

Six killed and another injured in brutal tribal conflicts in Mareb: Ramadan's deadly start

By Hassan al-Azaedi
Yemen Times Staff

Sana'a, Oct. 29 - Six people were killed and another was injured in a shootout that took place on Saturday between Aal Saidah and al-Marazek, one of the minor tribes affiliated to Bani Nawf in the al-Jawf governorate.

Tribal sources said that the main cause behind fire exchange was attributed to the longstanding tribal disputes.

"Tribal conflict between the two was erupted one year ago over a simple financial amount of money when they assembled in Marib, they quarreled and then pointed their guns at each other," a tribal source said.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the eastern governorates such as, Marib, Shabowa, and al-Jawf have been involved in severe tribal clashes from time to time.

Those tribal clashes constitute a big headache for the government. They have been given carte blanche and this has negatively affected their normal life.

Despite of rendering developmental and social projects in order to overcome the hard life there, which overwhelmed those tribes, the tribal clashes have been still predominant.

Several US-funded projects have been recently implemented during a short visit Marib by the US Ambassador to Yemen and those major projects are equipping the President Hospital in Marib at the cost of USD 5.3 million as well as other developmental projects.



Shown here is a child belonging to a tribe in Mareb. Even children are trained to use light arms in various parts of the country. The problem of the illegal carrying and trade of arms is among the main contributors to tribal violence, which claims hundreds of lives per year in Yemen. YT photo

Amid outrage of other opposition parties and surprise of the public:

Islah stops boycotting American goods

Sana'a, Oct 29 - Members of Islah party in the students committee to boycott the Zionist and American goods refused during a festival held in Sana'a University to call for the boycott of American goods.

Sources said that the Islah members in the committee have -unexpectedly- refused to include names of American

goods on the festival signs and also refused to demonstrate and protest during the festival against American and British occupation of Iraq.

Consequently, Nasserite and Baath members got furious and expressed anger at this stance while other political organizations and independents expressed surprise at Islah's unfamiliar attitude this time.

On his part, Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein al-Ahmar asked in the festival to boycott Israeli goods and commodities made in Israeli-support countries. However, he did not mention American goods specifically in his speech, unlike what he used to do in the past.

"It is not permissible to buy Israeli goods as it will support enemies of Islam and those who kill our brothers in Palestine. Everyone has to remember that when a Muslim buys an Israeli commodity, that means that he/she is helping direct a bullet against a Palestinian child, woman or militant," he said.

In Dhamar, 120 km south of Sana'a

One killed, 2 injured in mosque dispute

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI &
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

One person was killed and two others were seriously injured Monday evening in a confrontation between two religious sects over controlling a mosque in the governorate of Dhamar, 120 km south of Sana'a.

A local source has told the Yemen Times that there was a disagreement between the Shiite and Salafia groups over controlling al-Saeed mosque, a new mosque in Dhamar.

Some people from the Salafia group went recently to practice al-Taraweeh prayers but were denied. When they went again on Monday, a confrontation erupted.

Some eyewitnesses say that the governor's guards fired at the people.

Dead is Dr. Sultan Sary, 32.

Two others are injured. However, government officials deny any possible doctrinal disagreement as the reason behind the accident.

One official pointed out that the

clash took place between the people responsible for the mosque and some people who wanted to use amplifiers by force, which the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Guidance has prohibited, except for during prayers practice.

Authorities in Dhamar arrested some of the people believed to have started the dispute, and they are now under interrogation and investigation.

On its part, Islah party denounced the clash and demanded the authorities to carry out a comprehensive investigation into it, presenting its perpetrators to justice.

The government has been trying its best to control mosques, and to stop preachers from inciting fanatic and extremist sentiments.

It has even contracted about 36 moderate preachers from Arab mosques in an attempt to stop the use of mosques for preaching extremism and terrorism. Islah feels it is the target of this campaign as most of those preachers are members of the Islah party.

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وأكثر من ٢٥ فائز

الفائز الأول: مليون ريال
الفائز الثاني: نصف مليون ريال
الفائز الثالث: ربع مليون ريال

بالإضافة إلى أكثر من ثلاثمائة وخمسين فائز سيحصلون على جوائز نقدية وعينية بإجمالي يتجاوز أوز ثلاثة ملايين ريال

تأتي هذه المسابقة بعد مشاركة عشرات الآلاف في مسابقات يمن تايمز للسنوات الماضية والتي أكدت على مصداقية ونزاهة الصحيفة والتي اعتبرها القراء ثاني أكثر صحيفة مرغوبة على مستوى الوطن من بين الصحف المستقلة.....

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YEMEN TIMES

Yemen to get more micro-grants

Yemen has won the membership in the micro-grants program funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Yemen.

This is considered one of the successful programs in the environment field.

Accepting Yemen within the countries that benefit from the micro-grants program has come after one year of continuation that is done competitively between the regional countries.

This step is also considered a success to support the activities of the environment private associations in

Yemen to enhance their roles, besides being a step to benefit projects of the program.

Yemen is considered the fourth country selected on the regional level after Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia, as there is annual competition to select a country that meets the program conditions.

US Ambassador opens US-funded projects in Marib

US Ambassador Edmund J. Hull visited the governorate of Marib on Oct. 22, with Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Mohammad Al-Nomi.

They attended U.S. funded projects there. Both officials were met by the Governor of Marib Brigadier Abdullah Ali Al-Nasi on their arrival to the province.

The ambassador, the minister and the governor participated in the dedication of the Medical Health Center, funded by the US Embassy in Sana'a at a total cost of about \$260,000, including the equipment and training for health workers.

The project, which will serve 20,000 people in the region, was implemented by the Social Fund for Development (SFD).

Afterwards, the three officials visited the High Institute for Teachers Training in Marib, to attend the closing ceremony of the "Agriculture Rural



One of the projects opened by US Ambassador Edmund Hull in Mareb.

Women Guide Workshop," a component of the Marib Agriculture Pilot Project.

The training was conducted Sept. 29 to Oct. 20, under the supervision of the Public Works Projects in Marib. This workshop is the first of its kind that aims to spread awareness of how

women farmers can maintain livestock.

The President's Hospital was the final stop during the visit.

The hospital, which is being built by Yemeni government funds, will be totally equipped with funding by the US Government at a total cost of around \$5.3 million, including training for the hospital's health cadre.

In a brief meeting with journalists, Ambassador Hull affirmed that Marib is not the only Yemeni governorate that benefits from US funding.

Other disadvantaged governorates such as Amran, Shabwa and al-Jawf also receive U.S. aid.

Areas of health, agriculture and education are the main focus of this funding, the Ambassador added.

Symposium on women in politics

Taiz, Oct. 28- Organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center, HRITC, a symposium on woman's political participation was held in Taiz at HRITC headquarters.

The symposium focused on woman's political participation during the 27 April elections, as well as hindrances that blocked women candidates by the election administration.

"Interest that is taken towards woman's issues and that the political process shouldn't be restricted only to election periods.

Because woman's issues are the issues of the society, which is in need of support outside of pressures and temporary conditions," the HRITC

director, Ezz Addin al-Asbahi remarked.

Al-Asbahi further said that woman's political participation should be assessed not only during parliamentary elections, but also in all her political spheres as a whole.

The symposium was attended by prominent women who have played an active participation in the political arena such as Mesq al-Junaid, Dr. Fouzia Hassoon and Kareema Murshed.

A comprehensive program on training women candidates as well as holding political symposiums on woman's political participation was organized by the HRITC in cooperation with Norwegian Embassy earlier this year.

Nasserites enter the IT era:

Wahdawi announces its website



Sanaa, Oct 28 - The Al-Wahdawi Weekly, the mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party has recently announced the opening of its website at (www.alwahdawi.net). This adds the Nasserite Party to the list of parties having websites on the web. The two most active websites are those of the ruling party, the General People's Congress (www.almotamar.net) and Islah (www.alsahwa.net).

Businessmen looking to invest in Yemen

By Yemen Times Staff

Sana'a, Oct. 28- Interest in investment projects in Yemen has been rekindled by a delegation of expatriates with Yemeni roots, who visited Yemen recently in order to make use of facilities and franchises conferred by Expats and Investment Law.

The delegation met the Investment Promotion General Manager at the Ministry of the Expats Affairs. They were informed of diverse investment opportunities and the ministry's interest to implement the Expatriates Care

Law, as well as following up their project by ensuring there are not unnecessary bureaucratic hindrances.

The delegation included expatriates from Indonesia who have visited the country for the first time, including Abood Bawazeer, Zain Abdullah Al-Zuberie, Saleh Abdullah Al-Zuberie, Ewadh Makki, and Yahya Bin Saleh.

The delegation also toured Hadhramout, the city of their forefathers. Some of the delegation confirmed to establish a clothes plant in the city.

Workshop on children

By Yemen Times Staff

Sana'a, Oct. 25- Organized by the Childhood and Motherhood Supreme Council, a workshop on social awareness on child's rights was held Oct. 24 in cooperation with the Radda Barnen, a Swedish organization interested in child's rights.

A number of working papers were presented by researchers and child's specialists.

The workshop focused on the role of the media in disseminating and establishing a solid pyramid for child's rights, and noted that in order to help children, particularly in remote areas, mobile libraries should be provided for them. Those libraries contain miscellaneous writings, TV, video and other means useful for children's capabilities.



ties. Several topics were also discussed during the workshop, such as using stories of Yemen authors relating to children's literature.

The Barnen organization's speech was delivered by Mrs. Marie Merglund, dealing with childhood and motherhood projects run by the group since its founding in 1963.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

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

- They are not justifiable at all, and those who did it must be found and punished.
- They are not justifiable though American forces are to blame.
- They are justifiable because they are a form of resistance.

LAST EDITION'S

QUESTION:

Do you think that Iraqi resistance will calm down during the Holy month of Ramadan?

- No, they will intensify. 66%
- No, they will stay in the same level. 19%
- Let us wait and see. 8%
- Yes, I do believe things will calm down. 7%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

The Embassy of United States of America announces for an immediate jobs opening within its organization.

"English Language Instructor"

The position is located in the Yemen America Language Institute YALI, American Embassy. Employee will teach English as a Second Language courses at the Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI) under the direct supervision of the Director of Courses. Prepares lessons, assigns and corrects homework, scores classroom exams, evaluates student progress and assigns end of term grades to each students fairly and objectively. Attends all pre- and in-service workshops. Prepares reports as required by YALI operating practice. Works individually with students as needed and collaborates frequently and routinely with other teachers to ensure state-of-the-art teaching methodology and creative activities are used. Performs other administrative task as assigned.

Desired Qualifications

Education: A B.A./B.S is normally required (but may be substituted for in cases where significant relevant teaching experience is in evidence)

Prior Work Experience: Minimum of one year of previous experience teaching EFL/ESL is required (except in the case of native speakers or of YALI non-teaching employees who demonstrate teaching capability during a demonstration lesson given at YALI and observed by the YALI DOC).

Language Proficiency: Level IV English (fluent ability) is required.

Knowledge: A high level of knowledge of language teaching methodology, a strong understanding of the English language and its syntactical features and familiarity with American cultural are required.

Abilities: Strong interpersonal and leadership skills, the ability to exercise fairness, adaptability, flexibility, patience and creativity, and an ability to motivate students and to work cooperatively with colleagues.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-07 (to be confirmed by Washington)

* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-7

How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a. Tel: 303-155, no later than November 10, 2003.

Note: All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

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Jakarta Hilton International	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$695	\$930	Category *****

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Empowering People

Qat Hazards Control Society launches its: Third Ramadan Cultural Forum kicks off

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Taiz, Oct. 28 - Organized by the Taiz-based Qat Hazards Control Society in coordination with the Social and Cultural Committees of the Taiz Clubs, the Third Ramadan Cultural Forum is to be held during 10-16 Ramadan (November 4-10).

The program will include the Holy Qura'an competition, caricature and chanting competition, extemporaneous poetry debate, cultural individual contests, and lectures.

The society's chairman Mr. Shukri Abdullah Al-Furais confirmed that the program basically aims at attracting youths to this opportunity and encouraging them to utilize their intellectual creative capabilities.

A number of prizes are to be distributed to the participants during the event.

Qat Hazards Control Society is the only society that focuses through its work to create a new Yemeni generation without Qat.

The society combats the chewing and dealing with qat regularly by holding meetings, giving lectures on Qat-related issues, and printing leaflets and posters to raise awareness among the public.

"The devil" as was described by a great Yemeni revolutionary poet Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi, was also passionately condemned back in 1958.

In his allegorical writing, Al-Zubairi compares Qat to the devil by saying:

"It grew from the earth to consume the nutrients of other innocent plants.

It made the Yemeni people lust after it, and is fighting in their stomachs against valuable nutrients for the human body.

Then, it runs in their veins like Satan, and enters their pockets to steal



Qat as described by al-Zubeiri, the devil where millions of Yemenis spend their time and money uselessly on chewing it. Qat Hazards Control Society is the only society that focuses through its work to create a new Yemeni generation without Qat.

their money.

It can bring them to mountain peaks in the early morning but at night it will not let them sleep, leaving them in the nightmare of their hallucinations.

The Yemeni people live half their

lives under its spell.

It consumes their strength and heroism.

It is a cursed tree that controls their lives."

Al-Amal Bank for the poor starts in 2004

Sanaa, Oct. 25 - Al-Amal Bank for small-loans will commence its activities starting January 2004 according to the bank's management. A technical committee composed of the government and private sector as well as the Gulf Program for supporting United Nations organizations agreed that the first of January should be the date for starting the activities of the bank which is expected to facilitate loans

for the poor to start their own small-scale businesses to earn income.

The beneficiaries of the loans are among the very poor of the society who are able and willing to start small-scale projects in order to improve their living standards and create new sources of income for their families. The interests will be extremely low compared to regular loans and are expected to be afford-

able for the beneficiaries.

Foreign expertise will be helping in the management of the bank for the first three years. The capital of the bank is said to be around USD five and half million in which the government's participation is USD 2.5 million while that of the private sector is USD one million. The remaining amount is to be provided by the Gulf Program.

Hayel Saeed Anaam's School's renovation completed

Sanaa, Oct. 26 - A celebration was held at the Hayel Saeed Anaam School on Oct. 10 in Sanaa on the occasion of the completing of its renovation at the expense of the Hayel Saeed Anaam (HSA) Group of Companies.

The event was attended by Abdulwase'a Hael Saeed Anaam of the HSA Group, Capital Secretary Ahmed Al-Kuhlani Sana'a, parlia-

ment member Nageeb Ghanem, and several other officials.

Some speeches were delivered during the celebration, which addressed the importance of the private sector's role in carrying out such noble actions which contribute positively in developing projects and hence reduce the burden on the government.

Dr. Abdulwase'a Hael Saeed Anaam stressed that the HSA Group will con-

tinue renovating other schools to become a better place for students to attain their education.

Moreover, these projects are only a portion of the projects the HSA Group has been implementing in a number of Yemeni cities all over the country.

A number of Yemeni and foreign teachers working in the School were honored during the celebration.

Workshop on violence against children

Sana'a, Oct. 28 - Organized by the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, an evaluation workshop related to the study of violence against children was held at the council's headquarters in Sanaa on October 28.

The workshop was funded by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Several issues were highlighted by participants including reasons behind violence against children, consequences and solutions.

Violence against children is one of the most significant social issues that have been the focus of concerned bodies.

Such issues have become closely relat-

ed to the child's social childhood which influences his life as well as his personality.

This has led the authorities to pay due attention to the child's current issues, because they constitute an integral part of the community where we live and define the future of the country.

Ministry of Telecommunications & IT Important announcement

The Ministry of Telecommunications & IT announces that it has taken steps to prevent international calls from passing illegally via the fixed and the GSM telephone networks as they are in breach of the telecommunications law.

Therefore, citizens who receive international calls which appear as local numbers on their fixed or GSM telephones are requested to cooperate with the ministry and notify the call center on free access number 170 at any time. The Information required by the call center is purely the local or GSM number that appears on the customer's telephone display.

The call center handling calls to 170 is available 24 hours aday, 7 days aweek.

The Ministry would like to thank the public for their cooperation.



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Health during the Holy Month

Ramadhan goods are often poor quality

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is one of the countries in the Islamic world where Muslims receive the holy month of Ramadhan with great delight and acclamation, exclaiming God as great.

Yemenis if compared to other Arabs, have their own traditions and norms in the way they receive the holy month of Ramadhan. This of course differs from one city to another.

Yemenis, either in villages or those in cities, go shopping for basic necessities for the holy month.

Despite of the low individual income and his purchasing power, Yemenis have been overwhelmed by great pleasure to go to markets.

Ramadhan in Yemen is a big season-

al trade occasion where so many merchants and traders make profitable trade businesses. Markets are filled with so many different products such as, food-stuffs, dates, dairy products, and canned products.

