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2002 Person of the Year

BY IMAD AL-SAQQAF
TAIZ BUREAU CHIEF
TAIZ

Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed Ana'am, a prominent personality from Taiz has been named the Yemen Times' 2002 Man of the Year.
Shawqi, 41, is respected by many young Yemenis throughout the country for his support of youth programming.
With a bachelor degree in management and accounting from the University of California, Shawqi has succeeded in his personal life and his business career.
His Man of the Year honors come, however, for his efforts to enhance sports and youth activities throughout Yemen.
His involvement in the local council in Taiz during 2002 enabled him to provide Taiz City with various development and economic projects such as the pavement of internal streets in the Cairo district.
Taiz citizens have expressed often their appreciation for Shawqi's role in supporting the young community with equipment, funds, training facilities and moral encouragement and motivation.
His support resulted in the rise of national football stars that competed in international events and gained respectable ranks, including being runner-up in the now disputed 2002 Under-17 Asian Championship.



Mr. Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed Ana'am

Continued on page 5

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Yemeni loved slain Americans

Now we mourn

BY YEMEN TIMES NEWS SERVICES
AND YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It was a week of more grief in Yemen.
Two days after the political assassination of YSP official Jarallah Omar, three American humanitarian aid workers at Jibla Baptist Hospital were murdered.
And for many here, the American missionaries at a Baptist hospital were not seen as Christian intruders, in a Muslim land, but as friends to the residents of this poor town in the rugged hills of southern Yemen.
That became clear during funeral ceremonies Tuesday, as local Yemeni lined up by the hundreds to say goodbye to their American friends.
Two of the dead were buried in a cemetery in the hospital compound. They were Dr. Martha C. Myers, 57, of Montgomery, Ala., who had worked in Yemen for 24 years, and the hospital director, William E. Koehn, 60, a Kansas native who had planned to retire next October after 28 years at the hospital.
The body of the third victim — Kathleen A. Gariety, 53, of Wauwatosa, Wis., who had worked in Yemen for 10 years — was flown to the United States Thursday.

Continued on page 6

Eight others on hit-list

Probing murders

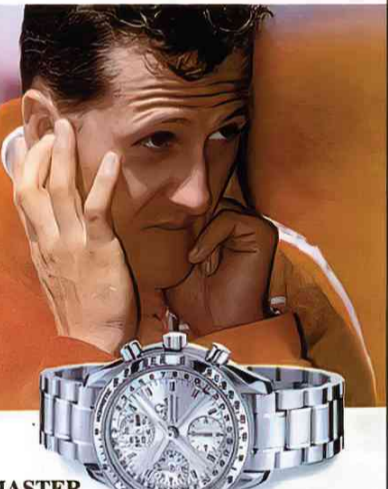
BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
AND NEWS SERVICES

SANAA — As many as 30 men are in custody in connection with Monday's killing of three U.S. aid workers at the Jibla Baptist Hospital.
A security source, who refused to be identified, told United Press International that many of them have ties to Abed Abdel Razeq Kamel, who is already in custody on suspicion of shooting the three American aid workers who worked at the Jibla Baptist Hospital.
Kamel was moved Friday under tight security from Jibla to Sana'a where he will face more questioning, security officials said.
The source said they were among scores of known Islamist militants arrested in a series of police raids that began Monday night shortly after the shootings.
He did not specify the number of detainees but said most of them are "mosque preachers from various parts of Yemen, and they are accused of giving provocative sermons" during Friday prayers.
The source also said a team of U.S. investigators arrived in Yemen this week to join the investigation into the killings of Dr. Martha Myers, 57, hospital administrator William Koehn, 60, and Kathy Gariety, purchasing agent.

Continued on page 6

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New updates on recent incidents

More information was found through investigations with Ali Ahmed Jaralla who had assassinated the late Jaralla Omar last Saturday (28th Dec.) in the Reform Party's III General Conference. Sources told the YT that he and the murderer of the three American doctors in Jibla last Monday (30th Dec.) had planned together since long for their crimes and that they have a long list of people yet to be targeted. The list contains a number of political figures, journalists and political parties leaders whom the two men termed as infidels. Ali Jaralla admitted that there is a third partner and the third mission they planned targets a building in Hadda Street known as "Al-Faidh Al-Hatimi". The compound is inhabited by a number of students and visitors from Al-Buhra sect (Al-Buhra is a sect of Islam who have slightly different views and traditions and are mainly concentrated in Haraz-near Sana'a). However, police forces arrested the third partner before he could execute his plan while another two of the cell are still at large. It is still unknown whether Ali Jarallah cell will continue in its attempts to attack Al-Buhra sect religious places in Haraz, Jibla and Qaid ban Hamid in Sana'a after their abortive attempt against "al-Faidh Al-Hatimi".



Salman Rashid representative of Al-Buhra Sultan, in a statement to the Yemen Times said: "We are here to serve our people and Muslims in general and visitors, and we have heard that there is someone targeting the "Al-Faidh Al-Hatimi" area. What I want to tell those and everyone else is that we gather here to worship and

pray and facilitate pilgrimage for those who come for it. People come from all around the country and we are a transit stop for them to help them make their way and back. They also come to visit the holly shrines of Al-Fatimeen and take blessings there. We pray to God to protect us from all those who wish to harm us. As for

negotiations, we have reached a dead end with those fanatics do not know what dialogue is. Islam is a religion for peace and love, and I hope these concepts only prevail at the end." Ali jaralla had in a sermon a year ago assailed al-Buhra sect describing its followers as more infidel than the Jews and Christians.non-Moslms.

Workshop on environment protection held in Aden & Mukalla

The General Authority for Environment Preservation (GAEP) organizes on 5-6 January 2003 a two-day workshop in coordination with the UN Environment Program.

The workshop is to discuss Polychlorinated Phenox (PCBs), Dioxins, Furans and other elements, which are considered as of the organic materials included in Stockholm International Organization for Fixed Organic elements POPs that Yemen signed on the 5th December 2001. These materials (12 compounds) contain chlorine and are known to resist decaying in different mediums whether air, water or soil for many years. Also they have a bioaccumulation nature and can cause cancer, extreme allergy or defect the immunity system of human beings.

Specialists from Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al-Dhali'h and Taiz will participate in this workshop, which was inaugurated by a number of state personalities. Eng. Salmeen Abood Al-Me'ari General Secretary of the local council in Aden and Dr. Jamal Al-Lawzi head manager of the GBEP Aden Branch, the national coordinator of Stockholm agreement and Mr. Fadhel Naser Saif

general manager of the Environment and Tourism Ministry's Office in Hadramot all delivered speeches regarding the issue, emphasizing on the importance of taking this topic seriously, considering the dangers of organic materials on the environment. Dr. Al-Lawzi informed the Yemen Times that this workshop aims to spread environmental awareness among those who work with organic materials. Indicating that the workshop comes in alignment with the national execution plan to eliminate organic materials that the country started working on since September 2002, and is planned to end in August 2004. He added that the Global Environment F... (GEF) sponsors the plan and signed an agreement with Yemen saying so on 5th December 2001.

It is worth noting that a similar workshop has been concluded recently in Al-Mukalla organized by the same parties and in which more than 25 people participated in. In that workshop, the Stockholm agreement was discussed beside general information about the organic material and their dangerous effects on man and the environment.

Anti-violence angry demonstrations in Yemeni cities

Hundreds of people from Taiz city, Sayoun, and Bani Hushaish province in Sana'a governorate, took to the streets Thursday denouncing the assas-

ination of Mr. Jarallah Omar the assistant secretary general of the Yemeni socialist party and the murder of three US doctors in Jibla in Ebb governorate. The marchers raised anti-violence banners and shouted anti-terror slogans. The protesters have called on all the national forces to join hands to put an end to such criminal acts which contradict the teachings of Islam. On the other hand, a number of civil society organizations have condemned such criminal acts which jeopardize the national security and stability. They called for bringing the murderers for trial.

Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council

Meetings of the preparatory ministerial committee of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council concluded its meetings at Aden Hotel on 26 December 2002 by signing the final minutes. The minutes included a number of recommendations and results aimed at activating relations and bilateral cooperation. The minutes were signed for the Yemeni side by Engineer Abdulla Hassan al-Shater, planning and development ministry assistant undersecretary and for the Saudi side by Engineer Adnan Mohammed Bakhsh in charge of the special committee at the council of ministers, leading the Saudi side of the preparatory committee. Signing ceremony was attended by Yemen's ambassador to KSA Khalid al-Akwa'a', Saudi ambassador to Yemen Mohammed bin Mardas al-Kahtani and members of the preparatory committee at the Saudi-

Yemeni Coordination Council. Mr Bakhsh said the preparatory committee had signed the final minutes in the city of Aden and discussions were carried out good atmospheres, expressing his thanks for the good hospitality and efforts exerted by all for the success of the meeting. He added the task of the preparatory committee is purely technical and focus on preparing for the coming meeting of the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council. Discussions in the meeting covered various topics pertaining to sectors of education, water, health, overland transport, and naval, oil, electricity and tourism affairs. Head of the Yemeni side to meetings of the preparatory committee Mr al-Shater delivered an address in the meeting thanking all efforts exerted by both the Yemeni and Saudi sides.

3 landmarks bombed

Three landmarks were bombed by tribesmen at Waela tribe last Friday, a source told the Yemen Times.

The landmarks have been recently fixed by the German border demarcation company. The tribe claims the possession of those areas during the signing of demarcation of the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

It has to be mentioned here that violence, which occurred recently resulted

in the injury of about 6 persons started when armed tribesmen from Dhu Hussein, Dahm al-Hamra'a attacked one of the sites of the German company demarcating the border Hansa Luftbeild at Shugat al-Waleed near Yateema area, Jawf governorate, 270 km to the north of the capital Sana'a. The company has completed fitting border markings without meeting the tribe's demands.

Constituencies for women

The General People's Congress Party (GPC) on Thursday offered a proposition to the opposition parties for allocating 20 constituencies for women for running for seats in the parliamentary elections scheduled next April.

Head of the political office of the GPC Dr Mohammed Abdulmajeed al-Qubati told Yemen Times that aim of the proposition was to give Yemeni women

political participation opportunity. It is not known whether the opposition parties would positively respond to the proposal despite that it is expected that the YSP women members could win some seats in the parliament especially in the southern areas if the suggestion is accepted. It is noteworthy that there are two women parliamentarians representing the GPC in the parliament.

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Readers' Voice

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

This week's question:
The illegal carrying and use of weapons in Yemen is one of the main factors in terrorist attacks. Why do you think the authorities have failed to limit this phenomenon?
- Because it doesn't have enough resources and power to do so.
- Because of the tribal culture of the Yemeni society.
- Because it does not believe in the need to do so.
- I simply don't know why!

Last week's question:
Do you think that the assassination of Jarallah Omar was political? If yes, who do you think did it?
Answers:
- No, it was not politically motivated %14
- Yes, an Islamic group was behind it %27
- Yes, Islah Party was behind it %12
- Yes, GPC was behind it %25
- Yes, a foreign side was behind it %3
- Yes, but I cannot guess who may be behind it %19

Go to our website at:
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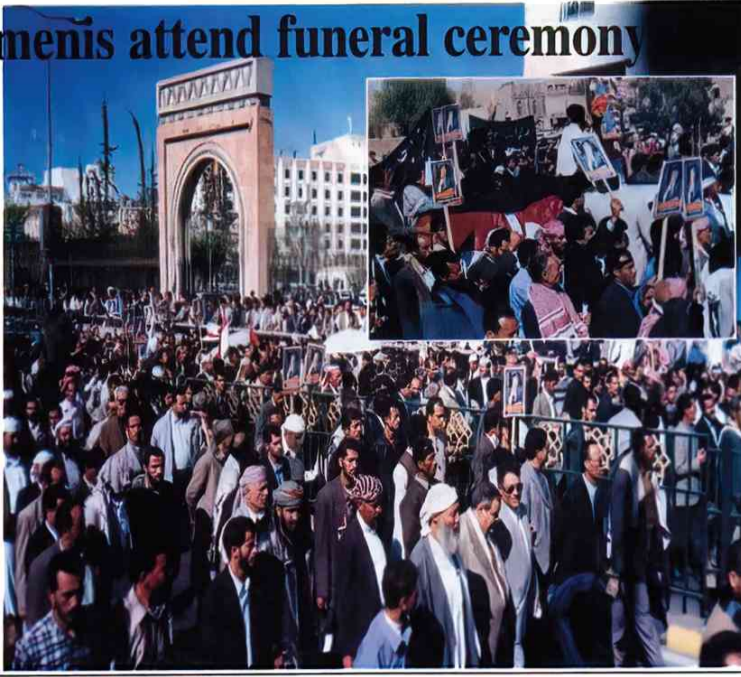
Ten thousands Yemenis attend funeral ceremony

Tens thousands of Yemenis escorted the deceased Jarallah Omer to his final resting place in Ashohada (Martyrs) cemetery in Sana'a.

