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Seven injured in an incident reminding of the Abyan Islamic Army: Extremists strike in Abyan

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden, June 21 - Seven people were injured Saturday in an armed attack of extremists against a medical military caravan in Abyan. A statement issued by the local council in Sarar district said that an armed extremist group attacked with artilleries and rocket propelled grenades a medical military caravan distributing medicine in the area, injuring seven people consisting of a doctor, five of his assistants and the car driver. Local medical sources told the Yemen Times that they were seriously injured and that they were taken to

al-Razi hospital for medical treatment. The statement pointed out that the attacking group members camped at Huttah valley before parliamentary election in last April and that they used to fire at people in the area.

Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that the attackers are believed to be remnants of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army (AAIA). An interior ministry official admitted the attack but unidentified people carried out the attack and said that security officers are still hunting them down to get them arrested and tried.

Sources in the Yemeni Socialist Party said that the members of the AAIA are slowly

reorganizing themselves and are currently operating in Abyan. The sources claim that AAIA do have a camp at the Huttah mountainous area. However, Yemeni officials repeatedly denied that the members of the Army still exist. The Army was weakened after the execution of its leader Abu al-Hasan al-Mihdar. The government executed al-Mihdar in 1999 after trial of kidnapping some Western tourists in December 1998. Confrontation between the security officers and al-Mihdar and his people then led to the killing of some British and Australian tourists.

Arms smuggling from Yemen to Saudi Arabia continues Yemen-Saudi border still suffers

Riyadh, June 21 (YT) - Official reports coming from Saudi Arabia revealed that the problem of arms smuggling from Yemen to Saudi Arabia is still a major source of concern. Saudi sources confirmed that the arms confiscated last year along the Kingdom's porous 1,800-km border totaled up to 263 firearms, 1.2 million rounds of ammunition, 46,700 sticks of dynamite and a large number of detonators.

On June 18, Saudi border guards foiled an attempt by suspected Yemeni arms dealers to smuggle grenades and guns into the Kingdom for possible use in explosions, assassinations and other terrorist activities.

According to Gulf News, the border guards in Jizan province exchanged fire early on the same day with a number of Yemeni arms dealers in the mountains. "The guards seized 15 grenades and 10 guns shaped like pens as the dealers fled into Yemeni territory," the paper said.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Saleh Al-Santali, a Saudi border guard commander, said that border guards arrested 381,900 illegal entrants in the 11-month period ending February 2003 in the southern province of Jizan. *Cont'd on P3*



Weapon smuggling from and to Yemen has become a major problem hindering efforts to stabilize the country and limit resources available to carry out terrorist activities.

President Saleh leaves for Germany on a visit to discuss al-Mouyed's case plus other issues:

Hopes for breakthrough in al-Mouyed's case

By MOHAMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, June 21- Members of opposition parties including Islah have expressed their hope and optimism that President Saleh's visit to Germany will yield results in the release of Sheikh Mohammed al-Mouyed, who remains detained in Germany since January 8th 2003.

They believe that efforts exerted by the President in this regard will help have al-Mouyed return home safely.

President Saleh's stance has been clear in

support of al-Mouyed. "An indication of his keenness to have al-Mouyed released was resembled in his decision to send two former ministers to Germany to join the advocates in defense of al-Mouyed, who is also a prominent member of Islah's central committee," a prominent Islah figure told Yemen Times.

The advisors, Ismael Ahmad Al Wazeer and Abdullah Ahmad Ghanim, members of the Presidential Advisory Council, will press for acquittal of al-Mouyed and Zaid. Both advisors will join an already strong defense panel that comprises German and Yemeni

lawyers for defending the two clergymen.

This comes in harmony with President Saleh's earlier decision to allocate \$60,000 in defense fees for al-Mouyed's case.

On the other hand, Germany agreed last month to extradite Al Muayed and his aide to the US after it received assurances that they would be tried at a civil court and will not be sentenced to death. Yemen repeatedly demanded the extradition of the two men saying it will put them on trial at a Yemeni court if the U.S. authorities have enough evidence against them.

Continued on Page 3

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For smuggling money to his homeland: Yemeni in USA given five-year term

New York, June 20 (YT / News Services) - A Yemeni expatriate working as shopkeeper in Brooklyn, NYC was sentenced Friday to more than five years in prison for smuggling money to Yemen. According to the Associated Press, a scheme uncovered during the hunt for terrorists and their supporters after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Mohamed Alriany, 49, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Yemen pleaded guilty to federal charges of illegal money remitting to Yemen.

"Alriany, also known as Abdo Kassim, was among more than a dozen Yemeni immigrants rounded up last year for allegedly smuggling more than \$100,000 to Yemen through his gift shop in Brooklyn. The men claimed the money was going to their families; most have pleaded guilty," AP said.

Meanwhile, the lawyers for Alriany had asked for the minimum of a 51-month term. But the judge, U.S. District Judge John Gleeson, imposed the maximum allowed under a plea

deal 63 months. "This was a sophisticated crime by a sophisticated criminal," Gleeson said.

Prosecutors had quickly rushed into accusing Alriany of having a history of raising money for "extremist causes" related to terrorists. But after Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy Dayton refused to detail the allegation, Gleeson noted for the record that the government offered "no evidence connecting (Alriany) with acts of terrorism."

Calls for revealing mystery in Jarallah Omar's assassination

The National Body for the Follow-up of Jarallah Omar's Assassination Case welcomed the recent court decision to reinvestigate the case of late Jarallah Omar, who was assassinated on December 28, 2002 in Sanaa. The plea was presented by the family members of the deceased. The body called upon all concerned people and institutions to deliver any information they possessed regarding the incident so as to let the truth prevail and culprits be brought to justice.

A statement issued by the body last

Monday said that "since the forming of the body on 11th of June 2003, the body has given highest priority to following up the case of late Jarallah Omar's during court hearings. We view the closure of this case's file in this manner as a step that ignored many important aspects, especially those related to the legal procedures and investigations, which were not completed. This has resulted in viewing this incident as a regular criminal act instead of viewing it as a political assassination with multiple intentions and complicated setup of a promi-

nent Yemeni political personality.

And because we are convinced that the ending of the case without a full inclusive investigation would only yield further similar incidents and would open gates for further political assassinations, we have asked authorized solicitors and deceased's relatives to present urgent requests to the court so as to reopen the file of the case and to fulfill all missing points and hence unveil all the circumstances surrounding the crime before issuing any verdict by the court."

Aden University to host 2nd International Symposium on Socotra archipelago

NAWAL MUKAISH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ADEN - The Second International Symposium on the Developing Strategy of Socotra Archipelago and other Yemeni islands is to be hosted by Aden University during December 14-16 of this year.

A number of prominent professors at the Yemeni universities are to take part in the symposium.

Various local and international organizations and institutions are to take part in the symposium along with other foreign countries including Britain, France, Italy, and Germany.

Different scientific areas distributed

to 77 researches on biodiversity in Socotra Archipelago and other Yemeni islands are to be dealt such as, natural, biological and ecological characteristics of the Yemeni islands, population and environment, social, economic and cultural life, education and health.

Holding the second symposium has come as a result of the recommendations made during the First International Symposium on the Developing Strategy of Socotra Archipelago also held by Aden University. The earlier symposium has played a significant role in raising awareness and interest of the bodies concerned in promoting the island in

various ways.

Socotra Island is the third island in the world in unique biodiversity as the biodiversity percentage of the island is 34 percent.

The rare sanctuaries in the Archipelago have been divided to four areas in order to maintain their natural resources. More than 300 fungal species are found in the island including extremely rare birds. Around 190 of bird species live in the island. Six bird species are considered to be migration birds, while 11 are still being studied.

Rare wild animals are also found in Socotra including snakes, serpents, spiders and scorpions.

Dr. Sharafi gives lecture on: HOPE is the only way to peace

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sharafi, a prominent neuro-psychiatric and founder of the Human Optimum Psyche' (HOPE) Forum said he will be giving a lecture on his theory on HOPE and how it can lead the way for peace and for abolishing fundamentalist and terrorist ideas and activities.

"I believe this will be an opportunity for many interested in psychology to see the source of the problem of terrorism, which clearly contradicts with Islam. HOPE is a simple approach to find then heal the source of the problem from within one's mind and soul, and hence convert a potential terrorist

to an active individual in the society with tolerant, peaceful, and constructive views and approaches." Dr. Al-Sharafi said.

The lecture is scheduled to take place in the morning of Thursday July 3 at the Yemen Times premises in Sanaa.

Prominent YSP figures returning home

Aden, June 21 (YT) - Several senior members of the Yemeni Social Party (YSP) who have been staying abroad since the 1994 civil war, have decided to return to Yemen after being encouraged by the recent presidential amnesty decree.

According to sources close to those exiled Yemenis, 81 persons who used to stay in the United Arab Emirates announced they are coming back along with their families and relatives, who are totaling 634.

The sources indicated that among those who decided to come back is Former Speaker the parliament Dr. Yassein Saeed Noman, Former Defense Minister Mr. Haitham Kasem Taher,

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Abdulaziz al-Dali, and Former Minister of Local Administration Mr. Mohammed Saeed Abdullah.

Another source mentioned that Mr. Adnan al-Beydh, the son of Ali Salem al-Beydh, the Former Vice-president, along with his brothers are most probably going to return as well.

However, there are no signs that Ali Salem Al-Beydh himself may be among those returnees.

It is worth noting that fourteen persons, eleven of them ranked as first lieutenant or colonel, along with their families (78 in total) have already returned from UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia after the amnesty decree was issued.

Yemeni-Saudi inlets operated

The government approved last Tuesday an agreement to organize the tasks performed by Yemeni-Saudi border authorities.

The agreement was signed by the interior ministers of the two countries a couple of weeks ago in Riyadh as a direct consequence of the Jeddah border treaty.

Wadea-al-Aber inlet is expected to be operated after completing the necessary technical procedures.

The cabinet also approved a draft to support the process of determining and documenting the endowment lands and properties. The process is expected to

start from the end of this year and end early next year.

The council confirmed its support for the project that is supposed to determine the endowments, properties, moneys and related historical and archeological issues.

The council also stressed on the significance of the participation of the local and central authorities in different governorates in the implementation of necessary measures in this respect in order to effectively achieve the project's goals and to exert great efforts to also support the committees concerned.

Participates in a conference on an issue causing concern for the region:

HRITC in Amman's light weapons conference

The Taiz-based Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) is participating in a 2-day regional conference starting today, Monday June 23, in Amman as a follow-up to the UN program to fight the illegal trade of light weapons.

Izzeddin al-Asbahi, Chairman of HRITC and the regional coordinator

of the international network to restrict the use of small weapons said that the conference aims at evaluating the achievements of different Arab countries in the field of implementing the said UN program as well as to have an idea about the regional and international measures taken to fight the illegal trade of light weapons.

The participants in the conference were representatives of NGOs, members of the international network to restrict the use of the small weapons, senior officials from a number of Arab countries along with a few Arab interior ministers and several Arab and UN experts in the field of light weapons.

Al-Asbahi added that the conference would be an arena to receive opinions about the extent of the implementation of Arab countries of the UN program concerning the fight against the illegal trade of light arms in the civil society's point of view.

HRITC has been chosen in the beginning of this year to be the regional coordinator of the international network specialized in restricting the use of light weapons.

The center is working on implementing a national and regional program to raise awareness about the hazards of trading in light arms to create a more stable environment for the future generations.

Appeals for saving Layla's life

MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Hundreds of Arab personalities have recently appealed to Yemen's president asking him to interfere in his capacity as chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council to save the girl Layla Radman Aesh from executing the verdict of stoning her to death on charge of adultery passed by an Aden court two years ago.

Signatories on a memorandum published last year by Arab Information & References Center on violence against women, asked to stop execution of that verdict as she was still minor of 16 years old. The appeal recalled the campaign led by the Center last year and covered by Yemen Times and other newspapers. It has also mentioned that she did not get any legal defense and was not given a chance to defend herself, especially that she had committed adultery under duress.

Signatories have also stressed that stoning penalty, given the circumstances of Layla's case, implies torture and discrimination and far away from religious scholars' interpretations and the Islamic Sharia principles. Carrying out the verdict could help the campaign of distorting the image of Islam, accusing it of violating human rights.

The signatories expressed their hope for an immediate presidential pardon preventing the stoning penalty.

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KLM launches Summer Product

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines launched their summer product with a lot of fan fare at the Taj Sheba Hotel on June 17 2003. Travels agents and corporate users of KLM Airlines attended the function. Dr. C. Dinesh gave a detailed presentation on the plans of KLM for the future that included providing excellent connectivity for passengers traveling from Sana'a. A daily Boeing 747-300 from Dubai and Boeing 767 from Abu Dhabi will connect passengers flying

from Sana'a on Gulf Air, Yemenia, or Emirates to their final destination in Europe and USA.

The presentation focused on the new world Business Class Lounge at Dubai airport. The highlights focused on the facilities at Amsterdam Schiphol airport and their new Northwest Airlines Detroit airport. In short, KLM has achieved the status of the only airline in the trade to offer the best three hubs in the world for transit passengers from the region traveling to Europe and USA.

The benefits of KLM's flying Dutchman, frequent flyer programme and the KLM Holidays was also explained and emphasized.

Dr. C. Dinesh took the opportunity to honor the top three agents for Yemen by presenting certificates and thanking them for continuing their



support. He also thanked their ex-Sales Manager Mr. Mohsin for his exemplary work and introduced his successor Salman Kazi.

The new Commercial Manager for

KLM Mr. A.M Vasudevan was introduced to the trade. Mr. Hayel Abdul Hak and Mr. E.G. Subramaniam from Shaher Trading Company were present at the function.



Singles and doubles open tennis tournament in Sanaa: Semi-finals to be concluded

JAMEEL ABU AL-AHYAM

SANA'A- The singles and doubles semi-final tennis championship for companies and amateurs in Sanaa is to end tomorrow on June 24. Winners are to receive the championship cups and prizes for both single and double tennis teams.

The open tennis championship was kicked off at the Haddah Residential Complex courts on June 16.

Thirty two tennis players comprising the national and international companies operating in Yemen took part in the championship games.

In the doubles tennis championship, which started on June 17, eight doubles teams contested for the first place.

The following were the doubles winners:

Najib and Said defeated Levon and M. Suraimi.

Nabil Mezwad and Andry also won the match on June 18.

Ali Dhaiban and Costa defeated Waleed and Hanni with a result of 2 to 1 after a strong match.

Peter and Max defeated Decond and Jemi with a result of 2 to nil and then eventually won against Noel and Ryan.

The winners were qualified for the



(L-R) Waleed, the tennis coach, Decond and Noel, two tennis single contestants

four-round championship, which started on Saturday June 21.

Mr. Naji Younis, from Lipton Company expressed his happiness for organizing and taking part in this championship. "My eagerness for the championship and the company's aim to support it are the motives behind my decision to take part in this splendid tennis tournament," Mr. Naji said.

He further added that his company has participated in a number of interna-

tional as well as Arab championships and that the company is ready to take part in any such event in the future.

During the inaugural ceremony on June 16, five singles tennis championships were held with players including Hani Shehadeh, the Area Manager of the Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC), Mr. Najib al-Barabri the Sales Manager of the Yemeni Catering & Services Ltd. (YCS), and Mr. Naji Nasif the Lipton

representative in the championship.

The singles tournament's results were as follows:

Fahd Annoamani defeated Andry, two to one.

Mohammed Asuraimi defeated Hani Shehadeh, 2 to nil.

Faisal Assabahi defeated Fahid Annoamani, 2 groups to nil.

Ebert defeated Jerum, 2 to nil.

Noel defeated Decond, 2 to nil.

The tennis championship was refereed by tennis coaches Waleed al-

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New security classification

A sector at the interior ministry is embarking on issuing a new security category for different areas in the governorates of the republic.

The new classification will include three new levels depending

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The new classification will be used to determine the security priorities for each of the classified areas.

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(Shortlisted candidates will be intimated by 30th June, 2003.)

Anti-revenge organizations in dispute

Accusations among local anti-revenge and anti-terror organizations operating in Yemen have been exchanged recently in a dramatic and astonishing manner.

The Yemeni Organization for Fighting Revenge and Terror (YOFRT) and the Human Solidarity Organization for Fighting Revenge and Terror (HSOFRT) have been in significant disputes lately about financial-related issues.

YOFRT has accused the HSOFRT of collecting money from its subscribers in return for an annual salary for each one of its affiliates.

The exchanged accusations started when both organizations sought US support through the US embassy in Sana'a to finance certain projects in the anti-revenge and anti-terrorism fields.

Oddly enough and so far, the activities of both organizations have been restricted to inaugurating their offices and other small-scale activities.

Continued from page 1

Hopes for breakthrough in al-Mouyed's case

However, official sources avoided mentioning that discussions of case of al-Mouyed may be part of the visit to the Germany agenda.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh had left Sanaa on Friday in a visit to Germany and France in one of the most important visits for Yemen's head of state for some time.