But economists interested in conducting market researches and studies related to the local consumers expect that markets during Ramadhan are flooding with different kinds of goods and commodities which don't conform to the proper health conditions.

Due to the lack of awareness among most of the Yemenis, most of those flooded goods and commodities are actually expired products and don't have proper health qualities.

Yemenis, either in cities or villages go shopping for buying goods and food-stuffs, spices, sweets, drinks, dates, and incenses.

In some of the rural areas, gas lamps

and lanterns have been still used by villagers. Some of the remote areas have been deprived from electricity for a long time, while in some villages, electrical generators are used for lighting houses.

Seasonal trade occasion

In cities, exhibitions for goods and commodities necessary for Holy Month are held annually.

Some of those exhibitions are usually held under the pretext of giving low prices of those goods during Ramadhan. But, this has been done with reactivating the traders' commercial activities at the expense of good morals.

In addition to this, some shop owners used to spread heaps of their goods in front of their shops for selling their goods.

This has been done with a view of enlarging their sales in different places and therefore, prices of those goods are also high.

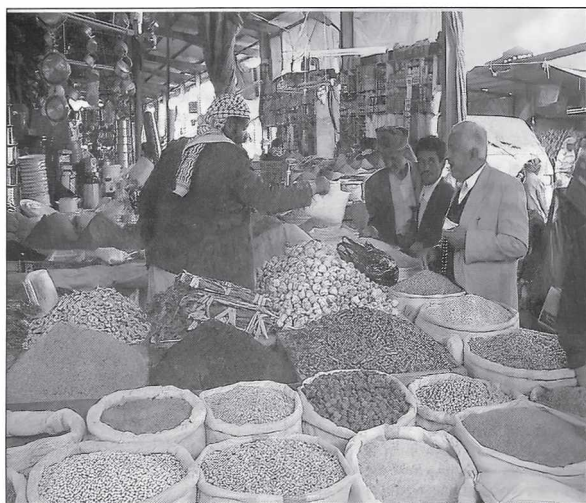
Yemeni markets nowadays have witnessed a high attendance of local consumers. But, there are some goods which have low prices and this sometimes can be ascribed to poor quality.

Different imported products have been flooding to our markets. What is needed is to monitor those markets and this of course is very important for maintaining health among the public.

Despite monitoring and control procedures of our markets, there have been infringements and fraud in some of the markets. This manifests itself clearly through the lack of proper health awareness on the part of some Yemenis and also lack of proper monitoring procedures in those markets.

There are also high increases of prices during Ramadhan.

Most Yemeni villagers don't pay due attention to Ramadhan's eating table because most of them still depend on animals such as, goats, cows and chickens.



Markets rich with variety of foodstuffs in Ramadhan

Economic development in Yemen

Tourism is young: it needs help to grow

BY ISMAEL AL-GABIRI
YEMEN TIMES

Taking interest in tourism in an organized official framework did not appear until the second half of the 20th century, and more accurately post World War II, where the need for entertainment for the participants in that war, in addition to the increase of income in Europe under the Marshal Project success, were the main triggers for such a trend.

So accordingly, humanitarian need and desire for tourism which was in the past an individual act now has become more organized and targets a wider range where events and programs have been designed for people to go around places getting entertained and gaining more knowledge especially regarding the different ways of life and the different aspects of land, societies...etc.

With the increase in the appeal to tourism and demand for it, both governments and individuals saw the great opportunities in this and invested widely on this new source of income. Hence programs for developing the tourism sector and working on events and sites that attracted people was the main concern for created ministries and tourism agencies. A process incorporated this industry in the general development strategies and linked this field with all other industries and services such as transportation and accommodation.

So a phenomenon has emerged from this concept and countries competed in attracting tourists and in creating a good place for themselves in the global media as a tourist place, eeping in mind the revenues and how to invest in the industry in order to develop the country in all aspects and not just that of tourism or related fields.

The tourist sector is considered one of the modern ones and still in its



Workers renovate one of the ancient skyscrapers of Shibam-Hadramout city. The city is well known for its mud-made skyscrapers, which are a great attract to tourism.

growing phase, hence it requires the maximum attention especially with the growing demand. Services and facilities and creative programs should be designed in order to grow the tourism sector and to encourage people to come to the country and exchange their hard currencies to improve the economy and national income, because this industry could be related to all other activities of the society.

Planning in the tourism sector has proved to be critical in order to comply with the global progress without compromising on the national values. In fact, to utilize tradition to attract tourists should be a basic point in the tourism plans. It's an issue which is vital for the development of the country as a whole and a cause to establish social security and luxury for the citizens.

EXTENSION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Telecommunication Corporation (P.T.C) project of His Excellency the President of the Republic, for the promotion of Computers, to establish a production and assemblment line for Computers at the Telecommunications & Information Technology City at the Ministry of Telecommunications & information Technology has been extended up to 06/11/2003.

Therefore, Tender offers must be submitted on 09/11/2003 at 10.00 a.m and will be opened in public at 11.00 a.m on the same day in (P.T.C) in the presence of Tender or their representatives who may wish to attend

Bidders must still abide by the same conditions presence advertised

إعلان تمديد

تعلم المؤسسة العامة للاتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية عن تمديد موعد فتح المظاريف لمشروع فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية لتعميم الحاسوب لإنشاء خط إنتاج وتجميع الحاسوب بمدينة تكنولوجيا الاتصالات والمعلومات بوزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات حتى يوم الأحد 2003/11/9.

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Hizbollah says can't bear stalling on prisoner swap

BEIRUT, Oct. 28 (Reuters) - Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group said on Tuesday it would not tolerate more stalling by Israel on a possible prisoner swap, saying it would bring home its prisoners with or without negotiations.

The Shi'ite Muslim group has for months been in talks with Israel via German mediators over the exchange of three Israeli soldiers presumed dead and a businessman for about 15 Lebanese, dozens of Arabs and hundreds of Palestinians held in Israel.

"Our message is clear. Time is passing. I want to say clearly that Hizbollah will not bear more procrastination," Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told followers in Beirut.

"We reiterate and stress our decisive and final commitment in the file of returning these dear prisoners to their families and homes by negotiations or else without negotiations," he said without elaborating.

Hizbollah, which helped drive Israel from south Lebanon in 2000 after a 22-year occupation, in July vowed to seize more Israelis unless there was a breakthrough in stalled talks.

A month later Israel handed over the bodies of two Hizbollah fighters in

what analysts saw as a precursor to a swap.

Nasrallah said Hizbollah, through the German mediators, reached a rough outline of an agreement about a month ago for the swap that included 400 Palestinian prisoners in addition to the Lebanese and other Arabs. But progress on a final deal had been slow, he added.

The fate of Israeli airman Ron Arad, who was captured in Lebanon in 1986, has apparently been blocking a deal. Hizbollah denies any knowledge of the whereabouts of Arad, who is believed to have been taken to Iran. Israeli officials, media and pressure groups have said any deal must include Arad.

"More procrastination means that the Israelis, in another way, are saying to us that the operation is over and you must move to other choices."

"Our conditions are clear and final, and our demands are clear and final," Nasrallah said.

Nasrallah's remarks came a day after Hizbollah guerrillas and Israel traded fire in hours-long border clashes in the latest sign of tension between Israel and Syria, which backs Hizbollah and has broad sway over Lebanon.



Columns of smoke rise near the Lebanese border village of Rashay al-Fukhar after Israel and Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas traded fire across a disputed border area, Oct. 27. Syrian and Iranian-backed Hizbollah attacked Israeli posts in the disputed Shebaa Farms area drawing Israel air strikes and shelling on several Lebanese border villages, in the latest sign of rising tension between Syria and the Jewish state. REUTERS

Arafat asks Qurie to form new Palestinian cabinet

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Oct. 28 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat asked Ahmed Qurie on Tuesday to form a permanent government by next week but the prime minister first wants to resolve a dispute over security powers, officials said.

Qurie has been locked in stalemate with Arafat over control of the Palestinian security forces — key to the success of a stalled U.S.-backed peace "road map" that calls for a crackdown on militants along with Israeli confidence-building steps.

Shortly after the announcement, Qurie said he had yet to be informed of the decision by Arafat and his Fatah movement.

The 30-day term of a Palestinian emergency cabinet expires on November 4 and Qurie suggested earlier this month he would quit as prime minister unless he and Arafat could agree on cabinet posts.

Qurie, the parliamentary speaker, was named prime minister after his reformist predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas, quit in frustration, saying Arafat and Israel had obstructed him and the United States had not given enough support to his peace moves.

"President Arafat and the Fatah Central Committee have unanimously asked Abu Ala to form a new cabinet based on the current one," Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said, using Qurie's nom de guerre.

Shaath said Qurie, a shrewd politician with a long history of close ties to Arafat, had agreed to remain prime minister.

But shortly after Shaath spoke to reporters, Qurie said he had yet to receive any formal request. "As things stand now, I have not been asked, but if things proceed in a positive way, I will continue," Qurie told reporters.

A Palestinian official said Qurie "in principle...wants to serve another term with an ordinary cabinet, but he has a condition which has to do with the post of minister of interior."

Arafat, who has been reluctant to cede security powers, has rejected Qurie's nominee for the post, Nasser Youssef.

Crackdown before dialogue

Youssef angered Arafat by boycotting an induction ceremony for the emergency cabinet. As interior minister, he would oversee any steps to rein in militants.

Israel has demanded such a crackdown before it fulfils its obligations



Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie talks to reporters in the West Bank city of Ramallah Oct. 28. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat asked Qurie to form a permanent government by next week but the prime minister first wants to resolve a dispute over security powers, officials said. REUTERS

under the road map, which include a freeze on Jewish settlement expansion on land it occupied in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

"Every Palestinian government and its head will be considered a partner to dialogue if they fulfil their commitments under the road map, carry out the necessary reforms in the security forces and dismantle the terror organizations," an Israeli official said about a possible new Qurie-led cabinet.

But Qurie has made clear that like his predecessor, Abbas, he favours dialogue over confrontation with militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have killed hundreds of Israelis in a three-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Abbas quit last month amid mounting tit-for-tat violence.

Hamas said on Monday it was ready to talk to Qurie about his proposal for halting attacks on Israelis but that it would depend on whether Israel stopped strikes on militants.

On Tuesday, Israeli commandos killed a militant linked to the Fatah movement outside the Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank. Witnesses said Ibrahim Na'nish was shot dead by troops who drove up to him in an unmarked car.

A military spokesman said troops tried to arrest him but opened fire when he and a second gunman shot at them. Witnesses said the Israeli gunfire was unprovoked.

Another Iraq suicide bomb, Bush blames foreigners

BAGHDAD, Oct. 28 (Reuters) - A suicide bomber killed himself and at least four others in Iraq on Tuesday, as foreign aid workers agonised over whether to quit the country in the aftermath of Monday's 35-death bloodbath in Baghdad.

Another American soldier was confirmed killed and six other troops wounded in a Baghdad rocket attack as President George W. Bush blamed the violence in postwar Iraq on members of Saddam Hussein's ousted Baath party and "foreign terrorists".

Bush, seeking re-election next year amid criticism in some quarters of his Iraq policies, said he expected Syria and Iran to enforce border controls to stop infiltrators.

The latest suicide bombing near a police post in Falluja, west of Baghdad, followed Monday's carnage in the capital in which 35 people died in near-simultaneous attacks on the Red Cross headquarters and three stations of the U.S.-backed police.

With the latest soldier's death, announced on Tuesday, the U.S. military casualty toll from hostile fire rose to 114 since Bush declared major combat over on May 1, just one less than the total killed in combat during six weeks of war itself.

Baghdad deputy mayor Faris al-Assam was killed in a drive-by shooting on Sunday, the U.S.-led authorities said on Tuesday.

Just over a week ago, a tape recording attributed to al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden demanded the United States leave Iraq and vowed more suicide

attacks on Americans the world over. Iran's ambassador to France Seid Mohammad Sadeq Kharrazi blamed al Qaeda and remnants of Saddam's regime for the attacks.

Washington had 'only itself to blame'

But he told a Paris news conference that Washington had only itself to blame for the bloodshed. The Americans, be it in Afghanistan or Iraq, had provoked the development of terrorist movements and terrorist acts in the region, he said.

The bombing of the Baghdad headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) caused deep concern among aid and international agencies operating in Iraq.

But the World Bank envoy to Iraq, Tanwir Ali Agha, told Reuters on Tuesday that poor security should not be allowed to stall reconstruction — since unless Iraqis saw an improvement in their lives the violence would only get worse.

"It's a vicious circle...If you don't start reconstruction because you set the same (security) standards for Iraq as for other countries, then you won't get started. If you don't get started, the circle of violence will get even more vicious."

In Moscow, Russia resumed efforts to revive multi-billion dollar oil deals, on hold since the U.S. invasion, by urging new Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum to visit Moscow.

ICRC spokeswoman Nada Doumani said it was weighing its response to the mayhem but would not leave Iraq after

23 years of continuous work through three wars. A spokeswoman at ICRC headquarters in Geneva said the review of its presence in Iraq would focus on Baghdad, because other regions were safer.

Humanitarian agencies agonies

Other humanitarian agencies were also trying to balance the urge to pursue their mission against the dangers of doing so.

"Definitely some of our people will be leaving Iraq," Marc Joolens, operations coordinator for medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, told Reuters. "It's a difficult decision because there are needs, but there are also great risks."

Tuesday's suicide bomber blew up his small car outside a school 100 metres (yards) from a police station in Falluja, in the "Sunni Triangle" where resistance to occupation is stiffest.

U.S. soldiers sealed off the area after the blast, which set cars ablaze and scattered body parts across the street.

In the northern city of Mosul, newspaper editor Ahmed Shawkat, who had written articles criticising radical Islamists, was shot dead at his home.

Monday's bombings, in which a U.S. soldier died, followed the killing of three U.S. troops on Sunday night and the death of another hours earlier when rockets hit a Baghdad hotel where U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying.

A soldier died and six were wounded in a rocket attack on Monday in Baghdad, the army said on Tuesday.



Soldiers of U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) gather with their weapons ready after a wounded soldier was brought to units aid station in Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad, Oct. 28. REUTERS

Iran hardliners attacked over journalist's killing

TEHRAN, Oct. 28 (Reuters) - Iran's reformist-dominated parliament on Tuesday accused the country's hard-line judiciary of fabricating evidence in its investigation into the death in custody of a Canadian photojournalist.

In a damning report likely to fuel tensions between Iran's political factions over Zahra Kazemi's death, a parliamentary commission said notes and witness statements had been doctored and accused the judiciary of failing to justify Kazemi's arrest on charges of espionage.

The death of Kazemi, a Canadian resident of Iranian descent, sparked a diplomatic dispute between Iran and Canada and has turned into a rare test of accountability for the Islamic Republic's powerful security apparatus.

An Intelligence Ministry agent is on trial for the killing, but parliamentarians are probing a series of irregularities in the judicial investigation which led to him being charged.

The Intelligence Ministry agent denies the charge.

Parliamentarians demanded to know why Tehran's Prosecutor-General Saeed Mortazavi, from the conservative judiciary, had originally attributed Kazemi's death to a stroke when she was later found to have died from a blow to the head.

The commission said there were "deliberate attempts by Tehran's prosecutor to justify Kazemi's death contrary to the facts, doctor initial paperwork...and change comments of initial witnesses".

"All this indicates disorganisation in the Tehran prosecutor's behaviour and indicates the file of Kazemi's death has deviated from the right path," a statement read out in parliament said.

Mortazavi quickly dismissed the report and promised to send a rebuttal of each of the charges to the parliament speaker.

"The parliament...commission read out a report which was composed of lies and insults," he was quoted as saying by the ISNA students news agency.

Kazemi, a 54-year old Montreal-based photojournalist, died of a brain hemorrhage caused by a blow to the head two weeks after her arrest in June for taking pictures outside Tehran's notorious Evin prison, where many political dissidents are held.

Tehran's deputy public prosecutor presented numerous witness statements and reports in court earlier this month saying Kazemi was in good health until she was handed over to the Intelligence Ministry on the second day after her arrest.

Hossein Ansarifard, head of the commission, was reported on IRNA as saying the parliamentary commission's second report would "deal with the issue of who was responsible".

Syria fuel truck collides with bus, 13 dead-agency

DAMASCUS, Oct. 28 (Reuters) - Thirteen people including four children were killed when a tanker truck collided with a minibus on a busy Syrian highway, Syria's official news agency SANA reported on Tuesday. SANA said the speeding truck hit the minibus from behind on Monday as the bus tried to turn off at a junction on the highway to the town of Khan Sheikhun, north of the capital Damascus.

The daily Tishreen newspaper said the truck was carrying diesel but did not say whether it exploded. The victims were taken to hospital, where 13 people were pronounced dead. Nine others were injured.