Jarallah Omer, the assistant secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, was shot dead last week while attending the Islah party conference. At the head of the funeral were leaders of the Joint Meeting Parties, Dr Abdulkarim al-Eryani secretary-general of the General People's Congress ruling party along with leaders of the Islah party, government officials, intellectuals and members of armed and security forces and students.

The funeral ceremony has been considered one of the largest ceremonies after Dr. Abdulaziz Assaqqaf, who died in a car accident.

The funeral ceremony is regarded as a total rejection of all forms of terrorist acts and violence.



Yemen's growing refugee problem

The year 2002 witnessed a growing number of refugees coming from African Horn countries to Yemen.

Staff General Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri told the 26 September weekly newspaper that Coast Guard authorities captured 1,700 refugees in the last three months alone.

Most are from Somalia.

Such refugees are often moved to Khaowz Camp, in Abyan governorate.

He said Yemeni authorities deal with

such refugees on a humanitarian basis although this could cause an economic and social burden as numbers grow.

Those migrants are usually smuggled by unidentified boats and are mostly thrown in the sea for fear of Coast Guard which is still not strong.

A UNHCR office in Sana'a report had that rate of refugee influx to Yemen amounted to 10,000 persons a year, mostly from the African Horn and Somalia specifically.

Seminar on role of female journalists

Queen Arwa University, Development and Society Service Center organized on Saturday a seminar under the title: "Role of female journalists and political pioneers in the approaching parliament elections".

Minister of Information Mr. Haussain Al-Awadhi, and Dr. Ahmed Abdurqaqeb Thabit Vice President of the university, Mr. Abdulkafi Al-Eryani Head of the Development and Society Service Center, Mr. Mahboob Ali Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and Mr. Abdu Mohammed Al-Janadi Head of the Media and Elections Awareness Campaign at the Supreme Committee of Elections attended the inauguration and all delivered speeches in it. Four working papers were presented in the seminar by Dr. Ahmed Aqabat college of information dean at Sana'a University, Dr. Mohammed Abduljabar Salam head of journalism department at college of information at Sana'a University, Ms. Arwa Abdullatif Mutahar teacher at the college of information at Sana'a University, and Dr. Abdullah Al-Zalab a researcher in media.

New President for Nexen

Starting January 1, 2003, Mr. Rick Jensen has been appointed as the new President and General Manager of Canadian Nexen Petroleum. Mr. Jensen replaced former President Mr. Tim Thomas, who will be promoted to a higher post in the company's headquarters in Calgary-Canada.

During the Presidency of Tim Thomas, not only did Canadian Nexen Petroleum increase and enhance its cooperation with Yemen in the field of oil, but it also

started its Yemeni students' scholarship program in Calgary. Under the first phases of the company's program, which started in 1997 to celebrate its 10th anniversary of working in Yemen, the company donated scholarships for 20 students to study in Calgary.

Rick Jensen on the other hand, is not new to Yemen as he worked in the as the company's Assistant General Manager of the Canadian Nexen before he moved to the company's branch in Columbia.

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NEW FACE AT SHERATON ADEN.

Mr. Omar Rabi

the General Manager and the executive committee at Sheraton Gold Mohur hotel & resort Aden have welcomed last week with Mr. Sameh Shawky and wished him the best of luck in his new assignment.

Mr. Shawky will be in charge of the Sales & Marketing Department as Assist. Director of Sales & Marketing,

he has an excellent experience in the Yemeni market after working almost three years in Yemen starting with Holiday Inn Hotel & Resort in Mukalla

And Sheraton Sana'a hotel, he has a twelve years experience in the field of hospitality industry as he have worked with the most bigger hotels chains in this field like Six continents and Starwood Hotels & resorts.

Best wishes to Sameh.

On the occasion of the Christmas and the New Year celebrations

Mr. Omar Rabi

the General Manager of Sheraton Gold Mohur Hotel & Resort Aden,

and his executive's committee have shown preparing the Christmas Plum pudding to the hotel guest's.

Sheraton Gold Mohur Hotel & Resort Aden General Manager & his Management Team congratulating the Christian community in Republic of Yemen.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2003



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Continued from Page 1

2002 Person of the Year

The selection of Shawqi also comes in a time when Taiz is gaining greater attention and importance in cultural, economic and social aspects.

The Yemen Times would like to congratulate him with this award and given him and all citizens of Taiz best wishes for 2003.

Shawqi is head of the planning and development committee of the local council in Taiz. He also is an honorary president of five different clubs in Yemen.

He's the executive head of Al-Saqr Sports Club (The Falcon) and is establishing a complete infrastructure of the club, along with establishing a Young Persons Development Centre for football.

He is married with four children, two boys and two girls, and has availed his bachelor in business administration from California University, USA.

As the name suggests, Shawqi is a member of the Hayel Saeed An'am family, and is currently the vice president of the supreme managerial board in Hayel Saeed An'am Group.

When told about being named as Yemen Times 2002 Man of the Year, he very modestly said that there are more deserving people.

But the readers choice gives evidence to what he has given the country especially in the sports field.

Q: What are the reasons for your success both on the personal and practical levels? And what are the

reasons behind the success the Hayel Saeed An'am Group enjoys?

A: To start with, I can't really say that I am a successful person. That is relative and eventually is left to others to decide, not myself. But what I can say is that I work hard and honestly like the rest of my brothers and cousins by living up to the morals and principals we learnt from our grandfathers, fathers and uncles. Those people gave us the cream of their experiences and effort, and have become the ideal that was followed in our lives. And if there is success to be mentioned then the credit and thanks goes to God first and then to them.

As for the reasons behind the success of the Hayel Group, you can say 'We apply moral and idealistic principles with strategic and scientific mechanisms in our work, and that is what makes the Hael Group successful.' Along with wise policy and mature management of the group's administrative board, lead by Ali Mohammed Saeed An'am and Ahmed Hayel Saeed An'am chairperson and vice president of the board, and of course in cooperation with the remaining members, their brothers,

'Yemeni athletes have proved themselves in international competitions; we are working now on rehabilitation of the sports infrastructure Yemen.'

'We apply moral and idealistic principles with strategic and scientific mechanisms in our work, and that is what makes the Hael Group successful.'

the factors of enhancement are?

A: The sports scene today is better than before and I feel it improving, especially after the achievement our young people has achieved in the last young footballers competition.

Also other sports have proved their presence in the regional and international competitions, and have been provided funding from the state and attention from the public. Factors to improve the sports scene in my view are as follows:

- Establishing a complete infrastructure for Yemeni Sports, especially sports clubs.

- Proper scientific planning by sports unions to enhance and develop local competitions so that Yemen could be strongly represented on the international level.

- Rehabilitation of the national cadre working in the sports sector.

- Searching new sources to fund sports activities.

- Setting an effective strategy and an executing mechanism to care for the young and youth contests in various games.

Q: Tell us about your daily routine and how you manage between work, sports or your other hobbies?

A: With a little time

management one can manage all his activities. As for me, for example since the managing functions through a pre-defined controlled mechanism, I don't struggle much in my private business.

We have an organizational structure run by a set of honest and qualified personal. As for my work with the government at the local councils, I have dedicated the masterpiece of my time for that because it is a new experience for me, and because I head one of the most important sections, that is the planning and development and finance department.

Thanks to God, I have not encountered problems in this line, especially since I find support from the governor and general secretary of the local council in the Taiz who have helped me a lot, along with the rest of the committee members. As for my hobbies and sports, I find time not only to follow it but also to practice, as I like to swim, and watch football matches and basketball competitions.

Q: How do you view the sports scene in Yemen, and what do you think

Biography of Shawqi Hayel Saeed Anaam

- Born in al-Mudhaffar - Taiz on June 23, 1961
- Obtained a Bachelor degree in business Administration and accounting from the University of California in the USA

Political and economic posts:

- Member of Board of Directors of the Hayel Saeed Anaam Group of Companies
- Vice GM of the Supreme Administration of the HSA Group of Companies
- Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the Industrial Sector in Taiz
- President of the Planning, Development, and Finance Committee in the local council of the Taiz Governorate
- Member of Board of Directors of the Yemeni Industrialists Association
- Member of the Supreme Health Council of Taiz
- Member of the Local Council for Encouraging Small Projects
- Member of Board of Directors of the Science and Technology University
- Member of Taiz University Council
- Member of the Trustees' Council of Taiz governorate
- Vice President of the Yemeni French Friendship Association
- Head of the Economic Circle of the GPC in Taiz
- Member of Board of Directors of the Local Water and Sanitation Establishment
- President of the Al-Aghabira and Al-Arooq Charity Association's Taiz Branch
- Member of Board of the Social Security Fund
- Chairman of the Saqr Sport and Culture Club
- Honorary President of the sport clubs: Al-Talia, Shaab Hadramout, Taawun Baadan, Shabab Al-Baida, Hassan, and Abyan

More voices on Yemen's week of deadly attacks

Murders attack Yemen's democracy

Yemen and the international community were shaken last week by murders of prominent politician Jarallah Omar, leader of the YSP, and three American aid workers at Jibla Baptist Hospital.

Since time immemorial, the Islamic religion, the norms, and inherited values strongly condemn violence, extremism and terror.

All religions and celestial divinity also discards extremism, terror and the illegal killings of humans.

The Yemen Times has discussed this issue from different reviewing some point of view on terror and its negative effects on the Yemeni Muslim community.

The Yemen Times' opinion is that to stop killing of innocents and terrorism is a national duty. New terror acts will pave the way for more problems in every corner of the country.

That can be detected after killing 3 US aid workers in Jibla and the political assassination of Jar Allah Omar.

On his part, the president of the republic says in his convalescence to the family of the deceased, "Jar Allah Omar's killing is a terror and an unacceptable criminal act."

The YSP Central Committee following the assassination of Jar Allah Omar says in its statement that it was a shameful act that signifies political bankruptcy.

The statement added that the bullets

that were penetrated Jar Allah's heart, want to kill noble values where he himself enjoyed.

Those bullets want to silence the voice of mind where he himself want to put an end to killings, violence, and respect for human rights.

The statement calls all the different political and social forces, the intellectual movements the honest, for condemning this heinous crime and pursuing the criminals.

The YSP statement has called its members to gather together under the same umbrella.

On its part, the Islah party, the second largest party in Yemen, in its statement during the third conference and says that the Jar Allah's assassination is a heinous crime against the Islah members and a strong shock against each Islah member and the honest people in the country.

The secretary-general of the General Peoples Conference, Dr. Abdulkareem al-Eriani said that the murder of Jar Allah will be a motive for adopting democracy, pluralism and respect for freedom of opinion. Terror doesn't know democracy and doesn't believe in freedom and the freedom of intellect.

Dar Assalam Peace Organization for Anti-violence strongly condemn the murder of YSP secretary-general assistant, Jar Allah Omar and the US aid doctors.

The chairman of the Dar Assalam

Peace Organization for Anti-violence says that his organization has issued a statement condemning the terror act against religion and constitution. "The society is in need of spreading the culture of tolerance and peace," the statement said.

Some other opinions: Mohammed Hussein al-Aidarous, assistant general-secretary assistant of the General People Conference

"Terrorism in all its forms including the political assassination is at variance with democracy and its principles.

It is clear that the terror in all its forms where has Yemen has fallen prey to for a long period of time and after the September 11 terrorist attacks in US has taken different shapes and forms. This manifests itself where foreign interests have become the main targets by the terrorist groups.

These attempts aim primarily at weakening the national economy and spoil the democratic experience in Yemen. That is clearly seen when our country has been progressing rapidly and in an eye-catching manner.

It is natural for democratic principles and extremism not to meet. The democratic choice that has been adopted by the wise leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh has saved Yemen from political violence. He could achieve security and social dialogue and could also provide a comprehensive development for the whole nation.

A new form of war has been come into existence and this is known as intellectual extremism. This new conflict has been widely detected in the Arab and Muslim countries.

In our country many terrorist acts are ambiguous and the country itself has been negatively affected."

Dr. Ali al-Fakeeh, economic researcher

"It has to be mentioned that Islam forbids the killing others and therefore, alternative punishment laws are enacted. This is for the sake of the security of the community.

Yemen's difficult environment is characterized by revenge. Carrying weapons is another problem. A man has to be distinguished from other people by carrying weapons. We can say that the culture of terrorism and violence is the major motive behind the assassination of Jar Allah Omar.

Perhaps it has a political dimension or extremist group. Concerning the time and place of the Jar Allah's assassination, it has been performed intentionally. TV cameras during the inaugural ceremony of the 1st conference of Islah have now added something new to the crime stage.

According to what has been reported by the news agencies, the killings of the US aid workers in Jibla is linked to the Jar Allah's assassination.

Assassination attempts have begun during the post-unification period. A

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on which work will start soon.

Through this experience, I have come to learn about the mechanisms used in the government sector and I have found there many excellent managerial skilled people. I also realized many things which I was not aware of before this. This experience has given me a lot on both the personal and general levels. I owe many thanks to all those who elected me for this position and I pray to god that I do not let them down.

Q: Through your work in the Hayel Group and in the Yemeni Industrial Community, how do you evaluate the present situation of the Yemeni industry? And could the 'made in Yemen' caption start becoming real?

