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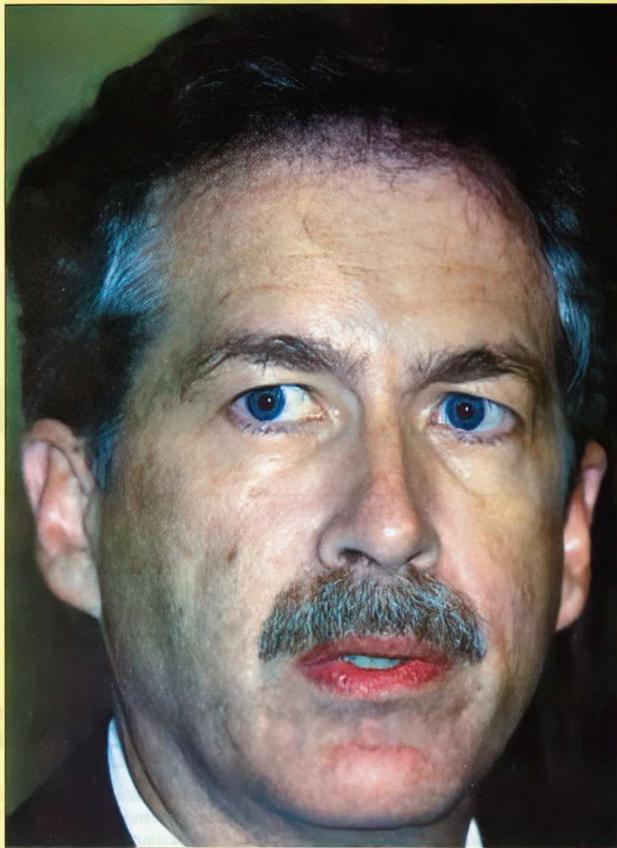
Burns: Tight security is in Yemen's interest

Yemen Times Staff
Sana'a, Oct 5 - The U.S Assistant Secretary of State William Burns said that he did not agree with Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal who accused the US of making "absolutely impossible" demands on his country in the war on terror but giving little support in return. Burns, told Yemen Satellite TV. "I respectfully disagree with the Prime Minister that we are not doing a lot in the economic side. As I said before Yemen benefited more than any other Arab country from the Middle-East partnership initiative last year. It was no accident that is a credit to Yemenis". "It is in your interest to have secured borders, it is in your interest to fight the violent extremists who threaten your economy and the security of your citizens. It is also an American interest because it is very important to have and see a stable prosperous and secured Yemen emerging in the future. That is the kind of Yemeni partner that the United States wants to see. So it is very much building on what is in the Yemeni interest that this issue here", he added.

"They want so many things from us, like [securing] our immense borders and coastal lines. But we are a poor country and we are receiving almost nothing," Bajamal told Reuters Thursday. However, Mr. Burns said the U.S will continue to support Yemen politically and economically and encourages the Yemeni government to continue the implementation of economic, administrative and financial reforms, which started in 1995 under the supervision of the World Bank and the IMF.

Burns met Saturday President Ali Abdullah Saleh, conveying to him a message from the US president George Bush concerning the bilateral relationship as well as situation in the region. Yemeni official sources said that Saleh and Burns talks focused on the relationship between Yemen and the US as well as the international efforts made to counter terrorism.

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"It is in your interest to have secured borders, it is in your interest to fight the violent extremists who threaten your economy and the security of your citizens." Burns said during his visit to Yemen. (R)

Plan of car bomb attacks against 3 embassies foiled: Baseless

News of car bomb attack plan denied

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Sana'a, Oct 4 - News reports released on Wednesday about a plot of car bomb attacks against the US, UK, and German embassies turned out to be untrue, according to an official. It was reported on Wednesday that the Yemeni government had foiled car bomb attacks against three embassies in the capital Sana'a. However, official sources have said that the news item was "baseless" and a denial message was sent to the agency that published it saying that the report was not true.

According to Arab News, "Security forces seized three vehicles packed with

explosives intended to be used in bombing the US, UK and German embassies, a Western diplomat in Sana'a said."

"The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Yemeni Interior Ministry alerted embassies of Western countries after the seizure of the cars over the weekend. He said the would-be attackers used fake diplomatic license plates for the three cars that were intercepted in different parts of Sana'a. Yemeni officials refused to comment."

It was also mentioned in the news report that the attack plans may have been prepared by the "Qaeda of Jihad" movement, which has threatened to attack Yemeni officials and foreign interests in Yemen. However, official sources said that the said movement is a mere hoax and that there is no such organization capable of carrying out such attacks in Yemen.

Continued on page 3

Former Defense Minister returns from exile

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Sana'a, Oct 4 - General Haitham Qasim Taher, former Defense Minister and one of the leaders of the 1994 separatist movement, returned to Sana'a after nine years of exile. Haitham returned with a number of his military companions to the Sana'a Airport, where he was informally received by a few of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) members along with family members and friends.

Haitham is the most recent YSP figure returning to Yemen from exile after fleeing the country upon the defeat of the separatists in July 1994. Haitham was among 16 who were amnestied by the president after he and four others were sentenced to death for igniting the 1994 civil war in the country. He was the main commander of the forces

in the south that led the separatist movement, which was announced weeks after the return of Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman, who also returned recently and welcomed warmly in Sana'a.

Haitham Qasim stayed in the United Arab Emirates for the last nine years. He is one of many high-ranking former YSP figures to return following former Speaker of the



Haitham Qasim Sallam

Parliament Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman, former Member of the Presidential Council, Salim Saleh Mohamed, former Housing Minister Mohamed Ahmed Salman, and former Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulaziz al-Dali, along with many others.

Observers believe that the return of such high-ranking YSP figures will help revive the YSP, which has lost a lot of its influence and glory since 1994.

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Yemeni prominent religious scholar doubts al-Qaeda merger

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct. 4. The Chairman of the Religious Scholars Dialogue Committee and the Supreme Committee Member, Judge Hamoud al-Hitar has recently refuted alleged reports and statements issued by the al-Qaeda organization in Yemen and published by some local papers.

"The key target of permeating reports of an alleged al-Qaeda merger on internet is to cause chaos and confusion. It can be ascribed to what has been issued by the president to refer terror suspects to court and set the detainees free. All what has been reported recently is of an unidentified group. No names, signatures or seals have been confirmed," Mr. al-Hitar told al-Wahda (Unity) Weekly on October 1.

Some of the foreign news agencies and newspapers have recently reported that 5 al-Qaeda organizations operating in regions such as, Yemen, the Arab peninsula, and the northern Africa have recently incorporated into one al-Qaeda organization called, "Al-Qaeda of Jihad".

The newly formed al-Qaeda organization has threatened to target the prime minister and cabinet ministers, the Yemeni officials and their sons. "We are determined to put him, (Abdulqader Bajammal) in the grave along with his entourage, (cabinet ministers)," the statement said.

A statement issued by the "Al-Qaeda of Jihad" and published by the local al-Balagh newspaper said in its issue, September 30 that "Strategic amendments have been made in structure of the al-Qaeda organization. The name has changed to "the International Al-Qaeda of Jihad Organization for Fighting Zionists & Crusaders."

The Al-Qaeda of Jihad includes al-Qaeda as the mainstream together with other five organizations listed as follows:

- Egyptian Jihad Organization
- Yemeni Jihad Organization
- Aden-Abyan Islamic Army
- Companions' Grandsons Organization in the Peninsula.
- Salafia Group Movement in Algeria

The statement has also warned the political security apparatus, (intelli-



Al-Hitar

gence) and said: "The political security apparatus individuals know the Mujahideen hideouts and that Mujahideen know the places of those officials as well as their sons."

"A thunderstruck strike is eminent and more than 48 people of al-Qaeda organization are in readiness to die martyr for implementing more attacks," the statement said.

The statement said 23 of al-Qaeda members had been killed in confrontations that took place in Shabwa governorate last week between Yemeni government forces and the Ali al-Harethi, the second Osama Bin Laden's brother-in-law who surrendered himself to security authorities.

The statement has denied any truce agreement to stop carrying out operations in Yemen in return for the government's commitment to stop its cooperation with the US, set the detainees free and put an end to chasing them.

On its part, Washington said that the US has received threats of a possible terror attack against foreign interests here in Yemen. It has therefore called on its nationals to take exceptional measures for ensuring

Readers' Voice

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that US dmenads from Yemen are "impossible" as Yemeni officials said?

- Yes, they are indeed impossible to meet
- No, they are not impossible, but a bit challenging
- No, they are quite easy to handle

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that Iran will be sanctioned if it insists on its stance concerning its atomic reactors?

- Yes, and it may even be targeted. 58%
- No, it will not be sanctioned at all even as it insists on its stance. 15%
- Yes, but it will never be targeted. 14%
- No, because it will give away its stance. 13%

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Endowment Minister:

"Arab religious scholars to train Yemeni mosque preachers"

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 4 Oct.-The Endowments and Guidance Minister, Mr. Hamoud Abbad has confirmed that his ministry has sought the help of 36 religious scholars from al-Azhar Ashareef to take part in religious training courses to train and qualify Yemeni mosque preachers.

"News that has been recently circulated, claiming that the ministry is seeking to replace Yemeni mosque preachers by Arab mosque preachers is groundless. More than 80,000 mosques are in the Yemen republic," the minister declared.

The minister has confirmed that the ministry will hold the coming week a training course for about 200 religious learning seekers in the field of preaching with participation of eminent religious scholars from al-Azhar and others from Yemen.

A number of foreign news agencies and newspapers reported last week that Yemen had resorted to Arab mosque preachers instead of the local ones as a result of using the mosque's platforms as means for inciting and instigating people to violence.

"The ministry is to make contracts with the first batch of those scholars

totaling 36 preachers.

This tendency towards bringing Arab religious scholars represents a positive aspect towards reforming and getting rid of extremists who have taken the mosque's platforms places for instigation," Yahya Annajar the Endowments and Guidance Deputy Minister remarked.

Official resources said that religious scholars are currently being assigned to large mosques, which are under control of some partisan religious scholars.

Around 6000 out of 80,000 mosques are supervised by the

endowments ministry in all the Yemeni governorates. The Friday religious sermons are performed in 28,000 mosques.

Mr. Annajar added that some reli-

gious preachers haven't realized yet the real mosque message and as a result they pose a threat to the nation's solidarity and its coming generations.

Civil service employees in Taiz:

Corrupt officials referred to prosecution

Taiz, Oct 4 - A number of corrupt officials affiliated to the civil service office in Taiz are to be referred to the public property prosecution. Those officials belong to the workforce department of the civil service office. They include the director, personnel manager, the information center manager and a few other employees.

This has come after starting a num-

ber of procedures adopted by the civil service minister and the Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed Abdullah al-Hajri.

According to sources in Taiz, the referred officials have employed people, who do not conform to employment conditions.

It has been revealed recently that the civil service officials in the city have gained millions of Yemeni Riyals as a

result of illegally employing job seekers.

The officials have been held accountable for YR 100,000 offered to them as bribe.

Such violations have deprived many qualified university graduates from having jobs and therefore they remained unemployed for several years.

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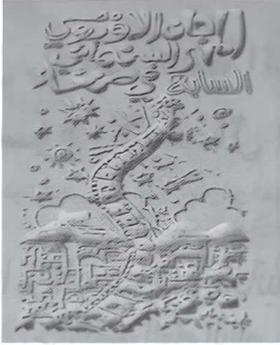
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European Film Festival 2003 launched

Sanaa, Oct 5 - Under auspices of the Minister of Culture Mr. Khalid Abdullah al-Rowishan the seventh European Film Festival has started on October 5th and will continue until October 13th at the Yemeni Cultural Center in Sana'a.

The opening ceremony that took place on Sunday started with the Italian film "The Son's room". This event is being organized by a committee representing the British Council, French Cultural Central, German House, German, Netherlands, Italian, Czech and Turkish embassies and is arranged in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture.

The event will include screenings of films from Italy, the Netherlands,



Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, France, and Turkey in the days from 5 to 13 Oct. respectively.

Courses on environment and ozone concluded

Sanaa, Oct 3 - The General body for Environment Protection (Ozone Unit), organized two training courses during 29-30 of last month. The courses aimed at preparing the survey group who will be executing the Ministry of Education's Plan in Yemen.

The 48 participants involved in the courses were from the body itself and its branches in Yemen and from several environment-related NGOs.

In the two courses, a number of working papers were delivered concerning fact and information gather-



Faisal Ahmed Nasir

ing, objectives of surveys and the importance of training in issues concerning environment and ozone layer matters.

Mr. Faisal Ahmed Nasir the National Representatives in the Ozone Unit said that such courses inform participants of the various issues concerning the environment and the ozone layer. "They are particularly helpful in enhancing knowledge in the field of launching survey in places where harmful materials to the ozone layer are suspected to be produced," he said.

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Training for NGOs in capacity building

By FAHMA ALFOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 4 Oct.- Sponsored by the USA embassy in Sana'a, the Health-Education-Social Development Soul has is organizing a 2-week workshop entitled "Building the institutional capacities of non-governmental organizations" that has started on Saturday 27 and would continue to Thursday 9 October.

The workshop program targets and concentrates on six governorates; Al-Jawf, Marib, Sada'a, Hadramout, Amran and Sana'a.

Soul is keen to select two trainees from each active and dynamic organization that engages in woman, child, and social affairs. The participants have been carefully selected according to specific standards and criteria.

Twenty trainees from ten organizations are going to receive training on



various issues intended to help them run their institutions successfully such as planning, management controlling and following up.

Every trainee is going to come out with a working plan to be implemented in his/her institution while Soul will follow up them and evaluate their work to determine the strong and weak points that will be taken into consideration for future training.

One more lecture on Qat's disadvantages

Taiz, Oct. 4 - Qat's Hazards Combat Association organized a lecture titled "Disadvantages of Qat's sessions of women, their impact on family and mother" last Thursday. The lecture was delivered by Dr.

Aneesah Dawkam and included the catastrophic effects of Qat's sessions, from the social point of view, on all members of family in addition to their damaging impact on a pregnant woman.



Qat is believed to be one of Yemen's most severe problems and obstacles hindering development and prosperity for the Yemeni people.

Workshop to promote female leadership concluded

Taiz, October 4 - The Yemeni Women's Union concluded its workshops program in Taiz concerning strategic planning for capacity building to promote female leaders.

Ms. Suad al-Absi head of the Union's branch in Taiz said that the workshop comes in line with the capacity building project in cooperation



Suad Al-Absi

with Care organization and the Netherlands government.

Thirty four people participated in the 3-day workshop from Taiz, Dhamar, Ibb, and Mahweet. During the workshop, a number of lectures about joint and strategic planning as well as means to prepare long-term plans were given.

Continued from page 1

Burns: Tight security is in Yemen's interest

They, according to a press statement released by the US embassy in Sana'a, talked about cooperation in the field of security, development, and war on terror as well as the US support for development in Yemen.

They also discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories and Iraq.

Saleh stressed that the Iraqi people should handle their country themselves and that Iraq's unity should be maintained.

Saleh also highlighted the important role the US can play to pressure Israel to stop building the security barrier and implement the Road Map.

On his part, Burn praised the efforts made by Yemeni government to fight terrorism. Burns visited some of the US-supported projects like the Elections Supreme Committee and other NGOs.

Burns visit to Sana'a was part of an official tour to the Middle East.

News of car bomb attack plan denied

No official response from the government of Yemen has come out yet. Observers believe that this may be an attempt to make the issue appear in low profile and not invite any further inquiries or questions about it.

Furthermore, Al-Balagh Weekly had also stated that five Islamist organizations announced in a statement that they had merged to set up a group called the "Qaeda of Jihad", and threatened to stage attacks against top Yemeni officials and foreign interests. According to the newspaper, "Al-Qaeda has been strategically restructured to be named the Qaeda of Jihad, the international organization for fighting Zionists and crusaders."

Officials believe that such movements are mere propaganda coming out of computer geeks who wish to bring an illusion that they are capable of carrying out terrorist activities.

The paper added that the Qaeda of Jihad group was formed by "merging Al-Qaeda with the Egyptian Jihad Organization, the Yemeni Jihad Organization, the (Yemeni) Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, the Organization of Descendants of Companions (of the Prophet Muhammad) in the land of the Arabian Peninsula, and the Algerian Al-Dawa Al-Salafia group."

According to Al-Balagh, the new group threatened to stage "wide-range

assassinations that target Prime Minister (Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal) and members of his Cabinet."

The news about the planned car bomb attacks has caused concern for those who planned to arrive to Yemen for tourism and business visits.

"I just hope that the news about the plan is indeed untrue as the news item has caused us some concern," a European diplomat said.

The diplomat, who asked not to reveal his name said, "We are awaiting the clear and accurate facts about this attack plan. We are confident that the authorities will provide the security needed for European embassies in Yemen."

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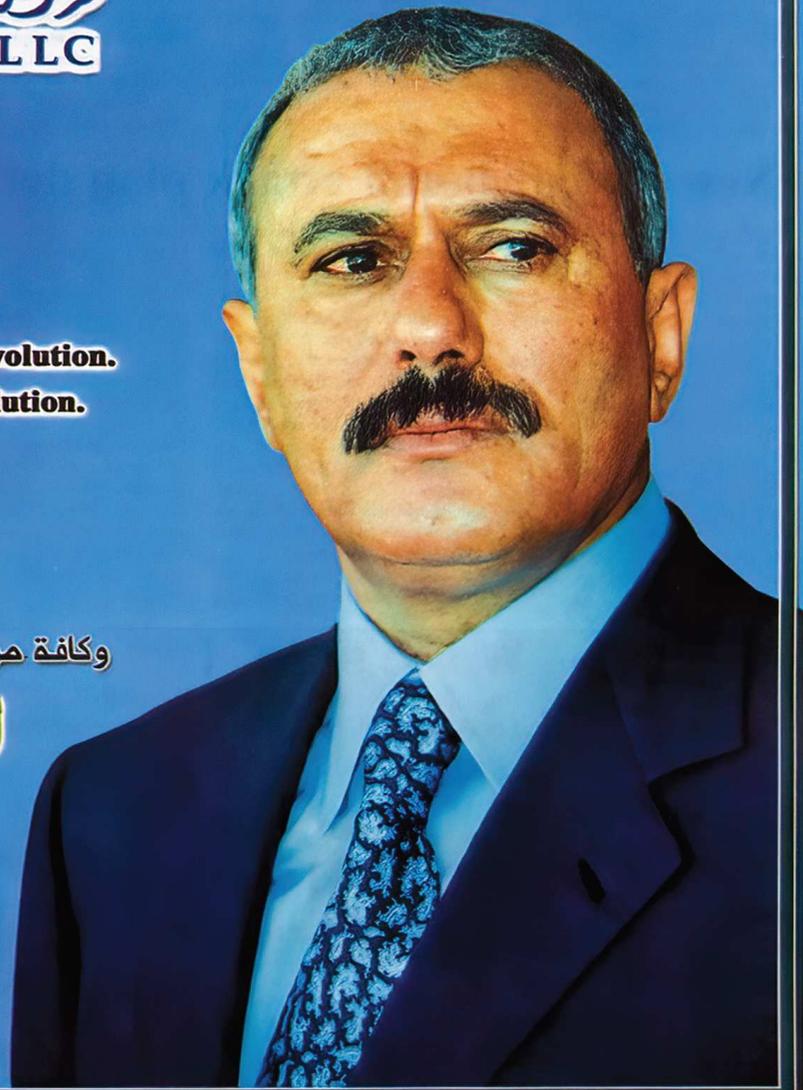
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Hayel Saeed shops for Ramadan

Sanaa, Oct 4 - Under the motto 'Made in Yemen' the Hayel Saeed Shops for Ramadan Essentials have been officially announced open all around the Republic of Yemen last Wednesday. The shops are now open in Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Hudaïda, Aden and Al Mukalla. They will be providing various products in large public exhibitions until the 25th of October.

