecting the values of this society and showing no respect to laws and public feeling of unsafe. The writer queries if it is possible to hold a national conference grouping all tribes sheikhs, scientists, the society's notables and intellectuals coming out with a document obliging all segments of the society to respect laws and discard all phenomena of carrying arms and dispense with all armed bodyguards?

The writer enlists those phenomena as:

- the phenomenon of the armed convoys and large number of escorting men, which has become a very eye-catching one and provocative to the people feelings, and indicates a big civilization backwardness.
- shooting fire shots inside courts and not respecting sanctity of the court and the judges and some times the judge himself is the victim of some gunmen present inside and around the courts buildings.
- the complicated dealings in many ministries and government institutions which are increasing continuously.
- the fourth phenomenon is the existence of many internet cafes. This is outwardly a civilized one but there are as many as 500 internet cafes in Sana'a alone frequented by mostly teenagers. Are these teenagers searching for scientific information to benefit from them in their studies and preparation of scientific researches or approaching scientists abroad? I do not think that. A colleague from the Sana'a University has conducted a study on these cafes visitors and found out that 90% of those teenagers browse pornographic sites and indecent pictures. The writer questions if there are laws protecting our sons from this unethical phenomenon?

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers *Provided by Xinhua*

Egypt

Al Ahram

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's special envoy will arrive in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Wednesday to mediate between the Palestinian government and Palestinian groups and discuss with them the implementation of the roadmap peace plan.

Al Akhbar

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher on Monday conferred with US Ambassador in Cairo David Welch on the latest developments of the Palestinian cause after the Sharm El-Sheikh and Aqaba summits.

Al Gomhuria

Egypt on Monday evacuated the community and members of diplomatic mission from Liberia due to current tumults in the African nation.

The Egyptian Gazette

India is keen to sign a trade agreement with Egypt by the end of this year, the Indian commercial attache to Cairo said Monday.

This agreement will open new horizons for Indian products in the Egyptian market. Indian products have been blocked due to several bilateral trade agreements between Egypt and Arab countries, said the Indian official.

U.S.A

The Washington Post

President Bush on Monday defended the accusations leveled by his administration about Saddam Hussein's illegal weapons capability, saying history will record that the United States made the "absolute right decision" in attacking Iraq three months ago.

Attacks on American troops are growing in frequency and sophistication across central Iraq, a crescent of discontent and hostility where many Iraqis remain opposed to the US occupation of their country.

The New York Times

As an opening gesture to comply with the new American-led peace initiative, Israeli soldiers drove to a hill-top here in the West Bank and tore down what the Israeli Army

described as a watchtower adjacent to a settlement.

Freddie Mac, the big buyer of mortgage loans, fired its president on Monday, contending that he failed to cooperate with an internal investigation into its accounting practices.

The Wall Street Journal

The Pentagon plans to significantly shrink the US force of 70,000 troops in Germany, a military stronghold for half a century, and put far more American forces in Africa and the Caucasus region.

Freddie Mac, one of the nation's two huge government-sponsored mortgage-finance companies, shoved aside three of its top executives, questioned the "cooperation and candor" of its chief operating officer and reiterated plans to restate three years' worth of financial results.

Britain

The Times

A referendum on the euro before the general election looked unlikely on Monday after Gordon Brown, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, ruled out early entry and drew attention to the hurdles that must be overcome before Britain is ready to join.

The Guardian

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, on Monday night softened the blow of rejecting membership of the euro for a second time when they left the door ajar for a referendum later in this parliament, but only if "significant progress" is made on long list of

economic reforms in the next 9 months.

Financial Times

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea raised the stakes in its diplomatic battle with the US on Monday by declaring it wanted to acquire nuclear weapons to reduce its dependence on costly conventional forces.

The Independent

Gordon Brown, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, sounded like a man who was saying "yes" to the euro, but his unexpectedly positive language could not disguise that he was saying "no" or at least, "not now".

France

Les Echos

The French government remains firm on its reform plans of the pension system as the country faces a new wave of labor movement.

Le Figaro

For French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, this Tuesday is the longest and the most difficult. He is to open the parliamentary debate on the

reform proposals of the pension system, which are deeply contested by labor unions.

Liberation

The French troops evacuated 512 foreigners from the war-wrecked Liberian capital Monrovia on Monday. Diplomats said it had not been expected the situation in the western African nation worsened so quickly.

Pakistan

Dawn

Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan here on Monday at a weekly news briefing urged India to "be more intense, more purposeful and in a timeframe" in advancing toward proposed peace talks between the two countries.

The Nation

Pakistani capital city of Islamabad and its twin city Rawalpindi on

Monday suffered a major power breakdown as heavy rain with high velocity duststorm hit the twin cities and the upper parts of the country.

The News

Thousands of wailing Pakistani Shiite mourners on Monday paraded through Quetta city on Monday, after 13 Shiite police trainees were gunned down in a suspected sectarian attack on Sunday.

