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Unification Day 2002 under a cloud of uncertainty

Yemen security on high alert

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
With Unification Day around the corner, Yemen will be on high alert this week as officials attempt to close the door on potential violence on several fronts.

Military brigades have been deployed to Mareb, al-Jawf and Shabwa following statements by President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week that officials believe there is a plot to attack security in these areas.

In a meeting with top security and military officials, President Saleh warned that a plot to sabotage security is to be carried out in the three tribal areas where it's believed suspected al-Qaeda elements are hiding.

The president called for cooperation between security and military personnel and challenged



Security officials, such as these pictured in Mareb's election, are to be beefed up across Yemen to deal with increasing security threats.

security officials to enforce Yemeni law or quit.

Unnamed sources have also told The Times that the govern-

ment plans to impose stiff penalties against anyone selling explosives.

Military brigades in each of the three governorates will be put at the disposal of governors. The governors have also been ordered to make a list of wanted criminals, so they can be tracked and brought to justice. They are also to report their security situations on a monthly basis to the prime minister and president.

Meanwhile, intelligence and security officials are holding meetings on a continuous basis to deal with threats of a group calling itself Sympathizers of al-Qaeda. The group has claimed responsibility for several bombings in Sana'a last month.

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YEMENAL
Yemeni Novelist under fire

Intellectuals consider it 'thought terror'

Yemeni novelist under fire

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
The Yemeni Ministry of Culture has ordered the confiscation of the novel "Qwarib Jabaliah" or "Mountainous Boats" by award-winning writer Wajdi al-Ahdal.

Last week it also ordered the closure of the Ubadi Publication Center, which published the book, and officials say charges will be laid against al-Ahdal.

The Minister of Culture claimed the novel insults morality, religion and conventions of Yemeni society.

A Yemeni official at the ministry said the publisher did not obtain a permission from the ministry.

Continue on page 5

Homes of government officials targeted

Al-Qaeda Sympathizers claim responsibility for recent blast

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
SANA'A — Sympathizers with al-Qaeda announced their responsibility for Thursday's explosion near Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal's house at Sufan Quarter, Sana'a.

A statement issued Saturday by the group said the bomb blast was originally intended to targeting the house of Ali Mansour Rashad whom they described as the man entrusted with torturing the Mujahideen inside the Political Security building.

The statement added that the group later decided to place the explosive charge near the prime minister's house, since the two men live in neighboring houses.

The al-Qaeda sympathizers' statement warned all members of

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the Political Security whom they described as agent of Americans that their explosion operation will be the last one not causing bloodshed and human losses, before termination of the ultimatum date.

They said "We, the Sympathizer with al-Qaeda, have understood that our messages to the apostates would not reach

them but with blood. Thursday's explosion — the fifth one in about five weeks — caused no casualties as the street was free of people at 5.00 pm.

Windows of nearby houses were shattered due to the blast that was heard as far away as al-Hasaba area.

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New US equipment for Yemen's security is here

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Albert Cland, US chief commander of special tasks forces arrived in Yemen, Wednesday, May 8..

He discussed with the Yemeni officials bilateral relations and cooperation between Yemen and the USA mainly on cracking down on terrorism.

The visit coincided with the announcement that the Yemeni interior ministry received electronic monitoring devices.

The devices which include computers and cameras will be installed this week.

The sophisticated monitoring system will link Yemeni air and sea ports and land crossing to a central office in Sana'a.

The US help to Yemen to computerize the immigration points of entry and exit is part of a terrorist interdiction program.

Yemeni official sources said a US military expert has made the recommendation that Yemen will need to establish a marine patrol police.

The US is trying to push other donors to chip in to pay for the effort.

The US officials are concerned that

al-Qaeda members who have scattered across Asia following the defeat of their Taliban allies in Afghanistan may seek shelter in Yemen. Therefore it is important to aid Yemen.

Yemen is expected to need over 250 boats of night watch system to monitor its long coastline stretching 1500 km.

Germany, Holland, England and Saudi Arabia are to help in this effort. There are over 60 US military experts training Yemeni special tasks forces on how to launch a crack down on terrorists.

One month ultimatum of al-Qaeda Sympathizers ends: So what comes next?

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni security authorities are beefing up security measures around the capital Sana'a after receiving many bombing threats.

President Saleh has recently warned of a plots to carry out acts of sabotage, especially in the middle region (Mareb, Jawf and Shabwa).

Security authorities are also conducting investigations with Arab-Afghan elements, who took part at the war in Afghan to drive out the Soviet occupation. More than 176 al-Qaeda sympathizers are currently detained by the Political Security Office.

On the other hand, Abu Ali al-Harethi and Abu Assem Senyan, two

of the most wanted al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen are still at large as the authorities have so far failed to locate their hideouts.

News reports mentioned that al-Ahdal and al-Harethi are involved in the last wave of bombings that targeted the secret police office as well as the residences of its top officials.

Yemeni-US relations are going through a tense time due to the USA's criticism of Yemen's security forces and its incapability to track down allegedly al-Qaeda elements headed by al-Harethi and Senyan.

Sympathizers with al-Qaeda have earlier set last Saturday as the end of the ultimatum to release their comrades held at Yemeni prisons or they'll

otherwise step up a suicide bombing campaign against top government's officials.

Some of the measures taken by the security to preclude any bombing attempt was the closure of a street passing besides the presidency's office.

The weekly official paper 26 September reported that the government is to close all shops selling explosive materials in an attempt to regulate dealing in this materials.

A sympathizer with al-Qaeda warned the government from its attempts to arrest al-Harethi and Senyan, saying that its not in the government interest to arrest them because this will cause major problems to it.

After the demise of its founder

Tension plagues Yemen's Salafyya movement

By: HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Salafyya movement in Yemen is currently experiencing internal splits after the death of its founder Muqbel al-Wadei' last year.

The disputes triggered after the exchange of insults between al-Hajuri, who is in charge of the al-Da'wa Center in Damaj area, Sa'ada governorate, and the successor of al-Wadei' at the center as well as Abu al-Hassan al-Marebi, head of Dar al-Buhuth Center in Mareb.

Sheikh Muqbel al-Wadei' appointed last year through a will a number of scholars as authoritative sources for the Salafyya movement.

Eighty sheikhs and center heads across Yemen called in a statement labeled as "a clearance of conscience," the current situation as a

"great sedition." They also proposed eight conditions to end the current dispute within the Salafyya movement.

Abu al-Hassan al-Marebi and al-Hajuri exchanged accusations following Abu al-Hassen's formation of the Welfare House Association in Sana'a. This association is branded as illegitimate by the other societies belonging to al-Wadei' followers.

The two parties have since agreed to dissolve the association, however the dispute continues.

Analysts believe that the current disagreement amongst the top leadership of the Salafyya movement is all about who should have the upperhand in running the affairs of the movement if it goes further, particularly as Abu al-Hassen al-Marebi has gained much respect following the

demise of the late al-Wadei.

The movement has formerly split into three sects: Yemeni Hekma Association group, Ehssan Association's group, the Soruryun group as well as the Sheikh al-Wadei's group which is now again splitting heralds great change in Islamic movements in Yemen.

Sheikhs and clerics from Saudi Arabia tried to intervene in solving the disagreement but their attempts came to no avail.

The Sheikh al-Wadei's group is currently the largest one. It has more than 50 centers and mosques teaching the Salafyya doctrine.

The same group holds strange beliefs about democracy and elections. They also consider disobedience of the established rule as totally prohibited.

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US ships not to refuel in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni government's acceptance to refuel US ships at Yemeni ports is baseless, a source at the presidency office said.

This came in response to the Joint Meeting Parties' letter to the president regarding Tommy Franks' statements on the president's readiness to offer facilities to American ships as part of Yemeni-US relations to counter terrorism.

The source, added that "it's regrettable that the leaderships of these parties took this decision without any verification."

The statement maintained, that it's hoped that these parties don't make the same mistakes as some mosque preachers.

"The wrong mobilization about the existence of US military installations earlier in 1998 incited some Islamist elements to kidnap a group

of British tourists leading to the death of four Brits during the rescue operation," the statement pointed out.

General Tommy Franks, commander of the US Central Forces, stated to the Egyptian satellite channel that president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, offered the provision of military facilities to US ships in return for USA's support to Yemen's anti-terror campaign.

Nasserite Party: End ties with USA

The Nasserite Unionist party called in a statement for stopping what it called the military cooperation between Yemen and the United States. The statement was released by the party's central committee at the conclusion of the party's tenth ordinary round May 6. "The deals made under this agreement are an utter violation of Yemen's sovereignty as well as the security of the country," the statement said. The party also called, through the

statement, to immediately stop any form of military cooperation and coordination with the USA. It also described the government's silence over the acts made by the American Ambassador to Yemen, as a scary indicator of how the government has lost control over the direction of the Yemeni-US relations. The statement called the government to issue an official warning to the US Ambassador, Edmund Hull, to stop his undiplomatic behaviors in

Yemen. The party also held the government's platform responsible for the current deteriorating situation Yemen is going through. The party warned of the undeclared attempts to postpone elections which is also coupled with the Supreme Elections Committee's irregularities. The Nasserite Unionist Party, a pan-Arab party, has two seats in the parliament and is also one of leading opposition parties.

Explosives trade to be banned in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dealing in explosives in Yemen is to be totally banned by the Yemen's government according to the official weekly newspaper 26 September, voice of Yemen's armed forces.

The paper maintains that all shops dealings with explosives will be closed across the country.

The 26 September's news story appeared May 9 revealed that the governorates' governors should actively participate in tracking down the elements wanted by the security.

The story also disclosed that there will be a couple of security precautions including inspecting for illegal car plates as well as activating the frontiers guards' role.

"Ten fully equipped patrol cars as well as other financial aids will be allo-



As a measure to reduce security threats, Yemen's most famous weapon market in Jehana will be closed permanently, officials say.

cated for each governorate," the paper added, indicating that the governors are now obliged to directly report to the

president, on a monthly basis, on the security related issues.

Malaria now a hot topic

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The widespread of Malaria epidemic in Yemen needs strong political commitment to control it and not merely medical oriented plans.

This idea was among the proposals made during a meeting held at the Shura Council May 7.

Participants stressed the need for early detection of this epidemic, which would significantly reduce the cases of malaria.

Many working papers on this matter

were presented for highlighting the dangers of this epidemic and how they can be reduced.

Holding this meeting coincided with the breakout of malaria epidemic in Aden, namely in al-Mansura district which has been considered a malaria-free area compared to the other districts of the governorate.

"What is worse is that another disease with a similar symptoms simultaneously occurred in the same area which further complicated the issue," Dr. Ahmed al-Khalifah said.

He added that a team of specialists has been formed to deal with this issue.

Deputy Aden governor, Abdulkaim Shaif, told the Times that as of last Thursday a team will spray the malaria-stricken districts in order to control the situation.

Yet, Dr. Shawki al-Mauri, director of the malaria National Program denied the spread of malaria at the extent reported by some local newspapers.

Eight people killed in Shabwa

Eight people were killed when a building collapsed in Shabwa governorate last week. The mud-built building was one of the oldest buildings in the area.

The collapse has caused panic among residents for fear that the other buildings may be exposed to collapsing.

People residing in the area have appealed the bodies concerned to visit the site and find immediate solutions to avoid such incidents for the other buildings.

Ten houses collapse in Taiz area

Ten houses were destroyed and tens of people have become homeless as a result of a mountain rift in Attazia district.

Geologists at Taiz University visited the site and attributed the mountain rifts to the presence of a fault in the area which culminated in collapsing the houses.

The report conducted by the team stated that the unavailability of water channels during the rainy seasons is a major cause of collapsing houses.

During the rainy season water penetrated into the underground layers, which in turn results in generating this subsidence in the volcanic ashes.

In addition to this, the volcanic layers composing of pyroclastic rocks which is above the volcanic ashes have resulted in mountain rifts and leading to collapse of the houses.

Such natural incidents is not new to Taiz. Several mountain rifts and faults occasionally occur in Habashi mountain, Adhela mountain in Qadas and Adomala in Kalaba.

A geological consultant office needs to be established in the Taiz governorate to encounter such natural disaster.

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Who will kill Sharon for YR 100 million?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Earlier this month, Sa'ada Chamber of Commerce & Industry allocated YR 100,000,000 as bounty on the head of Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon. The public reaction to this is varied.

Yahya Abdu Zahran, a mosque preacher, said, I want to kill Sharon for the sake of Allah because I will go to Heaven through this act "inshallah." Ali Mohammed Saeed, bookshop owner, regrets that nobody would be able to kill Sharon since it's impossible to reach him.

Yet, we have to keep on prayers and ask Allah to eradicate him and his terrorist state.

While Razaz Hizam, a waiter, pointed out that he hopes that he can kill him, but at this situation it's impossible.

He maintained that he will not do this for the bounty but because Sharon has mass-killed Muslims in Palestine and Lebanon.

Saif Qahtan, an employee, said, that it's impossible to kill Sharon at this moment, however, I'd suggest that this sum is given to support the Palestinians in the Holy Land.



Youth held one year

A 16-year old boy is said to be held captive for a whole year in a tribal area in Shabwa governorate.

Mother of Mohammed Amir al-Ba'adani issued a press statement to mass media as well as human rights organizations all over the world to help her regain his boy.

Mohammed, according to his mother, was kidnapped a year ago by a tribal group led by Ali Balkhir al-Qafan from Shabwa, who demanded a big ransom to release him.

Mohammed's mother added that she can't afford this sum due to the difficult financial conditions she's going through.

"Kidnappers are threatening to kill the boy if I refused to pay the ransom," Mohammed's mother added.

The kidnappers are influential figures in the Shabwa governorate and they had formerly kidnapped her husband three years ago holding him captive for seven months.



Embassy attack suspect denies charges

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The man who is charged with attacking the US Embassy, with two hand grenades in March has told a Yemeni court he didn't do it.

Sameer Yahia Awadh, 26, has denied all charges and his previous confessions before the prosecutor that he threw two grenades at the US embassy compound on March 15.

He said in three hearings held at the Penal Court of Sana'a recently that he was arrested by police in front of the embassy as he was passing by.

He confessed that he was carrying a grenade, but for self-defense as he had problems with his relatives.

Awadh said also that he was brutally beaten up by police guards of the embassy.

However, in the prosecution investigation report, Awadh confessed he carried out the attack to protest the US stand supporting Israelis in the Occupied Territories.

"The recent events in Palestine invited my outrage and as there is no way for Islamic jihad, I decided to throw the grenades at the US embassy, killing the

Americans who support Israel," he said at the time.

He pointed out that he planned and conducted the attack alone without the help of anybody else.

He said he planned for the bombing for five months and he bought three grenades from Jehana firearms market, outside Sana'a at YR 3600.

He said he didn't take any training for using bombs. "It is so easy and it doesn't need any training," he observed.

When asked if he was afraid of being killed in the attack, he openly said he wanted to achieve his goal even if he was killed.

"My plan was to kill the Americans who support the Israelis," he replied.

After the prosecutor Saeed al-Samet read these confessions Awadh denied them all.

He said he was pressured and threatened to say so and that most of what has been mentioned in the prosecutor's report was fabricated.

"I didn't know that he was a prosecutor while interrogating me. I thought he was someone in charge of the prison," said Awadh.

Awadh said he signed against his confessions out of fear.

The suspect in the hearing sessions of Tuesday and Wednesday refused the testimony of the witnesses.

They were four security men guarding the US embassy compound. Awadh said they were from the security and they wanted to cover their shortcomings.

In those sessions he refused to have the court judge assign an advocate to defend him. He chose his own lawyer.

His lawyer al-Fadhil al-Ryashi appeared in the Saturday session. He said the confessions of his clients jotted down in the prosecutor's report were not correct.

"He admitted the charges under threat which make his confessions wrong," the lawyer said.

He requested the judge to give a chance to peruse the case file so as to be able to defend his client to which the judge agreed.

He asked him to present his defense in the final hearing session.

No one from the US embassy attended the hearing session.

Eritrean - Yemen disagree over Red Sea fishing

The Eritrean Justice Minister, Fuzia Hashem left Sana'a last Friday after a visit lasting three days.

A written letter from the Eritrean president was handed to the president Saleh revolving around the latest developments in the Horn of Africa and the bilateral relations between Sana'a and Asmara.

Political resources said that Yemeni-Eritrean relations are decidedly cool because the two sides don't reach a clear elucidation of the verdict of the International Court of Justice concerning fishing in the Red Sea.

Fishing in the Red Sea has become a thorny issue between the two countries. Yemeni officials say that Yemen and Eritrea have the right to fish in the joint territorial waters according to the verdict issued by the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Eritrea sees that the verdict of the International Court of Justice is only related to the Hunaish archipelago where disputes were settled between the two sides and that the two countries have to adhere to the verdict of the International Court of Justice.

Eritrean officials have expressed through Eritrean media their resentment upon the misinterpretation of the verdict.

Eritrean sources said that the Yemeni fishermen have no right to approach the Eritrean beaches away from the disputable area. Similarly, the Eritrean fishermen have no right to approach the Yemeni beaches away from the Hunaish archipelago towards the east.

"Some officials in Yemen determine to interpret the verdict illogically. Yemen incites its fishermen to fish in



the territorial waters and above all we allow them to fish in the Eritrean territorial waters on a condition that they have to sell fish in the Eritrean cities," an Eritrean official said.

A Yemeni official who request anonymity said that in order to reach a satisfactory solution, dialogues have to be resumed between the two countries or it is better to restore to the International Court of Justice for tackling properly the misinterpretation of the verdict.

Campaigns for Islam's image?

Yemen is totally against any military move on any Arab country, Shura Council reported to the president. The committee also advised the allocation of funds by Arabs for countering the anti-Arab campaigns at the Western media.

It further recommended funding media campaigns for ameliorating the images of Arabs already distorted in the West.

"Explaining the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflicts should be one of the priorities of these campaigns," the statement said.

The committee also stressed the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle to counter the Zionist occupation in order to restore its legitimate rights and build its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Tragic suicides continue

A middle-aged person called Ahmed Mohammed Ali was found hanged on a branch of a huge Qat tree on May 3, in Mehal, Saber, 8 km. south of Taiz governorate.

"He was found with two stabs clearly seen on his thighs and his cheek was full with Qat," an eyewitness said to the Yemen Times reporter.

The horrible scene caused panic among some people. This is the second case of its kind in Saber district where a person hanged themselves to death.

The first one happened when a woman died by hanging herself on a rope in the Saber district when she learned about the death of her husband during the 1994 civil war.

Moreover, the suicide attempts have become one of the most enigmatic and incomprehensible acts which is con-

finied to a specific class of people.