The crash was the second fatal accident involving a Syrian fuel truck in less than a year. In February, at least 11 people died when a Syrian army tanker truck overturned on the border with Lebanon and burst into flames, destroying several vehicles.

Japan campaign starts, Koizumi seeks reform mandate

TOKYO, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed on Tuesday to turn his conservative party into a vehicle for change as campaigning began in earnest for the first general election since the popular leader took office.

More than 1,000 people, mostly women, braved a chilling downpour to hear Koizumi make his campaign pitch in the western Tokyo residential suburb of Machida.

"I'm grateful so many of you came out in the rain. I want to respect your support and turn the LDP into a party of reform," Koizumi told the crowd from atop a van as aides held umbrellas and listeners snapped photos of him with cell phones.

Koizumi is staking his job on a decisive victory for his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its two ruling coalition partners in the November 9 election, which would enable him to push ahead with his reforms, opposed by many in his own party.

"At a minimum we must maintain a majority between the three parties. If we don't manage that, it is my responsibility, so I will resign," Koizumi told NHK television later in the day.

The general election will also provide clues to whether Japan is finally moving towards a true two-party system.

The poll pits the LDP and its two partners primarily against the Democratic Party led by Naoto Kan, a former patent lawyer and health minister who has spent most of his career fighting the system.

"Whether a true two-party system will be born hinges on this election," Kan told a crowd in Fukuoka, southern Japan. "Please let our Democratic Party and me, Naoto Kan, take power."

More than 1,100 candidates registered on the first official day of campaigning for the 480 seats in the Lower House, the more powerful of parliament's two chambers.

The LDP has ruled for most of the past half century either alone or in a

coalition, except for a brief period in 1993-94 when it was ousted by a broad but unwieldy reformist coalition.

The LDP hopes Koizumi's popularity, and his knack for managing the media, can translate into a big win for the party even though many members oppose his ideas of cutting public works spending and privatising money-guzzling government corporations.

TOO FAST, TOO SLOW

In the past, the LDP retained power by wooing voters with costly public works projects and by protecting vested interests such as farmers and small businesses.

But over the past decade these policies have inflated debt to record levels, failed to produce sustainable economic growth and have become less popular, especially among urban voters.

Koizumi, though, has been criticised for being both too slow and too hasty on reform during two-and-a-half years in office.

Led by the less charismatic Kan, the Democrats are betting their detailed policy manifesto — including promises to reduce bureaucrats' grip on policy and give local governments more say — will convince voters they are the best bet for real change.

Debate is focusing on a range of issues from pension reform to cope with Japan's rapidly ageing society to how to stem rising crime rates and whether to send troops to help rebuild Iraq.

Kan says his target is for the Democratic Party to win more than 200 seats to set the stage to form an anti-LDP coalition.

The LDP-led ruling camp had 285 seats prior to dissolution, of which the LDP alone had 244 compared with the Democrats' 137.

Early opinion polls suggested that Koizumi — whose personal support rate is about 60 percent — was giving the LDP an edge.

But appealing to the uncommitted



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is also president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), waves to cheering supporters as he leaves a stump tour in Machida on outskirts of Tokyo October 28, 2003, to kick off campaigning for Japan's November 9 general election. Campaigning began on Tuesday for the election that will test whether Koizumi can turn his popularity into a decisive victory for his party and a renewed mandate for reform. **REUTERS**

will be key.

Surveys show that one-third to half of Japan's more than 100 million registered voters shun affiliation with any party.

Financial markets want to see Koizumi and the LDP win big to avoid the uncertainty of a change in government.

A recent Reuters/Jiji News poll of economic analysts and market participants showed a strong Koizumi victory would boost investors' hopes for reform and keep stock prices and the yen rising.

MobiNil goes ex-dividend, drags down Egypt bourse

CAIRO, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Egyptian shares slid in sluggish trade on Tuesday, undermined by MobiNil as the mobile telephone operator went ex-dividend, traders said.

They said some retail investors were also selling stocks to raise cash during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, traditionally a month of visits between family and friends that ends with a holiday when presents are exchanged.

The benchmark Hermes index slid 296.69 points, or 2.6 percent, to a last quote of 10,957.18. The broader CIBC index slipped 0.55 points, or 0.7 percent, to end at 82.82 points.

"Since the beginning of the week, since Ramadan began, we have seen prices deteriorate across the board with very low volumes," said Delta

Securities institutional sales trader Mohamed Radwan. Ramadan began on Sunday in Egypt.

MobiNil, also known as Egyptian Company for Mobile Services, dropped 7.2 percent after going ex-dividend on Tuesday. Investors who bought the stock by Monday qualified for an interim dividend of 4.88 Egyptian pounds (\$0.79).

The stock close down 5.62 pounds, modestly more than the dividend, to last trade at 73 pounds and with an official close of 72.64 pounds.

Elsewhere, Orascom Telecom (OT), the other listed telecoms operator, followed suit with fall of 1.63 pounds, or 2.4 percent, to last trade at 65.12 pounds. The official close was 64.67 pounds. (\$1=6.14 Egyptian pounds)

Djibouti rejoins Somali peace effort

NAIROBI, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Djibouti has rejoined a committee managing peace talks for Somalia, raising hopes of improved cooperation in the region to reunite the shattered country, Kenya's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Djibouti withdrew from the committee it shared with Kenya and Ethiopia last month, saying more than a year of Kenyan-hosted talks had only served to stoke tensions between Somalia's rival faction leaders.

Kenya said Djibouti reversed its decision after a regional body supervising the talks, the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), agreed at a summit in Uganda last week to expand the committee to include Uganda, Eritrea and Sudan.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said the presence of Djibouti

Foreign Minister Ali Abdi Farah at a meeting of IGAD foreign ministers in Nairobi on Tuesday to endorse the expansion of the committee was proof that Djibouti was back.

"His very presence here renders null and void the earlier statements that Djibouti had left," Musyoka told reporters, speaking alongside Farah and other foreign ministers as a spokesman for their meeting.

Diplomats say that rifts between Somalia's neighbours over the talks reflect a broader competition for influence in Somalia between non-Arab Ethiopia and Arab states such as Egypt. Djibouti is a member of the Arab league.

Kalonzo said Sudan was still deliberating on whether to join the committee managing the Somalia peace talks. IGAD groups Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda.

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The candidate should be a graduate in any discipline and familiar with Japanese/European automobiles in general. Should have worked in a similar capacity for at least 5 years and should be able to communicate in English and also be able to understand/explain features and benefits of products. Must have a presentable personality. Age around 30 years.

4) AUTO ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN - TWO - Location: Sana'a & Aden

The candidate should be a qualified electrical technician either from any Technical Institute or from Vocational Training Centre. He should be able to read wiring and other electrical diagrams and should have a minimum 5 years experience in tracing faults and hands-on repairs of auto electrical components. Knowledge of English is an advantage.

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Morocco wins boost in U.S. aid for security

RABAT, Oct 28 (Reuters) - The United States pledged on Tuesday to significantly increase its financial aid to key Muslim ally Morocco to help the north African country's economic and political reforms and its fight against terror.

Washington will more than quadruple its non-military assistance and double its military aid to Morocco from 2004, Assistant Secretary of State William Burns said.

The United States "will seek to provide approximately \$40 million in assistance" from 2004 to help "open up greater economic, education and political opportunities for all Moroccans", he told reporters at the end of a two-day visit.

"Some of these monies will also assist Morocco to enhance its fight against terrorism," he said, without giving details as to the nature of this aid.

Morocco's long reputation as a stable, tolerant kingdom was shaken in May when 12 Islamic suicide bombers hit targets in Casablanca and killed 33 people.

Military assistance will reach \$20 million from 2004, said Burns, who is in charge of Near Eastern affairs.

"We look forward to enhancing our cooperation in the years ahead with Morocco's fine military forces and to increasing Morocco's abilities to update its equipment and police its shores," he said.

Morocco, a traditional U.S. ally, was among the first Arab countries to condemn the September 11, 2001 attacks on

New York and Washington. It has provided U.S. investigators with valuable help in their hunt for international terror networks.

Burns said he also discussed with King Mohammed the long-standing Western Sahara territorial dispute.

The issue hit a new impasse when Morocco, which seized the territory in 1975 after independence from Spain, rejected an ultimatum to accept a recent U.N. peace plan.

"The United States continues to support U.N. efforts...for a solution to the

issue and we urge parties to engage with them (U.N. officials) positively," Burns said, repeating a stance he offered in neighbouring Algeria three days ago.

Morocco has hinted it would seek a solution with Algeria, key ally of the Polisario Front which seeks independence for the vast mineral-rich territory.

"Contacts between Morocco and Algeria should complement U.N. efforts," Burns said. "We will continue to push for a political solution...but we don't support a solution that is imposed on Morocco."

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Once great UK Conservatives look to oust leader

LONDON, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Britain's Conservative party, home to political titans from Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher, mounted a challenge to its latest leader on Tuesday but he refused to quit without a fight.

The party that dominated 20th Century British politics but which is now far from power and riven by infighting, mustered enough names to call a no-confidence vote in Iain Duncan Smith.

Duncan Smith, an austere former army officer who has styled himself the "quiet man" of politics vowed to retain his leadership. But the odds are stacked against him.

"I will absolutely submit my name for a renewed mandate to lead the party to the general election...and to win," he told reporters outside party headquarters, flanked by his wife Betsy and senior party figures.

Once dubbed the best election-winning machine in history, the Conservatives have never looked weaker, having failed to capitalise on Prime Minister Tony Blair's lowest ebb since he ended 18 years of Conservative rule in 1997.

Opinion polls suggest that despite a bruising year over the Iraq war which most Britons opposed, Blair will inflict a third successive electoral defeat on his foes, probably in 2005.

Officials said the names of 25 Conservative members of parliament (MPs), required under party rules to force a vote on their chief, had been submitted.

The vote will take place on Wednesday evening after Duncan Smith — elected as a compromise candidate after the party's second successive election trouncing in 2001 — makes a final pitch to his followers at a closed-doors meeting.

After two election thrashings by Blair, the Conservatives will be cast-



Leader of Britain's Conservative Party Iain Duncan Smith (C) gives a statement to the media, flanked by his wife Betsy (3R), shadow home secretary Oliver Letwin (R), shadow foreign secretary Michael Ancram (2R), party chairman Theresa May (2L) and shadow chancellor Michael Howard (L) outside his party's headquarters in London, Oct. 28. Britain's opposition leader Duncan Smith refused to stand down on Tuesday after a critical mass of his Conservative Party followers called a no-confidence vote in him. REUTERS

ing around for their third leader since 1997 if Duncan Smith fails to win over a simple majority of his MPs.

If he wins, he has a year's grace before a new challenge.

If he loses, he must resign. Treasury spokesman and former Cabinet minister Michael Howard is emerging as favourite to replace him.

In the 2001 leadership race, Duncan Smith won only minority support from MPs, relying on grassroots activists for victory.

Bookmakers William Hill said his hopes in this week's contest were so remote they would not even take bets on him. They quickly picked Howard as favourite to succeed him.

It would be extraordinary for a leader not to be given at least one

chance to fight an election, but even if he survives, analysts say Duncan Smith, 49, will look fatally wounded.

Blair sitting pretty

An awkward speaker with little of Blair's charisma, Duncan Smith stands accused of failing to cash in on a terrible year for the prime minister.

It remains Blair, rather than Duncan Smith, who better embodies the sort of steely vision that made rightist ideologue Thatcher and war visionary Churchill worldwide icons.

But veteran pollster and analyst Peter Kellner said it was unclear who could turn around the party and challenge Blair.

"I don't think that person exists and therefore I don't think Tony Blair will

be too concerned whatever happens. "Maybe they'll get 20 more seats under Howard than they would under IDS, but it's 20 seats, not 120 seats."

Blair has a majority in parliament of more than 160 seats.

On Monday, Duncan Smith issued a "back me or sack me" ultimatum to his fractious party, a strategy which has backfired and leaves him with 24 hours to save his political life.

"I have never known such gloom and despondency among my colleagues," Conservative MP John Greenway said.

"My hunch is that Iain will be defeated because the majority of people in the parliamentary party feel there are other people more capable of leading us to victory."

Rescuers race to find trapped Russian coal miners

NOVOSHAKHTINSK, Russia, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Rescuers digging a "tunnel of hope" to find 13 miners trapped in a Russian coal mine on Tuesday came within metres of an air pocket where the men are believed to have hidden from a surging lake.

The rescuers, who have pulled 33 of the missing miners' comrades unharmed from the ageing mine, dumped sand and slag down the shaft to staunch the flow — five days after icy floodwaters from the underground lake gushed into the colliery.

"They have enough air to survive. They'll be okay," said Viktor Solntsev, mayor of Novoshakhtinsk, a bleak town of coal miners and mostly abandoned Soviet-era coal mines 1,000 km (600 miles) south of Moscow.

Rescue workers believe the miners could be in that spot because the mine's layout means air pockets would have collected there when the water surged through and it is near to where they were working.

But no contact has so far been established with the group trapped nearly 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) below ground at the Zapadnaya-Kapitalnaya mine, a grimy construc-

tion dating back to the years of Josef Stalin's mass industrialisation drive.

Crews heaved their way through more than 60 metres (200 feet) of earth and coal mud to try to cut a passage from an adjacent shaft, dubbed a tunnel of hope by local officials. And for those relatives waiting for news above ground, hope was all they had.

They stood in heavy snow and freezing wind outside the shaft early on Tuesday, with lists of the miners' names flapping in their hands.

"If I only knew they are all alive. If I only knew that the rescuers are doing their best. But we don't know anything," a woman in her 50s whose husband is in the mine told Reuters at the scene.

Officials said the amount of oxygen in the air was just above the critical level of 17 percent and the water level was rising by only five centimetres (two inches) an hour from several metres on Monday.

Rescuers lowered an underwater video camera — the same model used during the futile attempt to rescue the 118 crew members of the sunken submarine Kursk in 2000 — into the shaft, but failed to find anything.



Relatives of 13 miners trapped underground listen to the latest news from officials about the situation in mine in Russia's southern town of Novoshakhtinsk, Oct. 28. Rescuers digging a "tunnel of hope" to find 13 miners trapped in a Russian coal mine got to just within metres on Tuesday from an air pocket where the men are believed to have hidden from a surging lake. REUTERS

Crews make desperate stand in Calif. wildfires

LOS ANGELES, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Firefighters battling California's deadly wildfires — among the most destructive in state history — turned optimistic on Tuesday as hot winds whipping the flames gave way to cooler conditions and fresh reinforcements rushed in from neighboring states.

From Ventura County north of Los Angeles to the Mexican border, where 10 active fires blackened more than 520,000 acres (210,400 hectares), firefighters used a respite from hot, dry conditions to try to tamp down the blazes and contain them in bulldozed fire lines.

Forecasts showed decreasing temperatures accompanied by higher humidity and lighter winds in the coming 24 hours — conditions that firefighters said were their most effective tool against the blazes.

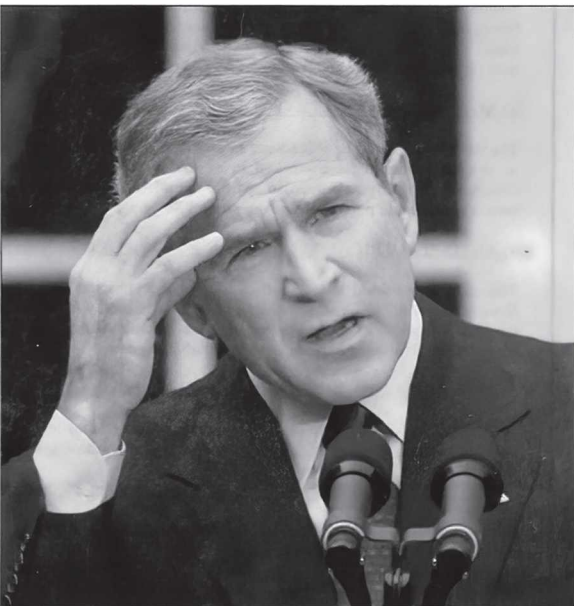
The fires have killed 18 people, including two in Mexico, and destroyed more than 1,900 homes, state officials said.

At dawn on Tuesday, firefighters launched an aerial offensive on the 95,000-acre (38,450 hectares) Simi Valley blaze, which damaged or destroyed 24 homes in Ventura County and threatened million-dollar estates in neighboring Los Angeles County.

"We have a massive air strike under way now," Los Angeles County fire spokesman Roland Sprewell said. "We feel cautiously optimistic that we will get this thing (Simi Valley blaze) knocked out today. We're taking full advantage of the cool temperatures and lack of winds."

Sprewell said firefighters were confident they could keep the fire's eastern edge from spilling into Los Angeles County, which so far has suffered little fire damage.