Official sources said that Saleh will hold talks with the leaders of Germany and France on bilateral relations as well as cooperation in the fight on terrorism.

Even though the major focus of discussions is expected to be terrorism, other important issues are expected to be discussed during the trip, including discussions on the Road Map and the current situation in Iraq.

Yemeni Foreign Minister, Dr. Abu Baker al-Qirbi said that Saleh's talks with his counterparts will deal with the situation in the region, mainly in Iraq and the Road Map. "President Saleh will also discuss with the German and French leaders the economic cooperation and the reform package Yemen is carrying out since 1995," al-Qirbi said.

Meanwhile, opposition sources confirmed that Saleh will indeed discuss in Germany the continued detention of Sheikh Mohammed al-Mouyed and his companion Mohammed Zaid at a request made by the US. The US accuses al-Mouyed of being one of Osama bin Laden's financiers, and of raising money for Hamas and other militant Islamic organizations.

Yemen-Saudi border still suffers

Violent confrontations also take place sometimes on the border because of smuggling of arms and sometimes of qat and other substances. "Some three million kilograms of qat were also confiscated, besides small quantities of drugs and liquor," Al-Santali said, adding that 36 border guards were killed during operations along the Yemeni border.

It is worth noting that the Yemen-Saudi border is a rugged, mountainous area that is difficult to control and there are constant reports from locals of suspicious activities.

This is continuing in a time demarcation efforts are going on to specifically indicate the exact border points between the two countries based on the Jeddah Treaty.

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Aden Hotel

Malaysian Achievement Spirit represented in one Man and One Nation's Vision stops in Yemen shortly:

JGII's message of peace reaches Yemen

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA - Last week, Yemen became the 21st station of the solo expedition around the world named 'Jalur Gemilang II' with accordance to Spirit, Love and Pride towards Malaysia. The driver of the expedition, Shamsurrijal Abdul Jamil, arrived to Sanaa on June 15 during his expedition around the world covering 180,000 km through 118 countries in six continents and back to Malaysia. He entered Yemen from the Sultanate of Oman after passing through 20 countries.

In a press release held at the Malaysian embassy in Sanaa, Mr. Shamsurrijal said that he has two messages to convey to the world through Jalur Gemilang II. Those are to expose the great advances in industry and tourism of Malaysia, and the other is to spread the message of peace world-wide on behalf of all Muslim nations.



JALUR GEMILANG II
one man, nation's vision, one spirit

ney is to re-enforce Malaysia's image in the eyes of the world in terms of Malaysia's national spirit, power of technology, automotive, telecommunication and tourism industry.

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The map showing the route (dashed lines: by sea, red lines: by car)



Shamsurrijal Abdul Jamil driving in Sanaa

According to Shamsurrijal, the expedition will take a year and a half to complete. He started his trip on February 15 2003 and expects the journey to end in Malaysia in July 2004.

"Yemen is among the countries that I was impressed of in many ways. I was able to visit Al-Mahara, Mareb, Sanaa, and Aden governorates. I have visited several ancient sites and was able to enjoy a pleasant tour in Bab Al-Yaman in Sanaa," he said.

The vehicle used in this expedition is a Malaysian-made Proton Satria GTi car which is equipped with the latest equipment in communication and digital mapping supported through satellite and has the number plate MAS 2001 (MAS = Malaysian Achievement Spirit).

The agenda and mission of the jour-

a record-breaking attempt in the Guinness Book of World Records, in the category of the most number of countries entered by a solo driver.

The trip will cover the following countries in the given order: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Andorra, Monaco, Italy, Vatican City, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Yugoslavia,



Jalur Gemilang II's Shamsurrijal Abdul Jamil welcomed by Yemeni kids at Bab Al-Yaman in Sanaa - Photo by Yasser Al-Mayyasi

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Post-Powell, Israel pushes Palestinian crackdown

JERUSALEM, June 21 (Reuters) - Israel pressed the Palestinians on Saturday to rein in Islamic militants opposed to peace talks, but said it would still pursue its controversial track-and-kill operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Following Friday's shuttle diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to save an internationally backed "road map" to Middle East peace, Israel agreed to give the Palestinians three weeks to organise security forces for a crackdown on militants, a source in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said.

During this period Israeli forces in the territories would largely stand down, the source said, but added "there would be no immunity for 'ticking bombs'" — militants Israel kills in targeted missions, accusing them of being about to attack.

Palestinian officials did not immediately comment on the offer. But the Palestinian Authority has long demanded Israel end outright its "assassinations", which it says bolsters militant groups led by Hamas.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas fears a crackdown on militants could spark civil war and would prefer to pursue a truce with Hamas. But after meeting Powell on Friday, Abbas said truce efforts would come to nought unless Israel halted incursions and blockades.

Israel, emboldened by Powell's denunciation of Hamas as an "enemy of peace", has rejected Abbas's conciliatory approach.

"A truce is in itself a ticking bomb, so it cannot last in the long run," Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Israel Radio. "There cannot be a situation where the Palestinian extremists decide when this ticking bomb becomes a live and real bomb."

Militant groups have yet to decide on an Abbas-led truce.



The Palestinian daughter (L) of Hassan Abu Edah 52, who died from wounds suffered in an Israeli helicopter air strike last week, weeps during his funeral in Gaza June 21. Israel pressed the Palestinians on Saturday to rein in Islamic militants opposed to peace talks, but said it would still pursue its controversial track-and-kill operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. REUTERS

"We don't want terrorists to win," urges Powell

More than 60 people have been killed on both sides since the road map's launch at a June 4 summit, imperilling the most ambitious U.S. peace initiative since Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza rose up for independence in September 2000.

Militant factions oppose the plan's call for an end to violence and reciprocal-confidence building steps leading to a Palestinian state in the two territories by 2005.

Hamas and other radicals want to destroy Israel itself.

"We have to move urgently," Powell said after his talks with Sharon and Abbas. "We don't want terrorists to win."

U.S. officials said Gaza, Hamas's densely populated stronghold which has been subject to repeated Israeli incursions and air strikes, was under discussion for possible transfer to Palestinian security control to advance the peace plan.

Militants demand an Israeli release of prisoners as a condition for a truce and say any such deal would cover only civilians in Israel not settlers and soldiers in occupied territory — leaving a Gaza pullout unlikely for the time being.

Powell made clear the road map — drafted by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations — also depended on restraint by Israel, whose right-wing government accepted the plan only under heavy U.S. pressure.

Hamas official Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, who was wounded in an Israeli missile strike in Gaza last week, dismissed Powell as "a slave to the Zionists, a liar and a hypocrite".

U.S. sources in Washington said later that Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, co-managing peace plan efforts with Powell, would visit the region next week.

Women arrested in Mecca militant's flat - papers

RIYADH, June 21 (Reuters) - Saudi security forces in the Muslim holy city of Mecca have arrested four Saudi women after raiding a flat rented by a suspected militant, local newspapers said on Saturday.

Al-Watan newspaper said the security forces found three rifles, a pistol and live ammunition, as well as a bag full of gold, when they stormed the flat on Friday. Other newspapers reported that police also found a handmade bomb.

The arrests were the latest in a recently intensified crackdown on suspected militants launched by Saudi Arabia after last month's suicide bombings against three Western compounds in Riyadh that killed 35 people. Saudi Arabia has blamed Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda group for the attack.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin

Abdulaziz has said that more than 40 suspects have been killed or arrested since the May 12 bombings, including 12 suspected militants arrested after a shootout with police in Mecca a week ago.

The flat, near the residential district where five militants and two policemen were killed in the shootout, was registered in the name of one of the men arrested after the armed clash, al-Watan said.

Prince Nayef has said the men arrested or killed in Mecca were linked to al Qaeda.

The attacks in the Saudi capital and violence in Mecca, the holiest of Muslim cities, has shaken Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has stepped up security measures and cracked down on a number of radical preachers it blames for inciting violence.

Turkey parliament approves controversial EU reforms

ANKARA, June 19 (Reuters) - Turkey's parliament on Thursday passed a package of EU-inspired human rights reforms disputed by the powerful military but set to help Ankara win membership talks with Brussels in 2004.

The laws will send positive signals to the European Union on Ankara's reform intentions at the start of an EU summit in Greece that opened on Thursday evening.

The reforms bolster broadcasting rights in Kurdish and abolish some laws restricting freedom of thought and expression.

Turkey's generals, who wield great influence over public life, suspect they may weaken national security in the EU candidate.

Turkey fought an armed uprising by Kurdish separatists for much of the past two decades at the cost of over 30,000 lives. The EU and human rights groups have often criticised measures to suppress what Ankara sees as threats to national unity.

The EU has said it could consider membership talks with the expanding

bloc's only candidate with a predominantly Muslim population in late 2004 or early 2005. Most of Turkey's population of 70 million support the bid for EU membership.

"This package is one of the most important steps Turkey has taken on its way to a more contemporary society," Justice Minister Cemil Cicek told parliament after the vote.

Turkey's fiercely secular armed forces suspect the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), rooted in a banned Islamic movement, could use the EU backed liberalisation to compromise the country's secular order.

AKP leader Tayyip Erdogan says those suspicions are baseless. The government aims to pass this year all the laws required to begin membership talks and implement them in 2004.

It has pledged more reforms later in the summer to help limit the role of the military in public life, a key EU demand.

The military, which has led moves to oust four governments from power since the early 1960s, says it backs EU membership.

US troops smash open homes to hunt Iraqi militants

RAMADI, Iraq, June 21 (Reuters) - They rammed their vehicles into metal gates to smash them open, rounded up Iraqi men from their homes at gunpoint and wrote a code on their arms with marker pens.

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers from the First Battalion of the 124th Infantry Regiment staged the raid in a suburb of Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, after sunrise on Saturday.

The raid on the homes of suspected guerrillas was part of a campaign to stamp out mounting armed resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Several soldiers on the raid were wounded by a grenade and came under gunfire in the same district around 10 days earlier.

Some were clearly braced for trouble as they returned to the area, leaving their base after a blast over loudspeakers of Wagner's rousing "Ride of the Valkyries" — a favourite with troops for its use in the Vietnam war film "Apocalypse Now".

One unit of soldiers pulled half a dozen men from their homes as women wailed in distress. The troops wrote a code in marker pen on each man's skin and on confiscated possessions.

They removed a handful of weapons and a computer hard disk.

Two helicopters with thermal imaging equipment whirled above the neighbourhood of modest, angular houses.

U.S. forces have frequently come under fire in towns west and north of the capital since ousting Saddam Hussein in April. Those areas are dominated by Sunni Muslims, some of whom had close ties to Saddam's mainly Sunni ruling elite.

"They're getting too powerful," battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Hector Mirabile of Miami, Florida, said of the raid's targets. "It's time for them to stop." Officers said they aimed to capture at least five members of the Fedayeen paramilitary force, which put up some of the fiercest resistance to U.S. troops in their inva-



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's First Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, guard a suspect during a raid early June 21, to capture suspected Iraqi militants in the city of Ramadi, around 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad. The raid was part of Operation Desert Scorpion, launched a week ago to stamp out armed resistance to U.S. forces. REUTERS

sion and has been blamed for continuing attacks since Saddam's fall.

The raid was part of Operation Desert Scorpion, launched by the U.S. military on June 15. A U.S. military spokesman said 90 raids had netted 540 suspects in the operation, which also aims to befriend civilians with aid and reconstruction projects.

No casualties

"You got one on the roof!" one soldier yelled as his colleagues aimed their rifles at a building and looked for suspects. "It's a kid! It's a kid!" another shouted urgently as he realised a figure emerging from the house was just a boy.

Two blasts echoed through the neighbourhood seven minutes apart. Soldiers said one was caused by a grenade, the other by troops blowing open a door. No casualties were reported.

The troops used plastic strips to bind the hands of men found in the target houses. A hood was placed over the head of a barefoot man in jogging trousers and a green T-shirt.

A final tally of the suspects and weapons seized was not immediately available as officers began trying to identify who they had detained and establish if they were wanted men.

Captain Ricardo Roig, also from Miami, said it could take a while to check people against a wanted list stored on computer because of problems transliterating names from Arabic.

"If they're not on the list, they'll be brought back here and any damage we've done will be reimbursed," said Roig, 40.

The soldiers searched other houses in the neighbourhood but said they would use force only on the suspects' homes.

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محترف

S.Korean veterans protest, urge sanctions on North

SEOUL, June 21 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of South Koreans including many army veterans protested in central Seoul on Saturday against North Korea's suspected nuclear programme, calling for tough economic sanctions on Pyongyang.

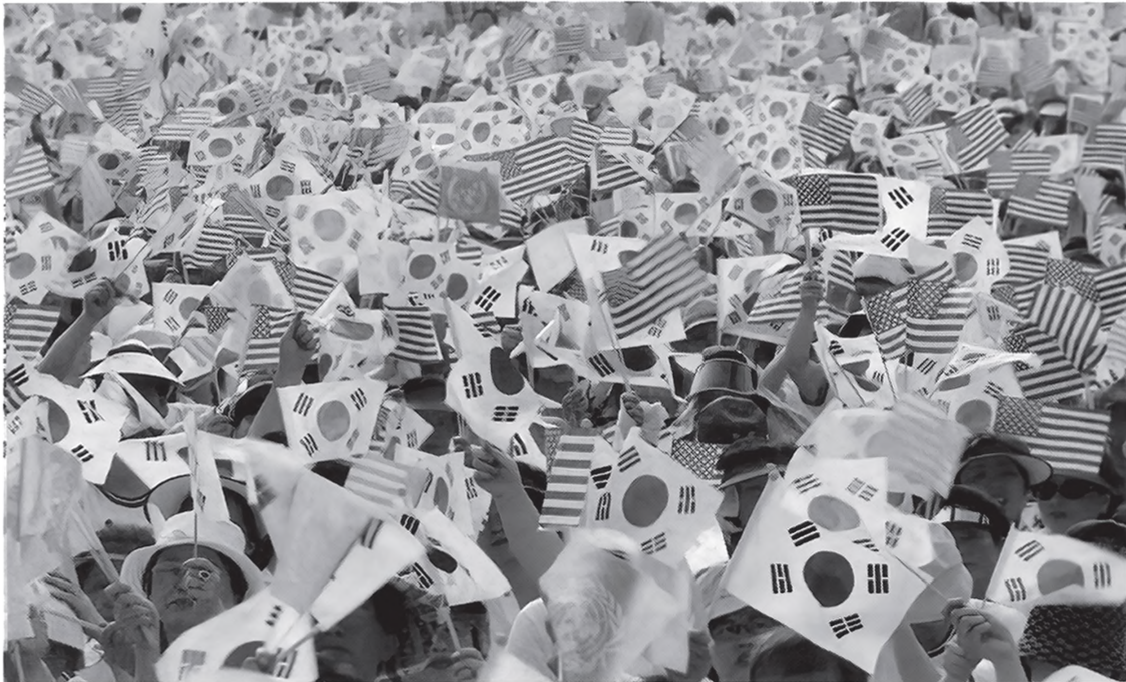
The demonstrators burned the red, blue and white flag of North Korea and a big portrait of its leader, Kim Jong-il. Many carried small South Korean and American flags.

"Remember the Korean War, down with Kim Jong-il," read one placard at the demonstration, organised ahead of the June 25 anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean conflict. Half a century after the fighting stopped, the peninsula remains bitterly divided with no sign of a lasting peace.

A Reuters photographer said 40,000 demonstrators took part in the rally, while Seoul police put the crowd at 110,000. There were no reports of clashes or injuries.

"Dictator Kim Jong-il rejects multi-lateral talks and seeks a nuclear programme," Park Chan-sung, head of a civic group to stop the communist North's nuclear ambitions, told Reuters.

"We are here to urge the international community and the United Nations to impose strong economic sanctions on North Korea to force it to drop the



South Korean protesters wave national flags of the U.S. and South Korea during a rally in Seoul June 21. About 40,000 protesters rallied on Saturday criticising North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme and supporting the station of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula, local news media said. REUTERS

nuclear plan."

Washington and Tokyo have said they are willing to consider slapping

sanctions on Pyongyang if it escalates the crisis.

North Korea has riposted with warn-

ings that any U.S.-led blockade of the communist state would lead to all-out war.

Many feared dead in Nigerian pipeline fire

UMUAHIA, Nigeria, June 21 (Reuters) - A Nigerian oil pipeline punctured by thieves has exploded killing villagers scavenging for fuel, community leaders and hospital workers said on Saturday.

Hospital officials have confirmed four deaths, but community leaders put the number of dead at scores, many burned beyond recognition. Scores of others suffered severe burns.

The explosion in the southeast of the country happened on June 13 at Amaokwe Oghughe village, about 50 km (35 miles) north of the Abia state capital Umuahia. It only became known two days ago when the first victims arrived at Umuahia hospitals.

