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A "growing stream" of Muslim militants Yemenis in Jihad

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Yemeni are active in fighting against occupation forces in Iraq, according to international media reports that note fighters from Yemen are among a stream coming from the region to try to force U.S. forces out of Iraq. Fighters from Lebanon and Syria are also believed to be part of foreign fighters in Iraq, according to the New York Times. The US administration fears that their activities may increase further during the holy month of Ramadan. Meanwhile, Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel said

that an armed militant who failed an attempt to blow a police station in Baghdad turned to be a Yemeni with a Syrian passport. "The intelligence officials say that since late summer they have detected a growing stream of itinerant Muslim militants [from Yemen and other countries] headed for Iraq," the Times said. Syria is being blamed for allowing the infiltration of such forces to Iraq. The US administration has continuously blamed the Saddam Hussein toppled regime's 'fida'iyyeen' for the attacks against its forces. However, more evidence suggests that fighters may be Islamists coming from other countries

and not members of the Iraqi army. The US government accuses Saddam Hussein's loyalists for recruiting the foreign fighters, the Times said. In all, as many as 15 militant groups may be operating in Iraq, officials said. Yemenis were a large portion of the Arabs who fought against the USSR in the 1980s to gain Afghanistan's independence.

Continued on page 3



Iraqi police pull a car away from burning vehicles near the International Committee of the Red Cross Baghdad headquarters Oct. 27. Bombers struck at least three times in Baghdad at rush hour on that day, killing at least 18 people near a Red Cross building and two police stations. REUTERS
(Inset: Iraqi youth throw cones into a burning police car in Falluja, Iraq on Oct. 31, after police shot dead a local man.) REUTERS

Will Yemen's government help Al-Jailani? US to rally for Yemeni detainee

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Washington, Nov 2 - A US protest group is to organize a rally next month at the York County Prison in to protest the ongoing detention of Yemeni national Ashraf Al-Jailani who has been kept in prison with no charges for a year. The organizer of the protest, Ms. Kathleen Lucas, said she would protest detention policies since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks including the 'illegal arrest' of Al-Jailani by the FBI. The protest is among other efforts to have Al-Jailani released, especially as there has been

no conviction so far, and presented evidence lacks credibility, according to York sources.

Recent developments
This comes as the York-based Plain Dealer said that "an FBI agent disclosed in immigration court in York, Pennsylvania, that a grand jury is probing possible terrorist activity in Northeast Ohio linked to Al-Jailani." "FBI Special Agent Roger Charnesky, testifying under oath about his investigation of a Al-Jailani the FBI calls an al-Qaida "first stringer," acknowledged that no charges have been filed against Ashraf Al-Jailani in the year since his arrest on Oct. 23, 2002. "The Cleveland U.S. attorney's office recently opened a grand jury on this matter," Charnesky then stated. When Al-Jailani's lawyer pressed for details, the agent said such proceedings were secret. "I should not have said anything," Charnesky said. "I am not a terrorist and I have no link to terrorists," Al-Jailani told the court in a recent hearing.

Continued on page 3

Lebanon charges Yemen terror suspect

Beirut, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Lebanon charged a Yemeni national on Thursday with carrying out "terrorist acts" and masterminding a string of bomb attacks against American fast food outlets, judicial sources said. They said Moammar Awama, suspected of ties to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, would be tried by a military court on charges that also include membership of "terrorist cells", attempted murder and attempts to blow up U.S.-style restaurants. The charges carry the death penalty. Awama, also known as Ibn al-Shahid, was arrested earlier this month by Palestinian Fatah gunmen in the southern Ain al-Hilweh camp and handed over to Lebanese authorities. Security sources identified the man at the time as Moammar Kawama.

Continued on page 3

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Al-Qaeda elements may be regrouping in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct. 28- Al-Qaeda elements have recently warned the Yemeni government against its excessive security cooperation with the US.

The mouthpiece of the Yemeni Unionist Party Al-Wahdawi Weekly in its issue released Oct. 27, said that it has received a phone call via satellites

from a person named Abu Mohammed Al-Ghamedi, a Saudi national, who claimed that he was the representative of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and he went saying that they are ready to pursue attacking the American interests in the country without mentioning any other details.

Moreover, he said that al-Qaeda elements in Yemen have been guided by

Al-Mua'ataz Bellah, indicating that they ousted Khalid Abdulnabi, a leader of Hutat Group in Abyan. He also said that that Aden-Abyan Islamic Militant Group has joined Al-Qaeda.

"He refused to specify where he was phoning from, indicating that he was phoning via satellites to convey such information to the press," according to the newspaper.

Sana'a has 4,000, according to UN report

30,000 street children in Yemen

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Nov. 1 - More than 30,000 children are living as vagrants in the streets of Yemen, according to a study presented by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF.

Out of this number, about 4,000 children aged 6-year old are found in the capital, Sana'a.

The phenomenon of children vagrancy is on the rise, at about 4 per cent on an annual basis.

The study mentioned that about 58 per cent, wash cars and beg, 17 per cent work as hardware collectors, 7 per cent work as cattle grazers, 5 per cent work as fruit and vegetable sellers, 4 per cent as porters, 3 per cent as donkey cart riders, 2 per cent in bakeries, and 5 per cent in other professions.

The study confirmed that most of those children are not monitored by the parents or families, which have made them fall prey to going astray.

It has been made clear that about 57 per cent are not in school due to pover-



ty.

About 43 per cent of those children have left school, and that 25 per cent left school in order to provide the basic necessities for sustaining their families. About 60 per cent depend on themselves for making a livelihood.

Thousands of children are flooding streets as beggars in roundabouts.

The picture in reality seems even worse, when we see men, women, old and young, girls and boys all moving in great numbers and asking for alms.

Food security is really non-existent in our economy, and this in turn intensifies suffering of people particularly children, posing, for them, a very hazardous uncertain future.

Yemeni historian awarded

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Nov. 1- A great Yemeni historian, Ismael Bin Ali al-Akwa, has been recognized by the Islamic Research Center for Culture, Arts, and History affiliated to the Istanbul-based Islamic Conference Organization in Turkey.

His award is in appreciation for his efforts in preserving and maintaining the Islamic heritage.

In a ceremony held in Istanbul, al-Akwa was given the prize by the Turkish Vice President, Abdullahatef Shez.

The Islamic News Agency said that last week that the 83-year al-Akwa is one of the most imminent Yemeni his-

torians, a man who dedicated most of his life in historical authorship, paying careful attention to the Islamic heritage.

Al-Akwa's writings could enrich the Arab's culture with the most valuable references such as, the Yemeni Aphorisms, (2 volumes), Islamic Schools in Yemen, Nashwan Bin Saeed al-Himyari and the Dogmatic Intellectual Conflict and the Rasulids State in Yemen.

Among the major researches conducted by him are the following:

- Distinguished Islamic Antiquities in Yemen.
- Intellectual Heritage of Yemen's Bygones and Present

- Yemen's Tribes Genealogy and Historians' disagreements over it.

- Sana'a and its Historical Monuments.

- Yemen's Damps.

- Sana'a on the Part of Historian.

- Arabs' use to Names, Nicknames and Surnames.

- Ancient Yemeni Languages and its Links to the Classical Arabic.

- Turkish Words Used in the Yemeni Vernacular.

- Sana'a Turkish Baths and Its History.

In addition, a number of other publications have been written by the author such as, Yemen's States & Its Tribes for the Judge, Mohammed Bin Ahmed Al-Hajri.

Tense battle erupts over mosque control

Minister of Awqaf and Irshad, Dr. Hamood Iyad, in a press statement published last Thursday said that acts of overtaking of lands for the mosques had been occurring of late.

Trusted sources of the Yemen Times said that the ministry is trying to retrieve those lands in its policy of fighting terrorism.

The attacking of mosques and

overtaking of lands has killed people, such as last Sunday when the governor of Marib tried to enforce the ministry's law that prevents use of speakers.

The Reform Party, which controls many of Yemen's mosques, condemned such violent acts especially in Dhamar and denounced the arrests during prayers, and the attempt of transferring the issue into a political one.

Yemeni Journalists to visit Iraq

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Federal Arab Journalists (FAJ) and the Federal International Journalists have agreed recently to arrange a joint visit to Iraq in January to show moral support for Iraqi journalists during the under the American-led occupation.

Dialogues are to be made with all parties as well as journalists in order to reassemble them under one unified syndicate.

This has taken place after the dispersal of journalists, particularly since the disbanding the former syndicate.

Mahboob Ali, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate chairman, chairs FAJ, which is leading the delegation.

Other members of the delegation include Tareq al-Momeli, of the Jordanian Journalists Syndicate, Sufian Bin Hameedah, of Tunisia, and Yehya Qalash, of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate.

The International Journalists Federation is to be presided by Eden White as well as members affiliated to the executive committee.

The federation of both Arab as well as international journalists comes as a positive step to help, show solidarity with Iraqi journalists and help them re-organize.

A joint meeting is to be held before visiting Iraq, in Amman or Cairo.

Contacts have been underway by the federation together with the United Nations and other concerned bodies in order to facilitate the delegation's visit, and to ensure its safety and its movement when performing their mission in Iraq.

The delegation hopes to bring closer focus on suffering of journalists in battle fields and the visit resembles solidarity with independent news reporters such as correspondents of Al-Jazeera, etc.

HRITC holds seminar on International Criminal Court

TAIZ BUREAU STAFF
YEMEN TIMES

Taiz, Nov. 1- Organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center, HRITC, the first seminar on the International Criminal Court Agreement, ICC and Yemen's role to ratify that agreement, was held at the HRITC's headquarters in Taiz.

The seminar came within the framework of launching an awareness program for Yemen's accession to ratify the ICC agreement.

During the seminar, coordination arrangements are in full swing with the NGOs such as the Sister Arab Forum, (SAF) to announce a national coalition, an initiative that was taken last week by the SAF in Sana'a.

The national coalition is a part of the international coalition for NGOs to support the ICC.

A statement issued by the HRITC stated that disseminating an awareness

program among parliamentarians is a part of the HRITC's main objective.

A host of parliamentarians took part in the symposium in order to get informed of the ICC's system.

Yemen was one of the forerunners to sign the agreement and Yemen's role to ratify the ICC agreement has become an urgent matter for supporting human rights.

During the symposium, Mr. Shwoqi al-Qadhi, a member at the parliament gave a speech focused basically on Yemen's role to ratify the ICC agreement as well as the role of the parliamentarian to know all there is to know about Yemen's accession to the ICC.

Al-Qadhi highly appreciated the role of the HRITC in holding such seminars with a view of boosting awareness among parliamentarians.

Other speeches were also delivered by HRITC director, Ezza Addin al-Asbahi and other Yemeni lawyers.

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Quranic schools no longer in Ministry of Education

Quranic schools in Yemen, formerly run by the Ministry of Education, will now be affiliated to the Ministry of Endowments.

This comes after an attempt was made to merge the schools with basic educational schools of the Ministry of Education, as well as the Quran and Islamic institutions, but the attempt was cancelled and now efforts are done to affiliate them to the Ministry of Endowments.

The syllabus taught in these schools will be monitored by the ministry which works hard in eradicating

Readers' Voice

Have your voice heard, and go to <http://yementimes.com> and answer this edition's poll question.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

As a Muslim in the USA or the West, do you think that the government in where you live is sufficiently respecting Islamic holidays and occasions?

- Yes it definitely is.
- Yes, but not enough.
- No, it is doing too little.
- No, not at all

LAST EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the latest attacks in Baghdad against civilian targets are justifiable?

They are not justifiable at all, and those who did it must be found and punished.

79%

They are not justifiable though American forces are to blame.

17%

They are justifiable because they are a form of resistance.

4%

14 billion YR for nutrition in schools

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last Thursday operations of food distribution in schools concluded.

A project executed by the Ministry of Education and the World Food Program, it is being carried out in 16 governorates for the 2002 and 2007 plan.

Project manager Hamood al-Akhram said that the distribution operations concluded last Thursday in 81 districts and targeted 16,351 students in 1,224 girls' schools and 133, 676 meals were distributed in the process.

The department of school nutrition affiliated to the ministry said that in the five years of the plan, the budget is estimated to be \$59.7 million, in addition to 800 YR, given yearly from the ministry, making a total budget of 14 YR total budget.

Yemen is considered one of the world's poorest nations in terms of health standards. Most of the population below poverty line suffers from malnutrition and lack of regular medical checkups to diagnose nutrition-related diseases.

"It is often a too-little too-late case for many victims who fall prey to deadly diseases that they cannot overcome due to lack of immunity of their bodies partially due to malnutrition," a health expert told Yemen Times.

extremism in the syllabus and fanatic beliefs.

It is worth mentioning that President Abdu Saleh has donated 1 million YR last Thursday for Mua'ath school, for teaching the Quran, while attending a celebration for the winners in the fourth competition for learning the Quran.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain al-Ahmar also donated the same amount to the same school.

The number of schools affiliated to the charity society for teaching the Quran, of Hael Saeed Group, reached 198 schools in various parts of Yemen.

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Empowering People

Continued from Page 1

Yemenis in Jihad

"Iraq is a magnet for jihadists just as Afghanistan was," a senior US official said.

The report also added that mosque preachers have intensified their calls for Jihad during the days of Ramadan, encouraging more Yemenis and other Arabs to go for Jihad in Iraq.

A senior British official, who was in Iraq in September, said most of the foreign men captured there were from the Middle East — Syria, Lebanon and Yemen — or North Africa. He described them as "young, angry men" motivated by the "anti-British, anti-American rhetoric that fills their ears every day."

Signs of a movement to Iraq have also been detected in Europe. Jean-Louis Bruguière, France's top inves-

tigative judge on terrorism, said dozens of poor and middle-class Muslim men had left France for Iraq since the summer. He said some of them appeared to have been inspired by exhortations of Qaeda leaders, even if they were not trained by Al Qaeda, according to the Times report.

But the report also said that a senior European intelligence official said he doubted that Al Qaeda had established a strong enough organization in Baghdad to pull off attacks, given how fractured Mr. bin Laden's network appears to be.

"Al Qaeda would need a level of organization and sophistication that I don't think it currently has," he said. But he said he did believe that some Qaeda members were now in Iraq "trying to stir up trouble."

US rally for Yemeni detainee

Wife in defense

Among those who are furiously fighting to have Al-Jailani released is his wife Michele Swensen. "Ashraf has been held in jail for over a year now, but they haven't charged him with anything.

They've never even interviewed him. He just sits in jail, day after day. They've moved him 6 hours away, so it is very difficult for him to consult with his lawyer.

"His lawyer cannot call into the prison, so the only way they can contact each other is through letters. I am very poor now that Ashraf's income is gone. I cannot afford to go to York, PA to visit him. I haven't seen him in a year. He misses his children more than words can say," she said.

Yemeni government has to act
Meanwhile, the Yemeni government has done very little to intervene, so Al-Jailani's family and relatives have expressed their desire to have the Yemeni government exert greater effort.

Petitions were raised and websites were opened to call upon the community in the USA to respond in pressuring the authorities.

Among the petitions issues was one posted at (thepetitionsite.com). The petition said, "Ashraf received

a domestic violence conviction in 1998, from which the INS issued a deportation order. However, Ashraf's conviction was pardoned by the governor of Ohio.

Regardless of the pardon, the INS and FBI arrested him on Oct. 23, 2002, and have kept him in detention ever since. The FBI has alleged that he's a threat to homeland security, but they have put forth no proof whatsoever to back up their claims.

They have not charged him with anything. They just continue to hold him, keeping him away from his wife and three small children. This indefinite detention must end, and Ashraf must be returned to his family in Ohio.

Al-Jailani and his wife have suffered cruel and unusual punishment by our government. Please support just treatment for Ashraf Al-Jailani and his family and for all the foreign-born prisoners who are being unfairly detained in American prisons. America is supposed to be a country of justice."

GPC holds 4th free medical camp

Taiz, Nov. 1- The General Peoples Congress, GPC branch in Taiz has called businessmen, companies and other institutions to support the 4th Free Medical Camp which will continue for two weeks starting from the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan in areas like al-Barh, Annashama and Arraheda. Shiekh, Jaber Abullah Ghaleb, the Chairman of the GPC branch in Taiz and a member at the parliament said that the camp is to receive several cases such as, eye, nose and throat diseases.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the GPC branch in Taiz has established three similar camps in several districts such as, Qadas and al-Barh. Those camps have achieved great successes due to giving a hand by the benefactors and philanthropists.



Shiekh Jaber Abullah Ghaleb Chairman of the GPC branch in Taiz and a member at the parliament

Globalization workshop held

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The media institute for training and qualifying in Sana'a organized on a workshop about globalization and media Oct. 29.

Two working-papers were presented and a number of specialists, researchers and academics participated.

The first paper explained globalization and its goals and the role that media can play to face globalization.

The second paper exposed the functions of media and globalization represented in three aspects: spreading the information, dissolving the barriers between individuals and groups and communities, and bringing harmony between the cultures.

The workshop was enriched with participants' suggestions and discussions aimed to explain globalization and its positive and negative sides.

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Lebanon charges Yemen terror suspect over bombings

Around two dozen Lebanese and Palestinian individuals are also on trial in the case, facing charges of attacks on food outlets such as McDonald's and Pizza Hut. Some of them are also charged with planning to kill U.S. ambassador Vincent Battle.

Lebanese authorities cracked the cell after a large car bomb was found outside a McDonald's restaurant in Beirut in April. It failed to

explode. The attacks, some of which caused a few light injuries and damage to buildings, came at the height of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Lebanon, and Syria which has broad influence over Lebanese security, are under pressure to show they are cooperating with Washington, especially in its "war on terrorism".

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Social services need to mature

Children with special needs deserve better care

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES

Social work or services has been based for a long time on reactive medical activities on an individual level or even groups. In recent times' social work has taken a new trend that involves setting objectives and planning, yet this change is quite immature and slow.

When it comes to people with special needs, the situation proves dire especially with the lack of relevant centers specialized in dealing with the mentioned cases and there are no services as such catering to their needs, especially regarding public services.

Some of the unfortunate people with special needs don't even have a place to live and live in miserable conditions especially homeless children.

Although state has ratified most of the international conventions for rights of the child and human rights, there still isn't any country level projects that take into account such people and provide them with the minimum, what are within their rights, in order to allow them to live a healthy, dignified life.

Up to now, most of the work done in such issues is circumstantial and temporary, depending on individual efforts and timed projects. Some of those children were healthy children in the beginning until they fell victims of dangerous circumstances that transferred them into children with special needs.

This could have been prevented if there was a plan that took into account development and sheltering of the unfortunate. Social services should be divided equally and with justice, especially when that is what our principles dictate on us.

