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Despite injury of around 6 in tribal attack against Saudi-Yemeni border demarcating company

Yemenis and Saudis insist on completing border demarcation by 2003



BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM & HASSAN AZZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES
Sana'a, 31 August (YT)—Sources revealed that Yemeni and Saudi officials are insistent to go on with demarcating the borders according to Jeddah treaty signed between the two countries despite last Thursday's violence. The violence, which resulted in the injury of about 6 persons started

when armed tribesmen from Dhu Hussein, Dahm al-Hamra'a attacked one of the sites of the German company demarcating the border Hansa Luftbeild at Shugat al-Waleed near Yateama area, Jawf governorate, 270 km to the north of the capital Sana'a. A tribal source said the Yemeni tribes of Dhu Hussein had destroyed a number of equipment belonging to the German company resulting in the temporary sus-

pension of the demarcation process. The company started placing border markings in that area last Wednesday. Among the injured were 3 of the attacking tribesmen, some with very serious injuries, while casualties on the other side were not known yet except the injury of three tribesmen from Bani Hadhban, employed for guarding the company's equipment.

Continued on page 6



Yahya Al-Shaif

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Iryani warns against US strike on Iraq

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Sana'a, 29 August (YT)—President Ali Abdullah Saleh's political Advisor, Dr. Abdulkareem al-Iryani warned Thursday against any US strike against Iraq. Iryani said in a press interview with 26 September official weekly that this adventure will not be without price paid by all parties involved, including the attacker. He stressed that the consequences of the strike will include

the whole region. He seemed very pessimistic about any possibility to avoid the attack. He said, "the pictures are so dark and only ignorant will feel optimistic in this regard." He denied any Arab strategy in the upcoming scenario in the Middle East. He said Israeli strategy dictates that no Palestinian state whatsoever should be established. He said the missing trust among Arab political regimes behind the missing of an Arab Strategy. He accused some



Iryani

anti-Arab Muslims to stand behind the aggressive media barrage against Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Amnesty International continues discussion on Cole suspects

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Sana'a 31 August (YT)—A visiting delegation representing the Amnesty International on Thursday held a news conference at Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a under a banner of 11 September events and their impact on human rights in Yemen.

In the conference Mr al-Amri Sheerov, Chairman of Researches and Studies Team at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International Organisation said the general framework of the meeting was to exchange views and experiments between the organisation and Human Rights Civil Societies Organisations in Yemen. The meeting also seeks getting acquainted with 11 September events impact on human rights action, work of these organisations and difficulties they face. The aim is to ensure solidarity of the civil society forces against skepticism and retraction regarding human rights. Mr Sheerov added the team would gather information about the detainees. The Amnesty International team has in fact met the families of thirty detainees. The team members listened to their testimonies on the situation of their relatives under arrest. Those relatives disclosed that the detainees were subjected to torture by intelligent officers while they were interrogated.

Continued on page 6

Press community stands in solidarity with al-Khaiwani

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Sana'a, 31 August (YT)—The press community in Yemen has expressed solidarity with Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Umma Newspaper and the Head of the Political office of the Al-Haq Party and the official spokesman of the Joint Meeting Parties after he was outrageously beaten up at midnight on Friday after he left his newspaper's premises late at night. According to Al-Khaiwani, while he was driving home, he was stopped by two unnumbered vehicles and once he went out of his car armed men coming out of those two cars beat him severely and threatened that they will punish him further if he continues his writings. He was also warned not

to continue his role in coordinating between the opposition and the ruling party. Al-Khaiwani is a Yemeni journalist well-known for his critical articles and courageous stances concerning democracy and freedom of the press, and strong opinion concerning human rights violations resembled in his columns either in his own newspaper or in other local and regional newspapers. He is also a well-known personality on the regional scale. It is expected that the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate would release a statement condemning this act and will issue and send a letter to the authorities requesting them to bring those who committed this crime to justice and compensate for this irresponsible act. On the other hand the Haq party executive committee issued



Al-Khaiwani

Saturday a press release condemning the aggression on Mr al-Khaiwani describing it as a savage conduct violating the constitution and law and represents a detrimental act against political pluralism and democracy. The statement has also demanded the competent authorities to act speedily against that criminal group. It has also asked all political parties and organizations and civil society organizations to express their denunciation of the brutal act and stand against it.

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Yemen seeks closer ties with Indonesia

JAKARTA, Aug 30, 2002 (Xinhua via COMTEX) — Yemen is keen to strengthen friendly and mutually beneficial relations with Indonesia, Yemeni Ambassador to Indonesia Ahmed Salem Saleh said on Friday in a comment on a 4-day visit by Yemeni Vice President Abduraboo Mansoor Hadi.

"The visit by the vice president is making a great stride in forging closer bilateral relations," Saleh was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

He added that Indonesia and Yemen have established a long-term and stable relationship.

In 1998, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh completed a fruitful and successful state visit here, resulting in the agreements on a wide range of bilateral cooperation, including the establishment of the Indonesia-Yemen Joint Commission.

"We hope the joint commission will hold its first meeting in the near future," said Saleh.

The Yemeni vice president has been visiting Indonesia since August 28 accompanied by Minister of Education and Scientific Research Yahya Ashaabi and Minister of Oil and Mining Toufik Noman. On the other hand, the visiting Yemeni Vice President said in Bandung of Indonesia's West Java province Friday that his government will consider buying Indonesia-made airplanes

and military weapons.

Having visited state-run airplane industry PT Dirgantara Indonesia and military weapon manufacturer PT Pindad in the city, Mansoor said he will report Indonesia's technological advance to the Yemeni government, expecting a further cooperation will follow.

He also said he was impressed by the achievement in modern aviation technology made by Indonesia.

"I have heard and read about the growing technological development in Indonesia for many times. But only today I can see it before my very eyes," he was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

On the same occasion, PT Dirgantara Indonesia's director Edwin Sudarmo said the visiting vice president is interested in the company's fixed wing CN235 and N250 as well as helicopters. He affirmed a special team will be assigned to Yemen for further talks with its government.

The Yemeni vice president has been visiting Indonesia since August 28 accompanied by Minister of Education and Scientific Research Yahya Ashaabi and Minister of Oil and Mining Toufik Noman.

During his visit, the vice president has met some Indonesian government officials, including Minister for



Abduraboo Mansoor Hadi

Religious Affairs Said Agil Al Munawar, former Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Ambassador Yulwis Yatim.

His four-day visit is aimed at strengthening friendly and mutually beneficial relations with Indonesia, according to Yemeni Ambassador to Indonesia Ahmed Salem Saleh.

On the other hand, the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Sana'a wished in a press release on 27 August that the Yemeni vice president visit would push the to develop and explore more opportunities of cooperation in various fields between the two countries and also to increase exchange of visits by officials of the two friendly countries.

US security team visit Sana'a

YEMENI TIMES STAFF

Yemeni official sources said last week that a U.S. team of investigators was expected to discuss with Yemeni officials the closure of the USS Cole file and the trial of those held suspects. The sources said the file is now ready for being referred to trial, adding that there is no reason for delay of the trial. However, other sources denied the possibility of closing

of Cole's file. They said the team is coming to open this file and discuss information gathered from Guantanamo suspects as well as security cooperation aspects concerning the war on terrorism.

The U.S. government insisted every now and then that the case file should not be closed as information, which might be key to the USS Cole bombing, can be collected from the detainees of Guantanamo.

A number of NGOs and human rights activists criticized the Yemeni government for holding a number of detainees without any legal warrant or trial.

Some political observers view that U.S. intends to use the case as a means of pressure on the Yemeni government so as to gain more concessions and facilities in the war against terrorism.

Promoting tourism in Taiz

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

TAIZ—Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the Local Council of Taiz governorate, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taiz, are to sponsor during the period of September 30 to October 3 at Sofitel Hotel in Taiz a symposium on tourism promotion in Yemen.

Faisal Saeed Fara'e the General Manager of al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences & Culture told the Yemen

Times that nine working papers are to be presented during the symposium.

"The working papers will focus on two standpoints, the first one is to highlight the fundamental role of the tourist sector in the process of development. The working papers will focus also on the social, economical and cultural role towards promoting the tourist sector. The second standpoint is related to the tourist attraction in different Yemeni cities including, Taiz and Ibb," Fara'e noted further.

Sadeq Salah, the Chairman of Tourism Office in Taiz said that a tourist exhibition would be organized on the sidelines of the symposium. "The exhibition aims to include tourist establishments such as, agencies, hotels, and other tourist activities.

Different cities will participate also in the symposium including, Aden, Lahj Taiz, and Ibb.

The symposium is to be organized by the al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences & Culture.

Closing statement of the 6th GPC conference announced

By reading out its final statement, the sixth conference of the General People's Congress (GPC) came to an end on Monday August 26 in Sana'a. The conference which was chaired by the President of the Republic and Chairman of the GPC, Ali Abdullah Saleh, lasted for three days with the participation of 4,892 members. Out of these number is 650 female participants.

The statement confirmed the importance of the commitment to the religious and national norms of the country, the choice of democracy, multi-party system, peaceful transfer of power, and respect of the freedom of the press.

The statement considered all these principles the concrete base for political stability and democratic development in the country. It also called for fighting terrorism by every means possible, considering it a national task and

stressed on the role of mosques in enlightening the public and spreading decent values among them.

Furthermore, the statement confirmed the GPC's commitment to continue the economic, administrative and financial reform program, encouraging technical education and the establishment of a social security network. In regards to public freedoms and human rights, the statement emphasized on the protection of citizens' freedoms, human rights, supporting civil organizations and developing professional journalism by encouraging journalists to play their required role in enlightening the society by presenting factual information to the public.

The statement focused on improving conditions of intellectuals and employees in education, culture and information. Participation of women in different labor arenas was among the very important recommendations of the con-

ference. The statement pointed out that being half of the society, women should be given the opportunity to participate in the construction of the country.

The statement assured the ultimate support to the Islamic and Arab issues including the Palestinian struggle for independence. The statement expressed Yemen's total refusal to a US-led attack against Iraq or changing its regime by force. It expressed Yemen's clear stance in solidarity with all Arab states amid growing dangers of a possible threat to the region. It supported Saudi Arabia and Egypt against the media barrage launched at the two countries in particular and at Arabs and Muslims in general. It also referred to the good relations between Yemen and Gulf countries and praised the step taken by Gulf countries in accepting Yemen's access to some of the GCC organizations.

Religions advice to Yemeni Afghans

It is expected that a committee of leading religious scholars will start this week a dialogue with and present advice to Yemeni Afghans.

The government announced last week the formation of this committee to help those extremist young men get rid of their fanatic and hostile views. Members of this committee will try to convince those extremists that their views have nothing to do with the true Islamic faith. They will also hold meetings, deliver speeches and lectures, and conduct debates with these people mainly those who came back from Afghanistan after the defeat of the former USSR.

The aim is to erase the extremist views those young men acquired during their stay in Afghanistan.

President Saleh announced the formation of the committee last week. He said that there are many people in detention since the Cole bombing incident and September 11 attacks. He is also convinced that some are still at large. He called upon them to surrender to the government. He promised them not to be extradited to the U.S. or any other foreign country. He said, while inaugurating the sixth General Congress of his party PGC, some of

the people who are still on the run their names were mentioned while interrogating suspects in the Guantanamo military base. He disclosed that his government carried out contacts with those fugitives via tribal sheiks. He pointed out that these fugitives were asked to give in and disclose any information they might have and they will be safe.

The president said "if you are not proved guilty, we will not try you or extradite to the U.S."

He said some of these are gullible and have nothing to do with terrorist acts.

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Eight councils to emerge into one

The governmental cabinet headed by Abdulqadir ba Jammal discussed in its weekly meeting last Tuesday a memorandum by the Prime Minister on the restructuring of the Supreme Economic, Oil and Investment Council. The memorandum called for the merge of eight councils and committees into one council. The new council's task will be to look after economic and energy matters and to utilize the so far fruit-

ful results of the economic, financial and administrative reforms.

The memorandum emphasized the need to have integrated functions, which should neither duplicate nor conflict with the mandate of other organizations. The memorandum was approved by the cabinet and was referred to the Ministry of Civil Service and Pensions to formulate it into a legal and organizational structure.

In the light of the discussions and debates of cabinet on the memorandum, a decision was also made to assign the Ministry of Civil Service and Pensions to come up with new organizational charts for all concerned ministries and agencies to accelerate the pace of government performance and to achieve the target objective of a smaller government with a greater impact.

Intensive campaigns to preserve cultural heritage launched

SANA'A-The Urban Cultural Heritage Strategy and Management Program launched in Sana'a on yesterday September first its national awareness campaign for the Protection of Urban Cultural Heritage in collaboration with the authorities concerned in the government of Yemen led by the Ministry of Culture. The opening ceremony took place

in the Cultural Center under the auspices of the Prime Minister Abdulqadir ba Jammal. The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, parliament members, NGO representatives, media individuals, and diplomats.

The objective of the National Awareness Campaign is to inform the public about urban cultural heritage, its importance, beauty, and dangers it

faces. The campaign which was launched under the motto "Revitalize the historic cities for a prosperous future" is to last for two months and will include a number of cultural activities including painting, theater plays, and photo contests plus small workshops. The event will also include an exhibition on urban cultural heritage.

Case brought against parliamentarian

ADEN- The Governor of Aden Taha Ghanem filed a lawsuit last week at the Seera Court of First Instances against Member of Parliament Insaf Mayoo for defaming men and women of Governorate of Aden in an interview to a local newspaper. The governor requested a compensation of one hundred million Yemeni rials from the MP, who is affiliated to the Islah party.

A session at the court was supposed to be held last Saturday but was postponed for one week because of the absence of the defendant.

It is worth noting that many Yemeni citizens and intellectuals all over the country have expressed their resentment towards the defamation of the MP and a campaign to signature signatures in Aden has started so as to lift the MP's diplomatic immunity so as to have legal action taken against him.

Apollo hosts First Syrian Products Exhibition

SANA'A-On the occasion of advent of the 40th anniversary of the 26th September revolution, preparations are in full swing to inaugurate the First Syrian Products Exhibition to be organized during September 3-31 at the Apollo Expo in Sanaa. The event is to be organized by the Apollo International Exhibitions in collaboration with Assalam Company for Exhibitions of Syria.

Around twenty five Syrian companies operating in the fields of office supplies, perfumes, men and women clothes, carpets, curtains, foodstuff, and house-ware will take part in the exhibition.

Omar Annehmi, the Marketing Manager of Apollo International Exhibition said, "Holding this exhibition comes within the framework of strenuous efforts made by the governmental bodies of both brotherly countries to improve bilateral trade relations. The private sector in this respect is also encouraged to take part in this

exhibition," he said.

Holding this exhibition will activate the exchange of trade between the two Arab countries towards achieving the ultimate goal of establishing the Arab common market and to find a healthy competition of industrial products for the benefit of the people of all Arab countries.

A Syrian businessman participating in the event said, "As part of the exhibition's activities, a number of joint meetings between Yemeni businessmen and their Syrian counterparts will also be held."

"Those meetings are aimed at exchanging experiences and finding possibilities of making use of holding future meetings in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry," Annehmi added.

Annehmi called upon Yemeni businessmen to make use of this activity with their Syrian counterparts to pave the way for negotiating possible agreements and signing contracts.

YT issues the standards and quality guide

In cooperation with the Yemen Standards & Quality Control Organization (YSQCO), the Yemen Times is intending to issue the Standards and Quality Guide 2002. Mr. Ahmed Al Basha Thabet, General Manager of the YSQCO, said that publishing this guide resembles a positive step which would be of positive effect on many aspects of industry and trade in Yemen.

The Guide will aim at promoting the Yemeni national products and warns of smuggled and forged goods.

Furthermore, the guide will include valuable instructions for consumers on the criterion of selecting foodstuff, medicine, medical goods, and agricultural products based on the different local and International standards.



Ahmed Al Basha Thabet

Abu Walad biscuits yearly festival inaugurated

Abu Walad biscuits festival has been inaugurated in Huban, Taiz last week. The festival was held to announce the winners of the weekly prizes in the form of gold bullions. The competition continues until the 24th of September and until, then every Tuesday, the winner will be

receiving ten gold bullions.

Abu Walad biscuits are a product of the YCIC Company belonging to the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies. This festival, which is part of a yearly tradition held by the company, also includes various cultural and musical activities.

Malaysian Embassy celebrates 45th anniversary in Sanaa

"Because of you Malaysia"

Under the motto "Because of you Malaysia", the Malaysian Embassy headed by H.E. Malaysian Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Datin Thalasiah Azman, celebrated in a reception held at Hadda Hotel in Sanaa last Saturday the 45th anniversary of the national day of Malaysia which is signaled on the last

day of August of every year.

The reception, which was held in a hall that was decorated with a Malaysian style, was attended by a large number of ambassadors of European and Arab countries plus a number of Yemeni and foreign intellectuals and prominent figures.

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An Interview with the Manager of German Project IDAS, Fuad al-Said:-

“German projects supports Yemen without any political purposes or without expecting any reward”

The German project IDAS is considered one of the largest projects in Yemen. The project supports many cultivated lands in Ibb, Taiz, Aden and Lahej. IDAS project aims at making the villagers (men and women) participate in the continuous development depending on themselves in achieving the permanence of services they offered.

To know more about the purposes and the achievements of the Yemen-German project IDAS in Ibb governorate, Ibrahim Addahan from the Yemen Times, Ibb, met up with Mr. Fuad al-Saidi, the Manager of the project in Ibb, and conducted the following interview:

Q: Could you please give us a brief account of yourself?

A: Fuad Taj Al-Dean Al-Saidi, 32, I graduated from Sana'a University, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering. I am married and have three sons, I am working as a Manager of the development and renewal of the sector in the project IDAS.

Q: What are the main objectives of the project in Yemen?

A: The project of IDAS is run by the Yemen-German governments, the objectives of the project are to train the citizens to participate in implementing the projects in their villages. In the past, the government implemented many projects such as schools, clinics, paving roads, underground water, etc, but these projects did not last for longtime due to carelessness in renewing or reimplementing them. They only lasted for three or four years and then became useless. Thus the permanence of projects are

not existed because the countrymen did not plan themselves for their projects, but let others from the city plan for their projects. However the engineer who comes from the city is used to live in an environment different from that of a village and countryside, therefore, he plans on the level of the city not on the level of the village.

Then we come to another phase called self-help which aims to help the countrymen depend on themselves to demand the projects they need, we give them the program or the plan of the project and then tasks have been distributed among them. The final phase is called self-reliance.

By this phase, we hope in this project IDAS, to finish and the villagers do not need it, are able to depend on themselves in achieving their purposes successfully.

Q: An attention focus has been paid to the Ibb governorate, can we say that it will be tourist capital for Yemen, what is your future expectation of the city?

A: The German government pays attention to Yemen in general, most German development projects are implemented through cooperation and development agencies like the German Agency for technical cooperation (GTZ) the German development service (DED) and the German bank for reconstruction (KfW). However, the Yemen-German development cooperation focuses on four sectors:

1- health, 2- basic education, 3- water and sanitation and 4- income generating and promotion of economic development, to which our project IDAS, belong to the last sector. On the other hand, we are working in four branches in Yemen, in Aden, Taiz, Ibb and Lahej. The project follows the

Germany Agriculture Ministry. The government of Germany did not concentrate on Ibb only, but it pays attention to other Yemeni governorates. I have no idea that the government of Germany takes care of IBB city being the tourism capital of Yemen.

Q: What is your evaluation of the role of foreign projects in the economic development and in combating poverty in the third world countries including Yemen?

A: I only know the German project, therefore, I can say that German government is different from the other countries in offering help especially to Yemen.

The German projects are always successful and their result touch the reality. Furthermore, it supports Yemen without any political purposes and without expecting any reward.

Q: What are the achievements you have done in Ibb governorate so far?

A: In the field of training, for example, in the field of sewing and embroidery we have trained 785 girls.

In the field of food industries we have trained 60 persons, in the field of eradicating illiteracy we have taught 975 girls, in the field of electricity we have trained 125 persons, in the field of manual work we have trained 55 persons, in the field of gardening we have trained 50 persons, in the field of the agricultural production we have trained so many persons, in the field of the nursing bees we have trained 15 persons.

All these training courses achievements were done last year. On the other hand, we have implemented some projects such as schools, health units and also offered sewing

machines to many associations.

We have implemented some reparations to some schools and clinics as well.

Q: Ibb governorate witnesses clear development in paving and cleaning its streets, has IDAS project participated in this development?

A: IDAS project has no relation to the development that took place in the city, we only work in the villages,

Q: What future plans do you

have?

A: We have a plan that we will be implementing in the near future aimed at conducting many central training courses to restore and develop some Yemeni old activities. Therefore, during the months of September, October and November 2002 we are to open training courses to restore the profession of Tanning which has started to decline and then disappear. We also plan to develop the profession of earthenware in the region and give training to the countrymen on Al-Ma'awezi industry to let them have a

profession which they can do and earn their living from it.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to thank Yemen Times for providing this opportunity to talk about IDAS projects.

I hope this project comes to its end and the countrymen have the ability to depend on themselves in achieving their purposes.

I hope too they are able to share in the development and can achieve the permanence of the services they will do in the future.

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أوقات الدوام:
(السبت - الخميس) من ٨:٠٠ صباحاً - ٢:٠٠ بعد الظهر

(تقبل طلبات تعيين المدرسين من كل التخصصات والدرجات)

للاستفسار اتصلوا بنا: ٤١٨٥١٠ و ٤١٠١٦٥
صنعا - مدينة حدة - الحي الدبلوماسي الجديد
خلف السفارة الإيرانية

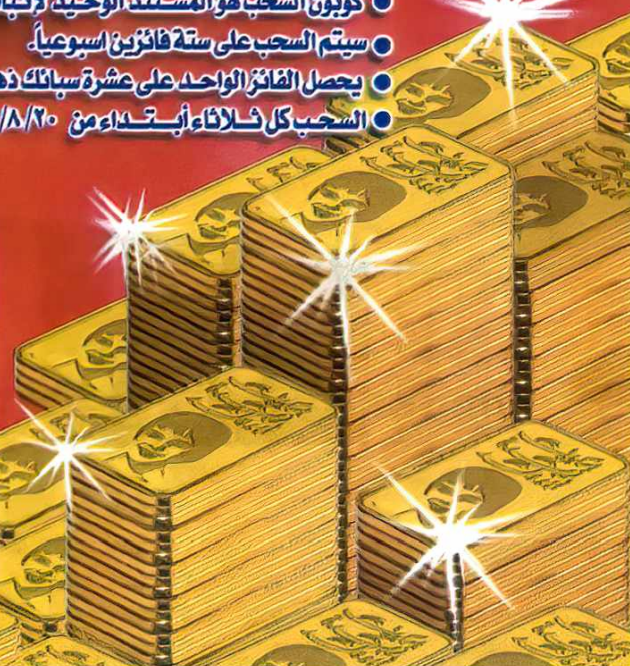
اسبوعياً سباقك ذهب من أبو ولد

السحب كل ثلاثة ابداء من ٢٠٠٢/٨/٢٠ وحتى ٢٠٠٢/٩/٢٤م



اجمع عشرة أغلفة علوية تحمل عبارة
مهرجان أبو ولد ٢٠٠٢
واحصل على كويون المشاركة في السحب الاسبوعي

- في حالة عدم ظهور صاحب الرقم الفائز خلال خمسة أيام من تاريخ السحب تُسحب الجائزة.
- كويون السحب هو المستند الوحيد لإثبات حقاك في الجائزة فأحرص على عدم ضياعه.
- سيتم السحب على ستة فائزين اسبوعياً.
- يحصل الفائز الواحد على عشرة سباقك ذهب.
- السحب كل ثلاثة ابداء من ٢٠٠٢/٨/٢٠ وحتى ٢٠٠٢/٩/٢٤م



مع مسابقة مكرونة المائدة إما رابح أو كسبان

اجمع ثمانية من أصناف منتج مكرونة وشعيرية المائدة ٤٥٠ جرام وسلمها الى أقرب مركز استبدال معتمد بشرط أن يكون من ضمن الثمانية الأكياس عدد ثلاثة أكياس على الأقل من التغليف الجديد

تحصل على صحن زجاجي فاخر فوراً.

كويون اشتراك في الدخول على السحب النهائي على جوائز نقدية

تتراوح بين ١٥٠٠٠٠ ريال - ٥٠٠٠٠ ريال

١٠٠٠٠٠
ريال

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ريال

٢٠٠٠٠
ريال

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ريال

٥٠٠٠
ريال

أكثر من
١١٠
جائزة نقدية

وتسبب نقاد كمية الصحن

سيتم الاعلان عن أسماء الفائزين في الصحف الرسمية (الثورة - الجمهورية - ١٤ أكتوبر في ٢٠٠٢م)

Italian Charge d' Affaires, Mr. Gianluigi Vassallo to YT:

“The debt rescheduling agreement is the first step towards utilizing the Yemeni debt in a way that is beneficial and fruitful to the Yemeni people.”