Aided by falling temperatures and rising humidity on Tuesday, firefighters in hard-hit San Diego County chased



U.S. President George W. Bush talks to the press in the Rose Garden of the White House, in Washington Oct. 28. President Bush on Tuesday blamed a wave of violence in post-war Iraq in part on "foreign terrorists," and said he expected Syria and Iran to enforce border controls to stop infiltrators. REUTER

three blazes surrounding the city away from homes and worked to extinguish "hot spots" though the fire is still not contained.

"The weather is at least making a small turn in the right direction," San Diego fire spokeswoman Jan Shuttleworth said. "If that trend continues it will really be a big help."

Crews and equipment from Nevada and Arizona also began arriving on Tuesday, filling in the thinly stretched

45-mile (72 km) long fire line and relieving local crews who have worked round-the-clock shifts to contain the massive Cedar blaze, a fire started by a lost hunter trying to signal his partner.

At nearly 300,000 acres (121,400 hectares) combined, San Diego county's Cedar, Otay and Paradise fires were southern California's largest and most deadly blazes — killing 12 people and believed to be a factor in the deaths of about two dozen others.

The fire torched more than 400 homes and forced evacuations of tens of thousands of residents, shutting down many countywide services and severing power to 72,000 homes, 30,000 of which remained without electricity on Tuesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration reopened the Terminal Radar Approach Control, or TRACON, a radar facility in Miramar, close to San Diego, that controls much of the commercial air traffic in Southern California. The Miramar TRACON was evacuated on Sunday morning when the Cedar Fire came within feet of the facility. The closure caused massive air traffic delays at airports throughout the region.

Fires in San Bernardino County, about 50 miles (80 km) east of Los Angeles, destroyed more than 500 homes and killed four people.

Police believe these fires were set by arsonists. On Tuesday, police released a sketch of one of the men, who was seen by witnesses throwing burning objects into dry brush.

State officials said the cost to the state to battle the fires, which started within days of each other and raged unchecked through southern California's tinder-dry brush and forestland, would be unprecedented.

"This will be the most expensive fire in California history, both in loss of property and in cost of fighting it," Dallas Jones, director of the state's Office of Emergency Services, said. More than 10,000 firefighters were battling the fires.

President George W. Bush has declared a state of emergency in four counties, and Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger was traveling on Tuesday to Washington, D.C. to meet congressional leaders and ensure that California gets the federal funds triggered by Bush's declaration of a state of emergency.

Germany demands Saudi school cuts extremist ties

COLOGNE, Germany, Oct 28 (Reuters) - A Saudi school in Germany's former capital Bonn has promised to break ties with Islamic extremists after authorities threatened to close it down, the president of the local government said on Tuesday. Juergen Roters said that he had agreed at talks with a Saudi diplomat and a foreign ministry official on Monday not to close the King Fahd Academy provided it agreed to a list of demands.

"There is no place for extremist and anti-constitutional activities at the King Fahd Academy and in its environment," he told a news conference.

Germany has clamped down on Islamic extremists since it emerged that several of the suicide hijackers involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities had lived for years in the northern city of Hamburg.

Germany's Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder raised concerns about the school during a visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

The school, which was set up in 1995, will no longer be allowed to

host extracurricular events except seminars promoting Arab-German dialogue. Its directors must not have contact with people suspected of politically motivated crimes.

"People who are suspected of having contacts to terrorist or extremist organisations may not enter the school," he said.

"Those running the school will remove teachers who incite violence, spread fundamentalism or have contacts with people from the terrorist scene."

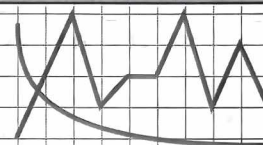
Last week it agreed to the local government's demand that it suspend a teacher accused of calling for a "jihad", or holy war.

The school will continue to teach a Saudi curriculum but will review teaching practices and materials for its 465 pupils.

Interior Minister Otto Schily said the government had considered closing the school and was examining the case keenly.

"If there has been any teaching of jihad and with the willingness of the leaders of this school I will not tolerate it," he said.

YT Business



Consumer weak purchasing power, Doubles unmarketability

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Food markets in Sana'a have seen a relative crowdedness this year as consumers rush to shop food stuffs for breakfasting meals even before the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. Many companies and food industry factories have worked to increase their production to cover or meet the market demand and many commercial exhibitions have been held mainly with the aim of making for losses many firms have sustained during the year due to recession in their sales.

Retail sale merchants explain the cause of the drop in their selling of foodstuffs as attributed to the weakness of purchasing power of consumers in general and the rise in rate of prices by certain steady percentages incompatible with the capability of those of limited income.

While the government has ordered its institutions to pay up employees' salaries and wages before the end of October to help them be able to buy requirements of Ramadan purchases, workers of private sector professions found this year themselves rather in bewilderment. They are unable to provide for the cost of their daily living and have no financial capability to travel to the countryside to spend the fasting month amidst their families as they have been used to do so every year.

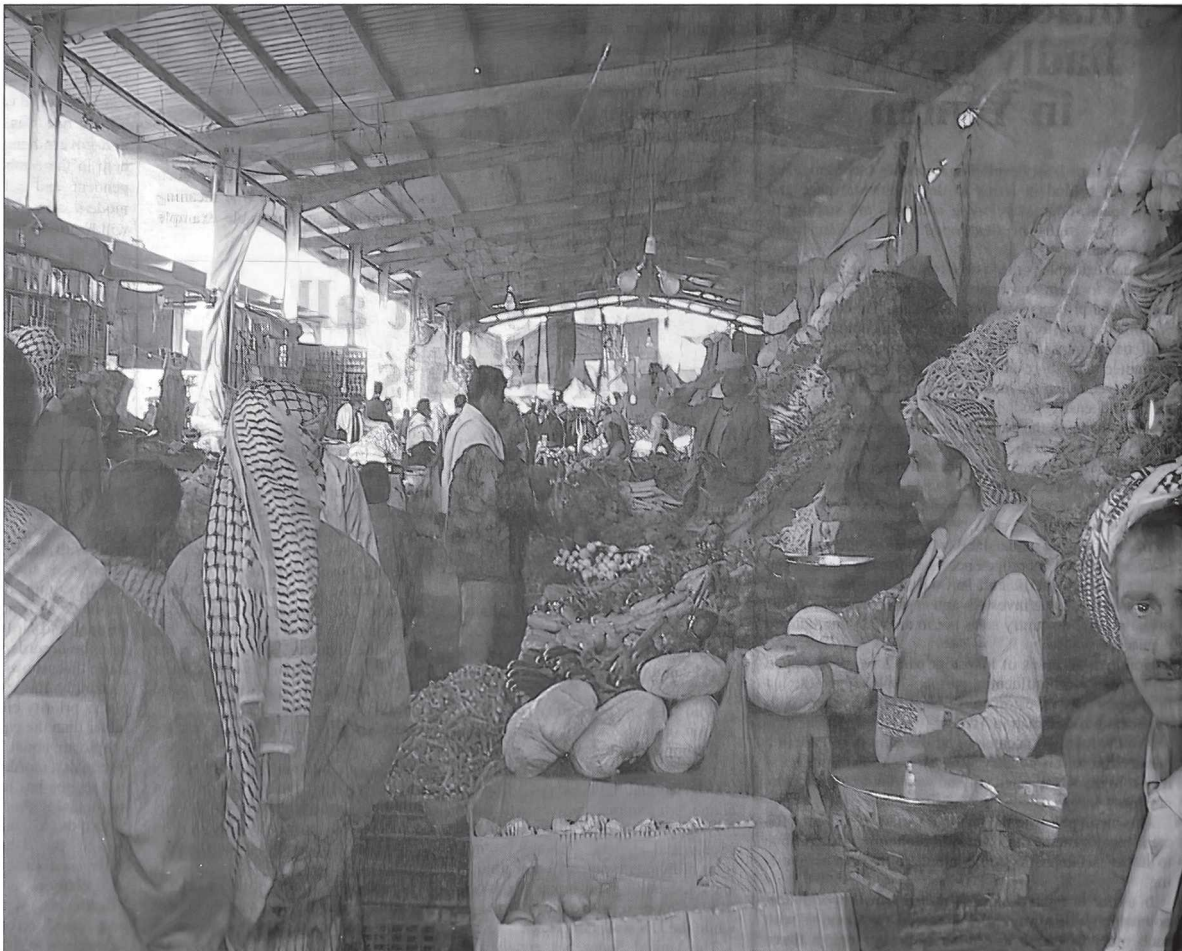
Retailers say the present living condition of majority of consumers force those to avoid buy quantities of foodstuffs to store them for the month of Ramadan and such people prefer to buy their daily needs of goods, especially those working at free professions. Plumbing worker Saeed Abdulla Hassan affirms he has failed during the month of Sha'ban (the month preceding Ramadan) to save a sum of money to be allocated to spend on buying requirements for the month of fasting. The ten days of work

he got during that month were not enough to cover his expenses of the days of his being without work. Saeed speaks bitterly about the days when he was working in Saudi Arabia saying that his work there was providing him with good income helping him to spend the fasting month among his family. But here in Sana'a this year he has not been able to save expenses for going to the countryside to spend the month with his family.

Retail sale dealers criticize big producers who hold trading exhibitions as in doing so they are adding more burdens on them by attracting the well-to-do consumers to those exhibitions and such a situation forces retailers to sell their goods on credit to poor segments of the people. Dealer Ahmed al-Sabri sees that big exhibitions do not offer low prices because they seek to gain profits from those rich and middle class segments and that those producers would more often increase shift of their workers to increase their production and consequently increase their supply to meet increased demand. He adds that what happens is that the consumer does not have the enough purchasing power and this produces more stagnancy of the increased production.

It is notices, however, that fasting people during the month of Ramadan do double the volume of consuming goods particularly foodstuffs of all kinds as if Ramadan is a month for excessive appetite, not rather an occasion for showing sympathy for the poor and the needy and as Muslims to feel the hunger of the poor and be sympathetic towards them in this month.

Nevertheless, charitable societies related to some political parties usually implement programs and plans for assisting the poor in Ramadan and provide them with foodstuffs, money and clothes especially in the Eid that follows the end of Ramadan and thus bring happiness to many poor families. This is really considered part of the favors of this holy month.



Citizens shopping for Holy Month of Ramadan

Investment opportunities at industrial zone in Aden

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An agreement was signed on October 24 at the Free Zone in Aden between the government and the Yemeni Company for Investment and International Development (Yeminvest) according to which the latter amicably ended its concession of the Free Zone.

According to the agreement the company agreed to have all its material and moral rights, including assets of the Free Zone project rendered to the government.

This agreement opens horizon and the gate before the Yemeni government to enter in developments agreements of the Industrial Zone in Aden, expected to provide large-scale opportunities of work and conclusion of new agreements for operating the Container Port.

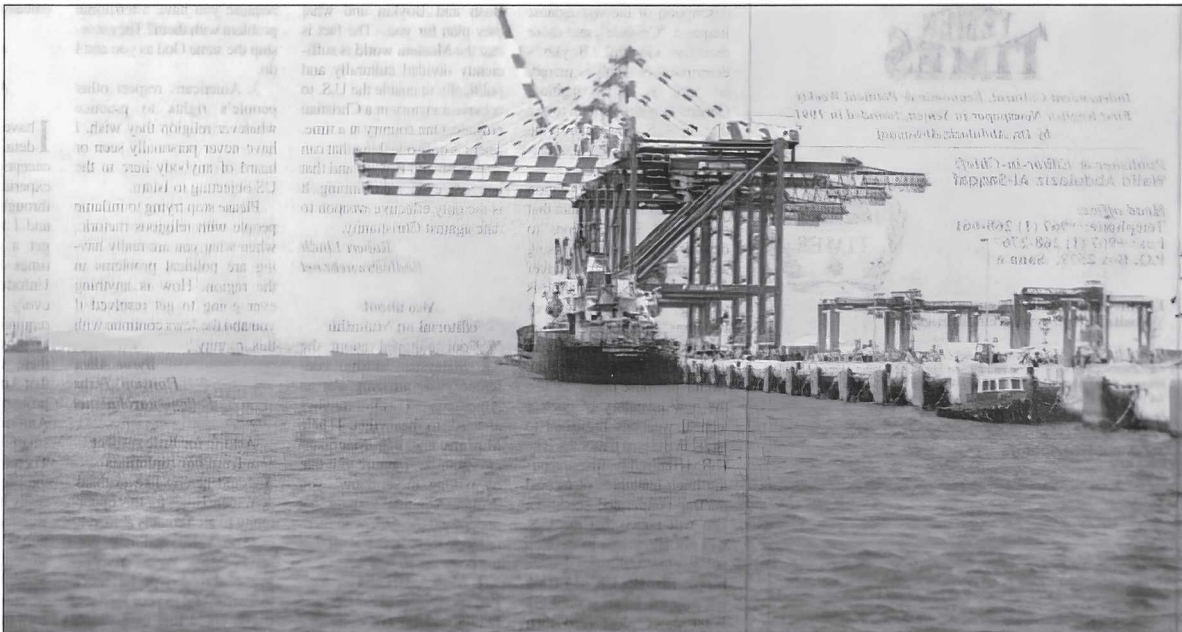
The agreement also enables the Yemeni government to rid itself of paying investment interests by 15% added to the costs of the project over 25 years; the period of the contract concluded with Yeminvet. This

arrangement was settled with the company as part of the new agreement.

Sources at the Free Zone in Aden reported that Yemen has already begun receiving many bids from world companies specialized at administration of operating free zones and container ports in forms of vital investment opportunities before investors.

Increasing demand for the administration of operating the Free Zone in Aden indicates prospects that the port of Aden is expected to be among the most important Zone and ports for containers due to the natural advantages it is entertaining, a distinguished strategic position and modern equipment.

On the other hand the ports of Hudeida on the Red Sea have recently witnessed intensive activity represented by ships arriving at them. The number of ships anchoring at the port in the period January-September this year reached 870 ships and tankers. The total imports amounted to around 4 million tons and the volume of exports via these ports for the same period amounted to about 4.682.971 tons.



More investment opportunities at Aden port

Words of Wisdom



One of the key characteristics of working in the media is the concept of deadlines. Everything has a deadline. Everybody is under some kind of time pressure. While this pressure may not be good for one's health, it is a wonderful contributor to efficiency.

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



OUR OPINION

For mega corporate companies to emerge:

Judicial reforms badly needed in Yemen

In a time least developing countries like Yemen are left behind in terms of developmental pace and speed, other developing countries are starting to show signs of developed countries in many aspects.

A good example is the visible trend in some developing countries to form corporate companies that can implement mega projects with huge capitals. This is done by opening the way for investors to invest in companies with very transparent and risk-free agreements that would guarantee their shares, their profit, and legal rights.

However, when we look at the specific case in Yemen, we would easily find that most of the companies and establishments in the country are not even comparable to those in the West or in other more progressive developing countries. This is due to the fact that most of those companies are private enterprises owned by families. There are very few large-scale companies with equally small shares of different investors.

When trying to understand why this is the case, the issue of judicial incompetence is the major cause. The mostly corrupt, inefficient, and out-of-date legal system in Yemen has made investors and capital owners wary of investing in the country so as not to arrive at unpredicted results.

Hundreds of cases of investors who have been ripped off by their more influential partners have topped the list of reasons why investors don't want to be partners with any local businessman in Yemen.

"You will either be eaten or be the eater if you are in a partnership in this country" one of the Yemeni businessmen told me when asked why he would not go for a partnership.

This again points to the fact that without a just and efficient legal system, the country's economy will continue to suffer and investors will continue to hesitate in investing.

In a time of rapid development and growth worldwide, companies will always feel the need for merging with each other to create larger enterprises among a fierce competition of rivals. Future trends point to the direction of more influence of larger companies on smaller ones, and domination of wider networks on limited ones. Hence, one day, a grocery store that is owned by a family can be simply put out of business with a multiple store mega mall complex having all there is to think of inside.

The days when those corporate companies will invade Yemen will come sooner or later, and without even knowing it, our small local companies could go bankrupt overnight. This change will be imposed on us due to World Bank and GATT agreements rather than domestic decisions.

Hence, it is always better to clean up our houses and be prepared by reforming our judicial system and ending cases of corruption and inefficiency. This will be the fundamental and basic step to be taken before investors would ever think of building a competitive local market in the country and bring the change that is now driving the new market economy in the world.

The Editor



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Ramadhan and unwise behavior

BY WATHIK SAMAWI
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SANA'A, YEMEN

The holy month of Ramadhan has come. This month resembles a precious time during which Muslims throughout the world act differently. It's a distinguished month in which as Muslims, we need to discipline ourselves and devote most of our energies and time to worship Allah in accordance with Islamic regulations.