In Taiz Mr. Mohammed bin Abdulmalik, the Deputy Governor inaugurated the exhibition in al-Saeed exhibition hall where he was received by Mr. Hisham Mohammed Saeed Ana'am Vice Manager of the Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap and Mr. Wahib al-Harwai General Manager of Mass for advertisement along with Mr. Abdulfatah al-Aswadi Vice Manager of the Yemeni Company for Trade and Industry as well as managers of the companies participating in the exhibition. In Hodaïdah, the governor Mr. Mohammed Sha'lan inaugurated the

exhibition, where members of the parliament and other officials were present.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Rami Mohammed Abduh Seed Vice Manager of the Dairy and Food Company Ltd present at the inauguration ceremony said that the purpose of such exhibitions is to provide the consumers with the desired products in order to provide them with high quality local products with affordable prices so they can spend economically and efficiently during the holy month of Ramadan.

In the exhibition, 13 companies of the Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group participated along with Abdughani al-Harwai Company, Productive families' charity and other companies were also present.

A large number of customers visited the exhibition and participated in competitions that took place during the exhibition where valuable prizes were



Mr. Rami

given to the winners through a competition draw, which encouraged consumers to visit the exhibition.



Annual festival in support of Al-Aqsa in Taiz

Taiz, Oct. 4 - Under the motto of "Al-Aqsa's moaning in the anniversary of Al-Isra'a", the Welfare Society of Support for Al-Aqsa organized its annual festival in support of Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque in Jerusalem, which was under the auspices of Judge Ahmed Al-Hajri the Governor of Taiz.

A large number of prominent personalities, consultants, intellectuals, and concerned people from Taiz had attended the festival. Sheik Abdullah Al-Quhali, the chairman of the society delivered a speech on the occasion and emphasized that the US acts that support Israeli oppression against Palestinians are so evident and are being carried out using all possible

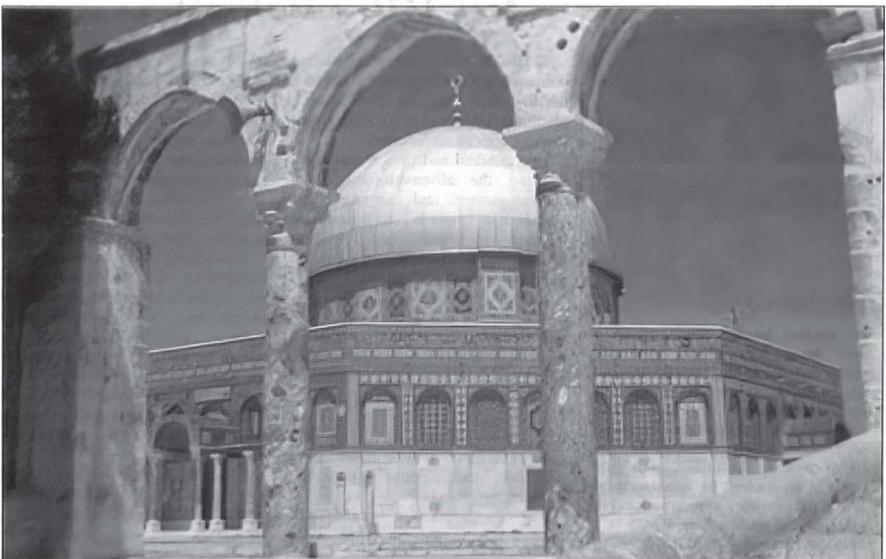
means, including financial aid, political support, etc. He also called upon all Muslims to help and support Palestinians in every possible way, particularly by raising money, and providing moral support. "The support for Al-Aqsa should not be voluntary work, but it's an obligation on all Muslims. Besides, we should encourage our sons to get ready for Jihad in defense of their right," he said.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifane, the chairman of the Committee to Defend Arab and Muslim Issues also delivered an address in which he said that "rulers of Arab countries are only flexing muscles on their people, while serving the enemy by oppressing their nations."

"Children in Palestine still resist the enemy's tanks and are never afraid, while our rulers, on the contrary, are helpless despite their huge armies that are merely used in military festivals and to oppress the people" he remarked.

"We should always be aware of the fact that our enemy is coward and knows very well that anyone with strong belief and willpower can never be defeated by the strongest military arsenal in the world."

In its conclusion session, the participants in the festival chanted with several enthusiastic poems expressing their support for the Palestinian uprising, which was seen as a legitimate act of self-defense by all attendees.



Arab Child Day celebrated

MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, Oct 4 - The Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood organized an open day for children of all ages in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and associations related to this area last Thursday at Al-Sabeen garden in Sana'a City.

The celebration included folklore sketches, which were performed by handicapped and blind children along with orphans from the orphan school, who expressed their feelings and ambitions. They demanded their rights for education, health, and proper living standards from the government. They also urged the Yemeni community to



help them based on Islam's teachings.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood talked about the government's plans concerning the national strategy to take care of childhood in Yemen and enact relative laws in support of children's rights.

He also stressed on the importance of spreading the knowledge of children rights in the society particularly handicapped children and those of special needs.

As a conclusion to the event, some Yemeni children were honored for their distinguished contributions in their studies.

LG exhibition held

Sanaa, Oct 5 - An exhibition for LG computers and peripheral products was officially launched on Saturday at the Granada Trading Ltds. premises in Sanaa.

The one-week exhibition will be demonstrating the most recently introduced LG computer hardware and software products along with highly advanced technologies offered at competitive prices.

The company aims at introducing LG products to its customers at very low and convenient prices.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by a host of eminent computer scientists, businessmen, students, journalists, and individuals concerned in technology, plus many others.

The exhibition is expected to witness great interest among many sectors of the community, especially students and companies.



Dr. Basurrah honored in Aden

BY RIDHWAN AL-SAQQAF
YT ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

Aden, Oct 1 - A farewell and honoring ceremony was organized for the former rector of Aden University Prof. Saleh Ali Basurrah in Aden on Saturday September 27. The ceremony was attended by Governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Mohammed Al-Shuaibi, Prof. Abdulkareem Rasei, new Rector of Aden University Prof. Abdulkareem Rasei, Deputy Rector of the university Dr. Saeed Al-Jabali, college deans, general directors of a number of government offices, foreign diplomats in Aden, journalists and a large number of the university teaching staff.

A number of speeches were given expressing gratitude to Prof. S. Basurrah for his work during the last

ten years in leading Aden University to become a respected and highly ranked university in Yemen and the region. Speeches were given by the Chairman of Students Union on behalf of the university and college deans. Deputy Rector of the university and the current rector have delivered words of appreciation on this occasion.

Dr. Yahya Mohammed Al-Shuaibi the Governor of Aden delivered a speech in which he said that Prof. Basurrah had succeeded in bringing about a number of achievements which were praiseworthy from both the governorate and the people of Aden. He wished him success in his new position as Rector of Sana'a University, which is the largest university in the country.

In his address, Dr. Saleh Basurrah said that he was honored and delighted for the years he spent in Aden University, expressing his appreciation to the university staff and students and pledged to maintain warm and friendly relations with them. He also stressed that the university could not have achieved greatly without the valuable support of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

While presenting him with his arm of coat award by the governor of Aden, Dr. Basurrah said he was emotionally touched by this gesture.

The event was also attended by representatives of the private sector, the local press in Aden in addition to a large number of prominent dignitaries and political figures, who also presented symbolic awards to Dr. Basurrah in appreciation for the efforts he had exerted during the last decade.

Palestinian "suicide bomber" kills 19 in restaurant

HAIFA, Israel, Oct 4 (Reuters) - A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded beach restaurant in the northern Israeli city of Haifa on Saturday, killing at least 19 people including three children, police said.

The attack just before the Yom Kippur fast day provoked an outcry abroad and renewed demands in Israel for the government to exile Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, despite a call by his prime minister-designate for attacks on civilians to end.

The bomber struck as families sat down for lunch on the Jewish sabbath at the Maxim restaurant, owned by a Christian Arab and a Jewish family and frequented by Arabs and Jews.

"Suddenly we heard a tremendous explosion. We saw smoke pour out of the restaurant and the windows shattered," said witness Navon Hai. "There wasn't much we could do. Families were dead around the tables, there were children without limbs."

Wires and roofing material were left dangling. Windows were shattered on all sides of the restaurant and discarded shoes and bloody clothing littered the nearby parking lot.

The bomber's severed head with a long mane of dark hair lay on the floor in the centre of the restaurant, surrounded by other body parts and bloody clothes. A black and white checkered baby carriage stood amid the wreckage.

"It was a woman who carried the explosive device. She is in her 20s and the head was blown off," said police spokesman Gil Kleiman.

Dazed people wandered around in swimming trunks after coming back from the beach, where some people remained enjoying the good weather as

rescue workers carried away the dead.

Police said the dead included three children and a security guard, and that about 50 people were wounded. Israeli media said one of the dead children was a baby of several months and the two others were aged three and five.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, although Israeli media said the Islamic Jihad movement was behind it. It followed an increase in tension this week after Israel decided to build a new stage of its barrier with the West Bank which will cut deep into Palestinian territory.

Qurie demands end to attacks

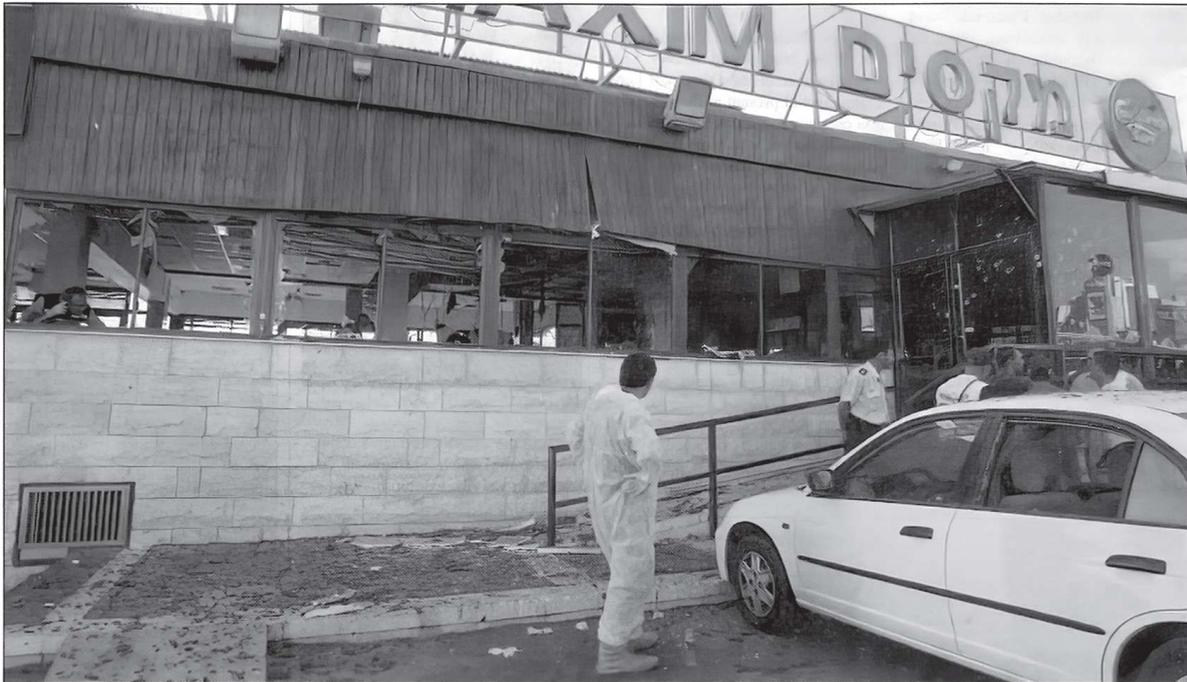
Palestinian Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qurie condemned the blast and urged Islamic militants to halt all attacks on civilians. His government is obliged to rein in the militants under a stalled U.S.-backed peace "road map".

"Mr Qurie urged the Palestinian people and all its national and Islamic factions to practise self restraint and to fully halt these actions that target civilians and harm our legitimate and just national struggle," his office said in a statement.

"That (appeal) is too little and too late," said Jonathan Peled, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. "We have had enough of declarations and denunciations. We need action."

Arafat condemned the attack, saying it would give Israel a "pretext to obstruct international peace efforts", but did not directly repeat Qurie's appeal to the militants.

A State Department spokesman said the United States condemned "these horrific acts of terrorism" and appealed to Arafat's Palestinian Authority to rein



Israeli policemen stand outside a destroyed restaurant after an explosion in Haifa October 4, 2003. A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up in a crowded Israeli beach restaurant in the northern city of Haifa on Saturday, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens, rescue workers and police said. REUTERS

in the militants.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the attack was sickening. France said such attacks were unacceptable, "weaken the Palestinian cause and delay a solution to the conflict". The Israeli government was widely

expected to mount a tough response to the suicide bombing, the first since twin attacks killed 15 people on September 9 and the first since Israel's cabinet decided in principle on September 11 to "remove" Arafat.

"Arafat has become a living obstacle

to peace. It is imperative that we get rid of him", Israeli Science Minister Eliezer Sandberg told Reuters outside the restaurant after the suicide bombing.

Israel and the United States say Arafat has fomented violence during

the three-year-old uprising, a charge he denies.

The Palestinians say it is hard to end violence when Israel continues to track and kill militants in air strikes and keeps in place army blockades which restrict Palestinians' movement.

Two killed as unemployed soldiers riot in Iraq

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

BAGHDAD, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Two Iraqis were killed on Saturday in violent confrontations between hundreds of former soldiers in Saddam Hussein's disbanded army and occupying troops in Baghdad and the southern city of Basra.

The British army said one of its soldiers shot dead an armed Iraqi during an angry demonstration in Basra by men who had gathered to collect redundancy payments after being laid off from the Iraqi military.

Major Simon Routledge said a British soldier heard gunfire and then shot and killed an Iraqi holding a weapon. British troops also fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowd.

Hundreds of former Iraqi soldiers also rioted at a disused airport in Baghdad where redundancy payments are handed out. They hurled rocks and rushed towards U.S. soldiers who beat them back with batons and fired shots in the air.

Officials at a hospital said one Iraqi had been killed and several wounded. The U.S. army said two of its soldiers and four Iraqis were wounded.

Jobless men also staged a violent protest in the holy city of Najaf. Charles Healy, spokesman for Iraq's U.S. administrator Paul Bremer, said there had been disturbances at a payment centre for former soldiers in the town of Hilla too.

Healy said there was no indication that the violence was coordinated. He said the unrest was fuelled by "old guard" Iraqi officers who spread a rumour that there was not enough money to pay all the ex-conscripts.

"They decided to stir up the crowd that was waiting outside the payment centres in Baghdad and Basra, in particular, to create a disturbance," he told a news conference.

New army

The U.S.-led administration in Iraq disbanded the country's army in May. It later agreed to pay \$40 compensation to each of the 440,000 conscripts who had served in the army.

Washington is setting up a smaller military force to take the place of Saddam's army. On Saturday, the first recruits in the New Iraqi Army graduated from basic training in a ceremony near the Iranian border attended by Bremer. Healy said news of the ceremony may also have sparked the unrest.

Late on Friday, guerrillas attacked a U.S. convoy near Baghdad with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, killing a 4th Infantry Division soldier and wounding another, the U.S. army said. It said American troops pursued the attackers, killing two and wounding one.

Fourth Infantry Division spokeswoman Major Josslyn Aberle said guerrillas fired



A U.S. soldier wearing riot gear watches a queue of former Iraqi soldiers waiting to collect payments following a violent protest in the capital Baghdad October 4. U.S. troops opened fire on Saturday to disperse an angry crowd of former Iraqi soldiers, wounding several who had come to collect their redundancy pay in Baghdad, witnesses said. REUTERS

mortars at a U.S. outpost about 50 km (30 miles) north of Baghdad. A 12-year-old girl was killed and two other civilians wounded in homes near the base.

At least 85 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since Washington declared major combat over on May 1.

Diplomatic tensions

Washington, facing a guerrilla insurgency and mounting financial costs, is trying to agree a new United Nations resolution giving the world body a broader mandate in Iraq in an effort to coax reluctant countries to provide troops and funds.

But Security Council members France and Russia say they are unhappy with the draft U.S. resolution. The two countries, which opposed the war in Iraq, want a faster handover of power to Iraqis as a condition for their support.

"I won't hide from you that it was a bit of a disappointment for us...there is fairly little progress," French President Jacques Chirac said of the draft resolution at a news conference at a European Union summit in Rome.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said the world body could not play a proper political role in Iraq under the terms wanted by the United States.

Mwanwhile, a diplomatic spat between Poland and France which began when Polish troops in Iraq found French-made missiles near the town of Hilla seemed to have been defused on Saturday.

Warsaw apologised to Paris for claiming that the advanced anti-aircraft missiles had been produced in 2003, saying Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski regretted the information on the alleged date.

Omanis go to polls in first free election

MUSCAT, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Omanis went to the polls in the Gulf Arab state's first free elections on Saturday, electing an advisory Shura Council in a vote diplomats see as a step towards wider political reforms.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said extended voting rights to all citizens aged 21 or over last year to end restrictions which had allowed only a quarter of the 1.8 million population to vote for the 83-member consultative Shura Council.

Voters were previously selected by the government from among tribal leaders, intellectuals and prominent businessmen.

The council has no legislative powers and mainly advises the government on economic matters. It has no say on issues relating to defence, security or foreign affairs.

"Our country is turning a new political chapter today. For the first time, citizens will vote without restrictions that were imposed in recent years," a

voting supervisor said.

Omani women turned up in large numbers at polling stations, hoping for better representation in the council which currently has only two women members.

"This time we have a true election, which has encouraged many women voters to come forward to try to elect as many women as possible," Khadija Alawi, a college lecturer, said.

There are 15 women candidates versus 21 in the last polls.

Polling stations close at 7 p.m. (1500 GMT). Results are expected to be announced later on Saturday.

The Interior Ministry said 262,000 people are expected to vote in this election, up from 115,000 from the 2000 polls.