"The reasons and motives leading to committing suicide can be ascribed to the weakness of religious discipline, psychological disorders and social and family problems," said a police officer at the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

He further added that the main reasons for committing suicide are family break-ups, divorce, economic deteriorating conditions, low spirits, failure, feeling sin and guilty.

Meanwhile, a woman was severely stabbed in different parts of her body by her brother last week in Mashra'a, 12 km. south of Taiz. Her brother surrendered himself to the police. The result of this incidents can be ascribed also to the long-term family disputes which in turn culminated in the death of family members.

Continued from page 1

Yemen security on high alert, expecting trouble

Observers believe the last bombing was a message to Mansur Rasheed, thought along with other intelligence officials to be handling the campaign seeking al-Qaeda members in Yemen.

Opposition sources said investigations with people detained over such bombings have shown the involvement of Abu Asem al-Ahdal and Abu Ali al-Hassan in such attacks that rocked Sana'a last month.

Al-Ahdal and al-Harithy are being tracked by security men for they are suspected of being prime leaders of the al-Qaeda in Yemen. They are thought to hide in the three tribal areas of Mareb, Al Jawf and Shabwa.

In Sana'a, security has been tightened mainly around the presidential compound. Large vehicles have been

kept from passing through the road near the compound.

While Unification Day will still be celebrated as usual as holiday this month, some formal celebrations normally planned by the government have been cancelled due to the security threats.

Yemen also decided last week to call off the festivities on the 12th anniversary of the Yemeni unification on May 22, 1990. It was officially said that the decision was taken to express sympathy and solidarity with the Palestinians. However, opposition politicians believe there are security reasons for such a decision and that the government is taking al-Qaeda, sympathizers threatens very seriously.

A high ranking opposition leader,

speaking on condition not to be identified, told the Yemen Times that "The calling off of the festivities is a part of the security measures the government is undertaking right now." "President Saleh himself acknowledged that there were great challenges facing the security system in the country," he observed.

Other political observers commented that Yemen should have channeled the money allotted to the festivities to the Palestinians to show that the real reason behind cancelling the festivities is sympathy with the Palestinians rather than potential terrorist attacks.

The Yemen Times tried to get security men and people in charge of the festivities comment on such claims, but to no avail.

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Intellectuals consider it thought terror Yemeni novelist under fire of ministry

"The novelist used religious terms to illustrate sexual scenes, and obscene sexual phrases that go against our religious and ethical conventions," he added.

He stressed these procedures will lead to the prosecution of the writer

and the publisher. He refused to give any details which he said will be presented later to show that the novel insults Islam. He pointed that "such details will be presented as proof to court when the trial starts," adding that the government would respect the

court verdict.

In 2000, the al-Thaqafiah weekly editor-in-chief, Samir al-Yousofi, was imprisoned and prosecuted for republishing "Sana'a: an Open City" by famous Yemeni short story writer Mohammed Abdul Wali who died in the 1970s. He was accused of blasphemy and insulting Islam.

The then Minister of Information Abdul Rahman al-Akwa stood by al-Yousofi who was harassed by the Islah party.

The case was later dropped as high ranking officials intervened to settle it.

The confiscation of al-Ahdal's novel has created ripples among intellectuals and literary men in Yemen. They were surprised by the action since there are now plans underway for celebrating Sana'a as an Arab cultural capital in 2004.

Al-Ahdal told the Yemen Times that sectarian individuals are behind the charge, and they're using the false charge that he insulted Islam.

"It was because the novel mentions the word 'Zaidids,' referring to the Zaidid doctrine, belonging to Shiit. It is also because Sana'a was the setting of the events of the story of the novel," he said.

"They misinterpreted and misunderstood the novel. The word 'Zaidids' did not mean to insult the zaidids or the city of Sana'a at all," al-Ahdal pointed out.

He added that his novel was published in 'al-Thaqafiah weekly in 1998 in a series and no one showed any objection.

A good number of Yemeni intellectuals strongly condemned this procedure of the ministry. They considered this act as thought terrorism, being exercised against intellectuals in all Arab countries.

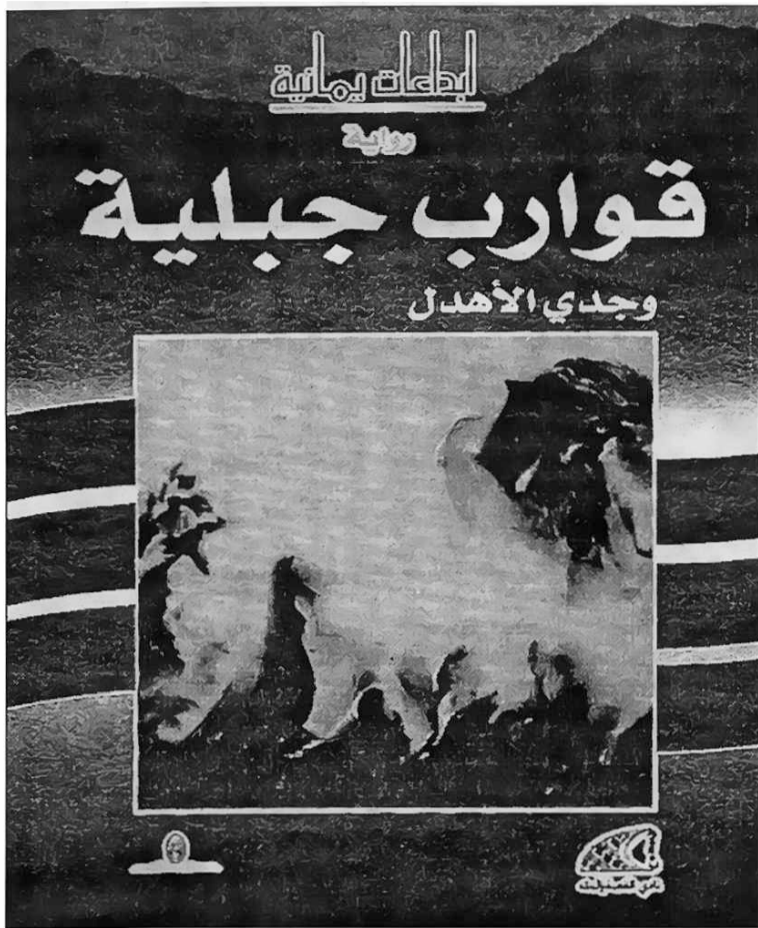
In a press statement they expressed their full support for the novelist and the publisher in their battle against what they described as aggression and harassment.

They accused critic Abdulsalam al-Kibsi who lashed out against the novelist of instigating the official institutions against the novel.

Al-Kibsi sent a letter to the publisher and other officials, threatening the publisher of severe punishment if his house prints the novel, which he claimed insulted God and all people of Sana'a. The statement of intellectuals said the cultural ministry based its procedure against the novelist on al-Kibsi claims.

They described al-Kibsi as a sectarian regionalist who did not study the novel critically but meant to hinder this rising talent. He was even accused of being unable to understand a shrewd novelist as al-Ahdal. They asked him to apologize to culture, intellectuals, the novelist and the publisher.

Al-Ahdal has already published at least seven short stories and novels. He gained the first position in the Arab Youth Ceremony in Egypt in 1998, the al-Afif Cultural Prize for short story in 1997. He was also given the President's Award for short story in 1999



Hundreds of candidates in student elections

Craving democracy at Taiz University

BY RIDHWAN ASSALAH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Freedom is something desired by people in every nation of the world. People want to be free in their political thought and democratic life.

And elections are the foundation of democratic societies; elections without bias or harm.

What's more significant for democracy than free and open elections?

In this respect, considering it has elections coming up with literally hundreds of candidates, the University of Taiz seems is a distinguished democratic campus.

"These elections at the university have become a dream for all students in all departments," said Gebreel al-Ezzi, a representative of the student's union.

Al-Ezzi notes the number of candidates reached 573 male and female students, before 107 students were withdrawn.

"So, the rest of the candidates are competing with each other," he said.

Gebreel has called students to freely to choose the right person without fear of favor.

Eshraq Hazza, a sophomore student at the College of Law said, "The election process has witnessed a high attendance due to the legal right to choose the right person to represent them at the student union."

The large number of voters has been unexpected, and comes after some opposition from students with special interests. Their attempts failed.

The period of the previous union was passed and it is time to turn what some feel is a new page away from bias and favoritism, said Mohammad Ahmed Abdulkader, junior student in biochemistry. As a female candidate, Ahlam



Mohammed Abdulmalik commented that one can deny that democracy is not practiced in Yemen.

"Those who oppose it have to think wisely that at least they have a right and choice to take part in the elections in a healthy democratic process," she said.

Some students complain they've no signs of change have by the previous student union.



"Representatives during the four previous years didn't do anything that deserve mentioning. All they've done is provide the students with handouts at classes," said student Moneer al-Hasani.

The chief goal of the student's elections is to find a unified entity for the whole students at the university. The need for the elections is a must, said history student Yasmeen Abduh Mohammed.

Yasmeen added further that the previous union has done nothing in response to renunciation of some students at the union, which has stirred discord instead of gathering students together.



Abdulgabbbar Abdullah Hassan, junior student in biology, said those who oppose elections are sometimes trouble-makers.

"We need a trouble-free academic atmosphere for all students through all their years of studies," Abdulgabbbar noted further.



Mohammed Ahmed, a junior student of biochemistry, said he and his classmates have faced many difficulties during their studies at the university.

No one has showed a keen interest to prove himself to hold responsibility at the university campus, he said.

"I'm running for election on the motivation of my classmates. High attendance is clearly seen by both male and female students," Mohammed said.



Nadeem Faisal al-Qubati said "Undoubtedly, university students have faced so many problems and I myself have faced them.

So, we are optimistic to practice our democratic right in Taiz university."

The election process at the university was carried out in a healthy democratic atmosphere.

The election process at the university will try to bring solutions to the students' concerns and problems. We hope that these elections will come up with fruitful results for the sake of student's interests during their academic studies.

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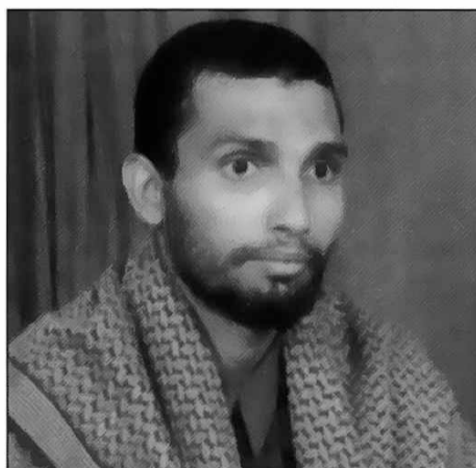
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PSO releases al-Shiraaai

The political security office in Taiz released last week Abdul Malik al-Shiraaai, a teacher and a member of the Human Rights Organization in Taiz, after two months of detention for allegedly being part of the al-Qaeda Sympathizers organization.

Al-Shiraaai was accused of taking part in writing and distributing a written statement bearing the name of the organization, which he denied.



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Short Story & Novel Festival winds up

The Culture Ministry concluded Wednesday its 5-day Short Story and Novel festival held at the culture center in Sana'a. A keen interest was clearly shown in the art of short story writings, narration and novel, which manifested itself in depicting reality of the society.



Culture minister Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Rowhani addressed the concluding meeting of the festival and stressed that the ministry would leave no stone unturned to reactivate cultural activities in all its aspects.

Al-Rowhani indicated further that the culture ministry does its best to make such festivals to be held periodically. He called on civil society organizations and men-of-letters to play vital role to make of such events a success.

The participants discussed various themes in the field of short story. In addition to this, ten studies written by some distinguished Arab writers were presented during the 5-day festival.

More than 140 male and female storywriters participated this cultural activity.

The 5-day short story festival was intended to be a step paving the way for Sana'a to occupy the status of the cultural Arab capital in 2004. The final day was attended by Abdulwahab Al-Rowhani, the culture minister, Ahmed Al Kolani, the mayor of Sana'a, some Arab ambassadors, distinguished writers and intellectuals.

The culture minister finished off the short story festivals by awarded prizes and certificates of merits to some of the distinguished pioneers in the art of short story writing.

Workshop on coastal cities wraps up

A workshop on upgrading coastal cities was concluded last Tuesday. Working papers were presented during the workshop focused mainly on the coastal cities such as, al-Mokalla, Hodiedah and Aden Harbor. Around USD 89 million was allocated for upgrading the Aden city including Krater, al-Mansoura and Seera market financed by the World Bank.

The workshop was organized by the Planning Ministry Office, local councils and in collaboration with the World Bank.

Director generals of institutions, governmental organizations, Abulkareem Shaef, the Secretary General of the Local Council and representative form the Yeminvest and businessmen participated in the workshop.

Consumer Protection Society more active: al-Bukhaiti

In order to familiarize the press about the Yemeni Consumers Protection Association's future plans, chairman, Hamoud al-Bukhaiti hosted a press conference May 6, to this end.

Al-Bukhaiti briefed the pressmen on the achievements of the association since the beginning of the current year. "Amongst the precious achievements of the association is the campaign to confiscate expired insecticides



and other chemicals used for agricultural purposes," he added.

He also pointed out to the importance of activating the boycotting weapon against the companies supporting Israel, adding that it will influence the US decision-makers.

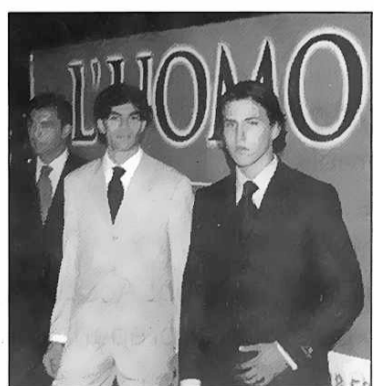
Al-Bukhaiti also called for enacting a law concerning consumer protection and the setting up of an ad hoc court to deal with consumer protection cases.

"Spring Fiesta" at Sheraton Goldmohur

The fashion show "Spring Fiesta" was hosted at the Sheraton Goldmohur Hotel in Aden on 25 April with the presence of over 500 guests. The show represented the latest fashion suits by six male models exhibiting in three different modish costumes. The colors of suits, tie matching, tie knots, suites edging and dressing were all professionally selected.

The men modeling was followed by a ladies dress show, in which a number of female models exhibited the latest fashion wear for this season of the year. This was followed by a draw ceremony of gifts presented by sponsor companies.

This is considered one of the pioneer fashion shows in Yemen's history. Due to the success of the event, the Hotel's



management expressed eagerness to launch another fashion show in the near future. "Such activities will certainly promote tourism in the country," said Ala' Hamid, Marketing Manager of the hot



Arwa University holds annual cultural activities

By ABDUH AL-SABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the sponsorship of the president Ali Abdullah Saleh and under the motto (Jerusalem is Ours), the Queen Arwa University held its Fifth Cultural Week (FCW) on May 9-11 2002, which was coincided with the Palestine Intifadha against the Zionist atrocities in the occupied land.

The 3-day FCW's activities focused mainly on the Palestinian support. Symposiums, political and cultural lectures were delivered to show solidarity with people in Palestine. Al-Afeef Cultural Foundation had a vital participation in making the FCW a success.

Dr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, the Shura Council Chairman highly appreciated the efforts exerted by the Queen Arwa University and making of the FCW a success in packing the Palestinians up.

"Our brothers in Palestine have been fighting tooth and nails for the sake of their legal right which represents a true exemplory of a resounding victory of strong Palestinian will," the Shura Council Chairman highly praised Palestinians.

In the same context, the T.V. Sector Chairman, Abdulghani al-Shameri said that the Queen Arwa University has done its spare no efforts to hold such activities for the benefit of the Palestinians.

"We are hoping that other universities



will follow the example of the Queen Arwa University, in highlighting the Palestinian issue to the public," al-Shameri said to the Yemen Times reporter.

On the sideline of the FCW's activities, a bazaar was allotted to support the Palestinian Intifadha.

Poetic sessions soiree was delivered by the Dr. Abdulaziz al-Makaleh and Sulaiman al-Aisi in conjunction with al-Afeef Cultural Foundation. In addition to this, several exhibitions shows were presented by the Arab and foreign embassies in our country.

The FCW was attended by the Shura Council Chairman, Abdulaziz Abdulghani, State Minister of the Human Rights, Dr. Waheeba Fara'e, the Palestinian Ambassador, Yahia Rabah, members of the diplomatic missions on Yemen, social dignitaries, members of the parliament, academicians, teaching staff of the university and others.

During the FCW's activities, distinguished top participants were honored in appreciation of their limitless efforts to support Palestinians.

Workshop on preserving the coastal areas is to be held

The third workshop on the strategic program of the coastal areas of the Aden governorate is to be organized by the General Corp. for Environment Protection in conjunction with the Regional Corp. for Protection the Red Sea and the Aden Gulf from 13 to 15 during the current month.

More than 50 participants from different governorates, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Djibouti will take part in mapping out a comprehensive management for coastal areas in the Aden governorate.

The national coordinator for regional program, Dr. Mohammed Mahdi Abu

Bakr stated that the new program will focus primarily on preserving the natural resources when implementing or running developmental projects.

Dr. Mahdi added further that the workshop will deal with two other workshops held in Aden revolving around the environmental undertaking including the problems of filling up, washouts and random constructions along the coastal areas. Other environmental issues will be reviewed by the workshop including the destruction of the natural sanctuaries and sea coral reefs.

Seminar on using new health mechanisms winds up

A seminar on using new health mechanisms to districts was concluded last Friday. The seminar was organized by the Health Ministry in collaboration with European Union project to main-

tain the health sector. Participants have recommended that offering health services is the only approach to reactivate the role of hospitals to perform its duties well.

Al-Esra Hospital soon in Yemen

An extensive study was made to establish a private hospital in the capital, Sana'a in collaboration with Adhban Trading Corporation and al-Esra Hospital in Jordan.

The study was made between Mohammed Mobarak Adhban, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the General Manager of al-Esra

Hospital, Nael Mosaleha.

Al-Esra Hospital is going to establish with a view of treating people who traveled abroad for medical purposes.

It has to be mentioned here that the hospital will have the same reputation as that of al-Esra Hospital in Jordan.



In Brief

- Sponsored by the Yemen Development Foundation based in Birmingham, UK, the computer center of the Sana'a Charitable Association inaugurated May 6.
- Yemen's foreign minister, Dr. Abubakr al-Qirbi is to visit Washington May 9.
- Yemen took part at the seventh conference of Islamic ministers of endowments held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur last week.
- Sana'a mayor, Mr. Ahmed al-Kuhlani met May 8 the ambassador of the State of Qatar to Sana'a for discussing fields of cooperation between the two countries.
- The al-Afif foundation is to honor poet Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Mua'limi May 13 at its premise in

- Sana'a.
- Minister of Oil, Dr. Rashid Barba'a, took part at the Arab energy conference May 11/14.
- Agrish 2002 for agriculture is to take place in Thamar city May 14/18.- Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, is to organize its first cultural program May 18/24.
- Yemen's Journalist Syndicate Aden's branch organized May 7, a seminar on the occasion of releasing the strategic report on Yemen.
- Ministry of Education identified June for the start of basic education exams.
- A seminar on media awareness was held May 12 at the Press Club in Sana'a.