Some residents said the fire was still burning and police had sealed off the scene. The pipeline is owned by Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.

Oil pipeline fires accidentally started by fuel thieves are common in

Nigeria and have killed hundreds of villagers in the past four years.

OPEC member Nigeria, the world's eighth biggest crude oil exporter, is Africa's biggest oil producer, but it suffers chronic fuel shortages because of technical problems with its four domestic refineries.

A thriving black market in petrol is a major incentive to fuel thieves tapping into the 5,000-km (3,125 miles) network of pipelines transporting refined products across the vast country.

Witnesses said villagers using buckets and jerry cans had been scooping kerosene and petrol from the pipeline since it was deliberately punctured some two months before the accident.

A spokesman for Nigerian National Petroleum Corp said there was "a vandalism" of the line at Amaokwe Oghughe, but could not give a casualty report.

Indian troops kill seven rebels in Assam

GUWAHATI, India, June 21 (Reuters) - Indian troops killed seven rebels and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition after a gun-battle in India's remote northeastern state of Assam, a defence spokesman said on Saturday.

Soldiers stormed a rebel camp in Cachar district late on Friday night and shot dead seven militants of the armed Hmar Peoples Convention (HPC) when they tried to escape, the spokesman said.

The HPC is one of the several militant groups in the region fighting for more political rights for the Hmar tribe living in parts of southern Assam.

In another incident, separatists blew up an empty oil tank and killed two security guards, police said.

The oil tank in Tinsukia belonged to the state-run Oil India Ltd, one of two companies producing crude oil and natural gas and feeding four oil refineries in the region.

Tinsukia is about 500 km (300 miles) east of Guwahati, Assam's main city. Police believe the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was behind the attack.

An oil company official said production and supply of crude oil to refineries had not been disrupted. Assam produces about 15 per cent of the country's total crude oil.

India's seven northeastern mountainous states, circled by China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, are home to more than 200 tribal and ethnic groups.

French-led force sets 72 hour gun deadline in Bunia

BUNIA, Congo, June 21 (Reuters) - A French-led force sent to protect civilians in the Congolese town of Bunia set a 72-hour deadline on Saturday for gunmen to leave the town where ethnic bloodletting killed hundreds last month.

The force also urged the government in Kinshasa to withdraw newly-arrived armed police reinforcements, saying they violated a peace deal.

France is supplying the bulk of the troops for the international force, which began deploying on June 6 after an appeal from the United Nations to intervene in the town where gun-toting militiamen are a common sight on the mud streets.

The commander of the force, General Jean Paul Thonier gave the deadline at talks with Thomas Lubanga, the head of the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) militia group, which seized control from rival militiamen in May.

"The General has stipulated that there will be no weapons after 72 hours," said the spokesman for the international force, Colonel Gerard Dubois. "Weapons that remain will be confiscated," he told reporters in Bunia.

The deadline expires at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) on Tuesday.

Dubois said Lubanga had accepted the demand to remove his gunmen from the streets, saying the French general would allow Lubanga to retain a guard for his headquarters in Bunia, the size of which had yet to be defined precisely.

The force said earlier this week it would ban all visible armed presence in the town and create a "secure zone" in Bunia, where residents say the presence of gunmen on the streets is a constant source of insecurity.

The force spokesman said French armoured vehicles would mount their first patrols through the town on Saturday.

Lubanga told Reuters he had already removed the bulk of his forces from Bunia, in the northeast of Democratic Republic of Congo, and it would only take a few hours to remove the rest.

"This deadline is already too long.

the only troops remaining in town are just our bodyguards," he said. "There's no problem with the deadline."

Lubanga's UPC, the Congolese government and various other militia groups around Bunia signed a peace deal in Tanzania in May, agreeing to demilitarise Bunia.

The international force had earlier on Saturday urged the Kinshasa govern-

ment to withdraw 112 armed police reinforcements sent to Bunia on Friday, saying they violated the peace deal.

The force said later on Saturday that 80 of the police were going back to Kinshasa.



A French UN soldier from the 3rd RIMA passes by a Congolese woman carrying a baby in the streets of Bunia June 19. The French commander of an international force in the Congolese town of Bunia held talks with a militia leader on Thursday to push forward plans to create a "secure zone" in the town, a spokesman said. REUTERS

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Solana says Serbia, Kosovo to start talks

PORTO CARRAS, Greece, June 21 (Reuters) - Belgrade has agreed to hold its first direct talks next month with representatives of Kosovo, the Serbian province under U.N. rule, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Saturday.

But Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leadership swiftly cast doubt on the talks, saying no date had been set.

"Belgrade and Pristina have clearly indicated a desire to start a dialogue and it will begin at the end of July," Solana told a news conference after a summit of EU and Western Balkan leaders in this Greek coastal resort.

Kosovo has been a de facto U.N. protectorate since NATO drove Serbian forces from the mainly ethnic Albanian province in 1999 in a bombing campaign.

Kosovo wants independence from Belgrade, but the international community has so far supported only substantial autonomy for the province, fearing further fragmentation of the Balkans after the ethnic wars that destroyed the old Yugoslavia.

Commenting on Solana's statement, Kosovo's Prime Minister Ibrahim Rugova said: "As we have

always stated, we are prepared to talk with Belgrade but no date has been agreed yet."

Ibrahim Rugova, Kosovo's ethnic Albanian president, made clear the province had not abandoned its nationhood ambitions.

"The best solution for the region is formal recognition of the independence of Kosovo, from both the United States and the European Union," he told reporters.

Patience

The president of Serbia and Montenegro, the loose union which replaced Yugoslavia, pledged to work for a settlement of the Kosovo problem.

"I hope we can really prove to all the European countries that we have the force, the patience and the energy to resolve the many problems of the past," President Svetozar Marovic told the news conference.

Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic told Reuters this week that Belgrade would wait until the appointment of a new U.N. administrator in Kosovo before starting any talks, including on the province's

final status.

The United Nations' current special representative, Michael Steiner, is due to leave Kosovo in July.

Speaking to reporters after the summit, Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic said the dialogue between Belgrade and Kosovo's representatives would "be held under the auspices of the U.N., the U.S. and the EU and without Steiner".

"We've been unhappy with the U.N. administration in Kosovo, particularly with Mr Steiner," Djindjic said, adding the agenda for the talks would include security in the province and the return of refugees.

Belgrade has often criticised Steiner's approach, accusing the German diplomat of gradually handing power to local institutions run almost exclusively by ethnic Albanians.



European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana (L) talks to Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis (R) as he arrives at the Thessaloniki EU Summit in Porto Carras June 19, EU leaders meet to discuss EU Constitution. REUTERS

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مهرجان تسليم جوائز السحب الثالث



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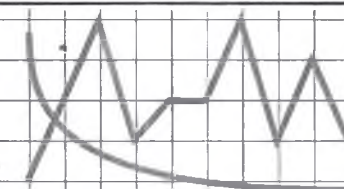
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تسليم جوائز السحب الثالث	الخميس والجمعة	١٩ و ٢٠ يونيو	عصراً
تسليم جوائز السحب الثالث	السبت	٢١ يونيو	مساءً بعد الأخبار

بركاني

عصير المانجو الطبيعي

إنتاج الشركة التصنيعية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

YT Business



Updated study pinpoints impediments facing economy:

Unemployment, poverty, low scientific research, infrastructure weakness

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A recently published economic report mentions that deformations and shortcomings that impede growth of Yemen economy form a chain of links posing as hindrances before financial and economic reforms the government has embarked on since 1995.

The report highlighted scarcity of water resources atop the impediments and ascribing it to drop in rates of rainfall. Added to that is the increased rate of population growth that amounts to 3.5% annual average. This is against limited economic revenues, a situation increasing economic consumption and curbing ability to saving and investment. High rate of unemployment which amounts to an overall proportion of 37% of the work force has complicated and doubled the volume of economic problems.

The report has further mentioned that volume of apparent unemployment reached 11.9% and disguised unemployment at 25.1%, as a resultant of labor power growth by 4.3% a year.

The report considered the low-level of qualifying human resources as one of the factors hindering development of Yemen's economy. This factor is embodied by high rate of illiteracy, drop in proportion of joining general and vocational education, and education curricula and teaching program lagging behind scientific develop-



Dozens of unemployed people gathering from early morning in some corners of the city, waiting for any opportunity for work.

ments and labor market needs. The report also pointed to the growing proportion of poverty in the society which rates at 27.3% and 34.9% con-

secutively.

Among the impediments facing the Yemen economy are underdeveloped services of roads, electricity, water,

sewage system and communications.

The report concluded that backwardness of the system of sciences and technology, weakness of scientific

research and development activities are among the hindrances that intercept developing performance of economy in Yemen in general.

For creating a balance between urban and rural population,

Yemen conducts family budget survey for 2004

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Statistics Central Apparatus of Yemen has prepared documents for surveying Yemeni family budget or the year 2004, the third of its kind since 1990, aimed at gaining information on cases of balance between the family income and its spending. And also to have information on increase of expenditure over savings. Finally, to explore the possibility of families' saving under their current living conditions. The ministry of planning and international cooperation's central apparatus for statistics hopes with this survey for providing economic, social and demographic data on the Yemeni family meeting requirements of those using them in drawing up the economic and social policies through measuring changes of incomes and spending of the family. The study covers Yemeni governorates as a

whole and each district as a separate case.

One of the main objectives of the apparatus is to determine indicators of poverty phenomenon from the perspective of income and spending and circumstances relating to population in educational, social, residential fields and environment. The apparatus also works for providing necessary data on services of the local society.

The World Bank has given a recommendation to Yemen that the coming family survey includes data on the assistance the family gets from governmental and non-governmental sides or organizations and also scholarships. The survey should, upon request of the World Bank, name the more important 30-40 consumer food commodity and the major 20 non-vital consumer goods. It has also recommended the necessity of determining the essential assets owned by the family, such as land and commodities used in agriculture, and the

level of knowledge about health institutions and malnutrition.

The survey form includes many questions. More important of these questions are the numerical and proportional distribution of individuals, the marital status and economic activity, category of job, the age groups and their relationship with the work force and family size. The survey gives a special significance to determining the volume of child labor in Yemen society and reasons urging some families to employ their children. In addition, the survey is interested in getting acquainted with the level the spread of handicap cases, their kind, cause, degree and the extent of the handicap mingling with the society.

Owing to the relation between the family survey for 2004 and poverty, the central statistics apparatus document included that in a special form on resources yielding income to the family. The objective is to know if the family is in possession of agricultural

resources, agricultural crops and livestock breeding, in addition to fixing the family possessions, such as services, trade and agriculture installations and means of transport and buildings.

Documents of the survey consider expending on commodities and services would enable specialized to know the way the family spending of its income especially on 13 groups of foodstuffs and services including 132 commodities, such as cereals, beans, fruit, meats, dairies, oils, sugar and spices.

The survey also involves statistics on prices of goods and internal exchanges for facilitating the state's monitoring on price averages on measuring the changes occurring on living costs, to be taken as a basis for modifying wages and salaries and measuring the volume of monetary inflation and the national currency's purchasing power.

Unlike the Yemeni family survey

for the years 1992-'98, the Planning and International Cooperation Ministry expects that the survey of the family budget for the year 2004 would offer it a good service for the benefit of local governance authorities that need a centennial database for drawing up local development plans policies and their implementation.

Previous surveys indicators reported that there is a surplus in volume of labor rating 6-8 individuals per person and that a big proportion of pupils leak from education under motive of the need. They join labor market while they are at an age under thirteen. By implementing the new survey for the year 2004 the government hoped to obtain aid from donor countries and organizations to help it tackle poverty phenomenon in the Yemeni society. It also hopes to provide job opportunities for the unemployed and bridging the gap between population of the cities and rural villages.

The Road Ahead

Check but not mate

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQA
r_saqqa@hotmail.com

In today's highly competitive world, managers and businessmen have to be nothing less than supermen to succeed, especially in our country, which is facing deep-rooted economic trouble.

Why supermen? Look at this scenario: Your company is in deep trouble; outdated physical assets, financial illness, your brands have become a liability for a new generation, and your staff seems to be drifting apart. What do you do? You do need a miracle.

This is why managing a sick company is one very hard task; managers start cutting costs, reducing salaries and expenditures, and in our complex third world society, such measures have a great impact on the economy, especially when most of the companies are doing as such, but how else would a sick company be managed?

There are Corporate Turnaround methods that have proved viable in a developing economy like ours, but these turnaround methods require special conditions that must be created to transform such sick into viable corporations, one of these is the Asset utilization approach.

This philosophy of turnaround management is based on a simple belief: People never fail, businesses do. But in spite of that, this still means that people should examine the circumstances that result in the poor performance of the company, and then bring change agents in order to get the best use of the current resources; to get new brains to discover other alternatives possible from the available limited resources. And then develop the asset utilization turnaround strategy.

A turnaround, based on an asset utilization strategy, means exploiting the underutilized assets to initiate the turnaround, these assets might be machines, people, infrastructure, methods & know-how, information, organizational relations and alliances, market network, etc. However, the success of such a strategy depends on the creativity level with which these assets are utilized.

Indeed, sometimes that company will have to change even its centers of excellence or redefine its businesses and look for other opportunities that might be better prepared for. Sometimes moving away from the historical business is the only way to go, and the company has to find a new vision, for example technological advances leave no other options for companies but to update, redefine or die.

Nevertheless, even if your company is not in deep trouble now, keep an eye on the future and be prepared with an asset utilization strategy, if it didn't help your company survive, it will definitely help build your company's strength.

Endnote: Check but not mate, yet. Adopting an asset utilization turnaround strategy is usually the best option for a sick company in an economy like ours, in order to identify appropriate market opportunities and revive the company.

Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal - conditions.

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

OUR
OPINIONWeak humans
result in
weak nations

I consider the humiliating situation that Arabs are in today to be the result of long decades of ignorance and negligence to the value of humans living in the Arab world. When we are talking about the military or economic incompetence of Arab countries, we are in fact talking of the lack of those two things in Arab people.

What made the West and far East so advances were mainly the care they gave to humans. Human resource development is the core and most important element in any country because it is humans who build any nation, so if humans are well-educated, qualified, skilled, healthy, and productive, they become the driving force behind development and prosperity for the whole nation.

But looking at our pathetic situation here in the Arab world, we can easily see how humans are given the least of care and attention. The educational system is in most Arab countries out-of-date. Employees are not paid enough to cover their daily expenses. Life conditions are so tough that some families avoid sending their kids to children and instead having them work in cleaning cars or selling goods. This is why the next generation will most probably suffer even more.

In a time many developing countries have started developing their own electronic and machinery industrial complexes to produce electronic equipment and on many occasions vehicles and other types of machinery. Arab countries are lagging far behind and are still importing extremely basic tools such as needles and razor blades.

Our Arab leaders are still obsessed with purchasing weaponry and military equipment and dedicating large portions of their budgets on them, while giving less attention to education and health and other matters that concern human beings and lives directly.

Some try to justify this by comparing the super powerful countries with us and saying that it is their military might that made them superior, and hence by purchasing military equipment, we are enhancing our superiority.

But if we look into the matter carefully, we would see that those super powerful countries were only able to produce and manufacture such technologically advanced military equipment by promoting science and scientists, and by taking good care of potential inventors and engineers. Soldiers and military officers are merely users of that equipment, but it is scientists and professors who are involved in production. Hence, it becomes obvious that focus on those scientists is the reason why those countries were able to produce laser-guided missiles and other advanced military weapons.

One cannot ignore that education and health should be a prerequisite for any country wishing to develop and prosper, simply because humans are the pillar of any strong nation, and just as strong pillars created strong countries in the West. Weak pillars are the reason why we have turned to be among the weakest countries on earth.

The Editor

You call this
an environment
for investment?

BY HOORIA MASHOOR
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Investment and development are two sides of the same coin. Because investment paves the way for achieving development and development cannot be realized without investment. In fact not any investment generates development where certain fields and resources should be invested in such as natural resources whether material or human, especially the latter because it is only through man that any kind of achievement whatsoever can happen. Take Japan and Germany as examples, the two are countries with limited natural resources and even threatened with natural and war disasters, these two countries managed to compete with the largest economic power in the world, the United States of America.

And when we talk about investing in human resources we talk mainly and basically about education in the first place. For it is through development of the educational system better human capabilities and resources result. Not only quantity as much as quality and type of education, because if it was just about numbers then thousands of Yemeni university graduates would not have been jobless. The market requires a number of specific criteria and requirements that are not found in most of our youth, such as technical and linguistic abilities and computer literacy.

Since mid of the '90s the State's policy towards investment had made a new move towards globalization and world market economy. Meanwhile

there has been lifting of subsidies being provided for social services and allowing the private sector to participate in development projects and programs. Yet the question here is has the government done enough in order to encourage investment? Has the state decreed and enforced laws that would protect investors' rights and break the monopolies in the Yemeni market? I am afraid to say the answer is no and each investor or firm is left to his own efficiency and chance to deal with the chaotic environment.