Oman also has an elected municipal council.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the only two Gulf Arab states without elected bodies.

Iraq unveils new banknotes — with Saddam removed

BAGHDAD, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Iraq unveiled its new banknotes on Saturday with pictures of an ancient Babylonian ruler and a 10th century Iraqi mathematician in place of the smiling face of Saddam Hussein.

The Babylonian ruler Hammurabi, credited with creating the first written code of laws in human history, graces the new pink 25,000 dinar note, worth about \$12. The other side shows a smiling Kurdish farm worker holding a sheaf of wheat.

Astronomer and mathematician Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham, born in Basra in 965 and known as Alhazen to medieval scholars in the West, is on one side of the 10,000 note, the only other human figure on the new notes.

Other bills show a waterfall in northern Iraq, date palms and Islamic monu-

ments. One has a picture of a wheat silo.

The layout of the notes is familiar to Iraqis as they are based on the so-called "Swiss dinar", which was used in Iraq before the Saddam banknotes were introduced and still circulates in northern Iraq, governed as an autonomous region by Kurds since it was wrested from Saddam's control in 1991.

The new notes are printed by the same firm that made the old "Swiss dinar" — Britain's De La Rue Plc.

It has printed enough new dinars to replace the four trillion dinars now circulating across Iraq as well as an extra amount for reserves, a central bank official said.

Iraqis have three months from October 15 to exchange their old bills at 250 bank branches across the country, at a rate of one new dinar to one Saddam

dinar and 150 new dinars for each Swiss dinar.

The U.S.-led administration in Iraq has ordered all images of Saddam to be removed from monuments, murals and school textbooks. But in the months following the war it was forced to print billions of dinars of banknotes bearing the face of Saddam, to ease a shortage of low-denomination banknotes.

Deputy Central Bank Governor Ahmed Salman Mohammed also announced that the newly independent institution had sold Iraqi dinars earlier in the day at a rate of 1,900 dinars to the dollar in the first of what will become regular foreign exchange auctions.

"We hope that in a short time we will establish a stable price for the Iraqi dinar against other foreign currencies, especially the U.S. dollar," Mohammed said.



An ancient Islamic compass on a new Iraqi 250 dinar banknote replaces the smiling face on the old one of Saddam Hussein, as new currency is unveiled during a press conference in the capital of Baghdad on October 4. Iraq unveiled its new banknotes on Saturday, with pictures of an ancient Babylonian ruler and a 10th century mathematician in place of the smiling face of Saddam Hussein. REUTERS

Policewomen get back on the case in Iran

TEHRAN, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Iranian policewomen are back on the beat for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution after graduating from police training college on Saturday.

Two hundred and fifteen graduates, wearing the all-enveloping black chador garment and carrying either ceremonial swords or firearms, trooped in front of President Mohammad Khatami before taking up their duties on Sunday.

Iranian women served as police officers under the pro-western Shah who was toppled in the revolution, but since then their role has been restricted to administrative tasks and conducting body searches on women suspects.

However press reports say the graduates have polished their judo and fencing skills and will be able to serve alongside men in police stations and border posts.

The newspapers also say they will have a role to play in crime scene

investigation.

Earlier this year the official IRNA news agency quoted Ali Abdullahi, deputy head of the Islamic Republic's police, as saying a special uniform had been designed for the policewomen.

He did not give more details, but in January a police training official said they would wear a loose coat and trousers whilst out on patrol.

The official said they would not be required to wear the chador, the all-enveloping black garment that literally means "tent", which is obligatory in some government offices.

Iran has slightly eased restrictions on women since the election of pro-reform President Khatami in 1997 and most professions are open to women, but Iran's strict Islamic dress code remains in place.

Under the code, women are expected to wear headscarves and loose-fitting clothes that disguise the shape of their body.

Afghan deminer wounded, Canadian dead repatriated

KABUL, Oct 4 (Reuters) - The NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kabul held a ceremony on Saturday to repatriate the remains of two Canadians killed in a suspected mine blast, while in the south an Afghan mine clearer worker was hurt in an attack on his vehicle.

The attack on the mine clearer occurred in Zhery, a desert district about 15 km (10 miles) west of the southern city of Kandahar. Daud Farahy of the Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA) told Reuters.

One mine clearer was wounded by a gunshot to the foot and two vehicles destroyed in the attack, he said.

"I don't know who the attackers were; we don't have enemies — our organisation is non-governmental and non-political."

Previous attacks on mine clearers have been blamed on remnants of the ousted Taliban regime attempting to disrupt development work by the United Nations and non-governmental organisations.

DAFA is a partner in the U.N.-led demining effort in Afghanistan, one of the world's most heavily mined countries.

Dan Kelly, the head of the U.N. Mine Action Centre, said unknown attackers on Friday held up and stole a car belonging to another demining group, the Mine Dog Centre, in Zabul province, which adjoins Kandahar.

Saturday's attack comes after a period of heightened violence across Afghanistan since the beginning of August in which more than 300 people, including aid workers, have been killed.

It also comes ahead of a visit to Kandahar and Kabul by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage on Sunday to reaffirm U.S. commitment to security and post-war reconstruction.

Canadians killed on patrol

The two Canadian peacekeepers were killed on Thursday in a suspected mine blast while on patrol on the outskirts of Kabul.

Hundreds of troops from the NATO-led multinational force mourned them on Saturday at a repatriation ceremony.

Corporal Robbie Beerenfenger, 29, from Ottawa and Sergeant Robert Short, 42, from Fredricton, New Brunswick, were killed when their jeep

struck a suspected mine in a river bed about 3.5 km (two miles) from their Kabul base.

Three Canadians were wounded in the incident, the first involving Canadian peacekeepers since their deployment to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in August.

The cause of the blast is under investigation.

On Saturday night, state-run Kabul Television said police had found three caches of explosives in the city during the day which were meant for "terrorist" attacks. It said they included seven anti-personnel mines, one anti-tank mine and two thermos flasks stuffed with explosives.

Thursday's was the worst incident involving ISAF troops since four German soldiers were killed and 31 wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on their bus in June.

The latest violence comes as NATO debates a possible expansion of ISAF from Kabul into unruly provinces controlled by factional warlords and prone to Taliban attack, where risks to soldiers would be much greater.

Angry Pakistan Shi'ite Muslims protest at killings

KARACHI, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Pakistani police fired teargas to disperse hundreds of angry Shi'ite Muslim mourners who went on a rampage in the southern city of Karachi on Saturday, a day after six Shi'ites were killed in an attack on a bus.

"We will avenge the killings," shouted the crowd of about 1,000 mourners during a funeral procession for one of the six people killed in Friday's attack.

Two or three gunmen riding a motorcycle opened fire with automatic weapons on a bus carrying Shi'ite Muslims to a mosque for main Friday prayers, killing five on the spot.

A sixth man died in hospital. Eight people were wounded.

No group claimed responsibility but police blame Sunni Muslim militants for most of the sectarian bloodletting in Pakistan.

On Saturday, young men and boys burnt tyres to block a main road and side lanes in Karachi's central district, threw stones at cars and motorcycles and damaged police vehicles, a police post and petrol stations.

Witnesses said some of the protesters suffered minor injuries in scuffles with police, who struggled to control the crowd.

Police said they had detained at least eight people.

"The situation is now under control," city police chief Tariq Jamil told Reuters.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani military said it had dismantled a suspected "terrorist training camp" involved in sectarian violence in the country.

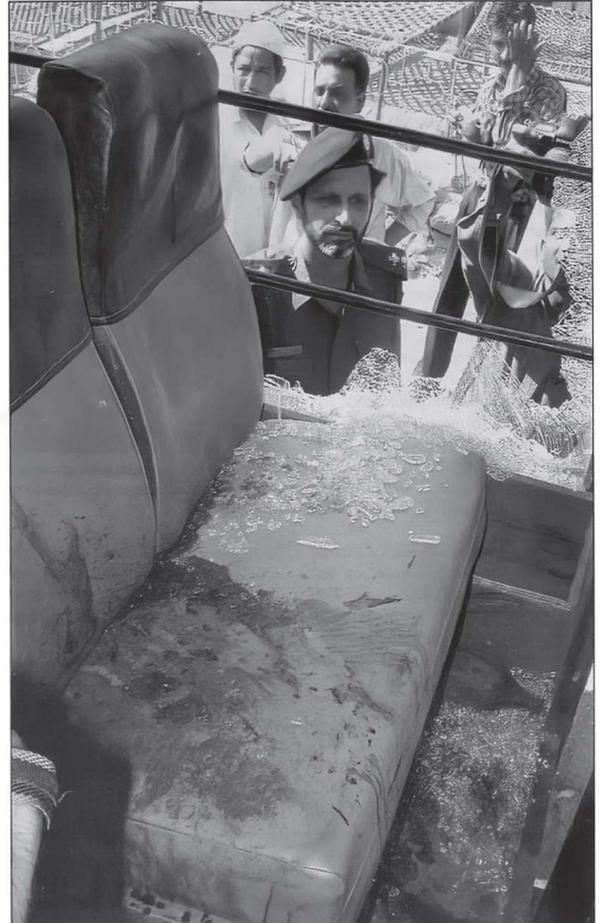
Military spokesman Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan said the suspected militant training camp was being run in remote Diamir district in the North West Frontier Province.

"The camp was being used to impart training to terrorists for terrorist activities inside the country...for sectarian killings," he told Reuters.

He said there had neither been any casualties nor any arrests in the "search operation".

Most of the dead and wounded in the Friday attack in Karachi were employees of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmospheric Research Commission, using a company bus.

Hundreds of people, most of them



A Pakistani policeman examines a bus after a shooting incident in Karachi October 3, 2003. Two gunmen attacked a bus carrying Shi'ite Muslim worshippers in the Pakistani port city of Karachi on Friday, killing at least five people and wounding seven, police said. REUTER

minority Shi'ites, have been killed in sectarian violence in Pakistan in recent years.

At least 57 Shi'ite worshippers were killed in July in an attack on a mosque in the southwestern city of Quetta.

Pakistan is a predominantly Sunni Muslim country, with Shi'ites accounting for about 15 percent of its 149 million people.

Nigerian union leader says expects general strike

IBADAN, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Nigeria's main union leader Adams Oshiomhole told a meeting of his Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) on Saturday that he expected it to decide later today on a general strike, in protest over government moves to deregulate fuel prices.

"Obasanjo is treating us like an animal which should be used and dumped," he told NLC delegates. "As a result of this we expect the National Executive Council of the NLC to give us an order and we shall obey to the last."

"The suspension of the last strike has lapsed with the new development in the country," he added.

Oshiomhole also warned that the All African Games, due to kick off in the capital Abuja later on Saturday, could be disrupted by strike action.

"I ask Nigerians to stay away from the games," he said. "Obasanjo should be charged for sabotage for inviting the rest of Africa to Nigeria and, on the eve of their arrival, he set the country on fire."

The last rise in Nigerian fuel prices in June prompted an eight-day nationwide strike in which several died.

Petrol prices rose by 17 percent to 39.9 naira (31 cents) this week, after Nigeria's Petroleum Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPRA) announced the liberalisation of the fuel market.

There is, however, still confusion on the government's fuel policy as the presidency has not made an official statement since the price rise.

Angolans march to demand election date

LUANDA, Oct 4 (Reuters) - About a thousand Angolans marched through the streets of Luanda on Saturday to demand a date for elections, in the first state approved anti-government demonstration since the end of a 27-year civil war last year.

Some 18 months after the end of the war, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' government is yet to set a date for landmark all-party elections, the first since 1992.

Dos Santos who has ruled the oil rich former Portuguese colony since 1979 has hinted that Angolans could go to the polls next year or in 2005.

Saturday's demonstrations were

organised by a coalition of 87 small opposition parties. The coalition wants a vote in 2004.

"We're demanding that the government set a date for elections," said Paulino Pinto Joao, leader of the Civilian Opposition Parties.

Demonstrators marched peacefully through the streets of the capital, singing and chanting "Down with Dos Santos, down with corruption". Around 50 police officers kept a low profile during the demonstrations, which were approved by provincial authorities.

Angola, sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest oil producer after Nigeria, has the potential to become one of the

region's powerhouses with its vast oil and diamond resources.

But the International Monetary Fund says corruption and bad management are a serious drag on the economy. Angola produces around 900,000 barrels of oil per day, but critics charge that little of the oil-wealth trickles down to its people.

More than 70 percent of Angola's population of 13 million live on less than a dollar a day.

The southern African country is struggling to get back on its feet after the devastating civil war in which around a million people were killed and millions more displaced.

Indian forces say kill six rebel infiltrators

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Indian troops killed eight Muslim rebels trying to slip into Indian-controlled Kashmir from the Pakistani side of the region on Saturday, the latest casualties in an annual surge of bloodshed before the winter.

The violence in the disputed Himalayan region has cast a cloud over tentative peace steps between the nuclear-armed rivals who nearly went to war a fourth time last year over the disputed Himalayan region.

An Indian police spokesman said police and soldiers shot dead four militants when they were trying to slip into Indian Kashmir from Pakistan north of Srinagar, the region's main

city. Four other rebels were killed after they crossed a ceasefire line separating Indian and Pakistani forces southwest of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, one man was killed and seven others were wounded, two of them critically, when Indian forces fired into Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Pakistani state-run media said.

"Pakistani troops returned the fire and silenced enemy guns," Pakistan Television quoted officials in Pakistani Kashmir as saying.

Nearly a dozen Muslim separatist rebel groups have been battling security forces in Indian Kashmir since

1989. India accuses Muslim Pakistan of supporting the rebels and giving them sanctuary and says there is an annual surge of rebels infiltrating Indian Kashmir from the Pakistani side to join the insurgency before winter snow blocks mountain passes.

Islamabad denies Indian charge and says it provides only political, moral and diplomatic support to, what it calls, "legitimate freedom struggle". The police spokesman said six militants were killed in other clashes across the region late on Friday and on Saturday. More than 200 militants have been killed in the past four weeks, Indian security officials say.

Thousands march to back Ivory Coast rebels

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of people marched in Ivory Coast's rebel stronghold on Saturday in a show of force that underscored bitter divisions two days after a huge anti-rebel protest in the main city of Abidjan.

To loud cheers, rebel leader Guillaume Soro delivered a new call for the departure of Laurent Gbagbo that appeared far from the spirit of reconciliation urged on the West African country's foes by a worried U.N. Security Council on Friday.

Fears of a resumption of all-out-war in the world's top cocoa grower have shot up since rebels walked out of a power-sharing coalition last month.

"We want the pure and simple departure of Laurent Gbagbo, he is no longer the president of the whole of Ivory Coast," said Soro. "We will not play a part in Gbagbo's comedy government.

Anyone who wants to hold negotiations should come to Bouake."

Demonstrators in the national colours of orange, white and green marched to whistles and drums through the second city of Bouake, held by rebels since the war started over a year ago.

On Thursday, some 350 km (220 miles) to the south, the streets of Abidjan were packed with tens of thousands of Gbagbo's supporters, demanding the rebels disarm. Some made clear they wanted a return to war to reunify Ivory Coast.

Behind Ivory Coast's conflict are divisions between the mostly Christian and animist tribes of the south and the largely Muslim north, which has been in rebel hands since a failed coup triggered the war in September 2002.

There has been no fighting between the two sides since May and the war has officially been declared over after the

loss of thousands of lives. Troops from former colonial power France and West African states patrol the ceasefire line that cuts the country of 16 million in two.

But tension has mushroomed since rebels walked out of a power-sharing government last month, accusing Gbagbo of trying to sabotage the accord signed under French pressure in January.

A statement from the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council said they were worried that implementation of the deal had slowed and urged all parties — in particular the rebels — "to take all necessary measures to restore confidence".

The strain of the conflict has been particularly acute in the north, which has been cut off from the Atlantic coast ports and cocoa farms that produce 40 percent of the world's supply.

Ethiopia rejects border ruling after U.N. decision

ADDIS ABABA, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Ethiopia has again rejected a decision by an independent commission to award a disputed border village to Eritrea, days after the United Nations told it to abide by the ruling.

The Horn of Africa neighbours fought a 1998-2000 border war that killed about 70,000 people. A peace deal was signed in 2000, but Ethiopia has repeatedly challenged postwar decisions on demarcating the border.

The United Nations this week rejected a written request by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi for U.N. action to resolve the dispute and told it to follow the ruling by the Hague-based Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

Meles wrote to the U.N. Security Council last month to complain about the commission's decision to award the politically sensitive village of Badme

to Eritrea.

Late on Friday, after the U.N. decision was made public, Ethiopia again criticised the border ruling.

In a statement, Ethiopia's Information Ministry said it would not accept the decision, which it said could lead towards instability and recurring war.

"The boundary commission has committed a grave error," the statement on state television said.

"There is no ground to press Ethiopia to accept this illegal and utterly unjust decision awarding Badme to Eritrea against overwhelming evidence produced by Ethiopia proving that the border town and its environs had always been administered by Ethiopia."

Demarcation of the new boundary is due to begin in mid-October and end in July 2004.

Riot police clash with protesters at Rome EU summit

ROME, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Italian riot police used batons and teargas to beat back several hundred anti-globalisation protesters during a demonstration in Rome on Saturday after coming under attack from stones and bottles, witnesses said.

Scores of police with shields charged the crowd of demonstrators after being hit by projectiles as they tried to maintain security at a conference hall where European Union leaders were meeting to discuss the EU's constitution.

"Protesters wearing helmets and carrying their own shields pushed up against the police lines and started throwing stones and bottles," a Reuters journalist at the scene said.

"Police then retaliated. They charged and used their batons to beat back the crowd, as well as firing a round of teargas."

Several demonstrators were injured, as were two policemen. One elderly man was taken away in an ambulance with a deep gash to his head and blood pouring down his face. Several protesters were detained, police said.

After the teargas was fired, the crowd quickly dispersed and police returned to their lines in front of the hall, where 28 heads of state and government were holding their one-day summit.

The disturbance was the first major incident between Italian police and anti-globalisation protesters since July 2001, when a day of violent clashes at a Group of Eight summit in the city of Genoa left one demonstrator dead and dozens injured.

Earlier, a group of around 50 masked protesters smashed windows and cars and set fire to the offices of an employment agency not far from the site of the EU summit, witnesses said.

"They blocked off the street with



Italian riot police clash with anti-globalisation protesters during demonstrations in central Rome against the European Union's Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) October 4, 2003. Several demonstrators were injured in the clashes. REUTERS

dustbins and old tyres and then attacked the agency with sticks and iron bars before throwing some sort of firebomb into it," said Gianni Sugaroni, 36, a resident in the street.

Police said they detained more than 30 people who fled the scene and firefighters later put out the blaze in the gutted office. Cars outside the Adecco agency, one of the world's largest temporary employment companies, were also destroyed.

Tight security

The clashes with police came as thousands of demonstrators completed a march to protest against the EU constitution, which they say is too focused on free markets and capitalism and not enough on peace and understanding.