Enjoying Ramadhan

Rules of fasting

BY AHMED HAMOUD AL-QUADI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The word "Sawm," which has been used in the Holy Quran and Hadith for fasting, means to abstain from food, drink and many other things. It is really an institution for the purification of the soul. In addition to that, Swam is the first and foremost motivation for moral and spiritual training on the one hand and on cheerful obedient on the other hand.

As a matter of fact, fasting has been imposed on us for our own benefit. Through it, the primary benefits are that we learn self-restraint, discipline of our appetite and flexibility of our habits. When Muslims exercise fasting, they are all at an equal footing with one another. Thus, it is a communal experience. Fasting generates patience and endurance in the Muslim society. It teaches man self-respect and urges all Muslims to be generous in what concerns money, as it is known as the season of charity, devotion and comfort. Ramadhan, the school of fasting

Ramadhan is the only month that Allah has named in the Holy Quran. It is the sole month, which effaces all previous sins. In addition, it is started with mercy, intervened with forgiveness and ended with freeing fasters

from the hell-fire. It is a yearly station that provides those who fast with a living faith.

Those who fast are:

- 1- Muslim
- 2- Sane
- 3- Pubescent
- 4- Able
- 5- Present

People who are exempt are:

- 1- Sick people
- 2- Travelling people
- 3- Pregnant and nursing women
- 4- Women in menstruation
- 5- Too old and feeble people
- 6- Immature children
- 7- Insane people

Desirable acts for the fasting people include:

- 1- Taking the Sahour
- 2- Hastening the breaking of the fast
- 3- Supplicating at the time of fast breaking
- 4- Keeping limbs
- 5- Reciting the Holy Quran
- 6- Pushing inviting people to break fasting
- 7- Giving charity

Actions that spoil fasting are:

- 1- Eating and drinking deliberately
- 2- Intentional vomit
- 3- Women in the course of menses or confinement
- 4- Intentional sexual intercourse

Use love as a weapon

Ramadhan can bring out the best in us

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ramadhan is considered to be one of the most sacred months and therefore Muslims take the opportunity as an occasion to purify their souls from sins and ungodly acts.

It is the month of seeking forgiveness and pardon from God.

In Yemen, celebrating the Holy Month has its own flavor, compared to any other Islamic nations whether the religious rituals performed or traditions followed during this month.

Despite ideological Islamic dissimilarities in most of the Yemeni governates, traditions and norms performed during Ramadhan are similar.

Mosques during the Holy Month are swarmed by prayers during the Sunset Prayer, (Maghreb) representing different ages particularly, seeking God's devout petition to forgive them.

Most Yemenis take an interest to break their fast in mosques.

The Ramadhan eating tables usually contain dates, lemon, Sanbosah, Bajia, (famous Yemeni recipes), and coffee.

Costumes nowadays particularly during the Holy month of Ramadhan have somewhat differed from that of the past.

In the past for instance, the well-to-do people as well as the benefactors open their houses for the poor, the needy and the wayfarers, to break their fast and have Ramadhan dinners the whole month long.

Traders in cities also distribute foodstuff such as, cereals, rice, sugar, lentils, vegetable oils for the poor and poverty-stricken families during this month.

Most of the out-of-the-way dwellers and remote villages constitute a majority of the Yemeni poor people, and above all are given a hand to be sustained.

In addition to this, the wealthy and the well-to-do people are also generous in getting reassured for the people at prisoners in prisons and patients in hospitals.

The role is not restricted to the wealthy or munificent people during the Holy Month, other charitable societies also play a humanitarian and a considerable praiseworthy mission during Ramadhan such as, giving breads and food for thousands of poor families.

Ramadhan in the past

In our countryside and villages, the family bonds during the last decades were strong.

Love during Ramadhan has become

a real weapon for a true believer in God. Mercy and love for God, people and worshippers is indispensable.

Life at that time was simple, Yemenis get adhered to the Islamic principles and morals.

Not even a sense of disintegration or hatred is shown. The whole social classes are almost similar; no difference is made between the rich and the poor, the black or the white. People used to exchange visits to each other. During the nights of Ramadhan, villagers used to assemble together for reciting the Holy Qura'an and making use of the prophetic traditions.

Mowaled, (religious chants performed by worshippers) are annually held, supplications are also performed as well as narrating stories and tales of our forefathers in the past also became an integral part of their day-to-day life.

All those rituals and costumes are performed during Ramadhan where a certain kind of amiability, cordiality, love and kindness was shown with each other.

Old-times have gone and never come back again. There was no political parties, organizations, or even political ideologies, which might disunite the unified nation.

They only have the Holy Qura'an, the prophetic tradition and the strong belief in God.

That was the state of Ramadhan in my homeland, the month of forgiveness and pardon.

It is a religious occasion where God's rituals have to be fully performed. Harming or depriving others from giving a hand to them will make the Lord outraged.

Call to well-to-do officials

At the end and through this modest article, I call today's generation, the rich and well-to-do officials to fear God and should know that the Holy Month is the month of showing mercy and kindness for the people and poverty-stricken families.

The have to reconsider the majority of the needy and the poor and their deteriorating conditions.

The have to lessen burdens of the difficult living conditions and to provide the basic necessities for those deprived classes.

Those in authority shouldn't announce or televise the Ramadhan extravagant eating tables before the hungry, the poor and the needy. If they do so, the poor, the deprived and the like will show malice toward YOU! Have mercy on your civilian and military employees. They are looking forward to improving their living standards.

Ramadhan Kareem to all of you!

English instruction

MALI Launches New Programs

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Everyone wants to study and learnt the English language, as it is an international language and a flexible and important tool for communication nowadays. Thus, many approaches and methods have come to the ground and adopted by many educational institutions.

However, the workers in the field of teaching English have been looking for the best and accurate methods and techniques for helping the English students acquire the language easily, fast, and smoothly.

To highlight, a new program for English students in Yemen, we talked to Ms. Marie Hurlburt, a current teacher in Mali (Modern American Language Institute).

Q: Would you tell the readers a little about your background, education, and professional experience?

A: My name is Marie Hurlburt and I am a native born American. I have an MA in Education/TESL. I am married to a Yemeni so Yemen is my second home. I am the Program Developer and an English teacher at MALI.

I was in China for six years and worked both at the university level and with English language Institutes. I also did a lot of teacher training in the communicative method.

I came to Yemen in 1999, as a Junior English Teaching Fellow, a program funded by the US State Department. I trained teachers and assisted in the development of a new curriculum at YALI. I worked on a special TESL project and headed a committee of Yemeni nationals, the Ministry of Education, the American Embassy, and the British Council. I also taught classes and was responsible for other projects at YALI.

I was a consultant for Amideast and worked on a project as Program Developer for the Petroleum Training Center. I also taught pre-TOEFL classes and did some private tutoring.

I became affiliated with MALI when I was offered the position of Director of Courses in Aden. I was involved with the development of the new MALI Institute, in Aden, and did various jobs, such as: recruitment, marketing, curriculum development, etc. It was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience.

It was understood, by the owner and

Director of MALI, Mr. Mazen Loqman, when I accepted the position that I had already applied for a Senior English Teaching Fellow with the US State Department program and that my assignment in Aden would be short-term. I was subsequently accepted into the program as a Senior Fellow and assigned to Syria and went with my husband the last academic year and worked with the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Education training English teachers and developing new curriculums throughout Syria. Upon my return this September, I happily rejoined the MALI organization.

Q: I understand you have developed a new program at MALI. Would you give a brief outline of this program?

A: The new program will be one that is very new to Yemen. They will be "Structured Conversation" courses and will have four themes. They are: Cross Cultural Communication, Creative Writing, Pre-TOEFL, and Business courses. They will run for 4- five week sessions. The cost will be a one time fee.

Q: What was the motivation for developing and implementing such a program in Yemen?

A: The need is great for advanced students of English to have the opportunity to use English and think in English. Advanced students don't need any more tests to prove they have learned English or English grammar. What they need is the opportunity to use the language and build their skills.

These courses will not require the students to take a final exam but will use interesting and creative projects, which will be used to evaluate the students progress.

Q: Would you give some examples of what the students can expect in these courses?

A: There will be guest speakers throughout the course period. Students will either work alone or collaborate with each other. It will be student-centered class with the teacher being the facilitator. For example, in the Cross Cultural course the students will compare cultures and do a research paper. A lot of discussion will ensue out of this research project assignment. They will also have a debate with students from Sana'a University.

The creative writing course will involve writing, poetry, plays, skits,



Ms. Marie Hurlburt

short stories, journalism, etc. There are many talented Yemeni students of English that need a format to both display their talents and discover latent talents. The students will discuss all their creative projects and we expect to have a poetry/art contest and possible a play performed and written by the students. We also plan to have universities in Sana'a involved in the judging of student's works.

The Business and TOEFL courses will not be dull, boring, or un-interesting courses but will utilize many newly developed resources. All classes will have a primary focus of conversation even the writing course.

Q: Have you developed any programs like this before?

A: Last year, when I worked and traveled throughout Syria training teachers, many of these ideas were adopted by the Ministry of Education. High School students needed to be motivated to continue in their English language learning. Learning English doesn't have to be boring or tedious it should be an enjoyable experience for both teacher and student.

Q: Why do you feel this strategy to engage advanced students will be successful?

A: Often educators fail to listen to the needs of the students. In my many travels I continually hear advanced English students say that they want an opportunity to use the language that they have invested so many hours into learning. They are tired of grammar lessons and tests. They want a format in which they can engage in conversation. Actually, they seem to know more than the educators. Learning and becoming proficient in a language is using and thinking in the language.

These courses will give the advanced student the opportunity to use the language and not waste time nor effort in preparing for the dreaded test at the end of the course. Many students can pass tests in English and not know how to speak the language. We at MALI want to have our students able to use the language for purposes of communication and dialogue. Again, learning a language should be fun for both the student and teacher.

Q: You state that you think MALI is a unique Language Institution in Yemen can you elaborate on that?

A: MALI has more native speaking teachers than any other language institution in Yemen. We have nine native speaking teachers, in Sana'a who are Canadian, American, and British and four native speaking English teachers in Aden. So we employ thirteen in all. This gives the students exposure to hearing English by a native speaker and also exposure and an exchange of cultural ideas, which helps promote more understanding and tolerance.

However, let me say that we also have some excellent Yemeni teachers that are expert at teaching beginning levels some who have been at MALI for as long as nine years and are loved by the students. We provide a wide range of training courses for Yemen Governmental Ministries, NGO's, and for both Yemen and Foreign businesses. We have been chosen as the Vocational Fund's primary provider for English language training and finally, we have a very successful Arabic language program that currently has foreign students from Spain, Britain, Canada and America.

Q: When do the new courses begin?

A: We have already started registration. The classes are expected to fill up fast. They begin on November 8th. Interested students should contact MALI at: 441-036 or 446-103 They may also drop by at MALI just off Djibouti Street.

Q: When these courses end will there be others offered to the advanced student so that they can continue to practice English?

A: Of course we will continue to meet our student's needs and continue to develop new programs. A student of English never stops growing and developing and MALI is sensitive and committed to meeting the demands and requests of our students.

Tragic stories abound

Suicides are a grim reality

BY HUSAIN AL-ZURAIQI
YEMEN TIMES
HUDAIDA BUREAU

Statistics show suicides may be increasing in Yemen, as cases reached 1,212 in 2002. These are reported cases, but non-reported ones are much more. The studies show that most of these cases are triggered by economic difficulties, and most suicides were committed because of not having a dignified life.

For example in August and September of 2003 in Hudaida, the number of reported suicides is 12, including of a man in al-Dhuha district who timed a bomb to explode while he was sleeping, killing both his wife and himself. Failed suicides are also reported, such as when a young lady threw herself into a well and a young man who shot himself

because of bankruptcy.

In Jizan Street in Hudaida a man threw himself off a building and died on the way to the hospital, and there have been similar cases in Hamees, Bura, Bait al-Faqeeh and al-Zahra reported where the reason was found to be financial. The question here is, will the state let these numbers pass by without acknowledging that there is a problem here? In fact it seems that the state is making use of these issues to collect money from the people and make their life worse!

For example when the man killed himself in al-Dhuha in August Bagil, security forces moved to investigate the case and charged the locals 42,000 YR for the expenses of the security that went to investigate the case! These events and the way authorities are dealing with them only put more pressure onto the already hard mental status of the people.



Israel defence chief seeks talks with Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Oct 31 (Reuters) - Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz will hold talks with Palestinian leaders next week, political sources said on Friday, after his chief of staff said a harsh security clampdown on Palestinian areas was backfiring.

It would be first such ministerial meeting between the two sides since Ahmed Qurie was named Palestinian prime minister last month and marked a more moderate Israeli stance that has raised a glimmer of hope for the troubled "road map" peace plan.

Israeli political sources said the head of the Defence Ministry's diplomatic and security branch, Amos Gilad, had exploratory talks with Palestinian Authority officials this week to pave the way for a meeting involving Mofaz next week.

One source called it "the beginning of new contacts in which both sides are stating initial positions for further

talks" — likely to focus on easing Israel's military grip in Palestinian areas in exchange for Palestinian undertakings to curb violence.

The move came after Lieutenant-General Moshe Yaalon told newspaper columnists this week that imposing blockades with the stated aim of preventing suicide attacks only spread hatred for Israel by pinning down an entire population.

Israeli media said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon demanded an apology from Yaalon but on Thursday he also offered to meet his Palestinian counterpart, Qurie.

"I believe we are on the brink of a new opportunity to find the way to quiet and peace," Sharon told businessmen.

Sources close to Sharon said Israel realised it must do more to head off the breakdown of order in Palestinian areas.

Israel's apparent softening of its approach to Qurie could revive hopes for the U.S.-backed "road map", a peace plan that seeks to defuse a Palestinian uprising by granting Palestinians statehood on land Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's national security adviser, Jibril Rajoub, said no meeting with Mofaz had been scheduled but added: "We have no veto on any meeting with the Israeli side provided such meetings are serious and not for the sake of holding meetings."

Sharon gesture to Qurie

Sharon said on Thursday he was ready to negotiate with Qurie once the Palestinian premier had consolidated his position.

After Arafat nominated Qurie as Palestinian prime minister in September, Israel suggested it would not deal with him because it saw him as Arafat's lackey. Israel says Arafat incites militant attacks on Israelis, a charge he denies.

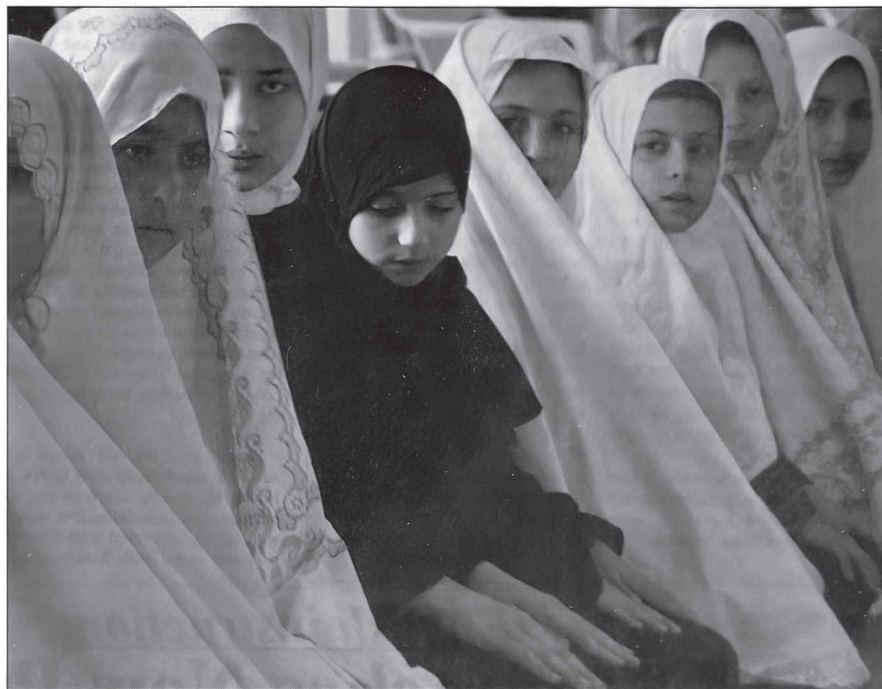
Qurie has been asked by the president to form a regular government before a 30-day emergency term expires next week.

Qurie said this week that militant group leaders had welcomed his bid for talks on a ceasefire but for it to succeed Israel would have to stop raids to kill or capture wanted men.

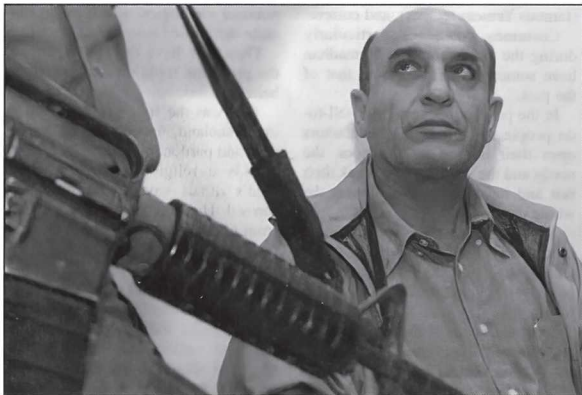
Israel's use of overwhelming force — rolling offensives, air strikes, blockades, curfews and demolitions — has failed to snuff out violence by Palestinian militant factions.

One senior security source told Reuters the arguments over Yaalon's remarks were "about tactics, not strategy".

"Mofaz remains determined to use



Palestinian girls pray inside a mosque in Gaza City during Friday Prayers Oct. 31. Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz will hold talks with Palestinian officials next week, political sources said, after his chief of staff said hardline security policies were backfiring. REUTERS



Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz will hold talks with Palestinian leaders next week, political sources said Oct. 31, after his chief of staff said a harsh security clampdown on Palestinian areas was backfiring. REUTERS

all measures against terrorism, but to make a clear distinction between the local population and the terrorists...

"Yaalon wanted to alert our political leaders and public that the writing is on the wall, that if we don't take steps the situation could blow up in our face. What he said was legitimate, but the forum where he said it was not," he said.

Citing security risks, Israel curbed Palestinian access to a disputed Jerusalem shrine, holy to Muslims and Jews, for the first Friday prayers during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Some Palestinians blocked at checkpoints scuffled with soldiers.

Sharon's rightist coalition endorsed the road map only under U.S. pressure and with reservations. The Palestinian

Authority also approved the plan, but has balked at U.S.-Israeli demands to crack down on militants before Israel pulls back forces.