German

Die Welt

The Polish people have voiced clearly for the entry of their country into the European Union.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Berlin will consider an expansion of peace-keeping mission in

Afghanistan despite deaths of four German soldiers caused by suicide attack.

Handelsblatt

The British government has given up a hope of its country joining the euro zone soon.

India

The Times of India

India has sought time to decide on committing its troops for a "stabilization force" in Iraq amid pressure from the United States, some of which came to the fore in talks on Sunday between US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Indian Deputy Prime Minister Lall Krishna Advani, who arrived in Washington on Sunday.

The Indian Express

India and Pakistan are likely to begin talks at joint-secretary level. An indica-

tion to this effect emerged after Deputy Prime Minister Lall Krishna Advani met US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice at the White House on Monday.

Hindustan Times

Air India flight 111 suffered a bird hit as it prepared to land in New Delhi last Saturday. The 126 passengers bound for London and New York were safe, but three of its rotor blades had to be changed, delaying its departure from New Delhi by 20 hours.

Philippines

Philippine Daily Inquirer

A suspected member of the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front has confessed under interrogation that he plotted with the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist group a series of deadly bombings in Manila on Dec. 30, 2000, known locally as the "Rizal Day bombings" that killed 22 people and wounded dozens of others, police said Monday.

Manila Bulletin

The Philippine presidential palace said Monday it is up to the national

executive committee of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats Party to assess and evaluate the authenticity of the apparent public clamor for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to seek a fresh electoral mandate in the next elections in May 2004.

The Philippine Star

Beleaguered Bishop Teodoro Bacani denied Monday accusations that he sexually harassed his former secretary, while Roman Catholic Church leaders cautioned against racing to judgment until the Vatican concludes its probe.

An Introduction to the Internet

Internet Applications

ADNAN A. AL-HARAZI
ACADEMIC HEAD
NCC EDUCATION,
YEMEN CENTER

We have seen how the Internet uses a set of protocols to enable reliable communications between networks and computers. The Internet provides a robust, standardized communications infrastructure, but it is the applications that make use of that infrastructure, the main concern for users. There are wide ranges of such applications, most of which are defined just the same way as the basic underlying TCP/IP infrastructure. It is the quality and usefulness of these applications that account for the Internet success.

The most important Internet applications are:

- e-mail.
- FTP (file transfer).
- Newsgroups.
- (WWW) World Wide Web.
- Instant messaging and Internet Relay Chat (IRC).
- Voice over IP (VoIP).

There are of course certain more developing applications than the ones mentioned above that are becoming important day by day, but we will try to discuss here only the above applications.

Electronic Mail

Electronic mail (e-mail) is one of the most heavily used Internet tools. People use this service to send messages to their friends and families using the Internet as the delivery mechanism. But do you think the e-mail message you write jumps from your computer to the recipients directly? Or does it go to a responsible host that carries it from one country to another? And if you are sending an e-mail message by using a free e-mail service like 'Yahoo' from Yemen to a friend in UK, will it take the same trip as if you are sending the same message by using the same e-mail account from USA?

a computer that is responsible for holding the message ready for delivery to the recipient. There is no need for the sender and the recipient to be in simultaneous contact. As you can see in Fig1, the e-mail message moves from one host to another. Each host stores the message for a few moments and then forwards it to the next available host that, in turn, stores the message and forwards it until it gets to the host that holds the recipient e-mail account. When the recipient accesses his/her account, the host computer downloads the message to his/her computer.

The process of preparing, transmitting, receiving and re-reading e-mails can be carried out in a variety of different ways. The processes are handled in two sides, the e-mail client and e-mail server (the controlling computer). The e-mail client is used to prepare the e-mail messages using simple text editing features. The client then sends the message to an e-mail server that transmits the message onwards. This e-mail server is the target server for the incoming e-mails of the recipient. It stores messages of different users until they are ready to collect them. For sending the e-mail messages the e-mail server has to use an Internet protocol called Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP). Without this protocol the e-mail server is not able to move the message a step. At the recipient side, the e-mail server stores the incoming messages until the users log into the e-mail server and download the messages. The e-mail server has to use a different protocol this time. This protocol is called Post Office Protocol (POP). This protocol is responsible for authorizing the user to access the e-mail server. It is also responsible for distributing the incoming messages between users in the same e-mail server. There are thousands of e-mail servers in the Internet, but the most famous ones are yahoo, and hotmail of Microsoft. You can get a free e-mail account from these sites and use it to send and receive e-mail messages. The major difference you might find between these sites is the available space that you have in your e-mail inbox.



this service to copy files from one computer to another in a different location smoothly and efficiently. FTP is extremely useful for retrieving information from Internet archives. Such Internet sites contain a wide variety of information. Most large software suppliers maintain their own archives containing upgrades to their software. When you download songs or newspapers from the Internet, you are actually accessing an FTP site that has an FTP server. To publish or update their websites, the designers usually use FTP service to upload their websites' files. So the usefulness of this Internet applications is copying files of different types from one host to another. To use this service you need to use an FTP application such as WS_FTP program or you can just use the tool that comes with Windows operating systems. You can do that by going to the command line and type "ftp". Then, you have to use the "open" command to open any FTP server. For example, to open RedHat.com ftp server I write this command in the command line:

1. C:\ftp
2. ftp> open ftp://www.redhat.com

You can also use the internet browser instead of the command line. If you would like to try some of the FTP sites, you can visit the Linux RedHat * operating system site and download their latest version RedHat 9.0. You can go there by typing the following in your browser : ftp://www.redhat.com. It is impossible to download the whole operating system unless you have a real fast Internet connection, but check that for the sake of practicing.