What prompted the writing of this topic was the complaint I heard from a principal of Tulip School who was grumbling about the endless demands from taxes authority, duty authority, ministry of labor and social affairs, ministry of technical education and vocational training and finally from other schools dishonest competition.

While Tulip School designed and created its banners and campaigning tools for the summer courses and paid fees for the use of public places for this purpose, another school had simple torn off Tulip's banners and put its own publicity banners instead.

We have the right to wonder here how can a school administration commit such an immoral act, while a school is a sacred educational institution meant for teaching youth on values high principles? The more important question is what does the local council do about such a situation? What is to be done by it in order to enforce the law against those who violate the investment law and to realize justice in this society? It is particularly

so when we understand that investment in education is one of the most significant kinds of investment. It is an investment dealing with the human and enhancement of their capabilities of construction and development.

Investment laws are supposed to allow and protect fair competition and encourage investment. The correct approach dictates on the ministry of education to give attention schools which contribute to efforts of the state in tackling education problems and to re-establish a better education system where better circumstances are available for both government and private schools.

It's a shame that in a big city such as Sana'a many haphazard events and violations of laws hinder both teachers and students from performing their jobs and driving the wheel of education forward.

The ministry is required to instate controls and set up criteria for giving permission for establishing any new private sector school, especially those schools that appear to simply seeking the gain of profit at the expense of the noble message of education.

The ministry is also required to monitor performance of all schools; public and private in such a manner that embody the strategic goals of making education in Yemen keep pace with changes and respond to developments.

All above demands a clean climate for competitive investment. The question is would it be too difficult for the state authorities to enforce the law and to create such a climate for serving development?

Yemen says
welcome home!

BY YAZAN AL-SAGHIRY
Yazanonline@hotmail.com

Sometime ago, I read an article by Nadia Al Saqqaf. "It's time to come back home". In fact I was really touched, because the article was very deep. And after that: I read another one titled 'Not quite the time to go home'. Also, Abdullah A.S - the writer of the article - had his reasons which might 'sometimes be true. So, this made me confused. Both titles were shiny and true. I couldn't make up my mind. Eventually, I decided to combine between both of them by taking all positive sides from each point of view. Anyway, what happened on Sunday 15/6/2003 killed 'all positive sides in me about the idea of coming back home - but it didn't make me agree totally with Abdullah!

My brother 'Ibrahim' was coming on that day from an Arab country to Sana'a International Airport. It was a long vacation for him after that brilliant decision of not giving the high school gladiators their certifications until one year passes. So he stayed there for 10 months and spent the time by submitting a course on computer maintenance.

After his arrival, he submitted the SARS test, and it seems everything is Ok. But, when he was getting out looking for the luggage, an officer stopped him and started reading his passport slowly. Then, a shock came out of his mouth: ok Look Hummm, we will have your passport for couple of days until we make sure of something my brother said innocently:- 'What thing?'

No definite answers were taken, but the real important notice was that: my brother was not the only one! Every Yemeni student was in that trip got the same lion share of this amazing welcome!

Then, all of them were taken to an

office- at the airport- and the officers started asking them one definite question: Have you been to Iraq recently? One of the students answered bravely: I would be honored, but unfortunately I didn't!

Only luck saved Ibrahim from spending more time in the political Security generous entertainment. What helped him was the certification of the course he took during period of the aggression on Iraq. They let him go after they copied his certification as well as his passport. The sad thing was those who by chance were students in Iraq because the officials at the ministry of Higher Education And Scientific Research chose Iraq for them!

And when those were asked about not coming back when the government ordered them to do before the aggression, one of the students said a very touchy statement. We thought that Arabs and Muslims will do something at least to stop this filthy aggression!

So, my bother could make it, but the others stayed on hold and I don't know if they spent the night- or the nights- there. But there was a source of relief, that the officers were very understanding and polite. And that is a normal conclusion because all of them - as Ibrahim told me- were full of sympathy for the students. They were not convinced about the whole idea of treating the students this way. He even told me that one of the officers shouted during the investigation 'What the hell are we afraid of; they are Yemeni citizens in their own country'.

On the other hand- I have to be very accurate- it is not a matter of criticizing someone or something, because there are other positive aspects in such investigations. At least, it helps us to know the names of the Yemeni martyrs in Iraq. We know that, the coalition forces bombed civilian locations hundreds of times using 'Cluster Bombs' and other 'Mass Destruction' Bombs. So, there might be some

Yemenis among the casualties. As well as, there are some Yemenis who responded the sacred call of many Muslim Great Mosques- such as Al Azhar ALSheriff- of defending Iraq against the invasion, and most of them are lost there. Looking at the subject from this angle, there are really very positive aspects behind the investigations.

But, don't you agree with me that there are other ways to do any kind of 'necessary' investigations?

Isn't enough for those students that were in very critical situations of suffering and scaring?

In other places of the world, the citizen is a very 'restricted' area. No one whoever he was can ever arrest any citizen unless there is a real condemnation. USA after September 11th can be considered an exception; but this is 'restricted' to some races and some religions, otherwise there are many ways to conduct any kind of investigations. They can open, go through and close the investigation without the knowing of the suspect!

As for me I believe that we do have some security sectors in our country who are very qualified to do this kind of job, especially it is not that dangerous case because the students are suspects for nothing!

Most of Yemeni students in Iraq were dead for the moment they come back home because they missed their country, and they wanted to feel the smell of security. And as for the others who where out of Iraq if they could prove that they didn't go there, 'the shock and horror' were enough to make them cry for that security. I hope now, after they come back home, they have the security in their houses; not in order places!

Going back to the introduction, I discovered the real solution between 'it's time to come back home' and 'not quite the time to go home'. Yes, it might be the time to go back home, but seems it is not quite the time for home to receive us!

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

What goes
up must
stay up!

"The way I see it, they are just going to go up; prices never take the down staircase, even if there was a fire upstairs!" Walid was grousing to his wife as he sat trying to

get his monthly budget to balance. Ruqayyah was less grouchy and just said, "Thank God we have all our basic needs for the month all stocked up. We are really fortunate compared to a majority of the citizens, some of whom do not even have their daily sustenance needs fulfilled".

"You mean you are not going to ask for anything anymore for the rest of the month? I bet you tomorrow, before my eyes even open up you will already have a list of things we need: meat, vegetables, alfalfa clover leaf for the goats. If you think balancing this budget is easy, you ought to try balancing the state budget" remarked Walid.

"Dad, when are you going to buy me a bicycle? You said that if I get exceptional grades, you were going to buy me a bicycle. Well, I made it, I got a 95 average in all my grades, and an "A" for good behavior and attendance". Ahmed, the eldest son in the family reminded his father the commitments he has made, without realizing what effect this will have on his budget reconciliation.

"I really want...", Ruqayyah sensed the difficult spot the father was in and cut in: "Son, your cycle is on its way and your father never makes a commitment he cannot keep".

The 12 years old boy jumped high until he hit his head on the top of the unusually small door, as he ran out to tell the whole world that success has its rewards.

"What are you doing Ruqayyah? I have yet to pay the telephone bill, which now only receives calls, because Tele-Yemen has shut up the talking side of the telephone, to anyone who owes even YR 10 to the company for all the gossip you ladies exchange over the phone. Now, you want me to be delinquent in paying my phone bill!" Walid tried to explain the predicament he was in to his wife, as he took the big eraser to fix an error in his calculation. He continued: "Without paying the phone bill we are already in a deficit of YR 20,000, and God only knows how we will cover that up, and now you stick me up with another 20,000. I do not know why I bother going through with this exercise every month. No matter what I do, the equations just don't click right. How can you make things balance, when the prices just sky rocket without following any predictable trend."

Again, Ruqayyah continued in her praise of the Lord. "My dear, Allah has been kind enough to us by guiding us to an outlet to all our economic pitfalls". I already bought the bike for Ahmed from the jewelry which I never really wear and only have to carry the burden of paying Zakat on it every year needlessly. The happiness in that boy's face is worth all the jewelry in the world, if I had it."

"Praise be to Allah that there are women like you in this world, who show a knack for keeping their husband's minds stable and their families together. I really do not know what I would do without you. Still it is not fair that you should be the one to have to dish out the money for commitments I hastily make, based on the calculations of prices that seem not to understand that what goes up must come down! Do you know that the YR is going up every day in the exchange market, yet prices carry on their crazy upward spiral. What is wrong with our country; do not the laws of physics apply to Yemen?" said Walid somewhat proud of his remarkable wife, but nevertheless disturbed by the crazy way the consumer is being double-crossed by uncontrollable price hikes that have no economic basis.

"When greed and selfish motives drive the driving forces that generate economic activity in the country, you should only expect that the common folks are the ones to shoulder the heavy burdens and the heavy arithmetic you have to go through each month. We have greedy merchants, who would bleed their mothers in their graves if they could, just to make a profit. They do not care about the general welfare of their fellow citizens. They are oblivious to all the poverty and the deprivation that overwhelm the general population. We also have government officials that are unable to regulate their own greed, let alone regulate the greedy merchants that are choking our people to death. In fact, many of the officials are part-time businessmen, who have found a niche in the erratic behavior of our economy." Ruqayyah showed her knack for socio-economic analysis to her husband.

"I tell you, Ruqayyah, I am really worried about the future for our children. Ahmed is now going to Intermediate School and the other two kids are trailing behind him. What kind of future do they have, when we have seen our living standard fall from middle class to knocking on the doors of poverty and having to sell our assets just to try to give whatever happiness we can to our children. What happens when we run out of your jewelry and my few shares of stock that we have? How can we provide our kids some of the simple amenities kids enjoy everywhere?" complained Walid to his understanding wife.

Ruqayyah assured her husband, "Have faith, my dear, God will always be on the side of the oppressed".



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Report says U.S. did target media outlets in Gulf War II

A newly released report notes that during the coalition air assault on Iraq, Central Command "authorized" bombing strikes against "media facilities" in which a number of journalists were killed and employed weapons that human rights groups want banned.

BY CHRISTOPHER BOLIYN
EXCLUSIVE TO AMERICAN FREE PRESS

A detailed analysis of the coalition air campaign done by Michael Moseley of the U.S. Air Force says there were 10 authorized strikes against "media facilities," including the bombing of the Baghdad office of the Qatar-based al Jazeera Arabic television news network, according to an article in The Age, an Australian newspaper that obtained an unclassified version of the report.

In Baghdad three journalists were killed on April 8 when their offices were shelled or bombed by U.S. forces. Two journalists died when a tank shell struck the Reuters office in the Palestine Hotel and the third died when the offices of the Qatar-based al Jazeera were hit by a single missile fired from a U.S. aircraft. A third office belonging to a news network from Abu Dhabi was also hit on the same day.

Robert Fisk, a British journalist reporting from Baghdad for The Independent, said that U.S. claims made by Gen. Buford Blount that there had been sniper fire coming from the Palestine Hotel were false.

"I was between the tank and the hotel when the shell was fired," said Fisk. "There was no sniper fire—nor any rocket-propelled grenade fire, as the American officer claimed—at the time."

In a scathing article titled "Did the U.S. murder these journalists?" Fisk wrote that Mohamed Jassem al-Ali, managing director of al Jazeera, had written to Victoria Clark, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, at the Pentagon on Feb. 24 informing her of the precise coordinates of al Jazeera's office in Baghdad. Al-Ali's letter informed the Pentagon of the location of the office and the fact that civilian journalists would be working in the building.

When al Jazeera's office was bombed

on April 8, killing the station's reporter Tareq Ayoub, al-Ali wrote again to Clark: "We find these events unjustifiable, unacceptable, arousing all forms of anger and rejection and most of all [in] need of an explanation."

The explanation seems to come in Moseley's reported analysis of the bombing campaign, which states there were 10 authorized strikes against "media facilities." Moseley's assessment, titled "Operation Iraqi Freedom—By the Numbers," is based on military records from March 19 to April 18.

American Free Press sent the Pentagon a copy of the June 3 article from The Age with a few questions. In reply to the question whether it were true that the bombing of al Jazeera's office in Baghdad had been authorized, came a terse statement "attributable to Defense officials: Coalition forces did not deliberately nor specifically target news media."

There was no response to the question: Is it true that al Jazeera provided the Pentagon and/or Centcom with the exact coordinates of their Baghdad office in order to inform the U.S. forces of their location as a precaution?

However, the fact that al Jazeera had informed the Pentagon of its coordinates and the code of its signal to the satellite transponder was reported in The Guardian on March 24.

Al Jazeera's office in Kabul was also bombed in November 2001, despite having provided U.S. authorities in Washington with the coordinates of its location as a precaution. The Kabul office was destroyed by U.S. "smart" bombs two hours before the Northern Alliance took over the city.

It was the fact that al Jazeera was broadcasting "blood-and-guts" images from the invasion of Iraq around the world that angered the United States, according to The Guardian. "Millions of viewers throughout the Middle East saw pictures of Iraqi and American victims... that many western news organizations

would consider too shocking to publish," it said.

When Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld denounced al Jazeera for broadcasting images of captured U.S. soldiers, Jihad Ballout, a spokesman for the network responded: "Look who's talking about international law and regulations. We didn't make the pictures—the pictures are there. It's a facet of the war. Our duty is to show the war from all angles."

The assessment of the coalition air campaign also reported that 240,000 cluster bombs were dropped on Iraq. Because cluster bombs spread hundreds of "bomblets" over a large area they are not meant to be used in civilian areas. Due to a high frequency of unexploded bomblets, areas bombed by cluster bombs are "contaminated" and dangerous for years.

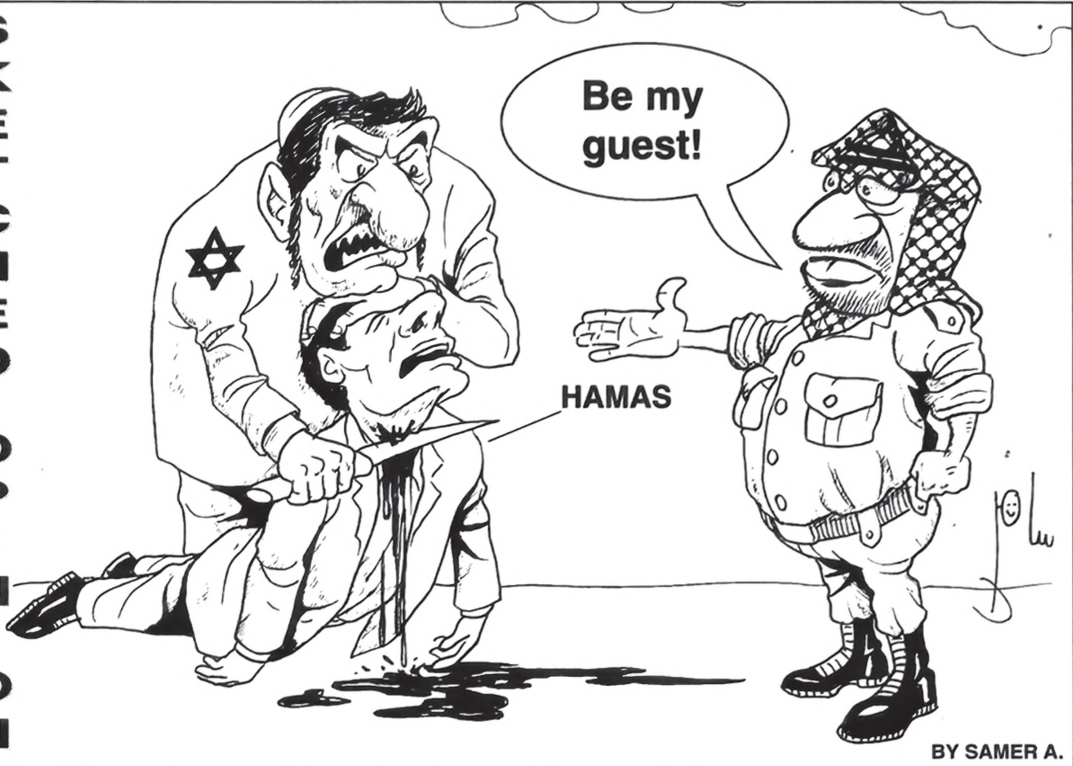
A leaked map of unexploded cluster bombs dropped by coalition aircraft was recently revealed in The Observer, a British newspaper. The map shows "an appalling level of contamination," according to Richard Lloyd, director of Landmine Action. Lloyd, who visited Iraq to assess the danger, said about the map, "It confirms that American and British forces attacked built-up areas in cities with cluster bombs."

Asked about the use of cluster bombs in Iraq, Defense officials told AFP, "Coalition forces conducted meticulous targeting techniques and used highly accurate weapons systems in order to minimize harm to Iraqi civilians and their infrastructure," adding that they were "still working on information on the use of cluster bombs."