Al-Quds football tournament to kick off soon

In support of the Palestinian people in the holy land, the Yemen Football Federation is organizing a football tournament for four Arab national teams under the name of the Al-Quds tournament.

The tournament will kick off May 19 with a match between the Palestine's football team and its Yemeni counterpart. The event will wrap up May 26 with the participation of Yemen, Palestine, Oman and Algeria national teams.

Mr. Saad Salama Deputy Head of Mission of the Palestinian Embassy in



Sana'a told the Times that this event comes to reminds Arabs of the Palestinian issue Arabs' top concern.



Workshop on gender wraps up May 13

A training course on gender in the scholastic textbooks for the basic levels has wrapped today at the presence of the State Minister of the Human Rights, Dr. Waheeba Fara'e starting from May 11 to 13.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, the Manager of the Women Center for Researches and Training, Ramadhana Mohammed Ismael said that the training course aims at raising awareness of the notion of the gender as well as

reviewing the curriculum of the basic levels. She said further that the qualitative difference of both male and female students at the basic levels from developed prospective techniques of the gender.

Several working papers have been presented by professors of the university revolving on modernization of the notion of the gender in the general education curricula.

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The villa is just a few years old, and was very well built in modern style. It has an advanced electricity and internal telephone network. It is surrounded by three streets and has its main gate on a paved street in a decent neighborhood near 22 May Street. The villa also has a variety of features such as balcony, storage room, etc.

Anyone interested in the villa can contact Nabeel Yahya at 71136050 Please call early to make sure you seize this valuable opportunity!

Egypt, Syria meet to revive peace process

(Reuters) - Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak began talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday to discuss the Middle East crisis and ways to revive the peace process.

The Syrian president arrived just hours ahead of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Abdullah, who will join Mubarak and Assad for a three-way summit.

The tripartite meeting will be Prince Abdullah's first head-to-head talks with the Arab leaders since his discussions with U.S. President George W. Bush last month on how to revive the defunct Middle East peace process.

Mubarak, who met Assad on his arrival, told reporters at the airport in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh that Assad was visiting "in order to coordinate future steps in the peace process".

"I will meet the Saudi crown prince in order to find out what happened during his visit to America and I believe it was a successful visit," Mubarak said in remarks broadcast on state television.

Egyptian officials earlier said the three-way meeting would include discussion of a U.S. proposal for a Middle East peace conference, which has received a cool response from Arabs.

Saturday's meeting groups three major Arab players in the Middle East peace process following a surge of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

It is the first such mini-summit since a full Arab summit in March endorsed a



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (R) meets with Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad at the Red Sea resort Sharm el-Sheikh May 11, 2002. R

Saudi land-for-peace initiative with Israel.

MAJOR PLAYERS

Egypt, the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, often plays a mediating role between Israel and the Arabs.

Syria, which seeks the return of the Golan Heights seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, has traditionally taken a tough line towards Israel over peace talks, and had initially been wary of the Saudi plan before backing it in March.

Saudi Arabia, which has no border with Israel and has long stayed on the conflict's sidelines, has taken an increasingly central

role since its initiative was adopted.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said in Cairo on Friday he had briefed Assad about Prince Abdullah's U.S. discussions and had no reason to believe the Syrian leader did not support renewed peace efforts.

"I saw from him every interest in the elements of the pursuit of peace," he told Reuters and a small group of U.S. newspaper journalists.

Asked about Saturday's meeting, the Saudi foreign minister said: "Hopefully they will agree on steps to move forward."

At the March summit, Arab states backed a plan offering normal ties with Israel in return for a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land, the establishment of a Palestinian state and a resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem.

During his talks in the United States in late April, Prince Abdullah presented new proposals on how to end the Palestinian-Israeli violence, which included an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas, the deployment of an international peacekeeping force and renunciation of violence.

Hamas says more suicide attacks

(Reuters) - The founder of Hamas said in an interview published on Saturday that the Palestinian militant group would continue to use suicide bombings against Israel.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas, also told Kuwait's al-Qabas daily that Hamas had many requests from Palestinian youths to carry out suicide bombings, including females whom he described as "reserve soldiers in the long battle."

He said suicide bombings were one of the "forms of resistance open against the enemy."

When asked about a call by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to halt suicide bombings, Yassin added: "Hamas always considers the higher interests of the Palestinian people... We have in the past stopped martyrdom operations against the enemy."

"But they did not stop their killing of our



Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas. R

people, our leaders and officials. That is why we are no longer obligated by our previous initiative."

Palestinian security forces arrested 14 Hamas members in the Gaza Strip on Thursday after Arafat ordered measures to foil attacks on Israeli civilians.

The sheikh told the Kuwaiti daily that Hamas backs Arafat as long as he continues to reject "to bow to the dictations" of Israel and the United States and does not become a "fighter" against resistance movements.

Hamas does not "like" targeting civilians, he said, but the suicide bombings were only a response to similar Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians.

Israelis are all soldiers "dressed in civilian clothes who only yesterday were officers in military outfits in their units..." Yassin added.

Church in squalor after 38-day showdown

Bethlehem standoff ends

(Reuters) - A 38-day standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity ended with Palestinian fighters leaving for exile, Israeli troops pulling out of town and one of Christianity's holiest shrines in squalor.

A thanksgiving mass was planned for Saturday at the now rubbish-strewn church built on the site Christians revere as the birthplace of Jesus.

Under a European-brokered deal, the 13 Palestinians in the church who were on Israel's most-wanted list were flown on Friday to Cyprus, the first step in an exile that will take them to third countries.

Twenty-six other Palestinians considered less serious offenders by Israel were expelled from the West Bank and taken by armored bus to Gaza. Flag-waving crowds gave them a heroes' welcome as the men headed to beachfront hotel accommodations.

Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers rumbled out of Bethlehem, the last Palestinian city still held by Israeli forces that launched a crushing offensive in the West Bank on March 29 after suicide attacks killed dozens of Israelis.

It also appeared that Israel was backing away from a confrontation in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinians had braced for an assault in retaliation for a suicide bombing that killed 15 Israelis near Tel Aviv Tuesday.

A senior Israeli political source said Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer froze the operation "for the time being" after Israeli media reported details of the planned campaign.

Israel has called up reservists and made no secret it intended to go after militants in Gaza.

"We hope Israel will give up on this invasion completely," Palestinian cabinet minister Nabil Sha'ath told Reuters in Gaza, calling on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to start peace negotiations instead.

Sharon, who has said Yasser Arafat could never be Israel's peace partner, has made talks conditional on an end to Palestinian violence and a major restructuring of the Palestinian Authority.

In Cairo, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters he saw a "ray of light" for Middle East peace in what he described as a new, proactive stance by Washington. "There is a ray of hope. The door is open," he said.

Israeli troops pulled out of Manger Square as cheering Palestinian children ran toward the Church of the Nativity as calls of "Allahu Akbar" — "God is Greater" — rang out from loudspeakers on mosques.

Scores of dazed civilians, clergy and police also emerged from the shrine Israeli forces surrounded on April 2, Reuters correspondent Paul Casciato reported from the church.

"It's not a church any more, it's a place filled with beds and trash," said teen-ager Sandy Shahin, a Bethlehem resident who rushed into the church minutes after the Israelis left.

"The smell is too bad. The floor is too bad. I'm filled with fear," Shahin, a Roman Catholic, said between sobs.

Many of the militants looked haggard and tired. But some strode defiantly past the troops after leaving the fourth-century church, strewn with mattresses, food scraps and what the Israeli army said were 40



Bethlehem Standoff Ends; Church in Squalor. R

explosive devices left behind by the gunmen. One Palestinian was carried out on a stretcher. Another knelt and kissed the ancient stones outside the church.

Women relatives stood on nearby rooftops calling out the men's names. Some weiled and others shouted abuse at Israeli troops. "Goodbye, our beloved ones!" yelled a middle-aged woman.

Diplomats said the final destinations of the 13 men might be settled only when EU foreign ministers hold a regular meeting in Brussels Monday.

At least 1,346 Palestinians and 473 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

Children in web of politics

(Reuters) - Palestinians threatened on Thursday to knock a gala U.N. children's summit off track by injecting Israel's treatment of young Palestinians into the proceedings and challenging Israel's credentials.

A draft General Assembly resolution, introduced by 22 nations, including South Africa, Afghanistan, Cuba and Arab states, says children under Israeli occupation "remain deprived of many basic rights" as a result of Israeli assaults on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps.

In response, Israel's Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit used his General Assembly speech to accuse Palestinians of training youths to be suicide bombers. A U.S. official said the conference was the wrong place for a Middle East resolution. It is not unusual for the Middle East conflict to be inserted into every conference at the United Nations but normally these arguments are in the context of a final declaration. At this session, language on occupied territories has been agreed, according to Carol Bellamy, the executive director of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund.

But Richard Grenell, a spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, said, "We are encouraging other nations to not allow this special session on children to be politicized and polarized on yet another U.N. debate on the Middle East."

Earlier Thursday, Palestinian delegate Dr. Emile Jarjou'i, without mentioning the resolution, told the assembly, "Children are not interested in politics. They want to live, play, go to school, travel and explore their world. But they cannot!"

"In the last 19 months, Israeli military forces that have acted upon the directives of their government have indiscriminately killed hundreds of Palestinian children. These children were killed while they lay asleep in their beds, in the arms of their mothers, while playing and going to school by Israeli military forces," Jarjou'i said. Palestinians also threatened to challenge Israel's credentials at the summit on children's rights. They want the U.N. General Assembly to make sure Israel cannot represent the West Bank or Gaza, diplomats reported.

"The Palestinian draft resolution and their intention to dispute our credentials are another attempt to hijack an international conference," said Mordecai Yedid, deputy director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. and International Organizations department.

PRESS AND GAZETTE NOTICE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982 HANOVER INSURANCE COMPANY TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hanover Insurance Company applied to the Financial Services Authority on 19 April 2002 for its approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to the London branch of New Hampshire Insurance Company all of its rights and obligations under all general insurance and reinsurance policies written by it in the UK through its London branch prior to 1 July 1991.

2 Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection from Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. at the following offices:

- (1) AIG Europe S.A., Oberlindau 76-78, D-60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- (2) AIG Europe (Ireland) Limited, AIG House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland
- (3) AIG Europe S.A., Av. Da Liberdade 144/156 - 6th Floor, Building MCB, 1250 Lisbon, Portugal
- (4) AIG Europe (UK) Limited, 120 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5BP, United Kingdom

until 1 June 2002.

3 Written representations concerning the transfer may be sent to The Financial Services Authority, Major Financial Groups Division, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS, before 1 August 2002. The Financial Services Authority will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to it before that date.

إعلان للصحافة والجريدة الرسمية
 قانون شركات التأمين لعام ١٩٨٢
 هانوفر إنشورانس كومباني
 تحويل الأعمال العامة

١ نعلن بموجب أن "هانوفر إنشورانس كومباني" Hanover Insurance Company قد تقدمت بطلب إلى "هيئة الخدمات المالية" Financial Insurance Authority بتاريخ ١٩ أبريل ٢٠٠٢ للحصول على موافقتها، وفقاً لأحكام الباب الثاني من الجدول ٢ ج من قانون شركات التأمين لعام ١٩٨٢، للتحويل إلى "نيو هامبشير إنشورانس كومباني" New Hampshire Insurance Company - فرع لندن لندن جميع حقوقها والتزاماتها بموجب جميع بوالص التأمين وإعادة التأمين العامة الصادرة من قبلها في المملكة المتحدة عن طريق فرعها في لندن وذلك قبل أول يوليو ١٩٩١.

٢ توجد نسخ من بيان التفاصيل للتحويل المقترح للإطلاع عليها من يوم الاثنين وحتى يوم الجمعة من الساعة ٩ صباحاً وحتى الساعة ٥ مساءً في المكاتب التالية:

- (١) AIG Europe S.A., Oberlindau 76-78, D-60323 Frankfurt am Main, ألمانيا.
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- (٤) AIG Europe (UK) Limited, 120 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5BP المملكة المتحدة.

حتى ١ يونيو ٢٠٠٢

٣ يمكن إرسال التمثيلات المتعلقة بالتحويل إلى
 The Financial Services Authority, Insurance Firms Division, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS.
 وذلك قبل ١ أغسطس ٢٠٠٢، وإن نظر "هيئة الخدمات المالية" Financial Insurance Authority في الطلب قبل دراسة أي تمديد يتم تقديمها إليها قبل ذلك التاريخ.

Saudi says no peace without East Jerusalem

(Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah said in an interview published on Saturday Israel would have to withdraw from occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, as the price for real peace with the Arab world.

The prince, who held talks with U.S. President George W. Bush on the Middle East crisis last month, told Asharq al-Awsat newspaper that Arabs would not accept a partial Israeli pull-out and Israel had to return all Arab land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and allow the return of Palestinian refugees.

"A withdrawal is not enough, there must be a return to the pre-1967 aggression lines and an end to the occupation of Jerusalem so that it becomes the capital of Palestine," said Prince Abdullah, the architect of a Middle East peace initiative that won Arab and international backing.

"The return of refugees is also a must," he told the London-based paper.

The de facto ruler of the oil superpower, praised Bush for supporting the long-standing Arab demand for the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"I must say that President Bush has played an active role...by insisting on the necessity of the creation of a Palestinian state at a time the Israeli forces tried to annul the Palestinian Authority," the paper quoted him as saying.

Prince Abdullah said it was "too



early" for the kingdom to say whether it would take part in possible peace negotiations with Israel. "Our priority is to lift the suffering of our brothers in Palestine, and we will do our utmost to

restore Arab rights."

SEPTEMBER 11 DID NOT DENT TIES

The prince said his country's ties with

its key Western ally, the United States, had not been blemished by the September 11 airliner attacks on U.S. cities, in which 15 out of the 19 suicide hijackers were Saudis.

"The Americans did not talk to us about this because they know our position, that we had denounced those attacks. They also know that terrorism is not a characteristic of the Saudi people," he said.

The Muslim kingdom has taken measures in support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism, including scrutinising the work of charities to ensure funds are not channelled to militant groups.

Riyadh wants to cleanse the work of charities from "politics and make sure that funds reach those who deserve them".

It also banned young Saudis from taking part in any illegal military activity to "protect them from traps that may be set for them", the crown prince said, in an apparent reference to groups such as the al Qaeda network of Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, Washington's prime suspect in the attacks.

The prince, who reiterated Riyadh's rejection to a possible U.S. military campaign against Iraq, suggested Washington had pledged not to wage any attack against Baghdad if the latter implemented U.N. resolutions related to the 1991 Gulf War. "We tell our brothers in Iraq not to miss the chance and to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. The U.S.

Administration promised us that there will be good things," he said without elaborating.

normalise relations," al-Jumhuriya said.

Iraqi newspapers have also reported in the last few days that an exhibition of Saudi products will be held in Baghdad for the first time.

The papers quoted Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh As saying that the volume of Iraq's purchases from Saudi Arabia had reached \$1 billion under the United Nations' oil-for-food programme.

(Reuters) - Iraq sent its industry and minerals minister to Saudi Arabia on Saturday in another sign of thawing relations between the two Gulf War foes, Iraqi newspapers reported.

They said Maissar Rija Shlah would attend an Arab meeting in Riyadh, marking the first high-level official contact between the two countries since the 1991 Gulf War, sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The government newspaper al-Jumhuriya said the visit by the Iraqi

delegation came after an invitation by Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity Hashem bin Abdullah bin Hashem bin Yamani.

Iraqi and Saudi leaders shook hands and embraced each other at an Arab summit in Beirut in March.

Saudi Arabia has previously refused to have direct dealings with Iraq under President Saddam Hussein.

"This is the first high-level contact between Iraq and Saudi Arabia since the two Arab brotherly states started to

and we don't want a conference to argue, we need a conference to accomplish peace."

Sheikh Hamad also said any peace meeting should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

"The Israelis also have to feel that they will be accepted among the Arabs, to have normalized relations with the

Arabs if they do all these things."

The United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union proposed the conference in an announcement on May 2.

The Arab leaders' reactions to the conference have been generally cool. They have said they are not yet convinced of the value of such a conference.

Sierra Leone's Tejan Kabbah expected winner

(Xinhua) - Sierra Leone's incumbent President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah is most suitable for a second term in office as his countrymen intend to give him another chance to bring them from peace to reconstruction in the war-torn country, local observers said on Friday.

Kabbah, who has declared his attempt to seek reelection in May 14 general polls, had won high reputation among the voters as peacemaker.

Security and peace building were the primary concerns of the 1996 general elections, so Kabbah pledged to end the ongoing war and put in place a program of action that will provide opportunities for Sierra Leoneans to better their lives.

In 1996 polls, Kabbah of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) beat John Karefa-Smart of the United National People's Party (UNPP) by winning 59.5 percent of the votes against 40.5 percent in the runoff.

During six years in office, surviving a series of attempts to overthrow his government, Kabbah showed his uniform will to achieve permanent peace with dialogues and negotiations.

Negotiations between the government and the rebels in 1999 produced an agreement in Lome to end hostilities and form a government of national unity.

Under the Lome agreement, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was mandated by the Security Council to assist the government and the parties in carrying out peace process.

Following a series of high-level discussions involving the Sierra Leonean government, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the UNAMSIL, the security situation in the west African country dramatically improved.

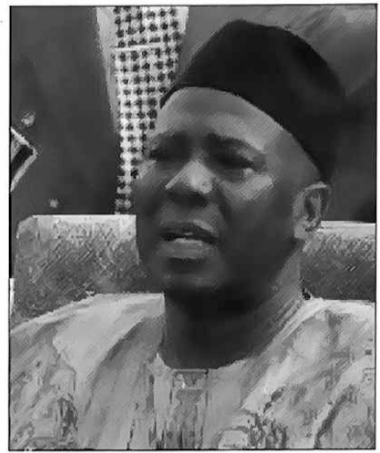
As a key impetus in the peace process, the war was officially declared over in January after the disarmament of 47,000 fighters from the RUF and government militias under a year-long disarmament program.

Due to the president's achievement to end the war, most of the voters will cast ballots for his reelection, observers said, adding that the SLPP has set winning over two-thirds of votes as its target to establish the government by itself.