Telnet

Another application of the Internet is Telnet. Telnet is the Internet protocol used to allow you to remotely log in to another computer as if you were directly attached to the system. This is less frequently used than some of the other Internet protocols, but it is still important that Web site developers are able to use it, since it is useful for solving problems with web servers. It's worth bearing in mind that this application is the most frequently used tool by hackers, because when you know the authorized code to access a host in the Internet, you can just "telnet it" and enter the access code and you are in full control of the host. Windows comes with an application that you can use to telnet any host in the Internet, but be careful not to use it a lot against one host. To run telnet in your computer you need to go to the command line and do following:

1. C:\telnet
2. Microsoft Telnet > telnet www.example.com

The next week's lesson discusses Newsgroups, World Wide Web, Chat and voice over IP.

* Linux Operating system is a free operating system that is considered as the new competitor for Microsoft Windows

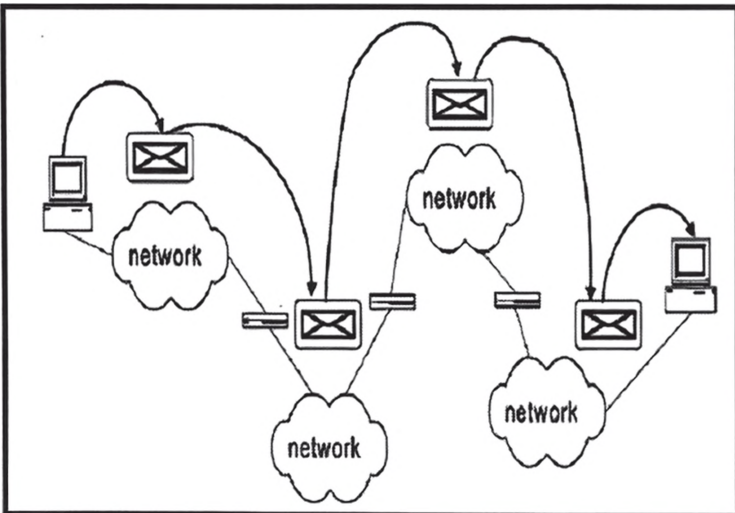


Figure 1. To send an e-mail message to someone, you have to know the e-mail address of that person. An Internet e-mail address is made up of two parts: The domain name, such as hotmail.com, and the user name, such as ayatharazi. These are put together into a single address by specifying the user name. Then the domain name is separated by an @ sign. For example ayatharazi@hotmail.com. ("my e-mail address")

E-mail is not delivered directly from the sender to the recipient. Instead it uses a store and forward approach. Mail messages progress from sender to recipients in a series of hops from host to host until the message is received at

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

Another available Internet application is what's called File Transfer Protocol. As the name indicates, this service has something to do with the transferring of files. Yes, you can use

Name: _____
Age: _____ Province: _____
Tel: _____

This week's question:

What is the most well known e-mail client applications people use?

Determine one application.

Your answer: _____

Those who send the correct answer (along with all the required information) will have the chance to win a free computer course at NCC after the draw. The date of the draw will be announced later



Inter-University Debate and Competition for Reciting Passages from Shakespeare

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Department of English in the Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a, kept alive a tradition it established by hosting an Inter-university debate and competition for reciting passages from Shakespeare on May 27, 2003 in Jamaal Abdul Nasser Hall in the Old University Campus. In addition to the host university, four other universities participated in the competition from Dhammar, Hodeidah, Ibb and Taiz. Dr Nasser al-Awlaqy, Rector of the University of Sana'a, was the chief guest. Dr Hussein al-Bakry, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr Khalid Tamim, Director of Youth Activities, and a large number of teachers and guests also attended the function. A team of top university professors that included Dr Avadesh Kumar Sharma, Dr Abraham, Dr H.S. Ahluwalia, and Dr Jayaraman judged the competition.

The competition was keenly contested and the University of Sana'a got the top honors in both the debate and the competition for reciting passages from Shakespeare. In his address to the guests and the audience, Dr Nasser al-Awlaqy stressed the importance of extra-mural activities such as these for developing the all-round skills of students and stated that these activities have a greater potential for doing so in the context of an inter-university competition. He added that for these reasons these competitions are highly significant. Dr Hussein al-Bakry lauded the efforts of the competitors and added that while the achievements of Yemeni students in English are

significant and necessary for the progress of the country, they should continue to give Arabic the importance due to it. Dr Khalid Tamim appreciated the performance of the students in the debate and recitation and their high quality.