A: I can not deny that the industrial scene in Yemen suffers from great complications, and that the industrial services are below the required level. More so, the investment atmosphere does not comply with the role which these services should be playing now.

Moreover, there is aggressive competition represented by the foreign products which are smuggled into the country. Still, in spite of all these obstacles, there is an improvement compared to what the situation was like years ago. Industries started using more advanced technology in their

manufacturing and enhancing the standards of their products.

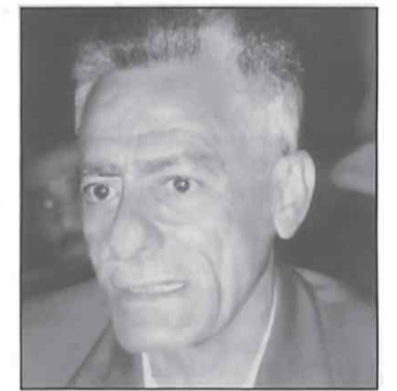
We hope that through the current international transformations and their reflection on the national industry that the concerned authorities start negotiating with the World Trade Organization to make use of the privileges that could be granted to our country considering the situation of the industry at present.

Industrial authorities should negotiate with the WTO to grant Yemen privileges that would enhance the trade situation in the country.

'Made in Yemen' is a patriotic theme that can not be reached unless all the concerned parties cooperated together in honesty and work on the government, private and public levels.

Q: While saying goodbye to a year and welcoming another, what are your personal and general wishes and dreams?

A: My personal ambitions do not differ from any other person's ambitions. I want to achieve success in my work and self-improvement to my abilities and personal skills. On the general level I wish development and flourishing of my country and the Islamic world, and establishing security, stability and social peace under the wise leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.



Jarallah Omar

In this regard, I think that the first incident in Sana'a is linked to the second one in Jibla.

The ultimate aim of the two crimes are identical and meet in one point. It has been ruled out that the two bloody scenes have other motives in order to make Yemen a battlefield for spoiling the democratic experience during the upcoming parliamentary elections.

People have become more aware of this conspiracy whether it is administered from outside or inside. The Yemeni people and the political forces have to unite together for the benefit of the right decision against committing crimes.

They have to encounter terror whatever its sources or forms are for the sake of protecting Yemen, its independence and its sovereignty.

Turkish PM says don't open Pandora's box in Iraq

ANKARA, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul flew to Damascus on Saturday at the start of a tour of Middle East countries to seek ways to head off a U.S.-led war in neighbouring Iraq that he likened to "Pandora's box".

As a close ally of the United States, NATO member Turkey is expected to offer airspace and logistical support for the United States against Iraq. But Ankara has been dragging its feet over making a firm commitment to provide military support, hoping to avoid war and the political and economic turmoil it may bring.

"Iraq is like Pandora's box. We don't want Pandora's box to be opened here," Gul said in an interview with Aksam newspaper.

"This box should not be opened. Iraq should not be scattered because it would not be possible to put everyone back in again."

Gul said the chief responsibility for avoiding a war lay with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Undoubtedly, a great role has to be undertaken by Iraq for a solution without war," Gul told reporters before departing for Syria. "It has to demonstrate to the whole world that it complies with U.N. Security Council decisions without hesitation and transparently."

Turkey's new Justice and Development Party (AKP) government has been at pains to allay suspicions about its Islamist roots and has pledged commitment to its Western allies.

At the same time the AKP's grassroots support and the majority of Muslim Turkey's population are deeply opposed to war in neighbouring Iraq that Ankara fears could damage its economy and possibly lead to the break up of Iraq.

Gul was due to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and other officials in Damascus on Saturday. He will then travel to Egypt on Sunday to meet President Hosni Mubarak and the Arab League's Secretary General Amr Moussa.

On Monday Gul is due to meet King Abdullah of Jordan in Amman before returning to Ankara. It was not immediately clear when a planned visit to Saudi Arabia would take place.



Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul (L) is welcomed by his Syrian counterpart Mohammed Mustafa Miro at Damascus airport, Jan. 4. REUTERS

POOLING EFFORTS

On the first Middle East tour by a senior member of the new Turkish government, Gul said he would try to coordinate efforts to avoid a war in Iraq. "It would definitely have a great influence if all our efforts were working together," he said.

Turkish authorities say they cannot make a decision on participating in any war against Baghdad until the end of January when U.N. arms inspectors, seeking evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, report to the Security Council.

"All diplomatic means have to be exhausted, everything should be tried. We are at that phase at the moment," Gul said.

Turkey fears a conflict in Iraq could spread unrest among its own Kurdish population in the southeast if Iraqi Kurds take advantage of the turmoil to seek their own independence.

Officials say Turkey will be keenly watching what happens in the oil-rich cities of Kirkuk and Mosul which Ankara fears may come under the sway of the Iraqi Kurds. Turkey sees itself as the guarantor of a small Turkmen minority in the region and has said it will act to protect them if necessary.

"If there is a law and order problem and no one to establish it then it is possible for Turkey to take measures to preserve the rights of our Turkmen ethnic brothers," Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis said on Friday.

Any Turkish intervention would be viewed with concern by Iraq's other neighbours Iran and Syria which also have Kurds living in their territory. Iraqi Kurds, who have enjoyed broad autonomy from Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf War, would also be deeply suspicious.

Turkey's relations with Syria have been rocky in the past but have

improved since 1998 when Damascus expelled Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), who had been using Syria as a base for operations against Turkey.

"Recently Turkish-Syrian relations have come to very good levels," Gul said. "We have to forget the past and look entirely ahead to the future."

U.N. inspectors set up base in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, Jan 4 (Reuters) - U.N. arms inspectors set up a permanent base in northern Iraq on Saturday to speed up a hunt for alleged weapons of mass destruction.

With the drums of war in Iraq beating louder, teams from the U.N. Monitoring, Inspection and Verification Commission (UNMOVIC) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also examined at least five sites, including a brewery, in central and southern areas of the country.

A multi-disciplinary inspection team travelled to the city of Mosul, 375 km (220 miles) north of Baghdad to set up a permanent regional office from where they would launch inspections in northern Iraq.

"This will help us expand and accelerate our inspections throughout the country, but particularly in the north," U.N. inspectors' spokesman Hiro Ueki told reporters before leaving to Mosul with the team.

Ueki said the team would be temporarily based at a hotel before moving to a more permanent loca-

tion in the city.

Iraqi officials said an UNMOVIC team inspected a brewery that produces arak in Khalis, some 50 km (30 miles) north of Baghdad. Two more teams headed to undisclosed locations.

An IAEA team was at Al Maamoun Plant of the state Al Raheed Company in Mahmoudiyah, 25 km (16 miles) south of Baghdad. A second IAEA team was at Al Obour General Company near Baghdad.

An UNMOVIC team which had spent the night in Basra, 550 km (340 miles) south of Baghdad, visited an agriculture college in the port city, they said.

The inspectors visited four sites on Friday including a former ammunition depot used as a chemical weapons storage facility before the 1991 Gulf War more than 200 km (120 miles) west of Baghdad.

They also inspected an adjacent area used in the 1980s for chemical weapons munitions tests.

Inspections are now in their sixth week but the experts have yet to disclose any evidence of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons

programmes.

A senior Iraqi official, General Hussam Mohammad Amin, said on Thursday U.N. inspectors had visited 230 sites since they returned to the country on November 27 and had found nothing incriminating.

The inspectors must report their findings to the Security Council by January 27.

Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said at the United Nations on Friday the findings would include the results of laboratory tests of samples taken in Iraq. He will make an interim report to the U.N. Security Council on Thursday and visit Iraq from January 18 to 20.

A unanimous Security Council resolution passed in November ordered Baghdad to reveal all details of its weapons programmes, as required by resolutions going back to the 1991 Gulf War, or face "serious consequences".

The resolution opened the way for inspectors to return to Iraq for the first time in four years, to resume a mission that began after a U.S.-led military coalition ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

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French foreign minister meets Ivory Coast rebels

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast, Jan 4 (Reuters) - French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin flew into the stronghold of Ivory Coast rebels on Saturday in a bid to end a civil war in the west African country.

Villepin, on a two-day visit to the former French colony where some 2,500 French troops have been deployed to try and keep the peace, pressed President Laurent Gbagbo on Friday to commit to end hostilities.

"We're going to abstain from all acts of war on all fronts, north, centre, west," Gbagbo said. "We're even going to demobilise our helicopters and stop our men in the positions they are in, because in the end we want peace."

Villepin said peace talks later this month would be switched to Paris. France fears the conflict will spiral out of control after weeks of West African-brokered talks failed to make major progress.

Hundreds of people have been killed since the conflict started with a failed coup on September 19 and tens of thousands have been driven from their homes.

Villepin was flown by French army helicopter from the administrative capital Yamoussoukro to meet representatives from the Patriotic Movement of Ivory Coast (MPCI) rebels in their Bouake stronghold on Saturday morning.

The MPCI's political leader Guillaume Soro said on Saturday he was not sure what would come of the meeting, but wanted the 2,500 French troops enforcing a shaky ceasefire in Ivory Coast to go home and let the rebellion take its course.

The French force, its biggest African intervention since the 1980s, is in Ivory Coast to protect foreign nationals, enforce a ceasefire and try to restore peace. Some 2,000 troops were flown in to beef up an existing French force there of several hundred.

A ceasefire has been agreed between the government, holding the mainly Christian south, and the MPCI, controlling the mostly Muslim north. But both sides claim numerous violations.

Iran police train first women officers since 1979

Grabo was practically a ghost town. Further south at the coastal town of Tabou refugees were pouring down the road from Neka and shopkeepers were closing up on Saturday morning, fearing an imminent rebel attack.

The western rebels said on Saturday they had not been invited to meet Villepin and would continue their offensive.

TEHRAN, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Iran has begun training its first women police officers since the 1979 Islamic revolution, the official IRNA news agency said on Saturday.

Iranian women served as police officers under the pro-Western shah toppled in the revolution, but since then have been restricted to administrative tasks and conducting body searches on women suspects.

"More than 400 women are to start their activities as second lieutenants in police centres from October," the agency quoted police training college official Mohtaram Masoudmanesh as saying. "They are the first group of female officers since the Islamic Revolution."

Iran has slightly eased restrictions on women since the election of pro-reform President Mohammad Khatami in 1997 and most professions are open to women, but strict dress codes remain in place.

155,000 now displaced

Congo clashes force 35,000 more to flee

NAIROBI, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Clashes in northeastern Congo have forced 35,000 people to flee their homes in the past week, adding to a growing tide of residents uprooted by fighting between rival rebel factions, an aid agency said on Saturday.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said it feared the latest exodus had brought the total number of people displaced by fighting in the area in the past few months to 155,000, calling it one of the biggest mass movements in Congo in recent years.

Fighting between rebel factions has intensified around the strategic northeastern town of Beni in the past month, raising fears that a broad Congo peace deal signed in South Africa in December will fail to stem fighting in the country's chaotic war.

MSF said rival rebel factions had fought artillery battles around the small town of Makeke on Tuesday, forcing an estimated 35,000 people to flee their homes, despite the signing of a truce by various rebel factions in the area on Monday.

MSF said "extreme levels of violence" stopped aid workers gaining access to large areas,

placing many people beyond the reach of relief workers operating in the remote region.

"We see only part of the displaced population," said MSF Head of Mission Philippe Hamel in a statement.

"There may be many more. We fear that in total there might be over 155,000 displaced people in the area between Butembo, Beni, Mambasa and Komanda alone," he said, referring to a cluster of towns in the mineral-rich northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, towards the border with Uganda.

Further south, thousands of people fled this week after rebels clashed with pro-government forces near the lakeside port of Uvira, which has changed hands several times in recent months.

Congo's warring parties signed a deal in December to share power and reunify the vast country that has been divided since war broke out in August 1998, sucking in six foreign armies.

Many foreign soldiers have pulled out, but local militia violence has surged in the vacuum they left behind, prolonging a war which has already killed as estimated two million people.



Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo (C Right) and French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin (C Left) walk hand-in-hand from the presidential residence in Abidjan, Jan. 3. REUTERS

Algeria hopes to host North African summit soon

ALGIERS, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Algeria, whose long-running dispute with Morocco over Western Sahara had crippled the Arab Maghreb Union, was hopeful to host a summit of the North African bloc in the next weeks, its foreign minister said on Saturday.

"We had achieved a breakthrough during our meeting and our hope is great to hold a summit in the next weeks," Abdelaziz Belkhadem told reporters at the end of a gathering of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) foreign ministers.

Belkhadem gave no more details about the "breakthrough" the five ministers attained during their regular meeting to try to inject life into the Union.

But he added: "I hail the meeting results and the consultations about holding a summit in Algiers soon".

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia founded the North African grouping in 1989 with the ambitious aim of setting up

a free trade zone across the Maghreb region.

But strained ties between Algiers and Rabat paralysed the bloc whose leaders were unable to hold a summit to reactivate the AMU since 1994.

An AMU summit planned last June in Algiers was scrapped at the last minute after Moroccan King Mohammed chose not to attend.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa said the latest meeting "prepared the path to overcome problems. The summit date will be decided after further consultations".