Islamist militant groups, sworn to destroying Israel, have rejected the road map. About 3,000 Islamic Jihad activists rallied in Gaza on Friday, ruling out any truce without a wholesale Israeli withdrawal.

Iraq absent, neighbours split, at security talks

DAMASCUS, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Iraq's neighbours began talks on Saturday on postwar regional security that were overshadowed by Baghdad's absence.

The talks began without formal comment from the foreign ministers of seven participating Middle East states on whether Iraq would be invited to join the two-day meeting, which comes amid mounting U.S. accusations that foreign militants were behind a wave of attacks inside the country.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters in Baghdad he would not attend because he had not been sent a proper invitation. He added the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council would not accept any decisions made by the other states.

Syria had extended Zebari a last-minute invitation after three Arab countries apparently threatened to withdraw from the talks, but said the seven ministers would decide in an initial session whether he would be allowed to participate.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad al-Salem al-Sabah had said earlier the talks would only happen if Iraq was represented.

"Our position is clear that the official meeting will not take place unless Iraq attends," he said in remarks carried by the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA.

"Any breach to security in Iraq will reflect directly on the security of the surrounding countries. Therefore, we stress that what we want is achieving security in Iraq as fast as possible," he said, adding

the invitation should come from Syria as the host, as well as the other countries attending.

Iraq did not attend three previous regional meetings in Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Jordan and Egypt, which does not share a frontier with Iraq, are also taking part.

"I hope the Iraqi brothers find an opportunity to join us," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said on arrival.

Asked if Iraq would attend, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazmi told Reuters: "I hope so." Concern about the impact of Iraq's political future on their own security has driven Middle East nations to hold periodic meetings, despite decades of mutual mistrust and divisions over the U.S.-led war that ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Foreign fighters

The meeting, coming as Washington lays increasing blame on foreign fighters for a wave of violence in postwar Iraq, was expected to focus on the need to prevent militants from crossing the porous borders.

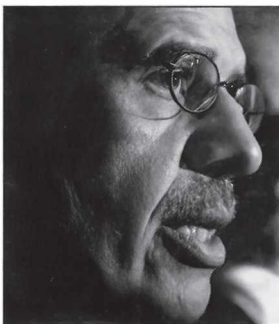
Washington called on Syria and Iran last week to take action to stop the infiltration of "foreign terrorists" after a string of suicide bombings in Iraq that killed 35 people.

Zebari said that "terrorists" were crossing into Iraq from neighbouring countries, including Syria, but that those states claimed their borders are too long and difficult to control.

Too soon to say if Iran met UN demands: ElBaradei

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 31 (Reuters) - Chief U.N. nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei said on Friday it would take him at least two weeks to determine whether Iran had complied with his demand to prove it had no nuclear weapons program.

"Sometime towards the end of the second week of November, I will be



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. REUTERS

issuing a report to the (International Atomic Energy Agency) Board of Governors with the results at that time of this verification process," he said.

"I don't think we will be able to complete our work by that time, but I hope we'll have made substantial progress," he told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York, where he was attending meetings.

The IAEA board planned to take up the report at its next meeting, scheduled for Nov. 20, IAEA officials said.

ElBaradei, director-general of the Vienna-based IAEA, gave Tehran a Friday deadline to prove it had no nuclear arms program or be reported to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Iran submitted a declaration to the IAEA on Oct. 23, detailing its nuclear activities, which Washington suspects are a smokescreen for building atomic weapons.

"We are still going through a lot of activities, we have inspection teams in Iran. It is too early, but I hope that we will be able to verify what the Iranians have assured us — that this is a comprehensive and accurate declaration,"



Iranian hardliners protest against the IAEA Protocol after the Friday prayer in Teheran Oct. 31. The IAEA gave Teheran an ultimatum to prove by Oct. 31 it has no secret weapons programme or be reported to the Security Council for possible sanctions. REUTERS

ElBaradei told Reuters.

"They are cooperating, but again, we still have a lot of work to do, and I hope

the cooperation will continue," ElBaradei said. "This is a work in progress."

Iraq bomb kills at least 2 U.S. soldiers

MOSUL, Iraq, Nov 1 (Reuters) - A bomb blast outside a police station in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday killed at least two U.S. soldiers, Iraqi police at the scene told Reuters.

They said four U.S. soldiers had been driving past in two civilian vehicles when the bomb was detonated.

"There was a huge blast. The two drivers of the vehicles were definitely killed," said policeman Abdul-

Rahman Fawaz, who witnessed the explosion, his face spattered with blood.

Other police officers at the scene said they believed three U.S. soldiers had been killed.

Soldiers from the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, in charge of security in Mosul, were at the scene, but declined to comment.

Saturday's bombing raised to at least 120 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq since major combat

was declared over on May 1 — more than the 114 killed in action in the war in March and April.

Many Iraqis are on edge due to widespread talk that Saturday has been declared a "day of resistance" by forces fighting the U.S. occupation and that several major attacks are planned.

The U.S. blames loyalists of ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and foreign Islamic militants for the attacks.

Mahathir retires amid praise

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, one of Asia's longest-serving and most controversial leaders, retired on Friday to a mix of Asian praise and Western silence after an international outcry over his remarks about Jews.

In a somber ceremony at the royal palace following prayers at the national mosque, Malaysia's King Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail accepted Mahathir's resignation and swore in his deputy, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as the country's fifth prime minister.

Fittingly, a tropical thunderstorm broke out over Kuala Lumpur around the time Mahathir handed Abdullah the keys to his office in nearby Putrajaya, ending 22 years in power.

The 78-year-old leader of the mainly Muslim Southeast Asian nation spent much of his time rubbing Western governments the wrong way, while becoming a respected spokesman within the Islamic and developing worlds.

But Mahathir's speech to an Islamic summit two weeks before he stepped down, in which he referred to what he called Jewish domination of the world, raised a storm of protest from the United States, Western Europe, Australia and, of course, Israel.

Leaving his old office for the last time, Mahathir was asked by journalists if he had any advice for President Bush.

He replied: "It doesn't pay not to tell the truth."

Bush said he had rebuked Mahathir over his comments on Jews when they met at a summit in Bangkok earlier this month. Mahathir denies this, and has also questioned the U.S. justification for invading Iraq.

The U.S. and other Western governments had little to say on an historic day for Malaysia.

"The embassy has not received any message from the White House," said a U.S. embassy official in Kuala Lumpur, adding that many of the mission's staff were more focused on Halloween festivities than on Mahathir's last day in office.

The only time Mahathir has upset the West more was when his former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, was jailed for 15 years for abuse of power and sodomy following trials Washington said were politically tainted.

Anwar, in a written response to Reuters, fired a parting shot at Mahathir from prison, accusing him of wrecking public governance and racking up debts on mega projects.

The ex-protege, jailed in 1998, also saw the provocative comments about Jews as a diversion "to deflect attention (from) his misdeeds and the stench from the rot in his own back yard."

The reaction from Australia, which Mahathir has described as "some sort of transplant from another region," was also muted.

"I don't have any comments to make except to re-emphasize the fact the links between Australia and Malaysia are very long, they are very deep," Prime Minister John Howard told a Melbourne radio station.

Former colonial ruler Britain, which experienced Mahathir's combative nature when he launched a "Buy British Last" campaign in the 1980s, stuck to diplomatic protocol.

"A message of goodwill is being sent to Abdullah Badawi. It is normal practice to send one to the incoming leader," said a senior official at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Asia praises

Asian leaders were far more appreciative of Mahathir.

"I will be missing my elder brother," Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told Malaysia's New Straits Times daily.

China expressed its "sincere admiration" for Malaysia's accomplishments under Mahathir, and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi hailed his "Look East Policy."

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong sent a letter to Mahathir expressing admiration for his achievements, saying that goodwill between the two neighbors would help overcome various disagreements which have strained neighborly relations.

Malaysia's 24 million ethnic Malays, Chinese and Indians enjoyed peaceful relations and increased prosperity under Mahathir's rule, but many agreed that his time was up.

Speaking on the eve of his retirement, Mahathir was modest about his place in history.

"As Shakespeare said, the evil that men do lives after them and the good is oft interred with their bones."



Mahathir Mohamad bidding farewell - Reuters

Highlights about Mahathir's life

1925 - Born in Alor Star, in the northern state of Kedah, the son of a headmaster whose own father was an immigrant from southern India. Mahathir's mother was ethnic Malay. His birthday is July 10, according to family, not December 20 as many biographers say.

1946 - Mahathir is one of the early members of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) formed to seek independence from Britain. Independence arrives 11 years later.

1956 - Marries fellow doctor Siti Hasmah. They have four children, three boys and a girl, and adopt three more.

1964 - Stands for parliament. Loses his seat five years later 1969 - Expelled from

UMNO after criticising Malaysia's first prime minister, Abdul Rahman, following Malay-Chinese race riots. 1970 - Mahathir's book "The Malay Dilemma" is the catalyst for Malaysia's affirmative action programme for native Malays or Bumiputras. Mahathir rejoins UMNO two years later.

1981 - Becomes Malaysia's fourth prime minister. In his first year, launches a "Buy British Last" campaign.

1983 - Mahathir forces constitutional crisis to curb power of traditional rulers — the Malay sultans.

1987 - UMNO splits after Mahathir's first deputy, Musa Hitam, joins forces with a rival.

1988 - Mahathir sacks judiciary's Lord

President Salleh Abas and leading judges, were concerned over judiciary's independence.

1989 - Mahathir has heart bypass surgery. 1991 - Maps out vision 2020, for Malaysia to reach developed nation status. Economy booms until the late 1990s.

1998 - Economic and political crises strike. Mahathir sacks deputy prime minister and finance minister Anwar Ibrahim amid Asian currency crisis. He shuns International Monetary Fund advice by imposing currency and capital controls, it saves Malaysia from suffering as badly as neighbours.

Demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur. Anwar arrested, and later jailed for abuse of power and sodomy. The United States and other western governments say trials were politi-

cally tainted. 1999 - UMNO loses over half the Malay vote, and the ruling Barisan Nasional depends on ethnic Chinese support for its two-thirds majority.

2001 - Mahathir supports the U.S. war on terror and is soon invited to the White House after being shunned by the previous U.S. administration following the Anwar episode.

2002 - Mahathir is stopped by panicky UMNO leaders from resigning, and persuaded to stay on for a 16-month handover.

2003 - A stormy final year as Mahathir's anger with the West boils over following the invasion of Iraq. A controversial remark about Jewish domination of the world two weeks before his retirement on October 31

Some candidates say Japan could consider nukes

TOKYO, Nov 1 (Reuters) - In a sign that a taboo on discussing nuclear weapons is easing in Japan, a survey on Saturday showed one candidate in eight in this month's election think there may be situations where Japan should consider acquiring nuclear arms.

Japan — the only nation ever to suffer attack by atomic bombs, has stuck to self-imposed "three principles" that ban the possession, production and import of nuclear arms.

Japanese lawmakers who have previously hinted at ending the nuclear ban have faced fierce criticism but a diplomatic standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programme had prodded some politicians to chal-

lenge the taboo, the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper said.

The newspaper said 13 percent of candidates running in the November 9 Lower House election thought Japan should, depending on international conditions, consider obtaining nuclear arms.

Among candidates from Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, 30 percent backed consideration of nuclear weapons.

Among those who said Japan could consider nuclear arms were the LDP's popular secretary-general Shinzo Abe and five cabinet ministers, including Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, Home Affairs Minister Taro Aso, and

Environment Minister Yuriko Koike, the newspaper said.

The percentage dropped to 11 percent for candidates from the main opposition Democratic Party.

The vast majority of candidates, 84 percent, said Japan should never consider owning nuclear arms, the newspaper said. A few, 0.4 percent, said Japan should obtain nuclear arms now and a similar proportion said it was now time to consider getting them.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda sparked a domestic and international furore last year when he acknowledged he was the unidentified official quoted by Japanese media as saying Japan might review its ban on nuclear arms.

Sri Lanka's rebels seek wider powers

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said on Saturday they want wider-ranging powers under a watershed power-sharing proposal that differs sharply from one put forward by the government.

But the government said separately that despite the differences, plans were still on track to resume suspended peace talks to end a two-decade war that has killed 64,000 people.

The proposal from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA) was the first time the rebels had put in writing an extensive roadmap to end the island's ethnic conflict.

"The government has to be bold enough to go beyond the constitution," LTTE political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan said at the Tigers' headquarters in Kilinochchi, in a rebel-held area of northern Sri Lanka.

"Given that the talks might take years, there is an urgent need to meet the needs of the people," he told a news conference. The eight-page proposal lays out wide powers for their self-governing authority.

"The ISGA shall have plenary power for the governance of the northeast,

including powers in relation to resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development...raising revenue, including imposition of taxes, levies and duties, law and order and over land."

The proposal said the majority of the members of the authority should be LTTE appointees, with the rest made up of representatives of the government and the Muslim community. That is similar to what the government has proposed.

"WAY FORWARD" The government's view of an interim administration also hands over rehabilitation work, but says policing, finances, trade and land use should remain with the central government.

"It differs in fundamental respects from the proposals submitted by the government of Sri Lanka," chief government peace negotiator G.L. Peiris said in a statement issued earlier.

"While the disparities between the positions of the parties are evident, the government is convinced that the way forward lies through direct discussion of the issues arising from both sets of proposals," he said.

The proposed self-governing authority would remain in place until a final peace deal is reached, or for a maximum of five years. After that, the Tigers

would call for elections under an independent election commission appointed by the authority.

The preamble to the proposal says the LTTE should be acknowledged by minority Tamils "as their authentic representative".

Peiris said the government would ask Norway — which brokered a ceasefire that has mostly held since it was signed early last year — to arrange a meeting this month or early in December to discuss "preliminary matters in order to pave the way for a resumption of substantive talks very early in the New Year".

Talks started a year ago, but were suspended in April when the rebels, who started fighting for a separate state for Tamil people in the island's north and east in 1983, said the government had reneged on promises to help rebuild war-damaged Tamil areas.

Despite the truce, the Tigers have been accused of recruiting child soldiers and murdering political opponents, charges Thamilselvan denied on Saturday.

Peiris said any negotiated settlement had to be underpinned by "human rights, democracy, pluralism and genuine power sharing".

Manila calm after power cut

MANILA, Nov 1 (Reuters) - A power cut in the Philippine capital sparked fears of a rebellion on Saturday as hundreds of thousands of people in Asia's only Roman Catholic country marked All Saints Day by cleaning the graves of their relatives.

Parts of the city of close to 12 million people lost electricity at around 2:00 am [1800 GMT], although power was restored to most areas by 4:00 am [2000 GMT].

But in a nation where rumours of coup plots and rebellions are commonplace, the outage nevertheless sparked

tension.

"The situation is under control," Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in an interview on local radio, adding that the police and army were on standby and ready for any trouble. A Manila Electric Co official said tripping at power plants caused the brief outage.

The country has seen a series of coup d'etat attempts since the ouster of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. In July this year a group of disgruntled military officers staged a short-lived mutiny.

On Friday President Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo ordered all field officers to account for the staff under their commands and warned that she had "the will, the authority and the resources to quell any disorder or attempts at destabilisation and we shall not hesitate to move decisively against those who will exploit this interbranch impasse to foment violence."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Narciso Abaya said the military remained loyal to the constitution and the government and the headcount check did not mean another coup d'etat attempt was brewing.

Prosecutor says evidence stronger in Lindh case

STOCKHOLM, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Police investigating the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh have gathered stronger evidence against the man they suspect to be her killer, the public prosecutor in charge of the case said on Saturday.

Lindh, tipped as a future prime minister, was stabbed on September 10 while shopping in central Stockholm and died the next day. Police arrested 24-year-old suspect Mijailo Mijailovic on September 24.

"The evidence has, in my view, strengthened...mainly the technical evidence," prosecutor Agneta Blidberg told public radio Ekot. She did not elaborate on what the evidence was.

Blidberg could not say whether charges would be framed before the end of the year, but said a decision on the timing of a prosecution could be made within a few weeks.

Mijailovic maintains his innocence.

Police are under intense pressure to solve the murder which revived memories of the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986. That killing has never been solved.

Castro says Schwarzenegger all muscle

HAVANA, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Cuban President Fidel Castro praised California Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger's muscles but wondered how much brain power the former Mr. Universe has.

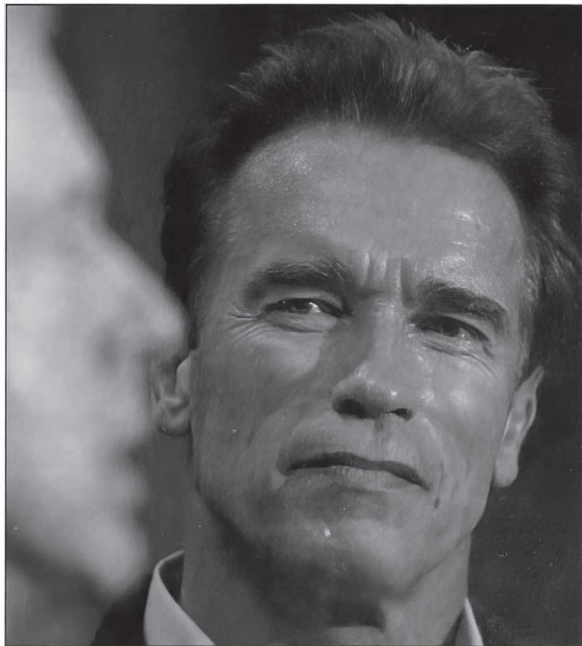
"To judge from the photographs, he has a lot of muscle, but they have not tested him to see how much muscle he has in the brain," the bearded revolutionary quipped during a five-hour speech on Friday evening closing a Latin American social sciences conference.

"He way well have more force in the arms than in the brain," Castro, 77, said of the former Austrian body builder who went from B-movie actor to Hollywood star and governor of the richest U.S. state.

"At least he has the merit of having done a lot of exercise," added the Cuban leader, who played basketball and baseball when he was younger.

Anti-Castro exiles in Miami have called on California's future Republican governor not to trade with the communist-run island, where Castro has been in power since a 1959 guerrilla-led revolution.

Earlier this year a Californian firm became the first American company to sell seafood to Cuba in four decades, under a 2000 law that eased U.S. trade sanctions to allow sales of agricultural products.



California Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) and Governor Gray Davis answer questions at the opening of a one-stop center to provide coordinated state and federal services for victims of the southern California wildfires in Claremont, California, Oct. 31. REUTERS

UK withdraws approval for US "ghost fleet" to dock

LONDON, Oct 31 (Reuters) - A controversial plan to dismantle polluted U.S. ships in Britain was thrown into confusion on Friday after Britain's Environment Agency withdrew permission for them to dock.