The first position in the Debate was bagged by Ahlam Abdul Raheem al-Silwi, a second year student of Sana'a University, and the second position, by Nahla Mohammed Heneiber, also a second year student of Sana'a University. The third position was bagged by Majid Nagi Nasher, a final year student from Ibb University.

In the recitation section, Abdullah Mohammed al-Boheisy, a fourth year Sana'a University student, who recited a speech by Othello, won the first prize. Waseem Abdullah Zuhra, a second year Sana'a University student won the second prize for his performance of a speech by Mark Antony. Neema Ahmed, from Dhammar university, won the third prize for her recitation of two speeches of Lady Macbeth.



Dr. Hussein al-Bakry, Dean, addresses the assembly while Dr. Abdullah Al-Bar, Vice Dean, looks on



Remarks by Prof. Thakur, Chairman, English Department



A section of the packed audience



Dr. Aziza welcoming the guests

The winners

Departmental debate			Level 3			Level 4		
Name	Level	Result	1- Sumaia Al-Mahwity	very good	1- Mona Ali	second		
1. Faiz Yahya Al-Haj	2	very good	2- Ghada Moh'd AL-harazi	excellent	2- Omaima Dawood	first		
2. Mohammed Al-Fageeh	3	excellent	3- Moh'd Ahmed Al-Wadhaf	third				
3. Omaima Ali Dawood	4	excellent	4- Saba Jarallah Gawbah	second				
4. Sameera Ahmed	2	third	5- Moh'd Moh'd Al-Fageeh	first				
5. Nahla Mohammed	2	second						
6. Ahlam Al-Salwi	2	First						
Departmental recitation			Level 4			Recitation		
1. Kian Taha Abdulkader	4	very good	1- Hana'a Hussain Ali Sadah	very good	1- Faiza Ahmed Al-Qubati	excellent		
2. Samar Al-Hamdani	1	very good	2- Nizar Najj Al-Awlaqi	excellent	2- Huda Al-Hindi	third		
3. Arwa Mohd Zabara	2	excellent	3- Omaima Ali Dawood	third	3- Tahany Al-Aghbari	second		
4. Waseem Abdalla Zuhra	2	third	4- Motasem AlMaman	second	4- Nivenn Moh'd	second		
5. Sami Ahmed Makki	4	second	5- Mona Ali Al-Osaimi	first	5- Samar Al-Hamdani	first		
6. Abdulla Mohd Al-Bohaisi	4	first						
Writing competition			Debate			Level 2		
Level 1			Level 1			1- Ali Moh'd		
1- Salma Ebraheem Ishak	very good		1- Randa Yazeed Mukhashen	very good	2- Arwa Moh'd Zabara	second	3- Waseem Zuhra	first
2- Sama Ali Al-Hamdani	very good		2- Anees Al-Shawafy	excellent				
3- Reema Moh'd Al-Najar	excellent		3- Sama Al-Hamdani	third				
4- Anisa Abdu Al-Shawafi	third		4- Reema Al-Najjar	second				
5- Reem Ibraheem Al-Absi	second		5- Tahani Al-Aghbari	first				
6- Raouf Mohammed Abbas	first							
Level 2			Level 2			Level 3		
1- Faiz Yahya Al-Haj	very good		1- Faiz Al-Haj	excellent	1- Intesar Al-Faki	third		
2- Ahlam Al-Selwi	very good		2- Sameera Ahmed	third	2- Ameen Zuhra	second		
3- Enas Moh'd Sharhan	excellent		3- Nahla Moh'd	second	3- Fawziah Yahya	first		
4- Nuha Moh'd Al-Sarani	third		4- Ahlam Al-Selwi	first				
5- Samira Al-Othany	second							
6- Jawhara Al-Khamery	first							
Level 3			Level 3			Level 4		
			1- Farooq Moh'd	third	1- Ishraq Munassar	excellent		
			2- Dina Hassan	second	2- Hana'a Hussein	excellent		
			3- Moh'd Al-laqeesh	first	3- Kian Taha	third		

Valedictory Ceremony at the Modern Language School, Hodeidah



REPORTED BY,
MR. ARIF AL-AHDAL
DEMONSTRATOR, EDU.
COLLEGE,
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

The Modern Language School is a premier institution of academic excellence in Hodeidah. This temple of learning is equipped with well-qualified teachers and modern amenities. It has established a healthy tradition of observing a function at the end of every academic year to honor the meritorious students. The colorful valedictory function this year was held on Wednesday 4/6/2003 with enthusiastic fervor, thanks to the organizers Miss. Habeeba Banani, Miss. Ahlam Al-Qadhi and Mrs. Nora Heba. The President of Hodeidah University Prof. Qassim Berihe, Dr. Ibraheem Omar Hugari, Dean, Education College, a great number of teachers, students and their relatives among others graced this occasion.