Earlier Benaissa voiced disagreement with his four colleagues who wanted to focus on reactivating the union.

Benaissa told reporters at the first day of the meeting on Friday that Morocco's priority is to resolve the Western Sahara conflict, not breathing new life into the Union, which is currently chaired by Algeria.

Saudi Arabia denies hunger strike by Qaeda suspects

RIYADH, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabian officials have denied opposition reports that about 40 suspected al Qaeda members have been on a hunger strike for a week in a Saudi prison.

"There are no strikes or trouble in the prisons and what is being said are lies and fabrications," an official at the kingdom's prisons authority told Reuters on Saturday.

On Friday, London-based Saudi dissident Saad al Fagih of the exiled Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia said the prisoners had refused food and water and prevented medical staff from feeding them intravenously to protest

against their treatment and to demand their cases be brought to court.

Fagih said he was told by Saudi medical sources that a clinic had been set up in al-Ruwais prison in the city of Jeddah so the protest could be dealt with without unwanted publicity.

"Nothing of the sort has happened," Mecca Governor Prince Abdul-Majeed bin Abdul-Aziz told the Okaz daily.

"We know who is behind these lies and what their aims are," he added, referring to Saudi opposition abroad.

Saudi Arabia has said it is holding more than 100 Saudis suspected of ties to al Qaeda Islamist network.

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If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address not later than January 16, 2003

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 - * Please do not call us. We will phone you if you are selected for the test and interview.
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At least one dead in Singapore warship collision

SINGAPORE, Jan 4 (Reuters) - The body of a naval crew member was recovered on Saturday and hopes were fading for three others after a Singapore warship and a container ship collided in the Singapore Straits.

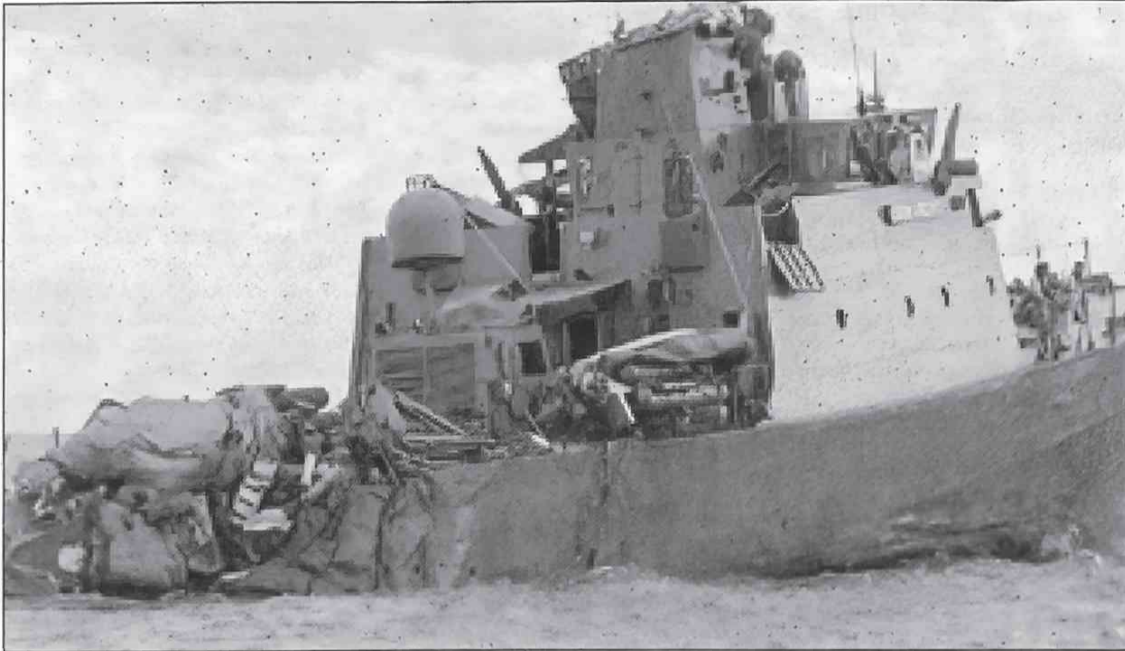
The dead woman crew member was one of four trapped in a flooded aft compartment of the 55-metre-long RSS Courageous that was in a collision with the much larger ANL Indonesia late on Friday near the disputed island of Pedra Branca, between the city-state and Malaysia.

The body was found by divers after the damaged anti-submarine patrol vessel was towed to Singapore's naval vessel and lifted out of the water, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tony Tan told reporters.

Asked about the three other missing female crew members, Tan said: "We have to prepare for the worst."

The 51,000-tonne Dutch-registered merchant ship, enroute to South Korea, suffered only minor damage in the collision, which took place at 11:35 p.m. (1535 GMT).

The RSS Courageous was on a routine patrol when the collision occurred, defence officials said.



The Singapore Navy ship RSS Courageous is towed in waters off the island republic to Changi Naval Base on Jan. 4, after it collided with Dutch-registered freighter ANL Indonesia in the eastern Singapore Straits near the island of Pedra Branca late on Friday. REUTERS

Eight other naval crew sustained minor injuries and were treated in hospital.

The 294-metre-long ANL Indonesia

has anchored in Singapore waters while the collision is investigated.

Pedra Branca is a tiny island at the centre of a border dispute between

Singapore and Malaysia. Singapore maintains a lighthouse on the island, which Malaysia calls Pulau Batu Puteh.

Called 'misunderstanding' Pakistan-US clash is downplayed

ISLAMABAD, Jan 4 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf agreed a clash last week-end between their forces on the Afghan border may have been due to a "misunderstanding", Pakistan said on Saturday.

But Foreign Minister Mian Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri reiterated in a statement that military operations in Pakistan would be carried out "solely and exclusively" by Pakistan forces, despite U.S. military claims to the contrary.

U.S. military officials in Afghanistan said on Friday they reserved the right to chase al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives over the porous border into Pakistan.

A man dressed as a Pakistan border guard clashed with U.S. forces on the frontier on December 29. A U.S. soldier was wounded and a bomb was dropped by a U.S. warplane on disputed territory.

U.S. military officials say the bomb fell on Afghan territory but Pakistan officials say it hit an abandoned religious seminary on Pakistani soil. Several areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border are claimed by both countries.

"Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State

Colin Powell...telephoned President Musharraf and both agreed that the incident of December 29 may have occurred due to some misunderstanding at the operational level on the ground," Kasuri said.

"They reiterated the need to further strengthen coordination to ensure that such incidents do not happen in future."

The clash was seized upon by hardline Islamic politicians as a case of Pakistan ceding its sovereignty to Washington in the wake of Musharraf's decision to back the U.S. war on terror.

Musharraf's backing for Washington in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks infuriated religious conservatives in Pakistan. They harnessed widespread anti-U.S. sentiment to secure huge gains in an October general election.

Thousands of Pakistanis rallied against the U.S. military presence in the region and a possible attack on Iraq on Friday.

But Kasuri underlined Pakistan's ongoing support for the "global coalition against terrorism".

"Pakistan's role and contribution in the fight against terrorism are significant and highly appreciated," he said.

Civilian killings in Aceh drop sharply

JAKARTA, Jan 4 (Reuters) - The killing of civilians has dropped sharply in Indonesia's Aceh province since the signing of a landmark peace accord between the central government and rebels, a Geneva-based organisation that brokered the deal said.

The Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue said that in the four weeks since the agreement was signed, there had been 11 unconfirmed civilian deaths connected to the conflict. That compared to an average of 87 reported civilian killings a

month for most of last year.

There has been widespread pessimism about whether the December 9 accord would hold despite international pressure on both sides to make it work, and end more than two decades of fighting that has killed at least 10,000 people. "Even one death is one too many and both sides regret those," David Gorman, a mediator and representative of the Henry Dunant Centre in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, said in a statement obtained by Reuters on Saturday.

"But it is a key indicator of the willingness by the sides to stop the killing and that the peace process is gaining momentum."

While civilian deaths have dropped, the pact has been shaken by clashes between troops and rebels and accusations from both sides, including a rebel claim that soldiers killed up to 10 villagers soon after the pact was signed.

The army has denied that charge, and it was unclear if the rebel claim was included in the unconfirmed deaths.

The statement said the unconfirmed civilian deaths since the pact were being investigated by a joint security committee, made up of representatives from the government, GAM and a third party.

Many Acehnese, although mistrustful of promises from Jakarta, have welcomed the accord, saying they had begun to feel safer.

Underscoring how the war had spiralled out of control in recent years, the Henry Dunant Centre said that in the two years leading up to the signing, a total of 4,000 people — civilians, government troops and rebels — were killed in the conflict.

Indonesia and the rebels signed the comprehensive pact in Switzerland after several failed ceasefires agreed since 2000. Another problem for the accord has been rebel rejection of additional monitors from the Philippines to serve on the joint security committee along with representatives from Thailand. A number of Filipinos are already on the ground in Aceh.

The rebels claim Manila is indebted to Jakarta, which helped broker peace talks in 1996 between the Philippine government and Muslim separatists, the Moro National Liberation Front.

In Indonesia's other separatist hotspot, Papua in the remote east, a low-level guerrilla conflict has simmered for decades.



Bali bomb suspect Abdul Rauf (R) follows two unidentified bomb suspects as they are escorted by a plainclothes policeman (L) during a reenactment of meetings to plan the October terror attacks in Denpasar on Jan. 4. REUTERS



Pakistani demonstrators.

U.N. to give North Korea another chance to cooperate

VIENNA, Jan 4 (Reuters) - The United Nations nuclear watchdog agency will propose giving North Korea a chance to cooperate and allow inspections of the country's atomic programme to resume, an informed source said on Saturday.

The source said U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei is likely to recommend that North Korea, which has expelled U.N. inspectors and restarted its nuclear weapons programme, receive another opportunity to recant, before the IAEA takes the matter to the U.N. Security Council.

"It's pretty clear that they're not going to take this straight to the Security Council," a U.N. source told Reuters in advance of a Monday report by ElBaradei to the IAEA board of governors.

"Certainly this is an option the IAEA retains, but it would not be diplomatically helpful at this point."

Handing the matter over to the

Security Council is a last resort for the agency, the source added.

"We don't need to go to the highest (diplomatic) court yet," he said.

In contrast to his position on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction programmes, U.S. President George W. Bush said last week that he believed the situation in North Korea could be resolved diplomatically.

The Bush administration has threatened to attack Iraq if it is found to be in "material breach" of U.N. resolutions restricting the oil-rich country's possession of or attempts to create nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Weeks of U.N. inspections across Iraq since have so far not disclosed any evidence that Baghdad has or is producing weapons of mass destruction. However, U.N. inspectors are due to present an interim report on their findings to the United Nations on January 9, with a full report due by January 27.

ElBaradei has repeatedly called for senior-level talks with North Korea. In

November, the 35-nation IAEA Board of Governors said it "deplored" Pyongyang's claim that it has a right to develop nuclear arms and demanded they cooperate with the United Nations.

Pyongyang not only ignored the U.N.'s strong words but restarted its Yongbyon nuclear facilities, frozen under a 1994 agreement with the United States, and on New Year's Eve expelled the two IAEA inspectors. The U.N. source was not aware of a deadline for North Korea to cooperate, but said the draft resolution the board would consider on Monday had not been finalised yet.

"It's clear that it won't be just a week," the source said.

South Korea has also called for a diplomatic resolution of the standoff with North Korea, which wants talks with the United States on condition that Pyongyang and Washington enter into a non-aggression pact.

Washington has rejected Pyongyang's calls, saying it refused to negotiate the 1994 agreement.

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« وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمْ مِصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا: إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ »
 صدق الله العظيم
 بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا وفاة الوالد
علي محمد عبده المسني
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لطفى علي المسني
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 « إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ »
 وليد وريدان عبد العزيز السقاف، وكافة موظفي وعملاء «يمن تايمز»

UK's Blair back from holiday amid Iraq war reports

LONDON, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Prime Minister Tony Blair returned on Saturday from a 10-day family holiday in Egypt amid reports that Britain was girding for a possible conflict with Iraq.

He twice broke off from his Red Sea break to have talks with moderate Arab leaders — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah — on Iraq and the Middle East crisis.

A spokesman for the British leader, Washington's staunchest supporter in the campaign against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said: "The Prime Minister is back in Downing Street (his London residence) and will be working there over the weekend."

The diplomatic pace — and military preparations for a possible conflict — will quicken next week as parliamentarians return from their Christmas break on Tuesday. An announcement from Blair on troop deployments is widely expected.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said

Britain was to send more than 20,000 troops to the Gulf and mobilise 7,000 reservists next week in preparation for war against Iraq.

It said defence chiefs will brief Blair about plans for a mass deployment led by the aircraft carrier Ark Royal.

Asked to comment on the newspaper report, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We have been making preparations to have credible options available if necessary and we are likely to do more."

"We cannot however rule out the possibility of a further statement next week," he told Reuters.

Blair had used his New Year message to warn his compatriots of dangerous times ahead which could see war against Iraq and a possible terror attack on Britain.