The UNPP, which came second in the 1996 elections, now exists in fragments and is no longer as popular as in the past.

Its aging leader Karefa-Smart, at 86, has aligned with the former military junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma's Peace and Liberation Party and Abdul Rahman's People's Democratic Alliance.

The only threat to the ruling SLPP comes from the main rival All People's



GENERAL ELECTION DUE IN SIERRA LEONE A woman supporter of All People's Congress, a major opposition party in Sierra Leone, takes part in a rally to support its leader Ernest Koroma at downtown Freetown, Sierra Leone May 9, 2002. The general election scheduled to be held on May 14, will be the first and most comprehensive polls since the end of a brutal civil war that plagued for more than 10 years. (Xianhui)

Congress (APC) party, the observers said, adding that the SLPP has beefed up its campaign against it.

Overall, Sierra Leoneans view the race as a contend for power between Kabbah and APC's Ernest Komoma.

During the civil war, the APC along with the People's Democratic Party, which is the third largest party in the country, stood by the government's peace efforts.

The APC is difficult to attract the voters in the short time because the timetable of the May 14 election is very tight following the end of civil war in January, local observers said.

Although the APC outlined its focus on jobs, education, housing and healthcare, it has no viable programs to make the voters believe that it is ready to rule the country.

The observers said Sierra Leone needs a government indeed to strengthen peace, security and stability to serve as a springboard for a take off into sustainable development, while Kabbah is most suitable for it.

According to the observers, the ruling party is going to sweep the entire south. The east is partially in the party's grip. The north, which used to be a stronghold for northern-based political parties, is gradually falling into SLPP hands with the influence of its heavyweights. As for the west, the SLPP will gain ground as it is not doing badly of late.

President Kabbah and his SLPP appear to be far ahead of their opponents. A rally of the SLPP scheduled for Saturday has been declared to bring more than 200,000 supporters out into the streets of Freetown as demonstration of winning the polls.

Iraq - Saudi relations warming

Mideast conference needs thorough preparation: Qatar

(Xinhua) - WASHINGTON, May 10 (Xinhua) Qatar warned on Friday that a proposed international conference on peace in the Middle East for this summer would achieve nothing unless there is a timetable for steps to end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We think it's a good idea, but it needs a lot of preparation,"

Qatar Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani told

reporters after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell at the State Department.

"We have to have a timetable and before the conference everyone knows where the limits are and what will be achieved for that conference. That cannot be done in a conference like this without preparation before," he noted.

He said, "If we don't do that, then we go to the conference just to argue

Summit to decide transition of AU

(Xinhua) - Organization of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Amara Essy said Friday that the transition period for the OAU to African Union (AU) would be decided by the heads of state and government at the summit scheduled to be held this July in Durban, South Africa.

Speaking at a press conference here, Essy said after providing information to the heads of state at the summit, the period of transition would be decided in full awareness based on the requirement of the tasks to be performed.

He said "the transformation process is not a simple matter," and lessons were also gained from the attempts made so far for the integration.

To launch the union, the main organs of the union which are the assembly, the executive council, the committee of permanent representatives and the commission would be needed, according to Essy.

He said, "the launching of AU is as scheduled, and the launching has nothing to do with the transition period."



"This is not a delay. The transition period is talking about the time to put efforts in place to make the whole organization come into full effect," added the secretary-general.

The AU would be launched in Durban in July 2002.

Earlier this month, the Eminent Persons Advisory Panel (EPAP), which is not official organ of the OAU, reached on consensus that there was a need for the transition period to be extended.

The EPAP was established to assist the secretary-general and advise him on the way forward with the transition process in accordance with the decision of the summit of heads of state and government in Lusaka, Zambia, last July.

Trying to escape battling warlords

Somalis flee to Kenya

(Xinhua) - Thousands of Somalis have fled into Kenya in recent weeks for fearing of being victims of the heavy fighting among warlords in the anarchic country, a statement issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday.

In the statement, the UN refugee agency said some 10,000 refugees fled to the north-eastern Kenya border town of Mandera from the Bula Hawa and Luuq regions of Somalia, an influx that is described as the largest in the past year.

UNHCR said it feared that "the numbers could rise still further" and had sent a mission to the border region this week to probe turmoil caused by the conflicts in Somalia since mid-April.

It has become increasingly clear that these people will not return home in the near future and there is need to mount a structured protection and assistance program for them, said the UN agency. According to the UNHCR mission that went to the Kenya-Somalia border, majority of those who fled to Kenya were women and children.

Meanwhile, Mandera is experiencing a serious water shortage and a severe lack of drugs in the local hospital. Somalia fell into civil war among rival warlords since the ousting of former head of state Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991.

Kenya hosts more than 200,000 refugees, most of whom are from the neighboring Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia.



Three suspects being chased**Pakistan police hunt suicide bomb gang**

(Reuters) - Pakistani police said on Saturday they were chasing three suspects believed to have bought the car used in a devastating suicide bomb attack this week that killed 14 people, including 11 Frenchmen, and a reward had been offered.

Sketches of three suspects, who are believed to have paid 100,000 rupees (\$1,700) for the beaten-up 1974 Toyota a day before Wednesday's attack in Karachi, have been issued and two million rupees offered for any clues leading to a breakthrough.

"We have some information about the three suspects and we have also collected some evidence from the scene of the occurrence, but I can not say that we have made any major breakthrough," a senior police official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

The suicide bomber drove alongside a Pakistan Navy bus on Wednesday morning, detonating a powerful device that killed 11 French navy experts, two Pakistanis and wounded 22 others.

The blast blew a huge crater in the road, reduced the bus to a twisted and blackened skeleton, splattering blood and body parts down the street.

The 12 French wounded were flown to Paris on a German military flying hospital on Thursday, and the bodies of their 11 dead colleagues were due to be repatriated on Saturday after a French forensic team completes identification of the corpses.

First lead

Pakistani police, along with French and U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation teams, were following the first lead in the investigation after a car dealer gave details of three men

who bought the vehicle used by the bomber, the police official said.

Police traced the dealer through the car's engine number.

After the blast, Pakistani authorities quickly rounded up hundreds of Islamic radicals linked to banned domestic groups, but officials say the crackdown was not directly related to the suicide attack in Karachi.

"A number of people have been detained and we are questioning them but no arrests have been made in connection of the blast," the police official added.

A source within the Karachi police said several raids had been conducted in the crime-ridden city of 14 million, and a few people detained.

"At least three raids were conducted on tips about the three suspects," he said. He did not elaborate. An official at the French consulate in Karachi told Reuters the corpses of 11 Frenchmen will be handed over to French authorities at a ceremony in Karachi later on Saturday.

"The bodies will later be taken back to home," he added.

Pakistan military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S. war on terror, won praise in the West for promising in January to crack down on Islamic militants within Pakistan — a move also aimed at easing tensions with neighbor and rival India.

Five militant groups were banned in January and more than 2,000 militants detained, but many have since been released.

Critics say the effort was half-hearted, partly because Musharraf did not want to further upset more moderate Islamic groups that also oppose supporting the United States.



French defense minister visits site of a bomb explosion in Karachi

Malaysia's PM says opposition is useless

(Reuters) - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told opposition parties on Saturday that their days were numbered, saying the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition would emerge victorious in the next general elections.

Mahathir, Asia's longest serving leader, is expected to call a general election in 18 months to capitalize on a sentiment of suspicion surrounding the Islamic opposition's since the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The next election is due by 2004.

"If the spirit which I witness in this meeting continues, wait and see what will happen to the opposition parties," Mahathir told thousands of members of his United Malays National Organization (UMNO) at the party's 56th anniversary.

"These opposition parties...they should be afraid, scared, because their time will come soon," he told cheering audience who packed an indoor stadium near capital Kuala Lumpur.

He also made a veiled reference to the marginalization of his rival Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister who was sacked and jailed after mounting a challenge in 1998. Anwar is serving 15 years for sex and corruption convictions he says were trumped up.

"To the opposition parties, the people and issues that you have made use of are no longer issues in our countries," he said without elaborating.

UMNO is the backbone of Barisan Nasional, which has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957.

The ruling coalition parties have scored a succession of victories in state and by-election polls since the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Mahathir is due to visit Washington in May 13-15, when he will tell President George Bush there should no let up in the fight against terrorism.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad waves as he arrives for the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) party 56th anniversary celebrations in Kuala Lumpur

He will also argue for the United States to pressure Israel to back-off in the conflict with the Palestinians. Malay Muslims are strong supporters of Palestinian cause and Mahathir's stand has won support from foes in the Islamic party camp.

Washington sees Malaysia as a beacon of Islamic stability in Southeast Asia as the hunt goes on for militant groups, either homegrown or linked to the al Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden, who is accused of masterminding the attacks.

Malaysia is holding more than 60 suspected militants belonging to a group police say aims to carve an Islamic state out of the countries in the mostly-Muslim Malay Archipelago.

Kabul pokes out from 24 years of war:**'At least one skyscraper is still standing'**

By Karen Dabrowska
For The Yemen Times

Kabul is emerging from 24 years of war. Barely. "At least one skyscraper is still standing. It's the 18 storey communications building", the editor of the Kabul Times, proudly tells visiting journalists. He doesn't have a business card. It's not possible to call him from overseas as international telephone lines are not in service yet and email is still a dream.

Ahmad Shah Massoud, the national hero, smiles with a confident, non arrogant pride from almost every street corner. The Great Massoud Road was named after the Tajik commander, leader of the Northern Alliance, who was assassinated in September.

Last month a Russian Mig, appropriated by the Afghan Air force, crashed during the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of Kabul's liberation from the Soviet invaders.

The Soviet occupation is history. But the footprints of the Taliban are still visible. Tapes torn from cassette recorders cling to the barbed wire on the building in the Kolda Bishta District used as a prison by the notorious Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue. Houses once occupied by members of Al Qaeda hide behind large walls and firmly shut gates.

Afghanistan's capital is still a city without a judicial system. A number of ministers in the Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) don't have houses in Kabul - they have taken up residence in the Intercontinental Hotel. For the first time in its troubled history the country has a Ministry of Women's Affairs. Women are starting to venture out door unaccompanied but few have shed their burkas in public.

The Minister of Water and Irrigation takes a personal interest in the guests at the Intercontinental and extends per-

sonal invitations for a visit to his office. But not all the guests adopt a grin-and-bear-it attitude to Kabul's shortcomings. "Perhaps the minister should start by making sure there is hot water in the hotel", muttered a disgruntled visitor.

There are many different people in town from Afghanistan's twenty ethnic groups, exiles who have returned to their homeland, foreign soldiers from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Hazara militiamen, internally displaced persons waiting to return home, NGO staff, ex Taliban minus beards. Life as combatants in a war zone is the only life thousands of Afghans have ever known. Integration into civilian life will not be easy.

Back after exile

The AIA was bolted together in Bonn last December. According to the Minister of Information and Culture, Mahdoun Rahim, "the ministries are working hard with an empty wallet". He is back after years in exile in America where he set up the Association for Peace and Democracy in Afghanistan. Many of the AIA's ministers were freedom fighters who opposed both the Soviet invaders and the Taliban, left the country and have returned, standing on the edge of hope and praying the convening of the Loya Jirga (June 10th - 16th) will pave the way for a transitional authority which should be in place by June 22nd. The plan is to draw up a constitution and elect a new government in 18 months.

The Loya Jirga is a traditional institution adapted to modern times. The term is a combination of two words from one of Afghanistan's national languages, Pashto. "Loya" means grand or big, and "Jirga" means council, assembly or meeting. It evolved from the institution of Jirga, which is usually a council of elders in Afghanistan's tribal groups - particularly the Pashtuns - to settle disputes and deal with day-to-day problems.

A Loya Jirga held in the southern

Afghan city of Kandahar in 1747 selected a tribal elder Ahmad Shah Durrani as the ruler and founded the Afghan empire, thereby establishing the basis for the Afghanistan that exists today. The Loya Jirgas of 1915 and 1941 made the critical decisions for the country to remain neutral during the two World Wars, while the Loya Jirgas of 1924 and 1964 rectified constitutions.

For the UN Secretary General's envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, the main priority is getting the 1,500 members of the Loya Jirga to Kabul and making sure the people are happy with the selection process. He hopes a head of state will be selected and the key posts in government filled. Thirty observers, old Afghan hands, members of NGO's and UN agencies will play a morale boosting role. But the modalities of the institution have not been worked out and its largely a matter of navigating by sight.

A long process

"The people are very poor. They have been the hostages of wars fought on their territory over issues that have nothing to do with Afghanistan. They desperately want peace", Ibrahim emphasized. "But anyone who thinks the Loya Jirga will create a Switzerland better go somewhere else. This is a long process. The Taliban were a low class who got to the top of the pyramid.

They are no longer there and the pyramid has to regain its balance".

In the past, soldiers have been the currency for political power. Previous regimes stayed in power by killing the opposition and power sharing is a concept which could take some getting used to. Loyalty is a commodity which can be bought. The AIA can do business with warlords like the Uzbek General Dostum who has carved out a semi-autonomous kingdom in the north and stated 'I do not want to fight' - but the terms are negotiable. Dostum is now the Deputy Defense Minister. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whose Hezb-i-

Islami was largely absorbed by the Taliban, is beyond the pale. His forces are suspected of the recent shelling of Kabul Airport and he is determined to derail the Loya Jirga.

Some Afghans believe the AIA's survival is dependant on the presence of foreign peacekeepers. "If the soldiers leave the sinful people will return and will fight again", said Sohrab (18) who fled to Quetta in Pakistan when the Taliban captured his village. He returned when ISAF arrived.

"Now we have our first and last chance for peace", said Azizallah a medical student. He is very conscious of the fact that ISAF is only in the capital and its up to the people to make sure the rest of the country does not return to a state of war and anarchy.

The Americans are training Afghan soldiers from all ethnic groups and hope to leave behind a 60,000 strong national army.

Never short of opinion

ISAF soldiers are community workers by day - repairing roads and delivering food to a local orphanage - and policemen by night. The Afghans are never short of an opinion and do not hesitate to make their views about ISAF known. When asked to fill out a survey questionnaire many reply with four page letters.

A drive through Kabul's once fashionable suburbs is a drive through aerie neighborhoods, the graveyard of villas where the streets have not been demined. After expelling the Russians rival mujahideen groups reduced much of the city to rubble as they battled for the capital.

"There has been a lot of destruction in the past 24 years but you can see the smiles on the faces of the people. The country has been destroyed but the spirit of the people could not be destroyed", said sculptor Amanullah Haiderzad as he sipped his coffee in the Kabul Intercontinental looking out of a window punched by bullet holes. The Taliban crudely defaced his mural

which depicted the Buddhas of Bamiyan. But Haiderzad refuses to admit defeat. He will restore the mural and he will rebuild the 1,000-year-old giant Buddha in Bamiyan destroyed during the Taliban's five year reign of terror which ended last year.

Kabul's National Museum, which spanned thousands of years - from the artifacts of early cave-dwellers to art-work reflecting the country's Greek, Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic influences suffered the same fate but the Minister of Culture is convinced the museum will once again be "one of the best in the world".

Sabra Rahmani goes to work every day at Afghanistan's National Gallery. She is proud of her country's culture and heritage and looks forward to producing a catalogue of the works on display. It doesn't seem to matter that she cannot afford the fruits depicted on a water colour even though they are available in the local market.

Chicken Street, a favorite haunt of hippies in the heyday of the overland travel craze during the 60s and 70s is a shadow of its former self. Tourists are still few and far between and reports that foreigners were pricked with syringes by children who were given money to attack unsuspecting visitors, raises the threshold of fear among foreigners. But at least two London travel agents are already thinking of making a come back. Carpets of all shapes and sizes, a variety of rabbit and fox coats, leather jackets at bargain prices and an amazing array of scarves and brightly colored dresses have been waiting for a long time for new owners.

Almost overnight Afghanistan has been transformed from an international pariah to a member of the international community and now the Afghans expect the international community to stand by them. "There is a feeling that we defeated communist for you and you walked away. The international community cannot afford to be seen to be walking away this time", empha-

sized the British Charge D'Affairs, Dominic Jermy.

An overwhelming task

The reconstruction of Afghanistan will be an almost overwhelming task. Services are non-existent, the economy has collapsed and the infrastructure is in tatters. But donor fatigue is not a problem. More than \$4.5 billion was pledged over the next five years at an International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance held in Japan in January and attended by representatives from 61 countries and 21 organizations. Everyone who is someone on the international aid circuit seems to be in Kabul. Since November British aid totalled £60 million pounds: the British Embassy re-opened in Kabul on the same day the Department for International Development opened its office. The focus is on projects with an immediate impact obvious to the capital's residents: health, education, road repairs.

Care International's water distribution project is supplying potable water to 38,000 households (more than 250,000 people) in Kabul. Food is distributed to 60,000 widows with children and community-based schools, which provide an education for at least 13,000 boys and girls, are open in three provinces.

The Afghan Media & Culture Centre (AINA*), founded by world-renowned Iranian photographer Reza Deghati who was responsible for the UN Development Program in Northern Afghanistan in 1990 is providing advisory and financial support to many independent publications such as the Kabul Weekly, Malalai (Afghanistan's first women's magazine) and Aamu a quarterly 300-page research magazine. A free press is developing. Politically motivated killings of Pushtuns by Tajiks are being investigated by Tajik reporters.

*Aina means mirror : a mirror reflecting a new beginning.

Fifth rail tragedy in recent years

Brits want answers

POTTERS BAR, England (Reuters) - Britons, angered by the fifth fatal rail crash in recent years, on Saturday questioned how safety standards failed to prevent a passenger train crash that killed seven people and injured dozens more.

Passengers were crushed and flung out of windows as a four-carriage train derailed and hurtled into the station at Potters Bar, north of London, on Friday.

At least seven people were killed and six critically injured. About 75 "walking wounded" were treated near the scene.

The crash renewed Britons' fears that Third World standards had undermined the heavily-used public rail network in one of the world's richest nations.

"How can this be? It's too much. People will stop using trains if this goes on," said Ron Tarling, who was cut on the head by flying debris as he drove his car under a bridge where the train came off the track.

"I sincerely hope that (Transport Secretary) Stephen Byers has given his notice in by now. If not, he should do."

Police and rail authorities would not be drawn on the cause of the crash but said investigations would continue around the clock.

Rail experts and media said faulty points or debris on the line were the most likely causes.

Byers moved swiftly to calm public fears, saying that rail travel was still the safest form of public transport and promising a full investigation.

PUBLIC INQUIRY

National newspapers said on Saturday a public inquiry was essential if Britons' battered confidence in the rail system was to be restored.