Compered by Miss. Furat Qahtan of class 12 and Miss. Sara Ali Abdul Samad of class 8, it began with a recitation of some verses from the Holy Quraan rendered by Mr. Moh'd



Radman of class 9. This was followed by an anthem prepared by the budding students of class 6. On behalf of the graduate students of class 12, Miss Zahra Haleem delivered a speech on the feelings and impressions of her classmates at the end of their journey, and expressed their deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to all their teachers, who helped them shape up as worthy citizens of the country and the architects of a prosperous tomorrow. Miss. Nada Al-Badawi and Miss. Sabah Subhi of class 10 and Mr. Ahmed Abdullah & Miss. Sahar Mahyoub presented a spectrum of their experience and vision on behalf of students of class 9.

On behalf of the teachers, Mr. Arif Ahmed Al-Ahdal, ventilated his love and true concern for his students, through an emotionally charged poem



which was recited by Miss. Donia A. Thabet of class 10. Then a group of students presented a floral tribute to Mrs. Maha Banani as a mark of their love and respect towards her. Dr. Ibraheem Hugari, Dr. Mohammed Al-Motasim and Mr. Al-Taieb then honored the students on their brilliant performance through hardwork and devotion to studies.

At the end of the occasion, everybody present expressed his admiration for the ceremony, wishing the Modern Language School all the progress and more success in the years to come. "It was really remarkable", said one of the parents. Another added with a touch of deep emotion: "We are very proud of this academic institution". The function drew to a close with the flicker of a smile of satisfaction on the lips of everyone present on the occasion.

Italy more comfortable

Cafu says family behind Milan move

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazil's World Cup captain Cafu has said that family reasons were behind his decision to join European champions AC Milan rather than accepting an offer to play in Japan.

"I talked to my family and we preferred to stay in Italy," said the 33-year-old right-back, who was a free agent after leaving AS Roma at the end of this season.

Cafu, the only player to have played in three World Cup finals, had been expected to join Japanese club Yokohama Marinos before Milan's announcement on Monday they had agreed terms on a deal which would run until June 2005.

The player said he was looking forward to returning to Yokohama, scene of Brazil's World Cup final win over Germany last year, where Milan will face the eventual South American champions in December for the World Club championship.

"I've already had success there with Brazil and I hope to have some more with Milan," he said.

Cafu joined Roma from Brazilian club Palmeiras in 1997 and was a part of the side who won the Italian title in 2001.

Brazil's World Cup captain Cafu has said that family reasons were behind his decision to join European champions AC Milan rather than accepting an offer to play in Japan. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez



Woodward names unchanged line-up against All Blacks

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - England coach Clive Woodward has named an unchanged line-up from March's Six Nations decider against Ireland for Saturday's test match with New Zealand.

Woodward's second string side beat New Zealand Maori 23-9 on Monday and the England coach said on Tuesday several players had pushed for test inclusion.

"The players were outstanding and put a lot of pressure on the 22 places for the test team," said Woodward. "However, I've decided to opt for the same starting 15 which concluded our Grand Slam against Ireland at the end of March.

"The All Blacks is a massive game and I intend to take the opportunity of playing a settled side against them. New Zealand are a superb side and Saturday will be a major challenge for all of us."

New Zealand broadcaster Keith Quinn described the team as "aged but extremely experienced".

"Some of these blokes are near the end of their careers, but that means they are experienced and bound to be lethal if you underestimate them," said Quinn.

Test debuts

For the All Blacks, Auckland winger Joe Rokocoko and Wellington centre Ma'a Nonu will make their test debuts against England. All Blacks coach John Mitchell also decided that Auckland winger Doug Howlett will move back to fullback in place of the injured Leon



England's Dan Luger (L) tries to get past New Zealand's Maori Brad Fleming (C) as team mate Iain Balshaw assists in their rugby international in New Plymouth, New Zealand. REUTERS/Anthony Phelps

MacDonald.

Centre Tana Umaga, who partnered Nonu in an explosive Wellington Hurricanes midfield during the Super 12, moves to inside centre to accommodate his 20-year-old team mate.

Carlos Spencer, the form flyhalf of the Super 12 playing for the champion Auckland Blues' side, was predictably given the nod to play alongside Canterbury scrumhalf Justin Marshall.

In the pack, Wellington loose forward Rodney So'oialo will add to his

single test cap at number eight while former skipper Anton Oliver was named ahead of Keven Mealamu at hooker.

Former Australia rugby league international Brad Thorn, who declined an All Black tour in 2001 because he was unsure where his playing future lay before returning to the Canterbury Crusaders this year, was named on the bench.