He also said the world would not be a safer place unless world leaders acted to revive the Middle East peace process.

"I cannot recall a time when Britain was confronted, simultaneously, by such a range of difficult and in some cases dangerous problems," Blair said in his gloomy 2003 message.

The next key date for Iraq is January 27 by which time U.N. weapons inspectors searching for alleged banned weapons must report their findings back to the Security Council.

Blair said Saddam must be disarmed of his alleged weapons of mass destruction peacefully or, as a last resort, by force.

Last month, a British Defence Ministry source told Reuters the United States and Britain were planning a massive, airborne invasion of Iraq as the first stage in any ground war.

The sources said that planners were leaning towards an amphibious assault task force in the case of a war with Iraq because of the difficulties of protecting a large ground-based army from chemical or biological attack.

Cleanup boats rush to aid as oil mars French coast

PARIS, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Gooney black oil from the sunken Prestige blotched French beaches on Saturday, as distraught locals awaited an armada of clean-up boats and workers.

Some seven weeks after the laden tanker snapped in half off the northwest Spanish coast, the worst slicks eaded north towards neighbouring France which raced to limit the pollution.

A fleet of trawlers and fishing boats battled stormy seas to get to the scene, and French television showed masked emergency workers scooping viscous fuel oil into buckets, while bystanders — barred from the beaches to avoid contamination — fumed.

"The people who did this should have this stuff rubbed into their faces," one local man raged.

"It's horrible to see this," a woman said. "There's more than there was yes-

terday, and there will be even more tomorrow."

France has taken over from Spain in coordinating the clean-up, as aerial footage showed some 15 medium-sized oil slicks lurking within 80 km (50 miles) of the French Atlantic coast, maritime officials said.

With oil now smearing beaches running half-way up the coast, hotel owners fretted about the impact on tourism, a major source of income for the region.

"This is worse than the Erika spill," hotel owner Evelyne Baron told the daily Le Parisien, referring to the disastrous spill from the tanker Erika which sank off Brittany in 1999.

"The Erika spilled all its oil in one go, whereas with the Prestige we really don't know what will happen."

The 26-year-old single-hulled vessel, carrying 77,000 tonnes of oil, sprang a

leak in November off Spain, snapped in two and sank six days later.

Most of its oil went down with it and has since been seeping steadily from the wreck, two miles (3.5 km) under the waves, at a rate that could keep it a hazard for many months.

High winds have broken up big oil slicks and blown hundreds of thousands of globs of oil onto the popular sandy beaches of France's Landes region, near Bordeaux. Officials have predicted bigger oil deposits will land over the weekend.

Spanish media have estimated the oil slicks sweeping towards France cover an area the size of New York City.

France, which has campaigned forcefully for stricter European Union safety rules on oil tankers, this week launched a criminal inquiry into responsibility for the Prestige spill.

Schroeder leaves open how would vote on Iraq war

BERLIN, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was quoted on Saturday as reiterating that Germany would not take part in any military action against Iraq but declining to say

how Berlin might vote in the U.N. Security Council on a war.

"One can only determine ones voting behaviour in the committee when one knows the basic conditions of such a vote.

But nobody should doubt that this will comply with our principled position," Schroeder told Der Spiegel weekly in an interview.

Germany began a two-year term on the 15-seat Security Council this week along with four other newly elected members.

It takes over the rotating monthly chair of the council in February just as Iraq tensions are expected to peak.

Schroeder denied that by leaving open how Germany might vote on the Security Council he was going back on his critical stance on any U.S.-led war against Iraq that was credited with helping him win a second term in a September general election.

"Today nobody even knows if it will come to a vote at all or what will be voted upon," he said, declining to speculate on suggestions that Germany could decline to be involved militarily in a war but still vote in favour on the council.

"The voting behaviour of Germany will reflect the position that we have represented both before and after the election."

"Our position is clear. We will not take part in military action and we will do everything to make sure a war is still

avoidable," Schroeder said, refusing to comment on a call by some members of his Social Democrats for Germany to vote "no".

A unanimous Security Council resolution passed in November ordered Baghdad to reveal all details of its weapons programmes or face "serious consequences".

U.N. weapons inspectors will report their findings to the Security Council by January 27. Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix will make an interim report to the Security Council next Thursday.

While some on the left of Schroeder's SPD say it would be inconsistent for Germany to vote for military action by others while not taking part in a war, Verena Wohlleben, a SPD defence expert, said there might be little choice.

Turkish captain released on appeal after Greek spill

ATHENS, Jan 4 (Reuters) - A Greek court sentenced the captain and chief engineer of a Turkish tanker to six months in jail on Saturday for causing pollution after storage tanks were washed out and poured into the Mediterranean sea.

Turkish captain Ridvan Alan and the chief engineer were released pending an appeal, a merchant marine ministry official told Reuters.

The two men were arrested by Greek coastguards on Friday after aircraft reported the tanker, Ayberk Kalkavan, had caused pollution to a stretch of sea near Karystos in southern Evia, measuring 30 nautical miles long and 10 miles wide.

The Turkish-flagged tanker had sailed from Marmaras in Turkey and was headed to the port of Piraeus, west

of Athens.

Under Greek law, defendants can opt to pay a fine instead of serving certain jail sentences.

The merchant marine ministry official said an additional fine was also

likely to be imposed in the coming days and the tanker would be held in Karystos until it was paid.

The pollution had been treated and had dispersed, the official said.



تفانينا «أبا سطييل»

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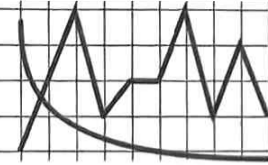
The Embassy of the Italian Republic in Sana'a informs

all Italian residents in Yemen

that, with reference to the next Italian general elections, Italian citizens who are currently residing in Yemen will only be able to vote in the Italian municipality in whose electoral rolls they are currently registered.

Italian citizens traveling to Italy to vote on the occasion of the Italian general elections will therefore be entitled to apply for a 75% refund of the price of the airplane ticket to the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Italian Republic in Sana'a. The application will have to be accompanied by the voter's electoral certificate and original ticket.

YT Business



Yemen's 2002 economy: A year in review

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen witnessed in 2002 various economic changes covering all aspects of the economy and business.

Some political incidents also left their imprints on economic growth last year, such as the attack on the French oil supertanker Limburg.

The convening of the donors conference in Paris in which Yemen was granted around \$2.3 billion represented one of the most prominent supports for its economy.

It is expected that the impact of terror on the Yemeni economy would continue in 2003, especially after the declaration on higher premiums on vessels and tankers coming to Yemeni sea ports, causing Yemen a monthly loss of about \$25 million.

If the rate of premiums remain as they are, exports and imports would be affected during 2003 and Yemen would pay a high price for the Limburg incident.

Meanwhile a probable U.S.-British war on Iraq would double the suffering of the Yemeni economy and would push other poor people to join terror and extremism networks.

Here's a review by Yemen Times of the rest of the most important aspects of the Yemeni economy for the year 2002.

a cost of \$300 million.

- The ministry of communications announced the start of the Technology and Communications Village during the first half of the year with the aim of creating a qualitative leap in services of communications, post and information in Yemen.

- Sources at the Free Zone in Aden said the zone would witness in 2002 the implementation of projects costing \$122 million, one of them the project of goods and shipping at a cost of \$30 million.

- The chamber of industry and commerce in Aden and Taiz agreed on tackling trade disputes between those dealing with companies and institutions of the two chambers by resorting to the principle of compromise and arbitration. They also agreed to exchange of expertise and holding joint activities in service of national economy.

- Yemen accepted the establishment of an Arab company specialised in marketing agricultural products and to export them at both Arab and world levels.

- The Kuwaiti company for oil explorations announced that the amount of its investments in Yemen at sectors 5 and 15 in Shabwa reached \$ 200 million.

- Minister of oil and minerals Dr Rashid Baraba'a predicted a rise in Yemen's oil production hitting a level of 475 thousand barrels per day at the end of the year and the number of oil companies working in Yemen to reach at 27.



The Limburg

efforts for preparing a draft law for fighting money laundering.

- President Ali Abdulla Saleh has given his directives for exempting every investor from value of the piece of land if his project's value exceeds \$ 10 million.

- President Saleh has placed a foundation stone for Mukalla Refinery project in Hadramaut whose final productive capacity amounts to 100 thousand barrels a day at a total cost of \$950 million.

- The World Bank asked Yemen to hasten its finalising the national strategy for combating poverty so that it would endorse the needed assistance for its implementation.

- The International Company for Tourist Investments embarked on implementing the first phase of Sana'a Tourist Hotel at a cost of \$75 million.

- The ministry of planning and the company of Hael Said Ana'm signed an agreement for building a wharf at Aden port t a cost of \$30 million.

- Abudabi Fund for Development allotted a sum of \$30 million for the implementation of the second phase of Mareb Dam canals project.

- Exports from Aden port of containers and airport amounted to YR 44 billion and 994 million.

- Yemeni institution or coastal fishing in Aden exported 225 tons of Sharoukhi fish at a cost of \$ 1.793 million.

- Bahrain Aluminum company decided to build a factory in Aden costing \$ 30-40 million.

- Aden hosted the 37th session of the executive committee of Islamic Chambers of Commerce.

- The parliament endorsed the free trade agreement between Yemen and Iraq.

- In the annual meetings in Brussels between Yemen and the European Commission Yemen had gained a grant of Euro 70 million.

- On the sidelines of meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council in Jeda three Saudi loans agreements had been signed totalling \$ 100million.

- The ministry of planning had prepared a plan for development of the sea ports of Hudeida, Aden and Mukalla at a cost of \$ 100 million.

- The ministry of oil organised the 2nd oil and gas conference with the aim of attracting investors at the oil productive and exploration sector.

- The ministry of oil signed an agreement of principles with the Saudi Muthahida company for building a Saudi oil pipeline passing to the Arabian Sea.

- Al-Mukalla factory for fish canning doubled its daily production to 160 thousand fish cans.

- Japanese government supplied Oceanology Centre in Aden with a research boat and scientific laboratories.

- An agreement was signed in Sana'a for rescheduling Yemen's \$ 73 million debts to the United States.

- The World Bank credited \$ 130 million for financing services projects in Yemen.

- An agreement signed in Sana'a for rescheduling Yemen's \$24.5 debt to Italy.

- Prime minister Abdulqader ba Jammal inaugurated services of electronic rial project.

- The proportion of areas grown with cotton rose to 150 thousand faddans.

- Yemen's reserve of silica sand, used in glass and ceramics manufacturing, is estimated at 160 million cubic meters.

- Central Bank reserves until the end of September reached \$4 billion.

- Yemen obtained \$2.6 billion from the donors conference in Paris.

- Around 30 thousand families of fishermen had lost their earnings after the terrorist attack on the French oil tanker Limburg.

- Insurance companies raised their duties on vessels reporting to Yemeni ports by %300.

- Yemeni-Jordanian joint committee signed 7 cooperation agreements in various fields.

- Navigation sources announced that the size of losses sustained by Yemen as a result of the attack on the French oil tanker Limburg and raising insurance prices on vessels coming to Yemeni ports amounted to YR 1.37 billion.

- Yemen received from Holland a 1000-horse power tugboat for towing giant vessels to container port.

- Minister of Oil Rashid Baraba'a declared that Yemen intends to dig 130 oil wells during the year 2003 in order to raise oil production to over 550 thousand barrels per day.

- International Navigation Organisation adopted in its meeting in London Yemen's plan for new navigation routes south of the Red Sea.

- Captain Said Abdulla al-Yafie, minister of transport and naval affairs asked the International Diplomatic Conference held in London to help Yemen for ridding of burdens of insurance companies duties on vessels heading for Yemen, estimated at 300%.

- Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia and America offered to erect projects in the free zone at a cost of YR 5 billion.

- Container port in Aden received from January to November 2002 639 container ships from various world ports of which 380,000 containers had been unloaded.

- Yemen and Russia concluded a number of economic and trade agreements, Russian companies expressed their readiness for investment in oil, gas, industry and fish wealth fields.



Adem Free Zone

- Government bodies organised a discussion seminar on finishing the remaining phase the national strategy on poverty alleviation.

- The ministry of works finished road construction of 2,580 km.

- Trade exchange between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman jumped by 800%.

- The state company for vegetable seeds production in Seyoun raised the average of a hectare production of red onion seeds to 510 kg, beginning from 2001 till early 2002.

- The state institution for waters in Aden announced that it would implement projects at

- An official report expected that the events of 11 September 2001 in America would negatively affect the Yemeni economy and lead to rise in expenses of transfer and insurance on imported goods in addition to retreat in level of tourism activity and services of ports and airports. Such developments would lead to an increase in services payments by 6.4% and a decline in revenues by 5%. They would also cause a rise in services deficit, from \$580 million in 2001 to around \$640 million in 2002.

- Yemen Central Bank maintained its

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The Road Ahead

Creating relative superiority

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

Now more than ever, resources of capital, people, and time are at their scarcest, and so business organizations need to concentrate their resources on functions and products that have proved profitable. But merely allocating resources similar to that of the competitors won't yield a competitive advantage for the business.