Unfortunately however, many Muslims in Yemen misunderstand the main purpose of this month by changing their lifestyle to the way they want regardless of the implications.

During this month, you could see many people looking frown with pale faces and dry lips and can never tolerate any annoying act from others.

People would scream and insult each other in the street for nothing.

Others can hardly walk as if they are totally ill because they didn't have food for the day. Drivers just drive carelessly and foolishly even if they weren't in a hurry.

Is this what our Islamic regulations taught us?

Such acts really stir up unnecessary problems and cause miserable results in a month that is supposed to be a blessing time for everyone.

Ramadhan is a time of tolerance, love, and sympathy for each and every one of us. True Muslims should realize that to fast and spend some hours without food is not enough and doesn't mean that we are doing what we're supposed to do during this holy month.

The meaning of Ramadhan is much more. Let us realize the true meaning and symbolize an honorable example to world nations.

It's not all America's fault

BY JANE NOVAK
NEW JERSEY US
GAVSRULE@AOL.COM

Basra was important nine centuries before Brooklyn was. The Chinese built an impossibly huge wall 2100 years ago. The British chased the French all around Europe half a millennium ago. At 227 years old, the major tragedies of the world cannot be laid only at the feet of the US.

Who takes responsibility for the 14 million orphans in Africa, the smiling Palestinian mothers; the children hacked to death and the imprisoned North Korean housewives? Beyond blame, who among the free will stand for oppressed? The silence on the streets is deafening. The tens of millions of humanitarian, anti-war protesters must have gone home for lunch. Move-On.org seems to have moved on while the UN walks in circles.

The United States has greatly progressed in the last quarter of its existence: in fifty years America has codified and implemented functional equality in American society between white men, minorities, women, children, religions, the disabled, the homosexual and the mentally ill. These gains were hard fought by heroic people who sometimes died at the hands of intolerant Americans. From Hiroshima to Baghdad, American policy toward tar-

getting and protecting civilians has evolved to accept the equality of all earth's people. The US is held to much higher standards than other countries by many, labeled a threat to world peace by some, with few but the British and the Poles offering assistance in achieving those standards.

Is it Islamic extremists who are on a "crusade" to convert the world to Islam? Is it the French who have a "my way or the highway" attitude? Is it the UN that is "hegemonic" with its insistence of artificial equality and moral neutrality?

Bush's war on terrorism is a war for tolerance: Al-Qaeda's wrath is attracted by America's internal pluralism not by America's foreign policy. The dream of a flaming America aims to destroy democracy not imperialism, to destroy the power of freedom not the freedom of power.

Is Jacques' multi-polar world a socialist pipe-dream where France spends America's money and troops and nothing of its own, where France becomes the inhibitor of "liberte, egalite and fraternite"? The French ambassador to the US, Jean David Levitte believes in "an early transfer of sovereignty" to the Iraqi people under the auspices of the UN although neither the French, the UN nor the Iraqis are currently prepared for the task. If the French ideas "are taken on board" then France will assist in training the Iraqi army. If not, the French will do nothing

About the cancer campaign

BY DR. AHMAD AL-BAREDAH
RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
AMMAN-JORDAN

I have some comments on the cancer fund raising campaign which was started last Saturday in Yemen to collect funds for the establishment of a modern center for the treatment of cancer. I just hope that the campaign will be run by an independent NGO, otherwise, it will not achieve its objectives.

I am saying this because I have also noticed that there are many attempts to take the funds to the Ministry of Health to assist in the establishment of a governmental cancer center but what Yemen needs is an independent and non-governmental organization to help in the establishment of an independent and self-managed and run modern cancer center and only this will be the factor behind its success.

I hope that the fund raising committee will take my opinion into consideration because what we need in Yemen is a modern cancer center like that available in countries such as Jordan and Egypt in order to minimize the suffering of thousands of Yemeni cancer patients who have to go abroad for treatment, which is not so far available in Yemen.

to help.

Kofi Annan endorses the policy where "States have generally sought to deal with threats to peace through deterrence and containment" while blandly noting "our collective response (in the Congo and in Liberia) has been hesitant and tardy." With moral blindness, he accords full legitimacy to any state that shows up in the General Assembly. His aversion to intervention places priority on the equality of states rather than the equality of people. If all people are equal, then all states cannot be equal: a murderous, torturous or fascist regime has less sovereignty than a non-lethal regime.

Will the 57 countries currently meeting at the Islamic Conference in Malaysia discuss the Syrian occupation of Lebanon, a trusteeship for the Palestinians, sending troops to Iraq, educational reforms? Will they hold themselves to the same high standards that are applied to America or just blame the US without generating action, support or solutions?

President Bush is determined to give, not lend, 20 billion dollars to Iraq and bring self-determination to Saddam's slaves. The American soldiers in Iraq fight believing they are freeing children. America is working to diminish its own influence by enhancing the influence of every person on earth.

Letters to the Editor

About Mahatir's comments

Dr. Mahatir Mohamad's recent comments are certainly from the Moslem perspective and are perhaps inciting to Christians and Jews. However, George Bush's description of the war against Iraq as a "Crusade", and more recently General Boykin's description of Allah as merely an "idol" is just as inciting. General Boykin went on to say that the U.S. war against the Middle East is a Christian battle against Satan.

There should be no question in the mind of any Moslem that the United States intends to destroy Islam, and do it using any means necessary. Over 40% of the U.S. population is willing to use "nuclear weapons" against Christian enemies. And George Bush, along with General Boykin, would be most happy to test the new inventory of nuclear tactical weapons furnished to Israel in the past 6 months. The U.S. is currently manufacturing huge quantities of tactical nuclear bombs and shells but you will notice that the U.S. will not allow Iran to develop any nuclear industry. Unless people like Boykin and Bush are stopped, Islam is doomed. Want proof? Just read their own words. "Crusade", Allah is mere idol, "Moslems are Satanic", "and America is a

Christian nation". "God appointed Bush", "It is our duty under God to destroy the unbelievers", and so on.

So while you folks sit there and wonder what the future is going to be, just read about Bush and Boykin and what they plan for you. The fact is that the Moslem world is sufficiently divided culturally and politically to enable the U.S. to achieve a victory in a Christian crusade. One country at a time. There is only one thing that can stop Bush and Boykin and that is massive suicide bombing. It is the only effective weapon to date against Christianity.

Robert Lindh
linth@swnebr.net

Also about editorial on Mahatir

Your editorial about the Malaysian Muslim conference was amazing. As an American, I am always amazed to hear that I hate Muslims and that Americans are Zionists. I assure you that by writing these things, you demonstrate that you do not understand the American mentality on these issues at all. Let me point out to you that:

1. Most Americans are worried about their lives, jobs and family and do not think one time in a year about Zionists, Muslims or Israel

2. Most Americans believe

Letters to the Editor

that since the Bible demonstrates that Jews and Arabs have lived together peacefully for thousands of years, the current problem is not religious but political. Do you hate Jews because of their religion or because you have a territorial problem with them? They worship the same God as you and I do.

3. Americans respect other people's rights to practice whatever religion they wish. I have never personally seen or heard of anybody here in the US objecting to Islam.

Please stop trying to inflame people with religious rhetoric, when what you are really having are political problems in the region. How is anything ever going to get resolved if you and the Jews continue with this insanity?

Byron Allen
Houston, Texas
ballen@novolink.net

Asking for little respect from our diplomats

I would hereby like to thank Yemen Times for this opportunity to all Yemenis abroad to raise our voices and make ourselves heard. We as Yemenis living abroad will be much more thankful to your kindness if you could find us a simple answer from the government people on our old wish and question, "When will the

Yemeni government and aut-deal with us as human beings and force the others to deal with us as humans by showing some little respect from the embassies and diplomats and their employees in Yemen embassies around the world?"

Omar Al-Sagqaf
ossagqaf@hotmail.com

A question to the US Embassy

I have already written a detailed note about my exceptional (if I can say that) experience that I have been through. I'm a good student and I have been promised to get a student VISA several times in Sana'a and Cairo. Unfortunately, I was refused every time although every required and needed document to prove my ability to study there was ready. It's known that American policy and rules protect people's rights and American universities urge smart students to join them. Therefore I decided to study in the States. Getting refused has really hurt me a great deal. I'm wondering why! And the question is "Is there another kind of students entitled to go to the States?" or "Is it just a matter of choice depending on consul's moods?"

W. Samawi
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COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

What a real mess, George!

About the only way, one can describe what is going in Iraq and in a lot of places is "messy" and more messy as the days go by. What George Bush and his neo-con clique are creating is havoc of an unprecedented level in modern times and for which no real logical explanation can be found, except that evil only begets evil, no matter how nicely it is cloaked. In fact, one is ready to surmise that the Bush Administration may just be the worst evil that has ever entered the White House since the founding of the United States. Even the elements seem to be in agreement with this as the United States has never been subjected to such a level of natural calamities as is the case now. California is burning up even with a muscular Governor reigning in Sacramento; hurricanes are threatening all of the southern and eastern coasts continuously, etc. The mess just worsens from day to the point of threatening even the highest echelons of the neo-con clique, as the Rashid Hotel rocket attack aimed at Paul Wolfowitz clearly shows. Soon, Condoleezza Rice will just have to put away her mini and don a suit of armor if she wishes to appear anywhere.

The adventure in Afghanistan was done wrong; the adventure in Iraq, not only was done wrong but was not even called for, which truly justifies all the mess that the Bush regime is being bombarded with daily. How can we rely on a messy regime to lead the world and to produce an international order that guarantees the peace and security of the world. With all the mess that we see emanating from the White House, the Department of Defense, the Ministry of Home Security and the lagging in behind Department of State, there is just no telling what is in store for tomorrow. Look at the score card of achievements: 9/11; a precarious future in Afghanistan, Georgia, Chechnya and Azerbaijan, with US policy centered on a serving the interests of the oil companies, opportunist war lords and benevolent dictators. A horrible violent mess in the Middle East manifested by bloody bombing attacks by God only knows who and a horrible state of affairs in Palestine, with Ariel Sharon having the time of his life destroying and killing anything that moves, while he builds a fictitious barrier that is meant only to ensure the longevity of his chauvinistic dreams and demagogic ideals. We now even have US Generals, who are declaring themselves the saviors of mankind from the evil Satans of the East. On the domestic front, the Americans are getting a taste of Third World totalitarian cream thanks to the free hand given to the Department of Home Security and the Agency for Naturalization and Immigration. We were under the impression that George W. Bush was a warrior against dictators overseas, when in fact he is actually pursuing totalitarian rule in the US, with the neo-cons, the rich capitalists, and the National Rifle Association deciding the fate of the overwhelming majority of the American people, who have blindly stood behind this dangerous alliance of bad dealers for the United States.

Americans are bound to feel this and realize that what George W. Bush has become associated with is all the messy sides of any political, economic and social state of affairs in the United States and elsewhere. What we are seeing every day are the streams of blood flowing in the streets of Baghdad as though the Bush Administration has declared the city an open forum for cravers of bloodshed to come in and display the ugliness of torn bodies and flying ligaments everywhere. What has transpired in the last three years is a messy situation, which is as always hard to come out of no matter how many neo-con icons visit the site.

Time and again, the sponsors of this great mess are ready to come and tell us that they are seeing progress daily, but the truth of the matter is we are seeing a worsening situation, which is now even coming ever closer to the great spokesmen for this great adventure. Needless to say, it is pathetic to see such horrendous attacks as those against the UN headquarters in Baghdad, or that of the Red Cross. But it would not be far fetched to continue the assertion that the evil forces that are behind the adventure in Iraq are behind these mysterious attacks because they see this as serving their interest from a public relations standpoint. After all they have nothing to loose by staging such horrific attacks, which are meant to give justification for their own evil mess. We again insist that Zionist demons are most likely behind such mysterious attacks. For one, the resistance in Iraq would not stand to gain by attacking their own people, and for another the people behind such actions usually do not need the Red Cross as they are accorded ample means by the neo-con Zionist establishment anyway.

Mr. Bush, we have to remind you that the elections are coming up and unless you produce a less messier picture in Iraq, you and your neo-cons are bound to start feeling the mess you have created become heralded back at you. As the saying goes, you will not be able to fight mess with mess.

What is happening to America?

By SCOTT D. TISHHAMMER
FOR NEXTREVOLUTION.NET

The American people are afraid of their government, sounds ridiculous but the things working class Americans do and say make it obvious. I talk to people every day who don't trust their government and feel they are being taken advantage of by our government and the influential people and corporations who buy our representatives through campaign contributions as well as the lobby in Washington DC. If people believed they could call their representatives with the expectation of getting anything done in reference to their concerns they would call but how many people make that call? The number of registered voters who actually vote is a good indicator as to how many people really believe in our government and if it really represents the people.

I've had this web site on the internet since October 2002 and not one person besides myself has posted an idea, agreed, or disagreed with ideas I've posted. People tell me I'm going to be audited!

If we continue to let corporations buy our representatives through campaign

contributions and the Washington lobby we may as well sign our pay checks over to the government. According to www.ntu.org individuals pay 36% of gross income to taxes, the first 2.5 or 3 hours of every working day goes to taxes. I suggest everyone who reads this keep a copy and years from now when your kids and grandkids ask how it goes to the point they have to work the first 4 hours of every day to pay taxes you can show them this and explain how you were to busy working the first 2.5 hours of each day to pay your taxes to do anything about it.

According to www.pogo.org In 1940 US companies paid approximately 50% of taxes and individuals paid the other 50%, now US companies pay a little over 13% and individuals pay just over 86%. If this is true any raises individuals have received from 1940 to present have been offset by the increase in taxes which was directly influenced by campaign contributions and the lobby.

The reality is that companies such as Enron and World Com who give millions of \$ in campaign contributions to the Republican party and to hedge their bet the Democratic party (before elections) and continue throughout Washington through the lobby in return for political favors. Many companies

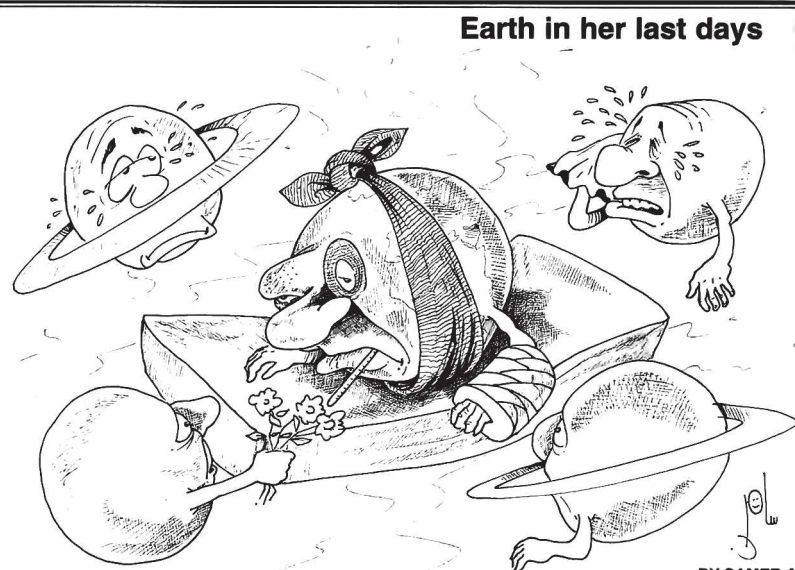
paid little or no tax and in some cases received money in tax return. Individual American taxpayers covered the taxes these un-American companies cheated their way out of paying which in turn holds the economy down because as individuals we lost spending power and just the opposite of President Bush's tax cut plan has taken place.

American people spend the first 2.5 hours of each day working to pay their taxes but won't spend 15 minutes to vote or write their representatives knowing it doesn't matter because their representation has been bought, people will ask their representatives for money for education, health care, and you name it but still don't understand.

Our economy is failing yet the people of America sit and wait for the economy to turn around based on our presidents tax cuts. How can the economy turn around by giving the tax cuts Bush proposes on the federal level when most every state in the nation is raising taxes to cover state budget deficits? Contradicting Bush's tax cuts by raising taxes at state levels shifts the burden and does nothing to bump the economy.

NAFTA and all the offshore US companies who we as consumers support through purchasing their products, our increased taxes which they managed to

SKETCHED OPINION



avoid, and jobs they take from the American taxpayer which in turn adds to the taxes we as American taxpayers who remain here absorb is another example of why the Average American taxpayer and the US economy lose. NAFTA is given credit for creating jobs, how many Americans lost a \$15 an hour job that went to Mexico and now work two \$7 an hour jobs and twice as many hours to support their family and pay the taxes these companies avoid by moving out of the United States?