Spanish Honda rider Daniel Pedrosa (front) leads his compatriot Pablo Nieto during their 125cc race at the Italian Grand Prix in Mugello, June 8, 2003. Italian Aprilia rider Lucio Cecchinello won the race, Pedrosa took the second place and Nieto finished third. REUTERS/Max Rossi




Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic concentrates during his match against Jan Vacek of the Czech Republic in the first round of the Stella Artois Championships in London June 9, 2003. Vacek won the match 6-2 6-2. REUTERS/Hugo Philpott



New Jersey Devils celebrate with the Stanley Cup after winning the NHL championship in East Rutherford, New Jersey June 9, 2003. New Jersey defeated the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 3-0 to win the series in seven games. Devils captain Scott Stevens is beneath the trophy. REUTERS/Mike Segar

7-Day Weather Forecast					
Sana'a			Aden		
Day	Hi	Lo	Day	Hi	Lo
Thu	31	14	Thu	39	28
Fri	31	13	Fri	41	28
Sat	31	13	Sat	40	28
Sun	32	13	Sun	40	28
Mon	32	14	Mon	39	28
Tue	32	14	Tue	38	27
Wed	32	14	Wed	38	27

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia



Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
This is not the day to neglect your responsibilities. Get caught up on your household chores to avoid discord. Do what you know will help your personal situation.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Gather information that will help you clear up any legal issues that have been plaguing you. Financial deals can lead to gains and the security you need to feel comfortable.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Working with a group to help a worthy cause will bring rewards you aren't expecting. Your self-esteem will increase with the response you receive from others today.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will be praised for the contributions you make. Discuss pressing matters you might have with one of your business or personal partners.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Property investments or a residential move would probably be in your best interest. Making changes will help to alleviate some of the limitations or burdens that you've been experiencing.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Focus on your health. If you haven't been doing what's best for you, it is time to start changing your lifestyle. Career changes may be in order.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Put your efforts into your professional goals. Don't let any troubles at an emotional level stand in your way. It's important that you are not distracted.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
The people you care most about will not understand what you are trying to accomplish. Focus on your career and the changes you need to make to excel.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
There is more going on than meets the eye where partnerships are concerned. You need to acknowledge whoever is trying to get your attention. This is a great day to put ideas in motion.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
You will be very creative and it will be easy for you to talk about your ambitions or your ideas. Travel, learning and social activity should be high on your list.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will gain the most if you talk to people who have more experience than you. Your ability to take the information offered and apply it will result in worthwhile paybacks.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Don't waste this glorious day. Get out and take part in whatever intellectual interaction you can. You stand to learn something that will enable you to get ahead in the future.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

SO THE FUNDAMENTALIST VIKINGS OF DORRBLAND ACCEPTED YOU AND LADY ANNE INTO THEIR SOCIETY? WELL, YES... IF YOU CALL SLAVERY ACCEPTANCE...

THEY WERE KNOWN AS THE DARRKS, AND THEIR SOCIETY WAS DEPENDENT ENTIRELY ON WARFARE. WHATEVER THEY NEEDED, THEY PLUNDERED FROM OTHER VILLAGES. WHATEVER THEY DIDN'T KILL, THEY ENSLAVED.

EVEN THE OTHER VIKINGS WERE AFRAID OF THEM!

BEING A FISHERMAN, I HAD VALUE TO THE DARRKS... AS LONG AS I KEPT BRINGING IN FISH. AND THEY KNEW I'D KEEP COMING BACK AS LONG AS THEY HELD LADY ANNE CAPTIVE. SO WITH DUNCAN LEADING ME TO THE FISH, WE WERE ABLE TO STAY ALIVE...

...OF COURSE, LOOKING BACK AT IT NOW, THOSE TURNED OUT TO BE OUR SALAD DAYS...

YEAH... YOU COULDN'T JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE, COULD YOU?!

Next Week: TIES THAT BIND

HEW, LOOK... A CAT... SO IT IS

LET'S BUZZ AROUND HIS HEAD A FEW HUNDRED TIMES COOL!

ZZZZZZZZZZ

YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE FINDS THIS ANNOYING, DO YOU? NAH, EVERYBODY LOVES FLIES

SWACK SWACK

"EEEVREVBODY LOOOOVES FLIES!" OKAY, NOT EVERYBODY

JIM DAVIES 5-11

Sony unveils new brand in bid to restore image

BY DAISUKE WAKABAYASHI

TOKYO (Reuters) - Electronics giant Sony Corp unveiled a new upmarket brand on Tuesday in an effort to bring a sense of "cool" to a product lineup that has lost some of its cachet.

The world's largest consumer electronics maker said products bearing the new brand, called "Qualia," will be made only after a customer has placed an order.

"These days, we're concerned with how many we can sell or how much market share we can get, and as a result there are many products that never got made," Sony chief executive Nobuyuki Idei told a news conference.

"Qualia" does not come cheap.

The first products in the range include a high-definition home theater projector for 2.4 million yen (\$20,300), a 36-inch Trinitron super-clear television for 1.3 million yen, and a digital camera that can fit in a shirt pocket but has two mega-pixel capacity — and a 380,000 yen price tag.

The range also features a CD audio system in which a disc can be placed anywhere on a playing surface the size of a salad plate.