Mr. Gianluigi Vassallo, 28, is the current Charge d' Affaires of the Italian Embassy in Sanaa. It has been almost one year since Mr. Vassallo took office in Sanaa. During this time, his basic duties were resembled in being in charge of all fields of activity of the embassy ranging from the political and economic sector to the development cooperation, and from the consular to the cultural affairs.

Since the last Italian Ambassador to Yemen Mr. Umberto Lucchesi Palli left the country more than a month ago, Mr. Vassallo has been temporarily taking over all the ambassador's duties, which resembles his brightness, hard work, and dedication for his country. His great efforts during this short time have indeed resulted in progress in Italian-Yemeni relations, especially in the field of economic and developmental cooperation.

Mr Mohammed Khidhr of Yemen Times staff met with Mr. Gianluigi Vassallo at the Italian Embassy in Sanaa, and in an enjoyable atmosphere, filed the following interview.

Q: Could you give us an account on the relationship between Italy and Yemen and its development?

A: Italy and Yemen have been friends for long time. In September 1926, Italy was the first country in the world to recognize the newly independent Yemen by signing a general friendship and commerce agreement. In 1927 the first Yemeni delegation ever to a European country visited Rome. In the following years the Italians had made themselves available to the Yemeni public in two ways. The first was to establish the first industrial plant in your country, a windmill in Mokha to assist in both official and non-official positions, that is both in official capacities as managers of hospitals and coordinators of the health system and as doctors we used to assist the population. The cooperation between Italy and Yemen has assumed many different faces during the decades of our friendship. It was of course political to begin with and it has stayed political in any way for we still regard your country as invaluable sources of good advice when it comes to the stability of the region and problems arising in the Horn Africa and the Arabian peninsula. We have always highly valued, and we continue to value very highly the advice of Yemen on such matters. In recent years, notably after the unification in 1990 and the civil war in 1994, the Italian presence focused on development cooperation, we've been active in the fields of education, health and the development of rural resources. Most recently, in 2000 notably, with the visiting HE the president of the republic of Rome officially talks were resumed at the highest possible level and have continued to be intense ever since. We have our voice minister of foreign affairs coming to Sana'a last November. We've now had the voice minister for industry with the voice minister for transport and two speakers of the house on different occasions, speaker Violante in 2000, and speaker Casini two years ago on a private visit.

Q: Would you tell us about the agreement on rescheduling Yemen's debt to Italy and its amount, and where is the rescheduling program to be used in particular?

A: The bilateral rescheduling agreement between Italy and Yemen was signed within the framework of the multi-lateral agreement reached inside the Paris Club in 2001. The debt rescheduling agreement is the first step towards utilizing the Yemeni debt in a way that is beneficial and fruitful to the Yemeni people. The first step towards a situation of this kind is to reschedule the agreement that is to modify the expiry date of payment to be made by Yemen to return repay indeed commercial debts. The whole of the commercial debts, most of the commercial debts were included in this agreement whose amount of value is about \$24 million, and which we signed on 14th of August last. Following important step, negotiations will start as soon as possible to convert the debt, which means that instead of returning this money to the Italian creditors, Yemen will give this for the object of utility to the Yemeni population. The type, size and scope of this project will be agreed between the governments in the course of the forthcoming negotiations. But we have to be able to put money to

good use in the interest of the people of Yemen.

Q: There is no amount of debts to be written off or supposed to be written off?

A: For the time being that is the only concrete step, that is the only thing that I can talk about as done, that is the rescheduling, and that is been done. The next likely step is the conversion of such debt.

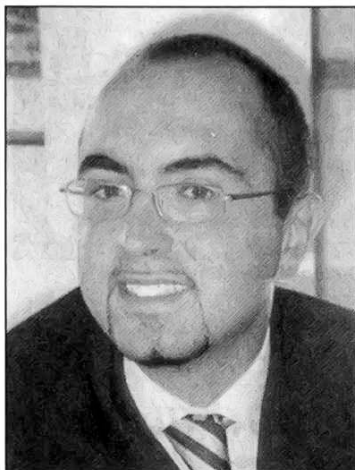
Q: What are the main present aspects of cooperation in the economic and political fields?

A: At the political level we regard Yemen as an immensely valuable partner to assure the stability of the Horn of Africa and the whole region that Yemen is part of. At every occasion that we have for official contacts of the grasp that the government of Yemen has no current international political and economic issues. So we find all the contacts immensely beneficial. The next visit to Yemen by an Italian authority should be that the speaker of the House Ferdinando Cazin next year in a day that is still to be defined, but he was invited by Sheikh al-Ahmar and accepted the invitation with great pleasure. I already said with the voice minister for industry in Sana'a last year June, the voice minister was here on the occasion of the second Italian week, a commercial event that is organized every year since last year, in cooperation with the Italian Chamber of Commerce to promote Italian products in Yemen and help create commercial ties between our countries. This year's Italian week was organized in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Vicenza, one of our richest provinces that pave the way to create links between the Chambers of Commerce of Sana'a and the Chamber of Commerce of Vicenza and between many Italian and Yemeni firms in the field of jewelry and the working of the marble. We found great interest in the Yemeni public and firms and we hope that such links will evolve.

Q: What is the Italian embassy's role and relations with popular organizations, NGOs, and political parties, and the press?

A: I've now been here for one year and all of my contacts with either the ruling party, opposition parties, Yemeni NGO's engaged in whatever field, from political cooperation to development cooperation and economic development, let alone the press, both the English press and local Arab-language press, have been immensely fruitful.

As regards my contacts with political figures in the country, I always came a way with a lot of knowledge than I had at the very beginning, because debates are always frank, open constructive, reaching concrete results, and I was struck by the competence the political passion and the dedication to their country that all of the political figures that I met have shown. I found that greatly beneficial to my work as a diplomat and to my knowledge of the country. As regards NGOs, I've a more contact with development cooperation NGOs than with political NGOs. Anyway, I met a few in the course of debate in scientific foundations and the recent debate on the election law. And their contributions help me a lot develop personal position and an opinion on current political issues in the country.



Mr. Gianluigi Vassallo, the Charge d' Affaires of the Italian Embassy in Sanaa

So would say that they have a great role. As regards development cooperation NGOs we have close relation with some of them, through we mainly work with Italian NGOs who come to Italy to implement projects in this country. And I may presently quote an example. A few days ago in the Taiz governorate with we inaugurated a development cooperation project to support the local economy, which is run by an Italian NGO (APS), and a Yemeni NGO, AASWA. We think that this kind of solution can be of great importance to the development of Yemen economy. And as regards the press, I really don't think I can complain because whenever I gave an interview or made statement in front of the representatives of the press, it was always produced exactly in the same way as I've given it.

In Yemen my experience of one year as a diplomat shows that the attitude of the press towards our work has been cooperative, interested and correct and professional.

Q: What steps as an embassy you think you could take to cement the relations with Yemeni government and people?

A: In order to make a friendship always more durable and fruitful, you have to intensify contacts. If friends don't mean to remain friends, but they grow out of sight and when you see each after long time, there is a lot of catching up to do. My hope is that should never be said about the Yemeni-Italian friendship. I hope to see links profounding between our two countries at various levels. At the political level, the highest political level, on the economic level through the expansion and strengthening trade links and through an implementation of a large number of Italian development cooperation projects in this country.

Q: One of the aspects strengthening relations between nations are cultural activities, have you made any cultural activities here or you plan to make here?

A: We have had an Italian archaeological mission here for twenty-two years. Its work started in 1980. And that mission by professor De Maigret had discovered the Yemen age of bronze, the temple of Makna in Baraqish and is now digging together with a French mission in Tamna, the ancient capital of Qataban. The third digging campaign should start this December. They have already carried out two in their process of starting a third campaign.

Q: What about Culture Weeks?

A: Culture Week will be a way a welcome piece of news in our cooperation. It is my hope that we can carry out such events in the future, although there are not yet in the picture but the expansion of cultural links, an even bigger cultural cooperation than we have nowadays is something that I would very much wish to see realized. A first step in this direction was the exhibition on the Queen of Sheba, whose first venue was Rome and which is now touring the world. We feel that these have contributed to make Yemen known world-

wide. We are happy that it started in Rome and we are anxious about seeing more initiative in the cultural field between Italy and Yemen. To this, in this respect, we are working with the Yemeni authorities and with our friendship association, who is very active and deserves great praise.

Q: How would you establish good relations between your embassy and the press?

A: I visited your newspaper and some others and try to keep in touch with the press, when I have concrete facts to discuss on the whole. I believe that our relations with the press are entirely satisfactory. As regards the suspension of Italians aid towards Yemen those year, you had a difficult situation as well. In between 1990 and 1994 you have had a reunification and a civil war. Throughout that period, the Italian embassy in Sana'a stayed open, and that is a great proof of our friendship. We never closed, we never went away. Our ambassador at that time remained in the capital despite the bombs and the embassy continued functioning. That is concrete evidence of our friendship towards this country. We've just awards ten, and it is been like this in the past years. Since I've been here heard of a lot of scholarships awarded to Yemeni students who are coming to Italy to get post-graduate in medicine, to their great profit because they are very good students. And the same is also through our aid. We cannot boast, although, of our aid equal to that of some of our friends in the European Union. But we try and I've so far managed to do well out of our money, the few projects that we have implemented in this country, I feel a source of satisfaction to us because we believe them to be well done and useful. We hope that that volume will be increased in the coming years. But in the meantime we want to do well what we are doing. Thanks a lot that was a fine question.

Q: I think it was also meant by the question scholarships for journalists, and exchange of journalists visits?

A: We will work for that I'm interested in that too.

Q: I think it is also a good thing for journalists from Italy to get acquainted with the press here and vice-versa?

A: Actually we've registered a growing interest of Italian journalists towards your country. We've had a few here to write articles on the situations in Yemen and a few of them were good and satisfactory partial and full of fascination that your country inspires on the new comer, and not just a new comer, I've been here for one year and I'm still fascinated. Exchange programs, I decided within the framework of the cooperation in the cultural sector. And when it comes to this, the only thing that I can tell you that I'm working for that, there is nothing concrete yet. But I wish to see this happen in the future.

Q: Any further remarks you want to add?

A: I would once again wish to thank the Yemeni press for its attitude and its interest for the activities of my embassy. I always know that when I'm giving an interview and we are doing something here in Yemen, the press will give a correct and interesting report. And that is a very important result. ■■

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Sultan al-Barakani, Chairman of the PGC party bloc to the Yemen times:

'If the opposition finds itself unfit for the elections in the educational sector, this indicates that they have no existence at all in the political arena'

Mr. Sultan al-Barakani, the Chairman of the People's General Congress (PGC) party bloc in the parliament has given an interview to the Yemen Times, talking about many crucial issues from different standpoints. The Chairman of the PGC party bloc has highlighted different issues, including the PGC's point of view towards stabilization of the democratic values and principles and the Yemeni-US relations.

Following is a report on the interview reported by Mohammed al-Massani for the Yemen Times.

YT: The opposition parties have accused the ruling party of attempting to win the elections to the interest of the PGC, how do you respond to that?

A: The question of accusation is not new on part of the opposition parties. It is natural for them to accuse the government because it is their salable business. The opposition is unfair in dealing with positive or negative aspects.

We at the People's General Congress, (PGC) are convinced it has no alternative but to offer to people but accusations. As for PGC attempt monopolize winning the elections, it is something illogical because elections are not the desire of a certain party but associated with voters. Former elections could be an experience for the opposition. The PGC depends on its weight in the political arena and what it has offered to people. It is not in favor of the PGC to win all parliamentary seats. There must be an opposition and we encourage that. Opposition is encouraged by the PGC. We also make concessions and conduct dialogues. By their stand, opposition parties want to present justifications in case they have not succeeded in the elections.

YT: The opposition parties are skeptical of honest elections under the ruling party's control over money and the army.

A: As regards money, the opposition parties have participated in approving the state budget. If the financial matters are at the PGC's disposal, we ask them from where the revenues come as long as resources and expenses are defined in the budget? They are submitted to the parliament and the public opinion, and ratified by the parliament. There is also the Central Apparatus for Control and Audit. From where money will come as all revenues are fixed inside the general budget of the state and all their expenditure are included in the investment programs?

YT: Opposition parties press mention about spread of corruption, claiming the ruling party is not serious in fighting it.

A: The corruption is a matter that all would recognize. No party could claim itself to be ideal and the other a demon.

It is an issue all have to tackle. We are going ahead in multi-lateral reform programs. If we have taken a daring step in this regard the opposition would be the first to harshly criticize it when their members in the government are exposed to accountability. They will claim that the measure was meant against them. Frankly speaking, we can conclude that the corrupt are found in both the opposition and the PGC.

In this respect, serious efforts are in full swing to fight corruption. Around 2000 employees are under investigation. In my point of view, the existence of the local councils and their members will contribute a lot to put an end to corruption and the corrupt.

YT: What are your expectations regarding the seats in the parliament you are going to win?

A: This matter is not subject to fortune-telling. Our performance would be the criterion giving or denying us a majority, added to it the citizens' conviction whether concerning us or the opposition. I don't believe that there is a guaranteed constituency. The previous elections are clear testimony and that there is no scope for opinion measurement in our country. There is no either specialized institution in this regard. Those who always talk about getting seats in the parliament are relying on groundless information and have nothing to do with such expectations.

YT: If the PGC wins a sweeping majority, what promises do you have?

A: All parties have the right to aspire after winning majority. Would the opposition be able to win the majority it would not allow the PGC win a single seat. Winning a majority is not something to be ashamed of in elections and democratic process. In the latest French elections the Gaulists have won a sweeping majority, can anyone say that France is not democratic? If the opposition are convinced that the PGC will win the majority, it signifies that they have no effective presence among the masses and their party performance is insufficient. If they could convince the people that the PGC has some disadvantages, we welcome this. The major issues the PGC promises

are development and the economic issue in the first place, improvement of the living conditions and building the state of law and order and constitutional institutions. Those are the main issues we are working for. Several programs in the field of development have been accomplished. The coalition crippled the PGC's orientations towards achieving a comprehensive development for the country. The ordinary citizen can hold a comparison between the last seven years, (1990-1997) and the recent years particularly when the PGC has assumed power single-handedly. I believe that without the PGC's positive contributions, the party will be of no significance and therefore it will be marginalized like other opposition parties.

YT: How far have you reached regarding other parties' shares in the Supreme Elections Committee?

A: This is a matter up to the Supreme Election Committee (SEC). We have taken the initiative for holding dialogues in order to work together, ruling party and opposition, for stabilizing values of democracy and its principles. The PGC has always offered concessions. We will pay a dear price in case of canceling electoral records for the sake of coaxing the opposition parties. We don't feel regretful for to canceling the electoral tables. What want to convince the opposition, the people of Yemen and international organizations that when a party fails to win an election, this party always attributes its failure to counterfeiting.

We at the PGC have reluctantly accepted the SEC's decisions and have also showed adherence to all initiatives that have been taken. It is better for the SEC to apply its decisions to those who have not showed any adherence. But, unfortunately, the SEC has been docile to the opposition parties and ultimately educational committees have been formed.

The proportion principle is illegal. The right to form committees is the SEC's business according to what has been stipulated in the constitution. We can not talk about the SEC's neutrality in this regard. The SEC has been entrusted with appointing or dismissing a given party. The law has granted to the parties to monitor in a way that sees it suitable. The SEC stated that the registration period would begin at the beginning of the first half of 2002. Now, we are in September and nothing has been achieved yet. Perhaps the opposition parties find themselves not eligible for running elections or that they want more time to cripple the election process. If the opposition finds



Sultan al-Barakani

Corrupt are found at both the opposition and the PGC

itself unfit for the elections in the educational sector, this indicates that they have no existence at all on the political arena.

YT: How do you assess the PGC's preparation in the upcoming elections?

A: We at the PGC are far away from the state of alert the opposition parties are experiencing. Actions speak louder than words. We are content that we have made laudable strides and clear-cut platform where it has reached to the people's minds and hearts and not in the way the opposition desires.

The platform of the opposition is restricted only to charging accusations at the PGC. They don't even distinguish between election propaganda and platform. They have no alternatives and they don't think of the development aspects of the country or providing job opportunities for the unemployed. The main issue is not preparations; it is only left for the voter to make up his mind.

YT: Recently, the relations between the Joint Meeting Parties, specifically between the YSP and Islah, have been strengthened, does this constitute a coalition against the PGC?

A: We have experienced the coalition matter in our country; we in this respect have found ourselves near to the left and the right. It is a great difficulty to make an alliance between extreme left

and extreme right. We consider that a kind of tactics, hoping that the YSP and the Islah could agree on one program. It will be a positive aspect for the better.

In a joint meeting, the president has asked them to form a bloc to oppose the ruling party. There is nothing to worry about on the part of the PGC particularly of the YSP and Islah's coalition. We are confident that both of them will work behind the scenes to achieve their desired goals.

Through their coalition, they want to put pressure on the PGC. We at the PGC have resolved the matter and that there is no coalition during the election process. We don't want to accuse the Joint Meeting Parties to tell them that they failed in 1997 elections. The PGC will not be always the victim. We want to show others that the PGC is a strong political party.

YT: In a previous interview with the Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein al-Ahmer, the Speaker of the parliament, said that cancellation of the religious institutes constituted an regression against the revolution achievements, How do you comment on that?

A: Yemen is a country where Islam is firmly established; millions of Yemenis embraced Islam willingly. What we see is that our country is a pure Islamic country. We are not in Sudan or Lebanon where Muslims and Christians are found in huge numbers. In my point of view, if the revolution is restricted only to establishing religious institutes, where the Speaker of the parliament sees that they are illuminati of the revolution, I think he is mistaken in this regard, if he believes also that 500 or 300 religious institutes' graduates or perhaps million of mosque preachers is necessary. On my part, there is no need for this huge number of graduates. The religious institutes were an indispensable aspect when the communist thought was at its peak of prosperity. If the Islah party has institutes, the other parties also have the right to establish such institutes where a party's theory can be focused on.

These institutes have been established in the mid of the 1970s. The first institute was established by the monarchists in Khowlan when the republicans are perceived as apostates. Sheikh Abdullah is perhaps one of the founders of the PGC. The first statement of the PGC was in 1982 where its members called for unifying education until the Unification Day was announced.

If the Sheikh Abdullah and others at the Islah Party who were one day members at the PGC see that the education

issue is one of the advantages of the revolution and the republic, it is better for them not to issue statement concerning unifying education. We have made great efforts with the Islah party and showed readiness to change the curriculum to school textbooks. We don't want education for a specific group of people at the expense of others.

YT: To what extent does the Yemeni-US relations have reached?

A: Our relations with the US are clearly seen and there is nothing to worry about. Anyone who follows closely the Yemeni-US relations starting from the USS Cole bombing incident and then September 11 terrorist attack against Washington DC and New York will see that the PGC has behaved wisely with such incidents. We at the PGC have seriously made dialogues with them. That is because our national issues have greatly concerns us a lot. We at the PGC also have agreed and disagreed and feel that there is a certain kind of pressure. That doesn't mean that we have misused Yemen's sovereignty. We are in this respect not the weakest part. Things have been clear. Only some individuals were as umbrella of the US to encounter the communist thought. We can not say that they have no place in Yemen. Only some of them have joined the army and a certain kind of enthusiasm and now they don't represent a threat to the US. The US can not claim that they are involved in terrorist acts. They are referred to courts before America does and they were sentenced to death. The Yemeni security organizations have been tracking them down to know their whereabouts. Yemen in this case has been suffering a lot from terrorist and sabotage acts. When the US realize that Yemen's long-term suffering of terrorism, they would treat things objectively.

YT: What about the US and its campaign against Saudi Arabia?

A: As for our brothers in Saudi Arabia, we believe that the US will not deny its relation with Saudi Arabia. They have fought tooth and nails for along with the US for about a half-century and they were there in Afghanistan. We have somewhat a different stance from that of Saudi Arabia. This can be attributed to the availability of the communist and capitalist bloc in Yemen. Saudi Arabia has chosen the US side and supported with money from the very beginning. We oppose and condemn any terrorist threats against our brothers in the Saudi Arabia.

Symposium on insurance problems held

By MOHAMMED AL-MASANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A-Organized by the Yemeni Insurance Federation in collaboration with the Kuwait Reinsurance Company, a two-day symposium focusing on energy risk insurance was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa during 25-26 August.

During the opening session of the symposium, Saad I. Makki, Assistant General Manager of the Kuwait Reinsurance Company placed great emphasis on the significance of holding such symposiums on oil and energy insurance in Yemen and the region.

"This symposium will be of great importance to insurance companies in informing individuals working in those companies about energy insurance matters that may emerge in the future."

The Kuwait Reinsurance Company has been operating since the 1970s and has a good share in the Yemeni market. Cooperation fields between the Kuwait Reinsurance Co. and the Yemeni Insurance Federation are heading for a better and brighter future. This has manifested itself in holding symposiums and in exchanging visits with the aim of enhancing cooperation and rela-



tions with our brothers in Yemen," said Mr. Makki.

"We hope that the Kuwait Reinsurance Co. will constitute a link between the Yemeni and international markets. We are glad that we have signed contracts with most of the Yemeni insurance companies during the 1970s and 1980s," Makki added.

Ali Hashem, the Chairman of the Yemeni Insurance Federation said that one of the priorities given to the federation was represented by raising the level of insurance awareness among those who work in the insurance field in particular, and among the Yemeni public in general.

Participants during the symposium

dealt with the risks in energy insurance, and specifically in gas and oil insurance.

Tariq Abdulwas'i Hayel, the General Manager of United Insurance Company made it clear that the symposium basically aims at establishing relations with international insurance companies. "A number of oil companies and some of the Yemeni businessmen and investors have been invited to participate in this symposium with the objective of getting acquainted with oil insurance and establishing stronger relations with international insurance companies," he said.

The Kuwait Reinsurance Company was the sole sponsor of this activity.

Continued from page 1

Yemenis and Saudis insist on completing border demarcation

In a statement to Yemen Times on the border clashes, a diplomat at the Saudi Embassy confirmed the clashes Saturday and said "I would like to mention that the events took place inside the Yemeni territories, not on the Saudi side of the border," confirming that Saudi military units did not take part in the clashes or use any military units or planes.

Dhu Hussein tribes had early this month handed the Saudi Embassy in Sana'a a letter warning against placing concrete markings in their area extending for 275 km, starting from the area adjacent to Saudi Sharoura to Najran. The letter confirmed that they would resist any demarcation action in this respect, rejecting the Jeddah border treaty signed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia in June 2000.

They demanded in their letter both the Yemeni and Saudi governments to adopt Taif treaty as a basis for border demarcation. Yemeni authorities have detained Sheikh al-Shai'f for seven months for accusing him of blasting

border markings. Yemeni authorities, however, are still detaining two sheikhs from Dhu Hussein for refusing to recognize the new border treaty and hindering the German company placing the border markings. After the Thursday armed confrontation, Colonel Sheikh Yahya Abdulla al-Shaif retreated with his force 5,000 strong men force from Dahm al-Hamra' tribes and tribesmen from allied Hamadan and al-Jawf to the fortified area of Ghazzan and Sha'af mountains, 40 km to the west of Yateema. Sheikh al-Shai'f told Yemen Times that the Dham al-Hamra tribes refuse to carry out demarcation inside their territories extending along the border line from Rayan to Ghuraimi area near al-Boga' area, claiming that such act would make them lose part of their territories to the Saudi side and confirming that they have documents proving their ownership of that land. He accused sheikh Abdulla al-Ahmer signed a contract with the German company, pledging to help it fixing the border markings in the disputed area and

that has aroused the tribes anger.

Despite the difficulties hindering the implementation of the demarcation process both Yemen and Saudi Arabia are determined to have the border demarcated by 2003. According to MENL, "The 1,500-kilometer border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen is expected to be delineated early next year."

Saudi and Yemeni officials said the lion's share of the nearly \$1 billion project has been completed. A German company will mark 857 points along the eastern Saudi border with Yemen and Oman. The prime contractor in the border delineation is Hans Luftbeild. The Germany company was awarded the contract in wake of a reconciliation effort by Saudi Arabia and Yemen in June 2000 to end years of border clashes. A joint committee composed of Saudi and Yemeni representatives met over the weekend to discuss the border delineation. Officials said the \$986 million project would be completed by April.