9/11 and illegal immigration is another example of our government selling us out. I was told by my father in law that when he was stationed in Arizona in the early fifties our government used to round up illegals and haul them back to Mexico on a bus but by the time the bus got back those illegals were already back. The same thing happens today which can be directly related to 9/11, the excuse that there are to many miles of border to patrol is a foolish lie and a poor excuse at best. Corporations have been buying our representatives, promoting

illegal immigration, breaking unions, and taking American jobs for years. Not only has this led to American taxpayers losing jobs, our economy failing, but Americans have died (9/11, WTC).

Love it or leave it should be rephrased to love it or lose it!!! If we as Americans don't come together and do something about our government accepting money in return for political favors the American taxpayer will continue to prostitute themselves out at the expense of family and disgrace the memory of so many who fought and died so we could be free. If the average American who makes \$10 an hour could cut the time spent working to pay taxes from 3 hours a day to 2 hours a day they would keep approximately \$2400 a year. Compare this to Bush's tax cuts and keep in mind the tax increases within the state you live. That's spending power and a boost to the economy rather than another lie from another politician who represent the corporation who contributed to the un-American practice of buying the representatives of the people!!!

I'm writing this on 5-26-03, Memorial Day like so many US holidays mean very little. If we continue to do nothing about these un-American corporations and misrepresentatives of the United States of America we may as well line up at Arlington and take our turn at pissing on the graves of all the brave men and women who died, apparently for an ungrateful nation.

Supportthevets.com points to how we allow our government to make retired and disabled veterans forfeit their military retirement or disability pay to cover health cost. This is another example of the gratitude we show to the people who made America the greatest country in the world.

The following are some web sites every American should see. I suggest the education system throughout America use www.nextrevolution.net and these taxpayer advocate sites to bring all Americans together and not only turn the economy but put government back to work for we the people.

Love it or lose it!

Germany's forgotten victims

By LUKE HARDING
FOR THE GUARDIAN

More than half a century on, the allied bombing of Germany's cities during the second world war remains a controversial topic.

On Wednesday, Britain's ambassador to Germany, Sir Peter Torry, travelled to the city of Kassel to mark the 60th anniversary of its destruction by British warplanes. Around 10,000 people died on the night of October 22 1943, when an immense firestorm swept the city.

"In the peaceful Europe which we live in today, it is hard for those who did not experience the second world war to understand the bitter emotions to which it gave rise," the ambassador said.

There is nothing new about senior British officials touring German cities that were destroyed by British bombs: the Queen and Prince Charles have visited Dresden and Hamburg in recent years.

However, Sir Peter's speech comes at a time when the role of the RAF during the second world war is being debated afresh.

Last week, one of Germany's most controversial historians, Jörg Friedrich, published a new photo book about the issue. Called *Brandstätten*, or Fire Sites, it contains some of the most grisly images from the war ever to be published. None of them have been seen before.

The victims are not Jewish, but German. The charred, mutilated bodies of women, children and babies are all civilians who perished during the allies' bombing campaign against Germany's cities.

In his book, Friedrich argues that the RAF's relentless campaign against Germany during the final months of the war served no military purpose. Instead, he says that Winston Churchill's decision to drop more bombs on a shattered Germany between January and May 1945, most of them on small German towns of little strategic value, was a war crime.

"The bombing left an entire generation traumatised. But it was never discussed. There are Germans whose first recollections are of being hidden by their mothers. They remember cellars and burning human remains," Friedrich told the Guardian in an interview in Berlin last week.

"It is only now that they are coming to terms with what happened."

Around 600,000 German civilians died during the allies' wartime raids on Germany, including 76,000 German children, Friedrich says. In July 1943, during a single night in Hamburg, 45,000 people perished in a vast firestorm.

But in the immediate post-war period, the German victims of British bombing were scarcely mentioned, being overshadowed by the far greater evil of the Holocaust.

Friedrich believes that most Germans refused to discuss what had happened because they regarded the British destruction of their cities as a sort of retribution

for the crimes of the Nazi era.

The same point is made by writer WG Sebald in *On the History of Natural Destruction*, an elegant philosophical meditation on why the bombing occupies so little space in Germany's cultural imagination.

"The Second World War is traditionally portrayed as a struggle between good and evil. Bombers were the weapons of the winners. But what actually happened on the ground wasn't very heroic," Friedrich said last week.

The historian's previous book, *Der Brand*, or *The Fire*, published last year, created a storm of publicity in both Britain and Germany. In it, he came close to accusing Churchill of being a war criminal just weeks after a BBC poll had voted the wartime prime minister the greatest-ever Briton.

Reaction to Friedrich's latest book has been critical, and one reviewer, for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, even suggested that it should be thrown in the bin.

Friedrich is unrepentant. "Churchill was the greatest child-slaughterer of all time. He slaughtered 76,000 children," he said.

Most of the photos in *Fire Sites* had lain undiscovered in the archives of German towns for more than half a century before Friedrich found them. They offer a grim insight into what happened on the ground, revealing that many of the civilians who died in allied raids were asphyxiated in their cellars.

In Dresden, SS workers from a nearby concentration camp were called in to dispose of large heaps of bodies. The photos include the petrified corpse of mother and child collected in a bathtub, and the bleached skeleton of a baby killed during an air raid on Leipzig.

There are also pictures of dead animals - an elephant and a giraffe - killed by a British air raid on Berlin zoo.

Friedrich, who is now 59, grew up in Essen, in the Ruhr, a part of Germany's industrial heartland that comprehensively pulverised during the war years. An allied bomb flattened the house next door.

"I asked my mother what happened to the neighbours. She said she didn't know. She said everybody looked after themselves," he recalled.

During the sixties, Friedrich moved to Berlin, took part in the '68 movement, and became a Trotskyite radical. Like many young Germans, he interrogated his parents about their past, concluding that his father, a teacher, had no Nazi leanings.

Later, he became a writer and broadcaster, before turning to history. In the 80s, he wrote a book about the Holocaust ("I argued that the railway was its essential weapon") and the German army's war crimes on the eastern front, before turning his attention to the allied bombing of Germany.

This last project made him notorious. *Der Brand* was serialised by Germany's mass-selling *Bild* tabloid, and left-wing students tried to storm his book signings, accusing him of revisionism for using the word "crematoria" to describe cellars incinerated by allied bombs.

Friedrich admits he is a revisionist, but says he is not interested in making moral judgements, merely in what happened. He is reluctant, though, to discuss what alternatives Churchill had.

"If you destroy a landscape of 160 cities, most of medieval origin, you do something to the cultural identity of a people. All I do is describe it," he said.

His book recognises that Germany initiated the air war in the autumn of 1940, when 14,000 British civilians died in German raids launched from the French and Belgian coasts.

It was only in the summer of 1943 that Britain's air marshal Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris was able to respond. At first, RAF bombers were sent out in daylight to attack military targets, but a loss of aircraft forced a change in tactics.

The RAF began to bomb German cities during the night, an indiscriminate strategy causing huge civilian casualties. The attack on Hamburg, however terrible, could be justified on the grounds that the city was the centre of German submarine production, Friedrich concedes.

But, he argues, other raids on smaller, provincial towns could not. On February 16 1945, British bombers attacked the tiny town of Pforzheim, killing one-third of its 63,000 inhabitants.

In the official British history of the air war, Pforzheim merits only a footnote, despite the epic scale of the slaughter. "The RAF had run out of targets. The raid was most cruel," Friedrich says.

Earlier this year, he attempted to get hold of pictures of British victims of German bombing from the public record office in Kew, but was told that they could not be published because of censorship rules.

As a result, *Brandstätten* concentrates almost exclusively on German victims. *Der Brand* has so far sold 185,000 copies, and been translated into six languages, but has failed to find a British publisher.

"One British editor told me my book would 'estrangle' readers," Friedrich said. Colombia university will bring out an English edition next year.

Friedrich has supporters inside Germany, including the country's former chancellor, Helmut Kohl, whose home town, Ludwigshafen, was bombed by British planes during his boyhood, and whose late wife was bombed at Leipzig. He has offered editorial advice, and has praised the historian's work.

Friedrich is not the first writer to tackle the tricky issue of German bombing victims. But *Fire Sites* is part of a new trend in Germany where, after more than half a century of collective silence, and the death of most survivors from the war generation, what happened to Germans during the Nazi era is being openly discussed.

"Germans in their seventies and eighties have not forgotten. Their memories are still vivid. People stand up in my public lectures and describe what befell their families," Friedrich said. "They have tears in their eyes and they can't breathe."

"The main fact is that the British bombing of German cities wasn't very heroic. This was no heroic victory."

Education reform in Pakistan

How to make madaris graduates useful to society

By MUBARIK SHAH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

At times, an otherwise highly desirable becomes controversial when it gets entangled in motivated polemics. Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's move to bring the country's religious schools, popularly known as madaris, in the mainstream is one case in point.

There are some 11,000 such institutions in the country. They represent, as Gen. Musharraf often appreciatively contends, one of the world's largest philanthropic NGOs. Not only do they impart free education but they also provide, in most cases, free lodging and boarding to their students. They are also veritable nurseries of a huge human resource. No less than half a million students pass out of them every year.

Yet, this human resource with tremendous potential, largely goes to waste. Since the madaris impart only religious education, their alumni have very limited opportunities for higher education or employment. For want to require basic education, they cannot go to universities and professional colleges for further studies. Nor can they get jobs in government offices and private sector for not possessing the required educational qualifications.

Some of them just end up, at best, as prayer leaders or somewhere in the madaris network. The rest go back to their villages, from where the bulk of them come, to work on farms or in sweatshops as un-skilled labour.

Musharraf wants to reverse this and make the madaris incubators of productive manpower by teaching mathematics, science, English and Pakistan studies in addition to religious subjects to their pupils.

"Students of religious schools be brought into the mainstream of society," he said in his January 12 speech. "If any one of them wished to join college or university, he should have the option of being equipped with modern

education. If a child studying in a madrasa does not wish to be a prayer leader and wants to be a bank officer or seeks employment elsewhere, he should be facilitated", he argued.

"Even if we want these madaris to produce religious leaders, they should educate their students along these lines. Such people will command more respect in society because they will be better qualified", he stressed.

On his instructions, the Education Ministry has developed special syllabi for the madaris for teaching mathematics, science, English and Pakistan Studies. He has also announced to help them financially in the introduction of these subjects and with the training of their teachers to teach them.

On this enterprise, he plans to spend over 14 billion rupees. For the madaris, he has created separate madrasa education boards at federal and provincial levels, with which he required them to register like the mainstream educational institutions that have to secure a recognized university's or a government secondary education board's registration for their degrees, diplomas and certificates to be honoured.

While this registration has been made mandatory for all the madaris, the government funding would be available only to those opting for teaching of the four additional subjects. He has barred Madaries from any direct foreign financing, a restriction already in force for mainstream institutions. But this is not going to affect most of the Madaris. They live on local philanthropy. Those thriving on foreign funding are only few and far between. None of them enjoying public respect for the suspicion they are pursuing their foreign patrons' agendas at the cost of national interests.

He has banned the madaries from admission of foreign students or recruitment of foreign teachers without valid visas and NOCs from their home governments and Pakistan's Interior Ministry.

A recent government survey, revealed that the Madaris had some 21,000 foreign students on their rolls,

all without valid documents. Such a large presence of illegal foreign students cannot be acceptable to a country like Pakistan, now a vicious terrorist target, much of it believably foreign sponsored, and where foreign religious extremists' involved in a string of recent bloody bomb blasts is strongly suspected.

In any case, nowhere in the world academia is a free country. Such requirements are in force everywhere. Pakistan's own mainstream educational institutions are under this restriction.

In his speech, Musharraf stressed he was not trying to impose government control on madaris or tamper with their essential characteristics. What he was aiming at was to help them overcome an inherent weakness by equipping them with better facilities in order to open up new avenues for their students, mostly poor. In fact, he drew up his policy in consultation with religious scholars.

Yet while the madaris themselves are switching over the new scheme in increasing numbers, certain clerical sections have made an issue of it. Their protest, it is generally believed, is politically motivated. Some even suspect economic motives. For certain people, madaris have indeed become money-making enterprises. Since the general also requires the Madaris to open their books to the audit, they are naturally perturbed.

Whatever be it, his slew of prescriptions for uplifting the madaris have drawn popular approval. A people lately plagued by religious intolerance and sectarian violence fully endorses his decree to close down any madrasa propagating extremism, subversion or militancy, as well.

By and large, the people believe reformed madaris, producing a new generation of fuller youth immersed in ennobling Islamic values, with modern knowledge, would prove powerful engines of national advancement. That popular feeling should stand Musharraf in good in administering his new deal for the madaris in the face vested interests' resistance.

Yemen's culture

Celebrating Yemen by
linking past and present

BY ULRIKE STÖHRER
UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Since the unification of North and South Yemen on May 22, 1990, national integration has been an important aim of governmental policy. The task of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is to strengthen this process by establishing a homogeneous national culture and creating one single Yemeni national identity. Its efforts are increasingly recognizable after the Yemeni Civil war of 1994, which was a fundamental threat to the integrity of the state and showed that the integration had not yet been successfully realized.

Thus the ministry has taken measures that aim to raise the national consciousness and to demonstrate Yemeni unity to the outside world. Apart from promoting modernization, democratization and integration, the preservation and the development of the tradition as one of the constituents the new identity is an important demand of its activities.

The performances of the National Orchestra and the National Folklore Ensemble are among the strongest instruments for this task. Even before the unification of the two Yemeni states, national folklore ensembles existed in both parts. It is interesting to note that not only in the South, but also in North Yemen, the national folklore ensemble was established in cooperation with Soviet advisers and built on Soviet models. The present national folklore ensemble was formed by the fusion of these two ensembles. Many of its members, including its present director, have been trained as choreographers, dancers and musicians in the former Soviet Union or the German Democratic Republic.

The performances of the National Folklore Ensemble are taking place regularly at governmental ceremonies national holidays, such as the anniversary of the revolution (Sep. 26, 1962 in North Yemen and Oct. 14, 1962 in South Yemen) or the day of unification (May 22, 1990). Usually at these occasions stage plays are shown in the cultural center of Sana'a in the presence of the president, numerous government members and members of foreign diplomatic corps. These plays are often of allegorical content glorifying the given occasion and praising the government's efforts to improve the democratization and modernization of the country. Several folklorist performances such as songs and dances from different regions of the country are integrated into these plays. These events are also broadcast on television.

In this paper I will focus on one specific performance, which was presented on May 22, 2000 in Sana'a celebrating the anniversary of Yemeni unification. This performance differs significantly from the above-mentioned theater plays in the cultural center and shows essential features as well as modified present tendencies of governmental strategies.

During this celebration the folklorist dances were not embedded in a drama.

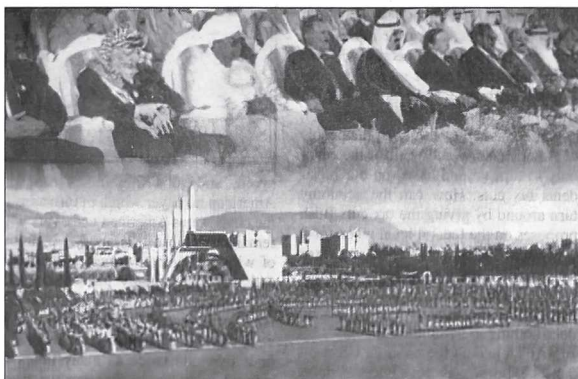
They were not performed on stage in a theater, but in the open air at an urban square which represents and important national symbol, the Bab al-Yaman, the southern gate of the old city of Sana'a. The performers were 1000 students of the military academy, assisted by the members of the national folklore ensemble. The presentation consisted of two parts, each lasted about 45 minutes. The performances of the two parts were identical, but distinguished by place and set. While the first part was performed for the TV camera only, the second one took place in front of the president and official guests of the government. Both parts were broadcast on TV. Some months later the first part was shown daily as a looped video in the Yemeni pavilion during the World Exhibition "Expo 2000" in Hannover, Germany.

The presentation starts with some folklorist scenes at the suq of the old city of Sana'a, showing artisans of traditional goods such as caravans of wooden locks from Hadhramaut, weavers of cotton cloths from the Tihamah, daggers of the mountain region, pottery etc. After a trumpet's signal the protagonists, who were ambling among the artisans, start up a closed group marching out of the gate. While marching they are singing a chorus, which praises Yemeni unity. Two drummers accompany them. Reaching the square outside the gate, they first come together and form several choreographic patterns such as circles, stars, lines and chains. Then they divide into five groups each representing one region of the country: the mountains, the desert, Wadi Hadhramawt, the south coast, and the Tihamah. The member of the different groups are distinguished by costumes of different colors and styles. Within one group all members are dressed in the same costumes; these are not every day clothes but historical uniforms of soldiers. The performers are armed with traditional weapons according to their region, daggers, swords and shields, spears or guns.