"People lost their lives yesterday at Potters Bar who should still be alive



Haitian President Jean-Bertrands Aristide (L) shakes hands with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

today. Someone in the railway system is to blame for their loss," The Guardian newspaper said in its editorial.

The Sun said five crashes in five years was a shaming safety record. "The government may claim it is getting to grips with the massive problems of our rail system. But does anyone believe them?" The Daily Mirror's front page headline read: "Safe? You must be bloody joking Byers."

Beleaguered national rail operator Railtrack, already facing a crisis of confidence due to other crashes and delays caused by emergency repairs,

said the train was probably traveling at about 100 miles per hour as normal for that route.

Some commentators were quick to blame the accidents of recent years on the privatization of rail services in Britain, where the world's first public steam railway began operating in 1825.

"We have now had around 60 people killed in rail crashes in the last five years. In the five years previous to that, there were 10 to 11 people killed and that was when privatization began," transport journalist Christian Wolmar told Sky news.

At the scene of the accident, stunned

eye-witnesses and survivors told terrible stories, as rescuers continued to work overnight to extricate bodies and investigate the wreckage.

"We just saw bodies flying out of the train ... One guy was rolled up like a ball, came flying through the window. It was just absolutely awful," said Amadin Ryan.

Chief Superintendent Andy Wright of the Hertfordshire Police said he, like many of the emergency workers at the scene, had attended a fatal rail crash which left four dead at Hatfield in 2000 — only five miles from Potters Bar.

Spied for Moscow

Ex FBI agent gets life in jail

WASHINGTON, (Xinhua) — Robert Hanssen, a former U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, was sentenced on Friday to life in prison without parole for spying for Moscow.

Standing before U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton at a court in the outskirts of Washington, the 58-year-old Hanssen said he apologized for his behavior.

"I am ashamed by it," Hanssen told the judge. He also expressed his thanks to his family, friends and co-workers for their support.

Hilton told Hanssen he believed that life imprisonment was appropriate under sentencing guidelines and under a plea agreement that Hanssen reached with the government.

Hanssen was arrested in a Virginia suburb last year after dropping off a bundle of classified material at a park to be picked by his Russian handlers.

Authorities said that over two decades, Moscow paid Hanssen with two Rolex watches and 600,000 dollars in cash and diamonds for his classified materials.

A grand jury brought a 21-count indictment against him, and last July Hanssen pleaded guilty to 15 counts of espionage as part of a plea agreement with the government.

Under the agreement, Hanssen promised to tell all the truth about his espionage activities, while prosecutors would not seek the death penalty in exchange for his cooperation.



UN summit on children ends after bitter debate

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - A contentious U.N. summit on children concluded early on Saturday with the adoption of a final document marked by a conservative U.S. stamp on matters of adolescent sexuality and the death penalty.

Representatives from more than 180 countries agreed on 21 new goals in the broad areas of health, education, combating AIDS and protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence.

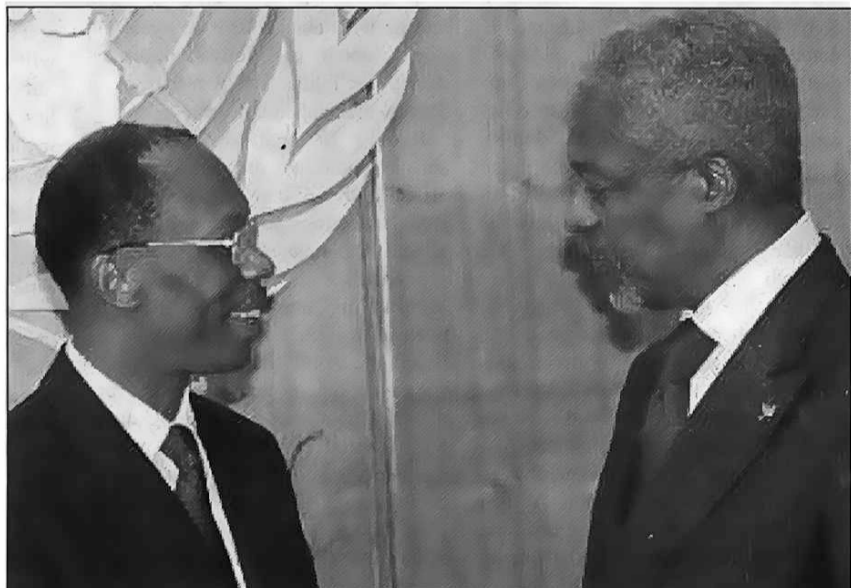
Throughout this week's meeting, the United States kept to a conservative line, pushing abstinence as the preferred approach to sex education, opposing any hint of abortion for adolescents and balking at the terms of a global treaty on children's rights that prohibits the execution of children.

This meant Washington was in line with the Vatican and Islamic nations on the thorniest issues of the conference. Opposing them were almost all Europeans and most Latin Americans.

Sichan Siv, the U.S. ambassador for U.N. social and economic affairs, emphasized repeatedly the Bush administration stand against abortion, which is legal in the United States.

"Safe motherhood in no way includes abortion or abortion services," he said. He also stressed "abstinence, monogamy, fidelity and partner reduction."

Canadian diplomat



Haitian President Jean-Bertrands Aristide (L) shakes hands with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, May 10, 2002.

Gilbert Laurin voiced his delegation's disappointment with the final outcome.

"We would like to register our dissatisfaction with the debate that ensued over the issue of sexual and reproductive health," Laurin said at the summit's close. "This is a critical issue to the health, survival and well-being of children around the world. This document falls significantly short."

He criticized attempts during negotiations to back away from long-standing commitments in this area made in previous major U.N. conferences on population and women, and said Canada would stick to the earlier language.

Spain's U.N. ambassador, Inocencio Arias, who repre-

sents the European Union, said the document did not "fully reflect" commitments on reproductive health for adolescents agreed in a previous U.N. conference in 1990.

Carol Bellamy, executive director of the conference's organizer, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), was conciliatory in her remarks: "No one wants to fail our children. When it comes to their health and welfare, there is really very little difference among nations."

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The final document jettisoned the term "reproductive health services," which some Bush administration

delegates said implied abortion. The new wording is "reproductive health."

On the death penalty, Washington objected to language barring execution of those under 18, saying this violates the rights of states that permit it. The final document finessed this point, allowing the United States to avoid committing itself to abolishing capital punishment for juveniles.

In a concession to Islamic nations, delegates agreed to allow a paragraph on families to include differences on "cultural and traditional" practices. This formulation in the past has been a veiled reference to customs allowing husbands to control wives and family planning.

US pipebomb suspect held in Iowa

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Reuters) - A 21-year-old college student who the FBI says admitted planting pipe bombs that injured six people across the U.S. Midwest was ordered held without bond in Iowa on Friday pending a hearing later in the month.

Lucas Helder arrived at the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids wearing a white prison jumpsuit, his manacled hands before him and a blank look on his face in contrast to the boyish smile caught by photographers after his capture on Tuesday in Nevada.

He pointed an index finger at a crowd of spectators outside the building but said nothing. Inside the courtroom he responded quietly to questions from his lawyer as he was informed of his rights.

John Jarvey, chief magistrate judge for the U.S. Northern District of Iowa, ordered Helder held in the nearby Linn County Jail pending a preliminary hearing on May 22, when he may enter a plea. Earlier reports indicated he may seek a jury trial.

There had been speculation that some of those injured by the devices Helder allegedly planted in mailboxes in nearby towns might show up at the court hearing, but none did. His parents were not present either.

Helder faces the possibility of life in prison if convicted of the charges against him — multiple counts of using an explosive to maliciously destroy property and using a destructive device to commit a crime of violence.

The judge ruled Helder was eligible for a court-appointed attorney — Jane Kelly of the U.S. Public Defender's office in Cedar Rapids. She was with him in court.

TRAIL OF VIOLENCE

It was one week ago on Friday that Helder allegedly began leaving a trail of violence. Mail carriers and rural residents of western Illinois and eastern Iowa began finding crude bombs in roadside mailboxes, eight in the two states.



U.S. Marshals escort Luke John Helder into the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 10, 2002. Helder, the 21-year-old college student who the FBI says admitted planting pipe bombs that injured six people across the U.S. Midwest, was ordered held without bond in Iowa pending a hearing later in the month. Photo by Reuters

Explosions injured six people, four of them letter carriers, in Illinois and Iowa that Friday. The victims variously suffered face, arm and hand injuries and hearing loss. Only one was kept at a hospital and she was later released.

On Saturday, bombs turned up to the west in Nebraska, eight in all. The first 16 bombs were placed in two large circular patterns, one group in Iowa and Illinois, the second in eastern Nebraska. Two bombs were found later in Colorado and Texas.

The devices — made with 6-inch (15-cm) pipes and nine-volt batteries — were left with typewritten anti-government letters, which promised more violence to get attention.

Helder was captured on Tuesday following a high-speed car chase outside Reno.

Sheriff Ron Skinner of Pershing

County, Nevada, said on Thursday there were indications Helder was trying to complete a massive, multi-state sketch with his alleged deposits.

"Immediately after he was taken into custody, in a conversation with one of my deputies, he said something to the effect when he is finished he wanted to make a smiley face," Skinner told Reuters.

Virtually all the bombs that were found were placed in two circles, one in Illinois and Iowa and another in Nebraska, that could appear to be the "eyes" of a smiley face — the simple, smiling icon first popularized in the 1970s.

Skinner said Helder's smiley face comments only deepened the mystery surrounding the bombing spree. "Nobody really knows what he meant by that. It is open to interpretation."

Terrorism is no friend of Islam

COMPILED FROM INTERNET ARTICLE BY ISA DAVUD

The terrorist attacks on two major cities of the United States of America on September 11, 2001, propelled the important issue of the true source of terrorism to the top of the world agenda. Thus, it has been announced to the entire world that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance that summons individuals to compassion and justice. Many world leaders, leading media organisations, television and radio stations said that true Islam forbids violence, and encourages peace between

people and between nations. The Western circles that have come to a full grasp of the religion of Islam and are well-informed about Islam as commanded by God in the Qur'an noted clearly that the words "Islam" and "terror" cannot stand side by side, and that no divine religion permits violence.

The source of the terror is definitely not from a divine religion. There is no room for terrorism in Islam. This is made clear in the Qur'an, the main source of Islam, and in the practices of all true Muslim rulers, the Prophet Muhammad being the foremost of them. This book reveals, in the light of the verses of the Qur'an and with examples from history, that Islam for-

bids terrorism and aims to bring peace and security to the world.

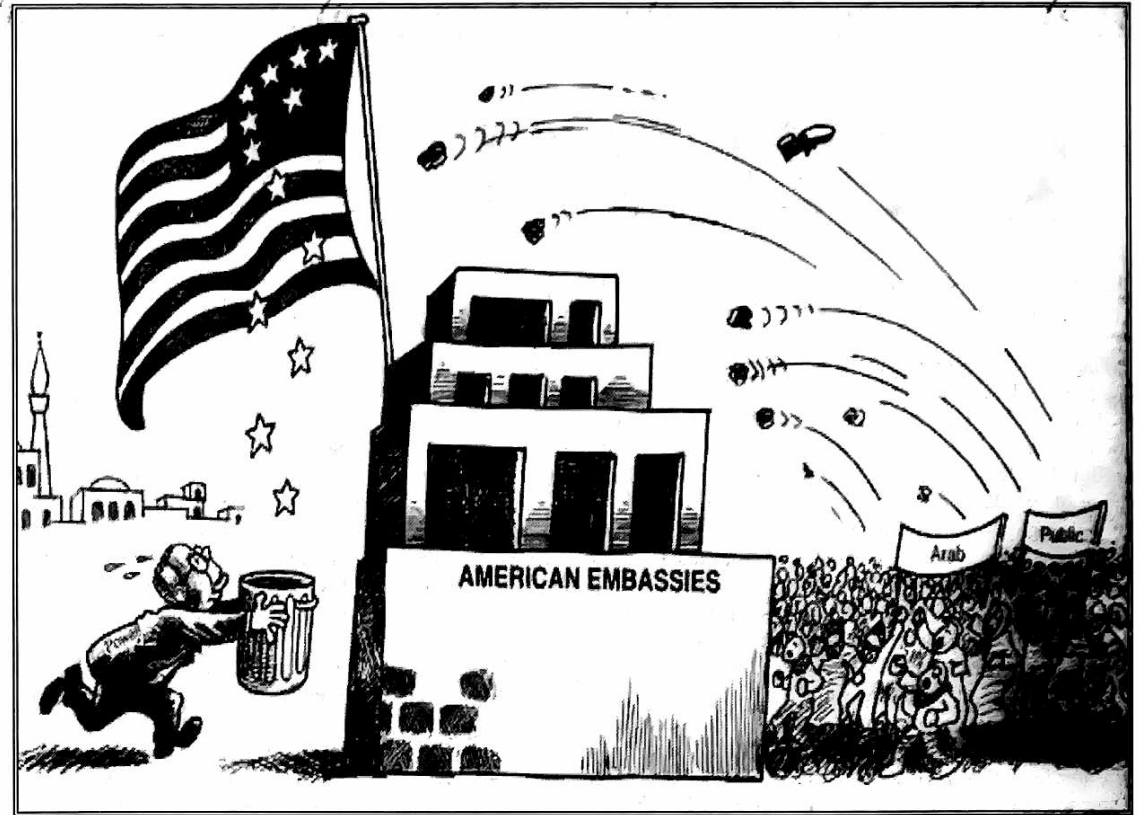
As is known, for centuries, various acts of terrorism have been carried out in different parts of the world by different groups for a variety of purposes. Sometimes a communist organisation, sometimes a fascist group, and sometimes radical and separatist factions assume responsibility for these acts. While countries like America often became the target of attacks by racist and marginal terrorist groups, the European countries have been centre stage for violent acts carried out by terrorist groups. 17 November in Greece, RAF (Red Army Faction) and Neo-Nazis in Germany, ETA in Spain, Red Brigades in Italy and many other organisations seek to make their voices heard through terror and violence by killing innocent and defenceless people.

The nature of terrorism changes with changing world conditions and increases its impact and power with the new means made possible by developing technology. In particular, mass communication tools such as the Internet extend the scope and influence of the terrorist activities considerably.

If one is looking for the cause of an act of terrorism, one must look for its source in anti-religious ideologies. Religion enjoins love, compassion, forgiveness, peace and living according to high moral standards. Terrorism, on the other hand, is on the side of cruelty and violence, causing pain, bloodshed and committing murder.

Besides the Western organisations, there are also other terror organisations of Middle East origin. Terrorist attacks are carried out by these groups in all corners of the world. Sadly, the fact that the perpetrators of various terrorist acts carry Christian, Muslim or Jewish identities cause some people to put forward claims which do not concur with divine religions.

The truth is that even if terrorists have Muslim identities, the terror they perpetrate cannot be labelled "Islamic terror", just as it could not be called "Jewish terror" if the perpetrators were Jews or "Christian terror" if they were Christians. That is because, as will be examined in the following pages, murdering innocent people in the name of a divine religion is unacceptable. We need to keep in mind that, among those who were killed in New York and Washington, there were people who loved the Prophet Jesus (Christians), the Prophet Moses (Jews) and the

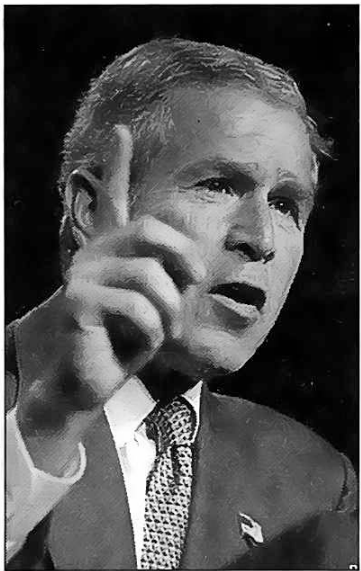


Khalil Cartoon - Arab News

Nation building, not generals, will defeat terrorism says: IISS

BY MIKE COLLETT-WHITE LONDON (REUTERS)

Nation building and economic reconstruction are as important as military might if the United States is to win its self-styled war on world terror, a leading think-tank said on Thursday. Since September 11, U.S. President George W. Bush has been slow to make long-term political and economic commitments abroad, preferring to focus on fighting wars, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).



George W. Bush

"In the campaign against terrorism, victory means bringing the fruits of the democratic capitalist system to those who have not yet fully enjoyed them," the London-based group said in its annual Strategic Survey.

"That task is ultimately one not for generals but for political scientists. The United States, as the ranking superpower for the foreseeable future, must provide both."

The IISS said Washington had failed to make a major commitment to lasting stability in Afghanistan (news - web sites), where it crushed the ruling Taliban militia in a major offensive last year.

It said that was despite warnings against repeating the mistake the West made at the end of the Cold War — to leave the volatile, impoverished country to fend for itself.

Bush, however, did support the Bonn political process establishing the interim government of Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan.

"But deeper military diplomatic or military commitment was foresworn on the grounds that U.S. assets would be more urgently needed in Afghanistan to finish off al Qaeda and the Taliban and elsewhere — Iraq in particular — to combat other terrorist and weapons of mass destruction threats," the report said.

Iraq also needs nurturing

The United States should also avoid equating victory in Iraq with the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein and the destruction of any weapons of mass destruction the country may have, the IISS said.

"It (Western policy) also calls for spawning and nurturing a new Iraqi government that is stable, unthreatening to its neighbours as well as the U.S. and capable of serving the needs of all of Iraq's people, including the Shia and the Kurds."

The IISS added that in Iraq, military strategy and political science could not be divorced, and that a plan for the

establishment and maintenance of a government was required.

"In some cases, a refusal to engage in nation-building could constitute a gross case of strategic negligence," it said.

The IISS argued that U.S. engagement in the Middle East was vital to its priority of attacking Iraq, as heightened violence in the West Bank and Gaza posed political risks to surrounding states and could weaken Saudi Arabia's support for any campaign.

Political engagement, however unpalatable, may also be the best way to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction from North Korea (news - web sites), the IISS said.

While the U.S. administration may be tempted to write off Pyongyang as a "hopelessly opaque enigma, impervious to political persuasion...such a dispensation would throw out the baby, the bathwater and the bath itself".

North Korea's need for humanitarian aid gave Washington significant leverage over the country, while military action against Pyongyang was fraught with difficulties.

"Although the U.S. and its allies would certainly prevail in the end, North Korea could inflict very heavy damage and casualties on South Korea (news - web sites)...(and) has a far more robust arsenal of ballistic missiles than Iraq," the IISS said.

Washington could find it hard to avoid a deeper political commitment to South America, most notably Colombia, as it seeks to crack down on the flow of illegal drugs, the report said.