While organisers claimed as many as 100,000 people joined the rally, police put the figure at closer to 10,000.

Some 7,000 police officers were deployed to maintain security along the route of the three-kilometre march and

two helicopters hovered overhead monitoring the crowds.

Before the march got underway, a crowd of some 500 anti-globalisation protesters gathered outside the headquarters of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government in central Rome and threw toilet rolls at the building while shouting insults.

That demonstration came a day after protesters deposited several buckets of manure outside Berlusconi's residence.

France proposes paramilitary force for EU

BRUSSELS, Oct 4 (Reuters) - France has called for the European Union to set up its own paramilitary force to take on peacekeeping tasks in countries moving from conflict to stability, officials said on Saturday.

Diplomats said the proposed pool of forces based on France's Gendarmerie or Italy's Carabinieri was widely, but not unanimously, welcomed at a meeting of the 15-nation bloc's ministers on the outskirts of Rome.

"Our French colleague suggested...having a European gendarmerie," Italian Defence Minister

Antonio Martino told a news conference. "In crises there is a military phase and then reconstruction: the real problem is the transition phase and how this is tackled."

France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Belgium all have paramilitary forces which could be fed into an EU capability.

The EU is already building up a rapid reaction force of 60,000 troops — a pool of available resources rather than a standing army — for crisis management operations in hotspots on its doorstep and beyond.

It launched a police mission in Bosnia

at the start of this year and his since undertaken two military peacekeeping operations in Macedonia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The defence ministers also agreed to establish a European Defence Agency by the end of this year to narrow the yawning transatlantic gap in military capabilities.

"Europe spends about 50 percent of the U.S. defence budget but our capabilities account for 10 percent of U.S. capabilities because...there are duplications," Martino said.

Europe has fragmented defence markets and disparate procurement poli-

cies which lead to costly kit duplications and difficulties in combining military forces for joint operations.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has long argued for the creation of a European defence equipment market to replace national control over defence-related industries. It is an idea some countries, notably Britain, view with suspicion.

The draft of the EU's first constitution now under negotiation calls for a European Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities Agency. Martino said the defence ministers agreed to shorten the name to European Defence

Rebels vow to fight on as Chechnya heads for poll

DERBENT, Russia, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Neighbours of rebel Chechnya hope Sunday's presidential election there will help end a decade of violence that has reverberated through the mountainous largely Muslim region of southern Russia.

But separatist guerrillas have vowed to fight on against Russian forces in a conflict in which tens of thousands of people have died inside and outside the region in the last nine years alone.

Many observers have dismissed the poll as pointless.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin sees the presidential contest as crucial for the Kremlin's plan to anchor Chechnya in Russia and legitimise local autonomy, four years after launching a second military drive to crush separatists.

The insurgents, including fugitive President Aslan Maskhadov, say the poll will make no difference to their campaign to push Russian troops out of

their homeland.

Many observers, and much of Russia's press, dismiss it as a farce, with no serious challenger to Akhmad Kadyrov, who with the Kremlin's backing seems certain to win the contest.

Reports from the Chechen capital Grozny said Chechnya was calm on Saturday, although security measures had been stepped up.

Trucks, often used in rebel suicide attacks, were off the roads and all traffic kept away from a government centre rebuilt after rebels destroyed it last year. A big market was closed for the day.

Itar-Tass news agency quoted the Russian military as saying Russian forces killed five rebels in a shootout in mountains south of Grozny.

Kadyrov was appointed head of a pro-Moscow local administration in 2000. Two prominent rivals withdrew or were disqualified as the presidential

campaign drew to a close.

Moscow's latest move

The election represents the latest bid by Moscow to end a long history of bloody conflict.

It follows a March referendum in which results showed a big majority backing autonomy within Russia. It is clearly intended to deny Maskhadov the legitimacy he had as an elected leader from 1997 to 1999 — during which Russia withdrew its troops and Chechnya had de facto independence.

Putin has refused calls from the West and Russian liberals to negotiate with Maskhadov. Interviewed this week by the Novaya Gazeta newspaper, Maskhadov vowed never to recognise the vote.

"A so-called elected Kadyrov does not differ in any way from an appointed Kadyrov," he said in answers sent by e-mail. "I don't believe the elections you refer to will have any effect on our

armed struggle."

In neighbouring Dagestan, like Chechnya mainly Muslim, residents cling to the hope that the election will halt the violence that has spilled over into their daily lives and bring stability, perhaps even prosperity.

"Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, we had up to 50,000 tourists a year from all over the world," said Nazim Kasunov, director of the museum in the Caspian Sea town of Derbent, a UNESCO world heritage site.

"Now we have hardly any. If the elections are honest, and I think they will be, then it will be better for all of us."

Kadyrov fought with the rebels in the first war against Russian forces in 1994-96, but now says the region can prosper only under Russian rule. His prime minister Anatoly Popov, acting president during the campaign, predicted a high turnout.

Democrats deride Bush on Iraq, CIA leak, economy

By Patricia Wilson WASHINGTON, Oct 4 (Reuters) - Democratic presidential hopefuls, bolstered by a new belief they can beat President George W. Bush, teamed up on Saturday to attack the credibility of a White House under fire over the war in Iraq and an intelligence leak.

In brief speeches at the Democratic National Committee's fall meeting, four of the party's 10 contenders for the 2004 nomination skewered Bush for dishonesty and incompetence on everything from the U.S. economy to the exposure of an undercover CIA officer. Six others took their shots on Friday.

Florida Sen. Bob Graham, lagging in the polls and struggling to raise money, made no mention of reports earlier this week he was about to drop out of the race.

With surveys showing Bush's approval ratings slipping, Graham, civil rights activist Al Sharpton, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, blamed the president for a host of recent bad news — rising poverty levels, the escalating cost of Iraqi reconstruction and the CIA leak.

"We see an administration moonwalking on trying to come to who is guilty of the leaks that risked security for Americans," Sharpton said. "Where is Ken Starr when we need you?"

The Justice Department is investigating whether someone at the White House, CIA, Pentagon or State Department illegally disclosed the identity of a CIA operative whose husband challenged Bush's Iraq weapons threat claims.

Edwards derided Bush's request for \$87 billion for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq as "billion-dollar giveaway" that would be better spent at home. "We will not give this president a blank check, we will not give this president a free ride and we will not give this president four more years," he said.

'Cluelessness' and 'arrogance'

Graham, a three-term senator and former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, blasted Bush for a "loss of global respect," "cluelessness" on the economy and "arrogance" on Iraq.

"We were lied to when President Bush led us into war in Iraq," he said. "The president should apologize to the American people for misleading us."

A preliminary report from the top CIA weapons hunter in Iraq, David Kay, found no weapons of mass destruction, which the war was fought over, but plenty of circumstantial evidence that programs to develop such arms had existed.

Gephardt ridiculed Bush as the "vanishing" president, a master of "flim-flam and photo opportunities."

Jobs, the budget surplus, civil liberties, U.S. allies, Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein had all disappeared since Bush took office, Gephardt said, declaring, "Now we've got to make George W. Bush vanish."

The Democratic rivals also took a few jabs at each other, with newcomer Wesley Clark and leading fund-raiser Howard Dean the main targets.

In a dig at Clark, a retired four-star Army general and former NATO commander who officially declared himself a Democrat only recently and entered the White House race just over two weeks ago, Edwards said being a Democrat for him was "a matter of the heart" not "a matter of convenience."

Sharpton urged that a Michigan plan to allow Internet voting be rejected because it would disadvantage black voters who did not have computers. He criticized Dean, the former Vermont governor, for not joining him in opposing it.

"He says he's the only white candidate to discuss race," Sharpton said. "Governor Dean, it's not enough to talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk. Your coffers may be full, but your talk is cheap. We must do something about the racial divide and Michigan is a test point on that."

U.S. condemns latest suicide bombing in Israel

WASHINGTON, Oct 4 (Reuters) - The United States on Saturday condemned the latest Palestinian suicide bombing in Israel that killed at least 18 people and it urged the Palestinian leadership to take steps to halt further attacks.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms these horrific acts of terrorism," a State Department spokeswoman said. "This clearly illustrates why the Palestinian Authority must act now to dismantle the terrorist capacity and networks that perpetrate such attacks and to prevent any future attacks."

Fifty-two other people were injured in the attack on Saturday at a beach restaurant in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

The Bush administration has blamed the Palestinians for the stalemate over the blueprint for establishing peace in the Middle East and called on them to form a government with the authority, resources and commitment to crack down on militants.

The Palestinians have designated a new prime minister, Ahmed Qurie, who after the latest bombing called on Islamic militants to stop attacks on civilians.

Chirac disappointed with U.S. draft on Iraq

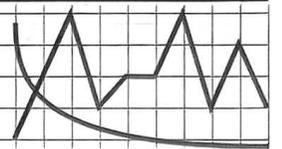
ROME, Oct 4 (Reuters) - French President Jacques Chirac said on Saturday he was disappointed with a draft U.N. resolution on the future of Iraq circulated by the United States.

"I won't hide from you that it was a bit of a disappointment for us...there is fairly little progress," Chirac told a news conference at a European Union summit in Rome

about the amended U.S. draft, which U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Russian President Vladimir Putin have also criticised.

Chirac said France was willing to continue Security Council discussions in close cooperation with Russia and Germany. Paris has said it will not veto the text but might abstain.

YT Business



Judicial reforms for, **Stabilization of justice, security and investment climate**



Ministry of Justice seems to be a little tilted

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Justice is now implementing a plan for the judiciary reform aimed at reforming the conditions of courts and the non-delay in deciding disputes, the realization of justice message and the stability of the society and development movement. The purpose is to produce consolidation of investment climate and the work of speeding up solution for investors problems.

In preparation for these goals accomplishment the ministry has recently organized the Branch

Judicial Conference for the governorates of Ibb, Taiz, Dhamar, Baidha', Hadrmout, Shabwa, Muhrah, and Aden in activation of the plan for judiciary reform approved by the council of ministers. The Judicial Branch Conference has demanded at the conclusion of its meetings for the stabilization of the principle of judiciary independence and its legislation and asked that the Supreme Judiciary Council be the reference in cases of appointments in the judiciary power as well as the promotion of its members, their transfers, acceptance of resignations and sending them to justice.

The conference has affirmed the necessity of providing all necessary

potentials for the judge or member of prosecution in order to improve performance and fight the financial and administrative corruption.

The conference discussed many topics that have been concentrated on the judge, independence of judiciary, existing judiciary practical legislation and means of putting them into account, general prosecution and impediments of blocking its work. The conferees also evaluated activity of the legislative power, conditions of judiciary and problems the courts are suffering from throughout the country.

This conference is as a preparatory for the general judicial conference to be held later and to be attended by

representatives from all governorates. The conference aims at setting a plan for judicial reform, especially that there are complaints offered by the citizens and investors mentioning about weakness of judicial apparatus in solving the present problems.

According to statements by those interested in the reform of judiciary, there would be a modernisation measures for judicial apparatus and courts in order to spread justice among the people and curb the phenomenon of vengeance, fighting bribes and weeding out corruption as well as the work for sovereignty of the law and legislation including all courts nationwide.

Japanese & Western grants for grassroots projects

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under a scheme called "General Grant Aid for Grassroots Projects" the Japanese government offers aid for organisations and societies in Yemen aimed at fighting poverty and meeting needs of the local community. Part of the program the Japanese embassy in Yemen has delivered \$ 68,536 thousand worth medical equipment to Abs Health Center in Hajja to be benefited from in treatment at the TB and malaria unit at the centre.

The equipment included X-ray machine, ultrasound machine, microscopes and other laboratory equipment to help the center reduce morbidity and mortality of tuberculosis and malaria among the 200,000 inhabitants of Abs district. The Japanese scheme aims at supporting community small enterprises related to basic human needs field. The scheme focuses on offering aid for funding projects such as in the fields of primary health care, basic education and public welfare in developing countries including Yemen.

In the last fiscal year -April 2002-March 2003- the Japanese program offered assistance to Yemen amounting to \$ 468,368 thousand to implement 8 small enterprises in Sa'ada, Amran, Al-Muhra, Sana'a, Hajjah, Dhamar, and Hudeidah.

Similarly, the Canadian program

for development of local efforts for helping those of mines victims offered finances aimed at assisting the handicapped. In this context the Canadian program delivered 100 wheelchairs at a cost amounted to \$12 thousand for the handicapped society at the district of Mansoura in Aden governorate. The wheelchairs would be distributed on school students, the handicapped and also the handicapped who are seeking for jobs.

An agreement was concluded between the handicapped society and the Canadian program for providing 200 wheelchairs costing \$14 thousand.

The Canadian program for development also offers easy loans to the handicapped and so far there are 45 disabled beneficiaries from these loans.

Director of the Centre for rehabilitation of the physically disabled in Aden Ms Layla Bashmeila says that there are plans aimed at incorporating the handicapped with the society after the carrying out of social surveys to learn about the handicapped social circumstances.

There are several programs for offering aid for the handicapped in Yemen, including the German program GTZ, the French +Ria program, the Swedish program for childhood and the Gulf program offered by organisations working the field of fighting poverty and support for non-governmental organisations.

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\$780 million, exchange of trade volume **Yemeni-Indian Commission discusses trade & investment cooperation**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni-Indian Commission holds its 5th session in Sana'a in December aimed at expanding bilateral relations, developing areas of trade exchange and establishment of effective and active partnership within the League of Indian Ocean Countries.

Official sources in Sana'a said the session meetings would enable the two countries to study possible prospects to enhance investment partnership of Yemen and India. Such partnership that would aim at improving the balance of trade and develop economic relations among the Indian

Ocean countries.

The commission's meetings come amidst positive indicators on exchanged exports and imports by markets of the two countries especially in the exchange of industrial and agricultural products and construction equipment.

Government sources report that meetings of the Yemeni-Indian joint Commission would be coinciding with convening of the Yemeni-Indian Businessmen Council and that would enhance and expand bilateral cooperation in various areas.

The Indian Charge d'Affaires to Sana'a O. P. Bajaj says that India was during the years 2001-2002 one of the prominent importers of Yemeni prod-

ucts and one of the biggest exporters of Indian goods to the Yemeni market.

In a statement published in Yemeni daily Al-Thawra lately the Indian Charge d'Affaires he has said that his country has analyzed about 200 categories and found out that India is the first and biggest exporter to Yemen as it exports about 46 kinds of goods. Indian products occupy the third place among the countries exporting goods to the Yemeni markets of other 73 merchandise and the fourth place among countries exporting goods from among the 81 remaining goods categories. He has clarified that the volume of trade exchange during the 2002 has amounted to around \$780 million.

Vacancies

According to the work plan of Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee and in cooperation with ministry of local administration for establishing sub-units to follow-up and monitor the strategy at the governorate level, and to fulfill this mission the PRSFMU would like to recruit local experts to undertake specific responsibilities and to establish sub-units and fulfill goals.

Advertised posts are:

1. Development expert.
2. Environment expert.
3. Bilingual secretary.

Qualifications required for the first two posts are:

- Postgraduate degree (M.A. or Ph.D)
- Minimum 5 years of experience in researches & reports preparation.
- Sufficient experiences in collecting data, and analytical tools.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate especially with NGO's and government agencies.
- Knowledge of English is preferable.

Qualifications required for the third post are:

- Secretarial and administrative experience including filling and data entering.
- Draft and typing corresponding skills in Arabic and in English.
- Effective verbal and written communication.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Knowledge of English is preferable.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted

For full consideration, the applicant's C.V. should be delivered or faxed within a week of this advertisement attached with educational and work experience certificates and a cover letter to the following address:

Poverty Reduction Strategy Follow-up & Monitoring Unit,
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Al-Hurriah St., Sana'a
P.O. Box 175, Tel. 250634, Fax. 250606, E-mail: PRSFMU@yemen.net.ye

Words of Wisdom



At the beginning of every year, the Westerners have a beautiful tradition of assessing their achievements during the outgoing year and then setting out goals for the New Year. This practice, which is performed at the national, as well as at the personal level, allows them to at least think ahead, and then prioritize their activities. We in Yemen could benefit a lot if we were to internalize this behavior.
 Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
 (1951-1999)
 Founder of Yemen Times

OUR OPINION
 Might is NOT always right!

The USA is today in such a vulnerable situation. American soldiers are being killed or injured every day in Iraq. The US administration is facing international and local criticism because of the consequences of the Iraq war. Attacks in Afghanistan are also bringing increasing in number. Chief U.S. weapons inspector David Kay reported to Congress on Thursday that his team has so far found no weapons of mass destruction inside Iraq. How will Bush be able to convince his people that the decisions on Iraq were right?

Iraqi demonstrations against US occupation are getting fiercer and more significant every day. The death toll among Iraqis killed by US gunfire is adding insult to injury. How will the US cope with all of this pressure?

The superior military capabilities and technological advanced communication and intelligence system of the USA were not enough to save the lives of so many US soldiers dying by the day in Iraq.

What has gone wrong?
 Didn't the US win the war?
 Recalling my own editorial just after the war, I did say that the USA may have won a battle, but it has not won the hearts of the Iraqis. Only then, can we consider that the war achieved its objective.

Today, and after six months since the war, Iraqis are still suffering from lack of basic services, unpaid salaries, miserable security conditions, chaos, and most important of all, lost pride as US soldiers wander around freely, while Iraqis cannot move without prior notice in many areas.

The might of the USA was helpful in ending the war militarily, yet on the other side, there are human feelings among Iraqis that were not taken into consideration. US soldiers can be seen humiliating Iraqi citizens when arresting them. I even saw an American soldier stepping on one of the Iraqis, who were supposedly caught red-handed in a resistance attack.

Doesn't this remind us of another occupation somewhere else in the region?

All I can say right now is that the USA may have applied the wrong means in dealing with post-war Iraq. Clearly, more emphasis should have been put on human values, respect to others, and basic civil services in the post-war period. After discussing this with a number of American friends, they also agree that no proper and wise management of the situation was applied after the war. A good example is the distrust between the Iraqi citizen and the US soldier that can be concluded quite easily in Iraq.

Time is running out for the US administration. It is not too late, but if things continue to deteriorate and go from bad to worse as happening today, then the future is at stake, and the superpower of the world may realize that might is not always everything, and sometimes too much might could result in arrogance, which can result in catastrophe.

The Editor

Problems of 1960s are still ours today



BY MOHAMMED HATEM AL-QADHI
 mhalqadhi@yemen.net.ye

Nobody can deny the fact that the 26 September Revolution 1962 has considerably improved the life of the Yemeni people in comparison with the situation under the Imam rule. However, what has been achieved during these four decades does not meet the aspirations of Yemeni people. The priorities of the revolutionaries are still ours today. Political, social, economic stability, good health and education, fighting ignorance, illiteracy- these all were the priorities of the revolution and concerns of the people behind it. However, they are still our main headache today after 41 years. What a pity!

During this period the country was embroiled into the turmoil of several problems, mainly political which in return created instability that considerably slowed down the process of devel-

opment in the society. After 4 decades we even failed to abolish the tribal vengeance which has been claiming the lives of many Yemenis since then.