The agency said demolition firm Able UK had not completed all the necessary paperwork but the company insisted all would be resolved in about two weeks.

A spokesman for Able UK said he "genuinely did not know" what would happen to two of the decrepit hulks, currently being towed across the Atlantic, if the impasse is not resolved.

Late on Friday in Washington, the U.S. Maritime Administration, part of the Transportation Department, said in a statement it was "aware" of issues raised by the Environment Agency and that the ships were still sailing towards Britain.

"As we work toward a resolution of these issues between the UK Environment Agency and Able UK, the ships will continue to transit the Atlantic," the agency said.

The ships, some of which date back to World War Two and are polluted with asbestos and other toxic materials, were due to arrive on Teesside, northeast England, next month.

Able UK has signed a multi-million pound contract to break and recycle 13 vessels.

The Environment Agency said approval had initially been granted on the assumption that all relevant permission would be in place for dry dock dismantling, but that it had been

withdrawn when it became clear several plans, including planning permission, had not been put in place.

"The Environment Agency's priority is to make sure that the environment is protected and that all the legal requirements are complied with," said agency area manager Craig McGarvey.

Able UK said it was satisfied it had the relevant planning permission in place.

"We have applied for approvals from the Department for the Environment in relation to work on the dry dock facilities," Managing Director Peter Stephenson said in a statement.

"Given that similar approvals have been given in the past, we are confident that these will be in place by mid-November."

Asked by Reuters what would happen now to the ships already on their way, he said: "We genuinely do not know at this stage."

The Environment Agency said the ships could dock on Teesside if the appropriate permissions were granted.

The scheme has caused an outcry on both sides of the Atlantic, with politicians and green groups saying it posed an unacceptable risk to public safety and the environment.

Environmentalists have warned the scheme could set a precedent for exporting other polluted vessels to either Europe or cheaper salvage yards in Asia.

Able UK denies the vessels pose a risk and says they will be scrapped in a controlled and professional way.

German MP apologises for anti-Jewish remarks

BERLIN, Nov 1 (Reuters) - A German member of parliament who said Jews, like Germans, could be described as a "nation of perpetrators" apologised on Saturday after an earlier insistence he had been misunderstood failed to calm a storm of criticism.

Martin Hohmann, a conservative opposition backbencher, faced calls to resign from his own Christian Democrat party for saying some Jews had committed crimes during the Russian revolution, in the same way some Germans committed crimes during the Holocaust.

Hohmann retracted his comments on Friday but pointedly refused to apologise. On Saturday he took a humbler approach in a brief statement.

"It was not my intention to deny the uniqueness of the Holocaust. It was not my intention to characterise the Jews as a nation of perpetrators," Hohmann said.

"If a different impression has arisen, I emphatically apologise and am sorry if I have hurt feelings," he continued.

In a speech to his local constituency on October 3, German Unity Day, Hohmann said it was mainly Bolsheviks of Jewish descent who had taken part in mass executions during the 1917 Russian revolution.

"Jews were active in large numbers

at the leadership level and in Cheka execution squads," Hohmann, 55, said.

"So one could with some justification describe Jews as a nation of perpetrators. That may sound frightening. But it would follow the same logic by which one describes Germans as a nation of perpetrators."

His remarks, intended to show Germans should not be seen as a "nation of perpetrators" because of the Holocaust, went unnoticed until ARD television reported them on Thursday.

Hohmann said in a statement on Friday he had been misunderstood and had not intended to harm anyone's feelings, but added the statement did not represent an apology.

Criticising Jewish people remains a taboo in Germany, still afflicted by its guilt over the Holocaust.

Hohmann long opposed a memorial in the centre of Berlin to Jews killed in the Holocaust, now under construction. He also said in a controversial 1999 speech in parliament that Germany's "time of penance" for the Holocaust should come to an end.

Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Hohmann's remarks represented "the lowest level of disgusting anti-Semitism" and urged the CDU to take action.

Russia calls U.S. wrong in criticising YUKOS affair

MOSCOW, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Russia hit back on Saturday at U.S. criticism of prosecutors' handling of a legal case against oil giant YUKOS, calling the State Department's remarks "disrespectful".

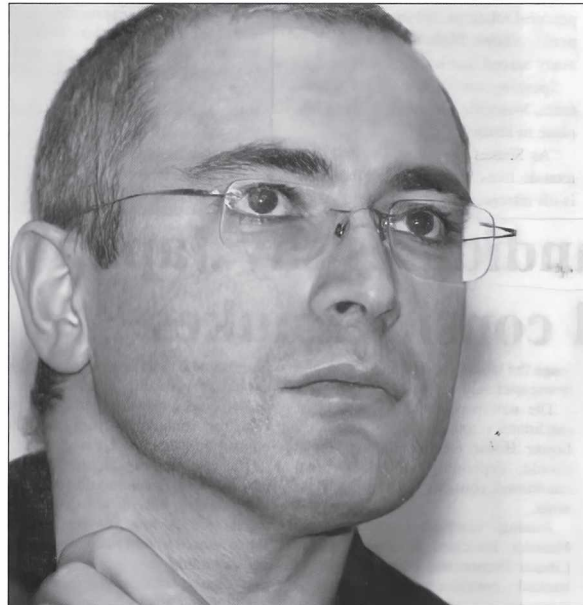
"This statement is a continuation of a notorious policy of double standards," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alexander Yakovenko told First Channel television. "It is, at the very least, tactless and disrespectful towards Russia."

State department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Friday that the Kremlin should act to dispel concerns that the arrest of the boss of YUKOS, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, last weekend was not politically motivated.

"They need to ensure that it's judged fairly and with full regard for due process of law applied in a non-selective fashion," he said.

"There's always the issue (in) a case like this as to whether it's a single event or whether it has some sweeping implication for the rule of law in Russia."

Russian authorities have seized control of a large shareholding in YUKOS pending further investigation of the company and of Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man, who is accused of fraud.



Russia blocked jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky from selling his controlling stake in oil giant YUKOS in a dramatic escalation of a confrontation between the Kremlin and big business. The scale of the drama, unprecedented since Russia's switch to capitalism from communism nearly 12 years ago, sent financial markets skidding and sparked concerns that investors would pull money out of the country. REUTERS

Foreign U.N. staff leaving Baghdad for Cyprus talks

BAGHDAD, Nov 1 (Reuters) - United Nations international staff left the world body's bomb-scarred Baghdad headquarters on Saturday morning for the airport, from where they will fly to Cyprus for talks on whether they can operate in Iraq.

The United Nations announced on Wednesday its international staff of around 18 in Baghdad would be temporarily withdrawn to discuss security, following a fresh wave of suicide bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital.

Car crashes into building at Bush rally

SOUTHHAVEN, Miss., Nov. 1 (Reuters) - A car crashed into the building where U.S. President George W. Bush was attending a political rally on Saturday, briefly delaying the president's departure.

The president was unhurt and later seen waving to reporters before boarding Air Force One.

White House spokesman Trent

Duffy said no shots were fired and the incident was not close to the president or his car.

"There was a vehicle that did crash into the side of the building," Duffy said. "It wasn't close at all."

Police led a woman away after the crash, according to a television technician at the scene who had seen film of the incident. A young boy and girl were

also near the car, the technician said.

Security officials chased the car as it barreled toward the building, witnesses said. Some security personnel were seen running with guns drawn toward the entrance of the arena where Bush had given a speech. Others kept spectators and media away from the crash.

After several minutes, the president's motorcade left the scene.

Threat to civil aviation in Iraq: US State Dept.

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (Reuters) - The U.S. State Department on Friday warned Americans again to avoid traveling to Iraq, saying this time there was a "credible" though unspecified threat to civilian aviation.

"The Department of State continues to strongly warn U.S. citizens against travel to Iraq. Remnants of the former Baath regime, transnational terrorists and criminal elements remain active," the department said in an advisory posted on its World Wide Web site.

"There is credible information that terrorists have targeted civilian aviation in Iraq. In addition, there are daily attacks against coalition forces throughout the country," it added.

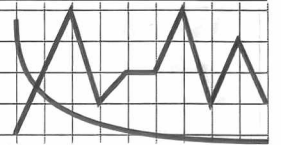
The advisory provided no further details on the purported aviation threat.

Violence has continued to plague the U.S.-led occupation forces in Iraq. Suicide bombings this week killed at least 35 people. International organizations, including the United Nations and the Red Cross, have pulled personnel out, citing security worries.

Friday's travel warning updated a previous one issued Oct. 2. While that advisory also warned against travel to Iraq, it did not include any mention of dangers to aviation.

Also on Friday, the State Department reiterated concerns about travel by U.S. citizens to Kyrgyzstan and Somalia as well.

YT Business



44% of agriculture production in Tuhama,

A centre for desert researches helps agriculture production in Hadramout

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of agriculture and irrigation has drawn up a scientific plan for expansion in reclamation of arable lands and increasing their production by paying attention to researches in the agricultural sector and qualification of those seeking for work at specialized centres it has established in selected governorates.

The main objectives of the plan are fighting desertification, creating job opportunities and settlement of agricultural producers so that to contribute to development of the agricultural national product and the best use of natural resources in addition to curbing poverty.

One of the most significant contents of the plan is the establishment of Desert Research Centre in Hadramout which is presently under construction with the aim of realization of renewable agricultural development in the governorate. It is designed that the centre would work for the reclamation of arable lands, restrain advance of desertification factor on them and conducting agricultural researches on the possibility of expansion in the agricultural production in Hadramout governorate. The ministry of agriculture and

irrigation has earlier declared the establishment of 25 agricultural projects for participating in raising profitability of farmers and improving their living conditions.

Part of the government efforts for increasing the agricultural production the state authority for the development of Tuhama plain west of Yemen has achieved positive results. The proportion of securing a large portion of food needs for the governorate of Hudeida and other governorates reached 42% out of the total agricultural national product that forms 17% of the Gross Domestic Product.

The production volume of Tuhama plain of animal production in the country reaches 56% of botanical production, and animal products of red meats come from goats, sheep and cows. The plain contributes to production of animal fodders then cereals and vegetables and fruits, especially mango, banana and dates.

Sources at the state authority for the development of Tuhama plain confirm that there are many investment opportunities in the agricultural sector for entering advanced mechanization and equipment for the purpose of expanding in production and development of agricultural exports. All these are under study and evaluation of their feasibility now and for promoting for them among the expatriate Yemeni capital owners.



Hadramout: A governorate full of potentials in agriculture and mass production of various fruits and vegetables

Higher sales of used furniture and clothes

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Proportion of sales at the markets of used goods in the capital Sana'a has risen during the first week of Ramadhan because of cheapness of prices of the goods they exhibit, especially the variety of clothes and imported used furniture that are resold in Yemeni markets. This causes a drop in sales proportion of trading centres specialized in high life fashions and expensive latest designs of furniture.

The phenomenon of importing and trading with used clothes and furniture has increased in the Yemeni markets especially recently because of people's good demand for buying them. As dealers and importers of this merchandise are aware that the citizens do not care about these goods latest models regarding high quality furniture and household appliances because of the low level of their income the markets of used goods are full of what can be sold easily and gaining major profits.

Yemeni such markets are flooded with used clothes, curtains, beddings, kitchen and electric appliances, carpets, bags and leather shoes. The buyers find in these an opportunity to buy what they need for the youth, elderly people and children and the house mainly due to the pressure of low income and rise in living costs because of the increase of spending volume on house rents and number of family members at an average of 5-8 members in a family.

In Ramadhan many families prefer shopping at such markets their needs of clothes and furniture and this contributes to the increase in selling at these markets and causes a retreat in



As the purchase power of most Yemenis declines, many tempt to buy cheaper goods from second hand retail shops scattered throughout the country. YT photo

sales of trading centres. Owners of business shops at used goods markets say that what helps them to gain clients buying used clothes is that the Yemenis have not a unified fashion but wear a cocktail of clothes and cloth and women put on various fashions of dresses and shawls.

Even foreigners from Arab and western countries living in Sana'a prefer to

buy at these markets imported clothes despite of their high levels of income because they are close to their taste and to benefit from the difference in Yemeni currency exchange price.

Some warnings against health risks of buying imported clothes have been spread but Yemeni families do not show a heed of them because they care for getting the needs of their children at

low prices.

Nevertheless the trading centres and markets that sell the best and latest high quality fashions and furniture, carpets and electric equipment and appliances remain the target of shopping by well-to-do families and those of medium incomes but by a rate not comparable with good demand at the used goods markets.

Yemeni exports in 2002 stronger than the year before

Sana'a, Nov. 1 - Statistics have recently confirmed that Yemeni exports have amounted, in 2002, to YR 585 billion against YR 568 billion in 2001, an increase of YR 17 billion.

The oil as well as derivatives exports are among the lead exports, which reached 530 YR billion. Then fish, agricultural, industrial and other exports come next.

The oil exports have been ranging from 90 to 96 percent during 1998 and 2002.

While the other exports which have been stated above have been ranging from 4 to 8 per cent.

This reflects a sharp structural malfunction of the foreign trade, which entails exerting more strenuous efforts to diversify the income resources and to increase non-oil exports value such as, investing properly the fish wealth and agriculture and other resources.

An economic study has also placed a stress on the necessity to work harder and overcome all difficulties in front of the non-oil materials.

Official statistics indicate that some of the non-Arab Asian countries are the first countries to import Yemeni exports, then the Arab countries and other European Union countries.

Bashaer Telecom Company to establish mobile network in Sudan

Sana'a, Nov. 1 - The Bashaer Telecom Company has recently won a tender to establish mobile networks in Sudan, in the amount 150 M Euro.

On its part, the Sudanese National Telecommunication Authority confirmed that the opening of tenders to establish the mobile network in Sudan has come after a decision issued by the Sudanese Telecommunication & Information Ministry.

The Yemeni Bashaer Telecom Company will start its project to establish a mobile network within 6 months as it is determined by an agreement signed by the two parties, in order to include different areas of Sudan.



Words of Wisdom



many of our senior officials are rather well-educated, but they have mostly ended-up as mere puppets as they are routinely ordered around, many times to do wrong things. Character strength would not allow this phenomenon.

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

OUR OPINION

Pity Bush and Rumsfeld

Pity for U.S. President George Bush and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is being felt by leaders around the world. They are now living a nightmare in Iraq, as the level of resistance continues to rise.

The number of US soldiers killed after the war now exceeds those killed during the war, making their condition quite embarrassing. Bush denies that he explicitly or implicitly said that the war is over, but the impression that Americans got was quite different. US citizens have loved ones and family members in Iraq fighting against an unknown enemy threatening their lives day after day. The once high spirit among US soldiers, because they are bringing 'freedom' to the Iraqi people, is almost gone amid anger of Iraqis for the way those soldiers have treated them.

Recently, I was looking at pictures taken by a wire agency of soldiers laughing and smiling as they were putting a bag on one of the Iraqi prisoners. Another photo shows children being handcuffed by an American soldier. No wonder Iraqis condemn the occupation.

It would be sad for the American people to see more soldiers killed. It would also be outrageous for Arabs to see more of their fellow Iraqi brothers and sisters killed by car bombs or other attacks, especially in the holy month of Ramadan.

On all levels, the future seems dim and uncertain for the once peaceful and wealthy Iraq. Today, some Iraqis feel perhaps Saddam's regime was better than what they have now. The occupiers have proved inefficient and weak in protecting the country's people and establishing security. The US administration failed to win Iraqis' hearts. More Iraqis are expressing anger over how the Americans have managed the country's economy and civil services.

Nevertheless, no matter how many more casualties the US faces, it cannot and should not pull out because they have put the country in the mess it is in. Now they should fix the problem before leaving. This is also the view of most Iraqis, who do not express this opinion out of love for the USA, contrary to what the US administration wants to convey, but because the country cannot be left without any control for gangsters, thieves, and armed militants.

The US is suffering more casualties every day and little has been achieved in terms of establishing security even for the American soldiers themselves. The longer this condition remains, the more difficult it would be for Washington to keep public opinion in its favor, especially as the presidential campaign has already started.

In summary, I believe that Bush and Rumsfeld are the first to blame for the problems in Iraq, because of their miscalculations and irrational planning. They have caused a lot of damage to Iraqis, to their country's own economy, and to the international community.

If the day comes when Iraq becomes unlivable, and things go out of control, I wonder how those two men will feel. I feel pity for both of them.

The Editor

Democracy for whom?

BY DOUG BADOW
FOR THE JAPAN TIMES

Although the Bush administration won formal U.N. recognition for its rule in Iraq, that diplomatic victory is likely to yield few allied troops for occupation duty. In fact, even Turkey, which agreed to dispatch 10,000 soldiers after Washington's approval of \$8.5 billion in loans, is now reconsidering its decision in the face of overwhelming Iraqi opposition.

The Bush administration's bid for Ankara's help reflects a dramatic change from just four months ago, when U.S. Secretary of Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz dismissed potential Turkish contributions. "I wouldn't rule out a role for Turkey, but I think right now we are looking to those people who were with us in the coalition to build a core of the peace-keeping function." Indeed, he added, "My experience is if you talk to Iraqis, almost every one of their neighbors, including Turkey, is viewed from a historical perspective that is not always positive."

But that was then, when the administration was talking about cutting its occupation forces to 30,000 by the end of the year. This is now, when officials are debating increasing the U.S. garrison. That means pushing Turkey to contribute troops.

Alas, Washington will have to pay a high price for Turkish help. Ankara has treated its Kurds with brutality approaching that used by former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In fact, shortly after the war's conclusion, Turkey dispatched special forces, captured by American soldiers, to the city of Kirkut in U.S.-occupied Iraq to assassinate the Kurdish interim govern-

nor. But now the Bush administration has reportedly promised to suppress the Kurdistan Workers Party, today known as KADEK, operating in northern Iraq. That would involve Washington in Turkey's guerrilla war, which cost nearly 40,000 lives over the last two decades.

Moreover, Iraqis, Kurds and non-Kurds alike have little love for Turkey, which long occupied their lands as part of the Ottoman Empire. With Kurds threatening Turkish troops that enter their territory and terrorists already aiming one bomb at the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, Turkish authorities have promised a firm response to any attacks.

That is a prescription for violent opposition far more widespread than anything that has greeted American forces so far. The United States might need to add far more than 10,000 troops to handle the resulting instability.

Of equal concern, Washington's pressure for military aid has undercut Turkish democracy.

Last year Wolfowitz cited Turkey as "a model for the Muslim world's aspirations for democratic progress and prosperity." But negotiations between America and Turkey over aid in the war against Iraq took on the appearance of haggling over a carpet at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. And then the Parliament rejected the deal.