But there were countries — the Philippines, Yemen and Georgia — where the U.S. military was active and where it should not get too immersed in local politics, the IISS warned.

Prophet Muhammad (Muslims). Unless forgiven by God, murdering innocent people is a great sin that leads to torment in Hell. No one who is religious and fears God would do such a thing.

The aggressors can commit such violence only with the intention of attacking religion itself. It may well be that those who carried out this violence did so to present religion as evil in the eyes of people, to divorce people from religion and to generate hatred towards those who are religiously inclined. Consequently, every attack on American citizens or other innocent people having a religious facade is actually an attack made against religion.

Religion commands love, mercy and peace. Terror, on the other hand, is the opposite of religion; it is cruel, merciless and demands bloodshed and misery. This being the case, the origins of a terrorist act should be sought in disbelief rather than in religion. People with a fascist, communist, racist or materialist outlook on life should be suspected as potential perpetrators. The name or the identity of the triggerman is not important. If he can kill innocent people without blinking an eye, then he is a nonbeliever, not a believer. He is a murderer with no fear of God, whose main ambition is to shed blood and to cause harm. For this reason, "Islamic terror" is an erroneous concept which contradicts the message of Islam. The religion of Islam can by no means countenance terrorism. On the contrary, terror (i.e. murder of innocent people) in Islam is a great sin, and Muslims are responsible for preventing these acts and bringing peace and justice to the world.

What peace can the strong give?



BUSHRA AL-MAQTARI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The US-sponsored peace in the Middle East is one of the ambiguous games of the present US administrations. This is more evident with the current war of extermination waged by the Israeli war machine against the Palestinians. Nevertheless the current war is perpetrated with the consent of the US government, which tries always to find excuses for the Israelis.

Since the current US government came to power, it has been threatening the world with its anti-terror war. The September 11 attacks were only the green light for her to go ahead in its campaign. Yet, the success achieved in Afghanistan has encouraged it to lay the groundwork for another assaults on other countries.

The US government seems to be sure that the most outrageous crimes Israel may commit in the Palestinian territories will not move a finger of Arabs. The US-sponsored peace is rather a different peace because it's a peace of the strong. This has made the Israelis dictate their own terms relying on the US's support. The Israeli occupation

forces have been blitzing the Palestinian cities in an unprecedented manner. Apparently, the United States is more eager to impose the Israeli terms on the Palestinians depending on their own muscles.

A closer look to the US-brokered peace under the current circumstances will reveal that despite the fact that it has been usually hailed as peace-lover, it is rather a wolf in sheep's clothing. Further, the consequent US governments have dealt with the peace process in the Middle in ways that favor their interests along with the Zionist state.

The former American administration led by Bill Clinton strove to reinforce the concept of fragile peace that only aimed at containing conflicts. It had tried to bring about a state of peace and no-peace, keeping its hand on the steering wheel.

The United States has, with its freak understanding for peace, been able to protect its interests around the world. This is by showing itself as a peace advocate in the region and absorbing the anger of the Palestinians and Arabs in general.

All the massacres committed against the Palestinians in the Jinin refugee camp and Bethlehem have made it much clearer that the US-sponsored peace is illusion.

The peace of the strong on the weak is a big lie.

In the mind of a suicide bomber

BY S. ALAZEIB, LONDON, UK ALAZ72@YAHOO.COM

I would just like to start by explaining that I, in no way advocate or support suicide bombing, not matter how hard people have tried to convince me. But, I can understand why a 16 year old girl, a middle aged man with five kids, a mother, a young man...etc may decide to sacrifice their life.

I come from Palestine, No, not Pakistan.

Does no one here know their geography or history?

I am a Palestinian.

Rational? How can I be? When everything around me is irrational? When I've spent my growing years in a non-sensical environment? When my teacher has beaten me to a pulp to learn otherwise.

I am a Palestinian..

I have more wounds than you can ever imagine

Freedom? A bird in a cage enjoys more freedom than I.

My wings have been snipped, but only after they've been slowly crushed bone by bone.

I am a Palestinian, and the dead in

their graves have more air to breath.

Wake up and smell the blood. Wake up and smell the souls of the dead, lingering in the air. Open your eyes to see beyond the gates of your comfortable houses and rosey gardens. Wake up from your never never land dreams and absorb reality.

I am a Palestinian.

My mother brought me into life, with all the love in the world.

But you.

You instilled the word 'HATE' in me.

You taught me how to read it.

You taught me how to spell it.

But most of all, you taught me how to FEEL it and then act upon it.

Why is it horrifying when a suicide bomber attacks? Why is it NOT horrifying when you throw your missiles about, as if learning some new computer game? Why is it NOT horrifying when you randomly empty your guns at innocent people? Why??

Why does the idea scare you so much? Is it because someone is actually willing to sacrifice their life? To end it themselves in the name of their people and land?

How can you understand? You cowards, hiding behind your tanks, afraid of little boys. Firing your bullets with eyes shut tight. Protecting yourselves

with living shields. How?? How can you comprehend the notion that giving up one's life, in a lifeless life, fills one with life?

I am a Palestinian, and I will stand tall.

No matter how many rubber-wrapped bullets you aim at me.

You ask yourself, 'why is this happening?' Don't make me laugh. You are the ones who have nurtured us and made us what we are...you have created so much fear in our lives, that we fear no more, not even our 'master'.

'How about the innocent lives?' you say innocent? How can they be so innocent when they sit and watch silently our slow death, and our everlasting torture?

Dancing the night away, knowing they have a home to return to. Enjoying a quiet family meal/celebration, where all members of their family are accounted for.

Those old people are more of culprits than the younger ones. They've lived longer, seen more and yet said nothing. They, of all people should understand. And those poor children...well one day they will grow, and become innocent no more....

I am a Palestinian.

And, you are my master.

You continue to teach and inspire

me, but I always seem to get it wrong, So, you punish me.

And the more you punish me, the harder I try

But, the harder I try, the more I get it wrong.

You are all guilty, guilty of accepting, guilty of supporting, guilty of disregarding, guilty of fear, guilty of believing, guilty of not questioning, and guilty of selfishness.

Those of you who really are innocent will go to heaven. Why should I care? When no one cares about me, my family or land? You ask if I have feelings at all?

Yes, I have feelings of anguish, feelings of rage, feelings of humiliation, feelings of violation, feelings of pain and feelings of hate.

I am a Palestinian.

I am lower than scum.

I have less rights than an animal.

No, I have no rights at all.

But, I deserve it, don't you think?

Because I am a Palestinian.

On the brink of madness? I wish that way, I wouldn't be living this brutal reality. I have to do something, maybe this time you will understand, maybe this time you will stop and listen.

I am a Palestinian. And even when I die, I shall remain a Palestinian.

And you will remember that.

Children need help through the jungle of violence in youth shows

Getting lost in TV Land

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The media plays a pivotal role with regard to the development of any society. It can shape children's minds in various ways.

But these budding, fragile minds need to be handled with care, with the best pedagogical and educational techniques.

And the media, which has gone through dramatic changes in technology, often causes more harm than good. This is particularly true with television.

Space channels all over the world, for example, are in competition with each other to produce every Tom, Dick and Harry for children. These programs in one way or the other are directed aimlessly.

With this rapid increase of space

channels throughout the world, children programs have to be rightly directed in accordance with the children's interests. Our media needs to consider children's different ages. Then, one should know from where children's programs are imported. And what is the best time for watching these programs?

Childhood in Yemen needs to be protected from the imported violence films televised through the Arabic channels. On these space stations, all forms of violence and killing are now easily seen by our Yemeni children.

Find suitable time

That doesn't mean that we have to prevent them from watching TV. But we need to choose a suitable time for children to watch and the concerned bodies at the Yemeni TV channels

need to choose proper programs without violence which later manifests itself in other consequences.

Most animated cartoon programs are imported from foreign sources. These imported programs are hazardous to the intellect of our children, the same children we need to raise to be responsible adults who will build our country in the next generation.

Children are the pillars of any society. They are considered to be a national wealth to lead this country for the better.

Undoubtedly, there is a big gap between children in cities and children in villages, in terms of their ability to perceive things. This clearly can be seen through the way they receive and respond to things in general. Children in villages have been exposed to fewer things, and therefore they seem easily

swayed by anything comes to their minds.

TV is widely watched by children in cities while in villages that's not the case because of the unavailability of electricity. That's why educational programs in villages have to be promoted and supported by international organizations.

Children's issues have become the concern of major international organizations such as UNICEF. So we need to keep this concern over the media's impact on our children before such bodies. It seems, instead, it's the media itself that has determined what is good and bad for our children.

Careful studies and researches have to be conducted with a view of selecting the right programs that will be best for our children's minds and aptitudes.



In Thanah Valley

Living the hard life

BY HASSAN AZZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Enjoy the camel's milk. Stay away from the mosquitoes. And get ready for the heat.

There's some advice for you if you're ever going to visit the Thanah Valley, one of Yemen's most historic places.

This is the part of Yemen, in fact, which was where the ancient kingdom of the famous Queen of Sheba ruled.

It's also is the valley where the

Mareb dam flows into. To the upper side of the dam many Bedouins live for the availability of considerable waters. People here mainly depend on breeding livestock and use camels as a means of transportation.

Houses of the Bedouins in this part of Yemen are made up of sticks. This is, in part, because it's the best way to deal with the deadly heat of this region. Unlike other Bedouins areas, tents cannot be used here because of the heat.

Education facilities are nonexistent here. The illiteracy rates is extremely

high due to the people heedlessness towards this issue, as well as the government's negligence. Just few people from this valley have access to education.

The problem of mosquitoes here is a real nightmare. This is because of the swamps formed at the far ends of the dam. The only dream of the people is that the government will someday establish a spraying program to spray insecticides in the swamps.

Saleh al-Amsi, an inhabitant of the valley, said malaria spread by mosqui-

toes killed his brother and sister.

"I'm the only boy of my family, so I preferred to stay with them to help and not to go to school. Mosquitoes are my biggest enemy. They never let me sleep, no matter what I use to prevent them from reaching me."

Agriculture is vital for the Bedouins of the valley due to the availability of water. Yet, they still face one major problem: floods, usually on a yearly basis.



Camel milk is the most preferable food for the Bedouins. Further, Bedouins think that camel milk has extraordinary nutritious value. Bedouins are very proud to drink this milk, as they regard as part of their identity.

Mubarak Mohammed al-Moaza'a to The Yemen Times:

Oh, honey

Since time immemorial, people have valued honey.

It was very much used for treatment and with the passage of time many scientists researched honey, its ingredients and benefits. Now there is a global trend towards using honey in the treatment of many diseases were considered to be incurable. There has also been a rapid increase in centers that have been established for the very purpose of studying the ingredients of honey and how it can be used to treat people.

During the last winter season, we made a visit to Almasegha district, in Shabwa governate, invited to visit Arrafa'a Beekeeping Association (ABA).

Arrafa'a Beekeeping Association is based in Redha area. The idea of establishing the ABA had been on the minds of beekeepers in the Almasegha district.

At first, the ABA had 62 beekeepers and 700 beehives. The ABA was granted a license by the Social Insurance Affairs in the governate to practice their activities freely in beekeeping.

A board now includes five members who are well-experienced in beekeeping and three members entrusted with monitoring beehives.

ABA's bylaws have been ratified with a view of improving the living standards of beekeepers.

In this respect, Naser Abdullah Salah of The Yemen Times met with the Chairman of the ABA, Mubarak Mohammed al-Moaza'a and filed the following interview:

Q: What are the different methods used in beekeeping?

A: Traditional methods of beekeeping are preferable. They are handed down from one generation to another. That doesn't mean that modern methods are not used. Symposiums are held with a view of exchanging experience in the field of beekeeping. It is clear that it is one of the advantageous resources to increase the individual's

income. So, we also need modern methods and ways for beekeeping.

Q: Is honey collected in certain months of year? How is it collected?

A: Honey is collected during different months of the year. In November, for instance, honey is collected from the nectar of Christ's-throne's flowers. It is called Albakia honey which is regarded as first-class honey.

Honey is collected also in two months of the year, April and May. During these two months, honey is known as Almerwa where bees collect the nectar from the Asomra tree (a domestic tree full of flowers). This kind of honey is considered to be second-rate.

The third way of collecting honey is to that bees feed on flowers during the rainy seasons where there are a lot of flowers grown abundantly. Different processes are used to separate honey from beeswax.

Beeswax is put in a special sieved containers where honey is separated from wax. This process is known as sieving. The second way is to boil the beeswax in special containers. As a result of the high heat, wax and honey is dissolved and then honey together with wax are poured to another containers that have taps to make the honey flow to bottles or cans. This way known as boiling.

The fourth method is that the beeswax is jammed up against the hand's balm and fingers and this is known as jamming.

Q: Honey is used for curing so many diseases. Can you comment on that?

A: Undoubtedly, honey is used for healing many diseases and this has been indicated in the Holy Qura'an. "And from the fruits of date-palm and grapes, you derive strong drink and a goodly provision. Verily, therein is needed a sign for people who have wisdom. And your Lord inspired the bee saying: Take you habitations in the

mountains and in the trees and in what they erect. Then eat of all fruits, and follow the way of your Lord made easy (for you). There comes forth from their bellies, a drink of varying color wherein is healing for men. Verily, in this is indeed a sign for people who think." (The Bees XVI)

Tense efforts and hard work of many scientists have resulted in the many great discoveries which confirm that honey is very much helpful to treat many diseases to the extent that it has become widely labeled as one of the most sophisticated of modern techniques.

Q: How do you assess the revenues of beekeeping through your long experience in this regard?

A: Forming the cooperative associations is our main concern for increasing the individual's revenues. Most beekeepers depend entirely on beekeeping. We see these days most of the Yemeni families tending towards beekeeping. The Yemeni honey has witnessed a good demand in the Gulf States and other countries in the world, due to its good reputation.

Q: Do other governmental bodies, such as the Agriculture and Irrigation Office show any interest with regard to beekeeping?

A: The role of the Agriculture and Irrigation Office' has no effect at all. What the beekeepers' desire is to support beekeeping. This will in turn support the national economy.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I think the Yemen Times newspaper for its efforts to show to the public the beekeeper's worries. I call those who are interested in supporting the national economy of the country to pay special attention to beekeepers by giving them simple loans and providing new techniques of beekeeping. This will of course, help the living conditions of beekeepers, regain a good reputation for Yemeni honey and support the national economy for the better.

Vacancy

PROGRAMMER ANALYST

Yemeni National

CANADIAN
nexen

A qualified programmer analyst is required in our Main Office in Sana'a. Working hours will be 8:00 - 15:00 hrs Saturday to Wednesday and 8:00 - 12:00 hrs on Thursday.

Job Duties:

- Maintains standard Company applications using corporate programming standards. Lotus Notes, Visual Basic and Oracle are the standard programming languages and databases. May, at the direction of the Applications Specialist, be required to perform needs analysis and to document application requirements.
- Provides general maintenance and integration as required for all business applications as directed by Supervisor. General maintenance includes, but is not limited to: small program modifications, program fixes, report changes, file repair and ad hoc reporting.
- Provides a higher level of maintenance on systems that require IT expertise to operate. These functions will include but are not limited to Financial, Payroll, Legal and Inventory applications. Functions include but are not limited to-daily, weekly and monthly routines for data synchronization between these applications and other sites. Maintains data integrity and reliability, and provides support where required.
- Assists in testing applications for projects involving major infrastructure or related business application changes ensuring proper application operation in compliance with Company standards.
- Plans and prepares training sessions about the newly developed programs to familiarize the user with the new system.
- Follows standard project management methodology for development projects including estimating, timekeeping, monitoring and variance explanation of man-days used.
- Provides end-user support and troubleshooting for software applications.
- Performs other related duties as assigned by Supervisor.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences
- 5 years experience, which would include a strong programming background specifically with PC based development tools. Computer skills such as Lotus Notes, Visual Basic, Oracle, Clipper/FoxPro, Windows NT and Office 97.
- Fluent in English. Proficient at technical writing, with a strong grasp of IT terminology.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address **NOT later than May 29, 2002.**

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources
P. O. Box 15137
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 01-269899
Attention: Senior Supervisor, Human Resources

■ Please don't call us, we will call you if you were selected for test and interview

Seen as the most competitive 4WD vehicle to ever enter Yemen,



REXTON



TO INVADYEMENI MARKET



Specifications and Dimensions

	RX220	RX210	RX290
Overall length (mm)	4720	4720	4720
Overall height (mm)	1760	1760	1760
Overall width (mm)	1870	1870	1870
Tread (mm) front	1550	1550	1550
Tread (mm) rear	1540	1540	1540
Wheelbase (mm)	2820	2820	2820
Min. ground clearance (mm)	200	200	200
Min. turning radius (m)	5.6	5.6	5.6
Kerb weight (kg)	1862-1997	1813-1956	1851-1991
Gross vehicle weight (kg)	2550	2550	2550
Engine type	In-line 4 DOHC	In-line 4 DOHC	In-line 5 SOHC
Fuel	Gasoline	Gasoline	Diesel
Bore/stroke (mm)	89.8/94.0	90.9/98.4	89.0/92.4
Displacement (cc)	3199	3295	2974
Compression ratio	10.0:1	10.4:1	22:1
Max. output (hp/rpm)	218/5750	147/5500	120/4000
Max. torque (kgm/rpm)	31.6/3750	21.8/2700	25.5/2400
Fuel tank (liters)	80	80	80
Transmission	4-speed automatic, 5-speed manual		
Brakes (front/rear)	Ventilated disc/solid disc (ABS) or drum		
Steering	Rack & pinion		
4WD system	TOD (All time) Part time		
Tires	P225/70R16, P235/70R16, P255/65R16		
Suspension (front/rear)	Double wishbone/independent axle 5-link		
Fuel consumption (liter/100km)			
Urban	18.2(19.2)	15.8(16.1)	12.5(15.0)
Extra urban	10.9(12.3)	9.4(10.1)	7.2(9.3)
Combined	13.9(15.0)	11.7(12.3)	9.3(11.3)

For information on prices and when REXTON will be available in Yemen, contact:

Sales Dep. - United Engineering & Auto. Co. Ltd.
60 M Street, Amran Road, Sana'a
Tel: + 967 1 330080 - Telefax: + 967 1 320030

It is a revolution in vehicle manufacturing technology. It has all the features imaginable. It has all the strength needed in any 4-Wheel-Drive vehicle. It has the luxury that cannot be exceeded. It has precision, quality, and even elegant looks. It also has an unbelievable price that could well beat any competition.

This is "Rexton", the latest and breakthrough sport utility 4WD vehicle manufactured by South Korea's SsangYong Motor Company.