Then the groups take turns at performing a dance representing their region, each taking about 5 minutes. While one group is performing at the foreground, the other groups are standing at the back and at the two sides of the stage performing all together synchronously some steps on the spot and singing. When one group has finished, the dancers return to the gate, leaving the place to a new group that moves forward, thus suggesting that the gate pours out more crowds of people.

Most of the dances, though of different musical accompaniment, tempo and dynamic, are based on the same step, consisting of two steps forward and one hop. They are performed mostly within the choreographic pattern of a line or a circle. Sometimes the dancers join their hands or take each other by the shoulder, an expression of unity and brotherhood.

But these performances do not show the traditional shape of the dances. Each regional style is modified musically, choreographically, and contextual to blend in with the others and merge into one homogenized national style.



Arab kings and presidents share Yemen its National Days

The orchestration as well consisted of a mixture of the different local musical instruments of the country, expanded by a European symphony orchestra. Additionally, a chorus sung by the performers in unison underlies the whole performance.

At the end of the first part of presentation, the participants leave the Bab al-Yaman and march to the Maidan al-Sab'in, where the second part will take place. This march is choreographed also in the basic step, two steps forward and a hop, while waving the daggers. The camera follows this march from the side and from the air showing the crowd walking along the wall as well as the silhouette of the old city, so that the city itself seems to be part of the walking crowd and moving as well. The Maidan al-Sab'in was formerly the airport of Sana'a; it serves here as a parade ground for military and governmental ceremonies. A stand is installed there, from which the president and his guests of honor watch the performance. Opposite the parade ground, facing the stand, the monument for the Unknown Soldier is situated, composed of imitations of the six columns of the Sabaeen Bar'an-temple in Marib on an arch. These columns, as well as the Bab al-Yaman, are a national symbol. The Bab al-Yaman is represented in this part of the performance by a papier-mâché model that stands in front of the monument. The performance now coming up is the same as the one described above.

The performance ends with the appearance of a ship, from which twenty women (members the national folklore ensemble) descend and dance around the square, spinning around their own axis around each other while holding garlands of flowers in their hands. Twenty men join them and they start dancing together in the same way, accompanied by a chorus telling about love and happiness.

When analyzing this celebration it is important to take into account the use of space as a symbolical transmitter of political messages. In the above-described presentation the city of Sana'a plays an important role. The suq of the old city and the gate not only form the scenery and stage, but the silhouette of the city is a real actor within this performance. It is permanently present; p. it seems to move with the performers. Again and again during the performance the camera gives a general view, simultaneously overlooking the performers, the gate, and the old city. In order to construct the meaning of this presentation it is important to understand that its character was formed for the camera. One's gaze on the performance is an artificial one, the camera looks down on the performance from an elevated position and most of the choreographic patterns can be recognized only from the air, but not from the stage level. No citizen of Sana'a is able to see his city this way in daily life.

Furthermore, to create this picture it was necessary to clear traffic and people from the Shariah al-Zubeiri and the

square outside the Bab al-Yaman as well as the suq area behind the gate. This meant a strong disruption of the daily life of one of the most important traffic junctions of the capital. Also, the open urban square, with four streets parting from it, was closed by the way the performers made use of the space. The performance, as well as the camera lens, was centered in the direction of the gate. Some of the participants were delimiting the scene by forming a line at the right and left side. Thus the square in front of the Bab al-Yaman was transformed into a theater stage.

The whole scene focused on the city of Sana'a. Apart from the capital, no other city or region of the country is represented in the set. Only the costumes of the performers are reminiscent of some other regions. Although the silhouette of the city dominates the visual appearance of the presentation, the urban culture of Sana'a is not represented by the performance. The population of the city is completely excluded from the scene. The Sanaanis do not even appear as spectators. The musical tradition of Sana'a is singing with un-accompaniment and dance. It is practiced by the urban elite only inside their houses, not in public squares. Therefore this performance draws a distorted picture: the silhouette of the city is confronted by performances of mostly rural regions, thus combining urban and rural regions, thus combining urban and rural cultures visually and acoustically.

The dances presented do not so much show the cultural diversity of the country, but rather reduce the characteristics of the different regions to their common characteristics of the different regions to their common grounds. The step, step, hop, base of most of the dances serves as the smallest possible common dominator among them. Additionally, the steadiness of the general accompaniment of the performance by orchestra and chorus constitutes a uniform sound space, within which all the different dances are imbedded.

In this way the cultural differences among the various regions are suppressed and their points in common are accentuated. This homogenized "national style" articulates the "one single Yemeni identity." As the ministry points out, "our artistic heritage (turathna al-fanniyya), though numerous in its genres and forms from region to region and from town to town, merges and unites within the frame of the one single Yemeni identity. It does express the unity of the Yemeni folklore arts."

This performance represents the image the government wishes to present of the contemporary and historical Yemen. It is not a representation of folk and historical Yemen. It is not a representation of folk customs within their traditional environment, but constitutes an artificial, imagined space that symbolizes historical roots, modernization, democratization, and unification. At the same time, however some inconsistencies inherent in the governmental concept become obvious, since that con-



Artistic activities celebrating national occasions

cept does not correspond to the real historical and present situation in Yemen.

The Yemeni people are represented only by the dancers who are all acting collectively and homogeneously. There is no individual movement and character within this performance and no mark of any different social status among the protagonists. The whole group appears and acts as one single body, thus showing its claimed unity and brotherhood. Although the ministry always promotes the participation women in cultural performances, this presentation was performed only by men. The twenty women appearing at the end of the performance seem not to be an integral part of it, but a somewhat artificial and unsuccessful attempt to integrate women in male dominated performance. The women's visual appearance and their dances neither traditional nor a representation of modern Yemeni women.

In the rhetoric of the ministry of culture, Sana'a is called "the capital of the present, the history and the unity. This statement supposes that it has been the capital during the whole history of Yemen and therefore stands for the continuity of Yemeni nationalism. Although there has been a long continuity of dwelling at this place since antiquity, Sana'a has not always been the capital of the state not in antiquity and not during the Islamic era under the era of the Zaydi Imams, who resided

most of the time in Sadah. The Bab al-Yaman itself in its present shape, is not an authentic Yemeni building; it was erected in 1865 by the Ottoman government.

The march of the protagonists from the Bab al-Yaman to Maidan al-Sab'in connects the historical area of the city with its modern quarters and thus also symbolizes the continuity between past and present, as well as the unity of the country, with which together we continue the march of unification. The antique kingdom of Saba, represented by the columns of the monument at the Maidan al-Sab'in, is in the governmental rhetoric the mythical foundation of the Yemeni state, within which the whole of Yemen was united under one single ruler. Thus this monument may be seen as an arch of a bridge. It spans symbolically time and space, linking the present time with the age of antiquity and the root of Yemeni nationalism.

This is the symbolic visualization and celebration of Sana'a as "the capital of the present, the history and the unity as it is seen by the Yemeni government."

This paper was presented at the First World Congress for Middle East studies, University of Mainz, Germany, in September, 2002. The author is working on a Ph.D in Anthropology on performance practices, identity and nationalism in Yemen.

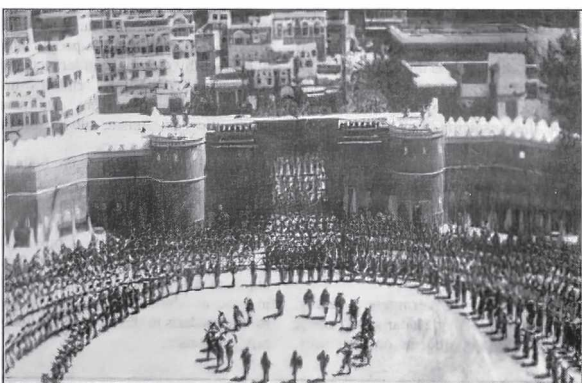
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Ethiopia to give AIDS drugs free of charge to poor

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Ethiopia said Tuesday it planned to distribute anti-retroviral drugs for free to poor people living with HIV/AIDS.

Up to 2.2 million Ethiopians are HIV-positive out of a population of some 70 million.

"Preparation is underway to enable people who cannot afford (the drugs) and certified as HIV/AIDS positive (to) get access to anti-retroviral drugs free of charge," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

"Trained personnel will be engaged

in screening those seeking free medications from the low income bracket," the statement added.

Donors last year gave the Horn of Africa country some \$60 million for programs to tackle HIV/AIDS.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world where 44 percent of its people live below the poverty line.

According to the United Nations children's agency UNICEF, AIDS deaths in Ethiopia have left an estimated one million children under the age of 14 orphaned.



Ethiopia said on Oct. 28 that it planned to distribute anti-retroviral drugs for free to poor people living with HIV/AIDS. Up to 2.2 million Ethiopians are HIV-positive out of a population of some 70 million. "Preparation is underway to enable people who cannot afford (the drugs) and certified as HIV/AIDS positive (to) get access to anti-retroviral drugs free of charge," the Health Ministry said in a statement. A malnourished two-year-old boy living with AIDS sits in his hospital bed in Dilla, in this May 29 file photo. Reuters

Smoking Increases Risk of Multiple Sclerosis -Study

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Smokers are up to three times as likely to develop multiple sclerosis than non-smokers, researchers said on Monday.

Researchers at the University of Bergen in Norway and Harvard University in Massachusetts surveyed 22,000 people aged 40 to 47 from 1997 to 1999 and found the risk of developing multiple sclerosis nearly three times higher for men who smoked and about two times higher for women smokers than for their nonsmoking counterparts.

"Cigarette smoke is a cocktail of chemicals that are potentially neurotoxins," said Alberto Ascherio, a researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health, who worked on the study.

However, when asked specifically how smoking triggers the disease, Ascherio responded, "Honestly we don't know. That is why this data is important." He said more research is needed.

The researchers found that most of the 87 people in the study who had multiple sclerosis started smoking 15 years before they developed the incurable disease. Of the multiple sclerosis patients, nearly 24 percent had never smoked and about 76 percent were current or past smokers.

"In order to be classified as smokers, they had to smoke at least one cigarette a day, and the number of years of smoking, in the total study population, ranged from one to 38," Trond Riise, who led the Bergen arm of the study, said in an interview conducted by e-mail.

It was not clear why male smokers had a higher rate of MS than women, Ascherio said.

The study will be published in the Oct. 28 issue of *Neurology*, the scientific journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

'Tell them to stop smoking'

"Putting all the studies together, I feel pretty confident to say that, at this point, smoking increases the risk of multiple sclerosis," Ascherio said.

Gary Franklin at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine in Seattle said the effect of smoking on multiple



sclerosis was not extremely high.

"It's not like the relative risk of smoking and lung cancer," where people are three to five times more susceptible of getting the cancer if they smoke, he said.

However, Franklin, who wrote an editorial accompanying the study, continued, "if I had a patient who was maybe at risk for MS because someone else had it in the family, ... and were smoking, I'd probably tell them to stop smoking."

Stephen Reingold, vice president for research programs at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, said smoking is one factor that could trigger multiple sclerosis in people genetically susceptible to developing it.

"The disease is not caused by smoking," Reingold said. "When we think about MS, we think about genetic factors and we think about risk co-factors that may be infectious, possibly environmental, and, as in the case of this, behavioral."

One of the most common neurological diseases in young people, multiple sclerosis disproportionately affects young women of northern European heritage, according to the American Academy of Neurology.

In a previous study, Ascherio found that one in about 200 women in the United States risk developing the disease, in which immune cells mistakenly attack and destroy myelin, the fatty material that insulates nerve fibers.

Common symptoms include vision loss, numbness, fatigue and paralysis. MS is not fatal but can seriously disable patients.

Second International Conference on ELT wraps up

By MOHAMMAD N. AL-HAKIMI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
HODEIDAH

Held in Yemen few days ago, Hodeidah University embraced the Second International Conference on ELT, Critical Discourse Analysis - the Message of Medium.

A number of senior professors from different parts of the world participated in the conference, which was mainly concerned with the roles of the education of the student teachers, with the roles of language and linguistically expressed educative practices in such life-long education.

In his message, Hodeidah University President,



Professor Abdullah Ahmad Al-Gunaid welcomed the participants to the second international conference on ELT held by the university. He stressed that the conference is another proof of President Saleh's vision for a powerful and prosperous Yemen. "The present conference gives us a chance to demonstrate to our president that we, the teaching community, are willing to follow his directions and enact his desires," he said.

Professor al-Gunaid emphasized that faculties of education have to educate and train students into teachers and impart education that could promote and naturalize life-long re-skilling and their training should be that one that would facilitate this re-skilling.

Many papers by effective and experienced local and foreign professors developed different arguments on the issue.

Professor DAMODAR THAKUR, Indian, presently teaching English in Sana'a university, presented in his paper the ontology of language use and the dilemma for language testing. "language testing finds itself uncomfortably placed on the horns of a dilemma if our tests are based on an atomistic, reductionist and de-

contextualized view of language use, we attain a high degree of reliability but go down on the scale of content and construct validity but if our tests are maximally inclusive of the features of discourse, particularly in countries with limited resources "he argued.



JAVAD GHOLAMY, a PhD student, Iran, presented a paper in which he attempted to review the tenets of critical discourse analysis and then discussed their implications and applications in syllabus design and material development.

In his paper, AKRAM BAHRAMI, Sharja university, argued that through critical pedagogy the classroom is not the place where information is dispensed by teachers and consumed by students, but rather as a site for the production of new knowledge grounded in student's practices (why a critical pedagogy?).



LEILA RAZMJOU, Iran, suggested several criteria attempting to explain how one can be a competent translator.

Interests of ZHILA MOHAMMAD NIA's research included critical discourse analysis and its implications on news media.

In his paper, the paper of professor M.N.K BOSE, from Ibb university claimed that critical /transformative pedagogy transforms the classroom into a form in which students are able to voice opinions through collaborative dialogue, which have been silenced within practice of traditional pedagogy. It also highlighted a classroom activity for implementing the pedagogy in English classes.

In his paper Dr VIVEKAANANDHAN, from Ibb university, examined the notions of grammaticality implicit in its concomitant ones of acceptability and appropriacy as these become manifest in grammar teaching.

Dr HAMOUD KADHA, deans of faculty of education, Zabid, developed in his paper the argument that the "vocabulary control movement in elt, has imposed powerful and stifling discourse vis-à-vis vocabulary selection and instruction, it would posit that creating awareness through "reflection" among teachers of their activities before and during the actual instructions might offer a way of supervening the inhibitive effects of such a discourse.

Professor KUMAR SINHA, HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY, examined in his paper the role of textual analysis dealing with aspects /features of texts with special reference to the teaching of English literature in hodeidah university.



SHEFALI BAKSHI, from hodeidah university, contributed with her paper to the understanding of dramatic discourse with reference to the theory of ethnography of communications.

A paper taken as read by LUTFI M. HUSSEIN developed the argument "who are we?": Arab-Americans and Muslim Americans construct themselves on the world wide web.

Dr BHUSHAN SHARMA, Hodeidah university, attempted in his paper to trace the emergence of feminist poetries from the writings of women.

Professor M. NAGARJAN, Hodeidah university included in his paper advances in TGG, pragmatic stylistic and contemporary critical theories.

From a discourse perspective professor BASIL HATIM, from the American university of Sharja, UAE, discussed the concept of purpose in the theory and practice of translation.

In his paper, professor

THIRU KANDIAH from the university of Peradeniya, Srilanka explored the issues raised through an examination of the instances of the ELT theories, decision making and practice drawn mainly, but not entirely, from the Lankan context.



K. THIAGRARAJAN, FROM FACULTY OF Zabid talked about some aspects of the discourse notes in the translational discourse. His researches interests included cross-linguistic issues in translation and contemporary criticism.

In the conference, we met with al-Mamari (hodeidah university media committee coordinator) "our university has been achieving a distinguished progress and what makes it more distinguished than other universities is the annual conferences.

Many people benefited a lot from the lectures and seminars of the conference, and next December we are holding a big international conference with the cooperation with a British university and some other universities. In addition to this, we are going to hold two other conferences in 2004 and we plan to hold a very powerful conferences concerning sciences of the seas".



We met also with one of the attendees Fawaz al-Fattah who said "I would like to thank the researches-participants for illuminating us with their useful instructions through which we got some vital information about two of the most important subjects that we have in our English course such as "critical discourse analysis and the message of medium". We benefited a lot from "worships of translation". I hope such conferences would continue to be held for our good.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen, 26 Oct. 2003.