Wolfowitz responded with the rather astounding assertion that the military did not play "a leadership role" on the issue. The fact that the vast majority of the Turkish population opposed the war didn't matter. In an interview with CNN Turkey, Wolfowitz proclaimed that the military should have said "it was in Turkey's interest to support the United States" in Iraq. But members of Parliament were hardly unaware of the

stakes. Although Wolfowitz stated that "I'm not suggesting that you [the military] get involved in politics at all." But what else could have been the implications of his remarks for a country where the military has formally overthrown and more often maneuvered to pressure and overthrow democratically elected governments and dismantle popular political parties?

In fact, while the Bush administration wants the military to play a larger role in Turkish policy, Turkey's Parliament recently approved a measure reducing the military's control of the National Security Council, which influences most domestic as well as foreign policy decisions, and the defense budget.

Warns Omer Taspinar, a visiting fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy, "the current mood in Turkey is still very anti-American." Appearing to range itself against the democratization of Turkish politics could only worsen Washington's image. Nor will civilian rule benefit if Ankara finds its troops involved in an expanding Iraqi conflict.

Turkey "is a model for the Muslim world's aspirations for democratic progress," Wolfowitz proclaimed last year. Which is how a moderate Islamic government came to power and a democratically elected Islamic Parliament came to reject America's request for military aid in the war against Iraq. And how the Erdogan government might change its mind about augmenting America's occupation force.

Throughout the Mideast, and especially in Iraq, Washington must decide whether it values indigenous democracy or geopolitical support more. As the Turkish experience vividly demonstrates, foreign democracies often make decisions Washington doesn't like. In this case, all parties are probably better off if Ankara ultimately decides no.

Another colonialism?

BY LATFI OMAR

Colonialism may be defined as the practice in which a powerful country rules a weaker one and establishes its own trade culture there. This was common historically. Now it has new trend. It's when a country like the U.S.A wants to rule all the world to achieve its geographic, historic and political aims.

They want to change the Arab map in these parts. If we take about the geographic perspective, this is the plan of demarcation of Israel in which the American presence in the

Arab region is worse than the weapons of mass destruction that Iraqi government is said to possess.

If Iraq were to have these weapons, it would be possible to disarm. But what about the American presence? How can we send them away? If we remember the Gulf war, look how American forces are staged there up to now. This costs much and ruins the economy of situation in most Arab countries.

The war against Iraq contradicts its religion and constitution. How can Arab countries who are allied with the American administration allow American forces to move across their lands? In the Arab summit confer-

ence some countries asked Iraqi president Saddam Hussien to denounce his presidency just as the American president asked him.

Now let us talk about Palestine. I won't talk about it for long. I think what is happening there is just as a game, where Zionist troops always kill children, women and old men without mercy. This is not terrorism but defending their rights as America claims. In addition Bush describes Sharon as a man of peace. As suicidal Palestinians kill themselves and Israelis, the international community denies and describes this as terrorism. I want to ask them what is terrorism in their understanding?

Letters to the Editor

An honest writer
I am a French reader from the little town of Crest, Drome dept, France and I want to comment on the letter sent to you saying that "America is working to diminish its own influence by enhancing the influence of every person on earth."
I must point the writer's honesty when you write "on earth..."
Yes, he is honest because the 15,000 dead Iraqis (civilians and military) are not anymore "on earth".
I am not sure other readers are as cynical as you are.
Alain BLANC, France
alain.blanc37@wanadoo.fr

with our lives doing our work normally. Your words 'we can even exert more effort and achieve work more efficiently when we are fasting, because of the spiritual conditions we would enjoy when knowing that we are obeying God,' need to be paid heed to. I wish my students read your editorial and study more efficiently during this holy month of Ramadhan.
Dr. M. N. K. Bose
BOSE@y.net.ye

Ramadhan's start announced too early?
On Sunday, Oct 26th, 2003 before sunset, my son Ahmad Banani, Habib Banani, Mushtaq Anwer and I were at the Hodeidah beach. We waited till the sun went down. Ahmad and Habib were able to see the crescent after some time. Although they said it was very thing ,
Haydar Banani
aljawad@y.net.ye

Mushtaq and I (who wears glasses) were unable to see it. I wonder, how did the people see the crescent on Saturday, Oct 25th, after sunset to announce that Sunday Oct 26th was the first day of Ramadhan? Alternatively if they were right in their sighting, we and others would have been able to see tonight's crescent clearly as every second's night is?
Salah Korain
salahali40@hotmail.com

An eye-opener on Ramadhan
Your editorial "Ramadhan Mubarak" is indeed an eye-opener; you have rightly said that Ramadhan is a month of action and we should go on

Suggestion on YT's poll box
As a frequent Yemeni who is living in the USA, and a visitor to the Yemen Times on the web, I would like to make a suggestion.
I am a frequent voter in the interactive poll of the website. I've noticed that not many people vote. Why is that? Could it be that the

interactive poll icon is placed in the bottom of the main page; therefore, viewers are not able to see it and vote? Or maybe there is another reason.
But, I sincerely believe that the poll box should be placed somewhere on the top of the main web page, like that of Aljazeera's web page.
The reason why I'm suggesting this is because I am interested in seeing more people vote. The more people vote, the more I see how many people share my opinion, especially as I am a proud, frequent visitor to my favorite Yemeni web site, YemenTimes.com.
Salah Korain
salahali40@hotmail.com

interacted with the poll box, and the many more that are written by fictitious names that harbor more hatred and more antagonism to anything that is not within the propaganda guidelines of the international Zionist establishment. Americans should read such hogwash with the extreme of caution, no matter how innocent the efforts are portrayed. They are not individual efforts, but part of a well planned and well organized, but heartless devious effort to shape public opinion in the wrong direction.
Dear Salah,
Thanks for your suggestion, which we will seriously study.
—Editor

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Even the Atlantic Monthly distorts the truth

It is not enough that Zionist propaganda has distorted history, distorted reality and fiddled around with human emotions just to try to make a palatable case for the evil schemes of Zionist idealists. Zionist propaganda will also work diligently to even belie what our eyes see and what billions of people have seen just to ensure that the records would be "adjusted" to the truth that will only serve Zionist goals. Many readers will no doubt recall the tragic death of the 12-years old Palestinian boy, Mohammed Al-Durra, who unmistakably was killed in cold blood by Zionist bullets on that fateful day, literally on the Second Day of the Second Intifadha, which began right after the unholy walk of not-yet-then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. But the *Atlantic Monthly*, in this month's issue is still unsure as to who the killers of this poor innocent Palestinian as a wobble of Israeli bullets were bombarding him and his helpless father on that fateful day of September 30, 2000. In fact, they sent someone, who was never there at the time to "investigate" the matter, even after the Israelis themselves have admitted and said they "were sorry" it had to happen. In 10 pages of pure blab, Mr. James Fallows, who was not there at the time, tries to convince us how the whole affair transpired second by second, in a clearly obvious deliberate attempt to make a fallacy of all the facts (which he incidentally does take note of, but all the time coming out with his own conclusions, as replacements for all these facts!). In fact he went on to try to convince us that the whole thing was a deliberate attempt of exploitation by the "Palestinians" and that the father's statements were not worthy of any sympathetic ears, although the latter was wounded by the same wobble of Israeli gunfire, as he tried painstakingly to save his son from the rush of bullets coming at them.

Yes, ten pages of unadulterated BS was spared in the prestigious *Atlantic Monthly*, all with a view towards ascertaining that nothing in history should ever condone the menacing Zionist regime in Tel Aviv. Mr. Fallows wants the whole world to believe that the death of Mohammed Al-Durra is no more than Islamic exaggerated emotions, to sum up his whole dissertation of hogwash. Yet he goes on to quote the indefatigable Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi as saying that the "early report by the Israelis is "a falsified version of reality that [blames] the victims", without noting that Ms 'Ashrawi is a bona fide Christian of good standing. Although a lot of talk has been made of cross-fire, it was actually admitted by the Israeli Head of Operations then, General Gora Eiland, that there was not any exchange of gunfire at the scene, when he said to an Israeli Radio broadcast, that the boy was apparently (the author said apparently) killed by "Israeli army fire at the Palestinians, who were attacking them violently with a great many petrol bombs (molotovs), rocks and very massive fire". We are not sure what "very massive fire is", but, Mr. Fallows wants us to believe that the whole Durra affair is no more than a staged propaganda scheme of the Palestinians, event though there were hundreds of reporters on the scene and the footage could say nothing more than show us that the victims (father and son) were facing fire coming from the Israeli side and any other suggestions beyond that are clearly devious in intentions and a deviation from the truth. And by whom, by someone who has become a ballistics expert who can turn Israeli gunfire into Palestinian bullets by magic.

We really hoped that the *Atlantic Monthly* could have better taste than to try to whitewash Zionist crimes in the Holy Land, and waste everybody's time and effort to belie the truth as billions saw it throughout the world.

Of course the Zionist lobby work diligently to have Mr. Fallows bring his point across in the CNN program INSIGHT, hosted by Jonathan Mann, who obviously was not convinced by Fallows' arguments, as his facial expressions seemed to indicate.

One is reminded of a similar effort (get this. How to Talk About Israel) once shown in the September 1 edition of the *New York Times Magazine*, by someone who is said to be an expert on Japan, (Mr. Ian Burma, who tries to undermine the increasing American opposition to the obvious Zionist control of American foreign policy, to say the least. In that instance, a long article was given to try to show that there was really no basis for asserting that Zionists control American foreign policy in the Middle East, but again the eight page long article (Font 11 pt), there is a lot of twisting and turning of the fact, not to mention a number of insults here and there against important dignitaries, from Japan to Washington, all of whom Mr. Burma sees as small folk compared to his very own awesome intellect. This is the kind of work that is really the inkling of how Zionist propaganda is hard at work making sure that only what is favorable to Israel or the Zionist cause is given prominent coverage, even in such nonsensical and absurd articles or reports as those of Barrows and Burma, and the many more that are written by fictitious names that harbor more hatred and more antagonism to anything that is not within the propaganda guidelines of the international Zionist establishment. Americans should read such hogwash with the extreme of caution, no matter how innocent the efforts are portrayed. They are not individual efforts, but part of a well planned and well organized, but heartless devious effort to shape public opinion in the wrong direction.

Where are the missing billions?

BY DOMINIC NUTT
FOR THE GUARDIAN

The billions pledged for the reconstruction of Iraq at the donors' conference in Madrid look pretty good on paper. It would certainly be churlish to sniff at \$33bn (£20bn) - especially when you consider that at a similar conference for Afghanistan, after the Taliban were defeated, the world could only scrape together \$4.5bn (£2.7).

In fact, the world has promised the equivalent of around \$1,400 (£848) for each Iraqi citizen, when Afghans got just \$57 (£34).

So, should we be asking why Iraq, a middle-income country, is worth so much more to the world than Afghanistan, which is one of the poorest countries on earth and has few natural resources?

It may genuinely be the case that President George Bush has stumped up \$20bn (£12bn) of the Madrid money for altruistic reasons. But it does raise the question: why has Iraq been given more than four times the amount pledged to Afghanistan? Is it because Afghanistan does not produce oil?

The problem is that raising such questions is likely to fuel Iraqi mistrust of the American-led Coalition

Provisional Authority (CPA) which effectively runs the country at the moment. This mistrust should not be underestimated.

Iraqis lived for decades under the control of a totalitarian state and its legacy provides fertile ground for distrust, rumour-mongering, conspiracy theories and a belief in hidden agendas. Many Iraqis are convinced that the coalition is motivated by a desire to control Iraqi oil. This cynicism aggravates the insecurity and violence that are taking an ever-tighter grip on Iraq. It does not help that much of the extra \$13bn (£7.65bn) pledged by governments and institutions like the International Monetary Fund, comes in the form of loans.

Iraq is already estimated to have accrued anything from \$120bn (£72bn) to \$400bn (£240bn) of debt during the Saddam era. It is often assumed that oil will bail out Iraq. However, even the most optimistic projections for Iraqi oil sales suggest that the most the country could raise through sales, after the long process of rehabilitation, will be \$50bn (£30bn) a year. Meanwhile, interest will pile up on debts and reconstruction must be funded.

It should come as no surprise if Iraqis feel that the international community is writing a post-dated cheque

to be drawn on their oil in future years. The prospect of new debts will further crank up mistrust.

And it gets worse. At the Madrid conference, we at Christian Aid revealed in our report, Iraq: the Missing Billions, that the American-led coalition had failed to account for \$4bn (£2.4bn) in oil revenues and assets from the Saddam regime.

The United Nations had empowered the coalition to gather this money - estimated to be worth around \$9bn (£5.4bn) by the end of the year - and spend it on Iraq's reconstruction through the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI). Under UN resolution 1483, the UN also obliged the coalition to set up an independent monitoring board to oversee and to publish these oil accounts.

This was meant to happen in May this year and failure is no minor matter.

Christian Aid has been working in Iraq for more than 10 years and the people we talk to constantly tell us they distrust American intentions towards their country. Many feel that the US wants their oil. Therefore it is crucial that the coalition lets the Iraqi people know how it is spending Iraq's oil money.

We have been asking the coalition what on earth it has to hide? Is it put-



ting the cash to the best use for the people of Iraq? Or is it rewarding American companies with lucrative and overpriced reconstruction contracts?

Unemployment in Iraq is soaring; hundreds of thousands of Iraqi soldiers - still with their guns - have been demobilised with no hope of work. They are poor and they are angry. And that makes them dangerous. They are entitled to ask why they are not getting jobs from all these reconstruction projects.

Under pressure from Christian Aid, the coalition has finally published some figures on where the oil money has so far been spent. This is good news - it means the coalition has recognised the

need for transparency. But in reality the information is less than the bare minimum. You would expect more details on your own bank statement.

For example, the accounts state that \$125m (£75m) has been spent on buying wheat. Is this Iraqi wheat or American wheat? They say that \$6m (£3.6m) has been spent on oil infrastructure. But who has benefited from these payments - Iraqi or American companies?

Crucially, the account on the coalition website now says that \$192m (£115.2m) from the US Treasury Special Account - that is money from frozen Iraqi bank accounts - has been transferred into the DFI. This is as it

should be - the DFI is the fund that oil and assets money is meant to support.

But Christian Aid sources tell us that money from frozen Iraqi bank accounts totals around \$1.7bn (£1bn). This, added to \$800m (£480m) in funds seized in Iraq when the coalition entered the country, makes up the \$2.5bn (£1.5bn) in unaccounted for assets we refer to in our report. So, where is the rest of the money?

By publishing these accounts, the CPA has acknowledged the need to be open about how it is spending Iraqi money - but it has far from fulfilled that need.

Suspicion will hang over the coalition until it comes clean.

Silenced witnesses

BY JOHN SWEENEY
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

James Miller taught my children to surf. Together, the two of us went to Kosovo, Chechnya and Zimbabwe. He was funny, decent to the core, a genius behind the camera lens. Together, we celebrated winning a Royal Television Society gong by having one shandy too many. I fell into an argument with an irritating cove in a penguin suit. James stepped in, threatening to take said cove outside and sort him out. At which point, some PR floozie whispered in my ear: "Do you know who that is?" No. "It's the head of ITV." Don't watch it much anyway. James and I had so much fun and, occasionally, we did the work.

I was in Baghdad when I heard the news. He had been shot in Rafah, at the rag-end of the Gaza Strip, and was dead.

I phoned his widow Sophy immediately, and wept buckets. When the BBC decided to investigate James's killing, they asked me to report for the film. I couldn't say no.

James was not the first international witness to fall silent in Rafah. He was the third. This spring, in less than seven weeks, and within a radius of less than three miles, the American human-shield activist Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer; the British photographer and peace activist Tom Hurndall was shot in the head and rendered brain-dead; and James Miller was shot dead.

To understand what happened to James, it made sense to investigate the killing of Rachel and the maiming of Tom, whose family are currently discussing with doctors whether or not his life-support machine should be switched off. One day we filmed Tom lying in his hospital bed at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney, south-west London. On the wall was a battery of photographs showing Tom with a whole life ahead of him. The bleep-bleep of the monitor was the only sound. That afternoon, we had travelled to a Devon village to film Sophy Miller, James's widow, and their children, Alexander, three, and Lotte, not yet one.

Making our film, When Killing Is Easy, has been the most harrowing ordeal of my professional life. But it is

vital that it is evidential - and that is really tough when the Israeli government and the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) have refused to speak to us. From mid-August we faxed and telephoned the Israelis repeatedly, asking them to explain their actions. All we got was a series of old press releases.

Rachel Corrie was the first of the three victims. She was a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). They are young idealists, mainly European and American, who offer themselves as human shields. You could call them naive, even foolish. There is no doubting their guts. They stand between the Israeli bulldozers and their targets, the Palestinians' homes that the IDF wants to flatten.

The Israelis have their reasons. Rafah is a stronghold of Islamic extremism in Gaza. The Palestinians dig tunnels underneath the Israeli-controlled border to their relatives in Egypt. The tunnels, the Israelis say, are used to smuggle guns and bombs. It is fair to point out that few, if any, suicide bombers have come from Gaza, for the simple reason that the Israelis have made it virtually impossible for ordinary residents to leave the strip. Even so, to make the tunnelling more difficult the IDF has created a Berlin Wall-style "death strip". The ISM people come along and get in the way. The Israeli government calls them "irresponsible", "illegal" and "terrorist sympathisers".

All of this must be seen in the context of the second intifada, where Israeli military actions have frequently occurred in response to Palestinian suicide bombings. So far, 800 Israelis have been killed and 2,200 Palestinians.

On 16 March this year, Rachel and her friends from the ISM were defending the home of Dr Samir Nasser Allah from the bulldozers. The human shields had been successful in getting in the way. Tom Dale and Alice Coy, fellow ISM activists, watched a bulldozer rumble straight towards Rachel. She stood her ground. The bulldozer didn't stop. Dale, an Oxford undergraduate, had a clear view of the incident. "He [the driver] knew absolutely she was there. The bulldozer waited for a few seconds over her body and it then reversed, leaving its scoop down so that if she had been under the bul-

dozer, it would have crushed her a second time. Only later when it was much more clear of her body did it raise its scoop."

Rachel was able to tell Coy: "My back is broken." She died soon afterwards. A still photograph of the scene clearly shows the ISM activists gathered around the mortally wounded Rachel. In the background is the bulldozer. Connecting the two are straight bulldozer tracks.

The Israeli pathologist Dr Yehudah Hiss noted that Rachel appeared to have been run over by a bulldozer, and found the cause of death to be "pressure to the chest". Rachel's shoulder blades had been crushed, her spine broken in five places and six ribs broken. Her face was apparently slashed by the blade.