In April 2002, Rexton was revealed to the Middle East Market in Dubai, which was chosen to be the starting

point of distribution to all Arab countries, including Yemen. The press launch held in April 20th at the Sheraton Jumaira Hotel included a number of journalists from all over the Middle East, including the Yemen Times, which witnessed this major development in the vehicle business in the region.

During the inaugurating press conference, representatives of SsangYong revealed the amazing features of the car with a complete detailed presentation.

The vehicle is by far, the most modern ever sports vehicle to hit the Middle East market. It includes all the features and facilities available in the most luxurious cars worldwide.

Mr. Kim Sung-Shin, SsangYong Motor Company's Vice President of Research and Development said, "We have come with an unprecedented structure design, which puts in practice the latest technologies ever in this field. This is to introduce the new vehicle with all its features in the best possible way to have it resemble elegance and perfection in shape and performance."

Starting from its powerful Mercedes-Benz engine, to its sophisticated yet elegant design, Rexton has by far surprised all critics in its ability to compete with the most prominent vehicle brands in the world market.

Sales are in an incredible increase all over the world. According to statements by the company, there is simply too much demand for more Rexton vehicles worldwide. This resembles the great interest in the car that has proven its durability and comfort.

"We came up with a totally new body structure, a whole new platform with new sealing technologies to meet our objective of improving NVH by 30 percent" added Mr. Kim Sung-Shin.

SsangYong's new luxury lifestyle vehicle, Rexton, is expected to be available in Yemen after the UAE in the coming months. The seven-seater, which will be available with petrol or diesel power, has been in strong demand overseas and is being credited for a major part of SsangYong's financial recovery: it's now in profit after a decade of losses.

Mr. Ranganathan:

"With its excellent design, & with its Mercedes-Benz Engine technology. Rexton will surely have a major impact on the Yemeni market."

Mr. P.V. Ranganathan, the General Manager of the United Engineering and Automobile Co. Ltd., the Distributor of SsangYong Motor vehicles in Yemen gave a statement to the Yemen Times on this occasion. Concerning Rexton in Yemen, Mr. Ranganathan said, "We will probably start marketing Rexton in Yemen in August or September.

Yemen's geographical landscape, mountainous terrain, weather, and rough roads make four-wheel-drive vehicles' demand high. Hence, I personally feel that a 4WD sport utility vehicle such as Rexton will have a great future in the country. The car's strength and endurance of difficult conditions will probably set it as a preference for many Yemenis. We are looking forward to starting marketing the car, which will be introduced to the Middle East quite soon."

Rexton's features are many, but what makes it unique is its combination of technology and style. "Rexton is a very modern car using Mercedes-Benz engine technology. Being the agent for Mercedes-Benz, we can confidently say that Rexton will indeed meet the expectations of our customers. The vehicle contains quite advanced technologies and several sophisticated fea-

tures. The introduction of the car in the Middle East was appreciated by all journalists who attended the press launch of this new vehicle," Mr. Ranganathan said.

About the power of the vehicle, Mr. Ranganathan added, "The power of Rexton comes from the fact that it uses the Mercedes-Benz engine, which is well known for its excellent performance under all conditions. The vehicle has several unique features such as Automatic Braking Differential (ABD), which employs selective wheel braking to help the driver maintain directional control and stability. When wheel slippage is detected brakes are applied automatically, thus preventing wheel spin. This ABD technology enhances stability whilst accelerating over slippery road surfaces.

Rexton has excellent ergonomics as there are several features within the car, making it a match for the top class luxury brands in the world.

The 3-year warranty also indicates how the manufacturers are confident of



Mr. Ranganathan

their vehicle's endurance level. Very few companies in Yemen offer a warranty period this long for their vehicles."

Mr. Ranganathan concluded, "With its excellent interior and exterior design, and with its Mercedes-Benz engine technology, which has gained consumer satisfaction worldwide, Rexton will surely have a major impact on the Yemeni market.

Adding to all its strength, performance, style, and endurance, customers will also find that Rexton is a vehicle with a great pleasure to drive."

No doubt, Rexton will invade the Yemeni market because of its super characteristics and cheap price. It has all imaginable features that could be in any car in the world. It has its engine as the prominent Mercedes-Benz engine, and it is extremely stylish.

Rexton may be the car that combines beauty, power, endurance, luxury, and economic consumption. It will not be long until consumers realize that Rexton is the car for Yemen, and the car that would bring competition to an end!

Mr. Naim Abdel Hadi:

"Rexton will be a major competitor in the 4WD vehicles market in the Middle East."

On Rexton's Future in the Middle East starting from Dubai, Group General Manager of the SsangYong Motors distributing company in the UAE Al-Ghandi Automotive Group, told the Yemen Times that there was no doubt that Rexton was a revolution in Korean vehicle production.

It combines style and performance in an incredible magnificent interior and exterior design and surprisingly strong performance compared to all other similar sport utility vehicles.

We feel that it is an extremely reliable vehicle that would probably face high demand from the market here in Dubai and in the whole Middle East. We shouldn't forget that the right price

of the car may well serve as a factor behind this demand.

In brief, the car has the potential to compete with major brands in the region."

Economy-wise, Mr Naim emphasized that this is part of the game. "When you introduce a new car that is not made

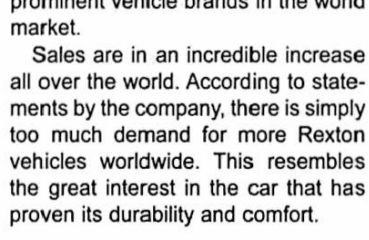
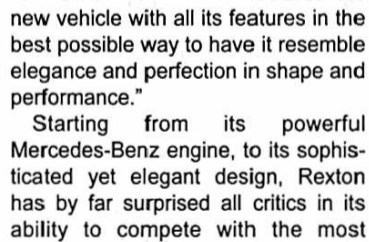
in Japan, the USA, or Europe people seem to be reluctant to purchase it despite the cheaper price. However, people who experienced the car and checked its features would be amazed to know how cheap it is. However, it



Mr. Naim Abdel Hadi

will take time to convince customers of the value of the car they are purchasing. Usually, it takes around two years after the car hits the market to have customers realize its value. I believe that it will not be long before clients realize how worthy the car is for that price."

Mr. Naim concluded by saying, "I am truly excited on behalf of Al-Ghandi Automotive Group to be the dealer of SsangYong vehicles and we feel that Rexton will be a major competitor in the 4WD vehicles market in the Middle East."



Excerpts from Rexton's Press Launch in Dubai

* "We have spent lots of energy on Rexton to meet the demands of the Middle East and would like to get positive responses to our efforts." - Mr. Seung Joo Bang

* "We came up with a totally new body structure, a whole new platform with new sealing technologies to meet our objective of improving NVH by 30 percent." - Mr. Kim Sung-Shin

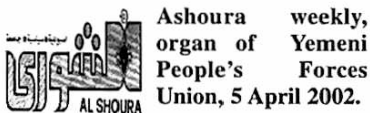
"For SsangYong, the sky is the limit." Mr. Jung-Yoon Kim



Representatives of SsangYong during Press Launch in Dubai

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Ashoura weekly, organ of Yemeni People's Forces Union, 5 April 2002.

Main headlines:

- Opposition parties stage demonstration condemning international connivance versus Zionist crimes
- State minister at German Foreign ministry: We expect closing kidnapping dossier soon
- Opposition student sector reject results of student elections at Taiz University
- Yemen's joining Gulf Health Ministers Council, discussed
- Continued harassment of Islamic societies in America
- Khalid Misha'al: Consolidation of national unity, strategic stand of HAMAS.

Columnist Hamdi al-Bukarri this week discusses the possibility of containing the American ambitions towards Yemen saying that it has become almost certain for the American ambassador to Yemen to feel the approach of his departing from Yemen. He came to Yemen enjoying much confidence in his ability to dismantle "clusters" of alleged terrorism, or such was the thinking of the U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell.

Ambassador Edmund Hull is a more talented security personality than a diplomat. he has been trying to cajole Yemeni feeling, both popular and official. For he perceives well that especially the popular stand is full of hatred and refusal. To attain his goal the ambassador is conducting more meetings with tribe chiefs in quest of detailed information on elements of al-Qaeda, especially in areas such as Jawf and Ma'rab, as some press sources claim.

This behavior on part of the ambassador means that he is heedless of the red signals the ruling party has flashed on while doing the task of facing "terror" instead of the host country.

It is not possible to predict the fate of the Yemeni-American relations but

the present indicators reveal the existence of tepidity prevailing those relations increasing day by day because the American party has postponed the issues required to be settled till finishing the image that proved difficult to clarify, as the Yemeni party sees it. The ongoing events in Palestine and Washington's bias towards the Zionist side in its brutal massacres, along with popular protest demonstrations heading for the embassy demanding to close it down and send the ambassador back to his home, have increased resentment of the official attitude towards the whole situation.

Regardless of the position and future of Yemeni-American relations what is more probable is the ambassador's departure from Sana'a or to take an open leave. As for when that would happen, it is mostly in not a far date.



Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist party (Syrian organization), 5 May 2002.

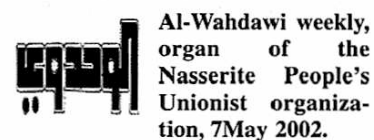
Main headlines:

- Workers demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian people
- Eritrean violations on borders resulted in capturing a number of Yemeni fishermen
- Zionist intelligence activity in Mauritania
- Gang fire shots on citizens in Qahira district, Taiz

The newspaper's editor in chief says in his article that many are the peaceful initiatives and both public and behind doors negotiations on what is termed as the Mideast in general and Arab and Palestinian issues in particular. According to their legal formulas, all of those tend to find instantaneous solutions in part of them just to calm down and absorb and postpone the nature of conflict in the region. But in fact the final goals are aimed at re-arrangement of situation in the region in line with the American world equation where Turkey and the Zionist entity would settle atop the

pyramid to protect America's interests. This approach needs formulating peace in compatibility with the American conditions that allow the Zionist entity implement its religious and political objectives based on a variety of bilateral agreements, a matter which makes all agreements signed since those of Madrid up to date as windblown against the Zionist obstinacy and non-commitment to their implementation and also because it had and would not decide the civilization conflict extending back to centuries.

The new "peace conference" called for by America after it has put all its political, economic and military weight in support of the Zionist entity and its absolute partiality to that entity, as well as its unlimited backing to terrorist acts and brutal massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people, comes clothed with a new attire covering an old project in a formula seeking to benefit from the present Arab retreat presented at Beirut summit.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite People's Unionist organization, 7 May 2002.

Main headlines:

- The Wahdawi Organization calls for stopping cooperation with America, expel its ambassador from Sana'a
- Wahdawi central committee calls for restoring Legislative Power's standing
- Security forces prevent demonstrations towards U.S. embassy
- Ruling party channels elections committee work in its favor
- Sharon seeks to get green light from Washington to exclude Arafat

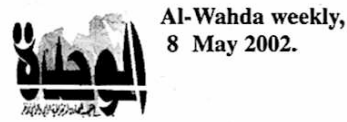
Columnist Hashim Ali A'abid confirms in his article this week that the Zionist military invasion of the Palestinian Authority regions in the West Bank enters its second month. Lately it has begun its incursions into

Gaza Strip where some observers have ruled out its doing so for two reasons:

The first is the possibility of being encountered with steadfastness on part of the Palestinian resistance exceeding what it had faced in Jenin and Nablus, the second one is that Gaza is far from the commando dangers the Zionist enemy takes as justifications for its offensive on areas of the West bank.

The sure thing is that the American-Zionist enemy has calculations other than the reasons it declares publicly. They are calculations pertaining to chasing after the fedayeen military power working under many umbrellas and names. The enemy considers them as forming the actual nucleus of the Arab Palestinian army on which the future Palestinian state would depend and on which depends continuation of the Arab-Zionist conflict, given the fact that Palestine is bridge linking east of the Arab homeland to its west.

It is also to be put into consideration that indicators of military development in a number of Arab countries are also targets of this American-Zionist hostile strategy. What concessions and submission the rulers would offer would not exclude those rulers from being targets of this hostile strategy. What prevents this hostile strategy from implementing its schemes are dealing blows to American interests in the region, ending trading with it in Arab markets, boycotting American arms and looking for other sources for procuring military technology as well as insisting on ending the military presence in the region. Such a counter-strategy would force the American-Zionist aggression retreat and would cooperate in establishment of peace, exchange of interests and benefits respectfully and justly.

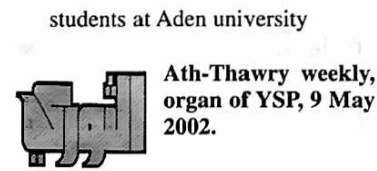


Al-Wahda weekly, 8 May 2002.

Main headlines:

- Official sources deny intentions to enter constitutional amendments

- Finance ministry, elections supreme committee at variance on budget
- Border demarcation with Saudi Arabia runs smoothly
- Malaria epidemic in Aden
- Transfer movement among Yemeni diplomatic missions.



Ath-Thawry weekly, organ of YSP, 9 May 2002.

Main headlines:

- Two bombs went off nearby the U.S. embassy in Sana'a last week
- German state minister for foreign affairs in a press conference: Yemen promised to pressurize HAMAS to end martyrdom operations
- Bomb hurled at the car of security officer in Hudeida
- Trial of the man accused of grenade attack on the American embassy in Sana'a, continues
- Eight people killed, 2 injured in a house collapse in Shabwa

Mr Yahya Tahir al-Hakeem has said in his article on the World Day of Press that we usually receive this day with tepidity and sometimes with indifference not even for the sake of face-saving. In previous years we were used to hold some activities observing that day, discussing aspects of press freedom, press legislations or professional situations, and even the required relevant technology in order to keep pace with the developments ongoing in the world of press.

In the world press day it is significant to remind our government on its many promises on various occasions to approve implementation of descriptions of media jobs endorsed by the council of ministers in May 2000. Despite the elapse of two years since the issuance of the subject, practically nothing has emerged. The writer wonders whether the government would respond to such a demand and take practical steps to facilitate implementation of that decision regarding description of media jobs.



ATTARIQ weekly, 7 May 2002.

Main headlines:

- Ecological catastrophe threatens residents of Nassab town, Shabwa
- Parliamentary committee considers conditions of Over Land Transportation Establishment
- Wahdawi political organization demands expulsion of American ambassador to Yemen
- Cheating in execution of Nassab town sewage project, disclosed
- Open strike by dentistry college

It does not seem that the American administration is determined to take off the robe of both the executioner and the judge while diving deep in the Middle East explosive situation. American administration's dual stand that supports limitlessly the Israeli attitude, contradicts its stand that should be characterized with impartiality and objectivity and to act justly and fairly towards the conflict parties. The United States shoulders political and moral responsibilities versus the Mideast issue and its commitments required from it as the first sponsor of peace in the region.

It is really regrettable that Washington does abort drafts of international resolutions supporting rights and by such behavior it provides backing to the Israeli aggression and motivates it to have free hand in shedding blood of the Palestinians and commit the most brutal crimes against humanity, especially the defenseless Palestinians in the occupied territories. Washington's stance of this overlapping of stands discloses that it would be impossible to achieve a just and balanced peace securing rights and security for all parties.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers

Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al-Ahram
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on U.S. President George W. Bush to interfere immediately to prevent Israel from embarking on military actions against the Gaza Strip, saying such efforts would spare the region more escalation and deterioration.

Al-Akhar
Mubarak, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz will meet on Saturday in the Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh to probe the recent development in the Palestinian lands, means to stop the incessant Israeli assaults on the Palestinians and to revive the Mideast peace process, and Arab activities in the coming stage.

Al-Gomhuria
Foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain and Yemen met on Friday in Cairo for consultative talks over an Arab action plan and a peace initiative adopted at the Beirut Arab Summit late March to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as regional tensions triggered by aggressive Israeli policies.

Egyptian Mail
The Egyptian plane, which crashed in Tunisia on Tuesday and claimed 15 lives, was flying lower than normal when it attempted to land, said an Egypt Air official on Friday, adding that an Egyptian-Tunisian-U.S. team will fly to France this week to transcribe the information of the two black boxes of the plane and look into the causes behind the crash.

Lebanon

DAILY STAR
(Reuters) Lebanon's parliament speaker attempts to defuse a bitter row between the president and prime minister over a crucial sale of cellular phone operating licenses.

AS-SAFIR
(Reuters) Damascus refuses to get involved in the cellphone row, as a constitutional way out of the crisis is sought.

AN-NAHAR
(Reuters) The Bethlehem crisis ends,

and Israel holds off on an anticipated raid on Gaza.

AL-MUSTAQBAL
(Reuters) Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal says Washington's new stance on Middle East peacemaking looks like an initiative that could help restart Arab-Israeli negotiations.

AL-ANWAR
(Reuters) The Israeli army storms the Church of the Nativity after the departure of Palestinian gunmen who had been held up there for over a month.

India

Hindustan Times
As violence continued in the commercial city of Ahmedabad with five more deaths and 42 others injured on Friday, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi finally bowed to the pressure that had been building on the state government for over two months and revamped the city's police force.

The Times of India
The First phase of human trials on the HIV/AIDS vaccine, currently under preparation in India, was likely to begin sometime next year, policy makers and top scientists announced on Friday.

The Indian Express
It was a design deficiency in the Russia-made R-25 engine of the Mig-21 fighter that was suspected to have caused two air crashes in less than a month, resulting in the entire Mig-21 Bis fleet being grounded, sources of Indian Air Force said.

The Hindu
The dismal monthly industrial production finally ended the financial year 2001-02, which began on April, 2001, with the overall annual growth of just 2.7 percent, a little over half of the 5 percent growth rate registered a year earlier.

Pakistan

The News
Police on Friday released sketches of three suspects in the bombing of French naval engineers in Karachi and announced a two million rupee (33,000 U.S. dollar) reward for any information leading to their arrest.

The Frontier Post
President General Pervez Musharraf will pay official visits to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from May 12 to 21.

The Nation
British-led coalition forces have discovered 20 truck-loads of arms and ammunition in a Taliban or al-Qaeda cave complex in eastern Afghanistan.