Of the main concerns of the revolution was introducing good education and health, enhancing law, justice, security and fighting against the "chains" of the Imam's jails. Unfortunately, these efforts to achieve the aspirations of the folks could not hit the nail on the head and put us on the right track.

We have many schools and some universities but "Do they meet the development needs at a time where more than 70% of population are still illiterate"? We have many hospitals but they are empty even from aspirin at a time where thousands of Yemenis still die of malaria. Yes guys, prisons of the Imams were demolished but we have many jails belonging to various (Imams) tribal sheikhs in different areas all over the country. Security and safety is still something which we need as we need water. The absence of law and order and justice is more visible in the cases piled up in courts for many years and other lawless practices by

influential guys at the power center. There is no any sort of accountability to stop the horror of corrupt crooks who are pocketing money of the masses and crippling any silver lining for development and progress. Tribal norms remain above the rule of law as the political regime still upholds and clings to such norms and therefore the power of the tribe still controls everything in our life. There is no any real intention to civilize the people.

By and large, I do not mean here to put down or deny the achievements we have made so far since 1962. Rather, I simply do not want the priorities of the people in the 1960s and 1970s be ours today. Our concerns today should not be to teach people to read and write only; they should be to live up to the challenges of the time and fight against the illiteracy of computer and internet. They should be to combat cancer and other serious diseases, not malaria. In short, we need another revolution in different arenas of our life. It is only this way could people realize the real change their revolution had made in their lives.

Tribal Rule in Yemen: A good thing?

BY SAM ASHURAEY

It has been argued in many cases and by many people from many different groups that the tribal rule and law and how it is practiced in Yemen is bad for the "democracy" which the country is trying to spread all throughout the country (even those parts of it which are quite obviously strictly under tribal rule). However, there is one argument that is especially strong against those who hold this opinion: the tribal leader is essentially supposed to give his tribesmen and protect for them the certain amount of rights that are accustomed to within that tribe. Whether this certain duty is followed by many of the sheikhs is questionable; but in theory it is his duty to follow. If it were followed (which is still in many cases) there would be effectively, a democracy within that tribe, and a very viciously guarded one at that.

If the country were to -hypothetically- come under an attempted dictator-

ship these closely knit tribes would be a nightmare for those that attempt it. The rights and sovereignty of that tribe will be guarded to the fullest. The tribes would sooner be slaughtered than succumb to imposed rule.

There are two notable examples of this tribal protection of rights by the sheikh (I should note here that the following stories are probably not 100% accurate, but I do trust their sources enough to write about them. Even if they were not completely accurate, I am certain that situations such as these have happened which are in defense of my thesis). The first was in Al-Jawf when the GPC attempted to take the constituency for one of its own candidates, who were running against Sheikh Al-Ukaimi of the Islah party. The seat was given to the GPC's candidate initially. However, it is widely believed (especially by the sheikh and his tribe) that the sheikh was actually the winner and there was a "miscount". The sheikh first approached the president about the matter but was

refused. Therefore, he resorted to house imprisoning Al-Jawf's governor and threatened to "take him out" if he was not awarded the parliamentary seat.... He was given the seat.

The second example was in Kawkaban during the last internal GPC elections. This particular election was for the leader of the GPC branch. The person who actually won the elections was not the one the Mahweet governor wanted to win and so he ordered the closing of the branch. On his way to Kawkaban to award the keys of the branch to the candidate he actually wanted to win, he was stopped by Sheikh Hussein Hussein Khamis and forced to give up the keys. The sheikh then gave the keys to the rightful winner of the elections.

For better or worse, tribal rule is very powerful in Yemen. When a sheikh uses this power to protect his tribe and its rights, it is (or should be) a highly revered action. He is performing the essential duty of any good leader.

Letters to the Editor

CIA betrayed
 George Bush betrayed his own CIA agent because he was criticized by the agent's husband, Ambassador Wilson. The same situation occurs daily in Iraq when the CIA promises safety to Iraqis who come forward with information. Just yesterday, 2 Iraqi scientists were shot and one killed for working with US intelligence. Why? Because George Bush betrayed them. He promised safety, just like he did to Wilson's wife and then, because he didn't like her husband's politics named her as an undercover agent.

This ought to be a lesson to any Yemeni citizen who might consider giving aid to the FBI or the CIA in Yemen or anywhere else in the Middle East. The CIA case worker who employs such people now runs a high risk of being exposed by his or her own government - and that means an even higher risk for anyone who associates with the case worker. By high risk, I mean being murdered. Yes, I understand that Yemen needs economic help and that US agents have the cash to pay for favors, but a bullet in the head is a high price to pay for a few months employment. Ask Mrs. Wilson's agents how they feel about it - if they are still alive. This

whole situation is just one more example of a US administration gone insane with power.
 Robert Lindh
 lindh@swenbr.net
 USA

Questions to Al-Haifi
 Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi, I have two questions I want to ask you. Why will you not answer the question that has been asked to you before about "how many friends do you have that is / are Jewish? Secondly, why do you dislike Jews so tumultuously? Can I expect an answer?
 David Lynch
 dlynch1057@aol.com

Stop press oppression at home first
 The Yemeni government has suppressed reporters and editors for Yemeni newspapers for so long. There is rarely any criticism of the Yemen's national policies in Yemeni newspapers because the government is so overprotective of themselves. However, when Spanish officials arrested Al-Jazeera correspondent, Tayseer Alouni, the Yemeni president immediately called the Spanish Prime Minister demanding the reporter's release. "A political arrest violating the freedom of the press and human rights,"

Letters to the Editor

said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the detention of Tayseer.
 Why is this double standard applied? Why can't he stop the violations of the freedom of press in his own country?
 Ali Hussein
 alamar17@juno.com

Muslims don't hate Christians
 As a Muslim person, I assure that we, Muslims don't hate Christianity, like some Christians visualize. Conversely, we like Christians anywhere in this world. In fact I have so many American friends with whom I have got along wonderfully regardless of their religion. We totally realize that many, not all, Americans are wise, open-minded, well-educated, act against erupting disputes between Islam and Christianity for ridiculous reasons. But, unfortunately, it's obvious that Americans, in general, have a negative image and biased attitude towards Islam and Muslims. To put it more obviously, they try to ascribe any terrorism or barbarous acts to us even if we are innocent and no blame attached to us. The way that Muslims are mistreated and discriminated against, especially in the

States, reflects that. Islam and Christianity are great and esteemed religions if we know how to carry out and follow their valuable and precious instructions. But, and for some evil purposes, we stir up problems and then attribute them to our religions.
 Wathik Ahmed al Samawi, Yemen
 wsamawi@hotmail.com

Why not say good things about US policy?
 I read with interest your editorial regarding why the Arab world doesn't like US policy. The one thing I was quite surprised to find was your complete lack of pointing out the good that has come from it. Where is Saddam? How many children were released from his prisons? Would the world be a better place with Saddam in power? What other justification did we need? No one believed that there was WMD. No one thought Iraq was a threat to the US. However, Saddam was a Major threat to his own people. Ask the ten year old child that was released from his torture prison if he is better off without Saddam, then let me know what you think of US policy.
 Michael Brown
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COMMON SENSE
 By Hassan Al-Haifi

A problem of image or policy?

One would think that the Bush Administration would do better to save the American taxpayers' money rather than to waste it on futile efforts to convince 250 million Arabs and 1.5 billion Moslems that American foreign policy in the Middle East and towards the Moslem World is sincere, genuine and not lacking in any evil intents. Second of all it is really insulting to all these people, including the American taxpayers, if the Bush Administration believes that a public relations make up job is enough to win the hearts of so many people. This is especially so, if the effort rests on the premise that all these people must ignore all their spiritual and sentimental feelings, simply because Uncle Sam has clearly shown that the only "sentimental and spiritual" orientations that count are those of a chauvinistic Zionist establishment and their "evangelical" friends, whose authority currently holds sway over all foreign policy inclinations of the United States Government.

The truth of the matter is that even if the United States spends US \$ 600 Billion in a campaign to "win the hearts" of the Muslim and Arab constituencies in the world, all this money would be better used for more effective programs like eradicating poverty (in the US and the rest of the world) or cleaning up the air in the world, than to have the Arabs see the logic of an incongruous foreign policy that aims to destroy all hope for the people in the region to live in peace and stability. One would think it somewhat insulting to believe that the Arabs, in particular, can quickly understand the genuine intents of the United States for the region, when American soldiers are daily killing Arabs and Moslems in Afghanistan and Iraq, almost in a random desperate manner that defies logical explanation. It would also be insulting that the Arabs and Moslems can be made to understand the logic of unflinching support for a chauvinistic state implanted in the region's midst, while that state uses state of the art American arms, Caterpillar tractors and shovels to finish off the unarmed helpless Palestinian people.

This is the essence of the problem of "image", which the United States is facing in the region. The problem, therefore does not stem from an erroneous perception of the people of the region about the "good side" of American foreign policy, if there is still a good side left to American foreign policy. Frankly speaking, we have come to the point now, where even the American people are increasingly questioning the intentions and motivations that drive American foreign policy since the Bush Administration took the helms in Washington DC. The point to be made here is that the American people, in general, have no "image" problem in the region, for most people in the Moslem and Arab World have no real qualms against the American people. The problem of the American image in the region centers on the overly strong influence that the Zionist establishment has been able to enjoy, in determining what American foreign policy should be not only for the Middle East, but even towards America's longtime allies, who have stood by the United States for half a century. Therefore it is almost ridiculous to expect that the Arabs and Moslems of the world can be fooled into recognizing the true merits of a policy that succumbs to a chauvinistic and arrogant Zionist mob that has distorted the historical context to justify their evil intentions, not only for the region of the Holy Land, but for the world at large as well.

The more important truth of the matter is that the Special Fact Finding Committee on the American image portrayed in the region seemed to have overlooked the fact that just as the Committee's report is being presented to the US Congress, the Israeli Cabinet had the audacity to confirm American foreign policy in its truest manifestations. The Israelis will go on building the prison wall that shatters all hopes for the establishment of a Palestinian state, thanks to the American funding or "guarantees" as William Safire calls them. This same William Safire of the *New York Times* goes on to explain to the American people (exactly one day before the Israeli Government decision!) that the "Arafat Wall", as he calls it, is justified and necessary, notwithstanding the public renunciations, albeit fluid opposition by the White House and the US State Department to the "continuation" of the construction of the wall. Surely, the people of the region and the Muslim world cannot find any logical explanation in the genuine intents of the United States, when American troops randomly shoot at the homes of helpless Iraqi citizens, whose country was invaded for reasons that have no basis except to abide by the Zionist map and agenda for the region, which is proceeding at full speed notwithstanding the "Road Map", not to mention the fulfillment of the designs of the highly influential business establishment led by such political arm twisters like Halliburton and other politically entrenched American firms (Remember the East India Trading Company).

One final truth that is bound to remain with us is that as long as the Bush Administration holds sway in the US, there can never be any hope of the US projecting any image, except that of an aggressive neo-colonialist thug. Human sentiment can never be won over by sheer power and endless meaningless propaganda lavishly financed by American taxpayers, who themselves are beginning to be fed up with an Administration that has scored zero in terms of credibility and transparency.

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Avoid fragmentation in Iraq

ADNAN ABU ODEH
THE DAILY STAR

Instability in Iraq has not only resulted in a lack of security, but also in the emergence of a host of declared and undeclared political groups with varying and often conflicting attitudes and agendas.

One group considers the occupation as the most urgent national issue and has resorted to armed struggle to end it. Among those who regard ending the occupation as a priority, there are those who, nevertheless, see stability as a prerequisite to rebuilding Iraq's national authority. They believe that once the country is stable, the occupation can be ended through dialogue and peaceful means.

Another group, which included the late Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim, believes that Iraq's leadership should be drawn from among representatives of the largest ethnic or religious groups within the country. In contrast, there are those who believe that leaders should be individuals who garner the largest number of votes in a democratic process.

A third group believes Iraq is an Arab state and should preserve its Arab identity. Yet opposing this is

another group that believes Iraq would be better off relinquishing its "Arabness." Proponents of this point of view say that the Baath regime spent more money on other Arabs than it did on Iraqis and, therefore, seek to distance themselves from the Arab world.

A fourth group insists on the need to preserve the unity of the country and its people. On the opposite side is another group that advocates Iraq's division into three, so that there would be an entity for the Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis.

It is difficult to predict which of these trends will ultimately prevail. The situation is further complicated by the presence of an occupation authority that has its own declared and undeclared positions on various issues. At various times these coincide with those of one Iraqi group or another, depending on the issue.

For example, the coalition agrees with those who believe that stability in Iraq should come first. On the issue of leadership and democracy, the coalition's position remains vague and is confined to issuing general statements about the need for democracy. The same can be said about its position on Iraq's Arab identity, and it is too early to view US eagerness to secure Arab

League recognition for the Iraqi Governing Council as a desire to maintain Iraq's Arab identity.

The coalition also agrees with those calling for a united Iraq, an attitude shared by Iraq's neighbors. Consequently, we can assume that Iraqi unity is so far guaranteed thanks only to external factors and actors, so that any eventual division of the country would be due to internal factors. Yet since the interests of outside actors can change, it is risky to solely rely on external factors to preserve Iraqi unity. Instead, domestic support must also be sought, and this is where the importance of nation building comes into play.

However, the task of the US in building up a new Iraq is not easy, for two reasons: first, the poor American planning for post-war Iraq became obvious sooner than expected. The US civil administration dismantled vital Iraqi institutions, particularly the army, and dismissed technical cadres, under the pretext that they belonged to the Baath Party, thus doubling its reconstruction task. This means the US must now embark on state building before nation building. It also means it has to double its efforts and expenditures to come up with quick-fix solutions to deal with the chaotic post-war



situation. These temporary solutions, however, risk becoming permanent fixtures in a new Iraq.

For example, when the occupation authority was not able to hold elections for an interim Governing Council to run Iraq's institutions, it used sectarian, tribal and ethnic criteria to appoint council members, and, subsequently, the council of ministers emanating from it. This method is acceptable if it is temporary; but if sectarian, ethnic and tribal representation becomes the basis on which a new state is built, it would mean the birth of a nation of coalitions rather than one of real citizenship. Such a nation risks fragmentation, and in the Iraqi case this risks happening at the first dangerous turn of events.

Second, the core around which the Americans should build a modern Iraqi nation should be composed of Iraqi men and women of all sectarian and ethnic origins who joined political parties, either openly or secretly, during the days of the monarchy. This

core was destroyed due to successive coups since 1958, when the monarchy was brought down. However, it can be reformed by those who believe in democratic principles and in citizenship that cuts across ethnic and sectarian lines.

In this context, we should beware of the pluralism that leaders of ethnic and sectarian groups call for. They regard it as a means of participating in government according to their respective sectarian or ethnic quotas, not in terms of political parties competing democratically, each according to its own political, economic and social agenda. This is where the importance of the new constitution comes into play. Either it will create a modern nation of citizens or an intricate patchwork of sectarian, ethnic and tribal groups.

Constitutions come in two forms - traditional and democratic. Traditional constitutions are written by a select group of people appointed for that purpose by an interim authority. Modern democratic constitutions, however, are

written according to democratic methods and rules that ensure popular participation. There are several ways this can be done. Popular participation guarantees that citizens will care enough about their constitution to feel they own it, since it is the result of their beliefs and contributions.

A democratic constitution, in the midst of armed resistance, lack of security, paralysis of state services, conflicting opinions and a multiethnic social fabric, remains the ultimate solution to Iraq's ills. Either it will establish a united Iraqi nation of citizens, or it will plant the seeds of ethnic and sectarian discord and lead the country to fragmentation. This provides an opportunity for the Arab League to play a crucial role by either closely supervising the constitutional process or getting involved in it - or both.

Adnan Abu Odeh, a former Jordanian ambassador, information minister and chief of the Royal Court.

Blair and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh
Jordan Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict — especially around the war on Iraq — is interesting, though puzzling. It is interesting because, at the level of words, he says the right thing. It is puzzling because, at the level of action, we see him doing, well, absolutely nothing.

When the US and Britain were preparing their public and the world for the war they were planning to launch against Iraq, both President George Bush and Blair spoke forcefully about the need to rid Iraq, the Middle East region and the world of Saddam Hussein and his regime, with the aim of making Iraq, the region and the world a safer place.

At this very level, they did what they said they would do (i.e., they launched the war and got rid of Saddam and his regime), though Iraq, the region and the world remain as unsafe and violent as they ever were.

Simultaneously, Bush and Blair, but especially Blair, uttered strong words about the need to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and, more importantly, promised to put an end to it — though, naturally, they made no mention either of Israel's weapons of mass destruction or of its dangerous policies and acts which are (it has become so clear now) more of a threat to the region's and the world's security and safety than Saddam and his alleged weapons.

Blair seemed as determined to tackle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and as adamant to push for its resolution as he was for launching the war against Saddam. In fact, judging from what he said and how he said it, it seemed that as soon as the Saddam regime would fall, he (with Bush, of course) would convene the parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and not let go (being

the determined, adamant politicians they are) until a solution is found.

Drawing such a conclusion, i.e., that Bush and Blair would channel all their efforts and tackle the Palestinian-Israeli (not to mention the Arab-Israeli) conflict head on, sounded (and still does) inevitable, even axiomatic. For one thing, this is precisely what Bush and Blair were saying they would do. For another, this scenario has a precedent: the acts of Bush senior after the 1991 Gulf war.

Bush junior has, undeniably, prepared the world to do something about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the aftermath of the fall of the Saddam regime: lend his support to the roadmap for peace. Such support, however, has, at best, been both coy and ineffective. Blair, by contrast, did nothing whatsoever. Also, when the momentum of the roadmap (almost dead now), seemed to be at its highest, he said nothing about it.

Now, he is going back to saying strong words about the need to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Again, we are puzzled, and we fail to understand why he says what he does not seem to mean. If he is saying it to try to win some Arab sympathy (for whatever reason), Arabs are tired of words. If he is saying it as a result of a feeling of guilt, emanating from the growing realisation in Britain and the world that the decision to launch war against Iraq for the stated reasons has turned out to be incorrect after all, then he is guilty twice: first for attacking and defeating, and then occupying, Iraq for the wrong reason, and, second, for insulting Palestinians and Arabs by paying lip-service to a cause that they take very seriously.

If Blair is unable to mean what he says, he should not say it. If he does mean what he says, however, it naturally follows that he should start taking some real, concrete steps. Insult should not be added to injury, and silence could be golden.

Afghan cauldron on the boil again

BY AMIR TAHERI

The Afghan cauldron is on the boil again, with a witches' brew of untold trouble for all concerned.

In the past few months the remnants of the Taleban have rallied and set up a base close to the Iranian border village of Dost Muhammad. Their fugitive leader, Mulla Muhammad Omar, has felt confident enough to announce a 10-man "leadership council". Taleban elements have started attacking villages in the Nimroz and Arzangan provinces. The guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, operating from Pakistani Balochistan, has formed an alliance with the Taleban and is trying to seize control of some border villages.