The IDF produced a field report that stated that "Corrie was not run over by an engineering vehicle", and, for good measure, that she was "hidden from view of the vehicle's operator". The IDF backed up its version by allowing Israeli television to do a sound-only interview with the soldier who drove the bulldozer. He said: "When I was doing the earthworks, I picked up a load of earth and pushed it along. Nobody was there at the time. Maybe she was buried there. I don't know. I didn't see her." There was a second soldier in the bulldozer. What did he see? We don't know.

The IDF report goes on to assert that Rachel "was struck by dirt and a slab of concrete, resulting in her death". But what about the Israeli pathologist's finding of multiple crush injuries, which is not consistent with a single slab of concrete falling on her? Curiously, when the military police later carried out a criminal investigation, they concluded that she was not "hit by a bulldozer" but had stumbled on building waste.

The family of Rachel Corrie believe the defence force's version of events to be a blatant fabrication. The IDF wouldn't talk to us about Rachel's death; the Israeli military police's investigation is complete and no Israeli soldier has been charged with any wrongdoing.

Tom Hurndall was shot in the head on 11 April. The IDF has admitted shooting Tom, but they imply that they had good reason to do so; he was wearing camouflage fatigues and fir-

ing a gun at an IDF outpost. The IDF's field report even provides two diagrams showing the location of the gunman firing at them.

Tom's father, Anthony Hurndall, a City of London property lawyer, has investigated his son's shooting. The two diagrams in the IDF report locate Tom's position when he was shot in two different places. The sites are contradictory. Thirteen eyewitnesses and two chains of photographs locate Tom in a different place, about 100 metres further away from the death strip. The eyewitnesses say that Tom was not firing a gun at the Israelis, but helping a Palestinian toddler who had frozen under Israeli fire.

Immediately after Tom was shot, he was moved out of the firing line by two Palestinian youths to a safer place where he could be given first aid. Two photographers took a series of stills showing Tom being picked up. Blood is spurting from his head, so you can tell the pictures were taken within seconds of him being shot. In the background of both sets of photographs are some distinctive Hamas graffiti, nailing the site of Tom's shooting to the location identified by the eyewitnesses.

The IDF field report asserts that Tom was wearing camouflage fatigues. ISM activists deliberately wear bright fluorescent jackets, to identify themselves and to distinguish themselves from Palestinian terror groups. The South African photographer Garth Stead took black-and-white pictures, but one of them shows clearly that Tom is wearing a distinctive jacket. The second set of stills and an amateur video recording prove the jacket to be, not camouflage fatigues, but orange. I asked Stead whether it would be possible to mistake orange for camouflage. He replied: "Not unless he was an orange-picker."

The family of Tom Hurndall also believes the IDF's version of events to be a fabrication. His father, after six weeks of investigation, reluctantly came to the conclusion that "this is a case of attempted murder. If Tom dies, and that is a likelihood, then it will be murder." A military investigation continues.

James Miller was shot on 2 May. He had been in Rafah for more than two weeks, for a good part of the time basing himself in a private home that the

IDF called "the house of the journalists". On the last night of filming there had been some gunfire, mainly or exclusively from the Israeli armoured personnel carriers, at Palestinian targets.

Quiet followed, and then the troops in the personnel carriers addressed James and his reporter Saira Shah. (The pair had made two stunningly successful films in Afghanistan, winning many awards.) James's camera recorded that the Israeli troops were calling out to them, not in Hebrew, but in Arabic. It is believed that they were from the Bedouin Desert Patrol Unit; Arab volunteers who fight for the Israelis for money. The Bedouin are not nervous Israeli reservists but battle-hardened volunteers who serve in Rafah for long periods of time.

They called out in Arabic: "Do you like Fairuz?" (a Lebanese folk singer) and: "Do you wear perfume?" - a catchphrase from an Egyptian sitcom. Saira Shah thought them so outspoken that they might have been high on something.

There were two cameras recording the scene; James's and that of a Palestinian stringer working for Associated Press TV News (APTN). Two personnel carriers that had been in the area shut off their engines and switched off their lights. It's an old soldier's trick; to see in the dark you douse your lights and your natural night vision improves dramatically. You can see them; they can't see you. Moreover, thanks to American military aid, the IDF has some of the best night-vision equipment in the world. The armoured personnel carriers in Rafah routinely carry two rifles equipped with Aquila night-sights, which draw in the available light and give fourfold magnification. James and his team were sitting in a well-lit veranda. The soldiers in the personnel carrier would have seen them clearly with their natural night vision and brilliantly through their night-sights.

The IDF field report into James's death remains confidential, but we have seen a leaked version. It clearly states that, after some shooting, the night fell quiet.

James had been filming in the hope of recording the Israelis dynamiting one of the abandoned homes on the edge of the death strip, but it looked as though the IDF had stopped work for

the night. The team decided to leave the house from where they had been filming and return to their (much safer) flat in the centre of Rafah. It was the last day of filming.

They decided to be open and straightforward; to approach one of the personnel carriers directly and ask for safe passage. James, Saira and their local fixer Aboud headed directly for the vehicle, shouting in English and Arabic. Saira was holding a British passport. Aboud held a white flag on to which James was shining a torch. From the veranda, the APTN cameraman filmed the scene. On tape you can clearly hear that the night is deathly quiet. There is no sound of crossfire. Had there been any, the team would not have taken the risk.

They had walked about 20 metres from the veranda when the first shot rang out. The team froze. For 13 seconds, there is silence broken only by Saira's cry: "We are British journalists." Then comes the second shot, which killed James. He was shot in the front of his neck. The bullet was Israeli issue, fired, according to a forensic expert, from less than 200 metres away.

Immediately after the shooting, the IDF said that James had been shot in the back during crossfire. It later retracted the assertion about where in his body he was shot, but until today it has maintained that he was shot during crossfire. There was no crossfire on the APTN tape.

The Israeli Defence Force and the government of Israel chose not to talk to us about James Miller's case. A military investigation continues.

Since the start of the second intifada, 2,200 Palestinians have been killed. Nine Israeli soldiers have been indicted for various offences, but none has been convicted of unlawful killing. But this, from the killing fields of the Occupied Territories, is something new: the killing and maiming of Western journalists and peace activists. And, unlike the Palestinians, the families of the international victims have been able to bring pressure to bear. They have, however, had precious few satisfactory answers.

We showed the APTN film of James's shooting to a serving Israeli soldier. He noted that the television team did not look like Islamic terrorists and concluded: "That's murder."

The View From Here

BY JAMIL ABDUL KARIM

The Yanks need to learn Arabic

Iraq. Can it be saved? Six months after its liberation, Iraqis are still short on power, electrical and otherwise. The Yanks are still being greeted with grenades as much as with flowers and hugs. And how did those weapons of mass destruction disappear?

But American-led UN sanctions against Iraq in the '90s, according to UNICEF, killed as many as 36,000 Iraqis every year, mostly kids. It was a humanitarian disaster, a bloody corner that successive U.S. administrations painted themselves into. If the Bushies did anything right, at least they ended that.

Agree or disagree with their invasion of Iraq, the question now is, where to from here? It will be at least a year before Iraqis, terribly fragmented along ethnic and religious lines, are ready to govern themselves. That means more body bags for coalition troops, now being killed at a rate of more than one a day. No, this is not a video game that ends neat and tidy.

Some prophets of doom say this proves the sky is falling. But, these numbers hardly show another long-term catastrophe such as America's involvement in Vietnam. In fact, one recent poll, even if polls can often be political beauty pageants, shows three of five Iraqis think liberty is worth the hardship they're enduring from their end. After suffering for decades, it looks like at least some Iraqis believe they have a shot at a decent future. So the glass appears half full as much as half empty.

Still, if occupying forces want to see less sabotage and mayhem, it seems to me they should study some Arabic. Really. Consider that in ancient Rome, it cost about 75 cents (U.S.) to kill a man. It was \$3,000 by the War of 1812, \$5,000 in the U.S. civil war, and \$21,000 in the First World War. Now it's taken about \$50 billion to blow up Iraq, and will take roughly another \$90 billion to occupy and rebuild it.

The good news is that while the cost of killing each other is going into orbit, language lessons are not. Here in Yemen, you can get Arabic instruction for just US \$10 an hour. So, if foreign interests truly want to build a new Iraq, for Iraqis, they can learn things like "asalam allykum," without breaking the bank.

Besides, with some decent pledges to rebuild Iraq coming from the recent Madrid donor conference, money abounds. Japan's contribution of \$5 billion

alone will pay for at least 375 million hours of Arabic class.

Now, some languages can be nothing short of crazy. Look at English. It's not easy to learn how "the bandage was wound around the wound," or "they were too close to the door to close it," or "the soldier deserted his dessert in the desert." Why are boxing rings square, and a wise man opposite to a wise guy? But, then again, for native English speakers, Arabic isn't very easy either. So all those millions of hours of instruction may be needed to get it right.

Also, it's interesting that for every four foreigners heading to the U.S. on cultural exchanges, the Yanks send just one of their own abroad. So, besides the Arabic language, occupying troops could also help themselves in Iraq if they tried to learn some basic Arab ethos. They should know, for example, exactly why, historically, Arabs have valued things like status, age and duty, while Westerners tend to focus on freedom, youth and individual rights? Surely, it's a good idea to know such things when transferring rule back to Iraqis, if that is American's intent.

Instead, according to one Baghdad diplomat, the group now running Iraq's show, the Coalition Provisional Authority, or CPA, is known on the ground as the Condescending and Patronizing Americans. A dissident Pentagon official adds, "So there they are, sitting in their palace: 800 people, 17 of whom speak Arabic. One is an expert in Iraq. Living in this cocoon. Writing papers. It's absurd." And this comes from Newsweek, an American publication.

A cynic would say the Yanks might next send in Arnold Schwarzenegger, California's new governor. Arnold, an Austrian immigrant who arrived in the U.S. with nothing and learned enough about his new culture to make it big as a Hollywood star, now heads what is the world's sixth largest economy. Talk about cultural adaptation.

The Terminator 4: "Ahnold" goes to Baghdad. Can you see a sort of twisted logic in it? But then, is it more bizarre than what Iraq's occupiers are doing, that is trying to build a house without a foundation?

Jamil Abdulkarim is a commentator on Western-Arab relations and cultural issues. jamil@yemetimes.com

Various religious sects jostle for power

Are fundamentalist views of Islam getting stronger in Yemen?

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Muslims are broadly divided into two main sects: Sunni and Shia. Of the two, Sunnis form the majority of Muslims, and this in turn has four main divisions: Hanafiya, Shafiya, Malikiya and Hanbaliya.

Sunnis also are known for their various schools of thoughts such as al-Ashaira, al-Marjana, al-Qadariya...etc. Similarly Shia also have several divisions. Of the most important ones is al-Ithna Ashariya (al-Imamiya) and al-Zaidiya, and these also are known for schools of thought such as al-Munhazila and other intellectual and logic schools of thoughts.

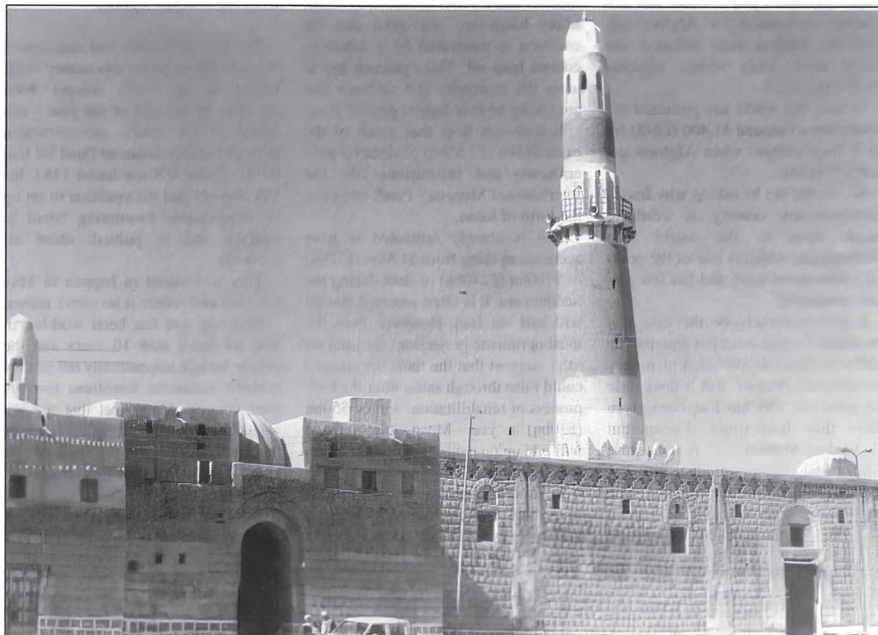
In Yemen, the most famous sects of al mentioned above is al-Shafiya sect, al-Zaidiya sect and al-Ismailiya sect, which have existed in Yemen for more than a thousand years. Some of al-Hanafiya are present also in Zabid, and some of al-Ithna Ashar followers in Aden. As well, recently the Hanbaliya sect has entered Yemen in the last 30 years or so.

In spite of the variety of intellectual and thought schools, each interprets Islam according to its own beliefs, and, yes, that can cause a religious conflict or clashes between the different sects.

In fact, any disputes were resolved by trust worthy scholars from both sides and peace persisted in the region. This does not deny the fact that each sect in its own way tries to dominate the others and spread its principles among the public. Yet, as mentioned before, all issues would be peacefully resolved and none of the different sects would launch war on any other spill blood, except for a few extremist of the Wahabi Sahalifi school of thought.

Since the unity in 1990 and the appearance of political partism and numeral political associations, the Wahabi movement was able to enter the scene and bring attention to its beliefs through the Ikhwan-Salifian movement. This sect contrary to the other ones is not based merely on intellectual schools of thought but has political background symbolized in particular institutes in certain places or religious schools.

The circumstances that allowed a meeting point between al-Ikhwan movement and al-Salafeen movements, especially in the Gulf countries, could be considered one of the



Al-Hadi mosque, Sada

most important historical stations, especially concerning the consequences on Yemen. It has led to the demeaning control of sects that existed for ages in the country, such as the Zaidia, which is going through its worst phases now. At the same time,

al-Zaidia and al-Shee'a al-Imamiya have not maintained their strong positions, even though they might be receiving financial support from petroleum countries which supports the Shia sect in the region.

This means that the fundamentalist

al-Wahabia movement, especially the Salafiya beliefs, has succeeded in spreading its thoughts, and funding its institutions all over the country. It's in more than 100 buildings and mosques. And still, it grows stronger and gets more control.

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship Scheme

British Embassy
Sana'a

The British Embassy invites applications for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Chevening Scholarship Scheme. This highly-competitive scheme offers full-time postgraduate scholarships of varying length to Yemeni women and men who will play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development.

Applicants, who must be under 40, should have a university degree and very good written and spoken English. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their potential and motivation to rise to positions of authority.

Spouses and children are not funded under the scheme.

Please note that the deadline for applications has been extended till **18 November 2003**.

The application form and full information can be:

- Collected from the British Council, 3rd floor, Administrative Tower, Sana'a Trade Centre, Algiers Street, Sana'a,
- Posted upon request by calling: 448356/7/8/9.
- Downloaded from the British Council web site:

www.britishcouncil.org/yemen/education/scholar.htm

Applications are to be submitted only by mail to PO Box 2157, Sana'a.

For further information on the scheme please visit the following web site:
www.chevening.com

Creating opportunity for people
Worldwide

Welcome Ramadan

BY ADAM TAHA
ADAM_TAHA@YAHOO.COM

All of us have to travel, through the passage of time

Some of us can judge the value of our lives in each line

Painting our souls, showing our actions, within this world

And most of us cry, cry, cry, because we see ourselves growing old.

Some of us have only this world, yeah this life to live for

That's what I see nothing less, and nothing more

And some of us see there's more in this life than taking

But a journey to find what was given to us from the beginning

All of us walk in this life, like excited children

Some of us see a glimpse of our purpose, from the beginning

And see that nothing in this life is for certain

Yeah we see the wisdom, where we'll all be heading

Through dark times can't help but start thinking

What happens when we suddenly, stop breathing?

Deep inside you the answer to the question

And the condition we are left in, is all from our doing

My brother and sister

Who said that we would live forever?

Live in this life with one great question

Have we really prepared ourselves to meet Him?

Then with your heart and soul embrace the invitation

Of the blessed month that will be dawning

On is all

Called Ramadan

Improving the region

Hodeidah University to host conference on Red Sea



BY HUSAIN AL-ZURAIQI
YEMEN TIMES
HODEIDAH BUREAU

Hodiedah — The strategic significance of the Red Sea goes back centuries. With that in mind, within the strategy of becoming a sea science college, Hodiedah University will hold an international conference Dec. 8 to 10 to study the economics of the region. About 40 researchers

will take part in the conference, including from Yemen, England, America, Australia, Canada, Egypt, Sudan, Emirates and Libya. Ten other academic researchers will head the conference sessions.

The conference aims at improving the state of the Red Sea regions economically and environmentally, to develop its human resources and the unity among its countries and people, and also to develop the city of Hodiedah.

Photos and paintings on



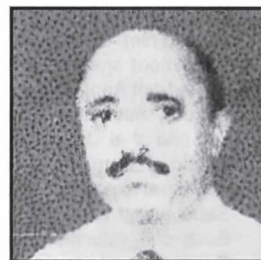
Hodeidah University

the traditions and customs coastline will be exhibited. historical tourist sights in of the Yemeni Red Sea There will also be trips to Hodiedah.

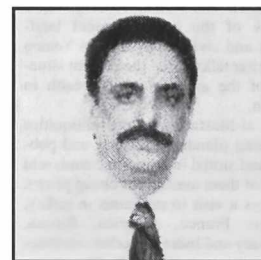
Tawfiq Kasim, secretary general of Hodiedah University said, "the conference will focus on eight pivots; the Red Sea region, the political geography of the Red Sea, the Red Sea region's economic issues, health and environment preservation, languages, and education, and three other historical, social, cultural and religious pivots."



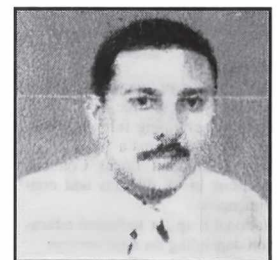
Dr. Abdullah al Juneed



Tawfiq Kasim



Dr. Mahyoub Abdolrahman



Ahmad Hamadi

Dr. Mahyoub Abdolrahman, Hodiedah deputy president of students affairs, emphasized that the conference will come within the future strate-

The conference will come within the future strategy laid by the university when establishing it as sea science and environment college.

gy laid by the university when establishing it as sea science and environment college.

He added that it will be largely different from the conferences held before on the Red Sea, in that it will represent a challenge from a methodical view. It will have a complete view

on the Red Sea and the countries around, and the application of the natural and human science methods, plus the new view of the Red Sea as an ancient region in the history of the scientific navigation and trade, and relations among the nations.