So, a business in order to have a competitive edge has to search for and identify the key factors responsible for success in the industry and apply the right mix of resources in order to earn a real competitive advantage which will yield relative superiority.

There are two approaches used in identifying the key factors for success. The first is to dissect the market into key segments in order to decide where the business should focus its resources. The second one is to know what distinguishes the successful companies from the less successful ones.

Segmenting the market involves understanding the different characteristics of different customers for each product line. For example an automobile dealer segments his market in such a way to recognize the strategically important segments.

The next step is to develop product-market strategies for the important segments and assign responsibility to implement new and modified segment-wide strategies. Having segmented the market and identified each segment's requirements, suitable changes should be done in the marketing strategy in order to concentrate on the key segments.

For example a commercial vehicles dealer after developing product-market strategies focuses on customers in the retailing and distribution segments (customers who indulge in occasional distribution and delivery of customer goods).

The other approach for creating relative superiority is to highlight the differences between successful organizations and the less successful ones. That lies in factors such as the different functions carried out, raw material sourcing, production facilities, product range and variety, advertising and publicity, sales and marketing efforts, distribution network and servicing.

For example, an elevator company can have a better competitive advantage if it has a better servicing system; nobody likes to wait for hours to be rescued from a stuck elevator. This in itself is a key factor that can ensure better relative superiority.

On the other hand, identifying the differences isn't enough. A business has to ensure that all functions in which such factors can be found are exploited to the max and perfect the functions carried out thereafter. For example many automobile importers in Yemen import advanced automobile technology, but only few have the capabilities to provide an excellent after sales service. That is how Suzuki Yemen - Bamarouf has created relative superiority.

Remember: Relative superiority can be created though exploiting competitor's weaknesses and discovering the key factors for success in that industry.

Once a 'big lie'...

By MICHAEL JANSEN
JORDAN TIMES

As the war of words between Iraq and the US goes on it is clear that the US is making use of what World War II German propagandists called "the big lie". On the one hand, the US is using lies and deceit to suggest that it has credible regional partners in a future war with Iraq. On the other, Washington is waging a disinformation campaign about Iraq's weapons capabilities to justify such a war.

On Sunday, The New York Times carried an article under the headline "Saudi Arabia said to assure US on use of bases", quoting General John P. Jumper, US air force chief, as saying: "I firmly believe the Saudis will give us all the cooperation we need, and every indication I have is we're getting pretty much what we asked for", suggesting that Riyadh has agreed to the use of Saudi bases and territory for attacks on Iraq. The report, written by Eric Schmitt, states that "delicate talks" on the details of what Saudi Arabia might offer were continuing with US officials. The spin doctors have even roped in senior members of Congress. Senator Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican who serves on the powerful Foreign Relations Committee, said: "It's all an open question."

It's not, actually, The Saudis' most recent declaration on this issue preempted and contradicted what Jumper and Hagel said. This pronouncement was made on Dec. 25 when Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said that allowing US and British aircraft to use Prince Sultan air base to enforce a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq "does not mean that the Kingdom will attack Iraq or allow striking Iraq

from its territories". He reiterated a previous statement, asserting: "If the UN Security Council sanctions war against Iraq, this requires cooperation by all countries.... But this does not mean all countries must take part in military action. Obviously, we will not take part in military actions."

Fabricated stories

The Saudis have made the point over and over again that their territory, particularly their air force and other military bases, cannot be used by the US for an offensive against Iraq. The Saudis have also said repeatedly that their public position does not differ from what their officials say in private to US representatives.

In response to Jumper's comments, Prince Saud said that The New York Times' story was wrong. "The truth is what I said [on Dec. 25] and not what the newspaper reported," he asserted. Saudi papers also carried a denial of the story from Deputy Defence Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Ben Abdul Aziz. "These remarks are incorrect and the kingdom's stance has been clear from the start.... We have no commitments on any matters towards Iraq."

The Saudi position is both clear and firm. Nevertheless, the US and Britain are determined to muddy the waters by repeatedly claiming that the kingdom could go along with the Bush administration in a war against Iraq. Washington has also tried to create the false impression that Jordan would also go along with an offensive against Iraq although Jordanian spokesmen continually say that this is not the case.

Big lies continue

A "big lie" repeated over and over again gains credibility with international public opinion which does not know the truth of a specific matter. While

Reuters carried the Saudi denial as Top News on Monday, it did not get the play in the world's media that the lie received. Even "respectable" dailies like The Financial Times and The Guardian fell for this one and did not print what the Saudis had to say about it.

Another "big lie" is the accusation that Iraq was — is — six or eight months, one, two or five years from obtaining a nuclear bomb. This accusation is used to justify a US war to prevent this from happening.

The US has based many of its allegations about Iraq's nuclear programme on false information supplied by Khidhir Hamza, a former Iraqi nuclear scientist who defected in 1995 and has written a book called Saddam's Bombmaker or 'The Terrifying Inside Story of the Iraqi Nuclear and Biological Agenda'. Hamza, who testified before US congressional committees, and appeared on television, was apparently taken up by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) out of desperation since it had no other Iraqi of scientific stature who was prepared to turn his coat.

Hamza's allegations have been challenged over the past six weeks by Imad Khadduri, a scientist trained in nuclear reactor technology. A graduate of the University of Michigan in the US and Birmingham University in Britain, Khadduri worked in the Iraqi nuclear programme from 1968 until late 1998. He was involved in "most of the major nuclear activities of the programme" and was in charge of the maintenance and security of documentation on such activities.

Khadduri took part in consultations with UN inspection teams in the 1990s. He stated his position bluntly. "I find present allegations about Iraq's nuclear capability, as continuously advanced by



the Americans and the British, to be ridiculous." He accuses Washington and London of conducting a deliberate "misinformation campaign".

Remained on the margins

Khadduri said that from the mid-70s, Hamza played no serious role in Baghdad's programme. Hamza, who feared exposure to reactors and radioactive materials, took no part in research. He confined himself to theoretical work and journalism. In the late 70s, Hamza refused to have anything to do with the French Osirak reactor. After it was bombed by Israel in 1981, Iraq began a nuclear weapons programme in earnest, but Hamza remained on the margins.

In 1987, Hamza was, in Khadduri's words, "kicked out of the programme for stealing a few air-conditioning units". Hamza became an "outcast". He "did not attend any seminar or brain-

storming sessions during [the] intense period" during which Iraq made its major effort to build a nuclear weapons capability. While this took place at Al Atheer, Hamza was "doing nothing at the Tuwaitha Research Centre". In 1994 he fled Iraq, leaving his family behind, and offered his services to the CIA which turned him down until it decided he could be of some use in creating a false impression of what Iraq has been doing.

Khadduri said that following the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq's scientists were fully occupied with the reconstruction of the oil and power infrastructure of the country while the "nuclear weapons project organisation was slowly disbanded". By 1994, this process was complete. Formerly proud and prosperous scientists were reduced to penury. Many, like Khadduri, eventually left the country, making the reactivation of a serious nuclear weapons programme

impossible. "Iraqi nuclear scientists and engineers did not commit suicide. But for all their remaining ability to rebuild a nuclear weapons programme, they may as well have," Khadduri asserted.

Since Khadduri resides abroad, he is under no compulsion to defend the Iraqi government and has a great deal to gain by going along with its accusers. His observations have been published only by websites opposed to the current line adopted by the US and UK. So far, he has not been able to break through into mainstream North American and British media. His assessment of Iraq's nuclear capabilities also undermines accusations made by the US and Britain about Baghdad's development of chemical and biological weaponry. If Washington and London are relying on the "big lie" on one issue, they could very well be lying on others.

Faint glimmer of hope

Is sanity returning to the international scene?

PATRICK SEALE
THE DAILY STAR

Right up to the end of last year, the prime actor on the world stage - the United States - was heading blindly in the wrong direction.

There was an element of irrationality, even of insanity, in America's violent response to the world outside, explained by many as due to the shock of the attacks it suffered in September 2001. Its bellicose threats against Iraq, its global "war on terror," its tolerance of the crimes of Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, its dangerous doctrine of "preventive war," its devotion to military force rather than international law all seemed to be leading the world to catastrophe.

Suddenly, the New Year has brought a subtle change of tone. It is far too early to speak of a change of policy, but faint glimmers of hope have appeared which together suggest that an element of sanity may just be returning to the international scene.

War unjustified

For one thing, George W. Bush's New Year message to the American people was strikingly moderate. Instead of his usual warlike bluster, he spoke of his hope of a peaceful resolution to the crises in both Iraq and North Korea. In turn, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan declared that war in the present circumstances would be unjustified. Iraq has, after all, been cooperating fully with the UN weapons inspectors who have so far, in more than five weeks of work, found no evidence of weapons of mass destruction. The chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, has been invited to visit Baghdad to review the progress made so far, an invitation he is expected to take up later this month. Some Western diplomats are predicting that, if the inspection process continues unimpeded, Blix's report to the Security Council, due on Jan. 27, could be favorable - a step toward the eventual lifting of sanctions, which have punished the Iraqi people for so long.

France, in the meantime, which assumed the presidency of the UN Security Council on Jan. 1 for one

month, will do its utmost to strive for peace, as President Jacques Chirac pledged in his New Year's message. Under the French presidency, any attempt by the United States to bulldoze a resolution through the Security Council authorizing military action against Baghdad will be forcefully resisted. It was largely due to French diplomacy, backed by Russia and China, that the United States agreed to work through the Security Council late last year, thereby delaying, if not yet wholly averting, the war which the hawks in Washington and Tel Aviv are still screaming for.

It is also worth noting that two key American allies, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, have both expressed serious doubts about joining the American war effort or even providing military facilities - in spite of contrary, over-optimistic reports in the US media about their readiness to cooperate.

Perhaps the most crucial piece of evidence of a return to sanity is that British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's main ally in the campaign against Iraq, may also be having second thoughts. Sources in Downing Street say that Blair is now fully aware of the growing chorus of anti-war opinion in the UK and of the grave risks to Britain - and to Blair's own position - of a war against Iraq.

Muscles show

The United States has no need for Britain's military help to defeat Iraq. It can easily do the job on its own. But it does need British political support. If Blair were to decide that war is too risky to contemplate, Bush would in turn have to pause - which is precisely what may now be taking place.

Over Christmas, church dignitaries across the Western world - including the Pope, the new and remarkable head of the Church of England, Dr. Rowan Williams, and leaders of all the main Christian denominations in the United States (with the significant exception of the fundamentalist southern Baptists, ardently supportive of Israel) - have all warned the US and Britain that a war could not be justified.

But, of course, the crucial decisions about war and peace are not taken in London, Paris or the Vatican, still less in

Middle East capitals, but in Washington. That is where the debate has been raging in recent months between hawks and doves, between the "war party" and its increasingly vocal critics.

Insiders have long recognized that the campaign to rid Iraq of its alleged weapons of mass destruction - the ostensible justification for war - was always a sideshow. The hawks in Washington - the so-called neoconservatives, born-again Christians and Zionist extremists who have captured some of the key posts in the Bush administration - always looked beyond Iraq to a wider agenda. They were after something bigger. They knew that Iraq, weary of war and crippled by a dozen years of sanctions, was no longer much of a threat to anyone, as its immediate Arab neighbors recognized.

Key of transformation

But the hawks saw the overthrow of Saddam Hussein as the key to transforming and reshaping the Middle East. They dreamed of defeating not only Islamic radicalism but Palestinian militancy and Arab nationalism as well, in a major re-ordering of the affairs of the region such as had taken place after World War I. They had their sights on Iran, on Syria, on the Palestinian Authority, on radical groups like Hizbullah and Hamas, which had dared to challenge the United States and Israel and therefore needed to be destroyed.

They wanted to secure American oil and strategic interests in the Gulf for a generation and create the conditions for Israel to impose its hegemonic terms on the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors. In a word, the ambitious objective of the hawks is a new world order in which American and Israeli control of the Arab and Muslim world is assured.

Even the "war on terror" has been put to work in providing the justification, some would say the pretext, for the United States to acquire bases and other facilities in Central Asia, the Gulf and elsewhere, and project military power across the globe. On this argument, if Osama bin Laden did not exist, the United States would have had to invent him. The hawks' vision, however - a dangerous geopolitical fantasy rather

than a political program - is increasingly being questioned as America is having to weigh the threat of renewed terrorist attacks, the hazards of war against a stubborn Iraqi enemy and the dangerous uncertainties of a post-Saddam Iraq.

The recent London meeting of disputatious and compromised Iraqi exiles produced a 65-man committee - hardly a convincing blueprint for a future government.

Dangerous situation ahead

Who then will rule a future Iraq? Who will pay for its reconstruction? Who will be responsible for security? The chance seems remote of a democratic Iraq emerging from the rubble. It is more probable the United States will be sucked into a messy, dangerous situation, demanding a thankless long-term commitment of men and resources - which is the last thing Bush wants in the run-up to the next presidential election campaign in late 2003.