Qualia is part of Sony's strategy to differentiate itself from rivals such as South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and to restore its faded brand premium.

Sony stunned investors in April by posting its biggest quarterly net loss in more than eight years and warning that operating profit in the year to next March would slip to its lowest in nine years.

It has set no sales target for Qualia, but Idei said the technology developed by the brand's innovative products could be used in other areas of its business.

Products must be approved by Idei and Sony President Kunitake Ando



Sony Corporation Chairman Nobuyuki Idei unveils a new state-of-the-art audio CD system, in Tokyo June 10. Reuters

before going into the development stage for the brand.

Sony officials did not say how many Qualia products will be rolled out this year but said 17 projects, including the four announced on Tuesday, are in advanced stages of development.

It will initially open Qualia shops in Tokyo and Osaka but hopes to take the

brand overseas as soon as possible. The products will be made in Japan, and there will be consultation and after-sales service.

Shares of Sony closed down 3.66 percent on Tuesday, compared with a 1.49 percent fall in the Tokyo market's electrical machinery index IELEC.

Alert issued as U.S. monkeypox cases grow to 37

By MICHAEL CONLON

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Officials in three states tried on Monday to track down pet prairie dogs believed spreading "monkeypox," a smallpox-like illness not seen before in the Western Hemisphere that may have infected 37 people.

Only six of the victims were being treated in hospitals, officials said, and they were expected to recover with bed rest. The disease, caused by monkeypox virus, is not believed to spread person-to-person.

But in light of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare and an approaching summer season when mosquito-borne West Nile virus was likely to again pose a deadly threat, health officials were moving to attack the newly diagnosed problem.

Stephen Ostroff of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Infection, said there were 33 confirmed or suspected cases of monkeypox under investigation. Locally, officials listed more — 22 in Wisconsin, 10 in Indiana and five in Illinois.

"We don't know how many animals or humans have been involved and we don't know the scope of the problem," Ostroff told reporters in Atlanta.

Unhealed lesions

He said only people with unhealed lesions need to be quarantined and the infection does not appear to be as contagious as smallpox, showing no signs of spreading from person to person.

"We do not have evidence of person-to-person transmission, although we are looking at that possibility," said Ostroff. He advised people to consult a veterinarian or local health officials if they owned or had been exposed to a sick prairie dog, rabbit or Gambian giant rat.

It is believed the disease spread from Gambian rats imported from Africa as exotic pets. It spread from there to

prairie dogs, members of the squirrel family that live in the dry plains from Texas north to Canada and which have been rescued from exterminators for use as pets.

Phil Moberly, co-owner of a pet store in the Chicago suburbs where some of the infected prairie dogs were believed to have become infected, said on Monday he had bought the apparently infected rats in question from a breeder in Texas without knowing they were ill.

Search of prairie dogs

Indiana officials say they are trying to track down 31 individuals or businesses believed to have purchased prairie dogs from Moberly's store since April 15. Similar efforts were under way in the other two states.

In addition some of the animals may

have changed hands during a swap meet in Wisconsin, where most of the cases of illness have been reported.

Mark Wegner, a communicable disease expert with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, said the disease is most likely being spread when people are scratched or bitten while handling the prairie dogs.

Smallpox has been eradicated worldwide and children born after 1980 have not been vaccinated against it. Smallpox vaccinations, however, offer protection against monkeypox, meaning that adults who were vaccinated earlier are most likely to have immunity against it.

Children, however, are at risk. In Africa, the mortality rate for young children can be as high as 10 percent.

Child, Marshfield Index Case: Primary inoculation site right index finger, 5/27/03. 14 days after prairie dog bites, 11 days after febrile illness, hospital day 5



This photo from the Center for Disease Control shows a child's infected finger two weeks after being bitten by a monkeypox infected prairie dog on May 13, 2003 in Dorchester, WI. The child was released after a one-week stay in a hospital on May 29 following treatment, according to the CDC. Public health officials in three states tried on June 9 to track down pet prairie dogs believed spreading a smallpox-like illness, not seen before in the Western Hemisphere, that may have infected 33 people. Reuters



Queen Arwa International College Organizes Students' Activities Week

As a yearly tradition, Queen Arwa International College organized this year's Students' Activities Week during 14-16 May 2003. The event was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iriani, President's advisor and former Prime Minister. The college's students were able to express themselves through various sports, scientific and artistic activities. The aim is to give students an opportunity to fully participate in these events. This year, the program included sport activities such as football and volleyball matches, in addition to some marshal sports demonstrations.

The drawing and painting fair,

prepared by our young artists, was greatly admired by most of the visitors. Besides, the students were so enthusiastic to perform some English and Arabic recitations and poems.

The exhibition included several physics, chemistry and biology experiments.

Dr. Al-Iriani expressed his deep admiration and appreciation for the efforts made for enhancing education and knowledge in our country.