Amnesty International continues discussion on Cole suspects

Responding to a question by the Yemen Times Mr Sheerov said the organization has aroused the issue of the detainees suspected to have links with 11 September events in previous months during the Yemeni delegation visit and that the team was planning to hold meetings with Yemeni officials to discuss this issue.

An official source mentioned that Yemen

discussed with the organization's delegation the question of the Yemenis detained in Guantanamo base in Cuba. The source added that the government made it clear that the United States was not in a position to give a lesson to the Yemeni government on human rights because in dealing with events of 11 September the U.S. has shown a violation of the policy pursued there in this respect.



Sheerov

Israeli missile strike kills 5 Palestinians

JENIN, West Bank, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Israeli helicopter gunships ambushed a car in the West Bank on Saturday, killing three Palestinian militants and two children with a double missile strike, Palestinian witnesses and medical officials said.

They said two Apache helicopters struck at Tubas village near Jenin in the afternoon, obliterating the vehicle and its occupants, including a nine-year-old boy and a girl, also 9.

But some residents of Tubas said the children were outside the car, felled by flying debris which also wounded seven other people.

The three other people killed were men belonging either to the Islamic organisation Hamas or of a militant coalition called Palestinian Resistance, medical officials said.

However, Israel's Army Radio and Qatar-based satellite service al-Jazeera said some or all of them hailed from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Witnesses originally said four people were killed altogether, all of them militants. Medical officials attributed the confusion to the damage, which made identifying the dead difficult.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Israel regularly targets Palestinian militants waging a 23-month-old uprising for independence, a tactic which has drawn international condemnation.

Its recent F-16 air strike against Hamas's military commander in the Gaza Strip, which killed 15 other Palestinians including nine children, prompted a rash of revenge attacks by the group, which is dedicated to Israel's destruction.



Israeli soldiers search Palestinian ambulance after the Israeli army lifted the curfew in the West Bank city of Nablus, August 31, 2002. Israeli helicopter gunships ambushed a car in the West Bank on Saturday, killing three Palestinian militants and two children with a double missile strike, Palestinian witnesses and medical officials said. REUTERS

Egypt family face murder trial over 22 killings

CAIRO, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Thirteen Egyptians will go on trial for the murder of 22 members of a rival family in a clan feud, court sources said on Saturday.

Twenty-two members of the Hunayshat family were shot earlier this month in what police said was a revenge attack by the rival

Abdel-Halims for the killing of one of their people. The incident took place in the Sohag area in clan-based south Egypt.

The 13 men from the Abdel-Halim family are also charged with attempted murder of three other men wounded in the attack.

The charges, which will be heard in a criminal court, carry a maximum sentence of death.

Public prosecutors also sent another six members of the Abdel-Halim family for trial in a state security court on charges of illegal possession of weapons. A village mayor will also face trial for concealing accomplices to the crime, the sources said.

Fatal feuds between large clan groupings are not uncommon in south Egypt, but the death toll was the highest since 24 people died in a shooting south of Cairo in 1995.

Turkey's hunger strike death toll climbs to 56

ANKARA, Aug 31 (Reuters) - A Turkish woman on hunger strike starved to death on Saturday, becoming the 56th person to die in the long-running protest over Turkish prison conditions, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

Fatma Tokay, 35, died in an Ankara hospital after being transferred earlier this month from a prison where she had begun the hunger strike, the agency said.

It was unclear how many days Tokay had refused solid food.

Protesters have prolonged their lives by drinking salted or sugared water and taking vitamins, and many have survived for hundreds of days.

Leftist prisoners and their sympathisers began the hunger strike nearly two years ago to protest government plans to transfer inmates to cell-based prisons from large dormitories that house up to 100 people.

They argue the new prisons isolate inmates, putting them at risk of police brutality.

Authorities argue the new penitentiaries meet European standards and are necessary to break the hold criminal gangs and militant political organisations wield over the large wards.

The European Union, which Turkey hopes to join, has urged officials to resolve the standoff peacefully, but Ankara has said it will not negotiate with the inmates, accusing "terrorists" of organising the protest.

Thirty inmates and two soldiers died in December 2000 when security forces raided prisons to end the hunger strike and force the prisoner transfers.

Four people were killed last year when police stormed an Istanbul neighbourhood where hunger strikers carried out their protest.

Palestinian gunman wounds 2 at Jewish settlement

NABLUS, West Bank, August 31 (Reuters) - A Palestinian gunman opened fire in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Saturday and wounded two people before being shot dead, Israeli security sources and witnesses said.

They said the gunman had penetrated Har Bracha near the Palestinian city of Nablus under cover of darkness as the Jewish sabbath ended and families were preparing for the new week.

"We heard shots. I took a look outside and saw casualties," settler Motti Ungar told Israel's Channel One television. "I have medical experience, so I had the wounded brought in to my place...It seems the terrorist was killed."

An ambulance worker, Neri Katua,

said two people were wounded.

The militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in a telephone call to Lebanon-based Hizbollah television station al-Manar, said its military wing was responsible for the attack.

Palestinians waging a 23-month-old uprising for independence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have frequently targeted Jewish settlements, which the international community regards as illegal. Israel disputes this.

Israeli helicopter gunships killed five Palestinians including two children in a missile strike in the West Bank on Saturday, shaking U.S. efforts to broker Palestinian security reforms in the hope of producing a truce.

EU plays down differences on Iraq, Blair talks tough

ELSNORE, Denmark, Aug 31 (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers tried on Saturday to paper over their differences on Iraq by reaffirming their support for U.N.-led efforts to secure the return of weapons inspectors to Baghdad.

But at their meeting in Elsinore, Denmark, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer repeated Berlin's strong opposition to any military operation to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

In separate comments made during a flight to South Africa, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Washington's closest ally, said the world must act firmly to stop Iraq developing weapons of mass destruction in "flagrant breach" of U.N. resolutions.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, host of the two-day EU talks in Elsinore, said the 15-nation bloc was unanimous in its key demand on the return of arms inspectors.

"The EU says the Iraqi regime must allow the arms inspectors to immediately find out whether there are weapons of mass destruction or not," he told a news conference.

"We encourage the United States to continue broad consultations on the question of Iraq," Moeller said.

The United States has stepped up its

war of words against the Iraqi government in recent weeks. Vice-President Dick Cheney has said even the return of the arms inspectors would not be enough and has called openly for the removal of Saddam.

No decision yet

Blair said no decisions had been made yet about what action should be taken.

"(But) the world cannot stand by and allow Iraq to be in flagrant breach of all the United Nations resolutions on developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons," he said.

"Doing nothing about Iraq's breach of these UN resolutions is not an option. That is the only decision that has been taken so far. What we do about that is an open question."

Britain has broadly supported Washington's tough line, but most other EU countries including Germany and France have stressed the need to act through the U.N. Security Council.

In Elsinore, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw played down the differences.

"As one would expect with 15 participants there were differences of emphasis around the room. But on the issue of whether Saddam Hussein is in breach of international, legal requirements, there was unanimity," Straw told reporters.

"The inspectors ought to go back in, but there's a debate about how that should be achieved," he said.

Germany's Fischer spoke out strongly against military intervention.

"I presented our concerns about how to calculate the risks (of the military option) and our rejection of war and occupation to change the regime," Fischer said.

Diplomats said Fischer had stressed the regional dangers of armed intervention, noting that the wider Arab world fiercely opposes such a move, especially in the absence of a peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Several EU states said the emphasis of hardliners in Washington such as Cheney on the military option removed any incentive for Saddam to allow the return of the arms inspectors.

Straw played down earlier British talk of setting the Iraqis an ultimatum for letting the inspectors back in, saying this was merely a suggestion made by the British parliament.

"Hypothetical"

The ministers would not be drawn on what the EU might do if Saddam continued to defy the international community. "This is a hypothetical issue," said Denmark's Moeller.

"Nobody has asked us to go to war... The important thing is to keep up the pressure on Saddam Hussein."

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana dismissed suggestions that Europe and the United States were drifting apart because of differences over Iraq and other issues, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Our relations have a very solid basis. We have our ups and downs. Among friends there is always debate... But we are trying to close (the areas of disagreement) in a constructive manner," said Solana.

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نداء إلى أهل الخير

السيد عبد الله سعيد العيسى، يعاني من ضعف شديد بالساقين والذراعين مع الام بالعنق والذراع اليسرى، ناتجة عن انزلاق غضروفي، ويحتاج الى تدخل جراحي عاجل بالعنق، وتكاليف العملية الجراحية التي ستجرى له باهضة. يرجى من أهل الخير مساعدته والتبرع له.

للتبرع، يرجى الاتصال بهاتف المذكور: ٦٠٢٩٨٨ - صنعاء

xx صور التقارير الطبية موجودة لدى الصحيفة.

Slum protesters march on Earth Summit

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Thousands of slum-dwellers marched on the Earth Summit on Saturday, protesting about issues from AIDS to globalisation and marshalled by heavily armed police who feared violence might upstage the U.N. meeting.

Singing apartheid-era songs, a rainbow coalition of at least 10,000 anti-government leftists marched to Johannesburg's plush Sandton convention centre from the shanty township of Alexandra — an eight-km (five-mile) walk that South African President Thabo Mbeki said symbolised a "global apartheid" between rich and poor.

"Hello Sandton!...It's a pity you're barricaded, preventing us from coming in and showing you the real world!" organiser Virginia Setschedi yelled across the razor wire at the building.

Seven hours in, there was no sign of trouble by the time the rally began to break up following speeches outside the summit centre. Police revised down estimates of numbers but the turnout was less than some expected. But it was still one of the biggest protests since the end of white minority rule in 1994.

Guarded by police, armoured vehicles, helicopters, razor wire and concrete barriers, delegates from almost 200 countries kept up talks inside the building, trying to break a deadlock on an ambitious plan to halve poverty and protect the environment.

"Osama bin Laden — Bomb Sandton", "Factory Gases and Waste are Killing", "Hands Off Iraq", "Globalise the Intifada", "Stop Thabo Mbeki's AIDS genocide" or "Bush, you belong in the Bush" were among banners and T-shirts.

South Africa deployed thousands of police to avert any repeat of the mayhem that has marred international meetings in Seattle, Prague, Genoa and elsewhere. The U.N. meeting is meant to showcase the new South Africa and put paid to international memories of violence between white police and black protesters.

Heart attack

Director of Police Services Henriette Bester told Reuters there were no arrests or confrontations. She said one marcher was taken to hospital after suffering a heart attack.

South Africa's police are shaking off the reputation for brutality they gained during the apartheid years. But they came down hard last week on minor, unauthorised protests, firing three stun grenades to break up a small march last Saturday.

At a separate pro-government rally that drew just 3,000 people, Mbeki renewed calls for the August 26-September 4 World Summit on Sustainable Development to end the "global apartheid" dividing a few rich from the legions of the world's poor.

"There is no reason that the poor of the world should be poor for ever," he told government supporters in Alexandra's soccer stadium. "The time has come for action."

Government supporters also later set off for Sandton from Alexandra, a teeming township of 350,000 people, of shacks and open sewers, where more than one adult in two has no job.

Among the first foreign leaders to arrive in Johannesburg was Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, in defiant mood about his policy of seizing land from white farm-

ers and redistributing it to landless blacks.

His Information Minister Jonathan Moyo blasted former colonial power Britain for suggesting mismanagement was behind a looming famine, saying farmers were simply starved of rain: "God is not something in the control of the British... You cannot define the success of the land programme by the drought."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is to address the summit an hour before Mugabe on Monday.

Stifle protest

Mbeki does not want Harare's crisis to upstage the summit. At his rally, officials stifled a protest by about 80 Zimbabwean opposition members who brandished posters saying: "Mugabe is a thief". Mbeki's government is no great fan of Mugabe but rejects the Western view that he has only held on to power by force.

Mbeki's African National Congress (ANC) was a prominent target of the many landless black South Africans who marched in red T-shirts. One of their leaders, Jonas Apolisi of the Social Movements Indaba, accused the ANC of being an "imperialist power" for failing to redistribute land in South Africa.

"If the ANC doesn't do what people ask it to we shall shut it down like we shut down the apartheid government," he said.

Many of protesters in both rallies were pro-Palestinian and the head of the Palestinian delegation to the summit, Farouq al-Qaddomi, attacked Israel in a speech at Mbeki's rally.

Some of the summit non-government participants from foreign environmental groups also joined the marches: "This summit is being hijacked by trade and the corporate agenda," said Michael Brune of the California-based Rainforest Action Network.

During the protests, summit negotiators argued over a plan to enrich poor nations while protecting the planet. The bulk of the U.N. text has been agreed but key issues remain unresolved.

German Environment Minister Juergen Trittin told reporters on Saturday that there was still no agree-

ment on vital issues, including EU demands for firm targets for increasing the amount of power generated from renewable sources like the wind and Sun.

Ministers are under pressure to clinch a deal before world leaders turn up in force on Monday.

"How far will we get in the negotiations? We'll just have to see — on Sunday evening," Trittin said. "We've

about 14 points on the table and in the end there's going to be a trade-off."

Delegates are also trying to reconcile U.S. and European Union demands for aid to be tied more clearly to improving human rights and democracy and insistence by developing nations that the rich states do more to cut subsidies to their own farmers that help keep Third World imports out of their markets.



An army vehicle passes protesters during a demonstration march from Alexandra township to Sandton city August 31, 2002, during the World Summit for Sustainable Development conference held in Johannesburg. REUTERS

Saudi Arabia executes two Iraqis for murder

RIYADH, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has executed two Iraqis convicted of beating and stabbing to death an elderly Sudanese man and then stealing his money, Saudi newspapers reported on Saturday.

The executions on Friday in the kingdom's remote Remah area, raise to at least 34 the number of people put to death in the conservative Muslim kingdom so far this year.

At least 75 people were executed in 2001 and 121 in 2000.

Saudi Arabia implements strict Islamic law which punishes rapists, murderers and drug smugglers by execution. Beheading is the most common method of execution.

Uganda troop pullout from Congo complete - army

NAIROBI, Aug 31 (Reuters) - The Ugandan army said on Saturday it had completed its final troop pullout from the Democratic Republic of Congo this week but had left behind one battalion at the request of the United Nations.

Army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza told Reuters that the battalion of about 1,000 soldiers had remained to secure Bunia town in eastern Congo. Ugandan troops in Congo had totalled 8,000 but were mostly withdrawn last year under a peace deal.

"The troops from Beni entered Uganda on Thursday and are now in

Bushenyi (western Uganda), while those from Gbadolite fled to Gulu (northern Uganda) on Thursday," Bantariza told Reuters by telephone from the capital Kampala.

"When Kinshasa and the U.N. are ready to take control, the troops in Bunia will be relocated to the slopes of the Rwenzori mountains to mop up any rebel activity."

The U.N. mission in Congo, MONUC, fearing flare-ups of violence following the retreat by the Ugandan forces, had asked some of the country's soldiers to stay on in Bunia.

Tribal clashes in Bunia earlier this month involving tribal militias, Ugandan troops and a rebel faction previously backed by Uganda, left more than 110 dead. Many of the victims were women and children hacked to death with machetes.

Uganda's troops withdrawal last year was under a peace accord signed between the warring parties in the Zambian capital Lusaka in 1999. The accord has never been fully implemented.

Two battalions had remained behind in Gbadolite, northwestern Congo, and in Bunia and Beni in eastern Congo.

Rwanda and Uganda invaded Congo in 1998 to support rebel factions fighting to topple the late President Laurent Kabila, who was backed by Namibia, Angola and Zimbabwe.

Peace hopes have revived since the Kinshasa government struck a power-sharing deal with Ugandan-backed rebels in April, and agreed with Rwanda last month to disarm Rwandan Hutu militiamen roaming Congo's eastern jungles in return for Kigali pulling out its own troops.

Rwanda, Kinshasa's biggest military foe, is thought to have some 20,000 troops in the former Zaire. Zimbabwe also said recently it had begun withdrawing some of its 12,000 troops, but the U.N. has been unable to confirm any departures.

The U.N. has only 4,200 personnel in Congo, Africa's third largest country, and member states have failed to provide another 1,500 requested by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

By contrast, the U.N. deployed 17,500 peacekeepers to end civil war in tiny Sierra Leone.

Khatami ally on trial in Iran for alleged blasphemy

TEHRAN, Aug 31 (Reuters) - A close ally of Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami went on trial behind closed doors on Saturday, facing serious charges of blasphemy, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

Outspoken scholar and political activist Hashem Aghajari was detained earlier this month after a public speech in the western city of Hamedan in which he called for radical religious reforms in the conservative Islamic state.

His comments infuriated the conservative clergy, especially his call on Shi'ite Muslims not to blindly follow their religious elders.

If convicted, Aghajari, a former revolutionary who was disabled in the 1980s war with Iraq, could face the

death penalty. Aghajari is now a leading voice in Khatami's reformist movement and widely popular among students and Islamist intellectuals.

His detention has fanned the bitter row between reformers and hardliners. IRNA quoted a court statement as saying that the trial was being held behind closed doors to avoid "spreading vice and hurting the public's religious sentiments".

The defendant has denied blaspheming Islam, accusing the conservatives of distorting his remarks for political ends.

The conservative-run judiciary has denied Aghajari's charges and threatened to take legal action against anyone who might campaign on his behalf and "spread lies and propagan-

da". Pious Shi'ite Muslims traditionally revere and emulate senior clerics, or Marjas, who are deemed qualified to interpret Koranic teachings.

Such followings sometimes proceed down to details of everyday life such as eating, washing and performing sex.

There have been growing political and religious challenges to the theocratic rule in Iran since Khatami's landslide election in 1997.

The conservative establishment launched a crackdown two years ago to suppress such challenges, jailing dozens of activists and journalists and closing their newspapers.

Reformists fear that the judiciary may use Aghajari's trial as an excuse to outlaw their political activities.

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بالإضافة إلى جوائز تقديرية وتخفيضات من الرسوم الدراسية لكل المشتركين

- قطع كوبون المسابقة وإرساله على عنوان ثانوية الفرسان الأهلية / شارع حدة تقاطع شارع مديشو / تليفون ٢٠٧٦٢٢
- آخر موعد لاستلام الأجوبة يوم الخميس الموافق ٣١ / ١٠ / ٢٠٠٢.
- سيتم السحب للفائزين في حفل خاص وتشر الأسماء خلال شهر نوفمبر ٢٠٠٢.

كوبون المسابقة

السؤال الأول / كم عدد أحزاب القرآن الكريم ؟

السؤال الثاني / ضمن أي مديرية تقع ثانوية الفرسان الأهلية ؟

السؤال الثالث / متى حرت أول انتخابات نيابية في اليمن الموحد ؟

السؤال الرابع / متى انطلقت الشرارة الأولى لإنفاضة الأقصى الشريف ؟

السؤال الخامس / متى صدر العدد الأول من صحيفة بين تائمز ؟

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حفظاً من مودة للجميع

تخفيضات خاصة لمشتركي صحيفة «بين تائمز» عند تسجيل ابنائهم في ثانوية الفرسان

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Ruling due in gang rape case that shocked Pakistan

DERA GHAZI KHAN, Pakistan, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Hundreds of people waited for hours outside a heavily guarded court house in Pakistan's Punjab province on Saturday for verdicts in a gang rape trial that horrified Pakistan.

Four alleged rapists and 10 members of a traditional village jury accused of authorising the rape of a 30-year-old divorcee in June face the death penalty if convicted by the special anti-terrorism court that sat behind closed doors in the town of Dera Ghazi Khan.

A verdict was expected on Saturday but still had not been announced by mid-evening. The single judge has been deliberating on the case for a week.

Mukhtaran Mai says she was raped by four men on June 22 after approaching the traditional jury, or panchayat, in her home village of Meerawali in Punjab province to settle a dispute with a rival clan.

Mai said she went to the village jury after her 12-year-old brother Abdul Shakoor was kidnapped and sodomised by members of the rival Mastoi family as a punishment for having an illicit affair with one of their relatives.

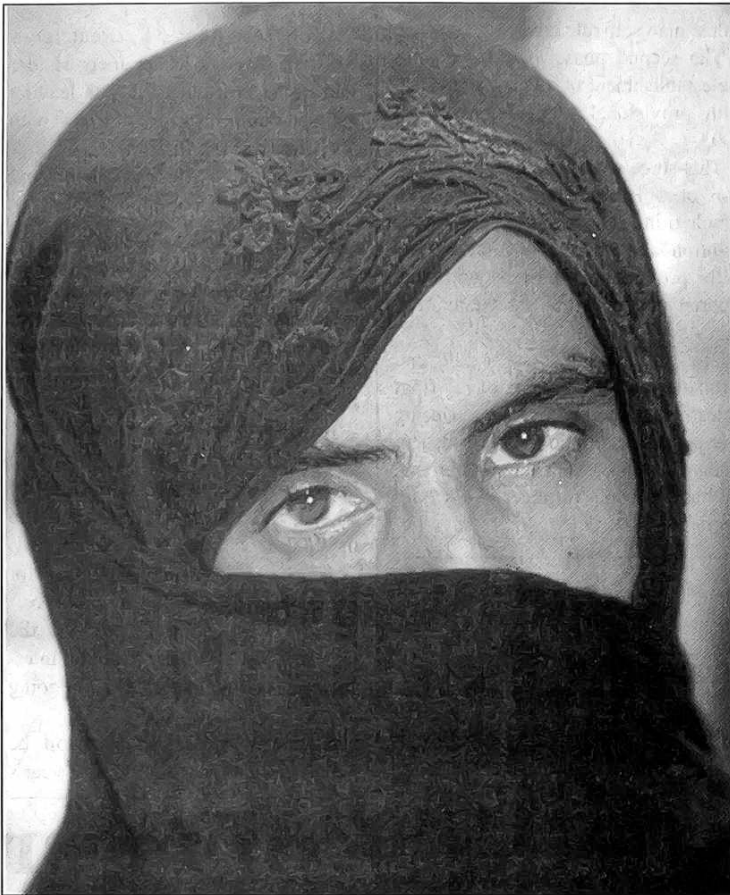
The jury ruled that to save Mastoi honour, Shakoor should marry the woman with whom he was linked, while Mai, who is divorced, was to be given away in marriage to a Mastoi man.

The prosecution said that when she rejected the decision she was gang raped by four Mastoi men and made to walk home semi-naked in front of hundreds of people.

The village jury was headed by a member of the Mastoi family.

On Friday, Mai told Reuters she and her family had been threatened with revenge if the men were convicted.

"We are receiving death threats," she said. "They have told us that if their



A Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentenced six men to death over the gang rape of a woman in Punjab province September 1, 2002, a crime that shocked Pakistan and highlighted abuses against women in rural areas. The victim of the June 22 crime, Mukhtaran Mai, 30, (pictured) was not present when the court in the Punjab town of Dera Ghazi Khan announced the decision amid heavy security. She told Reuters on Friday that members of her family had been threatened with death if the men were convicted. Mukhtaran Mai arrives to attend a court hearing in Dera Ghazi Khan 125 km (78 miles) west of the Punjab provincial city of Multan, in this August 3, 2002 file photograph. REUTERS

four people are sentenced to death, they would kill eight of our men. Not only my family, but those who supported us are being threatened with dire consequences."

Police, supporters gather

Armed police units were stationed around Dera Ghazi Khan where hundreds of members of both families and

their supporters were gathered in anticipation of the verdict. Black-clad elite police commandos ringed the court house.

The defence grew impatient at the delay in announcing the verdict.

"We are waiting — it should have been announced already," said one of the defence team, Yasir Ali Khan Khosa.

Mai remained in Meerawali, where police beefed up security around her home on Saturday. Mai appealed on Friday for the government to find her a safer place to live.

Even though gang rapes and "honour" killings are not uncommon in rural Pakistan, the case caused an outcry when it was publicised in national newspapers to highlight the plight of women in rural areas, where feudal codes of behaviour still rule.

Village councils are often convened to settle local disputes and women often end up as pawns of village elders.

Dozens of gang rapes and "honour" killings of women have been recorded in Punjab this year alone. The latter involves the murder of women by fathers or brothers for "crimes" such as marrying without the consent of the male members of their family.

The lawyer for one of the accused argued the rape charge was invalid because Mai was technically married to the defendant at the time of the incident.

The verdict had been due on Tuesday but was delayed as the judge said he needed time for what would be a lengthy judgement.

Prosecution lawyer Ramzan Khalid Joya said on Monday he was optimistic about convictions, but defence lawyer Malik Mohammad Saleem hoped many of the 14 accused would be freed.

Mai said on Friday she felt that her government-appointed lawyer had not always given the right advice.

Illegal Indonesian workers, babies, dying in camps

JAKARTA/MANILA, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Nearly 50 illegal Indonesian workers and their children have died from illness in refugee camps, relief workers said on Saturday, as popular anger grew in the region over the plight of deported migrants.