Doubts about the feasibility of the hawks' ideas are beginning to surface in the United States - in the media, on college campuses, in churches, among numerous anti-war groups, and also in the State Department and the CIA - and are no doubt beginning to find their way to the President.

Americans are also beginning to realize that their country's uncritical support for Israel's colonial war is fueling an epidemic of anti-American sentiment among Arabs and Muslims. Far from being a valued strategic partner, Sharon's Israel is being seen in some quarters as a serious liability. Bush is committed to his "vision" of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, although Israeli hard-liners and their influential friends in the American government would like to consign it to the trash can.

The hawks in Washington are getting nervous because their critics are forcing them to defend their policies. But they are by no means beaten.

They desperately want a war in order to realize their grandiose plans and, so long as the American military build-up continues, war remains a real likelihood. But the message of this New Year is that war is no longer inevitable.

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Poverty reduction strategy discussed



BY ISMAEL AL-GHABERY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for the years 2003-2005 was released recently tackling measures and strategies that will be adopted to alleviate poverty in Yemen. Before talking about this strategy paper lets discuss the reality of poverty in Yemen in general.

The 1999 household budget survey showed that 17.6 % of the Yemeni population live under the food poverty line whereas the percentage of the population who are incapable of obtaining their food and non food requirements is 41.8%. These percentages reflect the gravity of living conditions of approximately 6.9 million people who are suffering from the different dimensions of poverty not to mention the other large numbers that are living close to the poverty line and are vulnerable to being dragged to below the poverty line along with the high poverty gap which is estimated at about 13.2% and the severity of poverty which amounts to 5.8%.

Poverty in Yemen takes on a rural attribute, especially as the Yemeni people are to a large extent mostly rural dwellers, despite the rapid urbanization. Rural areas of Yemen encompass about 83% of the poor and 87% of those who suffer from food poverty at the same time that nearly three-fourths of the total population in 1998 were rural dwellers.

The percentage of the rural population who are poor amounts to 45% as compared to 30.8% for the urban population in addition to the wide gap and severity of poverty among the rural population compared to that of the urban population. This attribute also shows that according to the 1998 human budget survey, spending on food absorbs 54% of income in the urban areas whereas it climbs to 67% in the rural areas, which reflect low incomes in the rural areas on one hand and even lower degree of spending on non-food requirements there on the other.

Causes of Poverty

Poverty is considered the result of a set of natural and human factors, domestic policies and external factors that come together to create an environment conducive to the occurrence and spread of poverty and its increase in severity. However the 1998 human budget survey data has shown that large family size and geographical causes were the most causes that raise the probability of falling into poverty.

In the same way that poverty is inequitably distributed between rural and urban areas, there is also an obvious disparity among the different governorates of the republic of Yemen whereby half of the poor are concentrated in four governorates which are Taiz, Ibb Sana'a and Hodiedah.

The Yemeni leadership realized this critical issue and has been paying utmost concern to solving it. The leadership concern to poverty and poverty alleviation has been illustrated in most of President Saleh speeches and guidance. Our country cannot move to the future except through a better focus on finding appropriate solutions to improving the livelihood of the people including combating poverty, expanding the social safety net, and paying attention to the health of the people. President Saleh in one of his speeches.

On his part Prime Minister Abdul Qader Ba Jammal talked about the government measures to alleviating poverty. The government commitment of reducing poverty is clearly manifested through its program by which it has obtained the parliament confidence. The program focuses on the basic issues which should be given absolute priority as one of the most important underpinnings of the modern state of Yemen along with the policies aiming at spinning the wheel of economic development and creating job opportunities and reducing poverty. Clarified the Prime Minister.

To face the dilemma of poverty the government adopted a number of measures in collaboration with the donors the government of Yemen explored the various conditions of the citizens particularly the hardships of living since 1992 by carrying out a number of studies, household budget



Poverty reduction strategy paper (2003-2005)

survives and poverty assessments to ascertain the causes and features of poverty and came out with what is called the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

The government of Yemen started the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper through the interim-poverty Reduction Strategy paper that was approved as an initial draft by the cabinet in April 2000. This paper was later finalized in line with the government program and the principles of the comprehensive reform program and the overall framework of the second five years plan. This paper was debated, discussed and analyzed through out 2000 to 2002 to come out with the recent Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

To ensure the preparation of a national PRSP in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations set for it and to ensure its consistency with the second five year plan, a 21-member committee was formed for its preparation chaired by the Vice Minister of Planning and Development and comprising representatives of all agencies and institutions concerned with poverty issues and under the supervision of the Minister of Planning and Development.

The PRSP preparation committee adopted a mechanism to ensure continuous consultations with the participation of all concerned agencies to convey to these agencies the activities of the committee and the discussion themes, and to in turn, reflect the views of these agencies on the themes of the strategy in order to have a comprehensive interaction.

With regard to the involvement of the poor and hearing their concerns and priorities the committee undertook a second survey in 20 districts where poverty incidence exceeded 50% of the total population being characterized as pockets of poverty.

Based on the causes and factors that determine the probability of falling into poverty and the results of the survey and studies undertaken during the last 2 years the major sets of factors lead to poverty in Yemen which are as follows

Decline in income and its association with the nature and extent of economic growth.

High population growth and the poor development of human resources and infra structure.

And weal levels of social protection.

The poverty reduction strategy aims to achieve through the adoption

of interlink and well-designed policies, measures, activities and mechanisms to create an environment which is conducive for poverty reduction and the realization of specific and prioritized objectives including the achievement of economic growth, creation of jobs opportunities, provision of better basic services and securing an effective social safety net for the poor.

The poverty reduction strategy targets reduction of poverty by 13.1% during the period 2003-2005, to decline to 35.9% in 2005. It is expected that this might be achievable through appropriate economic growth that will lead to increasing real GDP by about 4.7% depending on the growth of the non-oil sectors by an annual average rate of 6.3% to keep pace with effects of the population policies that seeks to reduce the annual population growth rate to 3% by 2005. The strategy also seeks to achieve a number of sectoral objectives leading to overall poverty reduction.

Finally the PRSP comprised of four main axes which are achieving economic growth.

Human resources development, improving infrastructure and ensuring social protection.

Better drug access in developing countries is needed

By Francois Loos:

For the first time in its history, the World Trade Organization is facing a vital emergency. Vital for millions of people suffering from diseases, vital for the credibility of the organization. The latest UNAIDS report has sounded the alarm: 24 million people in the world are HIV positive. This figure may double by 2010 if nothing is done. This is why I am now addressing myself to all of France's partners in the WTO. We have no time to lose on technical discussions. We need to act immediately. And we can. We are all concerned by this moral issue. A moral issue requiring a political solution.

In 2001, the developed countries accepted a very significant political commitment. They decided to "find a solution" to ensure the availability of inexpensive drugs for developing countries without the resources to manufacture their own drugs.

The WTO agreement on intellectual property rights authorizes WTO members in a serious health crisis to deliver compulsory licenses in order to manufacture drugs. This option is not available, however, to countries without pharmaceutical production capacity, which is currently the case with most developing countries. The size of the current health crisis does not leave us any choice: we need to find a legal solution before the end of the year, in line with the commitment accepted in Doha.

Regardless of the technical solution, our objective must be to act fast and to provide waiting patients with help.

So we may as well go for the simplest and fastest solution:

- Let's create a mechanism for serious health crisis triggered by major pandemics (AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis) and other epidemics, as agreed in Doha.
- Let's decide to make this mechanism broadly available to the developing countries. The beneficiaries will depend upon the actual situation: countries in serious health crisis should in any case be entitled to its use.
- Let's immediately adopt a legal mechanism and let's agree to include it as soon as possible in the WTO patent agreement.
- And let's reflect upon ways to organize worldwide mechanism to finance drugs for the poorest countries and to protect distribution channels in order to prevent the emergence of gray markets.

Are there morally acceptable reasons to delay the signature of such an agreement? I do not think so. I am convinced that we share the same objectives. I am confident in our political capacity within the WTO to assume our responsibilities. So let's do it. Now.

Doctors learn of family planning techniques

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Health and Family Planning Program offered a training course on how to use modern techniques on family planning during a workshop Dec. 26.

Dr. Marouf Batheeb and Dr. Abdul Wahab al-Ansi, adviser at the Ministry of Health, gave addresses, while Dr. Arwa al-Rebeaa the general director of the Sabeen Hospital in Sana'a, spoke on the up-to-date techniques, known as PROTEC, to be used in family planning.

Thirty trainee doctors and participants from government and private hospitals, in addition to non-governmental organizations in Sana'a received certificates for completing the course.

The family health and family planning program is being conducted by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and Futures Group International in collaboration with (EPOS) a Yemeni development program financed by Yemen and the German Bank for Reconstruction (KFW).



Dr. Marouf Batheeb, Coordinator of Workshop

The project aims at helping the Yemeni government meet the increased demands for family health and family planning in line with government's policies in this regard.

This project is the first of its kind in Yemen. It focuses on merging the different health organizations in Yemen to offer health services to alleviate the burdens on the government's services and thus helps achieve part of the national policy to handle the population and health crisis in the country.

Workshop in Sana'a Environmental education promoted

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a workshop about environmental education and nationwide development held in Sana'a recently, researchers focused on a range of Yemen's environmental issues.

The included developing Yemen's forest areas and diversity, expanding natural resources, decreasing pollution and preventing the extinction of some biotic life that creates environmental crisis.

The regional UNESCO office for education in the Arabic countries and the Islamic for Education and sciences and culture organization (ISESCO) participated in the workshop. They focused on modernizing school curricula in Yemen as one important means for raising environmental awareness.

Education and the environment

The submitted papers of the researchers focussed on the importance of including environmental education in the curricula to achieve the following goals:

- Assist the society members to acquire the environmental awareness
- Help the society to acquire different experi-

ences related to environment and its problems

- Get the members of the society to be acquainted with environmental problems.

- Push the members of the society to participate in protection the environment.

The researchers put systematic suggestions to merge environmental concepts in the educational curricula, and accompanied activities were determined to be implemented through programs for spreading environmental awareness among the people.

The researchers also determined the textbooks that contain environmental issues, which are the Holy Qura'an, Arabic language, sociology, science, Math and English language as well as vocational, technical and physical education.

In textbook of science the supposed environmental issues should focus on pollution resulted from chemical industries, noise pollution, the air, its features, contents and pollution.

Other education

Educational researchers submitted a water education project that aims at alleviating the shortage of water in Yemen, resulting in environmental, social and economic damages besides raising awareness

among the people about the proper usage of water.

The project suggested steps and procedures are to be taken in embodying the water concepts in the textbooks in different levels.

The workshop also recommended the importance of investing water resources to generate job opportunities and an income for the poor and jobless ones by producing building substances from the local environmental materials such as soil and rocks; by carrying out experiments in the agriculture fields like increasing the monetary yields as the coffee, cotton and bee breeding; and by paying attention to fishery and sea creatures and by pro-

tecting the vocational producing and support its fields such as the pottery and ceramist and woolen industry.

The workshop concluded that poverty and environmental deterioration is a result of cumulative of systems and policies and social and economic relations.

It also stimulated the government to adopt extensive educational and developmental policies to deal with problems of environment and income reduction and try to support them technically and institutionally as well as facilitating the investments for the local environmental resources and encourage the cooperative work for providing the essential services.