Dr. Waheeba Fare'e, the President of Queen Arwa University, said in a speech delivered on this occasion, that the main objectives that the school is striving to achieve, is as follows:

1. Establishing academic excellence in order to build up the spirit of motivation and learning desire on the students' side.
2. Proper teaching of various courses of studies prescribed for different levels of school certificates.
3. Development of talents and creative skills of students, which can only be accomplished through well-planned conduct.

"Finally, in the hope of building up a strong and honest personality, we do indicate our deep thanks to those faithful efforts for paving the way to broaden our educational horizons in this country." Dr. Waheeba said.



Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani inaugurating the event



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Iranian Siamese twins to be separated

After 27 years of sharing the same life, Iranian Siamese twins Laleh and Ladan Bijani are to be separated. Joined at the head since birth, they are seeking international help to undergo surgery so they can lead normal individual lives.

Laleh and Ladan share most things - from a Tehran apartment to the same head scarf - and have been rejected on numerous occasions from receiving the surgery they so desperately crave.

"Our biggest dream is to be separated physically and live the rest of our lives as independent individuals," Laleh said yesterday.

Laleh and Ladan, both Tehran University law graduates, underwent tests in Germany in 1996 where physicians said separation surgery could be fatal for one or both of them. Attempts to separate them have been complicated by an artery supplying blood to the brain that both sisters share. Ladan said their hopes hinge on a surgical procedure that they heard was available in the United States.

Asked if one of them was ready to die for the other, Laleh said: "we have waited for 27 years because we didn't want to choose such a difficult option."

The twins refused to discuss details of their personal lives but admitted to disagreeing on what to eat, read or watch on television and how to spend their leisure time occasionally.

Puzzle-solving is a love of Laleh's, but she dislikes cooking and cleaning.

On the other hand, Ladan does the cooking, which annoys her sister. However, they both are known for making compromises. "Sometimes we have quarrels and disputes over various issues. But generally we have a good understanding and love each other," Ladan said. *(Irish examiner)*



Iranian twin sisters, joined at the head, Ladan (L) and Laleh Bijan attend a news conference in Singapore in this December 3, 2002 file photo. Singapore doctors said on Monday they would go ahead with a risky operation to separate the sisters after extensive testing showed the surgery was feasible. REUTERS/Yuriko Nakao/File photo

Cricket anyone?



A Cambodian market vendor offers a plate of garlic-fried crickets on June 6, 2003 in the capital Phnom Penh. Armed with nets and high-powered ultra-violet lights, Cambodians have been rushing out into the fields in recent days for the start of the 'cricket season' to catch swarms of the newly-hatched hopping insects, a choice national delicacy. REUTERS/Chor Sokunthea

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Uday was hiding in Baghdad days ago

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s elder son Uday was in hiding in Baghdad 11 days ago and had considered giving himself up to U.S. forces, a former body double said Tuesday.

Latif Yahia said he obtained his information in a satellite telephone call with a mutual friend in Baghdad 10 days ago.

The friend said that Uday and two bodyguards had stayed at his house in Baghdad for the two prior nights.

Yahia, who is in Ireland awaiting a visa to rejoin his family in England, told Reuters he did not know where Uday was now. "He wants to surrender but keeps changing his mind. He sits in his wheelchair crying, he can't go outside because he knows he'll be killed," said Yahia, who acted as a body double for Uday for more than four years before fleeing Iraq in 1991.

"He doesn't want to surrender because he's not sure what will happen to him. One day he says he wants to surrender but the next day he changes his mind," he said.



Uday Hussein (C) poses alongside his uncle General Hussein Kamel (L) and his father Saddam (2nd L) in this undated file photo of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's family. The family members are daughters Raghda (3rd L), Rana (3rd R), Qusy (R) and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sitting with his wife Sajida. A grainy home movie of Saddam Hussein presiding over his daughter's birthday celebrations is the hottest item at Baghdad's video shops.

Odd but true:

Obese woman catches crane to hospital

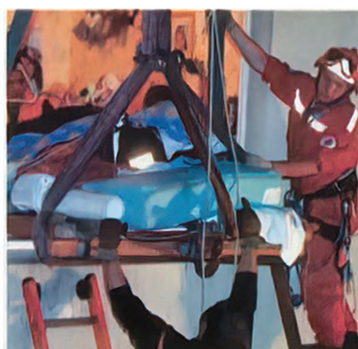
LILLE, France (Reuters) - A 265-kg (585-pound) French woman who had not left home in six years was hoisted by crane from her apartment and taken to hospital, the local fire department says.

The 49-year-old woman fell ill late on Sunday but was too large to be carried down the winding stairs of her apartment building in the northern town of Bruay-sur-l'Escaut.

It took 30 firemen six hours to extract her from the second-floor flat she was

stuck in. "After 28 years with the fire department, it's the first time I have taken part in this kind of operation. We even had to dismantle part of the window to evacuate the patient," said a Bruay fire service official.

The mother of four, who suffers from respiratory problems, was taken by fire engine to a hospital in nearby Valenciennes where she remained in critical condition.



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