The mini-revival of the Taleban and Hekmatyar is largely due to support from Islamist groups in Pakistan, including elements in the Pakistani military. The Islamist-dominated provincial government of the Northwest Province in Pakistan is providing more than a helping hand. With the fall of the Taleban, Pakistan was left with no clients in Afghanistan, a country of vital importance to its national strategy. Pakistan is now trying to win some influence by backing Pushtun clans opposed to the Karzai administration.

Iran, happy to see the Taleban go, is none too happy to see them replaced by a pro-American government. Russia, another traditional player in "the great Game", has revived and expanded contacts with its former tactical allies, the ethnic Tajiks and Ismailis, with support also coming

from India and Tajikistan. Smaller players like Turkey and Uzbekistan, backed by China, have put their chips on ethnic Uzbeks and the Char-Imaj tribes.

Part of this jockeying for position is inspired by reports that the US plans to extend the period of transition so as to give Karzai time to deal with "the warlords". One idea, aired in some op-ed columns in a number of American newspapers, is to cancel elections for a new Loya Jirgah (Constituent Assembly) scheduled for October. Such a move would leave Afghanistan without a new constitution and no prospects of holding a general election in 2004 as promised.

The Bush administration would be wrong to listen to that advice. The fact that Karzai might not win a majority in any elections in the foreseeable future does not mean that the process of democratization should be halted. What the US must do is to make sure that elections are held in a free and fair atmosphere and under international supervision. Who emerges the winner is for the Afghan people to decide.

Today a majority of Afghans regard the US as a friend if only because it helped them throw away the Taleban yoke. The US has no interest in becoming identified with any particular ethnic faction or political group in Afghanistan. The men vilified as "warlords" by some commentators are, in fact, the most effective leaders of their communities at present. To be sure, none could be presented as a choirboy, and all have a war background. This is not surprising because Afghanistan has been at war since the mid-1970s. It would take years for this generation of

"warlords" to fade away, opening the way for new leaders capable of reflecting new realities and aspirations.

In the meantime, the most realistic course is to publish the draft of the new constitution as soon as possible so that it can be debated in public before the Loya Jirgah elections. The "warlords" must remain part of the process with one condition only — they must respect the rules of the democratic game. Only the Taleban leadership, which should be charged with crimes against humanity, ought to be excluded. Several so-called "warlords" have already indicated a readiness to play the democratic game by creating political parties. They include Former

President Burhanuddin Rabbani and former guerrilla-leader-turned politician Abdul-Rasul Sayyaf.

To prevent Afghanistan from becoming a battleground for rival powers once again, it is imperative to give it a government that reflects its ethnic and religious diversity. For the US to try and impose a narrow-based government, no matter how good its intentions and how capable its members, would be a disastrous move in the context of Afghan politics. It could only encourage other communities and factions to seek foreign patrons in a bid to sabotage the work of a central government that they would regard as an imposition.

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The 20th Book Fair opened

BY FAHMA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of culture and tourism has organized the 20th International Book Fair held at Expo-Sana'a Center for international exhibitions that has started on Sunday 28 September and lasts for 6 October.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the vice-president, Abd Rabo Mansour who praised the ministry of Culture and Tourism for its intensive efforts to prepare for such event.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh also visited and toured the fair on Thursday and was impressed by the well-prepared event and asked for repeating such fabulous work. He also confirmed the importance of getting knowledge and obtaining science, as it is the only way

to follow up and update the rapid changes all over the world.

Mr. Khalid al-Rwaishan, the Culture and Tourism minister, said in statement to Yemen Times "This time the Book Fair is very distinguished by the number of participating publishers from the neighboring countries that are more than 300 publishers as well as the number of the new displayed books. It is also distinctive by the additional halls attached to the cultural activities. Moreover, the book fair is distinguished by its varied cultural programs and many facilities that are provided for publishers that would be reflected positively on readers and their relationship with the book. The president's visit to the book fair ensures these aforementioned advantages."

He also said "All the cultural activities that the ministry holds are basically

under the title "Yemeni initiative is the beginning to renew Arab relations" as well as preparation to declare Sana'a a capital for Arab culture in 2004."

Dr. Abdulaziz al-Makaleh, the prominent poet and intellectual, said about this cultural event "I am very pleased to see thousands visitor to the fair that really reflects the desire of Yemeni citizens to read and get knowledge."

He added, "The ministry of Culture and Tourism has well chosen the location as it is in the center of the city that gives opportunity to all to easily come and have a look at the latest titles and latest books and publications."

He commented "What I have noticed is that the Arab library has become richer with different books on science, art, literature, religion, and culture in general. What has attracted me so much is to

see the young generation represented by school students with strong desire to get knowledge and science. I hope that this cultural experience to be held annually and to be expanded and be more organized."

Ahmed al-Shalfi, cultural and media advisor, explained "The number of visitors to the fair on the first day has reached 50,000, and that is a good figure compared to some Arab fairs. There are various cultural activities held daily to accompany the book fair. There are groups of Arab intellectuals who like to share us this event. There is as Saudi participation entitled "Terrorism as phenomenon" and "Literature in peninsula."

He continued "The ministry of culture and tourism represented by Mr. Al-Ruwaishan has honored intellectual personalities of 2003 and chosen Mr. Ahmed Jaber al-Afif the cultural personality of this year for the efforts and pivotal role his own foundation has played in the spread of culture and knowledge."

"The participation included local, Arab and international. Mr. Abdulrahman al-Abanoudi and Mr. Ahmed al-Shadi from Egypt and Mr. Fakhar al-deen from Lebanon and Mr. Sulaiman al-Esae from Syria."

He concluded "The ministry has



Group photo taken during the inaugural ceremony

cherished to start a new era as the time is close to announce Sana'a a capital for Arab culture in 2004. We hope that we have made this event successful."

Inside the fair we met some visitors who were happy to find what they were looking for and some complained for not finding the books they wanted to find.

Samira al-Ruwaishan, a university student, smilingly said, "The fair is very fantastic. Most of the books I look for I find here with suitable prices. But unfortunately, the period is limited and the fair is held once a year."

Dr. Yasin al-Maktari, "I have noticed that there are many books in the field of Arab language and Islamic issues while there are few scientific books. Besides, there is slight difference between the

prices here and those at book shops." Nabeela Ahmed Hussein commented "The books are very varied and useful and this time included various fields and different counties have participated in. The prices are also reasonable."

Eng. Abdu Hamoud al-Thaibani said, "The fair this time has different kinds of books. However, we are surprised that the prices are not as we expected despite the announced discounts. The time of the fair is limited, that does not give us a chance to see all displayed books."

Mr. Taha al-Dialami, student, "The fair is excellent. It provides all our scientific needs as students. I have found worthy and rare books that is because more than a country has participated in the fair this time. We hope if the period can be expanded."

Women Rights in Islam

BY FATIMA MOHAMMED NASSER

Everybody has rights to entertain and duties to fulfill. No one can totally ignore women's rights especially in Islamic countries because Islam as a universal religion that was revealed upon Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) has granted the woman many rights preserving her dignity and personality as a vital constituent of the society. Islamic teachings take care of every aspect in human's life (social, political, relationships etc). In addition to that, everything related to women and children that were neglected before Islam is taken into account and granted in Islam. Islam ensures that the woman must be given all her rights and there are many texts dealing with these rights mentioned in various chapters of the Holy Qura'n.

If we hold a comparison between the women's position before and after Islam, we will know the big difference. Before Islam, there was no right for the woman to speak or even think about

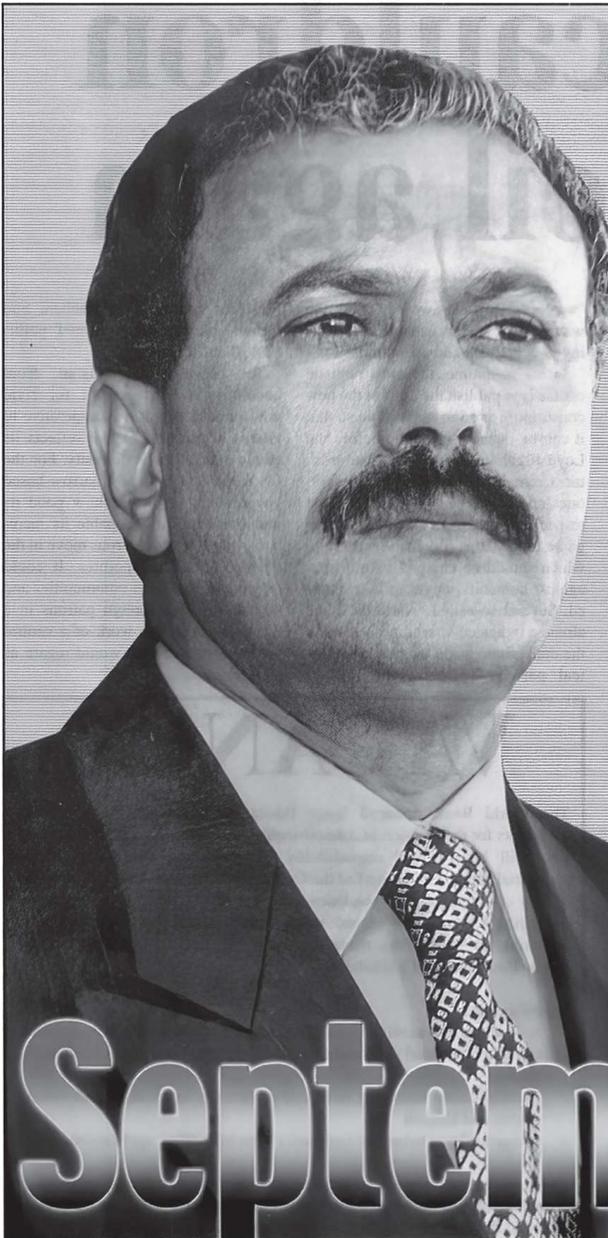
her rights. She was almost nothing, no one respected her. She was like a servant doing everything to satisfy the man's needs such as cooking and taking care of the children and nothing more. Sometimes the girl who was just born was killed by her father as a rule in some very backward segments of the society for no reason but for fear of shame befalling the family by females, according to their very backward thinking. The woman couldn't even ask about her inheritance that she is liable to take from her parents or family. Women must obey orders without any right to discuss or object. She shouldn't choose what she could actually do or not do. The woman lived under such inhumane life circumstances until the advent of Islam spread throughout the earth as the light of the sun.

Islam came and changed all the cruel rules and stood by the woman. The woman became an active member in her community. She has become as equal as man in most of life affairs. Islam always encourages the woman to contribute to development of the socio-

economic. There is no difference between man and woman, he who does well will be the best. There are people who claim that Islam forces women to wear a veil and doesn't let her work at places where men work. They allege that Islam allows women to work just in certain occupations as a teacher or a doctor. But we tell those that Islam gives the woman rights that are not granted in any religion in the world.

I think that wearing the veil protects the woman against certain awkward situations she may face in her daily life. Westerners ask for woman's emancipation. But what kind of freedom are they looking for? Is it in disobeying her family, disrespecting herself or mixing with foreign people? Or is it in removing the veil? Islam emancipates the woman and gives her the right to participate in every field and when Islam asks the woman not to do something which is against Islamic instructions that is only to save her. The woman in Islam is freer than her counterparts in any other parts of the world because emancipation and rights are granted by the Almighty God not by people.





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and to all Yemeni people on the
commemoration of
41st anniversary of September Revolution
and 40th anniversary of October Revolution.
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and more achievements.
Many Happy Returns

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بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
إلى صاحب الفخامة الأخ المشير /
علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية
والاستاذ/ عبدالقادر باجمال - رئيس الوزراء
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بمناسبة الذكرى الحادية والأربعين لقيام ثورة
السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
والذكرى الأربعين لقيام ثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر
متمنين لليمن المزيد من التقدم والازدهار والنماء
وكل عام والجميع بخير

September - October

An insight to one of Germany's aid programs in Yemen: Mine-detecting dogs at work

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

“It is an impressive work” The German ambassador, Frank M. Mann, described the training of dogs on detecting land mines at Dhola'a camp last week. Germany is supporting the Yemen Mine Action Program by implementing a Mine Dog Component aimed at helping Yemen become free from mines which are a real challenge, claiming lives of hundreds of people each year. Over 5075 people were killed till 2000 and in 2001-2002, 227 persons were killed and there are 592 areas inflicted with this ordeal.

A number of countries are assisting in demining Yemen, like the US, Japan, Saudi Arabia and others.

Germany committed to continue support

Germany is doing a good job to support Yemen in this regard despite the fact that it is one of the most important donors to Yemen. There are two ways in which Germany is helping Yemen in this area. One way is through the UNDP along with other countries. Germany has supported the Program through UNDP between 2000 and 2003 with roughly 450.000 US Dollars. “Our support in 2003 alone - both bi- and multilateral - amounts to 1.069.501.61 Euro,” Mr. Mann said. The other is that it is supporting the

Mine Dog Detection Center (MDDC). Dogs are being brought to the country to be trained to detect mines. In 2000 Germany was requested to help Yemen Mine Action Program (MAP) Implementation of a Mine Dog Component. “The program started the first trial in Aden by the end of 2001”, said Mr. Dieter Windeler, Program Manager GTZ. In March 2002 the first training started. In Aden dogs were having a problem. Four dogs died because of hot climate and humidity. Therefore, the training center was moved to Sana'a as dogs are very expensive; each one costs around \$ 7000. Buildings for the center in Sana'a were built with 50% of the cost paid by the government of Germany. Of course, the first contribution made by Germany was in 1999-2000 in the survey project. It also, said al-Azi, supports the MAP with advisors who have been working in Yemen for four years now. In fact, it does not support the training phase of the program; rather it agreed to support the operational phase. The budget specified for the MDDC last year amounted to around \$ 1 million. The German ambassador said that his country is committed to continue supporting the program. “There is a commitment that Germany will carry on with its contribution and we have learnt whatever necessary and possible, there can be an extension and a possible further commitment to provide assistance,” he said.

It was an interesting job I saw last

week. I moved with the German ambassador, Mr. Windeler, MAP manager, Mansur al-Azi as well as Mr. Walid al-Saqqaf, editor of Yemen Times to the training center at Sheraton area. Yemen people are being trained in the center by Afghan experts brought by the German embassy in Kabul. They are doing a wonderful job, training Yemenis on how to use dogs for detection of land mines. You can find here the place where dogs are kept and taken care of. I have seen only two dogs kept in their cages. Why two only I asked and the reply was that they are sick and therefore they did not go for training in the camp at Dhola'a. We moved to the camp where you will find everybody with his dog, training it in different ways on how to detect mines. There are twenty-four dogs in the camp carrying out the exercises as 12 are already in the field on a detection mission in Ka'ataba, Sad'a and south of Sana'a.

It is interesting to see how dogs are trained. They go through intensive exercises. They can go to the field only once they are tested and licensed. “The practice we have seen today here seems to me very promising and highly contributes to solve the problems in Yemen in the field of demining,” Mr. Mann remarked.

Why Dogs?

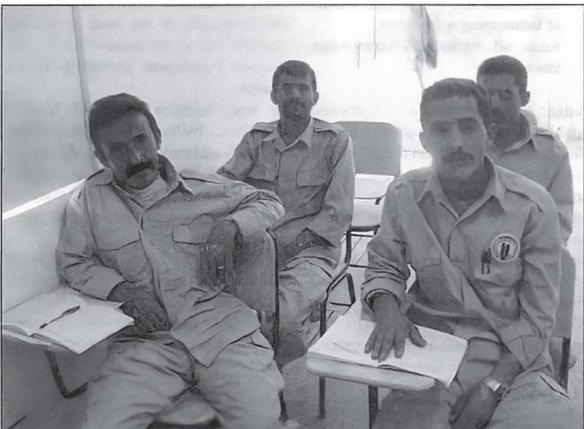
Some people might ask why dogs. Dogs are intelligent and reliable for mine detection, according to Mr. Windeler, as they have good noses and can sniff explosives very easily. “We use dogs to make quality insurance, making sure that the fields are completely free from mines. We give an approval for that after dogs detect the fields,” said Mansur al-Azi.

Dogs are in particular useful in Yemen due to the fact that it is highly mineralized and that using various sorts of metal apparatuses for mine detection might not be effective. Moreover, dogs speed up the work as one dog can do in one day what a man can do in 20 days with more efficiency and accuracy. The idea of using dogs was a big challenge in the beginning, according to al-Azi as from a cultural point of view people in Yemen do not welcome dogs and some started talking even on how much money is spent on dogs. Even people were not accepting the idea of working with dogs. But, they are now very much motivated to join the task.

The German program aims to empower Yemeni personnel to carry out the task and manage the MDDC themselves. Courses are scheduled to be complete by the end of this year with more improvement of infrastructure in MDDC, training area and equipment. The Germans are planning to fence an area at Dhola'a camp to be planted with mines and explosives so that training of dogs on detection would be more fruitful. It is planned that in 2-3 years Yemen will hopefully be able to manage the center. It will have well-educated and experienced instructors and experts to run the project. The center will be handed over to Yemen when is sure that it can have a hold on ground.



Dogs are man's best friend, and can also be man's best choice in finding dangerous mines



Yemeni trainees in class



During the visit to the training center



Dogs can be more effective than machines in finding mines



Photos taken during the training sessions in one of the army compounds west of Sana'a City

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation 30 Sept.2003.

Main headlines:

- Organisation Central Committee calls for a program on reform and rectification
- Al-Midhwah: Authority-corruption alliance created violence
- Son of a security official in Aden, interrogated
- 146 oil institutes graduates stage sit-in in front of oil ministry in Sana'a
- Yemen's embassy in Saudi Arabia imposes illegal duties on expatriates

Columnist Mohammed Shamsan says in his article on terror after the crime of assassinating Jarallah Omer, (assistant secretary general of the YSP) discussion got stepped up among local intellectuals and politicians as all have realized that terror is a danger almost threatening all and therefore they have to give this question big interest and large portion of their time and effort in order to be able to reach an agreed upon definition of terror. The terror the United States is fighting and trying to end it differs from the terror we, in the Yemeni society, are suffering from. America considers standing against its interests and the Zionist movement as terror while in Yemen and the Arab Islamic community see in terror as a threat to our life and future in addition to our security and stability. Terror is a confiscation of our intellectual religious, cultural and historical rights. It should be made clear that the question of terrorism is not a present product but rather an extension to an old thinking. To put an end to that terrorist inheritance we have to trace back the course it has taken and be fair with all those who have been tyrannized by it, whether persons or intellectual schools. But if we adopt it as the question of 11 September events we are then trying to acquit ourselves from the charges made against us in the American address in this regard.

RAY weekly, organ of Sons of Yemen League party, 30 September 2003.