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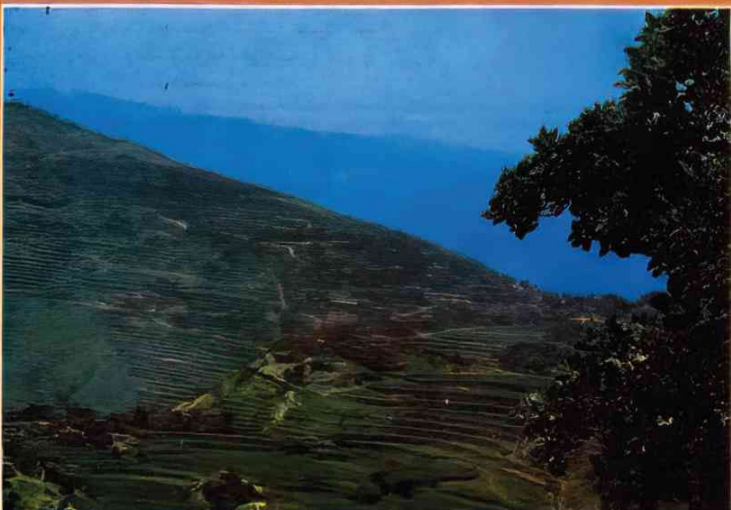
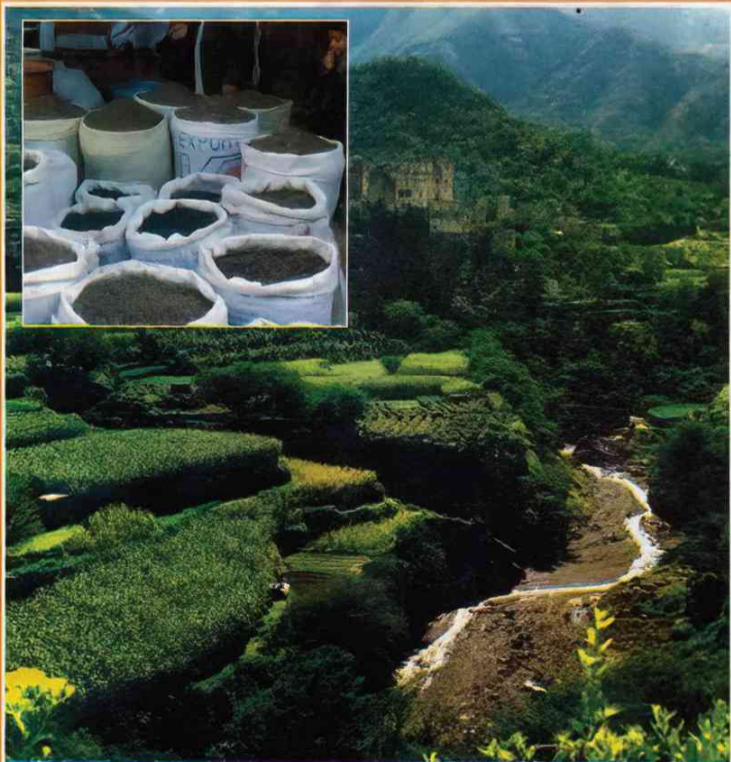
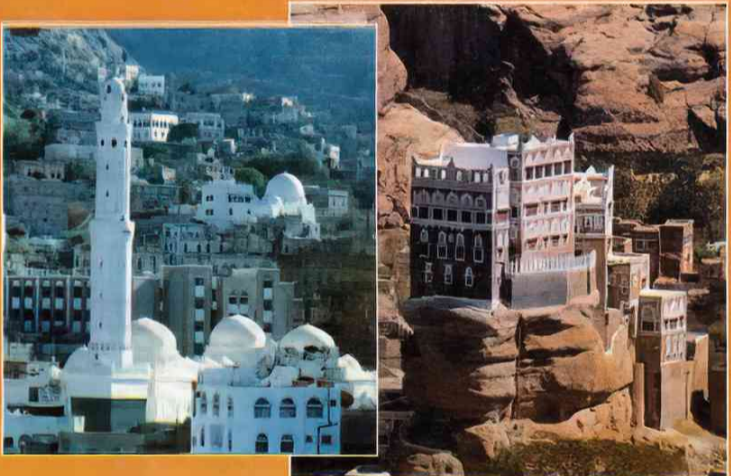
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2003



CALENDAR



January

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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March

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
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29	30	31				

April

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

May

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
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31						

June

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
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28	29	30				

July

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
			1	2	3	4
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
السبت	الأحد	الاثنين	الثلاثاء	الأربعاء	الخميس	الجمعة
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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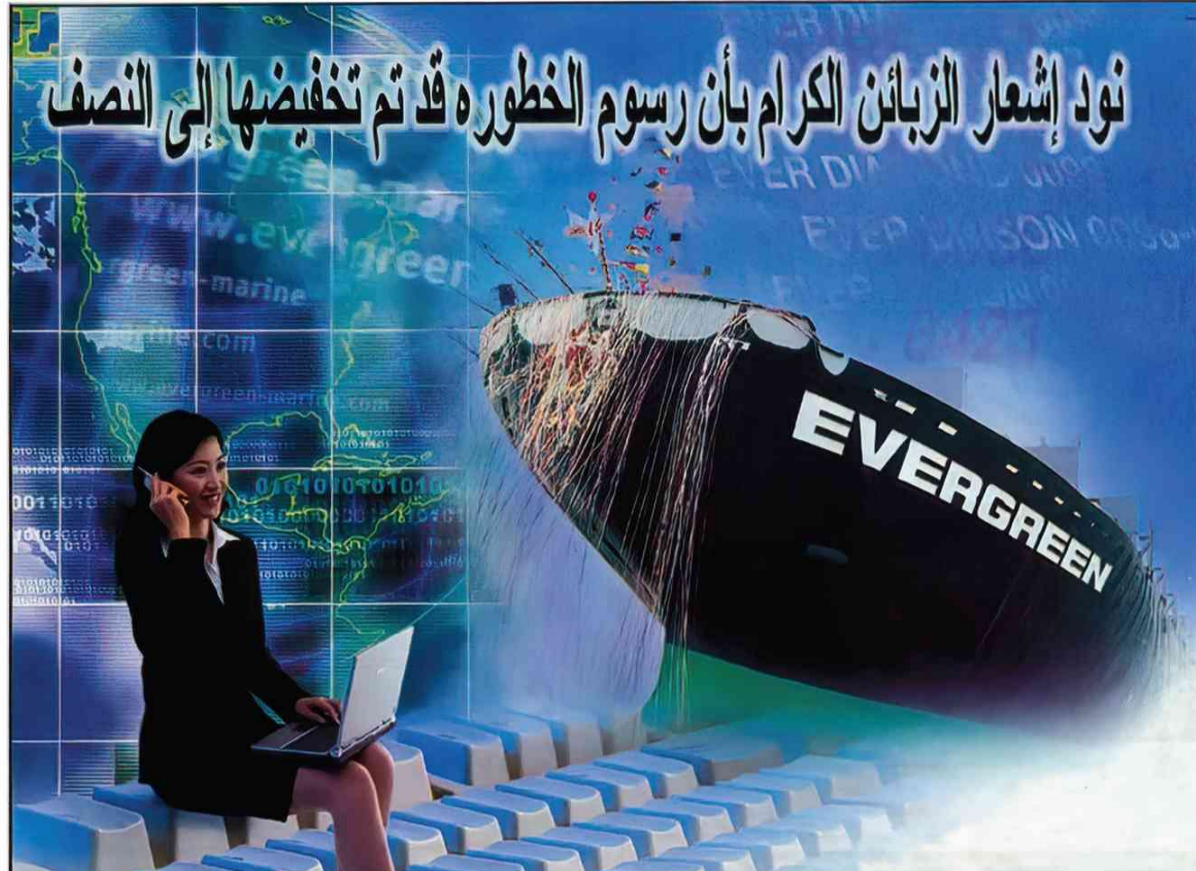
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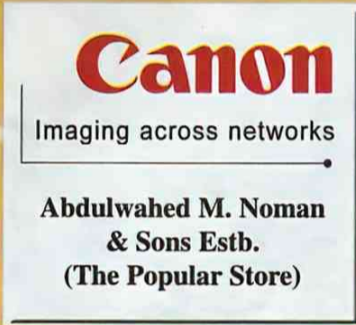
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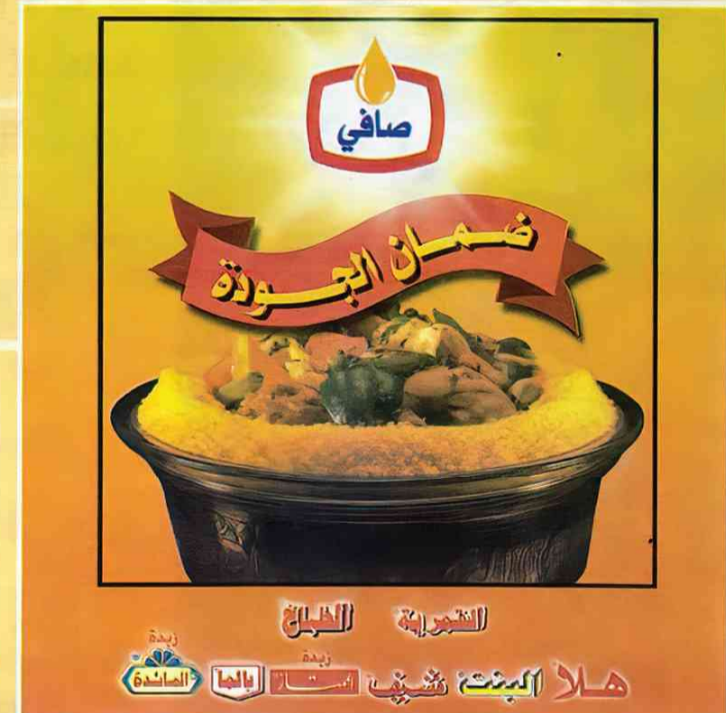


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من الجسم القوي

Questions for VOL. 13, Issue 617

أسئلة المسابقة للعدد ٦١٧ - السنة ١٣

- Check the right answer
- A well-known politician was assassinated last Saturday 28 December 2002:
 - Jar Allah Umar
 - Salem Rubaye Ali
 - Ebraheem al-Hamdi
 - Yemen Times personality for the year 2003 in this issue is:
 - Abdu al-Malek al-Mualeemi
 - Shawqi Ahmed Hayel
 - Ahmed Gaber Afif
 - The motto "New Composition and New Look" belongs to:
 - Jar Allah Umar
 - Crystal Washing Soap
 - Attabakh Cooking Oil
 - Choco Wafer is a product under the trademark of:
 - Teashop
 - Aseel
 - Sweats
 - The motto "New form with a delicious taste," belongs to:
 - Al-Aseel Wheat
 - Al-Fanar Sweats
 - Al-Macda Spaghetti
 - One of the following children milk is produced by the National Dairy and Food Company
 - Almomtaz concentrated milk
 - Al-Hana Abtal Milk
 - Yemeni Airlines has a special offer price to some countries in the world at the cost of:
 - \$ 500
 - \$ 400
 - \$ 600
 - What is the official WEB site of Yemen Gulf Bank?
 - www.yg-bank.com.ye
 - www.yemengulfbank.com
 - www.yg-bank.com
 - The famous Italian Glem Gas cookers are produced in Italy since
 - 1959
 - 1965
 - 1970
 - International Carton Manufacturing Co. (S.Y.C), where its head office lies in:
 - Hodeidah
 - Aden
 - Sana'a
 - Red Sea Contracting and Construction Company (S.Y.C.) is location in:
 - Hodeidah
 - Aden
 - Sana'a
 - Where is the headquarters of Suzuki-Yemen, member of Bamaarof Group located?
 - Hodeidah
 - Aden
 - Sana'a
 - When did the final big draw for Sony Ramadan discount finish?
 - December 12
 - December 16
 - December 19
 - One of the famous TV brands of Videocon Company for household electronic and electrical equipments is:
 - Bazooka
 - Renstarloaster
 - Challenger

- اختر الإجابة الصحيحة
- شخصية وطنية وسياسية وجزيرة معروفة أقيمت السبت قبل الماضي ٢٨ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٢:
 - جار الله عمر
 - سالم ربيع علي
 - إبراهيم محمد الحمدي
 - شخصية بين نابغ للعام ٢٠٠٢ في هذا العدد هو:
 - عبدالملك المعلي
 - شوقي أحمد حائل
 - أحمد جابر عفيف
 - رقعة وغيرة لتقلعة اكيدة شعار خاص بمنطق:
 - صن المت
 - صابون كريستال
 - زيت الطماخ
 - شوكو وجر منطج بندرج تحت علامة:
 - زيشوب
 - أصل
 - الحلويات
 - شغل جديد بنس الطعم اللذيذ شعار خاص:
 - فتح الأصيل
 - طحينية الفنار
 - مكروبة المائدة
 - حلب الأطفال نتجة الشركة الوطنية لصناعة الإبران والأغذية هو:
 - حليب المعنار
 - حليب الطفل الهناء
 - ماتم بيفيتامين (أ و د) في هذا العدد هو:
 - ١٥٥٠
 - ١٦٠٠
 - ١٦٠٠
 - ما هو موقع بنك اليمن والخليج على شبكة الإنترنت:
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 - www.yemengulfbank.com
 - www.yg-bank.com
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 - Bazooka
 - Renstarloaster
 - Challenger

Name: _____
Age: _____
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City: _____
Tel: _____

Please write clearly

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العمر: _____
رقم الهوية: _____
الهدية: _____
رقم التلفون: _____

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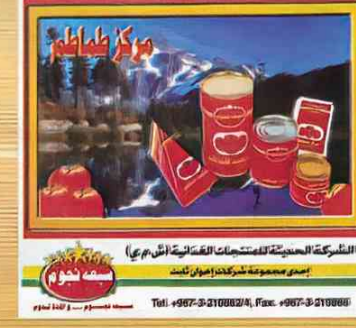
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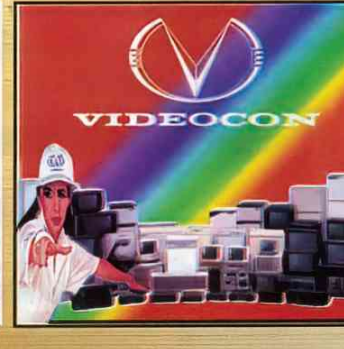
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As seen in the illustrations, several of the new proposals for rebuilding the 16-acre site that was leveled by a terrorist attack on September 11 2001

include constructing what would become the tallest buildings in the world. The twin towers were more than 1,300 feet tall. The current tallest buildings are the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at 1,483 feet. The plans did not include a specific design as a memorial for the nearly 2,800 people who died there. However, the plans will preserve the "footprints" where the twin towers once stood as memorial space. An international design competition for an appropriate memorial will be launched in February, development officials say.



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