In Manila, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said she was sending an official mission to Malaysia amid public outrage over reports that authorities there mistreated deported Filipino workers and their families.

Indonesian relief workers said it was a national disaster for 40,000 people stranded in camps around Nunukan, near the border with Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo

Mahathir calls temporary halt

In the Philippines, Arroyo said Monday's mission was part of an "understanding" reached with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to ease tension between the two countries after reports workers had fallen ill and infants had died in detention camps.

Mahathir said on Saturday Malaysia was temporarily halting deportation of Filipino workers at Arroyo's request.

But he said the decision did not mark a shift in government policy. He also denied workers were being mistreated.

"We have made the decision (to deport). We have postponed it to give them time to make the necessary



Illegal Indonesian workers struggle for food at a refugee camp in the Indonesian town of Nunukan, near the border with Malaysia's Sabah state on August 31, 2002. Up to 63 illegal Indonesian workers and their children have died from illness in refugee camps in the past month after they fled Malaysia, with 13 dying overnight, local relief workers said on Saturday. REUTERS

island, as workers stream in each day to avoid tough new Malaysian labour laws.

"People are sleeping in markets. They have set up tents on roadsides and in open areas. It's in those sorts of places that people are dying," Palupi, a relief worker with a group of non-governmental organisations, said by telephone from the town of Nunukan some 1,700 km (1,060 miles) north-east of Jakarta.

At least 400 workers were entering Nunukan each day, many of them with their families, he said.

Based on data collated by the group of non-governmental organisations and obtained by Reuters, nearly 50 people had died in the past month from a range of illnesses, such as diarrhoea. The list included the names of at least a dozen babies and a similar number of older children.

Popular anger

The returnees in Nunukan are the latest in a wave of illegals expelled by Malaysian authorities after Kuala Lumpur cracked down on an estimated 600,000 undocumented workers.

The campaign to expel illegal workers began four months ago at a time when Indonesian workers were demonstrating against their working conditions and amid public unhappiness about rising crime blamed on illegal migrants.

But in Indonesia and the Philippines, popular anger has grown over the policies of their wealthier neighbour and the Indonesian deaths follow reports of alleged deaths of 13 infants during a crackdown on illegal Filipino workers.

Kasimir Foret, who heads a local government team in Nunukan handling the crisis, put the death toll in the camps at 27 since the middle of July, adding there were enough camps in Nunukan to deal with the workers and 10 medical clinics had been set up.

He estimated 25,000 workers were stuck in the camps and said most wanted to process proper documents and return to Malaysia.

Food shortages were a problem, the relief workers added.

arrangement," the national news agency, Bernama, quoted him as saying.

"Now the period is over and it is time for them to go home and they will go."

Activists torched pictures of Mahathir and burned the Malaysian flag in Manila on Thursday after reports said several infants had died of malnutrition and dehydration while in detention camps in Sabah or on the way home.

A Philippine newspaper reported 13 infants had died, but Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said only three of the children had died during the crackdown.

Arroyo urges calm

Arroyo urged public to be calm over the issue.

"There are also those who are trying to exploit the situation to serve their selfish ends, to erode our relations with Malaysia or to pursue political or terroristic ends inimical to the common interests of both nations," she said in a statement.

The fate of workers returning across other parts of Indonesia's long and porous borders with Malaysia was unclear, although local media has focused most attention on Nunukan.

Malaysia's government gave illegal immigrants, the majority of them Indonesians, until August 1 to leave or face penalties of six months' jail and up to six strokes of the cane.

The issue has enraged politicians in Indonesia and the Philippines and underscored some of the latent tensions within Southeast Asia.

Jakarta's neighbours are also angry over Indonesia's inability to control forest fires on Sumatra island and the province of Kalimantan on Borneo island that have recently shrouded parts of the region in haze.

Indonesia has long supplied Malaysia with workers for its construction and manufacturing sectors.

But after a series of violent incidents mainly involving Indonesians and an economic slowdown, Malaysia intensified its crackdown on illegal workers.

Afghan Northern Alliance investigating war crimes

KABUL, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Afghanistan's Northern Alliance is investigating allegations that senior members ordered the transportation of hundreds of Taliban prisoners in airless containers, causing mass suffocation,

an official said on Saturday.

Faizullah Zaki, spokesman for alliance member and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, added that the suspected mass grave site at Dasht-e-Leili had not been disturbed.

"There are some internal investigations going on by the leadership of the north," Zaki told Reuters by telephone.

He sought to deflect the blame from Dostum himself, after Western media reported the volatile Uzbek general was in overall charge when the transportation of surrendered Taliban fighters from one site to another took place.

"When we speak of the defeat of the Taliban, we are speaking about the Northern Alliance," he said.

"Dostum has always been cooperative with any investigation or fact-finding mission and will continue to be so."

The launch of the internal inquiry could further delay a full independent investigation, called for by the international community and Afghan government. Reports say that up to 1,000 Taliban prisoners suffocated in unventilated truck containers.

The United Nations carried out a preliminary investigation in May into the grave site, located near Dostum's stronghold of Shiberghan.

The three bodies it recovered had probably died of suffocation, it found, consistent with eyewitness reports of hundreds of Taliban, who surrendered to the Northern Alliance in November, dying in airless metal containers.

U.N. fear for witnesses

The United Nations did not take its investigation further for fear of jeopardising the lives of witnesses, and U.N. special envoy to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi indicated to reporters in Kabul this week he did not favour holding a full inquiry now.

He also admitted that the longer an investigation was delayed the less it would reveal, whether the grave was

tampered with or not.

Human rights groups, the European Union and the United States have indicated they would like to see those responsible for war crimes brought to justice, but the issue of accountability is a sensitive one, particularly when it concerns key U.S. military allies.

Dostum, alongside Tajik warlord Ustad Atta, helped U.S. forces overcome the Taliban in the north, and it was the fall of the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif that set in motion the domino-like collapse of the headline Islamic regime across the country.

U.S. special forces supported Dostum during the campaign, meaning they too could be implicated in a full investigation.

There has been no suggestion, however, that they were directly involved in or directly witnessed the loading of the trucks.

Zaki said a statement from the "Council of the North", signed by Dostum, Atta and members of the Pashtun and Hazara ethnic groups, had repeated earlier denials of deliberate killings.

The council is the Northern Alliance's representative body in the north of the country. "Around 200 Taliban died, some from suffocation," he said.

"But most of them died due to other reasons — injuries sustained in fighting, different diseases, suicide and general weakness after weeks of fighting and being surrounded."

"There was no intentional killing. Afghan President Hamid Karzai sent a team to the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif to find out more about the case, but it has yet to report its findings.

Vacancy

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EU foreign ministers back Mideast "road-map"

ELSLINORE, Denmark, Aug 31 (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers on Saturday endorsed a "road-map" drawn up by EU president Denmark for establishing peace in the Middle East.

Meeting in the Danish seaside town of Elsinore, the 15 ministers backed a three-stage plan which envisages the creation of an independent Palestinian state in June 2005, with the full consent of Israel and moderate Arab states.

"The aim is the creation of a Palestinian state on the basis of the borders of 1967," said French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, referring to the borders as they stood before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig

Moeller, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, said he would visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories next week to promote the road-map.

He would then travel to New York on September 16 to present the plan to other members of the so-called Quartet — which also groups the United States, the United Nations and Russia — which is coordinating efforts to end the Middle East conflict.

"We have to remember that through the Quartet we will be able to impose more than any individual country can (on the region)," Moeller said.

Diplomats said the strong EU backing for the road-map reflected concern that the Quartet could "fall into micro-

management" of issues such as Palestinian institutional reform and technical aid.

"Political vision"

"The ministers feel there is a need to contribute to the political vision for a Palestinian state," one EU diplomat.

The plan incorporates elements of ideas already put forward by the United States, Germany, France and Arab states.

The first phase of the road map would cover the period up to Palestinian elections in early 2003.

It would bring an Israeli-Palestinian security agreement, with a restructured Palestinian security service and a gradual Israeli withdrawal from reoccupied

Palestinian self-rule areas.

The second phase would last until the establishment of a Palestinian state with provisional borders by August 2003.

This stage would require the formation of a Palestinian Authority with new legitimacy, drafting of a new constitution and negotiations on a state with provisional borders with the Quartet and the three moderate Arab states as facilitators.

The final, longer phase would end with the establishment of a final Palestinian state in June 2005. During this period negotiations on permanent status issues — Jerusalem, borders, settlements and refugees — would begin.

Austria's Haider vows to leave national politics

VIENNA, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Austrian far-right leader Joerg Haider said on Saturday that he was leaving national politics because of a row with his party over tax cuts.

He said he would not run in next year's general election.

Earlier this year Haider gave up his only national function — a seat on the powerful coalition committee that sets policy for the two-party government — after he was criticised for a private visit to Iraq where he met with Saddam Hussein.

However, he has remained the dominant personality in the far-right Freedom Party, which he chaired for 15 years until 2000 when he led it into the current coalition government.

"I'm leaving national politics for good and will focus on my province," Haider, who is governor of the province of Carinthia, said in an interview on Austrian radio. "I'm not going to run in the elections."

Earlier this year he had said he would run for chancellor in next year's

general election.

Haider said that he was "deeply disappointed" with the Freedom Party, which is in coalition with Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel's conservative People's Party, for its decision to abandon plans to push through comprehensive tax cuts in 2003.

"I'm disappointed that those who campaigned with me in the (1999) elections haven't fulfilled their election promises," said Haider. "But I don't want to bother anyone anymore."

Vice-Chancellor and Freedom Party Chairwoman Susanne Riess-Passer and Finance Minister Karl-Heinz Grasser have rejected Haider's demand to cut taxes next year due to the recent floods, which caused an estimated six billion euros of damage.

Haider, who has been criticised at home and abroad for his strong anti-immigration stance, once praised Hitler's employment policies, though he later apologised for the remark.

Democrats call for bipartisan economic summit

WASHINGTON, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Blaming Republican policies for the nation's economic problems, congressional Democrats on Saturday called for a bipartisan economic summit, along with legislation to reform pension plans and tough investigations of corporate wrongdoing that has hammered stock values.

Giving the Democrats' weekly radio address for the Labor Day weekend, Rep. Martin Frost of Texas said the nation's "economic prosperity has disappeared on the Republicans' watch."

Frost cited a return of federal budget deficits, stock market losses, rising prescription drug costs, and "massive criminality at Enron, WorldCom and

others" that has pummeled retirement plans. "Nearly a year ago, Americans pulled together in the aftermath of September 11th. Now, we must pull together to get our economy back on the right track," said Frost, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

He called for a return to "the Democratic policies of fiscal discipline, honest budgeting and smart investing" that he said "laid the foundation for the last decade of booming economic growth, historic budget surpluses and millions and millions of new jobs."

Frost said that is why Democrats have been calling for a "real, bipartisan budget summit — where we can work

out a new plan to get America's economy growing again."

He also urged Congress to pass "strong legislation this year to reform 401(k)s and other pension plans so that hard-working Americans — union and nonunion alike — have confidence that their retirement savings will be there when they need them."

Amid ongoing federal investigations of several corporations for faulty accounting and other offenses, Frost said, "We should ensure that the crimes of every corporate wrongdoer are exposed. Those executives, who have harmed their employees and investors, are criminals, and they should go to jail."

Belgian government wins vote on Nepal arms sale

BRUSSELS, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Belgium's government won a vote of confidence on Saturday after a minister's resignation over a controversial arms sale to Nepal threatened to tear apart the ruling coalition.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and his government of Liberals, Socialists and Greens won the vote in parliament with 87 in favour and 38 against, according to a spokeswoman. There were no abstentions.

The government, which holds a majority of the 150 seats in the lower house, had been expected to win the vote after it appeased dissenting Greens by postponing the arms shipment until after Nepal's parliamentary elections on November 13.

It also agreed to look at revising the law on arms exports.

Verhofstadt resisted calls to cancel the sale of 5,500 machine guns to Nepal after Health Ministry Magda Aelvoet of the Green Party resigned in protest last Monday.

Aelvoet said the government had broken the law by authorising the sale to a country deemed to be fighting a civil war, prompting a special debate in parliament.

The government approved the sale last month.

The arms are being made by Belgium's FN Herstal, which is behind the famous Browning and Winchester firearms.

More than 2,800 people have been killed since Nepal's government imposed a state of emergency nine months ago to try to eradicate Maoist rebels fighting to overthrow the constitutional monarchy.

Inspired by former Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong, the rebels have waged a bloody rebellion since 1996 to set up a one-party communist republic in the Himalayan kingdom, one of the world's poorest countries.

Hungary names figures with covert communist pasts

BUDAPEST, Aug 31 (Reuters) - A parliamentary committee named eight politicians on Saturday who served in recent governments in Hungary and had ties with the communist secret services.

They include current Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy, whose admission in June that he worked for counter-intelligence about 20 years ago prompted the investigation.

Janos Martonyi, foreign minister in Viktor Orban's rightist coalition that was narrowly defeated in April elections, was also named. But Martonyi, who led Hungary's EU talks for the past four years, has said he rejected secret service attempts to recruit him in 1979.

Imre Mecs, the panel's chairman, said those named would be invited to face the committee and see their files before a final report was sent to parliament.

Most of Hungary's neighbours, all seeking to join the European Union, have already gone through the cathartic process of unveiling those in public office who worked for communist secret services, which had close links to the KGB in Moscow.

Following Medgyessy's admission, under pressure from the defeated right, Hungary set up two committees — one to investigate the Socialist prime minister's record and one to look into the past of about 200 politicians who have held office since the collapse of communism in 1989.

Medgyessy has previously said his task was to keep Hungary's overtures to join the International Monetary Fund secret from Moscow. He denied

having KGB ties or informing on colleagues.

Most of those named are from the centre-right, so the final list is likely to be embarrassing for Hungary's Fidesz alliance, formed from the young radical liberals who were the dominant force in ousting the communists more than a decade ago.

Last week, Tamas Deutsch, a deputy Fidesz leader, said the names published by the media were part of "a political show aimed at creating as much chaos as possible."

Others listed were Imre Boros, minister in Orban's cabinet in charge of managing pre-accession funds from the EU, and Erno Raffay, Laszlo Sarossy and Laszlo Bogar, all former centre-right state secretaries.

The late Ferenc Rabar, finance minister in the first post-communist government led by conservative Jozsef Antall, and Szabolcs Fazakas, industry minister in the leftist government of Gyula Horn in 1994-98, completed the list.

Two others, whose names had been published by newspapers, were cleared by the committee, Mecs said.

Also off the list was Central Bank Governor Zsigmond Jarai, a former right-wing finance minister, who has admitted he was pressured to work for the communist Interior Ministry.

Boros has admitted to having served the secret services while he was at the Central Bank but has said he was blackmailed into cooperating.

Five immigrants hiding in truck die in Italy

ROME, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Five illegal immigrants were found dead in the back of a truck on a motorway close to the southern Italian city of Avellino, police said on Saturday.

"They were all foreign, and are all unidentified," a police spokesman told Reuters adding that another four immigrants who survived the trip in the truck had been taken to hospital.

Italian media said the five who died, believed to be Kurdish men about 30 years old, were found by one of the truck drivers after he

heard cries from the back of the vehicle.

The truck, a removals firm vehicle, had started its trip in Sofia in Bulgaria and was then ferried from Greece to the southern Italian port of Bari, about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of Avellino.

The police spokesman said both of the truck's drivers were being held by police. It is so far unclear at what point the stowaways climbed inside.

Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants slip into Italy every year along

the country's long coastline, often risking their lives in the process.

Two immigrants suffocated in a truck in June.

In mid-February, about 80 illegal immigrants trying to reach Italy in the back of a refrigerated truck were caught when the cold and lack of air forced them to give up their hiding place.

In June 2000, 58 Chinese immigrants were found suffocated in the back of a truck at the southern English port of Dover.



VACANCY

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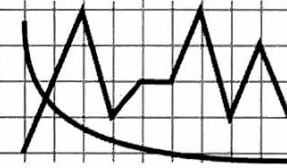
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YT Business



Yemen's markets, repulsive of the poor

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A report compiled by Human Development organization on Yemen (2000-2001) has disclosed that Yemeni markets under applications of the free market since 1995, have failed in achieving justice among people because of their bias towards those entertaining higher purchasing power at the expense of the poor and those of limited incomes.

The report, a copy of which the Yemen Times received, considered Yemeni markets as repulsive of those of limited incomes, who already suffer from unemployment. Therefore, the report indicates things related to distribution of results of growth and development and receiving social services, should not be confined to markets alone but must be undertaken by the government and civil society.

The report indicated that deficiency in the markets is attributed to that the market does not take into consideration rights of the coming generations and neglect ecological considerations and exhausting resources.

As for the private sector, pays much interest to costs the economic activity bears, disregarding expenses of damage and burdens caused by pollution. On the other hand the private sector tends and stresses on monopoly and getting the biggest amount of profits, using in some case illegal measures pertaining to ways of commercial forfeiting.

Government vision of market

The report reviews the government's vision of the market, surmising it up by:

- markets are built on economic efficiency criteria,
- increase prices fluctuations,
- lead to negative impact at the stage of economic change,
- unable to exploit resources and exposed to crises, and
- require integrated legislative and organizational system.

The human development report that the ministry of planning and development has supervised its preparation mentions that consumer rights in Yemen are breached and expose to danger his safety and health because the market contains fake commodities and goods and uses unlicensed trade marks. The report also warns against dangers of deceiving the consumer by exagger-

ation in giving publicity on goods and services in a way exceeding their specifications or through an unreal discounts in prices of commodities piled up in storehouses.

The policy of liberalization of trade has led to some negative results especially in relation to unparalleled competition between the local product and the imported in a market lacking an effective system of specifications and standardization.

Intensive competition between exports and imports has revealed a drop in the Gross Domestic Product from around 64% in 1995 to 92% in 2000 as proportion of manufactured exports have not exceeded 1%, during the same period.

This state of imbalance resulted to a tilt by the market towards imported commodities lacking required specifications and standardization and conditions of health safety.

The report has also affirmed that the Yemeni market needs a re-habilitation to be capable of competition and serving people. It has considered the trade record as an essential means for protecting the product from cheating. With the expectation of a growth in civil society contribution to offering educational, health and cultural services there would be an enhancement of equal partnership in the markets to protect individuals and the poor against the chaos prevalent in the local market.

However, the report has praised the private sector role in supporting charity acts for mitigating the burdens of markets on people of limited income and asserted the importance of continuation in support offered to charitable societies and civil society organizations on-part of businessmen.

The report has, on the other hand, regarded weakness of institutional structure and administrative organization of the state as precluding the creation of convenient circumstances to assist the private sector in utilizing available resources and performing its social and development role as well as participation in achieving human development.

The report concludes by emphasizing the importance of increasing participation of the private sector in supporting and funding activity of civil society organizations and founding a private sector-state joint mechanism aimed at removing difficulties facing its activity and re-organization of the local market to rid it of the chaos prevailing in it.

Development of human resources in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

For the period of 2002 to 2005, Yemen has planned to depend on external funding for the process of developing human resources. It is a task requiring availability of an amount of funding ranging between US\$ 400-500 million.

This plan is intended to be in context of Yemen's scheme for fighting poverty and achieving balanced economic and social growth. Yemen is planning to obtain financial resources for financing the scheme through getting easy loans from Arab and foreign funds. Official sources expect Yemen would obtain around US\$ 80 million in form of gifts from the donor countries.

Yemeni human resources suffer from negative impact resulting from implementation of the economic

reform the government has been adopting since 1995. Such impact has been reflected on declining health conditions and free of charge medication services as well as the rise in prices rates.

The plan on combating poverty during the coming five years is expected to recruit about 35 thousand employees in government sectors and providing around 9000 job opportunities. The government also hopes that there would be a recession in unemployment in general at a rate from 37% to 22% by the end of 2005, and for the partial unemployment from 25,51% to 12,5%.

The government is facing many challenges pertaining to developing human elements because of the drop in proportion of the educated and increase in proportion of illiteracy that reaches 75% in rural areas.

Social circles think that developing

human resources in Yemen is one of the most serious challenges facing the second five-year plan. It is so because of its connection with the complicated environment of the society overpowered by seeking arbitration from customs and traditions that impede the woman right to work and education.

The other matter is that concentration of the population in the countryside require big public services projects covering road building, electricity and water, and schools, in addition to small enterprises securing steady income for poor families.

The government is therefore seeking in the coming five years to mitigate the negative impact of the economic reform program and working for developing human resources, as it is the most significant factor in the process of comprehensive development.

Protection & development of animal wealth

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Field studies have proved that 70-85% of Yemen's rural population and some portion of people living in cities own or work in the field of animal wealth. It has also been proved that the poorest Yemeni families that do not own pieces of land do care for raising animals to benefit from that in encountering the state of high living conditions.

The State Administration for Animal Wealth at the Ministry of Agriculture has drawn up a special policy aimed at increasing animal production. It has therefore put plans for combating diseases and protecting the consumer which would lead to preserve the public health against diseases that are communicable to humans through animals and their products.

The ministry of agriculture in this regard has taken a number of arrangements for the protection of public health. Among such measures are the building of a net for epidemic detection to curb spread of diseases, taking speedy measures for treating them and conducting field surveys to assess the situation concerning smallpox, rift valley disease, and foot-and-mouth disease and to set necessary plans for combating them.

The ministry of agriculture also pays attention to quarantine health monitoring through checking up imported livestock or their products by carrying out inspection and veterinary check-up. This is done at five quaran-



Special measures have been taken to increase animal population

tine inlets mainly Mokha, Hudeida, Aden, Mukalla and Hardh.

Immunization, as a precautionary measure, is considered the most important means for fighting of most animal diseases, particularly viral epidemics which cause enormous economic losses as they cause the death of huge numbers of animals, estimated at 95% in the case of smallpox.

Veterinary Central Laboratory in Sana'a carries out acts of diagnosing of animal diseases to serve in the effort of treating and preserving animal wealth and animal products. The International Atomic Energy Agency has prepared a study for developing the Veterinary Laboratory and stressed that for the purpose of providing hygienic food for consumers a high-safety laboratory and a general laboratory must be built containing biological tests, a special place for animals

and a morgue and a crematory for getting rid of the laboratory remains.

Donor countries and organizations have pledged to offer help to Yemen for the development of the animal wealth. The Netherlands would offer US\$ 3 million over a period of four years starting from 2003 to contribute to developing infrastructure of the State Administration of Animal Wealth and to enhance health quarantine network in addition to guidance and qualification of local cadres and installing selected areas for animal wealth raising.

There is at present a preparation for a French project in the field of rural growth for development of animal wealth. The project includes the erection of three facilities in the areas of Tuhama, the southern heights and desert areas, improving animal production there, preparing Seiyoun's regional center and refurbishing the laboratories of Taiz and Tuhama.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is working on implementation of a technical cooperation project for combating smallpox disease and preparing Yemen for joining the International Bureau on Epidemics and also to get necessary assistance from it.

The volume of animal wealth in Yemen has reached an amount of 10,5 million of livestock in 2000, 5 million sheep, 4,3 million goats, 1,3 million cows and 50 thousand camels.

Total amount of animal products are amounted to 52 tons of meats, 67 thousand tons of chicken meat, 180 thousand tons of dairies, 7,7 thousand tons of rawhide, around 604 million broil eggs, 200 tons of wool and about 178 tons of honey.

Animal raising is mostly carried out in the Yemeni rural areas and that consequently lessen for the them the burdens of economic reforms.

The Road Ahead

The need for concept development

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

A concept is the abstract ideas behind any action you take. In business terms a concept is an opportunity to do business. The sufficiency of these concepts determines the viability of turning them into reality. For example Traveling from point A to B is a concept, but renting a car is an idea.

In today's dynamic business environment, the increasing stress on companies forces them to focus on more profits and growth without giving enough attention to the development of the core concept of the business itself. There should be equal focus on concept development as of that on profit making.

And so, any disfavoring changes in the business environment would affect those businesses that did not give enough attention to concept development negatively. For example after the Second World War, Germany was one of the fast developing countries and built a good reputation for quality, and that was the base line of their manufacturing concept, and they did give it enough attention.

Designing a strategy means selecting a concept, developing it and emerging it with supportive concepts to increase its value; then the corporate strategy is formulated and executed. Concept development helps in formulating a stronger and more flexible corporate strategy in case of any disfavoring future changes in the business environment.

The Japanese, for example, provide innovation in addition to quality. Their goal is to produce the world's best-value-for-money vehicles. The concept here is: "Producing innovative vehicles with good quality and durability for a reasonable price".