"Operation Iraqi Freedom—By the Numbers" also said that the U.S. used 800 Tomahawk missiles. AFP asked the U.S. Navy's office of Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aircraft about the approximate cost of each missile.

The Tomahawk Block 3 missiles used in Iraq were produced by Raytheon's missile division in Tucson, Ariz., and cost \$1 million each, according to the Navy, but today's replacement cost for the missiles used would be \$1.4 million "per copy" or about \$1.2 billion.

SKETCHED
OPINION



Rocky road to peace, at a crossroads!

BY BAKR HAMUD ALJUNAID
bakrjunaid_1@hotmail.com

The road map—published by the US president George Bush, 2 months ago—sets out a route to peace that is paved with good intentions and little else. It is, as the International Crisis Group pointed out, "a throwback to the approach that has failed both Israelis and Palestinians in the past." The ICG, a heavyweight think tank which includes well-known political and diplomatic figures from around the world, warned: "Its various elements lack definition, and each step is likely to give rise to interminable disputes between the two sides. There is no enforcement mechanism, nor an indication of what is to happen if the timetable significantly slips. "Even more importantly, it fails to provide a detailed, fleshed-out definition of a permanent status agreement. As such, it is neither a detailed, practical blueprint for peace nor even for a cessation of hostilities." Work on the road map began on July with a meeting of the "Quartet"—the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations—though it has been drafted under the direction of William Burns, the assistant US secretary of state. The main author is his deputy, David Sutterfield. By October 15 the first draft was ready and a copy was given to the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon (non-American members of the Quartet didn't get to see it until a day later). Israel responded with what it said were "corrections" to the document. In November, Mr Sharon persuaded the White House not to issue the road map just yet, on the grounds that Israeli elections were in the offing. The road map then went through two more drafts, the last one being completed on December 20. By February this year, Jewish leaders in the US began campaigning against the road map, and the Israeli government reportedly submitted more than 100 proposed "corrections". Britain's prime minister, meanwhile, had become very enthusiastic about the road map and he made its publication one of the main conditions for supporting the US-led invasion of Iraq. President Bush agreed, recognizing that this would help Mr. Blair to overcome domestic opposition to an attack on Baghdad. At the same time, according to the Israeli newspaper, Ha'aretz, the White House assured Mr Sharon that he had nothing to worry about. The paper added that the US national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, also told American Jewish leaders that the Europeans in the Quartet would not be allowed to get the upper hand. With further delays caused by the war in Iraq and the process of installing Mahmoud Abbas as Palestinian prime minister, the map was finally issued on the last day of April—just in time to avoid making a total nonsense of the timetable for phase one, which lasts from the "present" until May 2003. The most obvious strategy for Mr

Sharon to pursue is prevarication. If the road map's timetable cannot be met, the project will eventually founder. Barring some unforeseen miracle, the schedule for phase one is already out of the window—with very little effort on Mr Sharon's part—and by the time we get to phase three and the creation of a Palestinian state (envisaged for 2005) there's a good chance of more slippage to 3005 or thereabouts. The Israeli rightist wing is already marshalling its forces against the road map. Yehiel Hazan, a member of the Likud party and chairman of the Knesset lobby for settlements, said last week: "The road map is a disaster for Israel... Israel cannot agree to a settlement freeze and dismantling the outposts. That's a red line we cannot cross." The Yesha Council of settlements also issued a statement describing the road map as "worse than Oslo" (the peace process of the 1990s that led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority).

These may be extremist views, but it is instructive to look at what Mr Sharon himself has been doing since March 14, the day when President Bush publicly committed himself to publishing—and then implementing—the road map. From that point on, Mr Sharon knew what he was required to do in order to achieve peace. Just two days after Mr Bush's announcement, Mr Sharon took his cabinet on a secret tour of "the fence"—a 230-mile wall, 20ft-high and topped with barbed wire that Israel has begun constructing to separate Palestinians from Israelis. It is ostensibly being built for security reasons, though it also helps to pre-empt territorial negotiations by creating yet more "facts on the ground". When complete, it will extend the length of the West Bank, creeping deep inside Palestinian territory for long stretches. During the tour, Mr Sharon informed his cabinet of plans for another stretch, running the length of the Jordan valley, which will link the two ends of the fence already under construction and totally encircle the West Bank Palestinians, in effect imprisoning them. In the first week of April, Mr Sharon's office approved an unprecedented plan for Jewish settlers to move into a Palestinian district of Jerusalem. It was the first time a Jewish settlement had been built in a Palestinian area of Jerusalem since Israel seized control of the entire city in 1967. So much for the freeze on settlements. Almost immediately, Jewish families began moving into new flats beside the densely populated Arab district of Ras al-Amoud. The settlers were not even poor or homeless Israelis—they included a millionaire, Irving Moskowitz, and his son-in-law Ariel King, a far-right political activist. Worried that Tony Blair was gaining too much influence over President Bush, Mr Sharon also launched a diplomatic offensive against Britain. The British ambassador was summoned to receive a protest note at what Israel described as Mr Blair's "worrying and outrageous" comments linking the war in Iraq to a

resolution on the Palestinian conflict, and at other remarks made by the foreign secretary, Jack Straw. Mr Blair had merely said that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a primary cause of the rift between the Islamic world and the west, and that resolving it would be a British and American priority once the Iraq war was over. Mr Straw had said there was "real concern that the west has been guilty of double standards—on the one hand saying the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Iraq must be implemented, on the other hand, sometimes appearing rather quixotic over the implementation of resolutions about Israel and Palestine". Meanwhile the demolition of Palestinian homes, which is supposed to cease under phase one of the road map, shows no sign of a let-up. During one such demolition in March, Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American peace activist, died under an Israeli bulldozer. Last Friday, James Miller, a British TV journalist, was shot dead while filming another demolition in Gaza. On Thursday, one day after publication of the road map, 12 Palestinians, including a two-year-old boy, were killed when Israeli forces carried out a sweep in Gaza for wanted militants. A report by Reuters news agency noted: "The tank and infantry raid sent a strong signal to... US-led mediators and to the new Palestinian government that Israel would press ahead with such operations despite the new proposal to end 31 months of bloodshed." On the Palestinian side, success of the road map will depend on progress with reforms and allowing Mahmoud Abbas (popularly known as Abu Mazen) to assert his authority as prime minister. It may be too much to hope that Mr Sharon will actually encourage this process, but there are already signs that he is seeking to undermine it. "This new Palestinian government has stepped up to the plate and basically struck out," he said in a television interview. It was an unnecessarily vituperative remark, and even Yossi Sarid, a member of the Knesset security committee, thought so. "It's too early to make any judgments," Mr Sarid said. "Abu Mazen is prime minister since yesterday. We (ourselves) have been making special efforts in the two-and-a-half years since we occupied the (Palestinian) territories and we haven't succeeded in stopping terror. You should give him a chance." None of this bodes well for the road map. The real test is what—if anything—members of the Quartet and the US in particular, are prepared to do in order to enforce compliance with its demands.

Will there be a UN resolution threatening "serious consequences"? Will Mr Bush announce, as he did with Iraq, that "time is running out"? Will Mr Blair, as he did with Iraq, publish dossiers highlighting Israeli human rights abuses and Israeli weapons of mass destruction?

The answer, almost certainly, is no. Which will only add further to the complaints of double standards

Exposed: Blair, Iraq and the great deception

BY BEN RUSSELL
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Tony Blair was charged with deliberately misleading the public over Iraq's weapons of mass destruction yesterday as two former cabinet ministers revealed that MI6 believed Saddam Hussein's arsenal posed no immediate threat.

In an extraordinary public hearing at Westminster, Clare Short and Robin Cook told MPs that intelligence chiefs had concluded that the risk of Saddam using chemical or biological weapons was not high.

Ms Short, the former secretary of state for international development, said Mr Blair was guilty of "honourable deception" and claimed he used "a series of half-truths, exaggerations, reassurances that were not the case to get us into conflict by the spring."

"I believe that the Prime Minister must have concluded that it was honourable and desirable to back the US in going for military action in Iraq and therefore it was honourable for him to persuade us through various ruses and ways to get us there—so for him I think it was an honourable deception," said Ms Short.

Mr Cook, the former foreign secretary, accused ministers of "not presenting the whole picture" and presenting selective evidence to back the case for war.

Both former ministers said Mr Blair exaggerated the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and condemned the Government's dossier on Saddam's arsenal as "shoddy" and "thin".

They spoke out at the start of the all-party Commons Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry into Mr Blair's handling of the run-up to war.

Their testimony, based on detailed

knowledge of intelligence reports from Iraq and personal briefings with senior figures from the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, undermined repeated claims made by Mr Blair and other senior ministers that Saddam represented an imminent threat to the Middle East and world.

Mr Cook told MPs that in his briefing with the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee: "I heard nothing to contradict anything I said in my resignation statement that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction in the understood sense of the term."

Mr Cook, who saw all intelligence reports on Iraq between 1997 and 2001, said he did not believe that Saddam had succeeded in building biological weapons. He revealed that concerns about Iraq had eased to such an extent in the late 1990s that Britain considered "closing the files" on Saddam's nuclear and long-range missile programmes.

Ms Short, who saw raw intelligence reports and was briefed repeatedly by MI6 and the Defence Intelligence Staff before the war, said: "There is a risk, but the risk of use is not high, was probably the tone."

She insisted that she had never heard Mr Blair's now infamous claim that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons "within 45 minutes" in any of her intelligence reports.

Both former ministers bitterly attacked the Government's dossiers on Iraq's weapons. Mr Cook said of the first dossier: "I was taken aback at how thin the dossier was. There was a striking absence of any recent and alarming firm intelligence. The great majority was derivative."

"The plain fact is that a lot of the intelligence in the dossier turned out to be wrong."

"Stripped down, there was very little in that document that presented new

alarming evidence of an imminent threat."

He said the second dossier—criticised as "dodgy" after it was revealed to include material from a PhD thesis culled from the internet—had been a "glorious and spectacular own goal", while Ms Short said it was a "shameful piece of work".

Mr Cook said: "There was a selection of evidence to support a conclusion, rather than a conclusion that arose from a full consideration of the evidence."

Ms Short added: "This phrase 'weapons of mass destruction'. When that is used, people think of bombs full of chemical and biological weapons waiting to rain out of the skies. They don't think of scientists in laboratories doing experiments... That is where the falsity lies. Yes, he [Saddam] was dedicated to scientists carrying out chemical or biological work, but the suggestion to the public was it was all weaponised and a dangerous threat."

Mr Cook said: "Iraq was an appalling difficult intelligence target to break. There was very little human intelligence on the ground and no hope of putting in a Western intelligence agent." But he warned: "The absence of intelligence is a bloody thin ground on which to go to war."

Ms Short used her hour-long appearance to attack Mr Blair's style of government, accusing a cabal of unelected advisers of sidelining the Cabinet and the Foreign Office in the approach to war.

She said: "Things were not decided properly; no records, no papers; in the Prime Minister's study—all informal with a small group of in people."

Downing Street declined to respond to the claims.

Michael Ancram, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "This reinforces our call for an independent judicial inquiry."

Mr. Yahya Mohammed al-Qahera, al-Moatasem School Principal to YT:

“Teachers at present have fallen prey to insults in our school environment”

INTERVIEWED BY
MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is a well-known fact that education is deteriorating a lot in our country. The ignominious conditions of learning inside schools, universities and the absence of a mature learning environment today have all affected the educational process to the core.

The lack of a proper methodical and systematic learning can also stand firmly as a stumbling block hindering any educational improvements. In other words, the lack of educational facilities like libraries, well qualified and experienced teachers, contribute to education process deterioration. We really have a thirst for gaining knowledge and also feel uneasy for such regrettable state of affairs.

All our eyes are focused on the educationists and education ministry to make strenuous efforts for modernizing school basic infrastructure. They are supposed to act seriously and try to save and improve education. The educational issues are one of the most important issues that should be taken into consideration by the political leadership and decision-makers.

Immediate solutions have to be offered in order to update and modernize our education. Taking an interest in education has to be given priority with regard to the state's plans and programs. The society's prosperity and progress is closely related to the learning seekers, their knowledge and their behavior.

They can not be developed unless there are highly developed educational methods and an active modern management to face the ever-increasing educational demand and seeking for modernization as that enjoyed in advanced



Yahya al-Qahera, Principal

countries.

Despite of rapid increase of educational institutions covering all education stages, education in our country doesn't possess the necessary modern factors. It has been greatly deteriorated.

The final desired learning aims are inadequate and don't meet future ambitions. In order to know all about educational reality in our community, a light has been shed on by the Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah al-Qahera, the al-Moatasem School Principal...

Mohammed bin Sallam, from Yemen Times staff has recently interviewed him and filed the following story.

Excerpts:

Q: How do you evaluate current educational situation at al-Moatasem School in particular and in Yemen in general?

A: From the outset, an overall evaluation of the educational reality at al-Moatasem School in particular and in Yemen in general needs a stress on effecting immediate solutions. There should be a focused attention by educational bodies to find solutions and to determine merits and disadvantages of the educational processes and its curricula. Education is in dire need for concentrated efforts to be made. There are numbers of teething problems starting from teachers, curricula, educational aids, school buildings, supervision, desks, water and finally school management, which is one of the most significant factors that determine education success or failure.

Present generation students' attitude towards learning enthusiasm to master basics of learning skills vary from those of earlier generations. After his university degree, a teacher doesn't get enough qualification training. He isn't well-trained for the subject of his specialty, particularly those of the basic education. A special attention has to be paid with regard to the selection of the best qualified teachers for the students at the basic education to guarantee getting positive educational outcomes.

But, more sorrow than in anger, teachers of the basic education are not

qualified enough and the result is reflected upon the students themselves.

I reiterate that the stage of the basic education is the mainstay of our pedagogical and educational reality in our country. When a student is properly and purely taught, the educational standards will undoubtedly be developed. As opposed to this, if our students are taught by incompetent and unqualified teachers, the learning educational outcomes will be too poor.

Q: As for low educational level in our country, where do you think the defect lies?

A: The defect in this case lies teachers themselves. Teachers constitute 60 percent, while the father constitutes just 10 percent. The rest of the percentage should be held accountable by the educational administration and its system. What is needed is to reconsider the educational curricula in accordance with contemporary changes. The present which we live in is so different and therefore we have to adopt brave political decisions.

Q: Can you make a distinction between the private schools the public schools?

A: Curricula are the same in both. Classes at the private schools are not crammed as the situation is at the public schools. As for the al-Moatasem School, the number of students now has been ranging from 60 to 70 students. In

the past, the number of students in each classroom was double. While in the private schools, the number of students in the class doesn't exceed 20 students. In private schools, the English language subject is taught starting from the first grade of the basic education while in the public schools, English is taught at the seventh grade of the basic education. Other educational facilities are fully equipped in private schools. There are many shortages in educational facilities in our public schools.

Private schools activities are better organized by their administrations, such as, music, picnics, sports and other entertainment outdoors activities. Private school management prefers well qualified teachers hired for their schools. The curricula amendments to adapt to contemporary changes have also improved curricula images in a faster manner.

Q: Students nowadays complain of not finishing some text books, what do you think the reasons are behind such a delay?

A: There are a number of reasons behind such educational problem. The education ministry and an absence of an active administration is one reason behind the delay of some school texts. School curricular should be given to students before the beginning of the academic year. The shortage of well-qualified teachers particularly teachers of scientific subjects also causes confu-

sion. If a male teacher becomes sick or that a female teacher in a state of delivery, so they have to take several days or months sick leaves. This in turn has resulted in the delay of delivering lessons to students as a result of unavailability of teachers. In addition to this, the shortage of specialized teachers has become another tangled problem undergone by the majority of the Yemeni schools.

The absence of Yemeni teachers from attending schools without excuses is also another problem posed. This is because; educational proper measures have not been adopted or applied by the education bodies.

Q: Do you prefer male or female teachers in your school and why?

A: Female teachers are the best for the students of the basic education.

But the problem lies in their matrimonial life when they become mothers and that is why their duty sometimes comes to a standstill. But in most cases, male teachers are, no doubt, the best for students at secondary schools. Female teachers at secondary schools are exposed to annoyances and harassment by grown-ups at the secondary schools.

Q: How many hours or days in the whole academic year?

A: The approved period is 6 months in a year. But as a result of religious and national festivals, demonstrations which are staged from time to time, along with sit-ins, the academic year period is shortened. There are also other factors leading to wasting time.

To make it short, time is uselessly wasted and we are in need of reconsidering it in order to fill the gap to educate and assimilate the school curricula. The education ministry should be held accountable in this regard.

Q: What is the role of psychiatrists and social specialists in schools?