Ahmad Hamadi, dean of sea science college says, "the conference will be held jointly with Britain's Exeter University on organizing an international conference.

Dr. Abdullah al Juneed, president of Hodeidah University said that it is amazing that there are no organization nor any political unity concerned with the Red Sea regions affairs, "for which reason we will organize this conference jointly with the Red Sea studies center, Islamic and Arab studies Institute,

Britain." Participants in the conference include Hallen Lacner, Nicky Hudson, Bruce Stanly, James Stoly, Moh Salih Omri, Gareth Stansfield, Doaa Mohsen, Serge D. Elie, Mohammed Uousif, Mohammed Al Zabidi,

Fred Donner, Prof. Seng Ho, Dr. Lean N. Swans, Dr. Martina Rieker, Dr. Ibrahim El Nur, Prof. Leif Magner, Dr. Hashim al Shami, Mohamed Adroub, Dr. Atta Al Bathani, Ahmad Sidhmed, Prof. Abdel Moniem Attia, and Husain Sharif.

"We will organize this conference jointly with the Red Sea Studies Center, Islamic and Arab Studies Institute, Britain."

Irena Knehtl, Mahmoud Sagiri, Prof. Ado Ali Osman, Husain al Hubeysbi, Amatal Razaq Gahaf, Hassan Shihab, Ahmad al Sharabi, Dr. Nizar Ghani, Prof. John L. Meloy, Babiker Ali, Prof.

Participants of Exeter University are Prof. T.C. Niblock, director of the Institute of Arabic & Islamic Studies, Prof. Rasheed El Enany, and Dr. Hassan Abdin, Ambassador of Sudan in London UK.



Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 30 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- YSP: Islah's statement a positive step towards removing the pursuit of infidelity-accusations
- In Dhamar, fighting for control on mosques causes two deaths and one injured
- Due to manipulation in jobs of graduates in Lahj, sharp differences between civil service bureau and local council secretary general.

In an article Mr Saleh Naji al-Harbi says the drivers and employees of the overland transportation in Aden governorates who are deemed to be a surplus workforce and their salaries have been referred to the transport ministry, have been suffering of either non-payment or delay in payment of their salaries, sometimes for five months after which they come less than they should.

These people and their families are now suffering from poverty because their salaries of the past three months are not paid to them yet under a justification that the Aden bureau has drawn a sum of money from the salaries' paragraph to cover other paragraphs in the bureau's budget, including incentives and transport allowances and others. It is said that the ministry refused to pay the salaries unless the drawn up sum by the ministry's branch in Aden is returned.

The writer wonders about the guilt committed by those people and about their relation with the difference between the ministry and its offices in the governorates. He asks the question, isn't the ministry of transport obliged to pay salaries of its employees regularly at the end of each month? These people have no source of income other than their salaries.



Al-Wahda weekly, 29 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- Convicted spent two thirds of their sentence to be set free
- Tripartite grouping foreign ministers to meet in Sana'a
- Next December, Local Councils elections in 88 districts and constituencies
- National map for technical education depending on field surveys
- Interior ministry: Dhamar mosque incident does not bear political or sectarian characteristic-More than one ton of expired foodstuffs seized in the capital

Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in his article that the world made a great fuss against the speech of Dr Mahathir Mohammed the Malaysian prime minister and accused him, despite his reality and objectivity of his presentation, as anti-Semitism: a weapon the Zionists have drawn

against the Europeans and others. Many western countries protested against Dr Mahathir Mohammed in very hyper sensitivity. Semitism is not a characteristic of the Jews; the Arabs are Semites, if it is ascribed to Sam the son of Noah. Those who protested feign to be forgetting what they speak of Islam and Muslims and the titles and nicknames they unleash against them. The latest of what we have heard came in person of a senior official in the Pentagon intelligence who said that he and his government were fighting the Satan, meaning the Muslims, clarifying on more than one occasion that people hate the United States because it is a Christian state. This is the same of what president Bush said in the wake of New York and Washington incidents that he was going to fight terror in the name of Crusade. The same thing was repeated by the prime minister of Italy. The attack against the Muslims including the Arabs did not exclude any one and even those who have western nationalities. Although terror has no geographical, or ideological or democratic place, none was accused by it but the Muslims.



RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 28 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- Yemeni scientist refutes why Arab scientists stick to America
- Bloody conflict renewed between Islah and the GPC for controlling mosques
- New Jordanian government for change
- Hezbollah and Israel exchange artillery shelling in Shaba'

Columnist Mahdi Othman al-Masfari writes this week on antiquities in Yemen as "buried wealth" saying Yemen is considered among the countries that possess ancient civilization ruins in the Middle East like Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Jordan. After giving a review of the archaeological landmarks and civilization sites in Yemen the writer talks about the present situation of the archaeological wealth in Yemen.

Mr al-Masfari says our antiquities are being plundered secretly and publicly and stored in world museums and some of them are sold for cheap prices. He says a visit to museums in Turkey, Britain, France, America, Russia, Germany and India and other countries would discover this fact. The writer says our ancient and Islamic antiquities are a valueless national wealth and if we do well in discovering, maintaining and restoring them, this land (Yemen) a permanent world testimony about our civilization and one of our economic permanent riches.

For reviving the due status of the Yemeni archaeological situation and reality the writer mentions certain points and proposals such as:
-our non-response to the negligence

Main headlines

- YSP, member in Socialism International
- Socialism International requests Yemen an explanation on facts regarding assassination of Jarallah Omer
- Issue of medical equipment contamination comes back to surface
- Ammunition found hidden in house of non-commissioned officer works for air defence
- Six from al-Jawf tribesmen killed in Marib
- Politicians: Red Cross explosions in Baghdad not of resistance acts
- Bremer and members of Governing Council in Iraq stole \$4 billion
- Wanted persons arrested in a bus bound for Aden
- One person killed and others injured in a dispute on evening prayer in Dhamar
- Exchanged accusations between GPC and Islah over al-Saeed mosque incident
- Islamist extremists arrested, escape of detainee accused of Cole incident
- Political dialogue between Yemen and the European Union under preparation
- Government ends Yeminvest concession in Aden Free Zone
- GPC assistant secretary general Dr al-Asbahi: Yemeni initiative receives interest of all Arab organisations
- UN: We call on Yemen for more political openness
- Amnesty International: September events caused human rights violation in Yemen
- Operation room ceiling at al-Thawra hospital falls on a patient on operation table
- 42 killed in one day, bloody beginning of Ramadhan in Iraq
- Yemeni-American cooperation in democracy field
- Receiving its ambassador to Sana'a, the vice president confirms depth of Yemeni-Egyptian relations
- Persons accused of issues of explosions and violent act brought to justice
- Dubai authorities release a Yemeni student after sentencing him for ten years imprisonment
- Parliament speaker sheikh al-Ahmar: All Arab ordeals come from America
- Security authorities arrest a person from Al' al-Zaidi to find one of al-Qaeda organisation leaders
- Aimed at Islam and Muslims, America intends to build a Universal Agency on war of "ideas"
- Saudi anger versus British and American warnings
- Bush congratulates Arabs and Muslims on advent of Ramadhan and his administration kills Iraqis and contributes to destruction of Palestine
- Arrangements for the return of al-Biedh and al-Attas, higher authorities' directives on evacuation of both personalities' houses
- Washington warns the Saudi family of fate resembling that of Iran's Shah
- Aden-Abyan army joins al-Qaeda, threats of fresh operations

that has almost strangled our ancient ruins,

- the presence of specialized scientists in Islamic archaeology and history,
- seeking assistance of specialized Arab and foreign archaeologists known for their scientific values and decency,
- we should have in our country archaeologists and scientists well-informed in the Islamic religious history, they are existing and care has not been rendered to them,
- distribution of archaeologists among the governorates to carry out researches and discoveries and present their result to the council of ministers,
- there should be a museum for keeping antiquities to be scientifically built in the capital,
- there must be a follow-up of he lost antiquities inside and following up antiquities outside and working for restoring them,
- a sincere information on the Yemeni antiquities and manuscripts,
- the formation of a police force well-educated in protecting antiquities,
- establishment of a state of security in every district and governorate as a major factor for attracting tourists.



26 September, weekly political review, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 30 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- President tours a number of Crater and Mualla suburbs in Aden
- PM lays foundation stone for interior ministry trading centre
- Canadian Nexen announces new oil discoveries

Columnist Faisal Jahlool discusses in an article the myth of the American "free media" saying the American occupation administration in Iraq have carried out during the past weeks arrests of some correspondents and photojournalists of some TV satellite channels, radios and newspapers, including those of al-Jazeera and al-Arabia. The same administration had on the eve of the fall of Baghdad targeted with heavy weapons offices of al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi channels killing the journalist Tareq Ayoub and a foreign photojournalist in Palestine Hotel in addition to wounding others.

The columnist says developments of the war on Iraq, continuation of the occupation, American insistence on their stay, refusal of fixing a timetable for leaving this country and escalation of resistance have forced the Americans to change the terms of media game designed by the Pentagon extremists. Those are now demanding from media in general and the Arab in particular to play a role of an agent for the occupation and to adopt the following measures:

- media men should support occupation and play as informants to local police
- to abstain from publishing statements

and demands of the resistance to make them appear as acts of terror without a political aim,

- concentration on the terrorist description of the resistance,
- hiding losses of the occupation forces and restrict them to the figures given by the American leadership,
- practicing intense pressure on American and western media so that not to report facts on the American dilemma in Iraq to prevent the American public opinion's action,
- showing no objection to publishing statements of Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein and consequently to link the Iraqi resistance to an all-out confrontation with America and to remove the Iraqi issue from the subject of occupation and resistance.

Thus it is clearly appears that the United States of America that till recently was presenting itself as a professor giving lessons in the free information looking for the truth, is now demanding its media and the media of others to efface the truth and to change to information serving the occupation.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation 28 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- The government ignores the liquefied gas and its smuggling operations
- Iraq, support for resistance and expulsion of occupation
- In Bier Basha in Taiz, breaking through a business shop and attacking its owner by police members
- Hisbollah repels Zionist raids and carries out counterattacks

The newspaper's political editor says we hear some voices calling for supporting Iraq; in reconstruction and humanitarially, as if Iraq is still in possession of destiny and preserving its sovereignty and independence and not occupied by an enemy that killed its sons and destroyed all means of its life, and toppled its internationally-recognized political regime. This is the American aggression and occupation, how come then is it possible to help Iraq under the presence of this suppressive terrorist aggression and occupation that storms houses of the citizens and every day kills the people singly and in groups in addition to stealing its properties? Don't these voices that did not demand for that throughout the years of blockade against Iraq that caused the death of its sons and destroyed its installations and agriculture that by doing so they are seeking to benefiting and supporting the American occupation and prolonging its presence?

Those who want to support Iraq and really cooperate with he Iraqi people have only one option and that is the support of the resistance till the victory and expulsion of the American occupation for good.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram

The government of Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Ebeid will start to implement a wide array of urgent measures with the aim of increasing the economic growth rate to 5 percent next year and covering the financial deficit in the state general budget.

The government has drawn up a full dressed legislative plan involving eight new bills on investment incentives, income tax, electronic signature, protecting consumers and customs.

Al Akhbar

The United States has renewed its

commitment to Middle East peace process and the roadmap peace plan in solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice said US President George W. Bush is prepared to meet Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei when conditions become suitable in the future.

Al Gomhuria

The US House of Representatives Friday approved a draft law to allocate a sum of 87.5 billion US dollars to sustain US military forces and rebuild the shattered nations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Japan

Asahi

Japanese research satellite Midori-2 failed following Midori, causing a wast of 140 billion yen (1.29 billion) on both.

Mainichi

The trial on AUM cult founder

Yomiuri, Nihon Keizai

Bank of Japan predicted continued deflation in fiscal year 2004.

Britain

The Times

More than 230,000 people who have bought holiday homes in some of Britain's most popular coastal and rural areas face council tax rises of at least 500 pounds (about 850 US Dollars) next April.

The Independent

The last serious obstacle to Michael Howard's "coronation" as leader of

British largest opposition Conservative Party was removed Friday when Kenneth Clarke announced he would not run for the post.

Financial Times

British ministers are to boost the number of highly skilled migrants coming into Britain by relaxing work permit requirements.

France

France Soir

The unemployment rate got closer to 10 percent of the workforce in France. The youth suffered most in the gloomy situation.

Le Monde

The far-left defied the need of electoral solidarity as the Revolutionary Communist League and the Workers' Fight agreed that they will not call on its voters to turn to the moderate socialists in the sec-

ond round of regional elections next year.

Le Figaro

The unemployment increased by 0.1 percent in September, bringing the number of jobseekers to 2,435,700 and making France one of the worst in employment in Europe. The most hit category was the youth below the age of 25, whose jobless rate increased 8.2 percent compared to the same period of last year.

Pakistan

The News

President Pervez Musharraf Friday night left Pakistan for a week-long visit to China and South Korea. Musharraf said he will have wide-ranging talks with the new Chinese leadership on political and economic ties.

Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Friday urged India to resume dialogue

with Islamabad to settle all disputes between the two countries including the core issue of Kashmir.

The Nation

Pakistan and China will continue to work together for promoting peace and stability in the region as well as to fight against terrorism, a senior official of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the Associated Press of Pakistan.

Nigeria

This Day

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Friday fingered oil marketers as being likely responsible for the failure of Nigeria's refineries to produce at maximum capacity during a meeting with senior officers of the nation's armed forces at the Nigerian Airforce Officers Mess, Lagos.

Weekend Vanguard

The leadership of the Nigeria Labor Congress (NLC) has again asked President Obasanjo to create a forum for discussion on issues arising from the

deregulation of the down stream sector of the petroleum industry, stressing that NLC would not hesitate to embark on strike, if pushed to the wall.

Saturday Punch

Nigeria's Minister of Defense Alhaji Rablu Kwankwaso and Chief of Army Staff Martin-Luther Agwai have been summoned by the House of Representatives Committee on Army to explain how 8 billion naira (about 62.5 US million dollars) was generated and expended in the peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education,
Mahweet
ramakantasahu@yahoo.com
Tel: (01) 465396
Mobile: 73889013
P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a

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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (57): Honoring a teacher (Part III)

What is the difference between father and teacher? Father brings a child from the heaven to the earth, but the teacher sends him up. Alexander, the Great, once said: "I'm indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well." In this sense a teacher's role is more significant than that of parents. A teacher not only sensitizes a learner in the various provinces of knowledge, he creates in him a deep awareness about how to build up a sterling moral character and develop a vibrant personality. Let's look at some expressions conveying a learner's sense of humility and gratitude to his revered teacher for nurturing him.

- Teacher! With you by my side I'll scale new heights - and that's a promise, Dear Teacher!
- Teachers like you lay the foundation to our character. The values and words of wisdom you've given me will guide me always. Thanks.
- Teacher! For you with love because... You've made me richer in knowledge, shown me the path to success, and have inspired me to nurture dreams and to realize them. And most of all, because it's you, who has made me what I am today.
- For a really wonderful Teacher. With everything you do, with everything you say, Teacher, I know, you are there to lean on, come what may. Happy Teacher's Day
- Teacher! You are really wonderful. You've always helped me grow in every way and made me reach where I am today. Whenever I reach a goal that I aimed for, whenever any special dream comes true, whenever I feel satisfied with what I have done, Teacher, I obviously think of 'you'.
- Dear Teacher! You have been gently nurturing our lives, guiding our dreams, enlivening our aspirations and patiently building our strengths to realize them. So a special note of love and gratitude comes our way.
- Dear Teacher! When dark clouds of problems cover my life, your words of wisdom peep through like sunshine and it's these words which help me venture into the world with courage. Thanks for brightening my life.
- To a teacher who has aimed to rectify us and prepare us for the worst. It should come as no surprise to you that you're being thought of warmly in every walk of life.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- He was fond of her; he thought of marrying her more than once.
- Due to carelessness, he failed in exam.
- Everyone says that his folly has brought his ruins.
- The poor and down trodden have been reeling under the weight of poverty since time immemorial.
- I don't see a fun in practical joking.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The patient had died before the doctor arrived.
- Each of these books is very useful for you.
- She is more beautiful than either of her two sisters.
- He is the same man that has helped us in our work.
- He had been taking exercise for three hours before he was called by his father.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Animals which give suck to their young.
- The cessation of warfare before a treaty is

- signed.
- The science of reasoning.
- A figure with many angles or sides.
- An instrument for measuring temperature.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Subject to death: **mortal** (n)
- Resulting in death: **fatal** (adj)
- Property inherited from one's father or ancestors: **patrimony** (n)
- A paper written by hand: **manuscript** (n)
- The result of a match in which neither party wins: **draw** (n)
- A language that is no longer spoken: **dead language** (Noun Phrase: adj. + n)

(B) Foreign words and expressions

Give the sources of origin and meanings of the following:

- bourgeois
- bourgeoise
- carpe-diem
- cara sposa
- chef

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- basta** (Italian): Enough! No more!
- beau garcon** (Fr.): A handsome man.
- beau jour** (Fr.): Fine day; good times.
- beneficiare** (Fr.): Beneficiary, the person receiving benefits.
- bene qui latuit bene vixit** (Lat.): He has lived well who has lived obscure.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words:

- wet, whet
- abstain, refrain
- desert, dessert
- persecute, prosecute
- recover, re-cover

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- compare** (vt) (point out the likeness or relations between): Poets have compared a beloved's face to the moon.
comper (n): (one who introduces the performers, speakers, etc.): She is a renowned comper.
- angle** (n) (point of view): Considered from this angle, your action seems justified.
angel (n) (lovely or innocent person): In terms of beauty and manners she is an angel.
- deny** (vt) (say that something is not true): The accused denied knowing anything about the case.
refuse (vi) (say 'no' to a request or offer): He refused to lend us his car.
- alien** (adj) (differing in nature or character): Cruelty is quite alien to his nature.
align (vi) (bring into close cooperation): We should align ourselves with progressive minded people.
- eminent** (adj.) (distinguished): He is an eminent educationalist.
imminent (adj.) (events or dangers likely to happen): You should be armed against the imminent attack on you.