There are five main steps in concept development:

1. Screening traditional and historical, dying & emerging, competitors and non-competitors concepts, review and classify them into promising, marginal and fruitless concepts.
2. Generating concepts. this means reflecting on classified concepts to generate a new one in the areas of need.
3. Developing concepts to the best benefit of inventor and the best use in or with the strategy.
4. Synergizing concepts to get more value out of them.
5. Testing these competing concepts with an appropriate group of testers, in order to show which concept delivers the best benefits.

Good ideas may come from talented managers, technical research and development departments or external consultants, but the difference is that a new idea needs a marketable use, whereas a concept needs technical development. This means that the new idea can be a concept whereas a concept is an existing idea that is being developed. This is why developed concepts are more successful.

Endnote: Concept development continuously proves its importance to build a solid yet flexible corporate strategy, it has to be taken seriously.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial as of August 31

USD	176.54	176.72
GBP	271.47	271.75
EUR	173.55	173.72
SAR	47.070	47.12
KWD	585.070	585.67
AED	48.060	48.11
EGP	38.88	37.92
BHD	468.240	468.72
QAR	48.49	48.54
JOD	250.410	250.67
OMR	458.550	459.010
CHF	118.10	118.22
SEK	18.970	18.99
JPY	1.496799	1.498325

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

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Words of Wisdom



One of the most important tools in achieving accountability is to have a transparent system. If a system is open to the public eye, then the possibilities of wrong-doing, inefficiency, and other shortcomings will decrease. If a system fights hard to keep information from the media and the public, then it must have something to hide. Often, such excuses as "to protect the national interest," "state secret," and "preliminary stage of decision-making" are concepts used to hide the shortcomings. Transparency also helps cut down waste in society. This is crucial, especially for poor nations like Yemen. Increasing the level of transparency of any system will definitely make it morally superior, legally upright, and economically sound.

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

On forthcoming parliamentary elections

By ABDUL RAHEEM MUHSIN

The forthcoming parliamentary elections for 2003 would be the third one of its kind in the modern history of Yemen. It was supposed that a qualitative leap would occur after such an accumulation of experience, but exaggeration of the Elections Committee in its preoccupation in the political conflict, i.e., sharing seats of the Supreme Committee of Elections and referendum as well as sharing in committees of registration, have led to an unapplauded beginning of the coming electoral process.

In the current process, the political aspect has predominated over the technical one. This development has provided for opening loopholes for negativism, especially at the stage of registration. This stage is very important and pertains to right of the eligible voter and how he can exercise this right, at a time indications have surfaced that the new electoral register could be exposed

to cheating, as that has occurred before.

It is noted that beforehand accusations are charged against the ruling party, a behaviour resulting from the previous experiment. This would mean that we are working amidst an atmosphere of dubiety and advance judgments. It is a situation quite familiar in a very poor country and the level of corruption has reached high degrees and therefore it is difficult to talk about democracy.

I can presume that elections in Yemen is a convenient decoration for the ruling regime but it would represent a burden working in favour of the opposition and future. It is a double-edged weapon.

The voting people, regardless of their illiteracy, and the opposition, despite its low performance, should work seriously for urging electors monitor registration process and educate them that this right should not be given up. On the other hand they have to comprehend their duty towards the forthcoming elections. Creditable elec-

tion register is an indicator of less electoral frauds.

The now prominent balance of electoral powers is represented by the People's General Congress party, supported by government institutions and their financial potentials, and the opposition grouping supported by certain economic and social situations. The PGC realizes that its popularity is dependent on coercion and money and also understands that the opposition is short of having intensive access to the voter and there is a very short time to go. But the opposition can offer something to the election process.

The question now is how the condition of the elections register would be and what sort of problems resulting from social monitoring and would the election process go without encountering a crisis? Yemen suffers from many difficulties, among which is the exploitation by the ruling regime of the present international circumstances as an excuse for taking negative resolutions that may affect the elections.

Whose fault is it?

By ARIF AHMED AL AHDAL

There are certain things that our government does for the benefit of the public.

But there are others which hurt the well-educated deep inside and also bring about their frustration. To be exact, the government gives job opportunities to the so called Sheikhs /MPs with a will that these will go to those who deserve. Instead of doing so, these Sheikhs have the audacity to give these opportunities to a par-

ticular group of people who are hollow of every thing good, just because these people can afford to pay the expenses. What a pity!

It is commonly known that the good and the bad characteristics remain idle in the case of these Sheikhs. Priority is clearly given to the latter. This does not only annoy those with good conscience, but it also kills the academic interest and determination of the poor hardworking students.

The problem of selling jobs like goods has reached serious dimensions.

This is very much wrong; and one may inquire "Whose fault is it?" but unfortunately, no one asked. The answer to this question can be known, or is yet to be known if you just give a serious thought to the matter, will you?

In Fact, the betterment and bright future of our country depends, to a large extent, on the hard working and unshakable will of students and teachers of our society. With this view I hope that with almighty smiling upon us, we will be in a position to change this bitter reality. Pray with me, Shall we?

JMP, meant to develop and continue

HASSAN AZZADI

Part of Yemen Times efforts for sounding out opinions of Yemeni political and partisan personages from various political affiliations, we sought the opinion of Secretary-General of the Union of People's Forces Party Mohammed al-Ruba'ie, member of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), who has confirmed that the JMP has emerged according to necessities of the current stage in the course of the national action. It has come to continue and grow through practical experiments.

On whether there are variations in attitudes among the opposition parties constituting the grouping, al-Ruba'ie said the JMP was not a response to

encounter a certain stage or period but to face and deal with all coming periods. It was not against certain party or authority but rather responding to requisites of the present stage for consolidating foundations of the genuine political pluralism and to deal with practices violating content of the democratic action.

Responding to speculations some leaders of the PGC predicting the opposition parties alliance as temporary not exceeding the period of registration related to the parliamentary elections, al-Ruba'ie made it clear the PGC attitude is reckless and proceeds from a narrow-minded stand. He added that it would be better for the PGC to keep its composition and balance for facing such similar stands. Future conditions and stances could have many aspects

and instances that would not comfort it continues to adopt such a superficial views.

He added that "All parties of the JMP are unanimous that the period of voters registration is a stage for confirming foundations of the democratic action. Since this is the task all parties of the joint meeting have in mind it is no doubt that their alliance is not hostage to the stage of voters registration operation but rather to continue for much longer periods. As for the Islah party it is not different from other opposition political parties grouped within the Opposition Coordination Higher Council .

As opposition parties it is the task of all to maintain our course that may lead us to a real practice of democracy despite all the ways meant for emptying it from its right and proper contents."

Letters to the Editor

Planned Corruption

The following facts, or whatever we may call them, inconspicuous planned corruption, are inevitably related to a factual coordination between those of senior posts and those subordinate at at lower positions.

One day I went to pay the water and electric bills. I found them at same office, but separated. The water bill was YR 1266 while the electric bill was YR2546.

When I gave them the money, the two did not return to me the small change from 1-4 of the 1270 and the 2550 riyals. Everyone of them took 4 riyals more from me. This is a usual treatment they said and nobody asks for small changes from 1-4 riyals to be returned. After I investigated about this matter I knew that this treatment is in use in every government office and department which deals with salary paying and daily dealings with citizens businesses. Even the pension office treats like that when giving salaries to pensioners.

So to me this matter should not be usual and simple. It is deeply and deliberately planned corruption. If a water or an electric office collected from riyals for each bill. How much would it collect from five thousand bills, and so on? Where does that extra money go to and for whom? If not for the partners of this corruption from top to toe, to whom is it then?

Abdulmajid Ahmed bin Ali Jabir
Mukalla, Fua Village

Israel tortures Americans

You may be surprised to know that Israel has been involved in cruel human rights violations in torturing Americans as well as its daily habit of torturing Arabs. This fact has been revealed in an astonishing way by the Foreign Service Journal, which mentioned this in a lengthy item published some time ago.

It is truly difficult to understand how the super power of the world, the US, is helpless in questioning Israel of those torture cases. Sometimes Americans themselves wonder how Israel got its might and influence over the USA in such an open manner.

According to the journal, "But it may come as an unpleasant surprise for the American public to learn that for over 30 years, Israel has also repeatedly detained, tortured and incar-

Letters to the Editor

cerated Americans of Arab origin, without suffering any sanctions or even a public reprimand from Washington... a US State Department spokesman confirmed that Israel was holding at least 18 American citizens on "security" charges, and had detained at least 22 more since "the current violence began last fall." He also noted that "we have no way of knowing for certain the numbers of American citizens who may have been detained for short periods and released."

So you can see that the USA is not only being controlled by Israel, but it is even ignoring facts and figures about its own citizens tortured by Israel. This strange, yet powerful formula between the two countries could only lead to one conclusion: the US is Israel and Israel is the USA.

Nabeel Yahya

COMMON SENSE



Hassan Al-Haifi

Superpower prudence

Understandably, the United States is quite upset about the senseless attacks of September 11, 2001 and surely the world should do all it can to bring justice to the perpetrators. However, American foreign policy, especially towards this area of the world, should not be solely determined by the heinous attack on so many civilians for which the overwhelming majority of the citizens of the Middle East region and the Moslem World are completely innocent. On the other hand, September 11, 2001 should never be any justification for setting the course of American foreign policy based on the questionable whims of Zionist ideologues of the likes of Ariel Sharon. It would be a serious mistake to think that the Zionist state represents "civilized western mores and behavior" in the region and anything else associated with the region otherwise is to be construed as part of the evil that brought on September 11, 2001.

After fifty years of uncivilized behavior as a state and thirty years of underground terrorism by Zionist aliens in Palestine before that, supported by a well organized international conspiracy, surely Israel could never be in anyway the kind of ideals that Americans should commit themselves to backing.

In fact, if American foreign policy makers remain continuously oblivious to the threat of Zionism to the future security and welfare of the United States, then surely September 11, 2001 has not taught the real lessons to be learned from the criminal (by Moslem, as well as all standards) attacks on the United States a year ago.

For one thing, the only direct beneficiary of the attacks on New York and Washington so far has been Ariel Sharon and his band of merciless Zionist demagogues, for they have been given a free hand to carry out their criminal designs in Palestine unrelentlessly and systematically, without regards to any human mores. Surely, the sophistication of the attacks on New York (notwithstanding the great publicity efforts to associate Ben Laden and his band of myriad renegades alone with the highly precisioned and synchronized attacks), lends strong support to the existence of more sophisticated institutional support behind the attacks. Therefore, it is somewhat ludicrous to simply end the investigation with the conclusion that once Ben Laden and his so called "Al-Qaeda" network are broken up, then the perpetrators of the attacks have been dealt with punitively and things can go on as usual. For sure, there is a lot more involved behind the attacks, then "Moslem fanatics" on the loose not knowing what to do with their money, except to destroy human lives in the most bizarre of methods.

In fact, American foreign policy based on such simplistic conclusions would be construed as naïve. On the other hand, judging from the recent directions of American strategic moves for the region, it would seem that American foreign policy has become gullible to Zionist allusions that Islam and the Arab World are the origins of all the headaches that the "West" will be subjected to for the next phase of the human experience. There is no question that Islam and the Arabs can never accept a wrong in the form of an Israeli state, forcefully implanted in their midst, that seeks to engulf everything and anything that stands in its way of achieving the Zionist destiny of Eretz Israel, from the "Nile to the Euphrates". The history of the formation of that state and the continuous systematic disregard for the rights of the remaining Palestinians, we are seeing on a daily basis butchered by Israeli tanks and Apache Helicopters, for simply saying, "Hay, we are humans too, and we have done nothing to continuously become victims of the worst atrocities, since the Nazism of Hitler and the Ethnic cleansing of Slobodan Melsovitch (to which the Zionist state provided 'technical assistance'). There is no reason not to presume a Zionist string tied to the attacks of September 11, 2001, because Zionist dogma does justify using any method to achieve a desired end. Thus, we are urging American foreign policy makers to look seriously at the very strong possibility that the perpetrators of September 11, 2001 may be closer to home than they ever thought, before going on wild adventures in Afghanistan, Iraq or Iran, based on being spoon fed wild evidence, such as a ridiculously orchestrated weapons deal between "Israel and Iran". We do not underestimate the capabilities of the international Zionist establishment and neither should the United States, if they really know what is good for the interests and security of the United States and the world at large.

OUR OPINION

Make the people believe in your achievements

We have recently been -as in every election campaign- hearing loud voices from the government and ruling party pointing to the 'great' achievements accomplished during the last four or so years.

You hear reports of those so called achievements on radio and TV. They are repeatedly mentioned over and over again. Those achievements range from cutting ribbons to laying foundation stones, and from signing agreements to launching projects. Government media sometimes just don't stop praising and hailing the authorities for those 'achievements.'

On the other hand, on many occasions, such an 'achievement reporting' campaign may well backfire at the authorities because of a number of reasons.

First of all, Yemenis are aware that those projects are not something to praise the government for, simply because achieving them resembles its duties and responsibilities. Praise should only be for accomplishments that are beyond the scope of the government's duties. This is something normal and the Yemeni government is neither the first nor the last to implement such projects.

Secondly, some people believe that the louder those praising voices are, the less successful the government appears to be because a government that feels it needs to shout and make a big fuss out of something it did, probably wants to divert attention from its failure in doing other things.

Thirdly, the people have been hearing those statements for so long but found very little on the ground. Their conditions continued to deteriorate, the quality of life kept on worsening and no substantial improvement has been felt by those poor segments of the society. On contrary, some feel that the government is making a fool of itself among when it reveals something that the majority of the people don't think is affecting their lives positively. People cannot be impressed by some achievements that are only felt by the officials, while the public continues to starve.

Fourthly, the globalization effects taking place all over the world including Yemen are bringing into focus the huge gap between Yemen and the rest of the world in terms of growth and achievements. People are now aware that what is said on the official TV channel doesn't compare to the greater achievements in other countries of the world.

Fifthly, the same globalization effects show that the governments of developed countries never attempt to expose their achievements because they are directly lived by the people. It is their citizens who decide whether the government or authorities have achieved something that made life easier for them or not.

Hence, we come to the conclusion that the racket that those pro-government voices are making does not necessarily mean that the public are happy about them. People want to see their lives improved and their conditions enhanced. They want to guarantee proper education for their children, employment for their youth, and most important of all, food for their tummies. They are fed up with so many statements, lectures, and huge campaigns that at the end of the day end up as mere propaganda.

If the governing body wants to be frank with its people and with itself, it needs to realize that it is the people who should mention those claimed achievements. They are the ones who should be served, and ultimately they are the ones who could tell true accomplishments from nonsense.

It is believed that more than 90% of the people in Yemen are in having a lot of problems in surviving amidst such harsh conditions. If this large portion of the public sees no improvement in its life, it has the right to disregard all what is said about achievements. And if it does so, it cannot be wrong.

Yes indeed, 90% of the population cannot be wrong!

The Editor

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Arab disunity and factionalism

BY EDWARD SAID

Underlying most of the findings in the much cited 2002 UNDP Arab Human Development Report is the extraordinary lack of coordination between Arab countries. There is considerable irony in the fact that the Arabs are discussed and referred to both in this report and elsewhere as a group even though they seem rarely to function as one, except negatively. Thus the report correctly says that there is no Arab democracy, Arab women are uniformly an oppressed majority, and in science and technology every Arab state is behind the rest of the world. Certainly there is little strategic cooperation between them and virtually none in the economic sphere. As for more specific issues like policy towards Israel, the US and the Palestinians, and despite a common front of embarrassed hand-wringing and disgraceful powerlessness, one senses a frightened determination first of all not to offend the US, not to engage in war or in a real peace with Israel, not ever to think of a common Arab front even on matters that affect an over-all Arab future or security. Yet when it comes to the perpetuation of each regime, the Arab ruling classes are united in purpose and survival skills.

Oil and money, but helpless

This shambles of inertia and impotence is, I am convinced, an affront to every Arab. This is why so many Egyptians, Syrians, Jordanians, Moroccans and others have taken to the streets in support of the Palestinian people undergoing the nightmare of Israeli occupation, with the Arab leadership looking on and basically doing nothing. Street demonstrations are demonstrations not only of support for Palestine, but also protests at the immobilising effects of Arab disunity. An even more eloquent sign of the common disenchantment is the frequent, wrenchingly sad television scene of a Palestinian woman surveying the ruins of her house demolished by Israeli bulldozers, wailing to the world at large "ya Arab, ya Arab" ("oh you Arabs, you Arabs"). There is no more eloquent testimony to the betrayal of the Arab people by their (mostly unelected) leaders than that indictment, which is to say: "why don't you Arabs ever do anything to help us?" Despite money and oil aplenty, there is only the stony silence of an unmoved spectator.

Even on an individual level, alas, dis-

unity and factionalism have crippled one national effort after the other. Take the saddest of all instances, the case of the Palestinian people. I recall wondering during the Amman and Beirut days why it was necessary for somewhere between eight to 12 Palestinian factions to exist, each fighting over uselessly academic issues of ideology and organisation while Israel and the local militias bled us dry. Looking back over the Lebanese days that came to a terrible end in Sabra and Shatilla, whose purpose did it serve to have the Popular Front, Fatah, and the Democratic Front—to mention only three factions—fighting among each other, to have leaders within Fatah proclaiming needlessly provocative slogans like "the road to Tel Aviv goes through Jounieh" even as Israel allied itself with the right-wing Lebanese militias to destroy the Palestinian presence for Israel's purposes? And what cause has been served by Yasser Arafat's tactics of creating factions, subgroups and security forces to war against each other during the Oslo process and leave his people unprotected and unprepared for the Israeli destruction of the infrastructure and re-occupation of Area A?

Factionalism, disunity, the absence of a common purpose

It's always the same thing, factionalism, disunity, the absence of a common purpose for which in the end ordinary people pay the price in suffering, blood and endless destruction. Even on the level of social structure, it is almost a commonplace that Arabs as a group fight among themselves more than they do for a common purpose. We are individualists, it is said by way of justification, ignoring the fact that such disunity and internal disorganisation in the end damages our very existence as a people. Nothing can be more disheartening than the disputes that corrode Arab expatriate organisations, especially in places like the US and Europe, where relatively small Arab communities are surrounded by hostile environments and militant opponents who will stop at nothing to discredit the Arab struggle. Still, instead of trying to unite and work together, these communities get torn apart by totally unnecessary ideological and factional struggles that have no immediate relevance, no necessity at all so far as the surrounding field is concerned.

A few days ago, I was startled by a discussion programme on Al-Jazeera television in which the two participants and a needlessly provocative moderator

vehemently discussed Arab-American activism during the present crisis. One man, a certain Mr Dalbah, identified vaguely as a "political analyst" in Washington (without apparent affiliation or institutional connection) spent all of his time discrediting the one serious national Arab-American group, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which he accused of ineffectiveness and its leaders of egotism, opportunism and personal corruption. The other gentleman, whose name I didn't catch, admitted that he has only been in the US for a very few years and didn't seem to know much about what was going on, except of course to argue that he had better ideas than all the other community leaders. Although I only watched the first and last parts of the programme, I was thoroughly disillusioned and even disgraced by the discussion. What was the point, I asked myself? In what way is it useful to tear down an organisation that has been doing by far the best work in a country where Arabs are outnumbered and out-organised not only by all the many, much larger and extremely well-financed Zionist organisations, but also where the society itself and its media are so hostile to Arabs, Islam, and their causes in general? None at all, of course. Yet there remains this pernicious factionalism by which, with almost Pavlovian regularity, Arabs try to hurt and impede each other rather than uniting behind a common purpose. If there is little justification for such behavior in the Arab lands themselves, surely there is less reason for it abroad, where Arab individuals and communities are targeted and threatened as undesirable aliens and terrorists.

The Al-Jazeera programme was more offensive by its gratuitous inaccuracy and the needless personal harm it did to the late Hala Salam Maksoud, who literally gave her life to the cause of ADC, and to its current president Dr Ziad Asli, a public-spirited physician who voluntarily gave up his medical practice to run the organisation on a pro bono basis. Dalbah kept insinuating that both these activists were motivated by reasons of personal monetary gain, and that whatever ADC did it did badly. Aside from the scandalous untruth of such allegations, Dalbah's idle and malicious gossip—it was no more than that—harmed the collective Arab cause, leaving anger and more factionalism in its wake. Moreover, it should be noted that given the extremely inhospitable American political setting to the Arab cause, ADC has been very successful in



Washington and nationally as an organisation rebutting charges against Arabs in the media, protecting individuals from government persecution after 9/11, and keeping Arab-Americans involved and participating in the national debate. Because of this success under Asli, factionalism has infected the organisation's employees who suddenly embarked on a campaign of personal vilification masked as ideological argument. Of course everyone has the right to criticise but why in the face of such threats as those we face in the US should we splinter and weaken ourselves like this, when it is clear that the only beneficiary is the pro-Israel lobby? Organisations like ADC are first of all American organisations and cannot function as partisans in struggles of the kind that recall those of Fakahani in the mid-seventies.

Absence of ideals and role models

Perhaps the main reason for Arab factionalism at every level of our societies, at home and abroad, is the marked absence of ideals and role models. Since Abdel-Nasser's death, whatever one may have thought of some of his more ruinous policies, no figure has captured the Arab imagination or had a role in setting a popular liberation struggle. Look at the disaster of the PLO, which has been reduced from the days of its glory to an old unshaven man, sitting at a broken-down table, in half a house in Ramallah, trying to survive at any cost, whether or not he sells out, whether or not he says foolish things, whether what he says means anything or not. (A couple of weeks ago, he was quoted as saying that he now accepts the 2000 Clinton plan, though the only problem is that it is now 2002 and Clinton is no

longer president.) It has been years since Arafat represented his people, their sufferings and cause, and like his other Arab counterparts, he hangs on like a much-too-ripe fruit without real purpose or position. There is thus no strong moral centre in the Arab world today. Cogent analysis and rational discussion have given way to fanatical ranting, concerted action on behalf of liberation has been reduced to suicidal attacks, and the idea if not the practice of integrity and honesty as a model to be followed has simply disappeared. So corrupting has the atmosphere exuded from the Arab world become that one scarcely knows why some people are successful while others are thrown in jail.

As a terribly shocking instance, consider the Egyptian sociologist Saadeddin Ibrahim's fate. Released by a civil court a few months ago, he has now been tried, found guilty and sentenced to a cruelly unjustified sentence by the state security court for exactly those "crimes" for which he was earlier released. Where is the moral justification for such toying with a person's life, career and reputation? A matter of months ago, he was a trusted adviser to the government and on the boards of several Arab institutes and projects. Now he is considered to be a condemned criminal. Whose interests, whether by virtue of national unity, or coherent strategy, or moral imperative, does his gratuitous punishment in this way serve? More factionalism, more disintegration, more sense of drift and fear and a pervading sense of frustrated justice.

The real problem

Arabs have for so long been deprived

of a sense of participation and citizenship by their rulers that most of us have lost even the capacity of understanding what personal commitment to a cause bigger than ourselves might mean. The Palestinian struggle—that a people should endure such unremitting cruelty from Israel and still not give up, is a collective miracle—but why can't the lessons of living (as opposed to suicidal, nihilistic) resistance be made clearer, and more possible to follow? This is the real problem, the absence all over the Arab world and abroad of a leadership that communicates with its people, not via communiqués that express an impersonal, almost disdainful disregard of them as citizens, but through the actual practice of concerted dedication and personal example. Unable to move the US from its illegal support of Israel's crimes, Arab leaders simply throw out one "peace" proposal (the same one) after another, each of which is dismissed derisively by both Israel and the US. Bush and his psychopathic henchman Rumsfeld keep leaking news of their impending invasion for "regime change" in Iraq, and the Arabs have still not communicated a unified deterrent position against this new American insanity. When individuals and organisations like ADC try to do something on behalf of a cause they are gunned down by troublemakers who have little else to do but destroy and disturb.

And we are the Arabs

Surely the time has come to start thinking of ourselves as a people with a common history and goals, and not as a collection of cowardly delinquents. But that is up to each one, and it's no good sitting back blaming "the Arabs" since, after all, we are the Arabs.

True confessions of a media chief executive

BY NORMAN SOLOMON
ARAB NEWS NEWSPAPER

Now that the deadline has passed for hundreds of top corporate executives to certify the truthfulness of their financial books, we Americans may expect more honest accounting in the future. But what if the heads of major US firms were compelled to engage in other types of candor?

Let's imagine that the CEO of a leading media conglomerate felt the need to come clean about the firm's overall activities. The public statement might go something like this:

While revenues are down in our broadcasting division, we've done our best to wring every last dollar out of the airwaves that the parent company has been able to hijack from the public. Fortunately, these days, the FCC—we call it the "Federal Complicity Cabal"—around the office—is giving us just about everything we demand.