Man headlines:

- Yemenis in Vietnam War

- America arrests al-A'moudi on charge of terror
- Attempted assassination against MP Nabeel al-Basha
- Women Forum holds a symposium on "Education for democratic citizenship"

Columnist Faisal Sultan al-Soufi discusses in his article that what should a conference scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia in the mid of this month on human rights do. He says it is the first conference of its kind to be held in this neighbouring country and will and should be an opportunity for clarifying the facts about many issues that have remained unclear especially in that Islamic country, i.e. that of human rights and Islam's attitude towards them. The human rights conference at the time of peace and war should be for us as Muslims to change into a venue to discuss the issues of human rights bravely and to clarify the genuine stand towards human rights it is of special importance to clarify the Saudi attitude of human rights as it is the country frequently mentioned in regional and international reports on human rights.

For years it is noted that most recorded violations of human rights are focused on this part of the Arab and Islamic world and many times those violations are connected to Islam, this means that the Arab and Islamic countries that are ruled according to Islam and that their commitment to teachings and laws of Islam leads to some of those violations.

For instance some practices are considered violations of human rights and examples of such practices are non-equality among citizens in general, non-equality between man and woman before the law, the freedom of ideology, deprivation or restraining of political rights such as elections and political pluralism, restrictions on the freedom of expression or gathering in Saudi Arabia or any other Islamic country are attributed to that the Islam and its applications with which these countries are ruling necessarily lead to those violations.

Teachings and rules of Islam have no problem with human rights, whether the civil or political or others but the question problematic is with the opinions and rules decides by legal scholars and have been applied though they are

Main headlines

- In a press release obtained by Balagh weekly, al-Qaeda adopts a name of "Al-Jihad Qaeda", threatens to assassinate cabinet members
- FM al-Qirbi: Our discussion with Jews in America not for approaching Israel
- Aden oil refinery resumes its work
- Citizen kills three of his sons, another attempted to kill his wife because of poverty
- Kidnapper of the Egyptian diplomat surrenders in Shabwa
- International pressures in Cole and Limburg incidents
- Al-A'moudi arrested in Virginia
- Saudi statement condemns extremism, demands comprehensive reforms
- Yemen warns America of fresh terrorist acts
- Prisoners declare hunger strike at the revolution anniversary
- Two contradictory statements by al-Qaeda confirm doubts on rifts
- Clashes at sites of Yemeni- Saudi border demarcation
- Al-Wadeea border crossing with Saudi Arabia opened
- Amnesty International: Political Security major violator of human rights
- Yemeni al-Ouly, most dangerous leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq
- Hot line between Saudi and Yemen does not stop
- Al-Tagamou party condemns assassination of Akeela al-Hashimi
- Local mosque preachers replaced by Arabs
- GPC general secretariat discusses preparations for restructuring the GPC
- A gang selling forged health certificates, arrested
- Yemeni-Saudi al-Wadeea crossing facilitates people travel and trade exchange
- Iraqi resistance steps up attacks on American forces
- Demonstrations supporting Arafat and Intifada continue
- Branch Judiciary Conference in some governorates concluded
- Yemen-Jordan discussion of executive project of post cooperation agreement
- Yemen takes part in GCC social affairs ministers meeting

nor correct. Such problems should be dealt with in the coming conference in Riyadh and in other similar conferences.

Annas weekly, 29 Sept.2003.

Main headlines:

- Sana'a 20th International Book Fair opened
- Al-Aqsa society, Amran branch holds a festival in support of al-Aqsa
- Islamic literature league in Yemen promoted to regional bureau
- Establishment of Yemen center for Human Rights declared

Columnist Nasser Yahya writes an article on the anniversary of the Yemeni September revolution saying for years

the dealing with the revolution anniversary has generally been characterized by two conflicting addresses. One of them considers the occasion an opportunity to talk about positive accomplishments and continuation of the revolution while the other one considers the presence of serious negatives in the Yemeni life is no longer justifying that way of remembering the revolution and some would talk with much pessimism on the revolution. Both addresses are mistaken in part of their whereabouts and right in others. By any criterion the Yemeni revolution was not a mistaken event because it was a confrontation and movement refusing the backward imamate reality and the presence of the British colonization. Both realities had forced horrible backwardness on Yemenis the remains of which are still there in our life. Thus justifications of the revolu-

tion were noble in legal, national and reason senses. Neither Islam nor the affiliation to the homeland or the sense of the higher interest would make the Yemenis keep silent versus facing of the imamate corruption or the British colonization.

On the other hand what has been realized in Yemen over the past forty years of the national rule was not at the level of the dreams and aspirations in many aspects of our life. Despite of the many positives and accomplishments, the denial of which is similar to hearts blindness, there are also serious negatives still weighing on all. Backwardness, poverty, low level of living of the people and weakness of public services are not commensurate to expectations and aspirations of the people. Same can be said about general issues work, public freedoms and equality. For there are still rising complaints against these practices.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of Yemeni People's Forces Union, 28 Sept.2003.

Main headlines:

- Crude oil shipment stops oil refining in Aden oil refinery
- 16 Arab citizens died martyrs in Iraq
- Tribaldisputes interrupts Sana'a-Marib highway
- Amnesty International shows concern over human rights violations in Yemen
- Conference on American-Arab relations in light of political developments in the region
- Big demonstration in London protesting Iraq occupation
- Al-Harethi son arrested on charge of kidnapping a diplomat
- Aden oil refinery workers stage labour strike

Judge Mohammed Rashid Abdulmawla says in his article that the Yemeni constitution and law of the judiciary power guarantee independence of judiciary. The law has entrusted the Supreme Judiciary Council with drawing up the general policy for developing the judiciary affairs as part of other judiciary authorities of the council. In my opinion, says judge Abdulmawla, includes steps of appointing or choosing those joining the judiciary power according to objec-

tive conditions, sticking to terms of the law regarding the study of lawsuits against members of the judiciary power and the speed in deciding them. It also includes drawing up a clear policy regarding the cases for which specialized qualitative courts are formed in prevention of any random steps in this regard. It has called the attention that the ministry of justice submits its perception of holding the first general judiciary conference to the council of ministers and to ignore the Supreme Judiciary Council in this respect. Why it has not been presented to the Supreme Judiciary Council first to be approved and then presented to cabinet just to be aware of it?

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC, 29 Sept.2003.

Main headlines:

- Those acting fraudulently in employment in Taiz referred to prosecution, results of employment in other governorates suspended
- Industry minister: Industry sector, integration with world economy in our priorities scale
- Yemeni Charitable society for helping cancer patients, established

Columnist Iskander al-Asbahi says in his article that the American democracy is not based on ethical, religious or sectarian affiliation but on the basis of citizenship and national affiliation. But the democracies the American empirical power wants for the Arab region and still repeatedly heralding it since its invasion and occupation of Iraq has been crystallized clearly in the form of the formation of the Iraqi governing council and in its stand vis-a-vis the elected Palestinian president Yasser Arafat.

In Iraq America is establishing a democracy built on ethical and sectarian basis and endeavors to generalize it in the Arab region. The Iraqi people's affiliation to their homeland is superior to their ethical, or sectarian or tribal affiliation. According to this scheme America aims at blocking any Arab rapprochement and solidarity or any form of Arab unity and further aims to more Arab disintegration, fragmentation and conflict.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak phoned on Friday British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The conversation touched on the deteriorating situation between Israel and the Palestinians, highlighting the importance of the Quartet role in containing the situation in the Palestinian territories.

Al Akhbar
— An African parliamentary conference will be held in the first half of January, 2004. The two-day meeting will discuss the issue of democracy and development in the African continent.

Japan

Yomiuri
Japan is to donate over 1.5 billion US dollars for Iraqi rehabilitation during two-year period.

Mainichi
Japanese lower house is to be dissolved on Oct. 10.

Nihon Keizai
Japanese government's policy panel passed postal privatization principles.

Asahi
— Most Japanese universities will allow Korean school graduates to apply for entry without taking eligibility exams.

Al Gomhuria
Egyptians in Saudi Arabia Saturday will watch for a surgery to separate conjoined twin Tali and Talin Ahmed Samir at the King Abdel-Aziz Medical City in the capital of Riyadh.

The Egyptian Mail:
The Swiss judiciary is considering a request by Prosecutor General Maher Abdel-Wahed to return 300 rare pieces of antiquities smuggled by Egypt through suspect Tareq Al-Sweisi and a number of his accomplices.

Pakistan

Dawn
Pakistan Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali on Friday vowed in Washington to pursue a negotiated settlement of Pakistan's disputes with India.

The News
Pakistan faces no external threat but a threat from within in the form of religious extremism, said President General Pervez Musharraf here Friday.

The Nation
Pakistan on Friday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hataf-3 Ghaznavi, the official announcement said.

Britain

The Financial Times:
The number of new cars sold is likely to rise to 3 million in Britain a year within the next five year, almost double the figure for early 1990s, according to a motor industry analyst.

The Guardian:
Britain is prepared to accept the creation of a European foreign minister in the EU's new constitutional treaty, after dropping its objections to the job title.

The Independent:
The former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix warned the US-led experts hunting for weapons of

mass destruction in Iraq on Friday to beware the dangers of "spin" when presenting their findings to their political masters anxious to justify the invasion of Iraq.

The Daily Telegraph:
The opposition Conservatives will go into the next election in Britain with a firm commitment to cut taxes and raise the incomes of pensioners.

The Times:
A British soldier is under investigation by the Royal Military Police after the death of an Iraqi in custody in the Iraqi city of Basra. Two other detained Iraqis were injured.

Philippines

Manila Bulletin
Vice President Teofisto Guingona Friday quitted the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, naming four reasons including the inability of the Arroyo administration to achieve better governance.

The Philippine Star
Four people were killed and 30 others wounded on Friday when an unidentified man tossed two grenades into a packed mosque in

Midsayap town in the southern Philippine province of North Cotabato.

Philippine Daily Inquirer:
With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo almost certain to run next year, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Friday gave her administration failing marks in such areas as peace and order, infrastructure development and the cost of doing business in the country.

India

The Times of India:
India Friday reacted coolly to Pakistan's test firing of 290 km-range surface-to-surface missile saying it was "nothing new" as such tests had been carried out by that country earlier also.

The Hindu:
India Friday restarted futures

trading in gold and silver, thus ending a ban imposed nearly four decades.

Hindustan Times:
The stock markets continued their upward movement with Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex touching a three-year high on expectation of good quarterly results.

Kenya

Daily Nation:
— Kenya's Chief Justice Evans Gicheru has asked the 23 judges whose names appear on the List of Shame drawn up by an anti-corruption committee to resign honorably before facing trial.

Kenya Times:
— Kenyan writer Eddie Ogembo

has won one of the top honors in the BBC World Service International Playwriting Competition for the year 2003.

People Daily:
The 230,000 refugees hosted by Kenya are currently not getting enough food rations and other essentials, an assistant minister has said.

Germany

Die Welt
Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urges Germans to make further efforts for the economic transformation of the eastern regions.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
Two weeks before the Bundestag (parliament) votes on the government-

proposed social reform, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has accepted the cooperative overtures from the opposition parties.

Der Tagesspiegel
Defense Minister Peter Struck has changed the course in the reform of Bundeswehr (German defense force).

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (55):
Expressing emotions (XIII)

As we conclude the catalogue of the poetic extracts depicting exuberance of emotion and their imaginative expression, we hope that our readers would have got a rewarding experience of travelling through the "realms of gold" trodden by some of the greatest poets of English literature. At the same time this journey would have acquainted them with a colorful spectrum of emotional reactions felt through the blood and felt along the heart by these sensitive souls. It is a good idea to contrast these with the expressions used in prose and dramatic texts for emotional response.

In secret we met:
In silence I grieve
That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee?—
With silence and tears.

—Lord Byron

With thee were the dreams of my earliest love;
Every thought of my reason was thine:
In my last humble prayer to the Spirit above
Thy name shall be mingled with mine!

—T. Moore: Pro Patria Mori

Thus in the stilly night
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me

—T. Moore: The Light of Other Days

I love Love — though he has wings,
And like light can flee,
But above all other things,
Spirit, I love thee —
Thou art love and life! O come!
Make once more my heart thy home!

—P. B. Shelley: Invocation

Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know,
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow
The world should listen then, as I am listening now.

— P. B. Shelley: To a Skylark

Was it a vision, or waking dream?
Fled is that music: — do I wake or sleep?

—J. Keats: Ode on a Nightingale

Never saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!

—W. Wordsworth: Upon Westminster Bridge

I listen'd, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

—W. Wordsworth: The Solitary Reaper

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

—W. Wordsworth: Daffodils

Oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!
A heavy weight of hours has chained and bow'd
One too like thee: tameless, and swift, and proud.

— P. B. Shelley: Ode to the West Wind

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:

—W. Wordsworth

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Although it was hot, but Mahyooob was wearing a woolen coat.
- We were all happy at Mr. Al-Kamali being awarded the prize.
- The Holy Quran preaches that we should love each other.
- I saw him leaning over the wall.
- The matter has been discussed both in the press and the platform.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- I bought an English book to read.
Note: An object cannot be repeated with an infinitive of purpose if the verb takes an object.
- Although the question was easy, few boys were able to answer it.
Note: 'few' means 'not many'. 'A few' means 'at least some'.
- The window of his room is open.
Note: The possessive is used for persons and animals only.
- He was looking out of the window.
Note: 'To see' is to notice with the eyes. 'To look' implies directing the eyes in order to see.
Ex. I looked up and saw a rainbow in the sky.
- He has been ill since last Friday.
Note: 'Since' is used to indicate a point of time.

III. Increase Your Word Power

- One who undergoes penalty of death for sticking to his faith.
- One who abandons his religious faith.
- One who is given to questioning the truth of facts and the soundness of inferences.
- One who resides in a country of which he is not a citizen.
- Belonging to all parts of the world.

Answers to last week's questions

- Show no fear nor respect for and resist openly: **defy** (vt)
- To worship as a god: **deify** (vt)
- A person who is considered guilty of serious sexual behavior: **degenerate** (n)
- To remove all water or moisture from: **dehydrate** (vt)
- Behavior that is not in accordance with accepted social standards: **delinquency** (n)

(B) Word and Phrases of Foreign Origin

- Answers to last week's questions
- mythopoeia** (Gk. 'myth-making'): The conscious creation of a myth. In literature it implies the creation of a kind of 'private' mythology.
 - natya** (Ind.): A form of Indian dance drama whose plots for the most part derive from the epics **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**.
 - neiosis** (Gk. 'retribution'): Just and unavoidable punishment.
 - neologism** (Gk. 'innovation in language'): A new word or expression as well as a new meaning for a word.
 - nom de plume** (Fr. 'pen-name'): A term used in English to indicate a fictitious name employed by a writer. For instance, a well-known story writer O. Henry was William Sydney Porter and the renowned novelist George Eliot was Mary Ann Cross.

(C) Words Commonly Confused

- Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words
- accept, except;
 - envelop, envelope;
 - hoard, horde;
 - gait, gate;
 - fain, feign

Answers to last week's questions

- marry** (vt & i) (take as a husband or wife): Ramzy is happily married.
- marry off** (v. adv) (to find a partner in marriage for,

especially a daughter): He married off his daughter to a businessman.

- shift** (vt & i) (change position or direction): He cleverly shifted responsibility from his shoulders to his subordinate's.
- sift** (vt & i) (to make a close examination of things in a mass): He sifted through his papers and found his lost passport.
- socialize** (vt) (to spend time with others in a friendly way): He is very particular to socialize with his neighbors.
socialite (n) (a person well known for going to many fashionable parties): She is a well-known socialite.
- knotty** (adj) (full of difficulties): It is not easy to find an easy answer to such a knotty problem.
naughty (adj) (not obeying a parent, teacher, etc): Your son is always upto some naughty trick in the class.
- much, very**
a) 'Much' qualifies adjectives or adverbs in the comparative degree, 'very' is in the positive. The air is much hotter today than yesterday. He spoke very loudly.
b) 'Much' qualifies past participles; 'very' present ones:
He was much pleased to hear the news. The film was very interesting.
Many: 'Many' is usually non assertive. It is used for the large size of the number.
Ex: Were there many students in the class?

(D) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- to back up;
- to blow over;
- to bear out;
- to dispose of;
- to close with

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- amenable** to (able to be guided or influenced): The problem with him is that he is not amenable to reason.
- ambivalent about** (having opposite opinions about): He has an ambivalent attitude about almost everything.
- get along** (get on with people): How are you getting along with your new classmates?
- all along** (all the time): All along I have been with you.
- let alone** (not to mention): The baby can't walk, let alone run.

IV. Grammar and Composition

Transform the following sentences using 'what'

- You said something. It was untrue.
- She said something. Did it upset you?
- I ought to do something. I haven't thought about it.
- They suggested something. It was very practical.
- They did something to you. Was it terrible?
- Something made him do it. I don't understand it.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- If I hadn't got married, I wouldn't have left home.
- If she hadn't a baby, she wouldn't have given up her job.
- If he hadn't lost his job, he wouldn't have come back home.
- If my husband hadn't got a job in Yemen, we wouldn't have gone there.
- If we hadn't saved some money, we wouldn't have been able to buy a car.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"To Allah belongs the heritage
Of the heavens and the earth;
And Allah is well-acquainted
With all that ye do."
S3: A180

VI. Words of Wisdom

"When work is pleasure, life is joy
When work is duty, life is a slavery"
—Maxim Gorky

A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 29

There is no substitute for reading



DR. M.N.K. BOSE
(BOSE@y.net.ye)
Associate Professor of
English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

I have written at least twice about reading in the past. On both these occasions, my focus was on the teaching of the reading skills. In this letter I will say how reading, as a habit is important for everyone. You must have heard that reading makes a man (a woman too); it is true because only through reading one becomes knowledgeable about the world one lives in, and without this knowledge one cannot be a complete man at all. Most of the famous people in the world have been good readers.

I have heard that Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) advised his disciples to read ('Ekrāh'), knowing fully well the importance of reading. There is no doubt that reading is important for teachers and students. If we, teachers, develop the habit of reading, our students will follow us. Reading our lessons and newspapers is not enough; we should read anything good, both in the mother tongue and in English. If our students look at us reading in our leisure, that will be a good motivation for them to read.

Most of the educated parents interested in their children's development encourage them to read. Some of them read to them simple and good stories before they go to bed every night. There are very good bedtime stories available in the market, if you are interested in your children. I have seen many parents making it a regular habit of their children in India and Britain. Unfortunately, in Yemen not many parents are educated and so it is your responsibility to see that your students

develop the reading habit with your help.

One of the ways of doing it is to start a class library. You can encourage your students to contribute books to the library as their birthday gifts, not very expensive books, but small and inexpensive ones. Once you have a good collection, you can ask your students to borrow them and read them. They can be asked to tell the story they have read to the class in English or in Arabic, if they find it difficult to tell in English. Each one can read all the books in the class library before they go the next class, and these books can be useful to their juniors and so on. I have done this successfully when I worked as a teacher in schools and so don't hesitate. Most of the parents will appreciate it, if they come to know the value of this exercise and they will help you.