(D) Phrases and idioms

Give illustrative sentences using the following phrases

- bring in
- call off
- come by
- come to grief
- done to death

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- to be well off** (in comfortable circumstances): Although he is well off, he avoids wasteful expenditure.
- bear away** (win): The Captain bore away many prizes for heading his team to victory.
- break into** (enter by force): The burglar broke into the house and shot at the inmates.
- break with** (quarrel): I give no opportunity to him to break with me.
- bring about** (cause): He brought about his own ruin by his extravagant habits.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

A doctor is giving instructions to her students before she takes them to see patients in a hospital ward. Read what she says and fill each blank with one of these phrases: must, have got to, can, don't have to, mustn't, needn't, don't need to

When we get to the ward, you (1) let me examine the patients first. You (2) all crowd round to watch, but stay at the end of the bed. You (3) look at the notes on each patient, if you like, but you (4) make any comments to the patient, or to each other, about the illness, as this might upset the patient. You (5) of course ask them how they feel, though. You (6) all examine at least one patient in the ward, but if time is short, you (7) examine more than one. Take plenty of time over this. As you know, you (8) do this in our final exam, next term. You (9) take of all bandages for a thorough examination of the patient, but you (10) put them on again - the nurses will do that. Finally, remember that you (11) behave like doctors, not students.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- This dress is too big for me to wear.
- This car is cheap enough for us to buy.
- This restaurant is good enough for us to hold our party.
- We have food enough for us to feed everybody.
- The room is too small for us all to sleep in.
- The book's language is too difficult for me to understand.
- It's too wet for us to go out.
- It's hot enough for us to go for a swim.

(B) Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

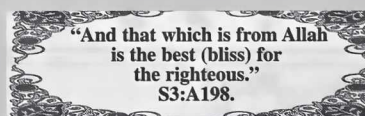
40: ART LIES IN CONCEALING ART

Last week's topic.

39: A FOOL SEES NOT THE SAME TREE THAT A WISE MAN DOES

The main difference between a foolish and a wise man lies in their ways of perceptions and the perspectives they take on anything. They are poles apart in their thinking and analysis of the reality. A fool is essentially short-sighted and haughty. He doesn't consider the pros and cons of a situation and ignores the implications of his action. He hastily jumps to a conclusion and very often regrets it later. A wise man, on the other hand, is a balanced, broadminded, judicious, sensible, conscientious person who exercises his power of understanding and judgment before undertaking a task or deciding upon any course of action. A fool realizes his folly after suffering the consequences of the errors of judgment. But an intelligent person looks before he leaps. He anticipates the outcome and proceeds with caution. Obviously, the two operate on two entirely different planes and at two wavelengths. They have nothing in common.

VI. Pearls from the Holy Qura'an



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Each of us will have our own different ways of expressing love and care for the family. However, unless that is a high priority, we will find that we may gain the whole world and lose our own children."

—Michael Green

Animal Rights: The need of the hour



By Ms. AMRITA SATAPATHY
M. PHIL., UTKAL UNIVERSITY
BHUBANESWAR, ORISSA, INDIA

"We have enslaved the rest of the animal creation, have treated our distant cousins in fur and feathers so badly that beyond doubt, if they were able to formulate a religion, they would depict the devil in human form," opines William Ralph Inge.

As a toddler, I remember bursting into tears and raising a hue and cry, whenever I saw a bullock cart passing by. The reason was that I could not stand the sight of a pair of bullocks being flogged pitilessly by the cart driver. Since after so many years, the horrific sight pains me, I have always been an animal lover. So much so that my father loved to buy me books on animals, instead of those on alphabets. During my childhood days, I was a frequent visitor to the State museum, to have a look at the stuffed animals and birds who seemed so life-like. I have always fantasized about becoming the Mother Teresa to all the stray and neglected cats, dogs and cows around the neighborhood. When I read James Herriot, to my ultimate delight, I found that we shared the same love and respect for animals. I also shared Frances Alexander's thoughts embodied in the lines given below:

"All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all"

My other favorite author being the lovable Jim Corbett, from whom I have learned the lesson of respecting the jungle as the habitat for animals, not the zoo, or the cramped cages for the pets at home.

Animals, people, and environment

In early times man understood that he lives simply a part of the earth. He understood well that the human race was only a small part of Nature or Spirit or Mother. He respected Nature by killing only what he ate and needed (skins, horns). Man fulfilled his obligations to the spirit by learning not to ill-treat the animals. He thanked them for providing him with life, nourishment, and comfort.

In ancient days man recognized the power of animal rights. He wore skins, masks, mimicked and offered up prayers to specific animals. By painting pictures of animals on homes, caves, death chambers, the early man asked the Spirit to guide him to the animals he would eat. He did this in order to bless the spirit of the animal killed by him. Because, man is a predator in the part of Nature who honors the spirit of the prey.

Such acts enabled mankind to remain linked to the animal world and to accept the power offered in lessons, in life and in death. It reminded man that all animals were his sisters, brothers and cousins and most importantly, teachers as well as friends. It instilled in man the awareness that human beings too are animals with spirit.

The history of the training and domestication of animals dates back to the days of cave-men. Almost every one is interested in keeping or enjoying the company of animals. Thus there is evidence that people in the Indus valley civilization reared cows and dogs as pets. The zoo can be traced back to about 1150 BC. It was started, it is believed, by a Chinese emperor who kept a variety of deer, birds and fish. It was probably not open to the public, but was meant for the amusement of the emperor and his court. But that was long ago. In the present age, the definition and the function of the zoo have undergone a sea change. Zoos or "zoological gardens" have become torturous zones where animals are kept and exhibited in cruel captivity.

Why "animal rights"?

"Why animal rights?" is a question that is hanging above mankind's head like the Damocles' sword. Animals are being used and abused in all spheres of

life- be it clothing and fashion, where thousands of small and exotic animals are poached, skinned or boiled alive, castrated, for leather, skin or fur; experiments and laboratories, which have turned into bloody arenas of sadist practices; education, which imparts lessons in cruelty in the form of dissection; economy, where products are tasted on otherwise innocent and harmless animals, which eventually result in their tragic and extremely painful death; not to forget the dozens of ritualistic killings that go on in the name of religion.

It is absolutely necessary to conserve, protect and respect animals. They have a life of their own and their existence is as much meaningful as that of human beings. One cannot keep a pet or an animal just for the sake of having one around the house. Pets are as much an integral part of a home as the family members. Animals do not exist solely for the benefit of their human counterparts. But in practice this seems to be the case. Thus, like human beings, animals also have a moral status. Moral consistency demands that animals should be treated legitimately and humanely. So, they have as much right on this earth as we humans. After all, one mustn't forget that we are not the only carnivores on this planet; we are sharing it with another kingdom with its independent status and own set of laws. This certainly vindicates the 'why' and also of the existence of non-profitable governing bodies like the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), PETA and 'People for Animals'.

Mahatma Gandhi, Father of Indian nation, had once said that the progress of a nation can be measured by looking at the way it treats its animals. Violence and cruelty are activities, which return to haunt a society. The speed with which these activities have come to dominate our society is reflected in the brutal killings or other modes like butcher houses, poultry houses, deep-sea fishing, military testing, drug testing, etc. According to Einstein's Pain Wave Theory, such acts rebound in the ecosystem by increasing the chances of polluting the citizens mind, i.e. leading them to terrorism and separatism. It can also cause natural calamities like earthquakes.

Since the beginning of mankind, people have believed in the superhuman qualities of animals. This belief originates in animism. Rarely people honored animals for having a spiritual life or soul similar to their own. The animals' superior strength, speed and fertility have always been respected. Animals have always been deified, and recognized as symbolizing such powers. Animal have been held sacred, because they are a vital part of man's existence.

Man is dependent on the animal kingdom in more ways than one. But we have caused our animal neighbors far more trouble than they have done to us. Each day we invade thousand of acres of their territories - forests, swamps, lakes, ponds, seas, rivers, and destroy their habitats.

In the view of the SPCA and the Animal Welfare Act, any form of entertainment involving animals (circus, cock fights, roadside menageries, horse-shows or races) are illegitimate and liable to punishment in the form of heavy fines or long term imprisonment. One can very well see the extent of human degradation. We must unite to save, preserve and respect the animal world. It is a very fragile relationship that we share. Instead of cutting a sorry figure through mindless, inhuman acts, we must strive to turn this delicate bond into a Gordian knot and this can be done by reawakening our conscience - a total awareness. In a perfect world, animals are free to live their lives to the fullest - raising their young, enjoy their native environments and following their natural instincts. The great animal lover Jim Corbett believed that animals never attack until and unless they are disturbed or provoked. An ethical and pragmatic approach towards animals is essential, otherwise this generative link between the two worlds will snap. And then man can forget about living on this planet forever.

We will wait in vain for a Noah who may not come this time with his ark to save us from the ultimate disaster.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Advertise | Criteria | Glass | Order | Specials |
| Announce | Details | Groceries | Outlet | Spend |
| Babies | Diary | Guide | Packs | Square |
| Baggage | Dish | Hanger | Paper | Stamp |
| Bars | Display | Hardware | Poster | Stocking |
| Bear | Drawer | Hats | Price | Stubs |
| Belt | Dress | Hems | Prong | Sweater |
| Blouse | Drugs | Hitch | Purse | Tank |
| Book | Drum | Hoses | Retail | Tapes |
| Bottom | Erect | Imported | Sales | Tiers |
| Brand | Exhibit | Item | Satin | Towel |
| Cabinet | Fabric | Kids | Scarf | Walls |
| Cables | Fish | Linen | Search | Wine |
| Cans | Flowers | Little | Security | Women |
| Catalog | Fruits | Lock | Select | Zipper |
| Coded | Gadget | Magazine | Shopping | |
| Coffee | Giant | Mark | Skirt | |
| Computer | Gifts | Measure | Slot | |
| Credit | Girls | Merchandise | Spandex | |

OFF THE RACK

Solution: 8 letters

E	A	S	A	L	E	S	D	S	H	P	T	E	O	U	T	L	E	T		
E	W	N	A	I	R	D	E	N	A	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	O	E	A	
F	M	D	N	R	R	P	P	C	E	A	I	O	E	R	S	I	G	C	N	
F	O	E	E	O	A	E	K	U	U	P	K	D	N	E	E	D	N	B	K	
O	A	C	T	T	U	S	T	Q	R	R	S	N	I	G	A	P	S	E	E	
C	S	B	A	I	A	N	S	I	A	S	I	R	W	G	A	P	D	N		
T	E	T	R	B	A	I	C	M	R	T	E	T	N	F	U	R	I	I		
C	C	T	A	I	L	E	L	E	A	C	E	I	Y	R	F	U	L	T	Z	
S	A	E	G	H	C	E	T	S	O	G	K	L	D	U	G	I	O	S	A	
A	E	N	L	X	A	U	S	R	A	C	T	R	T	I	A	L	S	P	G	
D	S	I	S	E	P	N	G	O	S	U	I	F	T	S	B	A	H	A		
V	I	B	B	M	S	O	G	T	B	M	D	T	E	S	I	P	O	S	M	
E	D	A	O	A	L	A	S	E	D	E	S	R	R	E	L	L	O	S		
R	N	C	R	A	B	S	S	M	R	H	L	E	E	R	S	A	T	A	K	
T	A	R	T	Y	P	C	E	C	A	E	T	T	C	S	I	T	R	I	Y	
I	H	A	E	A	H	A	R	D	W	A	R	E	T	C	O	E	D	W	S	
S	C	I	N	T	S	R	D	O	E	O	M	A	E	B	O	D	S	E	A	T
E	R	D	T	U	S	F	T	W	R	I	M	P	O	R	T	E	D	L	U	
S	E	A	R	C	H	O	S	E	S	P	S	E	O	E	S	U	O	L	B	
X	M	E	B	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	D	N	A	R	B	C	S	S	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Magazine

Unconvincing Australia edges out Ireland

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Champions Australia came through a stern World Cup examination to edge out Ireland 17-16 and set up a quarter-final meeting with Scotland.

Ireland, always playing catch-up but who got to within a point after a second-half try and drop goal by centre Brian O'Driscoll, will face France after finishing as runners-up in group A.

Ireland's David Humphreys missed a drop goal by a couple of feet in the final five minutes.

Australia failed to dominate despite going ahead through a George Gregan drop goal after 10 minutes and adding a try soon after when winger Wendell Sailor was held up just short before the ball was swung left and flanker George Smith ran in unopposed.

Flyhalf Ronan O'Gara kept Ireland in contention with two penalties before O'Driscoll, his foot just inches clear of the touchline, dived in for his try.



Australia's George Smith (R) scores his team's first try past Ireland's Ronan O'Gara during their match on Nov. 1st. Champions Australia came through a stern World Cup examination to edge out Ireland 17-16 and set up a quarter-final meeting with Scotland. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

Sprinkboks rampage into quarters

BY MITCH PHILLIPS

BRISBANE (Reuters) - South Africa have blasted their way into the World Cup quarter-finals with a clinical 60-10 victory over Samoa in their final pool C match.

The 1995 champions were in command from the moment flanker Joe van Niekerk touched down in the second minute and after they reached the break 31-3 ahead, Samoa's spirited second-half revival was never going to be enough.

Derick Hougaard, the 20-year-old preferred by Rudolf Straeuli to the experienced Louis Koen at flyhalf, repaid the coach's faith with a superb performance on Saturday.

Uncapped before the tournament, he scored a try, five conversions, a penalty and a drop goal for a full-house haul of 21 points.

South Africa scored eight tries to stroll into a probable quarter-final meeting with their greatest rivals New Zealand.

Apart from a brief spell early in the second half Samoa, their game riddled with errors, were unrecognisable from the team who pushed England all the way a week ago.

Springbok lock Bakkies Botha was totally dominant in the lineup while Samoa also struggled in the scrum and

against the rolling maul.

South Africa, who revelled in the physicality of the encounter, doused any hopes of another famous Samoan World Cup upset by charging out of the blocks.

Typical enterprise

A typical piece of blindside enterprise from scrumhalf Joost van der Westhuizen set up Van Niekerk for a try after 90 seconds.

Hougaard added a seventh-minute drop goal then centre Jorrie Muller touched down after good work by his pack.

An Earl Va'a penalty was all Samoa could offer and things got worse after 26 minutes when poor handling allowed Hougaard to kick and chase his way to the third try. Hooker John Smit then threw a neat dummy to open the way for his virtual namesake Juan Smith to score just before the break and it was virtually all over.

Samoa showed far more enterprise in the second half and their efforts earned a try for lock Opetia Palepoi after six minutes.

Only desperate South African defending kept out Maurie Fa'asavalu and half a dozen others as Samoa tossed the ball around sevens-style and pounded at the line for 10 minutes, bringing the near-

50,000 crowd to a frenzy.

Lima hit

South Africa survived the test though, then cooled Samoan ardour when Hougaard landed a penalty before finding himself on the wrong end of one of the hits of the tournament as Brian Lima smashed into the young flyhalf.

He limped out of the action a few minutes later, but only after he had converted winger Ashwin Willemsse's 68th-minute breakaway try.

Samoa's usually indomitable spirit was then broken as nice late tries for replacement Jaque Fourie, fullback Jaco van der Westhuizen and replacement scrumhalf Neil de Kock inflated the scoreline.

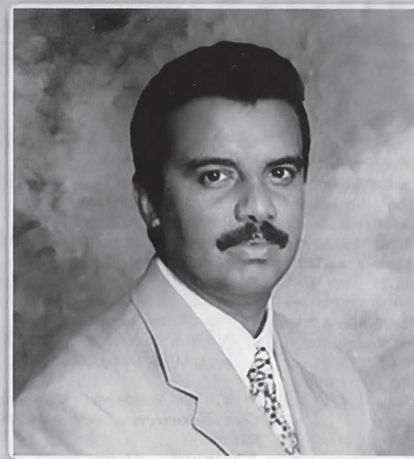
There was a worrying end to the game as a fan ran from the crowd and tried to tackle Koen as he successfully converted the last try. The intruder knocked himself unconscious in the process.

But the incident was forgotten as both sets of players swapped shirts and linked arms after the game in an on-pitch prayer huddle reminiscent of the aftermath of South Africa's post-1995 final heavenly thanks.

"We are looking forward to New Zealand now," said Straeuli.

"This team is improving, it is a world class pack and it is a nice challenge."

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7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Lo	6	7	7	6	6	6	7

Aden							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	34	33	33	33	33	34	34
Lo	26	27	27	27	26	25	25



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
Focus on presenting your ideas and making positive changes to your home. Lend a helping hand to an older family member who may be in need of assistance.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Don't sit around waiting for a phone call. This is a perfect day to expand your circle of friends. A creative concept you have could turn into a very profitable venture.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Take the high road and avoid gossip. Someone you work with may intentionally confuse you. Figure out for yourself the best way to do your job and keep your ideas to yourself.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
Your attitude may be changing, which will be a surprise for those who have known you for some time. You are opening up to new ways of doing things and you will discover new friendships, interests and joy as a result.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
Dead-end projects will plague you, but don't dwell on something you can't change. Consider the possibilities that are available to you. Moneymaking ventures and career moves will bring favorable results.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
Put yourself in a position of power. Do not let someone use emotional blackmail on you. Trust in yourself to make the right choices.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
You can make financial headway if you don't procrastinate about an opportunity that comes your way. Job possibilities are available, so start doing something about it.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Today is a turning point. Your ideas can be put into action. Listen to those with experience—and learn.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Problems are likely to surface if you discuss touchy subjects. Difficulties with loved ones as well as your business or emotional partner will lead to all sorts of considerations about moving on. Reevaluate the past.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Expect to hear about something exciting and unusual today, perhaps through e-mail or regular mail. You will have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork that's been building up. Someone you admire will probably ask for your help.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
You will have a brainstorm that should lead to extra cash. Your business savvy will prove to work well. All your energy should be directed into your career. Take action now.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
Emotional matters will surface, but it's good to clear the air. Listen to suggestions from loved ones. Someone might be able to contribute to your plans.

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Rumsfeld doesn't know if he's lost his mojo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he does not know whether or not he has lost his mojo, as a leading news magazine suggested, because he doesn't really know what mojo is. "Is Rumsfeld Losing His Mojo?" was the headline in Time magazine above a story about Rumsfeld's recent difficulties concerning Iraq policy and differences with U.S. lawmakers.

"Have you lost your mojo?" a reporter asked Rumsfeld during a Pentagon briefing. Rumsfeld said he did not consult a dictionary — as he has for words like slog about which he has sparred with reporters — but he spoke with an aide who had.

"And they asked me that, and I said, 'I don't know what it means.' And they said, 'In 1926 or something, it



Rumsfeld said he doesn't know if he lost his mojo because he doesn't know what a mojo is. REUTERS

Dictionary defines mojo as "a charm or amulet thought to have magic powers," or "power, luck, etc., as of magical or supernatural origin." The word is thought to be of Creole origin. Mojo has most recently come into

popular culture in connection with the "Austin Powers" movies, starring Mike Myers, in which mojo was portrayed as the secret behind the title character's libido. At one point, Myers complains, "Crikey, I've lost my mojo!"

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