In some urban areas, we now own at least half a dozen radio stations, plus a couple of TV outlets. And the restrictions against also owning local newspapers are on their way out, too.

On television, we've been able to flood the market with more junky old shows than ever. The newer sitcoms and dramas continue to push the boundaries of exploiting sexuality to spike ratings (in sync with like-minded commercials). Most of the movers and shakers on our board of directors are big supporters of conservative moralizers in Washington, but that's no conflict with their commitment to profitable sleaze. Whatever

works!

Meanwhile, our TV news division is piling down to the essentials. (Rest assured there'll be no skipping on wardrobes and hair spray.) We've cut back on producers, researchers and those still eager to engage in actual journalism. And we've brought additional talent on board with reliable devotion to our corporate model. Prodded by management, boat-rockers have walked the plank.

After buying several hundred radio stations across the country since enactment of the bipartisan telecommunications law in 1996, we're able to clone our sound with just enough trickery to make most people think they're listening to a station with a local staff. For those who don't care for our daily offerings of Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura and various imitators, we provide the free-market choice of insipid oldies and present-day pop to help listeners wile away their pitiful consumptive lives.

We're excited about the expanding revenue stream for product placements in our movies. Showing the brand on a pack of cigarettes can really help us meet our shooting budgets. Only half in jest, we're wondering if we might be able to get some marquee stars to temporarily adopt nicknames during a movie's release. There's no telling how much we might be able to fetch from a three-way deal with Julia "Marlboro" Roberts.

Speaking of cigarettes, our magazine division now does a better job of going light on smoking-and-health articles. The firm relies on many millions of ad dollars from tobacco companies, and it would be financially irresponsible to

publish lots of stories about the horrors of lung cancer and emphysema due to smoking. In that spirit, during the past year, our print outlets have downplayed the strong new evidence of serious hazards from secondhand smoke.

On the Internet, while revenues are down, we've been filling people's screens with enough pop-up ads and other obnoxious features to partly compensate. Also, our search-engine department has been taking plenty of payoffs—all perfectly legal—from site owners who'd rather be in the Top 10 listings instead of showing up as No. 247.

Our book division is finding better ways to communicate with the biggest chains before we sign up new authors. If the key execs who place orders for Borders or Barnes & Noble stores aren't enthusiastic about particular manuscripts, we ought to think twice or three times about sinking our capital into publishing them. It's far smarter to fatten the advertising budget for the next blockbuster by Tom Clancy (or whoever the heck he hired to write "his" latest book) than to roll the dice for a dozen works of purported art by earnest nobodies.

At the media outlets owned by our conglomerate, quite a few employees are sincerely dedicated to the finest principles of journalism, artistic expression and public service. To be honest, such dedication can impede the maximization of profits that our shareholders have every right to expect. But, over time, clear rewards and tacit punishments are apt to result in wondrous transformations. As we move forward into a brave new multimedia world, surely the best is yet to come.

BY GEORGE S. HISHMEH

So the Bush administration now intends to spread democracy in the Arab world. And its first action towards this lofty and praiseworthy goal has reportedly been its notification to Egypt that it will oppose any additional foreign aid for the Cairo government in protest over its recent prosecution of an Egyptian-American human rights campaigner.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions, Americans say, my ex-wife often reminded me whenever I failed to make good on a promise. My response has always been that Arabs believe that man is rewarded—or should be judged—by his good intentions. Hence my dilemma about George Bush's action which undoubtedly has opened a Pandora's box that has been sealed—and discarded—for more than 50 years. More so, when a Washington official of Human Rights Watch describes the cut-off decision as "the most significant step the United States has ever taken to defend human rights in the Arab world."

But why has America been silent about the state of democracy in the Arab world for the last 50 years. Israel, the Arabs have often been regularly reminded by its friends, is the only democracy in the region. However, some Lebanese are bound to say with some justification that their government is democratically elected. National elections, the most obvious feature of democracy, are held in many Arab states but regrettably the legislatures have been powerless and often the laughing stock of the impotent public. As a result, democracy—as practiced or

identified—has had a bad name in the region; it has not offered any hope for a better future.

All Arabs are aware that most regimes in the region are propped up by the influence, if not the power, of western powers whose main goal in the region has been to safeguard their supplies of oil, access to the strategic routes the region offers between East and West, as well as the protection of Israel, the offspring of their guilt.

In explaining his fervor about the Gulf War, George Bush I told reporters at his summer home in Maine one sunny day then that had the United States failed to wage war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq the price of oil would be about \$60 a barrel, something the American consumer is unlikely to accept.

Thomas L. Friedman, the celebrated New York Times columnist, recalled an interesting comment by an Indian Muslim community leader, Syed Shahabuddin who denied that the Muslim world hates America. He, however, was quoted as saying:

"They hate that you (the West) are monopolizing all the nonrenewable resources (oil). And because you want to do that, you need to keep in power all your collaborators. As a consequence, you support feudal elements who are trying to stave off the march of democracy."

Friedman commented: "The more I've traveled in the Muslim world since 9/11, the more it has struck me how true this statement is:

Nothing has subverted Middle East democracy more than the Arab world's and Iran's dependence on oil, and nothing

The road to hell

will restrict America's ability to tell the truth in the Middle East and promote democracy there more than our continued dependence on oil."

The truth in the Middle East is that the United States has not treated everyone fairly or equally. While the Arab countries are faulted—and for good reason—for their poor human rights record or authoritarianism, nothing is being said about Israel's abuses against the Palestinians, with American arms to boot.

On the other hand, the Palestinians' first experiment in democracy was a glaring success when they elected a president and a legislative council or parliament. But the limitations imposed on the Palestinians by the Oslo accords and Israel's reoccupation are overlooked by Washington. Even the refusal by Israel to allow the Arabs among them, now numbering a million or one fifth of the population, to live side by side with Israeli Jews has never been decried by western governments.

How serious Washington remains about its intentions remains to be seen although not many are holding high hopes since President Bush's careless remark last week that Pakistan's democracy was not all that important to him. Whatever the Bush administration may propose in the future in the region, it is imperative that the drive for democracy should be widespread and not be limited to countries where it only suits U.S. objectives, domestic or foreign. More significantly, it should understand that this a project that cannot be completed overnight and input by the Arab peoples is an all-important ingredient for its success. A democratic Middle East is a boon to world peace.

Effects of social context in raising a moral generation



BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Our children go through many stages before they become grown up adults who make their own decisions and choose their track in life. However, during those early stages, there are factors that help in shaping their future either to the better or to the worse. Those surroundings include the family, school, and society environments.

Children and parents

As the saying goes, "like father like son," we usually, as sons and daughters, tempt to follow the same track of our parents. In many cases, we become mirror images of our parents. Such sayings are not restricted to this era, but it applies for all time. No doubt, what our parents' action towards us or in front of us will be remembered and will not be erased from our memories. But in certain cases, we fall prey to every behavior they do, even if it is bad.

If we mull ourselves over, we will discover that we resemble our parents in many ways and in certain cases, we become either the living or imitating image of our parents. We may find ourselves imitating the words they utter, model ourselves on them and take leaves out of their books. In this respect, the father should be aware of everything he does; otherwise it is going to be reflected in the child's day-to-day behavior. Coming back to my office one day, I saw a father smoking a

cigarette and throwing its butt on the floor. When he was gone, his son picked the butt up to his mouth and began smoking in an attempt to imitate his father. Who is going to be blamed for turning the son into an addict smoker? Undoubtedly, the father is going to pay the price. He is the first who should be blamed. This is just a very simple example which our topic can be centered on. In most cases, we see that a child is greatly affected by his or her parents in many ways. Because of parents' awareness of the great dangers of smoking, we find them advising their sons and daughters not to smoke. However, we find children wondering why they should act on this advice while their parents keep on smoking every day. In this case, they will turn deaf ears to every advice they get.

Fathers should serve as good examples to their children and they should give up smoking at whatever cost. The problem is not in the money spent to buy a packet of cigarettes or a bunch of Qat leaves, but it is in the loss of a whole generation. If the will of parents is weak, at least they shouldn't expose their weakness to their sons and daughters. This weakness will of course create a sense of indifference and disobedience on the part of children.

There are other negative practices done by parents, which can negatively affect children. Hypocrisy, telling lies and other bad habits by parents could also manifest themselves in the behavior of children. It becomes even tougher to control such habits among children in the course of time. This is primarily attributed to the weakness of social and religious discipline. Most people believe that once a person aban-

don his religious duties and tasks, he loses self-respect and becomes a dreadful example for his children.

The impact of the school

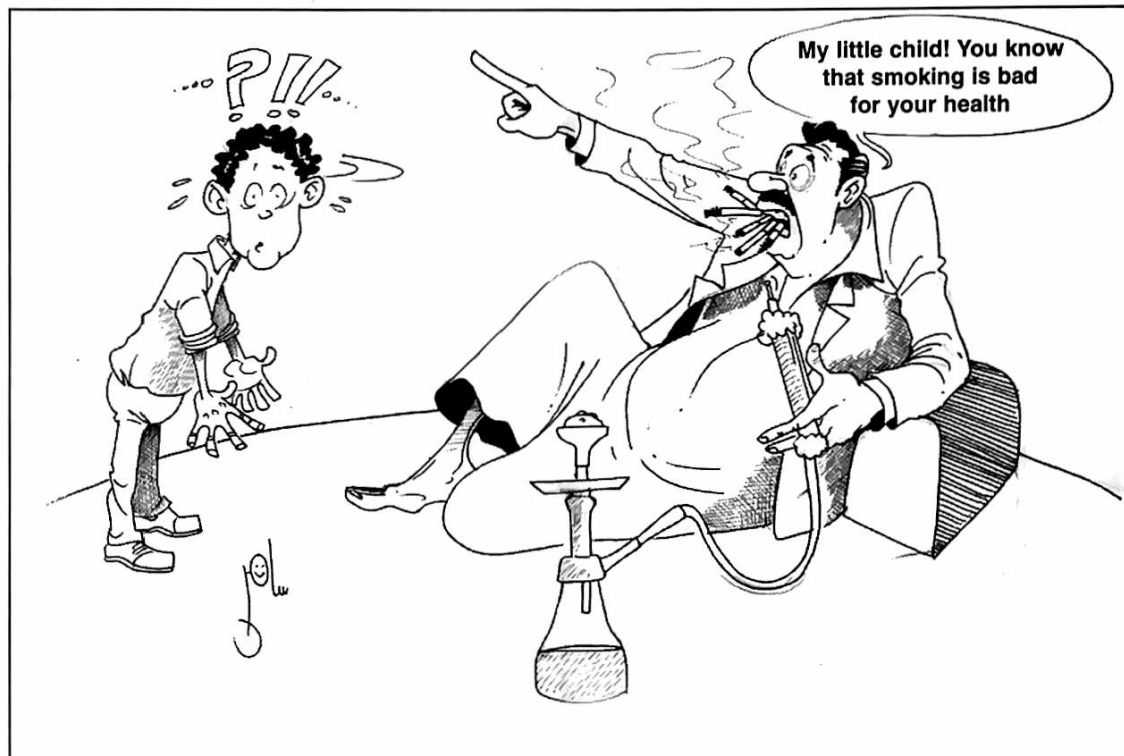
When each and every child moves from family to school, classmates and teachers begin to shape the child's personality. Schools have great impact on the new comer. In this respect, the new context becomes a place where the student is affected by the community around him. Teacher in this context can either guide or misguide their students. Psychological studies have indicated that a student can be easily affected by teachers' behavior and that the teacher could compete with the family as a model for the child.

The teachers' duty towards students is of great importance. The concerned pedagogical bodies have to shoulder responsibility to select honest teachers for this noble profession. You may or may not agree with me that our schools are in great and urgent need of honest teachers, but you cannot deny that honest teachers can raise students in a better way.

I used to study in a class where my teacher would explain the lesson while holding a packet of cigarettes in his left hand and smoke with his right. This is an example that applies for many schools throughout the country.

However, I need to admit that there are also some good teachers who work honestly. To put it in a nutshell, we can conclude that the more honest the teacher is, the healthier the generation he raises.

We as parents and teachers have to make every effort hand in hand to pro-



tect our children. We have to be eagle-eyed concerning everything they do.

Today's life is quite different from that of yesterday. Parents have to be aware of the modern changes in telecommunications, technology, and Internet and how they would affect the lives of their children. We in this case, don't want them to be stay-at-home children. But we need to have a balance. Neither punitive restrictions nor becoming lenient towards our children is the proper remedy to put the children straight on track. It is a matter of using intellect and applying proper nurturing disciplines.

Role of society

The society plays a pivotal role in shaping the child's future and personality. There are several positive social factors in raising a healthy generation, which starts by implanting noble and decent values in our children.

Families and relatives in this regard should keep their eyes open for their children away from the gravest mistakes they make. It is also a mistake to let things slide on the part of children without knowing all there is to know about their day-to-day behaviors. They might fall prey to drug addiction, which is one of deadliest and most serious

problems faced by this generation. During the child's adolescent stage, which is the most crucial stage in one's life, the child is not able to resist temptations. Moreover, children are vulnerable to deceivers, who could expose them to deceitful and meanly behaviors, and who are filling the streets of our cities.

Who is going to pay the price? Without a shadow of a doubt, the environment where a child lives, including family, school, and society are the ones to blame. It is about time for all of us to take care of our children. You too, take care of your child.

'Akhdams' of Taiz: Misery beyond description



BY FAROUK AL-KAMALI
TAIZ BUREAU

It is quite unfortunate that more than 50 thousand people of African origin living in Taiz are going through extremely harsh conditions.

The only desire of Akhdams in Taiz is to find a safe community where they can live peacefully and be treated equally as others. They have become vagabonds, an oppressed class, and above all, a deprived sector of the community of the basic needs.

It is truly a pity that no one seems to care about them. They are seen as persons of African origin, who do not have a specific home or place. They are considered as the odds and ends of the Abyssinians. They are treated on many occasions as slaves without any status or social deportment in the society.

Abduraheem Mohsen, a journalist, in one of his articles about Akhdam emphasized greatly in his articles as what he believes is the fact that Akhdam are the first people who settled in Yemen. According to him, whether they are Yemenis or Abyssinians, Akhdam are considered to be the original inhabitants of Yemen. The crux of the problem lies in the fact that they have been suffering for hundreds of years from discrimination and slavery.

Continuing this evil treatment against Akhdam is considered an ongoing crime against humanity. Akhdam are part of us and should receive all

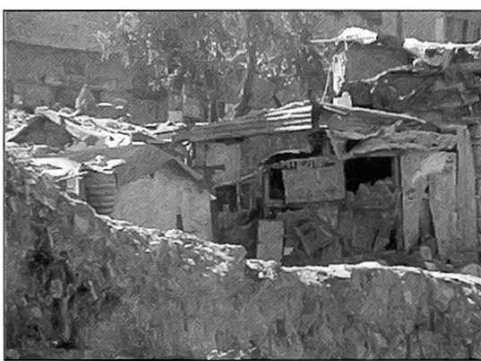
their rights as all other Yemenis. Why should they be deprived?

We know that begging is directly related to poverty and lack of sources of income. Some Akhdam tend to beg because there are no other opportunities available for them. Isolation and discrimination have prevented them from assimilating to Yemeni ways of life and at the same time prevented them from moving ahead or advancing. When you are not given a share in attaining basic education, when you are not allowed to hold public office posts or access governmental jobs, and when your only means of living is sweeping the streets and house keeping, what else will you do?

The intellectual and pro-human rights groups in the society feel sorry for this unprivileged group rather than angry. We all see them day and night toiling more than anyone else for survival. Their main jobs are resembled in street cleaning, shoe polishing, and other simple jobs. Therefore, they get very low income. The majority of them restore to begging as a means of having ends meet.

Akhdam are the only people who suffer from lack of food, live in run-down slums, and receiving little attention and care from the society. On many occasions, even the concerned authorities turn a deaf ear to their demands. It is a matter of practicing discriminatory acts against this inferior class. We in this article wonder, why are Akhdam deprived of the right to dream of a safer home and environment?

Recently, pro-human rights NGOs



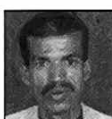
Slums used to be shelters for Akhdam



A part of a new house in the City of Hope

related to this field have been established in order to revolt against the discriminatory practices. Forty years after the revolution, Akhdam are still in deteriorating conditions and have not given due attention at all. They are still suffering from poverty, ignorance and epidemics. But the question which poses itself is: Will such NGOs succeed in their endeavors to improve the living conditions of these downtrodden masses?

Five associations have recently been established in order to fight poverty and protect Akhdam so as to integrate them into our society.



Najeeb Ashara'bi, the Chairman of the Shoemakers Handiwork Association said that the idea of establishing such associations have aimed primarily at unchaining the marginalized classes away from isolation and poverty.

Establishing such associations will serve the marginalized classes including Akhdam and other inferior classes mistreated by the public. All these associations have integrated themselves into one society called the Anti-poverty Coordination Council.

"A study in this respect has been presented to the GTZ to promote the micro-enterprises future projects including and the shoemaking project and recycling second-hand metals," Najeeb noted further.

"We hope that these two projects would be implemented on time so as to provide fixed revenues for the poor families and also provide job opportunities for the unemployed," he added.



Abdulghani Ali, a staff member of the Shoemakers Handiwork Association said that no rights have been granted to this class. They have no health care units and even edu-

cational facilities are not available for them.

Abdulghani demanded further the governmental bodies and human rights organizations to care for this down trodden class.

City of Hope

The first housing project named the "City of Hope" for the Akhdam has been founded by DIA. This is certainly a living example of a successful investment for the welfare of a deprived group by an international organization in Yemen. Unfortunately, the Water and Electricity Corporation has not been helpful in facilitating such projects as it has not enabled the flow of water into the houses of those downtrodden masses.



Malak al-Muntaser, a DIA staff member said that the project implemented by the DIA was for about 174 families.

Those families were left homeless after torrential rains washed away their slums. "DIA is currently working in collaboration with the Human Rights Information and Training Center to promote social integration of Akhdam into the community. This aims at implementing several social activities to integrate them socially."

Malak added "Others were surprised when I visited the houses of Akhdam,

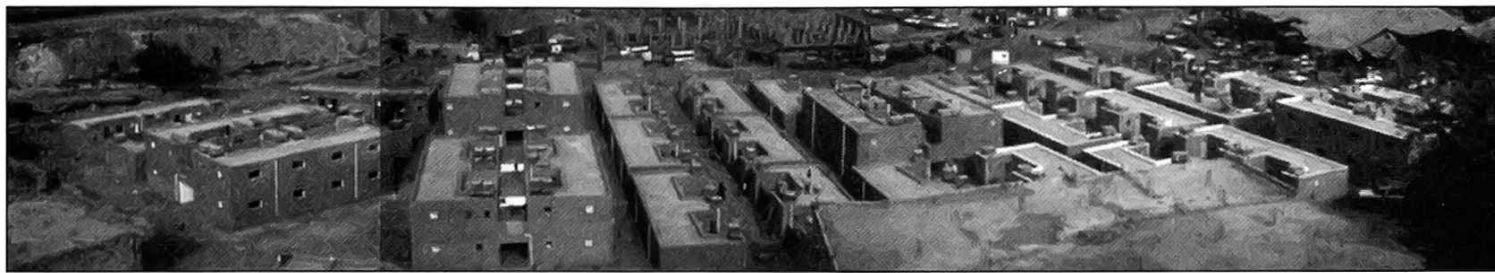
attended their marriage ceremonies and ate with them. There are misunderstood notions about this oppressed class. This should be corrected," she added.

What is needed right now is more efforts exerted in order to integrate these classes into our societies and grant them their basic rights. The official effort is also needed to pave the way for them to be active members of the society. They should be treated as any other citizen and not be discriminated because of the color of their skin. They are part of our society that we must accept. Job opportunities should also be provided and health care services should be reachable by this class."

In conclusion, we have to work hand in hand to put an end to discriminatory treatment against those people who enrich our culture in many ways. It is about time to start to honor and respect all those minorities.

Our country will be much better if we appreciate and value the work and service those people provide instead of neglecting and ignoring their invaluable services.

We will be waiting anxiously for the day when Akhdam can feel secure and safe in their homeland Yemen. It will be the day when the concerned bodies will at least shoulder the responsibility in caring for those downtrodden masses. Such questions are in need of an immediate answer, an answer which we hope will be positive.



The first housing project called the "City of Hope" for the Akhdam in Taiz which has been founded by DIA as part of its humanitarian aids

Options for today and future potential renewable energy as mitigation measures for climate change

Climate change & renewable energy

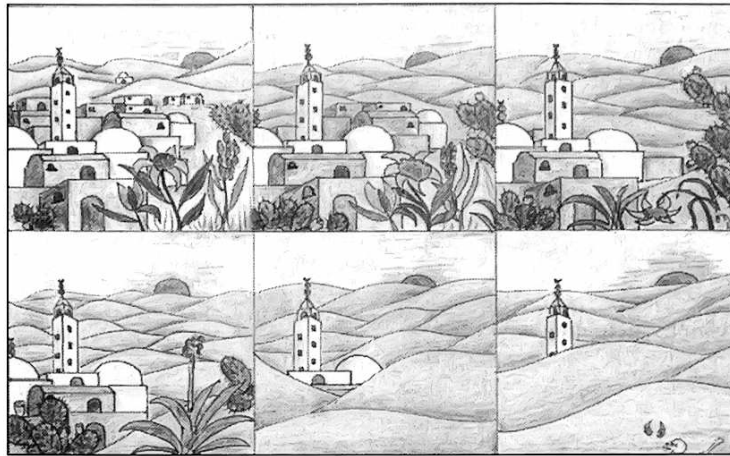


BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of Prime Minister Abdulqadir ba Jammal, a workshop on Climate Change and Renewable Energy will be held at Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a on 9th of September 2002. The workshop is organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Environment Protection Authority, with support of the Global Environmental Facility and UNDP.

The workshop will focus on the effects of climate change on Yemen. It will further present renewable energy as an important mitigation measure. Mr. Anwar Abdulaziz, Head of the Climate Change Unit at the Environmental Protection Authority said, "Renewable energy, such as solar and wind, have great potential to support the sustainable development of Yemen. The increase in use of warm water, electricity and cooking can reduce CO2 emission and deforestation and can provide important energy sources in remote areas such as Socotra and other protected areas without negative impacts on the environment."

Today, already there are several



installations that have been made. The workshop will be a unique opportunity for high level decision makers and practitioners to discuss the existing options, to encourage the exploration of the needs for adequate policy and technical developments. The workshop will also include a presentation of various applications based on renewable energy, mainly solar power and wind generating during the extended coffee breaks. The installations will be provided by the Technical Supply Center. The invitees of this workshop include decision makers of government institutions, international organizations,

embassies, universities, research institutions, private sector (e.g. hospitals, hotels, companies) and NGOs.

The Environment Protection Authority and Ministry of Tourism and Environment have taken this important step and invited 15 speakers for a panel discussion to speak about the:

- Role of different stakeholders (local/national/international)
- Chances for environmental protection and economic development.
- Impacts on Yemen's environment.
- Experiences and lessons learned.
- Future strategy

This workshop will be a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to get updated and participate in the panel discussion.

During the Earth Summit in Johannesburg

Importance of sustainable development emphasized

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

New York, 19 August (WSSD) — Johannesburg Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai said that interest in the World Summit on Sustainable Development has far surpassed expectations, with over 20,000 people currently registered to attend.

The result is that the number and size of delegations, particularly those from NGOs and other major groups, will place a strain on the meeting venue and all logistical support.

"In all the conferences that I have worked on before, we have never had to cope with this sort of problem," Desai said. "We have more than 15,000 NGOs registered at close of pre-registration. These will add to the more than 5,000 government delegates and an estimated 2,000 media representatives."

Despite the logistical challenges created by such high numbers, Desai welcomed the surge in interest in the Summit and in sustainable development. He attributed it to increased reporting on the issues, a genuine desire for change from "business as usual", and the fact that people see the Summit as a major opportunity to steer the world toward a different, and better development path.

"The enormous demand to attend the Summit highlights the importance of Johannesburg. People really see this Summit as an opportunity to address some of the world's most insidious problems: poverty and environmental stress."

Desai added, "The Summit is drawing far more than the usual conference delegates. It is drawing over 100 presidents and prime ministers, 50 CEOs of major global corporations and 60 chief justices interested in developing and applying environmental law, in addition to the

thousands of NGOs and community leaders who will help promote sustainable development on the ground on a grand scale so that everyone benefits."

The Sandton Convention Centre normally has a capacity of 10,000 people, but for the Summit, the number will be less due to reconfigurations to meet the needs of the meeting. At peak times, Desai said, it will be necessary to limit the number of people inside the Centre, since "there is no way" that all the NGOs

in particular who have registered can physically be accommodated in the building at the same time. Desai said a special pass system may need to be implemented so that the numbers can be safely managed without interfering in the negotiating and plenary sessions of the Summit.