A: We have male and female researchers in psychiatry and their job is restricted only to conducting analysis on the students' cases. The researcher in this case is entrusted with a number school-related issues such as, individual cases study, abnormal diagnosis, school drop-outs, student's carelessness to wear the school uniform, cleanliness, and conducting a student-related study in his/her social context. Depending on the researchers' reports we try within the context of the school only to evaluate some of those studies. Regrettably, no due attention has been paid too those studies and researches in order to be documented or to be made use of in order to apply in all schools of the republic.

Q: How do you assess the student-teacher relationship?

A: The student-teacher relationship is too low these days due to the social context or the family where the student lives. The teacher-student or student-teacher relationship is in very deplorable conditions. Let me give you an example. A mother of a student came too furious to our school, because her son was punished by the school administration due to his smoking habit at the school. Do you know what the mother's reaction toward us was? "He is smoking cigarettes at his own expanse and not at school's. Leave him do whatever he wants," the mother says loudly. That is the mother reaction to the school.

This has been also reflected upon the behavior of other students where the family and the home is the original context in order to make either a good or bad student of him. The mother's response was too embarrassing and I don't think that the other Yemeni mothers have the same behaviors. This is not only enough; the teacher himself has fallen prey to insults and indecent words which have become so common those days in our school environment.

Q: In order to rectify student's



Al-Moatasem school

behavior, what is the common disciplinary measure taken against students?

A: Punishing students is always pedagogical and for the interest of the students themselves. We don't use rods as it used to be. Advices are offered to them or physical punishment as standing for a while or dismissing them from the class are the proper disciplinary means for students. This depends on the mistake he makes. Sometimes, we have to take other disciplinary measures such as informing a student's father in order to discuss solutions. Some of students' fathers come to school for this purpose, some others don't.

Q: What about girl students, do you face the same problems as that of boys?

A: The percentage of the problems on part of girl students is less because girl students are by nature more delicate, and quiet. But their social problems are numerous. In spite of those problems, positive results are achieved and felt among them if compared to boys.

Q: What the steps have been taken to tackle teacher-student problems?

A: In this regard, school psychiatrist or social specialist has to study the student's case. Then, the student's father should be informed on his son's behavior. First aid diagnosis is made to him and then the student is brought back to school after taking a commitment for repeating any further mistakes. If such

procedures are proved to be of no avail, we have at length to dismiss him from school. Last year, for instance, three students were dismissed from school due to harassment of a female teacher in the school.

Q: What are the main problems faced by your school?

We sometimes complain of water shortages. This has put us in a very difficult situation before students and teachers as a whole. As that of other schools in the Capital Secretariat, schools are in need to be repaired. During the winter season, students are chilled to the bone because of broken window panes during all the academic year. In addition to this, there is no school doctor in order to take care of cases in our school. The main problem also is the shortage of chairs.

As a result of this, some of the students have to sit on the ground.

Q: Any last comment?

A: During the last years, the school underwent delay in finishing the school scheduled curricula. But as a result of appointing Mr. Yahya al-Makhethi, the Education Office Director. We don't also too much indebted to Mr. Zaid Ashatebi, the Educational Unit Zone Director for his full understanding of his role to settle a number of problems.

But presently, most of those issues have been overcome.

I'm totally against working on Thursdays, because it proves to be of no avail.

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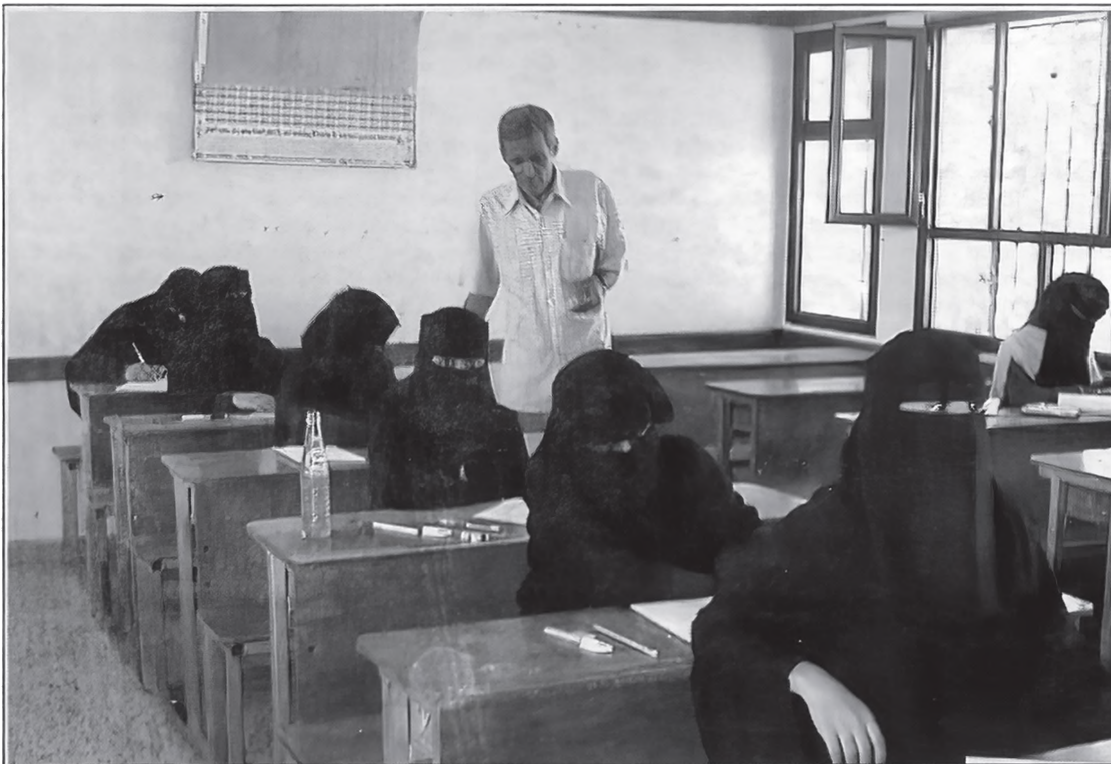
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Secondary girl students during their final examinations, no worries

Taj Sheba celebrates World Environment Day

The World Environment Day for 2003 was celebrated by Taj Sheba Hotel with lot of vigor and zest. It all began with the early morning visit to the Sana'a International Airport to welcome the passengers of Yemenia flight IY 743 from London at 06.15 a.m.

The passengers arriving in the morning were pleased by the warm welcome they received with a flower and World Environment Day Badge carrying the message 'Water - Two billion people are dying for it'. Once they were out of the arrival lounge the Taj Sheba team greeted the passengers with placards carrying messages to Save Water for the future. All guests staying in the hotel were handed over WED badges.

Staff members and students from the Indian Embassy School formed a



Passengers arriving at the Sana'a International airport are welcomed with flower and issued WED badges



Staff volunteers greet the passengers with placards carrying messages to save water



Human Chain in front of the hotel carrying placards with messages, in order to spread awareness amongst the general public that 'Water is important'.

Taj Sheba Hotel then co-hosted a function with the local Water & Environment Ministry, Environment Programmed Authority, United Nations Environment Program and United Nations Development Program which was represented by H.E. Dr. Mohammed L. Al-Eryani - Minister of Water & Environment, HE Dr. Mohammed El-Mashjari, EPA Chairman, Dr. Hashmi Al Shami, FAO Representative, HE Ahmed Al Kholani, Mayor of Sana'a and Mr. Marwan Hamdun, Resident Manager, Taj Sheba Hotel and attended by a large number of important dignitaries from various Embassies and Government agencies.



A folder containing UN speeches, Water saving tips, etc were handed over to each invitee. The Indian Embassy School & the Al Salaam School sang appropriate songs for the occasion.

H.E. Mohammed L. El Iryani at the close chose three picture posters that were painted by the staff members the previous day. The theme : Water conservation. Ms. Lakshmi Devi - Front Office, Mr. Fuad Hameed - Housekeeping and Mr. Raol D'Souza - Food & Beverage posters were chosen by His Excellency as the first three best posters.



1st prize: Ms. Lakshmi Devi - front office
2nd prize: Mr. Fuad Hameed - Housekeeping
3rd Prize: Mr. Raol D'souza - F&B services

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Unionist organiza-
tion, 17 June 2003.

Columnist Hashim al-Azazi says in his article that the Americans are enemies of all the world and particularly the Arabs and Muslims. They are enemies of freedom and progress and ideology. They have fought against the Arab revolution, killed leaders of liberationist movements. They have supported and backed the reactionary, racist and tribal regimes in Asia and Africa. They themselves have supported and sided with the creation of a cancerous state on the Palestinian territories. The Americans history of their relations with the Arabs is besmeared with blood of the innocent. What is going now in Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq is the striking evidence of their rancor and aggressiveness and brutality. Since their occupation of Iraq they have been practicing all act of killing the innocent. They storm people houses to steal their contents, send the youth to camps of collective prison camps and subject them to all sorts of torture, psychological and physical. These invaders have changed the cities of Iraq into gardens of diseases and fear and yards for looters and traitors. All that and more happens in Iraq and against that there is an Arab regimes fear and inability. There also the silence of Arab and Islamic parties, and this is another disaster.



As-Sahwa weekly,
19 June 2003.

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article the General People's Congress party has won the vote of confidence in the parliament. That was expected. The amazing thing was the irresponsi-

ble campaign launched by official newspapers against the opponents of the program. It is regrettable that the narrow-minded mentality maintains thinking that whatever the government says or does is correct. Nevertheless the submitting of the program inside the parliament has shaken the stagnant waters in the democratic behavior. When the prime minister took the floor to read out his government program before its distribution of the copies among the MPs they protested his move because they have the right to read and discuss it. The prime minister was forced to back down and give his directives to distribute copies of the program. The other thing is that comments of heads of parliamentary blocs were positive. Those comments have touched the main gaps in the program. The parliament has committed itself to the regulation and left the three blocks a space of time to discuss the program. The other aspect is that many of the GPC party representatives criticized the program. On the last day of the discussion the prime minister lost his patience because of the remarks and showed he was not ready to respond to them.



Al-Thawri weekly,
organ of the YSP,
19 June 2003.

Columnist Mohammed Qassem Nouman says responses of those who citizens took part in parliamentary elections, especially those who participated in the constituencies where rigging has happened, are undoubtedly characterized by having a big shock while they were following up the way of voting and vote counting. They would have been particularly shocked by the sight of children used for harming the voters' electoral will or the buying of voices. Results of vote counting reflected that rigging and falsification. That has generated frustration and fears in the citizens whose

Main front-page headlines published in Yemeni newspapers this week

- 29th anniversary of 13 June movement
- Military facilities for American in Yemen, Djibouti, Oman, Qatar
- Opposition parliamentary bloc: Government has not tackled poverty and unemployment, new "doses"
- Worshippers arrested from inside he grand mosque in Sana'a
- Yemen, Djibouti... joint coordination to enhance stability
- Wadea' - Al-Abar inlet to operate next month
- Shoura Council discusses food safety
- Distribution of 6164 computers in the capital and governorates
- Arab national conference to be held in Sana'a
- The president visits Germany and France
- Yemen to take part in international economic conference in Jordan
- New oil explorations in Hadramout
- Parliament speaker refuses government program
- Emirates security hand over Sana'a six Yemenis suspected to have links to extremist Islamic groups
- American security team inspects measures at Aden seaport
- government raises salaries of Americans and foreigners in Hunt by 50%, deprives Yemeni employees
- Iraqi universities agree to return of Yemeni students who stayed in Iraq
- Government program disappointing
- Young man strangles himself in Sana'a
- American Navy threatens to sink ships crossing Bab El Mandab and Aden Gulf
- Trial of Jarallah Omar killer postponed
- World Bank accuses Yemen's ruling regime of corruption
- In lbb; Campaigns of dismissal, chase of opposition activists
- Aden authorities arrest sons of textile workers on strike
- CIA: Al-Qaeda intends to hit American nuclear installations
- Security defuses a bomb in Hadda hotel
- Coast Guard authority receives first batch of gunboats
- Expected changes in state institutions

will got damaged due to such non-democratic behavior. Those have formed a grave damage to democracy and human rights and weakened the hopes for positive democratic changes. Those were no doubt an offense to the ruling system and the officials in addition to their being outrageous evidence on the nature of the democracy that is attempted to be sold outside despite its corruption inside. The more dangerous things are the effects created with the citizens who are living the contradictions of rulers represented by the difference between their sayings and their action on the ground.



Al-Balagh weekly,
17 June 2003.

Columnist Faez al-Makhrafi remarks that the new ministers have a two-year space of time for rooting out corruption and neutralize the opportunists and those who utilize the atmosphere that is convenient for extortion in government institutions. The ministers themselves are now positioned before the law that has defined the duties, responsibilities and punishments. They would either work within the framework of the laws and regulations to remove corruption or to act outside that framework and try certain methods to deal with the laws contrary to their dictates. Thus, they would contribute to prolongate the time of corruption and corrupts for more years.

The roots of corruption are now strong and the government is under a difficult rest and its itinerary is under watch. True, the waves of corruption during the former governments have hindered the governments performance and made them unable to meet their commitments towards the citizens, but now it seems there is a desire for change. That, however, does not mean that change is going to happen

for sure. Signs of hope in success in this regard is that the ministries should publish their information and data in order to make them available for the public opinion and to broaden their democratic margin. This is important to get help in their process and effort aimed at eliminating corruption and punish the corrupt.



26 September
weekly, organ of
Yemen Armed
Forces 19 June
2003.

The newspaper editorial says the feverish and escalated information and political campaigns launched against the two Palestinian movements of Hamas and Jihad are meant to be an attempt to attach the the accusation of terror to them. The main goal is to cover to the real terror the Zionist occupation soldiers are committing against the Palestinian people. Those forces have not spared any means and method of destruction and spilling blood of innocent Palestinian children and women. Their terror reaches to its most unsightly forms by carrying out assassination crimes against Palestinian political civilian leaders. Things are going on under circumstances of double standard and therefore all concepts are quite the contrary and give adverse meaning aimed at forcing the Palestinian people to offer concessions and surrender to the terrorist logic of Sharon. Those who are besieging the Palestinian struggle under accusation of terror have to, out of ethical and humane stand, condemn seriously the ugly criminal practices the Zionist occupation force are perpetrating everyday in the Palestinian territories.

It has become clear that the aim behind these feverish campaigns against Hamas and Jihad is not to establish peace and the Palestinian state, but to move the confrontation into a Palestinian-Palestinian war.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahran

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday congratulated Shimon Peres on his election as leader of the Israeli Labor party. During his phone call with Peres, Mubarak wished the former Israeli prime minister the best luck in his new mission given the fact that the region was passing through a very critical situation.

Al Akhbar

President Mubarak on Friday mandated Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher to lead Egypt's delegation to an extraordinary meeting of the World Economic Forum in Jordan. Maher will also meet his counterparts of member states of the international quartet, which draft-

ed the roadmap peace plan for the Middle East.

Al Gomhuria

An Iraqi trade delegation is due in Cairo next week to hold talks on importing Egyptian products to meet the demand of the Iraqi market. The delegation will also discuss participation of Egyptian companies in Iraqi reconstruction and infrastructure projects.

Egyptian Mail

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana on Friday said his organization strongly supports the Egyptian diplomatic efforts to end violence between the Palestinian radical factions and Israel.

Pakistan

The News

A policeman, who recently arrested several suspected Islamic militants planning terrorist attacks, was shot and killed along with a relative in southern Karachi, police said Friday.

The Nation

Ruling out resignation from the office, National Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain Friday said he would whole-heartedly accept the verdict of the House on no-confidence motion submitted against him by the opposition.

German

Die Welt

Germany's parliamentary leader of the ruling SPD, Franze Muentefering, believes that an earlier implementation of tax reform is "more and more likely".

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The European Union (EU) summiters regard the draft EU constitution prepared by a convention is a good starting point.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung

The strikes by metalworkers in eastern Germany will have large effect on regional economy and jobs.

Britain

The Guardian

The newly promoted leader of the Commons, Peter Hain, was publicly and humiliatingly kicked back into line on Friday after British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown reprimanded him for having suggested that the wealthy should pay more income tax.

The Independent

The Church of England descended into bitter internal feuding on Friday when Anglican leaders across the world warned of a pending schism over the appointment of a gay theologian as Bishop of Reading.

The Financial Times

Europe's leaders have agreed to relaunch the European Union next

spring with a second Treaty of Rome, including in their plans the possible creation of a powerful foreign ministry.

The Daily Telegraph

An American newspaper, the Christian Science Monitor, apologized on Friday to Britain's suspended labor MP George Galloway for falsely alleging that he received more than 6 million pounds (about 10 million US dollars) from Saddam Hussein's regime.

The Times

The Royal Mint of Britain has created its first 1000-pound gold coin to mark Prince William's 21st birthday, which falls on Saturday. The face value has been the highest for a United Kingdom coin.