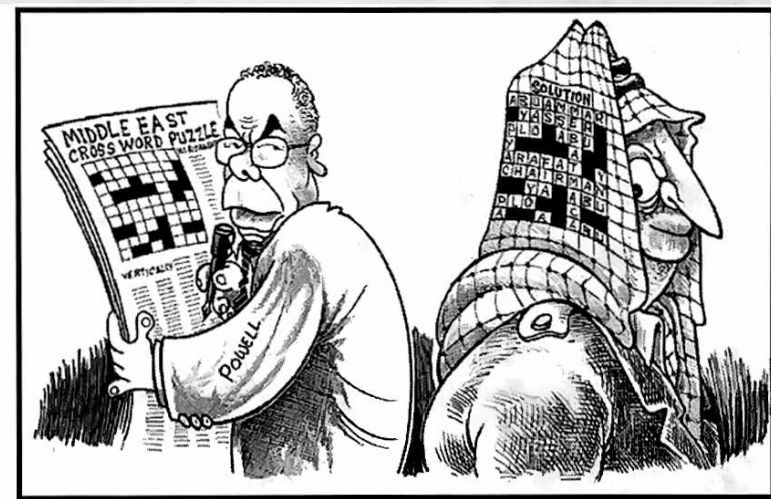
Japan

Asahi, Yomiuri
Five former executives of disbanded scandal-tainted Snow Band Foods Co. were arrested Friday on suspicion of defrauding an industry body out of about 195 million yen (1.52 million dollars).

Mainichi
Outstanding bad loans at major Japanese banks surpassed record 25 trillion yen (195.3 billion U.S. dollars) at the end of March.

Yomiuri
Japan's ruling coalition on Friday voted down an opposition motion calling for the filing of a criminal complaint of perjury against lawmaker Muneo Suzuki.

Nihon Keizai
Japan's employment rate for high school graduates this spring fell below 90 percent.



Khalil Cartoon - Arab News

Kenya

Kenya Times
Kenya's tea continued to exhibit increased demand at the East Africa Team Trade Center in the port city of Mombasa.

Daily Nation
Soldiers from the Kenya army led

rescue attempts after about 2,000 more people were made homeless following new flooding.

East African Standard
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are facing financial difficulties.

Nigeria

The Punch
The Nigerian Senate on Friday faulted the suspension placed by the Federal Government on all BAC 1-11 aircraft and all aircraft above 22 years from flying the Nigerian airspace, describing it as too severe and noting that some of them are still airworthy.

Daily Times
Members of the House of Representatives of Nigeria remained sharply divided at the weekend over the fate of their speaker, Alhaji Umar Ghalil Na'Abba, who escaped by his

teeth, an impeachment move against him on Thursday.

This Day
Amid continued controversy over the Electoral Act 2001, the Senate on Friday in Abuja said the legislature was set to pass the Electoral Bill 2002 next week. The bill is an offshoot of the Electoral Act 2001 which generated much controversy over the alleged smuggling of a new clause into it by the National Assembly's joint conference committee.

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Roll up your sleeve for a chip implant

By Jane Black for Business Week
Meet the "Chipsons" -- Jeffrey, Leslie, and Derek Jacobs. This spring, pending trial-run approval by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, the South Florida family plans to be the first in the country to have the VeriChip, a tiny radio-frequency device about the size of a grain of rice, implanted in their bodies. Each \$200 chip will carry a unique identification number and critical medical information. Should any member of the family be hospitalized, doctors would run a scanner over the chip to retrieve important medical-history details.

The Jacobs first heard about VeriChip when it was featured on NBC's Today show. Derek, a 14-year-old technology whiz -- and the youngest person ever to become a Microsoft certified engineer -- was intrigued. His mother, Leslie, was skeptical, but eventually she was won over to the idea that the VeriChip could help save lives. Her husband, Jeffrey, is a cancer survivor who takes 10 different medications regularly. Plus, young Derek is allergic to many common antibiotics. "In an accident, minutes and seconds mean everything. The

chip speaks for you when you can't," Leslie says.

ON THE TRAIL. The Jacobs aren't the only ones lining up to "get chipped," as VeriChip maker Applied Digital Solutions (NasdaqNM:ADSN) is calling the process. Sao Paulo minister and Brazilian lawmaker Antonio de Cunha Lima is angling to be the first person to receive an ADS chip implant in South America. His VeriChip won't hold just medical information -- it would include a Global Positioning System [GPS] tracking device that might help save his life in another way. Brazil has the fourth-highest number of kidnappings in the world behind Colombia, Mexico, and Indonesia. In 2001, Sao Paulo saw 267 kidnappings.

Not everyone is as excited about the VeriChip as Jacobs family and de Cunha Lima.

Now is the time to put guidelines in place to ensure that a VeriChip is implanted only with an individual's consent and that this powerful technology doesn't fall into the wrong hands. For the Jacobs family, VeriChips have real potential. For the rest of us, a little resistance might not be so futile.

Enough VeriChips to contain medical information of over 70 people rest in



Sony is out with robo-dog

TOKYO (Reuters) - Who says you can't teach an old robotic dog new tricks? As of next month, Sony Corp will offer free software kits for its plastic pet dog, called AIBO, which will give owners many more training options.

AIBO will even be able to meow rather than bark.

Up to now, most AIBO owners could only play with a pre-trained computerized pet whose behavior was largely defined by Sony's programming, but the new software kit will allow experienced users to teach the dog any amount of new tricks. The release of the development kit, called OPEN-R SDK, is an about-face for the Japanese audiovisual electronics giant, which had tried to cage in independent developers who were hacking into the AIBO's electronic innards and making what Sony claimed were unauthorized modifications.

"Sony wants to actively promote OPEN-R architecture for entertainment robots by highlighting its ability to modify the robot's functionality," it said in a statement.



Who says you can't teach an old robotic dog new tricks? As of next month, Sony will offer free software kits for its plastic pet dog, called AIBO, which will give owners many more training options. Reuters

Japan to limit mobile phone services during World Cup

TOKYO (Reuters) - Fearing a system overload, Japan's biggest mobile telephone company plans to restrict mobile phone services near stadiums holding World Cup soccer matches from May 31 to June 30, Japanese media reported on Saturday.

NTT DoCoMo 9437q.L plans to limit the volumes by up to an eighth of regular service to help prevent communication systems from failing due to an expected overload of calls, text messages and mobile e-mail, company sources were quoted as saying.

NTT DoCoMo already restricts to some extent mobile-phone services



during busy periods, such as at the end of the year.

Of particular concern are the Japan-Belgium match at Saitama Stadium on June 4, the Japan-Russia match at International Stadium in Yokohama on June 9 and the Japan-Tunisia match at Nagai Stadium in Osaka on June 14, the sources said.

Company officials said it decided to introduce restrictions after it was determined that beefing up local base stations would be insufficient to handle the great volume of communications expected by fans and journalists.

Japan is co-hosting the World Cup tournament with South Korea.

Star Wars Episode III: 'Attack of the Pirates'

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The countdown has begun to next week's opening of the latest "Star Wars" instalment, but digital pirates have already launched their own clone attack by swapping bootleg copies of the blockbuster on the Internet.

As a result, up to a million people might have seen "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones" before its much-hyped opening on Thursday, experts said on Friday, underlining the urgent nature of the piracy problem for Hollywood studios.

"Here you have what everyone expected to be one of the biggest films of the year, but it will already have been seen by a million people," said Bruce Forest, an independent media technology consultant and an expert on piracy.



Ewan MacGregor as Jedi Knight Obi-Wan-Kenobi fends off an attack by bounty hunter Jango Fett in this publicity still from the forthcoming Star Wars movie, "Episode II - Attack of the Clones". REUTERS/Twentieth Century Fox

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Since its commercial launch on 14th February 2001, SabaFon has been the market leader in the GSM industry in Yemen, providing a variety of value added services and offers to its subscribers. These services can only be acquired via the GSM technology, which has evolved during the past few years, presenting a very essential tool to people around the globe

The large growth in GSM customers -- now exceeding 600 million subscribers world-wide -- projects the significance of the GSM services to people's day-to-day life. In this article, we are highlighting three of SabaFon's GSM services, which are considered of high value and efficiency to customers.

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No place for Baggio in Italy squad

By Simon Evans

MILAN (Reuters) - Roberto Baggio's slim hopes of a place in Italy's World Cup squad have been finally dashed despite fan protests in support of him. The 35-year-old former European Player of the Year was not in the squad of 23 players named by Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni. The Brescia striker had recently recovered from a knee operation in rapid time in a last-ditch bid to appear in what would have been his fourth successive finals. Although Baggio has not played for Italy in three years and his 90-minute showing for Brescia on Sunday was his first full game since January, he remains by far the most popular footballer in Italy. There has been a growing campaign for him to be taken to the finals and as the squad was being announced a

group of Baggio supporters demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Italian Football Federation in Rome in a forlorn attempt to change Trapattoni's mind. Among the banners on display one declared: "For me, without Baggio there is no World Cup". Another read "Italy without Baggio is like France without Zidane, Japan without Nakata, Brazil without Ronaldo, England without Owen and Argentina without Veron". The Italian news agency ANSA reported that a pregnant protester declared that she would be naming her daughter Roberta in honour of the player known as the 'Divine Ponytail' due to his Buddhist faith and his hairstyle.



This will be the first world cup in more than a decade, in which Italian soccer player Baggio will not be playing.

NO SURPRISES

There were no surprises in Trapattoni's selection with the Italy coach sticking with the players who assisted him

through an unbeaten qualification campaign.

2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan(TM): FIFA to announce squad lists on 24 May 2002

FIFA will announce the squad lists of the 32 finalist teams competing in the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan™ on Friday 24 May 2002, 08.00 am CET. As per the FIFA World Cup™ regulations, Article 22, "the list of not more than 23 players (showing the full surname(s), every first name, nickname, name on the shirt, position, place and date of birth, passport number, club and country of the club) shall be submitted to the FIFA general secretariat, using the official form for this purpose, at least 10 (ten) clear days before the first match in the final competition". This deadline expires on Tuesday 21 May 2002. Also per the regulations, "each national association that qualifies for the final competition may enter 23 players (three of whom shall be goalkeepers) numbered from 1 to 23. The numbers

on the back of the shirts shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the official players' list. The number 1 shall be worn by a goalkeeper." Only these 23 players (except in cases of force majeure recognised by the Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup) will be permitted to compete in the final competition. The regulations further state: "A listed player may only be substituted in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before his team's first match, after FIFA has received a detailed medical assessment in one of the four official FIFA languages, and only after acceptance and confirmation by the FIFA Sports Medical Committee that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the competition. The national association shall then immediately nominate the substitute and inform FIFA accordingly."



The 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan™ will be held from 31 May to 30 June. (fifa.com)

Arab pride rests with Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, May 8 (Reuters) - Flamboyance and flair may not be their usual brand of soccer but the Saudi Arabian team has been calling the shots on the Gulf circuit with their uncanny ability to combine courage with confidence.

The team did the Arab world proud by making it to the World Cup finals for a third consecutive appearance unmatched by any Arab country. Their victory in the Gulf Cup early this year further cemented their credentials as the number one team in the region. Now expectations are running high that Saudi Arabia will be able to put on an extraordinary performance in the finals to convince the world and FIFA president Sepp Blatter that Asia has the talent to deserve an extra World Cup place.

In addition to the hosts, Asia will be represented by Saudi Arabia and China in the finals. "Much is expected of the Asian teams, who are playing at home. How they do will influence the allocation of places for the 2006 World Cup in Germany," Blatter announced in a thinly-veiled warning to the continent's teams.

Saudi Arabia made their mark on the finals in their debut appearance in the United States in 1994 when they upset the form book and became the first Asian team to reach the second round since North Korea's stunning feat in England in 1966.

KNOCKED OUT

They were knocked out by Sweden in the second round but the Saudi team are still remembered for the magic of Saeed Oweiran. The 26-year-old striker collected the ball midway inside his own half and turned swiftly to beat the entire Belgium defence in a stunning



Saudi fans as well as millions of Arabs are expecting impressive results from the Saudi team's participation in the upcoming world Cup games. (R)

solo effort which has become part of not only the region's, but the World Cup's, folklore.

The Saudis failed to produce a similar goal - and performance - four years later in France, making an early exit when they lost to Denmark and eventual winners France. Their last group match against South Africa, however, salvaged them a point and a bit of pride. The Saudis once again carry the hopes of the Arab Gulf on their shoulders in this year's group E, against Ireland, Cameroon and Germany. A training camp squad of 29, named on Saturday, will be reduced to 23 before the finals start on May 31.

COACH SACKED

Saudi Arabia had to endure a long and winding road before booking a direct place in the World Cup finals. With help from neighbouring Bahrain, the Saudi team finished with 17 points, two ahead of their main rivals Iran in Asian

group A.

On the final day of qualifiers, Bahrain beat Iran 3-1, leaving the Saudis with the easy task of beating bottom-placed Thailand 4-1. Saudi Arabia's start to their World Cup campaign, however, was unremarkable. They drew with Bahrain and then lost to Iran in Tehran and their lackadaisical performance earned coach Slobodan Santrac the sack. Assistant coach Nasser al-Johar took over and guided the team to the top of the table. Johar, the former captain of al Nasr Club, has been retained for the World Cup finals.

The return of Nawaf al-Temyat, who missed the team's World Cup qualifying matches due to injury, will add an extra zip to the team. Most of the players shortlisted for the team are young but veterans such as midfielder Sami al-Jaber and goalkeeper Mohammed al-Daeyea possess enough experience to turn the heat on opponents.

Tyson: I wish Lewis was dead

LONDON (Reuters) - Mike Tyson has stepped up his pre-fight war of words with Lennox Lewis, saying he wishes the world heavyweight champion "was dead".

Tyson, in an interview broadcast on Sky Sports television, was asked what he thought of Lewis, his world title opponent at the Pyramid Arena in Memphis, Tennessee on June 8.

"I wish he was dead...I wish I could kill him, now," said the controversial American.

"What do I think about him? I don't think anything positive or nice about him."

But Tyson, asked what he thought of the World Boxing Council (WBC), International Boxing Federation (IBF) and International Boxing Organisation (IBO) champion as a fighter, was more generous with his response.

"His accomplishments talk for itself (sic). He is successful as a fighter, yeah," said Tyson.

Earlier this week, Lewis broke off from his preparations for the fight to compare Tyson to "a cartoon character".

Lewis, reacting to comments made by Tyson from his training camp in Maui last week, told reporters: "He's an arrogant imbecile. That's Mike, and you come to expect that. He sounds like a cartoon character".

INTIMIDATING FIGURE

Tyson has proved an intimidating figure for many opponents in the past but Lewis assured reporters he would not be another victim next month.

"I am definitely not scared of Mike Tyson," said Lewis. "I am the best there is. I am at the top of the food chain and he is looking to knock me off," said Lewis from his training camp at the Pocono Mountains resort



Mike Tyson has stepped up his pre-fight war of words with Lennox Lewis, saying he wished the world heavyweight champ "was dead". REUTERS

in Pennsylvania.

Tyson was banned from boxing for a year after biting a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear in their world title bout in Las Vegas in 1997.

The American was also involved in a brawl with Lewis and members of his entourage at a news conference in New York in January, an incident which led to the cancellation of their scheduled bout in Las Vegas in April.

In November, Lewis regained the WBC and IBF heavyweight titles with

a fourth-round knockout of Hasim Rahman, just seven months after Rahman stunned Lewis with a fifth-round knockout in South Africa.

Lewis goes into next month's fight with a 39-2-1 career record, including 30 knockouts.

Tyson has not fought since recording a seventh-round technical knockout over Brian Nielsen in Copenhagen last October. He has compiled a 49-3 career record with 43 KOs.

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'Spider-Man' heads toward error record!

LONDON (Reuters) - Comic book hero "Spider-Man," the Columbia Pictures film which is breaking box office records in the United States, seems heading toward a new record — but this one is for mistakes.

Fans have so far spotted 77 continuity errors, the most flaws identified in an opening weekend, according to Web site movie-



mistakes.com. The mistakes, cataloged in full on the Internet site, include disappearing rucksacks, clothes that are dirty one minute and clean the next and smashed windows that self-repair.

Jon Sandys, who runs the Web site, said the number of mistakes could be a symptom of the movie's popularity. "It's obviously possible that it's got a higher than average number of errors, but huge numbers of people are going to see it and that makes for lots of pairs of eyes checking every inch of the screen," he told the Independent newspaper on Wednesday. The current number of errors puts "Spider-Man," which took \$114 million in its opening weekend, at number nine in movie-mistake.com's top 10 of error-ridden films.

Those boys really will be the death of you, Mom

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Mothers who have complained through the centuries that their sons will be the death of them may be right — a Finnish study published on Thursday shows having boys shortens a woman's life span.

Each son takes an average of 34 weeks off a woman's life span, evolutionary biologist Samuli Helle and colleagues at the University of Turku found. On the other hand, having daughters adds, but only very slightly, to a woman's life span, said the report in Friday's issue of the journal Science. Helle, a Ph.D. student at the university, was trying to prove having large families can cause women to die early. But his study of church records among the Sami people of northern Scandinavia found that family size could not predict reliably that a woman would die young.

"We found that maternal longevity was not related to the total number of children born or raised to adulthood, suggesting that large families were raised by wealthy individuals," the researchers wrote in their report.

"That's a bit surprising ... because theory predicts there should be a negative effect," Helle said in a telephone interview.

"But I think, in our case because we have no data about individual wealth, it would be that those with the highest status and wealth could afford both to have many children and had a long life span."

Helle and colleagues looked at birth and marriage records of Sami people from 1640 to 1870. "These Sami

depended mainly on reindeer herding, fishing and hunting for their livelihood and experienced natural mortality because of a lack of advanced medical care," they wrote.

They only looked at women who lived to be over 50, and took into account whether a woman's husband had died, since raising a family alone would be stressful.

"Our results suggest that giving birth to sons had a higher relative long-term survival cost for mothers than giving birth to and raising daughters," they wrote.

There could be biological reasons for this. Studies show boys are physiologically more demanding to produce — they grow bigger and faster in the womb, and some studies show it takes a woman longer to get pregnant again after having a son than after having a daughter.

Testosterone produced by the fetus could suppress the mother's immune system and perhaps make her more susceptible to disease, Helle's team wrote, citing recent studies that have shown that.

There could be genetic or social differences among the Sami, who are distinct from their Finnish and Swedish neighbors, Helle said. But he does not think so.

"There is no reason to believe that this effect would be only visible in Sami people," he said.

He thinks it could be simple behavior. "Generally, boys get on their mothers' nerves more than girls because they are running around, and girls are more willing to help their mothers," he said.

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Activists want monks to kick habit

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Anti-smoking activists enlisted Buddhist monks from Thailand, Cambodia and Sri Lanka Wednesday to help fight the tobacco habit, but said one of their main challenges was persuading monks themselves to quit.

The monks — attending a three-day workshop on "Buddhism and tobacco control" in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh — aim to become role models for anti-smoking efforts in Asia.

Anti-smoking activists enlisted monks from South Asia to help fight the tobacco habit, but said one of their main challenges was persuading monks themselves to quit. Reuters shop on "Buddhism and tobacco control" in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh — aim to become role models for anti-smoking efforts in Asia.

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