Nevertheless, UN officials say that although well over 20,000 people have sought accreditation, not all delegates need to be inside Sandton Convention Centre at any time as much of the action in Johannesburg will be held outside the Sandton Convention Centre where the official Summit is being held. Close to 600 parallel events will be taking place at the Ubuntu Village, the Civil Society Global Forum and other venues for parallel events. There will be a stakeholder forum and special conferences for parliamentarians, the business community, jurists, youth, and scientists - to name but a few. There will also be a WaterDome hosting numerous events tackling crucial water issues and IUCN, the World Conservation Union, is hosting over 100 events during the Summit at their Environment Centre.

The South African government has estimated that the total number of people participating in the official United Nations Summit, together with people who only participate in other parallel events, could approach 60,000 people.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with its Sana'a Office:

1) Assistant Resident Representative (Operations)

- Contribute to the preparation of the Country Office orientations pertaining to human resources management, delivery of client-oriented service, re-engineering of business processes, resources management and cost reduction measures;
- Supervise the human resource, finance, procurement and general services units. Develop, implement and monitor the translation of the operations strategic orientations into concrete work plans for the units under his/her supervision.
- Accountable for the application of UNDP rules and regulations and corporate policies relevant to the units under direct supervision;
- Ensure the coordinated, cost effective and client oriented delivery of services by the units under direct supervision.
- Act as the Learning Manager for the Country Office. Establish, enhance and monitor implementation of internal systems for training and learning in the office;
- Contribute to and implement office strategic resource management plan including planning of available resources, tracking/utilization of financial resource, maintaining strategic reserve, proposing cost saving and administrative resource mobilization strategies including cost recovery initiative.

Qualifications and skills required:

- Master's Degree in Business Administration or related field
- 5-10 years of practical experience in operational management, public administration including financial, human resources and physical resources management
- Proficient in the use of computers and office software packages & internet applications
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (written and verbal)

2) Human Resources Associate

Responsibilities include:

- Determines and processes the benefits and entitlements of UNDP staff and project personnel and issues relevant contracts;
- Verifies medical claims for UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and other UN Staff ensuring validity and accuracy;
- Administers the UN Proficiency Examinations for UNDP staff and all UN Agencies and project staff;
- Maintains leave reports and controls home leave travel of international staff;
- Briefs international personnel on general administrative personnel matters. Arranges for entry, exit and residence visas for international staff and all missions and experts visiting the country;
- Maintains personnel records and files for all local and international staff;
- Keep abreast of changes in Personnel rules, regulations and procedures; provides interpretation when required.

Qualifications and skills required:

- University Degree in Business Administration, Human Resources Management or equivalent;
- Five years experience in administration/HR field
- Excellent Computer Skills
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (written and spoken)

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for any of the above positions may submit their curriculum vitae with a brief letter indicating the positions for which they are applying to the following address:

Human Resources Unit
P. O. Box 551
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

The deadline for receiving applications is 13th September 2002

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women candidates to apply



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Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet
ramakantasahu@yahoo.com

I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (25):
Describing women

Women easily draw the attention of others. They become a favorite topic for discussion among men and women. People unhesitatingly and generously heap words of appreciation on women of their beauty and grace. It is said "God created men as if it were by a machine. But when it comes to the creation of women he took up paint and brushes."

Let's now consider some phrases to describe women

- She is an angel.
- She is unmatched in her grace.
- She is a paragon of beauty.
- She is a damsel.
- She is a dashing woman.
- She is simply gorgeous.
- She is a nonparied beauty.
- She is pretty. She is doe eyed.
- Modesty, thy name in woman.
- She is so motherly and affectionate.
- She has a sisterly disposition.
- She is a walking angel.
- She is a rare specimen.
- She has a bewitching smile.
- A moon-like face.
- What a melodious voice.
- One smile from her - and I'm flat.
- She has a hypnotic charm.
- She casts a magic spell on anyone.
- Oh! Those glittering eyes.
- She has a lovely gait.
- She combines beauty and brains.
- The sweet aroma of her graceful personality is matchless.
- She has no comparison.
- She is a stalwart.
- She is darling of everyone.
- 'Age cannot wither her... Nor custom stale' (Shakespeare)
- 'Beauty hath a tongue'
- 'I receive from her eyes speechless messages'
- Oh! Those eyes. I'll be drowned in them.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences:

1. Ahmed is a cowardman.
2. I hate a miser person.
3. What is your birth date?
4. I have a severe head pain.
5. There is a playground on the backside of the building.

Solutions to last week's questions:

1. He is carrying arms (weapon).
2. The cattle are grazing in the field.
3. My father deals in machinery.
4. Everyone enjoys reading poetry.
5. Will you please give me a pair of scissors?

III. How to express it in one word

1. A light from an aircraft.
2. Person who gives written testimony for use in a law court.
3. Lessen the number of people

4. Send an unwanted person out of the country.
5. Bear witness or give evidence in a law court.

Solutions to last week's questions

1. Speak publicly against: **Denounce** (vt)
2. Person who fills, cleans, takes out and fits new teeth: **Dentist** (n)
3. Plate of artificial teeth fitted on the gums: **Denture** (n)
4. Substance that removes bad smell: **Deodorant** (n)
5. One of several divisions of a government, business university, etc.: **Department** (n)

IV. Grammar and Composition

a) Grammar

Compound words with adjectives can be expanded into phrases and clauses.

Example: Bullock-carts pass on the road

- Carts drawn by bullocks pass on the road (phrase)
- Carts which are drawn by bullocks pass on the road (clause)

Write out sentences like in the example above for the following compound words:

1. dragon-flies
2. flower-seller
3. mustard-field
4. blue-throated
5. high-pitched
5. red-eyed
6. yellow-robed

b) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences of your own

1. assign to; 2. associate with;
3. in association with; 4. go astray;
5. at home

c) Words commonly confounded

Bring out differences in the following pairs

1. assurance, insurance
2. atmosphere, environment
3. attitude, attitude
4. auditor, auditory

Answers to last week's questions.

a) Grammar and Composition

Composition: writing notes

1. Dear Mr. Thabet,
I am sorry that I was unable to attend the appointment on Monday due to certain unavoidable circumstances. May I request you for another appointment next Monday?
Yours Sincerely,

2. Dear Mr. Amer,
Nasser was absent from school for five days as he was suffering from flu. A copy of doctor's certificate is enclosed herewith for your kind reference.

Yours Sincerely,

3. Dear Sir,
Yasser was not at school this morning as he had an appointment with the dentist. He will again see the doctor next Tuesday morning.
Yours Sincerely,

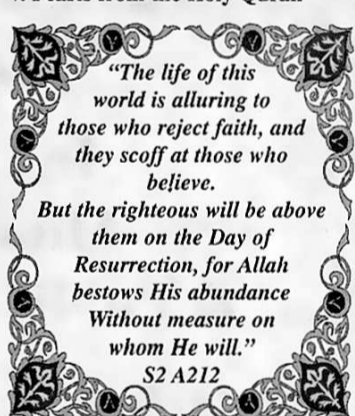
b) Idioms and phrases

1. **arrangement for:** We have finished all arrangement for the party.
2. **arrogate to** (ascribe to): Please don't arrogate evil motives to me.
3. **ashamed of** (feeling shame): You should be ashamed of your rude behavior
4. **ask for** (request to be allowed): I asked for the teacher's permission to leave the class.
5. **cast aspersion on** (say false or unkind things about): Please don't cast aspersion on the innocent man.

c) Words commonly confounded

1. **artifact** (n) (something made by human beings): In Bab Al-Yemen you can find many traditional Yemeni artifacts.
2. **artifice** (n) (skillful way of doing something): All art is artifice.
3. **assault** (vt) (make a violent and sudden attack): The man was assaulted and badly injured by the stranger.
4. **insult** (vt) (speak or act in a way that hurts a person's feelings or dignity):
5. **assay** (n) (test purity of precious metals): the geologists made and assay of an ore.
6. **essay** (n) (a short composition on any topic): He wrote a brilliant essay on patriotism.
7. **assert** (vt) (make a claim to one's rights): You must learn to assert yourself.
8. **insert** (vt) (put something in right place): The company inserted an advertisement in the newspaper.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Art is the path of the creator to his work."
—Emerson

Importance of reading skills

By NABEEL M. MAHDI

Reading skill is of a great significance for any successful learning. The art of reading demands continuous reading activities to master it. Lets elicit an opinion of a well-known university professor who announced once without hesitation that he was still learning reading skills every day! You may be surprised and you may laugh widely if you know that this professor is (John Dawngeng) who is considered an international expert in reading. He admitted that in front of a committee reporting about reading levels and the ways it can be learnt.

Undoubtedly, what the famous professor said does not mean that he is unable to read a book or a journal, but he meant to prove that continuous reading is very necessary. The professor indicated that there are two basic shortages concerning aspects of learning the art of reading, the reading negligence in training teachers and the non-continuous policy of teaching reading in primary and secondary schools. In fact, the professor's conclusion is supported by the results of a 3-year survey study on the ways of learning reading and its levels. The study which included 14 countries around the world, showed that a huge

number of students leave their schools while they are ignorant-like or half educated people because they are not good at reading. Since our country is part of this world, so we could notice the dramatic increase of this phenomenon which needs to be handled carefully.

There are many solutions which I think would help like creating reading units at universities from which a specialist cadre is to graduate and help in teaching school teachers the developed reading methods. Moreover, one of the most important reasons for students weakness in reading is the big number of students inside a classroom. Many educational specialists have expressed their worry about insisting on pupils reading skill at a certain age which may lead to the pupils reluctance to reading. So reasonability and continuation are the best ways for learning reading. Do our professors at universities know the importance of such learning skill? Does the ministry of education take in its account this fact when designing curricula for training teachers? For what we always notice is entirely the opposite. I hope that I could draw the attention of educationists and teachers to the danger of reading negligence and the negative effect it has on the character of our generation.

I am a lonely star, to the naked eye



By Rahmatullahi Bahi
mmrahmat@hotmail.com
Pakistan School Sana'a

I appear as charming as anything surrounded by Beautiful and charming companions.

But in reality, I live in a place where there is nothing thousands of miles around me

I can see, but I can't speak.

I can listen, but I can't relate.

I can feel, but I can't express.

All my brightness and beauty is to hide the gloom inside me

I run after a galaxy to make a friend,

but it runs away

I keep running after stars, but they all keep running away.

To me, they all seem very shiny,

beautiful and happy with their lives.

Maybe they all feel like me and their brightness and loneliness is just for brightening the lives of others.

I wonder, what is the use of brightening other people's lives, when nothing can lighten my life.

I hope maybe some day something come in my way and brighten my life too.

It is the hope which keeps me going and I like to dream of a better tomorrow.

Idioms in Use



MURARI PRASAD
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
SA'ADAH
E-MAIL:
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Use the following idioms appropriately in the blanks.

Act your age, back away, chat somebody up, drag one's feet, eke something out, fall about, gain ground, hold off, jump out of one's skin, kick one's heels, laugh all the way to the bank, miss the mark, nose out, out and about

1. I saw the children _____ from the barking dogs.
2. You aren't a child now and so

you should _____

3. He is in the habit of _____ influential people.

4. He _____ his poor living by moonlighting.

5. We all _____ laughing when he did his imitation of out English teacher.

6. The campaign against terrorism has _____

7. If the rain _____ we can rush back home.

8. I nearly _____ when I saw a snake.

9. We reached the hilltop _____

10. She missed the first train and _____ waiting for the next train.

11. After launching the new business he is _____

12. She is quite intelligent but _____ in every examination.

13. The reporters could _____ the details of currency scam.

14. The patient is improving and will soon be _____

15. I want to sell my old house but my father is _____

Answers to the last week's questions

1. backed into a corner
2. changed hands
3. egged on
4. ganged up on
5. fancies herself
6. hold good
7. jolly well
8. laboured the point
9. keen as mustard
10. marry money
11. out of the ordinary
12. nipped in the bud
13. ill at ease
14. acts up
15. down with

Welcome to Queen Arwa University

A member of Arab Universities Union, Islamic Universities, The International Universities and a member of Higher Education Council

Queen Arwa University announces the start of registration period in its different colleges for the year 2002/2003

New Department Established: Dentistry- Pharmacology - Laboratories

Faculty of Engineering 1- Computer. 2- Decoration. 3- Internal Designing.	Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences 1- Languages and Translation Dep. 2- Special Education. 3- Social Services Dep. 3- Tourism. 4- General Relations. 6- Libraries, Information and Documentary Dep.	Faculty of Science 1-Mathematics. 2-Computer-programming. 3-Information Technology. 4-Medical Laboratories.
Higher Studies (MA & Diploma) A: Educational & Social Sciences. 1-Sociology and Social Services. 2-Psychology and Educational Sciences. 3-Methodology and Curriculum. B: Administrative and account- ing Sciences. 1-Administrative Sciences. 2-Management. 3-Accounting. C: Economical and Political Sciences. D: Woman Studies. E: Public Law Diploma. F: Private Law Diploma. G: Criminal Sciences Diploma. H: Management Diploma.	Faculty of Economy and Administrative Sciences 1-Statistics. 2-Accounting. 3-Management. 4-Political Sciences. 5-Marketing. 6-Information Technology. Intermediate Diploma in 1-Secretarial Diploma and Office Management. 2-Accounting. 3-Management. 4-Computer 5-Tourism 6- Information Technology and Office Programming.	Faculty of Fine Arts 1-Plastic Arts Dep. 2-Internal Decoration Dep. 3-Design and printed publications
Students from outside Yemen can register by faxing their application, sending it to our post office mail box, sending it electronically to our email address, delivering it via our Yemeni embassies in Dubai, Doha, Manama, Jeddah, Amman, Damascus, or sending it via the following offices:		
For more information please Queen Arwa University's registration office in Sanaa. Queen Arwa University's Headquarters: Sana'a- 60 St.- Faj Attan- opposite the Modern Heart Center. Tel. 449971/2. 449991, or 449909, Fax: 449995/2 P.O. Box: 11586. Registration Office: Hadda Branch, Abulhassan Al-Hamadani, Tel 206917, 218722 E-mail: arawauniversity@y.net.ye Website: http://www.y.net.ye/arwauniversity		
Manama Office (Bahrain): Tel. 774271 Fax: 772881 Riyadh Office (Saudi Arabia): Tel. 009665 6986908 - Fax: 2326736 Jeddah Office (Saudi Arabia): Mobile 0096653379877 Fax: 0096622802028 Damascus Office (Syria): Telefax: 5940098-5911097 Gazza Office (Palestine): Gaza Tel. 0097082867265		
Notes: * Residence reservations for male & female students is dealt with according to requirement priority. * Intermediate students can join and study BA degree. * Transportation to and from the University can be arranged.		

YOUTH FORUM

Memoirs of an Abandoned Soul

Wherever I go I shall always be pursued
By a horrid beast that stalks my life
Its darkness surrounds me and lets no light intrude
And it comes from behind and stabs like a knife

Though it has no jaws it can eat its way through your soul
And although it bears no claws it can rip through your chest
You try to run away but you fall into a dark hole
And the one thing that becomes clear is that you will never find rest

Did you ever feel...That you could no longer feel?
And thought it was only a state of mind
Well, loneliness is just like that... but its for REAL
It's a dark shadow that always lurks behind

Writers have always portrayed how cold loneliness is...
But to me, loneliness is more like FIRE!
As it burns your mind and turns your feelings into ashes
Running away becomes your only desire

A word to the wise... from the wiser
Cherish those close to your heart
For only they can put out your fire
And they shall prevent loneliness from tearing you apart

Rian Moustafa Bahrain
Sana'a

TIMES QUIZ (38)

Answer the following questions

1. A fundamental particle of light is
a) Lux b) Photon c) Light year d) Watt
2. A scientist dealing with fresh water ecology is a
a) Limnologist b) Ecologist
c) Botanist d) Aqualogist
3. What is an epicenter?
a) Central point of the earth
b) Center of the lithosphere of the earth
c) Point on the earth's surface directly above an earthquake focus
d) None of these
4. The jelly fish called 'Portuguese man of war' (physalia) is noted for its
a) Color b) Reproduction
c) Mimicry d) Polymorphism
5. What is the full form of the abbreviation ADIS?

Answers to Times Quiz (37)

1. The important invention of Alfred Nobel was dynamite.
2. Chimpanzees are the primates which have the closest resemblance to man.
3. The approximate surface temperature of the sun is 6,000 C.
4. Soil erosion is greater when rainfall is received as a heavy downpour.
5. The full form of the abbreviation IUCN is International Union on Conservation of natural Resources.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Balagh weekly
27 Aug. 2002.

Main headlines:

- The president challenges announces purchasing missiles from North Korea
- Military Shoura Council and Mujahidine unified command threat to carry out operations in Yemen
- Bin Laden alive, al-Balagh publishes copy of his latest written message
- Saudi Arabia denies supporting al-Qaeda
- The U.S. embassy hampers release of bin Laden's father in law

The newspaper's editorial says at last the parties at the Supreme Committee for Elections (SCE) have at last agreed on the shares of registration committees after this question was about to be the beginning and the end of the Joint Meeting Parties that used all possible means of pressure to attain the highest available percentage of committees shares. The SCE has managed to deal with these pressures through the law that granted it power in the face of political parties, including People's General Congress party.

It should be indicated that partisan and democratic practice is not devoid of such political battles and pressures. The process of registration and preparation for elections would expectedly witness political battles, maybe fiercer than previous ones. What should be stressed is that all the parties must put the law and constitution above all and the higher national interest must be the foundation and the dynamo motivating all partisan goals. The parties also must not forget that our country is still on the first steps of democratic ladder, therefore, they and the SCE must monitor mistakes that could appear in the electoral practice in order to avoid in the coming elections. What is more important at present is to stabilize the democratic life and the parties have to follow confident steps towards correct practices of democratic life far from narrow partisan or personal interests.



Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist party, 25 Aug. 2002.

Main headlines:

- Divisions of local constituencies, advance change of ballot boxes results
- International Monetary Fund discloses failure of economic reforms in Yemen
- Transport and communications trade union rejects a decision on land transport liberalization
- Special law regarding refugees in Yemen
- Al-Ahmer, chairman of National Security Apparatus
- Saudi citizen denies terror charges against his son
- Zionist enemy continues blasting and demolition of Palestinian houses

In his article the editor in chief says the political system on which the Yemeni state is founded is a parliamentary one built on elections and political pluralism, as it is stipulated in the constitution and had been considered among its fixed chapters. Accordingly the multi-party system and elections are necessary matters for political stability. Attempts of waving with threat or attaching descriptions to the national forces is a breach of the constitution. Dealing with mistakes and rectifying them could only be achieved by upgrading those forces and support their activation if they are meant to be a support of authority. The first responsibility is maybe that of the president of the republic as he is concerned with preserving the social contract between him and the people and application of the constitution articles. He has all the powers in his hands. The people and their political forces would remain responsible for participating in implementation of tasks and plans designed by the state for the development of the homeland and its potentials. By providing convenient circumstances and atmospheres for the people and their political forces within the frame of development, results of the efforts would be good, otherwise they would

be barren. Advance is only accomplished by joining efforts in a parallel form.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite People's Unionist Organization, 27 Aug. 2002.

Main headlines:

- Unidentified military council threatens killing officials' sons
- Foreign ships in Hadramaut, Palestinian national arrested in Aden
- National Security Apparatus re-arranges security situation in Sana'a
- Difficulties facing deployment forces in al-Jawf
- Number of Political security members arrested in Sana'a
- Unidentified persons threaten wife of bin Laden's father in law
- Elections Committee abides by opposition demands

Columnist Mohammed Yahya al-Sabri comments on the GPC recent 6th conference by citing certain challenges facing the ruling party. He says the GPC is facing big challenges in order to alter from a party of the state to a party for the majority.

The relationship problematic between the GPC and the head off he state and public establishments and state-run media. The most significant of them all is the relationship with the army and the security. The most serious thing is that the GPC, in its political action, does not compete with its adversaries but rather provokes and antagonize them in a manner creating politically tense situations.

The other challenge is connected to Yemen's foreign relations and crises and dangers they are causing to Yemen. The writer sees that due to Yemen's geographical position, continued regional and international conflicts, Yemen's foreign policy has been leading to repeated internal crises inside the neighborly countries and in Yemen itself. He thinks that in order to represent a party for the majority, the GPC has to build a positive foreign policy

based on engaging other parties in drawing up the main orientations of that policy.

The most important challenge is how would the GPC actually manage to transmigrate, to a great extent, its connection with the state institutions during the forthcoming elections on April 27, 2003.



26 September Weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 24 Aug. 2002

Main Headlines:

- Yemeni-Indonesia talks to expand partnership, investment and political coordination
- President Saleh: Any party has the right to majority, democracy, the honorable competition through ballot boxes.
- President Saleh reviews message from president Saddam Hussein of Iraq.
- 40 thousand Gulf citizens visited Yemen in the summer vacation.
- U.S. delegation to visit Yemen to close Cole file.
- Yemeni-Ethiopian talks Saturday
- Yemen parliament speaker al-Ahmer heads for Baghdad to take part in extraordinary parliamentary conference supporting Iraq.

Hameed Mohyoub Abdulziz al-Qadhi says in an article that political pluralism has become a pillar of the Yemeni political system. The constitution has granted the people the right to organize themselves politically and professionally and in unions through forming scientific, cultural and social organizations and in national unions in the way serving the constitution. Any political party or organization should perform its activity with peaceful and democratic means to achieve a definite program dealing with political, economic, social and cultural affairs. Political parties shall also contribute to political, democratic, social economic and cultural progress of the country, as well as stabilization of the national unity.

As the constitution and law authorize the Supreme Committee for

Elections running the electoral process, it has adopted a correct decision in using its right by forming registration committees from university educationists quite natural from political parties. It was also rightful in other measures that regulate the citizens' democratic right to registration and voting guaranteed by the constitution and the law.



RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League Party, 27 Aug. 2002.

Main Headlines:

- Unidentified organization threatens to begin operations if detainees not released
- Salafia Sheiks continued their efforts to end differences inside the group
- Eritrea sets free 17 Yemeni fishermen, the Coast Guard releases an Eritrean ship.
- For selling missiles to Yemen, North Korea subjected to U.S. sanctions.

RAY editorial has this week focused on the conference of the GPC ruling party held last week. The editorial congratulated the GPC on its party congress and the success it has scored. On the other hand the editorial wanted to remind the ruling party about certain demands the party is requested to meet.

is required from the GPC to lead a political reform process confirming rules of democracy and consolidating determinants of its relationships.

It is requested from it to lead a revolution on itself rectifying all mistaken concepts within its ranks, those concepts which mingle between boundaries of the party and the state, and consequently use all public potentials and capabilities in favor of the party and its targets.

The party is requested to immediately take the initiative to read reality of the rule system and failures permeating it and then to treat them by effecting factors of its entity's cohesion.

It is requested to make a quantitative transfer in styles and modern of its thinking regarding the democratic process and mechanisms of dealing it

by giving up the outdated traditional ways.

Lastly the GPC and its leadership should abandon the method of subjugating strategies and constants to serve traditional tactics.



Al-Asboa weekly, 29 Aug. 2002.

Main headlines:

- Amnesty International delegation meets families of 30 detainees
- Fire devours an oil storage of Safer refinery, Mareb
- Fight between an official sons and University guard
- Purging campaign within ranks of the ruling party
- Jewish tourists team to arrive in Aden

Political editor of the newspaper commented on president Ali Abdulla Saleh's opening speech at the GPC conference saying that it was not lacking of a purpose when the conference has ignored the parties grouping in the Coordination Council and not extending an invitation to them to attend the opening ceremony of the conference. He says the speech was expressive of bitterness towards the political and media performance of the opposition and showed annoyance for an opposition alliance that this time has shown more adherence, especially the alliance between the Islah party and parties of the Opposition Coordination Council under the grouping of Joint Meeting Parties.

The newspaper's political editor cites in his commentary two messages the president, as the writer thinks, wants to convey to the opposition. The first message as the writer sees is that the GPC wants to indicate that it is the sole inheritor of the revolution in Yemen and the one bearing its principles. The second message indicated in the president's speech, according to the writer, is that the GPC is still holding all cards of the political game and consequently it can turn over the table at the face of the opposition when it wants.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram:

Iraq's delegate to the Arab League Mohsen Khalil has expressed his country's appreciation of Egypt's stance adopted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as regards the US threats against Iraq.

"The statement of President Mubarak during his meeting with Egyptian university students recently is a strong and clear message indicating the Arab stance rejecting aggression on Iraq," said Khalil.