U.S.A

The Washington Post

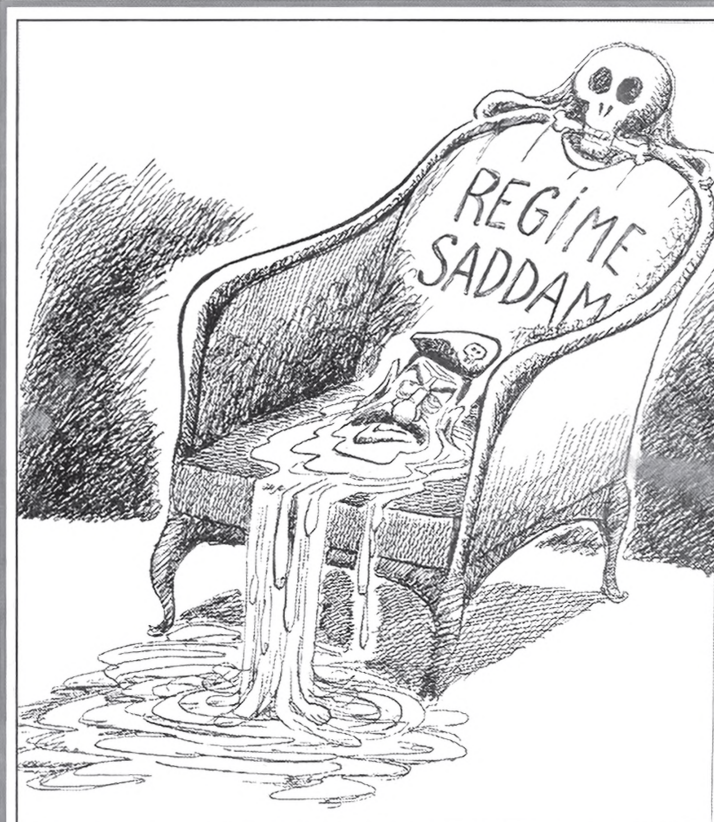
Thirty months after leaving the White House draped in controversy, the Clintons are again dominating Democratic politics in Washington and beyond.

The new US embassy in Kenya was closed after a "serious terrorist threat."

The New York Times

A top lieutenant to ousted President Saddam Hussein has told American interrogators that the Iraqi leader and his two sons sur-

vived the US-led war in Iraq and that he himself had fled to Syria with the sons after the conflict. US Defense Department officials said Friday. US Secretary of State Colin Powell pressed Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Friday to accept a plan that would let the Palestinian Authority control security in the entire Gaza Strip, not just the northern sector. But he ran into an impasse over Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's demand that Israel maintain a military presence on a major thoroughfare in the area.



The World & I

عمارة للإيجار في شارع الزبيري

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

Improve Your English



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I. What to say

Situations and expressions (52): Complaints

A complaint is a statement that expresses our annoyance, unhappiness, pain, dissatisfaction about somebody or something that causes trouble. The language of a complaint can vary from a mild expression of dissatisfaction to a potentially strong idiom intended to hurt someone's feelings. Here are a few expressions of complaint.

- It's unfortunate that the local council should turn a deaf ear to our genuine and longstanding grievances.
- It's scandalous that the government ignores the basic health care measures.
- I am fed up with the way things are mismanaged here.
- We have had enough of being ill-treated. It has crossed all limits of our power of tolerance.
- The decision of the authorities is most irrational. Now agitation seems to be the only way out.
- The court's verdict is arbitrary and autocratic. We have to ring the bells of the high court.
- He has a jaundiced vision. It's pointless to broach him for a favor
- You are anything but fair in your estimation.
- Enough is enough. I never expected, not even in my wildest imagination, to be cold-shouldered in such a way.
- There is a limit to humiliation, that to in public.
- I fail to understand his logic.
- His views don't stand to reason.
- We expect them to be more objective, more understanding and to have a more reasonable stand.
- How on earth can people be so insensitive!
- I fail to understand why things should be the way they are.
- His looseness has assumed frightful proportions.
- Anyone would be irked by his uncouth manners.
- You may fool some people for some time, but not all people for all time.
- I am appalled by his attitude of vilifying others
- I can't stand his officious arrogance.
- I find it increasingly difficult to put up with his impertinence.
- It's well nigh impossible for us to be a party to the current state of affairs.
- How can one be expected to be a mute spectator to the horrifying trend of events?
- I can't bear him bent upon embarrassing me in public.
- We can't any longer bear our neighbor's children committing such nuisance.
- I can't stand the way some people complain all the time.
- You are expected to come out of your cocoon and be yourself.
- It's really sad that you are heedless about my repeated warnings not to be late for the arrangements made.
- It's getting on my nerves that they call on us without prior appointment and stay so late.
- Noise pollution in the neighborhood has assumed an alarming proportion.
- How do you explain such incredible naivete?
- Is it too much to expect courtesy and decorum from the so-called enlightened elite like you?
- Accomplished people are supposed to demonstrate a greater degree of maturity and vision.
- His inflated ego puts an iron curtain between him and others.
- He is a liability on us because of his inefficiency.
- It's hurtful to see things fall apart because the center cannot hold.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

- Ahmed is seeing this film now.
- She cleaned the house now.
- The building which she lives in is very old.
- I was born on 1947.

- Summer comes among spring and autumn.

Suggested answers to last week's questions:

- You should keep your hands **clean**.
- I bought a book **for** YR 600.
- Seyoun is **farther** than Sana'a.
- They played football **in** the rain.
- The number of students is increasing every year.

III. Increase your word power

(a) How to express it in one word

- Series of events taking place in a regularly repeated order.
- A very violent wind moving in a circle
- Somebody that draws everyone's attention
- The scientific study of cells
- Something bad that may happen at any time

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Fixed or settled in advance: **cut- and- dried** (adj.)
- Reduction to an earlier rate: **cut-back** (n.)
- Delightfully pretty and often small: **cute** (adj.)
- Sold at a price below the standard charge: **cut-rate** (adj.)
- The scientific study of the way in which information is moved about and controlled in the brain **cybernetics** (n.)

(b) Foreign phrases and expressions

Give the English equivalents of the following expressions

- bibliotaph; 2. bibliography; 3. cacophony; 4. caesura; 5. calendar

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- bibliopole** (Gk.): A book seller or book dealer
- bibliogony** (Gk.): The production of books
- bibliolatriy** (Gk.): An excessive devotion to or reverence of a book
- bibliomania** (Gk.): A maniac devotion to the collection and possession of books
- bibliophile** (Gk.): One who collects, cherishes and preserves books

(c) Words commonly confused

Bring out the meaning differences in the following pairs of words

- alysum, asylum 2. alumna, alumina
- altitude, attitude 4. already, all ready
- almost, nearly, practically

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- defy** (Vt.) (resist openly): I daren't defy the Dean's orders.
deify (Vt.) (worship as a god): Film stars like Amitabh Bachhan are deified by their fans.
- expatriate** (Vt.) (leave one's own country to live abroad): Many ambitious young professionals expatriate to western countries in search of a comfortable living.
repatriate (Vt.) (send or bring back to his own country): Many refugees are being repatriated to their own country.
- bear** (Vt.) (to suffer or accept something unpleasant without complaining): 'There's nothing we can do about it, so we'll just have to grin and bear it'.
endure (Vt.) (to bear pain, suffering, etc. patiently for a long time): 'What cannot be cured must be endured'.
- stand** (Vi.& T.) (to accept successfully): He wants to marry her, but she can't stand the sight of him
tolerate (Vt.) (allow or endure without protest): I would no longer tolerate his impertinence.

(d) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences

- appeal** to (make an earnest request to somebody for something): The accused appealed to the judge for mercy
- worlds apart** (completely different): Although they are brothers, their ways of life are worlds apart

- apart from** (independently of): Apart from being an extremely knowledgeable person, he is a philanthropist, too.
- any body's guess** (a matter of uncertainty): If such chaotic conditions prevail, the country's future is any body's guess.
- at any rate** (whatever may happen): At any rate we have to achieve the target.

IV Grammar and composition

(a) Grammar

Choose the appropriate word from within the brackets and fill in the blank

- When the tractor faces....., it looks like a living creature. (problems, an obstacle, hunters)
- The Rector asked the Dean to..... the matter. (look up, look at, look into, look for)
- The accused was..... of lying. (convinced, convicted, conceived)
- When animals sensed danger, they began to..... (run out, run away)
- She couldn'ther father that she was telling the truth. (tell, convince, assure, prove)

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Last night I went to see a play which was rather **moving**.
- As I came out of the theater I saw Hamid who I had thought was in India. Imagine my **amazement** when he told me that he had got married to my student Aziza.
- I asked him how he was, and he said that he was **ecstatic**.
- When I expressed my **amazement** he was rather taken aback because he thought I was jealous.
- This made me **furious** because I was never jealous.
- When he saw how **upset** I was, he apologized.

(b) Composition : Paragraph writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

22. HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

Suggested answer to the last week's question

21. TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGIVE DIVINE

Each one of us makes mistakes of one kind or another. Our mistakes are the outcome of our ignorance, lack of far-sight pride, prejudice, fear, greed or some such thing. Very often we are misguided by our impulse and passions when our reason takes the backseat. We are eventually blinded by selfishness, pride and ambition. They distract our conscience and we are tempted to commit a blunder. But in spite of the knowledge about every man's proneness to make mistakes, we bitterly criticize the one who has made a mistake, little realizing that we ourselves may commit the same, or even a worse folly. Great teachers of humanity have taught us the value of the divine virtue of forgiveness. They have exalted mercy and condemned revengefulness. Mercy is twice blest. It blesses the receiver and the giver as well.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

“...Our Lord forgive us
Our sins and anything
We may have done
That transgressed our duty:
Establish our feet firmly,
And help us against
Those that resist Faith”
S.3A.147

VI. Words of wisdom

“Memory, the daughter of attention, is the teeming mother of knowledge”

—Tupper

Language and Literature: A symbiotic relationship

Teaching language through literature: Problems and Principles (PART 3)



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Summary of Part 2

The art of thematic organization of ideas in writing can be imbibed by the learners of EFL by an intensive, sustained and assimilative exposure to good samples of organized non-literary writing so that the input of literary texts can give quicker and more lasting results. The energy and vitality in the use of the vast mechanics of expression with over-powering vitality can come from a study of literary texts which functions as a mega nutrient to enrich our knowledge of the language. Literature can sharpen our analytical awareness of the structure of a language.

As far as teaching *about* language is concerned, literature can sharpen our analytical awareness of the structure of a language by providing elegant examples of the patterns and structures in that language. This does not mean that literature can and should replace grammar; it only means that literature can supplement and invigorate the analytical awareness to be imparted by grammar and that an involved reading of judiciously selected literature can not only develop excellence in the use of language, it can also enrich our analytical awareness of how language functions at the level of grammar.

It is often thought mistakenly that by doing functional courses in language, i.e., in reading, writing, grammar and the like, students should acquire a reasonable degree of the mastery of the basic mechanisms of the language *before* they should start reading literature. The complexity and creativity in the use of language in literature is of a much higher order than in the day-to-day use of language and students should build a solid linguistic foundation before they build a superstructure. This attitude seems to have its roots in the unstated but widely held mistaken assumption about literature. For most decision-makers and syllabus-designers responsible for the teaching of English in schools and colleges, literature is and has been unabridged classics and nothing but classics and it has always been assumed that if someone wants to read literature, he must read great milestones of literature like *Hamlet*, *Tom Jones*, *The Waste Land* or *Waiting for Godot* in their original form. But if we consider texts from the point of view of their literariness, we will soon realize that the boundary line between literary and non-literary texts is vague and elusive and that literature should better be understood as a cline with genres like poetry and drama at one end of that cline and items like jokes, anecdotes, proverbs, parables, aphoristic and epigrammatic quotations, and children's stories about mermaids, fairies and magicians at the other end. The view taken in this paper is that anything that is emotively appealing and imaginatively sustaining, anything that appeals to us as something more inspiring and elevating than the characteristic use of language in our day-to-day life can legitimately be considered to be literature in its wide sense. In this sense, children's literature is also literature. And as literature is something larger than classics, i.e., as literature includes children's literature as well, we cannot deny that literature can be used for teaching language right from the beginning.

The current practice of teaching literature

The arguments stated above, i.e., the arguments in favor of teaching literature should not be taken to mean, however, that literature should continue to be taught the way it is being taught in most places in L2 countries, in many universities in Yemen, for example. In such universities, teaching literature is, in my opinion, only an exercise in futility, if not an enormous waste of human and financial resources. This strong statement of mine is based on the following observations.

1. The teaching of literature in many of these universities is marked by an escape from the text. What the student does in such cases is to collect from histories of literature and from similar other sources, information about the life of the author, the type and extent of likely influences on his writings, the social and cultural contexts in which the author wrote, and the literary traditions and conventions related to his work and so on, but pays only marginal attention, if any at all, to the actual text being studied. I. A. Richards tried to demonstrate that the traditional type of extrinsic information about authorship, date, etc. inhibited the reader's capacity to read and respond naturally to a text and demonstrated that a text could be efficiently evaluated exclusively on the basis of its intrinsic information, i.e., information contained in the text itself.

There is a great deal of truth in Richards' views regarding the dispensability of extrinsic information about a literary text. Extrinsic information about a text can and does inhibit a spontaneous response in many cases, particularly in the case of students who have yet to acquire the maturity and the literary competence necessary for evaluating a text. It would be wrong, however, to assert, as Richards did, that the evaluation of a literary text ought to be based exclusively on intrinsic information. Literature is born out of a dynamic interaction of the man, the moment and the milieu. So, in spite of all that has been and can be said against the biographical school of criticism, it cannot be altogether denied that the man who suffers and the artist in him who creates are often so intricately linked and so much mutually dependent that no advanced study of a literary text can ever be meaningful unless we relate his writings to those incidents and episodes in his life which are likely to have influenced the quality and the structure of those writings. Similarly, no one can deny that studying a text in the context of the literary and cultural traditions in which it was written is often helpful. Discussing the role of tradition in the shaping of a poet's sensibility, Eliot (1951:14) once said that the historical sense which forms the basis of being traditional involves "a perception not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presentness" and is something that urges a poet to "write not merely with his own generation in his bones, but with a feeling that the whole of the literature of Europe... has a simultaneous existence and composes a simultaneous order." A study of the cultural tradition certainly should lead to a better understanding of a great work of literature. What is really unfortunate is the fact that in many cases collecting information about the biographical details of the author and about the context in which it was produced becomes a substitute for an intensive reading of the prescribed text. My survey shows that there are a substantial number of students who pass the examination in literature courses, in a course like Renaissance Drama or Twentieth Century Novel, for example, and even get good grades in these courses without reading the whole novel or the whole play even once.

2. Something related to this is the fact that what students of literature generally acquire at the end of the course, if anything at all, is knowledge *about* literature and not knowledge *of* literature. A certain amount of knowledge about literature may be desirable at an advanced stage of reading literature but what unfortunately happens is that students are fed with the untimely diet of critical material before they can enthusiastically and perceptively read and enjoy literature. Brumfit's observation in this connection is worth quoting. He says:

The first stage will be concerned with enabling students to 'experience' literature; the second will enable them to describe, explain or otherwise account for the experience. But, in my view, the error of much literature teaching is that, in practice, it reverses this process. (Brumfit 1985:122)

Students get ideas about critical concepts first and then try to fit the texts being studied under any one of the critical concepts. They read *about* their texts first and then read *those* literary texts, if they read them at all. As Brumfit has said "Only when we have responded to literature, should we be asked to understand literary theory, whether structuralist, deconstructionist or traditional." The vital fact that gets ignored in this situation is that literature teaching is about abilities and not knowledge.