Schools where children cannot afford to contribute can approach some industrialists and philanthropists who would be willing to help.

One of the sad things which I have noticed in this country is that there is no motivation in our students in the universities to buy books; they prefer photocopying to buying books. This is probably the offshoot of the lack of reading habit in them. In addition, I hardly see any public libraries with newspapers and magazines where people can go and read. But I am heartened to see people carrying and reading newspapers in Arabic; newspapers and magazines are distributed in public meetings for the benefit of the people. I only request you to inculcate this habit of reading, in the mother tongue as well as in English in your students, the result will be tremendous. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,

Dr.M.N.K.Bose (BOSE@y.net.ye)

American fiction in the nineteenth century: An appraisal



**BY DR. BASHIR
GHAZI ASKAR**
basharaskar90@hotmail.com

American fiction is known as romance. In this sense, one may understand that a romance represents an avoidance of reality, a dependence on fantasy, imagination, sentiment or even melodrama. However, American romance is not escapism from the realities of life. It is a romance oriented to the American pattern, style and life. The standards of romance are very much like those of an epic.

Romance is an individualistic movement with revolutionary implications. Man can achieve happiness and virtue through the spontaneous expression of his desires and by living close to nature. In its form and pattern, American romance has assumed the pattern of a journey and isolation. The journey is used to represent self-discovery, adventure and fantasy. The writer can turn a simple journey into a universal journey. The journey is circular with universality and exclusiveness.

In the traditional novel, the writer tends to resolve the contradictions of the society. The characters are more important than action and plot. In the traditional novel the characters are related to their social class and even to their past whereas American romances are free to render reality in less volume and detail and actions seem to be more important and free in these romances.

The 19th century fiction deals with themes in social terms, the contempo-

rary fiction is concerned with the world of man's personal and metaphysical relations. The 19th century writer was trying to project an ideal and his search was derived from his hope and experiences to be free from all types of restrictions. In fact, it was a search for a national American identity. It was a search to be free from all old beliefs and forms. The protagonist in the traditional novel was in conflict with society whereas the protagonist in American novel was in conflict with himself. Myth and folklore contributed a lot to the development of romance. Myth and folklore came with the arrival of the new settlers. One can notice them in the writings of Hawthorne, Melville and Mark Twain.

These writers regarded civilization as corrupt. They realized that the simple and the primitive people are closer to nature than the civilized people. The spirit of the century was characterized by too much individualism, self-reliance which seem to result in isolation, alienation, pride and sin. The century also witnessed a drift toward more freedom, human rights, and fraternity. American democracy was well represented in the saying of Emerson, "Let man stand alone, go alone and possess the universe." In this respect, the ideal man is the free man who moves around in search of his goals. However, all these democratic principles of equality, justice, human rights and fraternity were in a state of conflict for the Americans refused to share all these privileges with the Negroes, Red Indians and other minorities. The nineteenth century was thus the century of experimentation in the true sense of the term.

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

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| Administrative | Events | Issue | Peruse | Stand |
| Advice | Film | Jokes | Photographs | Stars |
| Beauty | Find | Letter | Press | Start |
| Bits | Flat | Literature | Printing | Stock |
| Books | Flip | Looks | Production | Store |
| Cartoon | Food | Mail | Read | Story |
| Class | Former | Makeup | Religion | Subscription |
| Columns | Fund | Maps | Reports | Television |
| Comic | Garden | Models | Sales | Time |
| Copy | Give | Month | Save | Trend |
| Cost | Glossy | Movies | Science | Trip |
| Cover | Gossip | News | Sell | Volume |
| Desk | Graphics | Notes | Shows | Vote |
| Digest | Hair | Office | Soap opera | Water |
| Doctor | Health | Order | Social | Weekly |
| Door | Help | Pack | Sports | World |
| Editor | Home | Pages | Spot | Write |
| Entertainment | Interviews | People | Staff | Yearly |

MAGAZINES OF ALL SORTS

Solution: 12 letters

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ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last week's Answer: Culture

Premiership stars face "trial by terraces"

By Jason Hopps

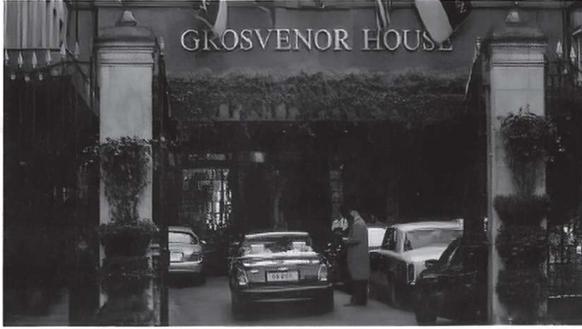
LONDON (Reuters) - A teenage girl's allegations she was gang raped by at least seven Premiership footballers in a luxury London hotel is threatening to rock football with its worst-ever "players behaving badly" scandal.

Fans across England, notorious for their colourful taunts, are expected to rile specific players with the rape allegations from the stands during live television broadcasts today.

"I don't think the seriousness of these (possible) charges will make them hold back," a spokesman for the Football Supporters Association said.

The story has for days commanded the front pages of the tabloids, which reported that the 17-year-old said she consented to sex with one Premier League player, but that seven more from different teams joined in against her wishes.

Police have neither charged nor named any of the accused, but it hasn't stopped fans from speculating about who might have been involved by posting their guesses on football Web sites, opening a wider debate over players' privacy and libel.



A teenage girl's allegations she was gang raped by at least seven professional soccer players in a luxury London hotel is threatening to rock English football with its worst-ever "players behaving badly" scandal. The entrance to the Grosvenor House Hotel, where the alleged incident took place, is seen in Park Lane in this file photo. REUTERS/Lee Besford

It is also a story that the game can do without.

Several well known players, including England internationals, have in recent years tarnished the game with off-pitch antics that led to charges of assault and affray.

But the latest scandal could prove much more damaging to the game and

the league because of the sheer number of players accused and the gravity of the allegations.

Police confirmed on Tuesday that detectives from a special sexual offences unit launched an investigation after the girl came forward and said she was raped and sexually assaulted at the five-star Grosvenor House Hotel in

central London.

"The female made the allegation in person at a central London police station. There have been no arrests," police said.

Football association

Not surprisingly, the Football Association is keeping tight-lipped.

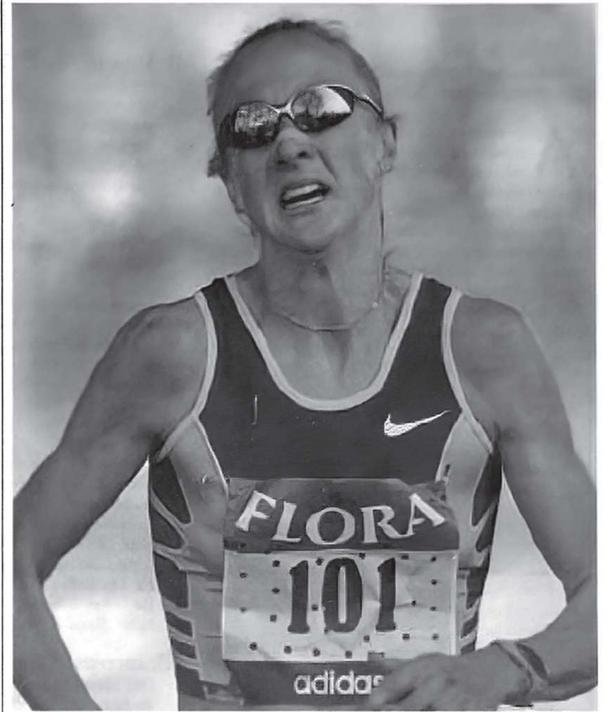
"We're not in a position to do or say anything that could get in the way of a police investigation," an FA spokesman told Reuters on Friday. "We're not in a position to comment at all," he said.

But unofficial comment is rife on the Internet with some sites fearing they could open themselves to legal action if players are falsely accused.

Web site operators and Internet service providers must remove defamatory statements from their sites once they are alerted to the offending material or they will lose protection provided to them under the 1996 Defamation Act.

"We've temporarily closed our message boards because we don't want them to be abused and until the situation clears up a little bit," said a spokeswoman for football Web site rivals.net, which boasts 2 million users per month.

Radcliffe heads field at half-marathon



Paula Radcliffe heads the field at the world half-marathon championships today on a flat course at the Portuguese beach resort of Vilamoura. Radcliffe is pictured in a file photo during the 2003 London marathon. REUTERS

LISBON (Reuters) - Paula Radcliffe heads the field at the world half-marathon championships today on a flat course at the Portuguese beach resort of Vilamoura.

The International Association of Athletic Associations (IAAF) is preparing for fast times by setting up timing positions at the 10 km, 15 km, 20 km and full distance marks on the course. World best times will become official IAAF world records from January 1, 2004.

Among the favourites in the women's race is Radcliffe, who showed great form in beating a strong field last month to win the Great North Run in England.

Radcliffe holds best times for 10 km, 20 km and the full marathon and ran the fastest ever women's half-marathon last month, though the downhill course did not count for record purposes.

But the Briton will face plenty of in-

form contenders, including Ethiopia's World 10,000-metre champion Berhane Adere.

Another challenger for the women's crown will be Japan's Mizuki Noguchi, who ran the second-fastest half marathon this year.

U.S. runner Maria Runyan may also be a name to watch out for, having recently set a national record for 20 km, just 1.1 km less than she will have to cover in the half marathon.

The current best time for the women's half marathon is 1:06:44, held by Elana Meyer of South Africa.

The fastest runner in the men's race is Kenya's John Yuda, who produced the second-best half marathon time for 2003 and finished third in the past two events held at Vilamoura.

Among others pushing Yuda for a place on the podium are likely to be his compatriots John Chruyot Korir and Yusuf Songoka.

Houllier says defeat by Arsenal not the end

By JEREMY BUTLER

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier says it will be much too early to rule his side out of the title race if they lose to Premier League leaders Arsenal today.

Defeat at Anfield would leave Liverpool nine points behind Arsene Wenger's team but Houllier denied on Friday that, after last Sunday's 3-2 defeat by Charlton, he had said the Arsenal game was make or break.

"I said it was an important game for both teams, maybe more important for us than them because of the points difference. But as far as I know no trophies have been won in the first week in October," Houllier told a news conference on Friday.

"The challenge is to get back into the top four very quickly and then from there to progress. We're not particular about one game or another. We just want to get our way and get back into the top four."

Liverpool won the last of their record 18 English league titles in 1990. They lie eighth in the table on 11 points, three points behind fourth-placed Birmingham City. Arsenal are

top on 17 points, followed by Chelsea and champions Manchester United on 16.

Liverpool are without several players through injury with midfielder Danny Murphy added to the list after damaging ankle ligaments in a reserve game against Everton.

He joined Milan Baros, Jamie Carragher, Dietmar Hamann, Stephane Henchoz, Bruno Cheyrou and goalkeeper Chris Kirkland on the sidelines.

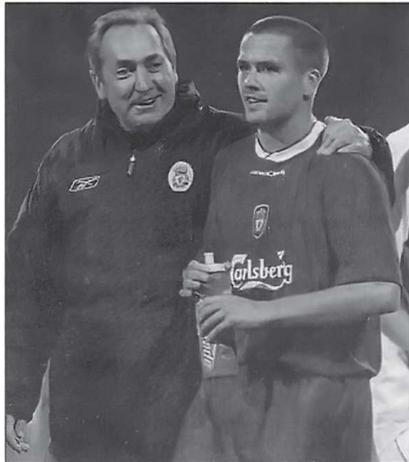
Arsenal's resilience and temperament will again be under the spotlight following their recent disciplinary problems and the match also offers the chance to compare in-form strikers Thierry Henry and Michael Owen.

Killer Owen

Liverpool's Owen has scored seven league goals so far this season, one more than his French rival Henry for Arsenal.

"Owen is more of an out-and-out goalscorer. He is able to wait for his chance to come along and is patient like a killer," Wenger told a news conference on Friday.

"I think you can only be born with that natural instinct. Owen was scoring



Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier says it will be much too early to rule his side out of the title race if they lose to Premier League leaders Arsenal tomorrow. A file photo shows Liverpool striker Michael Owen being congratulated by Houllier on September 24. REUTERS/Ian Hodgson

goals when he was 13 years old and when you do that you know that you will score goals all your life. It is some-

thing you have inside you.

"Henry is different because he likes to get involved and touch the ball a lot more. He is not so concerned by scoring, but he likes to go wide and give crosses to other players."

"He scored 24 goals last season, but he also provided about 20 assists and that is because he was never really educated as a striker, he was more brought up as a winger."

Arsenal will be without captain Patrick Vieira (thigh), Fredrik Ljungberg (ankle) and Dennis Bergkamp (calf) through injury, but defender Sol Campbell returns to the squad

after missing three games following his father's death.

7-Day Weather Forecast

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Sana'a	Hi 26 ☀	27 ☁	27 ☀	27 ☁	26 ☁	26 ☁	26 ☁
	Lo 9	9	9	9	8	8	8
Aden	Hi 35 ☁	37 ☁	37 ☁	37 ☁	37 ☀	37 ☀	36 ☀
	Lo 28	28	29	29	28	27	26

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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Today, assistance will not only be given readily, but it will open up a new friendship or partnership for future projects. You will gain trust and can work toward the goals you have set for yourself.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Focus on improving your financial situation. If you let emotional matters get you down, you are likely to lose ground. Don't let anyone back you into a corner.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
This is a great day to improve your skills for getting ahead. You need to reinvent yourself. If you are versatile, you will be more valuable to any group you work with.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Someone you care about will need your assistance and you won't be able to say no. Don't forget your obligation to those you live with. You may need to get a little help.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You will be somewhat emotional, so clear up anything that is bothering you. Be ready to stabilize your love life once and for all. If you are single, now is the time to meet someone new.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Changes are inevitable today. Don't be afraid; embrace whatever comes your way. If you have let your work fall behind, ask for help.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Try something new today. Love and romance will be in a high cycle, so don't miss out. Spend time with the one you love, or socialize so you can meet a future partner.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will have to watch your back. Someone will undermine you or try to put demands on you today. Prepare to stop this person in his tracks.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Don't waste time when you have so much going for you. You'll be surprised how many people will bend over backward to work alongside you. Organize a timetable for yourself.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will have some good suggestions to offer others. Be innovative. Make your own decisions. You aren't a follower and now is the time to prove it.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You will tend to get a little emotional today. Put your energy into romantic endeavors. This is a perfect day to go after the person you love or to let your partner know how much you care.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Take care of every detail or you will experience a delay or setback. Expect officials to give you a hard time. Keep your thoughts to yourself, but listen carefully.

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الشركة الوطنية للتجارة المحدودة - ناتكو
 Sana'a (267797/245345), Aden (242187/241625), Taiz (285096/210317),
 Hodeidah (202890/1/2), Mukalla (304172/73)

Continued from Back page

New international Yemeni boxer on the rise

Q: How about future matches?
A: I am tentatively set to fight on October 30th at the Cobo Hall in Detroit Michigan.

Q: How do American experts assess you in terms of quality and stiffness? Are you ranked in any way? Do they consider you unorthodox (like Naz) or text-book style boxer?

A: I am a relatively young fighter, but I received many high praises from my last performance which was globally televised on ESPN. I am an old-school, textbook-style fighter with power in both hands.

Q: When will Yemenis in Yemen be able to see you in your country?
A: Soon, insha'allah.

Q: Any word you want to deliver through Yemen Times to the readers, government, and Naseem Hamed, who is also a frequent reader of the paper?

A: As an avid reader of Yemen Times, I want to tell the readers of Yemen Times, and the people of Yemen, and the world for the matter, this is only the beginning. You can expect to see more of me in the years to come representing my Yemeni heritage. To the government of Yemen, I am proud

of the progression of democratic elections in Yemen and hope to see it prosper further in the generations to come. To Naz, thanks for inspiring me.

Q: Any final remarks?
A: God bless the people of Yemen, and let there be one day peace in the Middle East. Free Palestine!

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Not many Yemenis know him yet, but they will soon do: New international Yemeni boxer on the rise

Brian Mihtar is a name capturing more attention by the day throughout the USA and the world. The 24-year-old Detroit boxer of Yemeni-origins was able to show glimmers of becoming an international superstar in professional boxing in the junior middleweight division. "Naseem Hamed is my idol and example." He said, saying that it may be too much of an ambition to reach the level of NAZ, but "why not try?"



Brian Mihtar: A rising boxing star in the USA. Could he be the new NAZ?

Q: Who is Brian Mihtar (Age, place of birth, family, religion, etc., brief biography)?
A: I was born as Abraham Mihtar on August 18, 1979 in Detroit Michigan, U.S.A. I am 24 years old, 5'10", 147 lbs (welterweight). I am a practicing Muslim, who is currently living in Dearborn, Michigan, U.S.A. I am from the Mihtar family which hails from the village of Meswara in the country of Yemen.
Q: As an American of Yemeni origin who is seen to have great potential in boxing, what are your feelings about Yemen, Naz, and

your ambitions in representing your country?
A: Prince Naseem Hamed was the inspiration behind my entrance into the sport of boxing. I am very proud to represent my heritage of Yemen and my religion of Islam.
Q: How did you start boxing? Who motivated you? Did you expect to become a pro boxer?
A: In December 1997, I went to watch Prince Naseem make his U.S. debut in New York City's Madison Square Garden. That inspired me to begin my boxing career. I first took up the sport as a hobby, but as I progressed and saw how talented I was, I decided to take it more seriously.

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Q: Detroit is the most heavily populated Yemeni-American city, how did the other Yemenis in your city react to your achievement, any specific names you want to mention who had a role in this?
A: The Arabs, and especially, the Yemeni-American community, were heavily supportive and they continue to be as I grow in the sport. As far as thanking people, I would like to thank all my fans who have supported me from Hamtramck, Detroit, Southfield, Dearborn, Michigan and as far away as Buffalo, New York.
Q: You seem to be at the beginning of a long way to become a superstar like Naz. Do you have

ambitions and do you think you can be as good or even better?

A: My ultimate ambition is to one day become a world champion. My drive is the love for the sport. As far as Naseem, those are very big shoes to fill and I'm honored to be mentioned among him.

Q: Do you want/expect any assistance from the Yemeni Ministry of Youth and Sports? What type of support do you need?
A: I would like to, one day soon, have an opportunity to come to Yemen and work with the Yemeni youth and maybe even set up an exhibition boxing event. I'm just waiting for an invitation, but I know it

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 will come soon.

Q: Could you brief us about the matches you already had, and how it felt when you won them, all?
A: So far, I have had 2 professional fights and I have won both by knockout. My professional debut was here in my hometown, Detroit, Michigan was a first round knockout win. My last fight was globally televised on ESPN and I won that exciting fight via a dramatic third round knockout. I hope this fight will be replayed on Yemen TV soon.
 Continued on page 17

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