Al Akhbar

Danish Foreign Minister Perstig Moller, whose country is presiding over the current session of the European Union, will arrive in Cairo on Monday on a two-day visit to Egypt

for talks over the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Iraqi issue.

Al Gomhuria

Reports of the Egyptian Water Resources and Irrigation Ministry showed that this year's flood will be below medium contrary to floods registered in the past three years.

Egyptian Mail

Osama Al-Baz, Mubarak's political advisor, has called for more coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Morocco in line with their time-honoured and historic relations.

He noted that Cairo and Rabat are maintaining coordination and consultations through the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as bilateral meetings.

France

Le Figaro

Ten days before the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack against the World Trade Center, the network of bin Laden still maintains its nerves for the war — money. Al-Qaeda still has access to considerable financial resources, according to a 43-page report that will be submitted to the UN Security Council next week.

Le Monde

The World Trade Organization Friday authorized the EU to impose more than 4 billion dollars in duties against the United States as compensation for an

illegal system of tax breaks. For decades, the American exporters are allowed to exclude some of their earnings abroad from US tax, which the Europeans say is a subsidy.

Liberation

Delegates to the Earth Summit in Johannesburg are striving to mend their disputes over major lines of the action plan that the summit is supposed to produce. The next two or three days will be crucial. Heads of state and government, who will start to arrive from Saturday, expect to find a ground already cleared of disputes on core issues.

India

The Times of India

Separatist leader Shabir Shah said on Friday that he would not take part in the Jammu and Kashmir elections. Shah, however, agreed in principle with Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee, that only polls can throw up the true representative of the people.

The Hindustan Times

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said on Friday that he will not be a candidate in the forth-

coming assembly elections in the state. His son, Minister of State for External Affairs Omar Abdullah, will contest the election. Omar will be the National Conference's chief ministerial candidate.

The Tribune

An Army Major and a local National Conference leader were killed and two soldiers injured in the suspected Islamic militant attacks in the India-controlled Kashmir Friday night.

Philippines

Manila Bulletin:

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday called up Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the issue of illegal Filipino immigrants being deported from Sabah and they reached substantial agreement on the matter.

The Philippine Star:

The special anti-graft court Sandiganbayan Friday ordered a freeze on all assets of controversial businessman Jaime Dichaves, an ally and co-

accused of jailed former President Joseph Estrada in the plunder case now being heard by the court.

The Manila Times:

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople Friday convened the Cabinet inter-agency crisis management and security committee to review existing contingency plans to ensure the safety of the estimated 1.5 million Filipinos in the Middle East if the U.S. pushes through its plan to attack Iraq.

Japan

Asahi, Yomiuri, Nihon Keizai, Mainichi:

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Yomiuri

Japanese government mulls revising

electric utility law.

Asahi:

Japanese government panel calls for listing road firms on stock market.

Pakistan

The Statesman

Pakistan's political parties will start their election campaign from tomorrow (Sunday).

The News

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto lost another round in her comeback bid on Friday when election officials said she could not contest the October polls as she had been convicted of failing to answer corruption charges.

The Nation

India on Friday continued heavy shelling targeting at least three Pakistani posts.

Kenya

Kenya Times

Kenyan Vice-President George Saitoti was relieved of his duties as VP and minister for home affairs Friday.

Daily Nation

Sacked vice-president George Saitoti announced Friday that he would continue to seek the presidential nomination from the ruling party.

East African Standard

Like all the past sackings and appointments of senior government officials, the sacking of the Kenyan vice-president Friday received mixed reactions.

Turkey

Hurriyet (Freedom)

At a reception held on the anniversary of the country's August 30 Victory, Turkey's Chief of the General Staff DayHilmi Ozkok refused to answer journalists' question that for whom he will vote on November 3 elections.

Milliyet (National)

Danish Foreign Minister Perstig Moller, whose country is presiding over the current session of the European Union, said the reforms implemented by Turkey were very important.

Moller noted that they had to make Turkey see that its efforts were not in vain, but it was very difficult for them to set a date for negotiations with Turkey on its EU full membership at the forthcoming EU summit in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Turkish Daily News

In regard to the possible US military strike on Iraq, the US authorities had no military request during US officials' meeting with Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ugur Ziyal in Washington.

WONDERWORD[®] by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Afternoon | Clients | Fringe | Organize | Slot |
| Airplane | Close | Game | Outline | Speech |
| Allocate | Crews | Goals | Overlook | Staff |
| Appointment | Daily | Grid | Party | Subway |
| Arrange | Dates | Important | Payment | Swift |
| Arrive | Debt | Information | Place | Task |
| Attendance | Dinner | Journal | Plans | Timing |
| Bank | Engage | Late | Remind | Train |
| Begin | Errands | Maintain | Repairs | Transportation |
| Behind | Evening | Manage | Report | Travel |
| Belong | Expensive | Meal | Restaurant | Trial |
| Business | Fast | Meeting | Return | Venue |
| Busy | Finish | Morning | Routine | Weeks |
| Celebration | Flat | Near | Rush | |
| Change | Follow | Next | Seating | |
| Change | Forget | Opening | Shorten | |

ON SCHEDULE

Solution: 11 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK Last Week's Answer: Jelly



MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

23



Written by Abdulrahman Mutahhar



Translated by Janet Watson



Children... Between home and the street

M- Yesterday, Mus'ida, you lost all sense of tribal values and totally forgot how you're supposed to treat guests. You made a real spectacle of yourself!

Ma - Don't meddle in things that don't concern you, and remember that although you have to honour guests, the only people in the house yesterday were family.

M- Guests are guests whether they're people from outside the family or family. You invited our daughter and her children over, and then pulled the rug from under her feet!

Ma - Are you trying to say I shouldn't tell my daughter how to bring up her children and warn them against dangers? We might as well just have children and then chuck them into the middle of the street!

M- Anyone listening to you now would say you'd got a higher degree in nursery education and psychology!

Ma - Bringing up children and keeping them safe from hazards inside and outside the house needs a mother who's sensible and thinks about her children. It doesn't need a higher degree in education and psychology!

M- You're right there, but you've gone and become a real busybody without any cause.

Ma - I'll become whatever I want, and it's nothing to do with you. Mother and daughter will make up without any outside interference, thank you!

M- Look, there's something I want to know. Why did our daughter get up straight after lunch and take her children off without so much as a goodbye? She normally stays until I've finished the evening prayer and then I take her home.

Ma - Your daughter, my love, came over to have lunch with the intention of leav-

ing her twelve children with me, so that she could go to the hall where her neighbours were having a wedding!

What harm would it have done if she had left the children with you? Are the water-pipe, gas and television more important to you than your own grandchildren?

Ma - I don't want them just dumped on me, and it's not as if it's just one or two. This is an entire football team with one reserve! I can't even get their names right half the time!

M- It would have been nice to do her a favour, though.

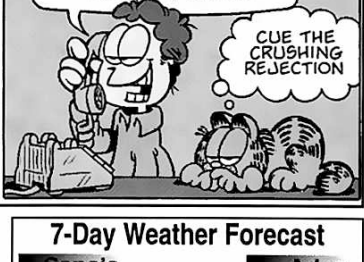
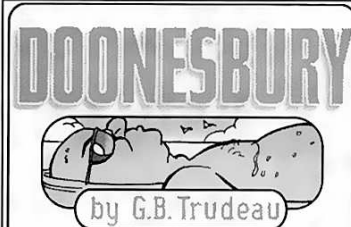
Ma - There are favours and favours. How much trouble would I have had to look after twelve children when not one of them can be relied on to behave!

M- You're just being lazy, Mus'ida, and you're not prepared to enjoy having the children round. Don't forget that children are a gift from God.

Ma - Mus'id, it's the parents' duty to look after their children and keep them away from hazards at home and on the street.

M - I know that, Mus'ida, but it was only for an afternoon. They won't stay with you once they grow up, and it would have been a nice favour.

Ma - I'm talking about doing her a favour. There are twelve children. What do I do? If I lock them in with me they'd riot; and if I let them loose in the house they'd be worse than rioters and go around breaking things, tipping stuff up, and making everything filthy. Then they'd play with the electrical plugs, open the gas canister, open the fridge and give themselves an electric shock, and drink cold water; after that they'd climb up the wall and jump into the neighbours' yard. There's no way I could keep an eye on them all, and if you can't keep an eye on young children they're bound to be at risk!



Horoscope

- by Boadachia
- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
You're ready to go to the next level and you need to prepare for all situations. That means extra patience, extra clarity, and extra courage.
 - Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
You are beyond reproach this week; near perfect. You are extremely high quality and rate ten stars. You only need focus on a few minor flaws.
 - Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Create a block of time to handle the things that have been piling up, unattended. Then, never handle them again, knowing what must be thrown away for good.
 - Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
You will command attention and have authority over anything you wish. I suggest you get very disciplined about bringing some fun and laughter into your life.
 - Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
Any confusion you've felt should soon be lifting. The strong undercurrents of your subconscious are becoming restless and will strike you with force and clarity.
 - Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
There can be a real sweetness to life when you finally declare who you really are and who you wish to be tomorrow. Stop holding back.
 - Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**
Pay attention to the signs given to you. They are always there, and they'll be telling you how to continue on your current path, or to change direction.
 - Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
You think something will work because you've planned everything out, or so you think. Mistakes and problems will happen, so plan for them too.
 - Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Let your feelings be known: they are important. Express your opinions; it's good to hear yourself talk. Value your thinking; you do it well.
 - Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
There have been signs for years, that a personal revolution is on its way for you Caps. You hold in your hands, a way to make your dreams be real.
 - Aquarius (Jan 20 - Febr 18)**
When you hear negative comments coming from inside, mentally tell yourself to stop. The critical voice inside you will soon lose its power.
 - Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)**
You may feel like an ancient person who has come back to live in a modern world. It's foreign, frustrating, and overwhelming, yet it's quite the opportunity.

The Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 46 Fielder's flub | inexperience? | 38 Freakish |
| 1 Mothers in the pen? | 48 "Sister Carrie" author | 10 Corsage choice | 41 New mom's reward |
| 5 With bills due | 50 Annie, for one | 11 Incarcerated | 45 In name only |
| 10 Theater award given by The Village Voice | 54 Summer D.C. clock setting | 12 Hieroglyph symbol | 47 Richly decorated |
| 14 Andy's TV kid | 55 Panache | 13 Puts away | 49 Gouda kin |
| 15 Weather report staple | 57 Redding of soul | 18 Sharp cry | 51 Vagrants |
| 16 McEntire of country | 59 Hole-making tool | 24 French dialect | 52 Do penance |
| 17 "Funny Girl" personality | 63 Acoma | 26 Fourth-down play | 53 Compound used in fertilizers |
| 19 You-owe-me statement | 64 Do-or-die business concern | 27 Strong point | 55 Oscar winner |
| 20 Aquarium growths | 66 Actor Dillon | 28 Broadcast booth sign | 56 Thompson |
| 21 Extra | 67 Center of Los Angeles | 29 Sharp cuts | 58 Broad jump |
| 22 Audience insult | 68 Hollywood's Alan | 30 Phone user's line, perhaps | 60 Monster type |
| 23 RN's dispense it | 69 Altar locale | 32 Entertainer Kovacs | 61 Partners of odds |
| 25 Spare target, perhaps | 70 Suit fabric | 33 Helicopter part | 62 Gather |
| 27 "Shake!" offering | 71 Scratchy sound | 36 Short way to go? | 65 Yucatán "bravo!" |
| 31 It gets milked | | 37 Prod into action | |
| 34 Burden | | | |
| 35 "In" talk | | | |
| 39 Sis's sib | | | |
| 40 Zodiac beast | | | |
| 41 "Mind your own business!" | | | |
| 42 Harvester, e.g. | | | |
| 43 Pointer | | | |
| 44 Topple | | | |
| 45 Destiny's Child, among others | | | |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

"TO THE REAR" By Lynn Lempel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18						19			
20				21					22			
		23		24		25			26			
27	28	29			30			31		32	33	
34				35		36	37	38			39	
40				41							42	
43				44							45	
46			47				48		49			
		50			51	52	53		54			
55	56				57		58		59	60	61	62
63					64				65			
66					67						68	
69					70						71	

FUNNY PICTURES



Jaws is back... in your swimming pool

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a			Aden		
Day	Hi	Lo	Day	Hi	Lo
Mon	28	13	Mon	39	26
Tue	28	13	Tue	41	26
Wed	29	13	Wed	41	27
Thu	29	13	Thu	40	27
Fri	29	12	Fri	41	26
Sat	29	12	Sat	39	26
Sun	28	12	Sun	38	25

Soccer-Real Madrid trash Feyenoord at European Super Cup

MONACO (Reuters) - European champions Real Madrid won the European Super Cup for the first time on Friday beating UEFA Cup holders Feyenoord 3-1 with a superb display of attacking football.

Real, at times almost toying with the Dutch side, dominated the traditional curtain-raiser to the new European season, taking control of the game with two superbly-worked goals in the space of seven first half minutes.

Real's manager Vicente del Bosque said: "It was an important win that completes a cycle that includes winning the league (in 2001), Champions League and now the Super Cup."

"It is important in our centenary year that we have won another title and started the season a winning note."

Admittedly the Super Cup is only a showcase occasion, but on this display Real must be favourites to win the Champions League again -- and if they should complete the signing of Ronaldo from Inter Milan before Saturday's transfer deadline they would be an even more awesome proposition for any opponents.

Striker Fernando Morientes, another Real player linked with a transfer although this time away from the club, was left out of their squad and looked far from happy when skipper Fernando Hierro told him to join the other players on the victory podium.

With Zinedine Zidane controlling the middle, Luis Figo having an outstanding game on the wing and man-of-the-match Roberto Carlos powering around on full throttle, Feyenoord were largely reduced to chasing shadows in the Stade Louis II.



Soccer-Real Madrid trash Feyenoord at European Super Cup - Feyenoord's Pierre Van Hooijdonk (R) shoots to score the team's only goal against Real Madrid at the UEFA Super Cup in Monaco on August 30. Real Madrid won 3-1. REUTERS/Desmond Boylan

It was no surprise, therefore, when Real went ahead after 14 minutes.

Real have now won every European trophy on offer and also ended a curious sequence in which the European champions had lost in this match on the four previous occasions that it has been played as a single-game curtain raiser in Monaco.

Real lost to Chelsea in 1998 and Galatasaray two years ago -- but from the time their first goal went in there was no doubt they were going to make it third time lucky.

Real Madrid agree deal to sign Ronaldo

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid have agreed a deal to sign Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo just hours before the European transfer deadline, according to Spanish media reports.

Spanish radio stations on Saturday said Real would pay Inter 20 million euros (12.7 million pounds) plus striker Fernando Morientes and another player of their choice valued at about 10 million euros who will join the Serie A club during the winter transfer window.

This would bring the total value of the deal to approximately 50 million, making it one of the five most expensive transfers in football history.

Ronaldo's spokesman Rodrigo Paiva said he expected the player to end his contract with Inter Milan -- due to run until 2006 -- later on Saturday. "It's practically certain. Ronaldo is signing the agreement to end the contract with Inter," he said.



Real Madrid have agreed a deal to sign Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo just hours before the European transfer deadline. REUTERS

Yemen hosts Arab championship for table tennis

The Arab Union for Table Tennis has ratified holding the Arab single championship for table tennis in Sana'a on March 2003. The decision comes as a result of the meeting of the executive bureau of the union last week.

Choosing Yemen may ascribed to the good position obtained by the Yemeni team in the 18th Arab championship held in Amman last week in which the Yemeni Team obtained

fourth position.

Furthermore, the Arab Union has announced its initial approval of Yemen's request in hosting the Arab championship in 2006. In addition, the Yemeni Union for Table Tennis is intending to organize an advanced course for Arab coaches in Sana'a at the end of this year. This event is to be sponsored by the Arab Union for Table Tennis.

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وارد محلات كينيا للتجارة
الشيخ جنيد سعيد با وزير

شاي كيني عال العال
أبو ثلاث خمسات
با وزير
BAWAZIR
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Pure Kenyan Tea

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VACANCIES

Field Operator Yemeni Nationals

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen requires a Field Operator to work in its Masila Block Operation, Hadhramout Govt. Yemen. This job will be based on a rotational schedule (28 days on / 28 days off).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Monitors and records performance data of various field equipment daily. Includes collecting readings of all producing well sites, water injection well sites, gensets, VSDs (variable speed drive), separators, manifolds, and flow lines.
- Examines field equipment to ensure it is operating according to specifications and EH&S and advises Area Operator of any abnormalities. Includes checking well heads, flow lines, valves, injection pumps, gensets etc. for any pressure changes, leaks or malfunctions. Checks and adjusts chemical injection rates. Start/stop equipment, making changes to operating parameters, identifying problems with equipment.
- Monitors and adjusts hydrocyclone as necessary to achieve maximum hydrocyclone performance. The operator will start and stop the unit and add wells to the feed as necessary. Adjust hydrocyclone operating process. Involves analysing fluid samples in the lab to determine OIW and BS&W content.
- Issues safe work permit for all non-routine work being carried out in the field. Ensures

that all stipulated safety precautions and procedures as detailed in the permit are followed. Isolates equipment of lock-out. Conducts pre-job checks for maintenance and construction work crews.

- Follows operating procedures. Ensures wells are safe before starting them. Includes checking the safety of bolts, valves, lines, etc. after the well has been serviced. Monitors the well after starting to ensure it is functioning according to specifications. Able to start hydrocyclone unit to effect fluid separation.

Field Working Conditions

- Field Operators are required to work 10-12 hours per day outside in a dry and dusty desert environment, where temperatures may reach 50 degrees celsius. The wearing of hearing protection is required throughout the day. The successful candidates will be required to drive approximately 150 km per day to carry out their job duties.

Requirements

- Completion of Technical Diploma.
- 2 years experience in an applicable Oil Field operation.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid driving license.



Materials Planner Yemeni Nationals

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen requires a Materials Planner to work in its Masila Block Operation, Hadhramout Govt. Yemen. This job will be based on a rotational schedule (28 days on / 28 days off).

Duties and Responsibilities

- From Drilling and Completions/Workover schedules and inventory records, identifies all downhole material requirements to maintain the Drilling and Service rig operations within the Masila block. Responsibilities exclude all downhole and surface ESP equipment.
- Identify critical Drilling and Completions/Workover materials and conduct physical inventory checks to ensure downhole material inventory database accuracy.
- Prepare and submit for approval, purchase requisitions for forecasted downhole materials.
- Track and report deliveries of equipment to ensure materials are available for installation and use when required.
- Compile monthly material inventory reports; and assist Drilling and Production Engineering to ensure inventory levels are optimized at supportable levels.

- When called upon, assist Engineering to ensure SAP materials reservations are done correctly and meet the operational requirements of Service Rigs and Drilling Rigs.
- Assist Engineering and Planning in ensuring smooth transition of drilling and downhole equipment requirements to accommodate well design changes.
- Utilise existing or develop new tracing reports to record, tabulate and report drilling and downhole equipment performance and costs.
- Assist Drilling and Production Engineering groups on follow up to equipment failure analysis. Bring possible warranty issues to the attention of the Drilling and Production Engineering staff and where called upon, assist in warranty issue resolution.

Requirements

- Two Year Diploma from an accredited Technical or Business College.
- Three years in Inventory Management and/or Procurement experience in an industrial setting.
- Working knowledge of Drilling and Completions Downhole Equipment and tools.
- Ability to read and write English fluently.
- Demonstrated excellence in the use of MS Excel, MS Word, MS Outlook and MS Access computer software.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address not later than September 13th, 2002.

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

Human Resources Department
P. O. Box 15137, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 269899
Attention: Human Resources Manager, Sana'a

Note:

- Please provide a direct contact number where you can be reached.
- Please do not call us. We will phone you if you are elected for the test and interview.
- Please mention in your application the job that you are applying for.

Malaysia to Launch Nationwide Crackdown on Piracy

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - Malaysia will begin a nationwide crackdown on the use of pirated software by businesses on Sunday, declaring war on the rampant use of illegally copied programs, the official Bernama news agency reported on Saturday.

"Operation Genuine" will involve some 300 officers from the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry as well as software experts from the Business Software Alliance (BSA), which represents U.S. software publishers, it said.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance estimates that U.S. trade losses due to the piracy of movies, music, software and publishing materials in Malaysia last year rose to \$316.5 million from \$140 million in 2000.

"We have declared an all-out war," said Mohammed Roslan Mahayudin, the ministry's Enforcement Division Deputy General.

"Previously we focused on companies, but this time around we will also take action against their senior management if it is found that they have failed to take appropriate measures to curb the use of pirated software by their companies," he told Bernama.

Bernama did not say how long the crackdown will last, but the authorities have periodically conducted raids on pirated entertainment compact discs and computer software in capital Kuala Lumpur.



A Thai policeman shovels thousands of pirated compact discs during the public destruction of confiscated goods in Pathum Thani, north of Bangkok, August 18, 2002. It is expected that Malaysia will follow suit soon. Photo by Reuters

In a sweep up and down the country last year, officials seized more than 2,000 street vendors of illegal CDs, VCDs and DVDs.

Bernama said companies and senior managers found guilty of using pirated software could be fined up to 10,000 ringgit (\$2,631) or jailed for up to five years. They could also receive both punishments.

U.S. officials say Malaysia has good piracy laws but is not rigorously enforcing them.

Space imaging satellite image of Pentagon

This satellite image of the Pentagon was collected on September 7, 2001 by Space Imaging's IKONOS satellite, only four days before the September 11 attack.

Nearly half of corporate security chiefs expect terrorists to launch a major strike through computer networks in the next 12 months but just over half said in a poll that the U.S. government was better prepared than on September 11 to respond. REUTERS/Space Imaging



Microsoft to Release XP Service Pack Sept. 9



Microsoft says that "critical" security lapses in its Office software and Internet Explorer Web browser has put tens of millions of users at risk of having their files read and altered by online attackers. Microsoft Chairman and Chief Software Architect Bill Gates delivers speaks at the MGM hotel November 11, 2001. REUTERS

REDMOND, Wash. (Reuters) - Software giant Microsoft Corp. on Friday said it will release the first service pack for its Windows XP operating system on Sept. 9, adding new security measures and features to comply with proposed federal orders making it possible to remove certain programs.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft said Windows XP Service Pack 1, which adds features and patches problems with the software, would be available either through download from the company's Web site or via a CD.

The company said the pack contains all the security updates it developed as part of the "Trustworthy Computing" initiative it launched earlier this year, which Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates said has cost \$100 million thus far.

The company has issued at least 30 security bulletins for its software since the launch of that program.

The service pack will also allow manufacturers and users to remove the company's Internet Explorer browser

software and Windows Media Player, among other programs, under the terms of a proposed consent decree Microsoft signed with the U.S. Department of Justice and nine state attorneys general. Microsoft said it had sold 46 million units of Windows XP through both retail and manufacturer channels by the end of June. The system came out late last year.

Microsoft's Terwoerds said the company discovered a security flaw during its internal security push, ordered by Bill Gates in January. Russ Cooper, editor of NTBugtraq, an online clearinghouse for bugs in Microsoft software, said the security hole was "not a big problem in and of itself."

On Aug. 22, Microsoft revealed another security flaw in an ActiveX control that can be used to take over a user's computer.

The company traditionally has released service packs for its operating systems patch holes in security and other areas as well as adding or enabling new features.

الخطوط الجوية الاثيوبية ستحصل على ١٢ طائرة جديدة

قرر الشئون التنفيذية بالاعلان عن عزمهم بشراء طائرات بوينج جديدة عددها ١٢ طائرة حيث ستبدأ استلامها اعتباراً من الربع الاول لعام ٢٠٠٣ م. وتعتبر هذه المرة الاولى التي تقرر فيها شراء هذا العدد من الطائرات. الخطوط الجوية الاثيوبية هي من الخطوط الجوية الاساسية في القارة الافريقية.

نريد أن نعلمكم اليوم أننا قد تمكنا من الحصول على اثنا عشر " ١٢ " طائرات جديدة ستة " ٦ " من طراز بوينج ٧٦٧-٣٠٠ وستة " ٦ " من طراز بوينج ٧٣٧-٧٠٠ وحدد موعد الاستلام ابتداء من الربع الأول من عام ٢٠٠٣ م. وهذا يعني أنه بإمكاننا أن نوفر لكم رحلات أكثر إلى أماكن أكثر وراحة أكثر، وخيارات أكثر إلى أكثر أنحاء العالم. ولأكثر من ٥٥ عاما على التوالي تمكنا من تقريب العالم إلى أفريقيا أكثر من أي خطوط جوية أخرى. لقد قطعنا مسافات طويلة. وهذه خطوة أخرى إلى المسار الصحيح.



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