To be continued

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

Animal	Clean	Health	Name	Shelter
Attention	Collie	Home	Need	Shop
Backyard	Coat	Husky	Nutrition	Siamese
Bark	Cockatiel	Jaws	Obey	Small
Barn	Collar	Jump	Owner	Snake
Basket	Command	Keep	Parakeet	Soap
Basset	Companion	Kennel	Parrot	Spaniel
Beagle	Cost	Kitten	Paws	Species
Best	Cute	Leash	Pedigree	Strong
Bird	Diet	Legs	Perch	Tail
Bouvier	Doberman	Like	Pick	Teeth
Breed	Domestic	Litter	Play	Temperament
Cage	Duck	Lizard	Pointer	Toys
Canary	Exercise	Love	Pony	Trained
Care	Food	Male	Prefer	Turtle
Carry	Friend	Meow	Purr	Wash
Cats	Grow	Mouse	Rabbit	Watch
Certificate	Hair	Moves	Race	
Claws	Hamster	Muzzle	Sell	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Outstanding

PETS ARE LOVABLE

Solution: 11 letters

C	E	R	T	I	F	I	C	A	T	E	E	P	W	E	L	T	R	U	T
N	O	I	T	N	E	T	T	A	S	V	Y	O	S	T	R	O	N	G	I
O	C	M	O	M	L	D	I	U	O	R	R	R	N	E	T	T	I	K	B
I	Y	A	P	R	R	L	O	L	E	G	S	H	A	M	S	T	E	R	B
T	N	K	R	A	B	M	E	T	H	L	T	T	U	N	U	M	S	C	A
I	O	U	Z	E	N	S	N	S	S	L	D	E	A	S	A	Z	K	O	R
R	P	I	P	C	I	I	H	D	A	A	E	K	S	N	K	C	Z	L	C
T	L	E	A	C	O	A	O	E	E	M	E	S	E	R	U	Y	T	L	L
U	A	R	R	P	S	M	H	N	L	S	N	A	V	D	N	A	E	A	E
N	R	E	R	Y	E	E	M	I	O	T	R	B	O	A	O	L	L	R	I
Y	X	H	O	S	K	S	P	A	W	S	E	O	M	C	N	P	G	E	N
E	P	T	T	T	O	E	P	R	N	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	A	I	A
E	L	I	K	E	B	L	E	T	E	D	E	G	A	C	A	L	E	V	P
R	C	W	C	E	E	I	P	P	R	B	R	M	D	E	E	R	B	U	S
G	O	A	H	K	Y	T	E	M	O	H	P	A	C	N	L	H	A	O	A
I	L	S	T	A	C	T	S	D	U	H	I	L	N	U	C	C	S	B	N
D	L	H	D	R	I	E	S	W	A	J	S	E	R	T	T	R	S	E	I
E	I	I	A	A	D	R	I	B	A	C	K	Y	A	R	D	E	E	S	M
P	E	C	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	L	A	W	B	N	D	S	P	T	A
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Govou puts France into Cup semi-finals

By Trevor Huggins

ST ETIENNE, France (Reuters) - France striker Sidney Govou has fired the holders into the Confederations Cup semi-finals with an unconvincing 2-1 win over Japan in Group A.

Govou lashed home the 66th minute winner after Robert Pires, captaining France for the first time, had converted a 43rd minute penalty before Shunsuke Nakamura deservedly levelled for Japan on the hour mark.

Friday's win was marred only by a stoppage-time red card for France defender Willy Sagnol.

France, who beat Colombia 1-0 in their opener, have six points, while Japan and the Colombians, who beat 10-man New Zealand 3-1 earlier on Friday, both have three points before the final round of matches. The top two go into the semi-finals.

Japan, looking for revenge after their 1-0 defeat by France in the 2001 Confederations Cup final, played the better football in the first half and hit the woodwork in a spirited closing assault on the France goal at the Stade Geoffroy Guichard.

France coach Jacques Santini, missing his midfield trio of Zinedine Zidane, Claude Makelele and Patrick Vieira through club duty and injury, retained only midfielder Olivier Dacourt from the starting 11 of their laboured win over Colombia.

Fabien Barthez returned between the posts and midfielder Pires was given an unfamiliar role on the right flank.

Sloppy passing

France, often let down by sloppy passing, failed to make any headway against a well-drilled Japanese defence in the first half and were given little or no room in the middle of the park.

At the other end, Japan's neat passing game, orchestrated by skipper Hidetoshi Nakata and Nakamura, was more impressive but consistently ran out of steam around the penalty area.



Sidney Govou of France (2nd from L) is congratulated by team mates Steve Marlet (L), Jean-Alain Bounsang and Mikael Silvestre (R) after scoring the second goal for his team against Japan in their Confederations tournament match at Geoffroy Guichard stadium in Saint Etienne, central France, June 20. France won 2-1. REUTERS/Robert Pratta

The 33,000 crowd, who did the Mexican wave to relieve the tedium, were finally roused by the first scoring chance in the 26th minute — when Govou headed wide from a Steve Marlet cross.

But the flowing football was all coming from Japan and the crowd had just begun booing, whistling and calling for Thierry Henry to be sent on when calamity struck for Zico's Japan.

Junichi Inamoto, outstanding in the Japanese side's World Cup run on home soil last year, needlessly tugged the shirt of defender Jean-Alain Bounsang and Pires, Inamoto's former team mate during his spell at Arsenal, tucked home a low spot-kick.

France fared little better after the restart and the fans' demands for pacy striker Henry became ever more insistent.

Japan were finally rewarded for their efforts when Nakamura, who scored twice in their 3-0 win over New

Zealand, curled a free-kick in off the far post, leaving Barthez stranded.

Six minutes later, though, the hosts dug themselves out of trouble when Govou latched on to a long ball deep into the box and crashed home an unstoppable shot.

Japan shrugged off the setback and Nakata should have levelled minutes later, only to volley wide from close range, while Yasuhito Endo beat Barthez with another free-kick — this time the ball hitting the bar and bouncing out.

Nakamura followed up with a superb shot but a deserved equaliser never came, while Henry finally arrived for France in the 80th minute and Sagnol was dismissed for a tackle on Nakata.

France round off their group games against New Zealand on Sunday in Paris when they will be joined in the semi-finals by the winners of Japan's match against Colombia in St Etienne.

7-Day Weather Forecast

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Mon			Mon		
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Fri			Fri		
	31	14		40	28
Sat			Sat		
	31	14		39	28
Sun			Sun		
	31	14		39	27



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Your energy may be high, but if you don't channel it, there will be all sorts of consequences to deal with. Your efforts will produce some of your best work.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
Avoid confrontations with anyone you happen to be working with. Getting upset with other people's incompetence will be a waste of time.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
Take advantage of networking functions you can attend. You stand a good chance of finding someone interested in what you are doing and willing to give you a hand. Travel will lead to new prospects.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Keep busy today. A little extra work may bring financial gains. You will have some professional opportunities, but if you are stubborn you may miss out.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You will be the center of attention today, no matter where you are or what you do. Most important is being active and doing something that you enjoy.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Don't take financial risks today. You can make money if you are conservative in your dealings and avoid joint ventures.



Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Partnerships will be all-consuming today. Be ready to counteract any mishap that might occur due to a misunderstanding. Be open, up-front and precise.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You can make headway if you are willing to go the extra mile at work. You will discover new methods that will help you do your job with ease. Stand up and say what's on your mind.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Get involved in something that you find stimulating. You will have the competitive edge, so do everything with confidence. Be progressive, positive and productive.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will find yourself in the doghouse if you have neglected your responsibilities. Personal investments should pay off if you are diligent about the way you handle things.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You will be in the mood to discuss your ideas and opinions, so be sure to get together with friends.



Pisces
(Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Be forceful in your actions and let everyone see how much of a take-charge person you can be. Get together with colleagues who can help you achieve your goals.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



Apple expected to preview next OS X on Monday

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Steve Jobs, co-founder and chief executive of Apple Computer Inc. AAPL.O, on Monday will likely preview the next version of Apple's OS X operating system, financial analysts said.

Analysts who follow Apple also expect the computer maker to dish out details of a faster microprocessor for the Macintosh.

Apple officials were not immediately available to comment.

Apple has said, however, that it will preview the next version of OS X, code-named Panther, before releasing it. Analysts expect it to contain significant refinements of what is already regarded as a stable, reliable and sleek operating system.

As for a refreshed Macintosh microprocessor, a faster chip made by International Business Machines Corp. IBM.N could help close what has been called the "gigahertz gap" between Apple's PowerPC chips and those from Intel Corp. INTC.O.

"Apple could preview its next-generation platform based on the long-awaited G5 chip," wrote Bear Stearns analyst Andrew Neff in a note to clients.

It has been a big year for Apple, which launched its own online music store — backed by record labels — in April. The service lets users download songs for 99 cents apiece with no subscription fee, unlike other online music services.

"The chip refresh, which people are calling the G5, seems to be a pretty obvious one," said Roger Kay, an analyst for market researcher IDC.

Jobs is expected to take center stage next week at the Moscone West convention center in San Francisco to give a keynote speech at the company's Worldwide Developer Conference.

Typically, Apple saves its biggest announcements for the Macworld Expo, held twice yearly. But this year, Jobs is not scheduled to appear at the Macworld CreativePro event next month in New York.

Market share at a low

Apple has seen its market share of the personal computer market dwindle to 2 percent worldwide, and while credited for sleek, well-designed and easy-to-use computers, has not had much success in increasing sales of its Macintosh computers, particularly desktops, Kay said.

"That's a historical low," Kay said of Apple's market share.

But some analysts see the new IBM 970 processor, referred to by some as the G5, as helping to change that.

"Sales of Apple's high-end PowerMac family, which have fallen for two years, could rebound beginning in the first quarter of fiscal 2004 because of an alignment of three key PowerMac sales drivers," wrote Needham & Co. analyst Charles Wolf in a note to clients.

He pointed to new PowerMacs using the faster chip that he expects to be introduced on Monday; Quark Express, one of the most popular desktop publishing software programs, has been released for Mac OS X; and the advertising market for the fall television season has shown "surprising strength."

This last factor, Wolf said, could augur for increased demand for the PowerMac among graphics professionals.

Wolf also cited continuing momentum for Apple's online music store, which is incorporated into its iTunes digital music software, which he said has sold 3.5 million downloads in the past six weeks.

PeopleSoft rejects sweetened oracle bid

BY ERIC AUCHARD AND LISA BAERTLEIN

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - PeopleSoft Inc. on Friday rejected a sweetened \$6.3-billion hostile bid from Oracle Corp., and paved the way for a white knight bidder to step in and challenge the offer from its bigger rival.

Meanwhile, Oracle Chief Executive Larry Ellison took his case to PeopleSoft customers, vowing to develop PeopleSoft's products for at least a decade if the merger went through.

The two companies have been engaged in a bitter exchange since June 6, when Oracle offered to buy PeopleSoft for \$5.1 billion. PeopleSoft responded days later by accelerating and adding cash to its own \$1.75 billion bid for smaller software maker J.D. Edwards & Co. JDEC.O in a move widely seen as a tactic to thwart Oracle.

Redwood Shores, California-based Oracle ORCL.O, the world's No. 2 software maker, on Wednesday raised its bid for rival PeopleSoft from to \$19.50 a share \$16, only to have it rejected by PeopleSoft's board as too low.

PeopleSoft on Friday again argued that a merger of the two companies could face substantial regulatory delays and "a significant likelihood" of ultimately being blocked as a restraint on competition.

PeopleSoft's fears of a drawn-out antitrust review were met with doubt by many industry watchers who see the market for business-planning software, also known as applications, as fragmented and ripe for consolidation.

Oracle said PeopleSoft's board, by ignoring the mounting demands of its shareholders to redeem its poison pill takeover defense and refusing to meet with Oracle, had put management's interests ahead of those of its shareholders.

Analysts said they expected PeopleSoft and J.D. Edwards to keep looking for ways to block Oracle's advances.

And late on Friday, PeopleSoft added yet another layer of defense, disclosing in a regulatory filing that its board had "determined that future circumstances might make it advisable or necessary for the company to engage in discussions or negotiations with third parties regarding extraordinary transactions," such as a proposed sale or merger.

For 10 years after

In a statement issued on Friday, Ellison denied that PeopleSoft customers would be forced to convert to Oracle software in the event of a merger.

"We will continue to develop and improve PeopleSoft's products for at least the next 10 years — even longer, if customers require further support," Ellison said.

Among those PeopleSoft customers expressing concern about a merger with Oracle was the state of Connecticut, which is in the midst of a \$100 million project to update its computer systems with PeopleSoft products. It said an Oracle takeover of PeopleSoft would cost it "tens of millions of dollars" and asked a judge to block the deal, citing antitrust law.

Antitrust attorneys said Justice Department authorities will look at



Business software maker PeopleSoft Inc. on June 20, said its board unanimously rejected a sweetened \$6.3 billion takeover bid from Oracle Corp., saying the offer was inadequate and a merger would violate antitrust laws. The PeopleSoft headquarters in Pleasanton, CA is shown June 18. Reuters

whether any combination would crimp competition in the market for individual business software products that automate such things as accounting or human resources.

Oracle's bid could probably win endorsement of the department, attorneys said. But it might have to promise to divest at least one of the companies' software products first.

Oracle Executive Vice President Charles Phillips told Reuters it was unlikely that the deal would fail to win approval by regulators. Elsewhere, leading academics and financial and industry analysts said they struggled to understand how government competitive concerns could derail a deal.

Oracle has said it wants to buy PeopleSoft to compete more directly with SAP AG, the world leader in business application software, and with Microsoft Corp. MSFT.O, which is now focused on the small business market but expected to move up the food chain to challenge SAP and others.

Shares of PeopleSoft closed 19 cents lower at \$17.42, while Oracle's stock ended off 41 cents at \$12.93. J.D. Edwards was unchanged at \$14.03. All three traded on the Nasdaq. (Additional reporting by Jeffrey Goldfarb and Peter Kaplan in Washington D.C. and Eric Auchard)

FDA warns consumers about dietary supplements

FDA Warns Consumers About Dietary Supplements

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday warned consumers against taking certain dietary supplements containing a prescription drug ingredient that could cause a sharp loss in blood pressure.

The FDA said consumers should not purchase or consume SIGRA, STAMINA Rx and STAMINA Rx for Women, Y-Y, Spontane ES or Uroprin manufactured by NVE Inc., in Newton, New Jersey and distributed by Hi-Tech in Norcross, Georgia.

The agency said the products contain the prescription-strength ingredi-

ent, tadalafil, the active ingredient in Cialis, a product of Eli Lilly and Co. that is approved in Europe to treat male erectile dysfunction.

"An interaction between certain prescription drugs containing nitrates (such as nitroglycerin) and tadalafil may cause a drastic lowering of blood pressure," the FDA said in a state-

ment.

The agency's Office of Criminal Investigations executed federal search warrants in Georgia and New Jersey after finding the dietary supplements.

Spokesmen for NVE Inc. and Hi-Tech could not be reached for comment.

Welcome Elizabeth



Now the Foerses, Thom and Jean, have got a new member in their family—Elizabeth. She was born in June 6th in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in Saint Joseph's Hospital. We wish her and her parents a very happy life.

Yemen Times Staff

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What's My Name?



ADAM YAHYA AHMED HODEIDAH.
FOR YEMEN TIMES,

Full of natural life and untouched beauty, Al-Takareer is wildlife preservation where rare species of trees, animals and birds live. Its situation is 64 km to the south-east Hodeidah with an area of approximately 35 square kilometers. Green mountains dominate two thirds of the area while the remainder one third is fertile arable plains.

Al-Takareer is 650 feet above sea level, inhabited by around 15 thousand people occupying three regions:

- Al-Thubab area, in the south overlooking Alooja Valley whose waters flow down from Al-Ja'afariya District Mountains.
- Moryeem area, Abraham Valley, situated in the middle part of Al-Takareer



Hot water springs, a tourist potential for therapeutic tourism

sprawling on both sides of the valley and is considered the center of the district of Al-Takareer and is more densely populated.

Bani Hanash is in the northern part of al-Takareer, overlooking Al-Ribat Valley. All these areas are famous as habitat of rare birds, animals and fragrance plants.

Among the animals to be seen living in Al-Takareer are tigers of red, black and white colors, two kinds of monkeys. Wolves and foxes also live in the region in addition to red and black leopards, as well as very fast running gray-colored kind of deer. The Al-Takareer wildlife sanctuary is also the habitat of some kinds of birds, rabbits and reptiles. Of kinds of birds there are the partridge, falcons and eagles and a variety of sparrows and singing birds.

Trees

Gum trees are popular in Al-Takareer and also dye trees. There is also a rare

category of palm trees, and Aloe and other giant trees. In the area there are also screw pines and all kinds of fragrant flowers and roses.

Livestock

The local population takes much care for animal wealth such as camels, cattle and sheep. They also breed bees.

Al-Takareer is not only a wildlife sanctuary but also important historical sites the ruins of which are still seen as landmarks of ancient civilized life such as, Aksh Mountain fortress in the central region, a grand fort in Mount Kreerama, dams and water barriers in the north at mountain Hanash area. They are still intact today. The ancient Yemeni writing of al-Musnad script is still visible on some of these dams. Added to those there are some caves cut inside the rocky mountains. There are also Himyarean forts and monuments on top of Jahzat Mountain overlooking Alooja Valley in the south area of Al-Takareer.

In spite of all this beauty and natural resources, Al-Takareer is instead of being a tourist attraction and a preserved wildlife sanctuary it is badly neglected and is lacking of the basic services such as water, medical centers and not even a single school for girls who are up till now



People at al-Takareer have interest in animal breeding particularly camels

deprived of education. There is only one primary school for boys built in 1986.

What's worse is that the Al-Takareer is excluded from plans of official tourist authorities and tourist agencies. Therefore, Arab and foreign tourists do not know anything about al-Takareer preservation.

To take care of such a rich place is a duty and must be done immediately before damage creeps to everything in the area and many of animal and plant species get doomed to extinct.

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