Main headlines:

- YSP head of political office: A positive stand of Islah party concerning democracy
- Families of detainees at political security prison in Taiz continue their protests
- UN coordinator in Sana'a: Yemen in need of qualified local leaderships entertaining justice and transparency
- Al-Khaleej Organisation for Press Freedoms, declared
- Jibla teachers request the president's interference

Columnist Abdulaziz al-Baghdati says in his article the looking at the relationship between the 26 September revolution in the north of Yemen and the 14 of October in its south out of the perspective of the relationship between the mother and the son is a view very near to the view of secessionism if considered in the depth of its implication. The relationship between the two revolutions of the one country is based on joining forces and cohesion and interaction where the revolutionaries in the country search for a common denomination, i.e. the freedom. Since Yemen is one body it is not logical to say that one of parts came out of the other.

The relationship is thus a kind of details of an interwoven struggling one happened on the Yemeni naturally and socially united arena before its political unity and it is supposed to be deepened by the political action. This has been realized by the Yemeni revolutionaries at all stages of the struggle since the thirties and later, whether in the Yemeni old or the modern history.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 23 Oct. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Islah assistant secretary general al-A'nsi met NDI's regional director
- Absence of security in Aden
- Saudi authorities hand over dead body of a Yemeni smuggler

- Local councils 2nd conference, decisions not meeting ambitions
 - Socotra lives strangling food crisis
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article that the Islamic states leaders have recently ended their conference in Malaysia. The conference has been held at circumstances when Muslim's dignity is increasingly humiliated and an increased aggression on their countries and confiscation of their rights: the picture in the Islamic world is very dark: occupation of Iraq, aggression on Syria, harassment against Iran a threat to Pakistan, injustice in Kashmir bloody aggression on Muslims in Chechnya and the still bleeding deep wound of Palestine, the new colonization wants us change everything in ourselves; deny our religion and change our education curricula and to surrender and accept to live without any human rights, anyone who would not abide by all this he is terrorist and enemy of democracy. Undoubtedly all these conditions were not absent from thinking of the leaders in their conference and so what have they done?

They have expressed their feelings of pain, worry and non-acceptance and hoped the stop of injustice, they denounced the aggression on Syria and sympathized with the Palestinian people but they have addressed their call to an absent pronoun, when the leaders feel courageous enough they would address the international community and in the best of situations and conditions they would address their call to the security council and the united nations that has not supported our just issues for more than half a century.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces 23 Oct. 2003.

Main headlines:

- America supplies President Public Hospital in Marib at a cost of \$5.3 million
- Algerian foreign minister visits Yemen during Ramadhan

Columnist Iskandar al-Asbahi writes in his article that all indications point out that Israel has not any intention for a political settlement with the Arabs who have accepted swapping all

Main headlines

- YSP evaluates Islah stand calling for fighting extremism
- Ministers and ambassadors abort elections of medical college teachers union at Sana'a University
- Libya demands Italy for compensating for colonization period
- Demonstrations against American occupation of Iraq in Washington and San Francisco
- National Organisation for Defending Rights and Freedoms carries out investigation into arrests of the Grand Mosque
- Iraqi resistance, organized and has leaderships
- Australian shipment of affected sheep unloaded in Basra, Iraq
- In a constitutional violation, Oil Ministry sells 15% of the government share in an oil sector
- Islah relations not hostage of personal stands and opinions
- In Palestine, escalation of suppression and assassination
- Parliament approves additional approbation
- Addressing Abyan dignitaries, the president: We closed all past files; you have to bury tribal vengeance files
- Yemen, member of Organisation of Islamic Conference summit resolutions follow-committee
- Three of dangerous wanted persons killed in shooting exchange with the security
- Qadhi al-Hattar: 150 persons to be released during the month of Ramadan
- Organized gang for printing fake bank notes captured in the capital

the occupied land in return for a complete peace with them, the Arabs are no longer able to offer concessions more than they have done, the Arabs have chosen to be hand folded while

Israel's hand free for committing all kinds of war crimes and practicing aggression against Syria and Lebanon. What Israel is presently doing is an extension and continuation of its proj-

ect it had started in the forties of last century as part of the Zionist project that's based on religious mythology and legends.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC ruling party, 27 Oct. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Dr al-Eryani: Yemeni initiative does not necessarily requires canceling Arab League
- Intended changes in the Free Zone administration and investment authority associated with restructuring
- Higher Education minister Dr Raweh: Restructuring higher education, daring step by the government
- FM al-Qirbi: Next GCC summit discusses new ideas for activating cooperation of Yemen with GCC countries
- Islah considers al-Zindani fatwa a personal opinion
- Parliament: Engagement of specialists in discussion of draft laws related to freedoms
- Attorney General directs investigation into information offered by transport ministry against the transport union leadership

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article in this season of the deluge of aggression against whatever is Arab and dealing almost deadly blows to the remaining dreams of the Arab nation in restoring what she has lost of her usurped land the rational people of the sons of this nation have to reconsider their domestic and external stands far away from regional or personal sensitivities. They have to look at all that is happening through a comprehensive pan-Arab perspective, proceeding from the total bankruptcy in which regionalism has fallen and the disappointment in all regional projects that do not take into account the political and economic concerns of Arab people in the entire Arab world.

One of the issues that should be reconsidered is the proposal raised in the seventies on considering the Palestine Liberation Organisation the legitimate and sole representative of

the Palestinian people. The aim is not to strip the PLO of its right as the sole representative and what has realized of an international recognition but rather to prove it is the issue of all Arabs because of its intermixing with all of their situations and issues to an extent no part of the Arab world can avoid its responsibility or claim the issue does not affect it or put pressure on its situations.



Annas weekly, 27 Oct. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Zindani and Noman, a hidden element stirred up discord between them
 - Bajammal complains suspension of his authorities, opposition sources ask him keep silent versus the regime defects
 - Medical college elections postponed twice
 - YSP praises an Islah statement
 - Islah: Extremism product of wrong policy by which the country run
- Columnist Ahmed al-Shalafi says in an article every time there comes to political surface a crisis rendering the country upside down were it not for God's care in a country the rationals have become almost rare in the face of beneficiaries.

The whole matter is based on mis-planning and mismanagement of the country's utilities in various aspects, whether political or social or economic or cultural, the responsibility of which is borne by the lack of awareness and ignorance regarding the importance of gradual change towards the best.

Instigating seditions isn't a good habit at all, even if those who do it thought it would gain them some financial advantages. Such an act could be like a deluge that would affect all. All those who are interested in the country's interest should agree and fear about our political, cultural and social security. The world around us is progressing towards building societies and their development so why should we insist to be at the end of the procession?

World Press

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

Egypt

Al-Ahram

Forty-three persons, including one American soldier, were killed and 230 others injured in five explosions in Baghdad Monday, the bloodiest day since the beginning of the US-led occupation in Iraq in April.

Al-Akbar

The Palestinian National Authority Monday called on the US administration to swiftly move to halt the construction of the Israeli security fence.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei underlined that Israel's construction of the separation wall

blows up the entire Middle East peace process.

Al-Gomhuria

Ankara has not received any US message urging it to hold direct talks with the interim Iraqi Governing Council or Washington regarding the dispatch of Turkish troops to Iraq, an official diplomatic source said Monday.

The Egyptian Gazette

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met on Monday with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, who is currently on a Middle East tour.

Britain

The Times

British opposition Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith gave Conservative lawmakers a 48-hour deadline to challenge him or stop the plotting Monday night, in a desperate attempt to bring the long-running Tory leadership saga to a head.

The Daily Telegraph

The average mortgage has nearly doubled to 112,000 pounds (about 179,200 US Dollars) in six years, more than four times the average salary, as people stretch their finances to the limit

to by a home.

The Independent

Two thirds of the European Union's citizens believe that the military invasion of Iraq was not justified and think that the United States should pay for the country's reconstruction, according to an opinion poll published Monday.

The Guardian

British ministers are planning to double airport tax risking a backlash from passengers and the increasingly popular budget airlines.

Japan

Mainichi, Asahi, Yomiuri

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone gave up running in general election.

Nihon Keizai

The Japanese government mulls selling foreign bondholdings to the Bank of Japan to secure funds for forex interventions.

Asahi, Mainichi, Nihon Keizai, Yomiuri

Official campaigning for Japan's Nov. 9 general election began Tuesday. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed to resign if ruling coalition parties fail to win majority in the election.

France

Le Figaro

Five simultaneous attacks rocked Baghdad on Monday morning, killing 42 Iraqis and injuring 224. More controversy was raised in the United States over Bush's policy in Iraq.

Liberation

The war is not ended in Iraq as five attacks hit Baghdad within 45 minutes on Monday morning. Even the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross were attacked.

Le Monde

A new wave of suicide attacks hit Baghdad on Monday, plunging the capital into chaos at the outset of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

France Soir

Fifty years after its launching, the Magazine of Playboy remains as sexy as ever. The revolution it brought about has changed the face of the world.

Nigeria

The Punch

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Monday expressed his readiness to have dialogue with the Nigeria Labor Congress over the increase in fuel prices occasioned by the deregulation of the downstream sector of the oil industry.

This Day

US oil major Chevron-Texaco led many Nigerian and multi-national oil companies bidding for oil blocks in the Gulf of Guinea, as bids for acreages in the region were opened on Monday in Sao Tome.

Germany

Die Welt

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has confessed to share the responsibility for the election debacle of the ruling SPD in the state of Brandenburg.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Many people, mostly Iraqis, were killed or wounded Monday in the suicide attack against the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross and several police stations in Baghdad.

Handelsblatt

The United States will have a new banking giant as Bank of America buys regional bank Fleet Boston for 47 billion US dollars.

Pakistan

Dawn

India has proposed two sets of dates in November to Pakistan for the next round of technical level talks to resolve the issue of restoring air links between the two countries.

The Nation

Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali Monday said Pakistan believes in dialogue with neighboring India to resolve disputes, adding that war is the last resort and that it can not produce any good result.

The News

Pakistan is holding its cards close to its chest and says it is as yet not ready to respond to the recent overtures made by New Delhi in which several confidence building measures were offered, but no direct reference to talks on Kashmir was included, said Foreign Office spokesman Monday.

India

The Hindu

Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Monday night promulgated an ordinance to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) to confer more powers on the Central and State review committees to make their decisions binding on the Central and State Governments and the police officers investigating cases.

Hindustan Times

Islamabad seems to be in a quandary over its response to New Delhi's 12-point peace proposal. On Sunday, the

Pakistani leadership said it was agreeable to discussing "softer issues", but a day later it reverted to the old formula that a summit meeting between Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf was the real way forward.

The Times of India

Two militants, who allegedly attacked the Shalimar Express near Jammu, were hunted down and killed by security forces in Akhnoor on Monday. The hunt was on for third militant, police said.

Kenya

Kenya Times

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said on Monday his government will not expel any Kenyan citizen from the country and told Kenyans to work hard in building the nation.

People Daily

The Kenyan government on Monday moved to control an increasing level of the food shortage, which

has acutely affected at least three provinces in the country.

Daily Nation

Canada has approved 13.5 million US dollars (about 780 million shillings) for Kenya's free education program and good governance initiatives, Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Susan Whelan said on Monday.

Philippines

The Philippine Star

Negotiations at the House of Representatives over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide ended in a stalemate Monday with both sides refusing to budge from their positions.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Chief Justice Hilario Davide declared war Monday on those who seek to destroy democracy. He said he

would "fight all the way, until where they will go."

Manila Bulletin

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo urged the Commission on Elections Monday to give the automated canvassing and counting of votes a chance to ensure an honest, orderly, and peaceful national and local elections on May 10, 2004.

Ecommerce Terminology



NAJEIB YAMI
AL-SHARAFI
NCC EDUCATION - YEMEN

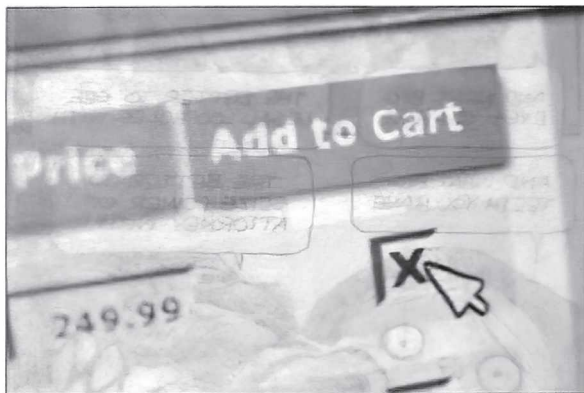
Commerce Service Providers (CSP)
CSPs are business or web sites that provide ecommerce solutions.

Digital or Electronic Cash or E-cash or Ecash or Digital Money

These terms are also used interchangeably, and they refer to any of the various methods that allow a person to purchase goods or services by transmitting a number from one computer to another. The numbers are issued by a bank and represent sums of real money. Digital cash is anonymous and reusable. Unlike credit card transactions, the merchant does not know the identity of the shopper.

Electronic Checks or Cheques

Customers pay for merchandise by writing an electronic check that is transmitted electronically by email, fax or phone. The "cheque" is a message that contains all of the information that is found on an ordinary cheque, but it is signed digitally, or endorsed. The digital signature is encoded by encrypting with the customer's secret key. Upon receipt, the merchant or "payee" may further endorse by encoding with a private key. When the cheque is processed, the resulting message is encoded with the bank's secret key, thus providing proof of payment. Various companies are selling



Electronic Check software and services.

Electronic Wallet

Electronic Wallets store your credit card numbers on your hard drive in an encrypted form. You then make purchases at Web sites that support that particular type of electronic wallet. By clicking on a Pay Button, customers initiate a credit card payment via a secure transaction enabled by the electronic wallet company's server.

Electronic Commerce or Ecom or Emmerce or EC

These terms are used interchangeably, and they all mean the same thing — the paperless exchange of routine business information using Electronic

Data Interchange (EDI), email, electronic bulletin boards, fax transmissions and Electronic Funds Transfer. It refers to Internet shopping, online stock and bond transactions, the downloading and selling of "soft merchandise" (software, documents, graphics, music, etc.), and business to business transactions.

Extranet

An extranet is an extension of a corporate intranet. It connects the internal network of one company with the intranets of its customers and suppliers. This makes it possible to create e-commerce applications that link all aspects of a business relationship, from ordering to payment.

Disintermediation

Disintermediation is the process of bypassing retail channels or mail order houses and selling directly to the customer.

Hard Goods vs Soft Goods

Hard Goods are items that exist in the real world, as opposed to soft goods, which exist virtually or electronically. For instance, an Internet merchant selling a book that is shipped to the customer in a print version is selling hard goods; a merchant offering a book for download in electronic format is selling soft goods.

High Risk Processors

High risk processors (or brokers) are financial institutions or companies that issue merchant status accounts to

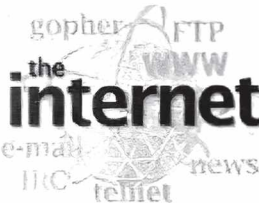
high risk businesses. They offset their risks by charging higher transaction fees and higher rates than traditional banks do. However, the initial outlay of cash that you will be required to put up is usually much less than the large deposits required by traditional banking institutions. Some brokers may offer other added features such as shopping cart software, web site templates, forms or secure lines for ordering.

Immerce

Immerce is the new term being used for commerce that is transacted totally over the Internet.

Merchant Account

A Merchant Account is a relationship between a business (i.e. a merchant)



and a merchant bank which allows the retailer or merchant to accept credit card payments from customers. Depending on the country involved, banks or financial institutions could have stiff requirements and regulations regarding the issuing of a merchant account. Many small or home based businesses report that they have great (sometimes insurmountable) difficulties acquiring Merchant Status. If Merchant Status is obtained, the merchant then rents or buys special software that is used to process the transaction. In some cases, depending on the bank and depending on the type of business that you are operating, you will also need to purchase or rent a piece of hardware known as a processing terminal.

An Internet Merchant Account is a special account that permits the acceptance of credit cards online. Transactions are processed online, in real time. While the customer waits, the system checks the credit card to be sure that it has not been reported stolen, has not expired, and is listed to the same address that the customer has given. If the card is approved, the customer and the merchant are both automatically notified that the sale has transpired. This type of account is a stricter banking relationship than one involving face-to-face transactions. Web transactions do not gather signatures from purchasers and therefore there is a higher risk of fraud.

Merchant Brokers specialize in obtaining credit card accounts for online businesses. Brokers charge a setup fee and lease or sell the software and hardware as needed. Expect to pay a discount rate, which is the percentage you pay for each transaction processed, as well as various other charges that differ among services. If obtaining a merchant account through a traditional bank is proving to be a problem, merchant brokers are a good alternative.

Microtransactions or Micropayments

Microtransactions are transactions of tiny amounts — a few cents or a few dollars, typically made in order to download or access graphics, games, and information.

Telephone Billing Systems

A very new approach, telephone transactions allow the customer to purchase an item or service, and the amount will be billed to his or her telephone bill. To date, this is being used for soft items such as downloads, time measured services (i.e. time spent at a Web site) or for making charitable donations online.

Biosensors: Future Technology



BY SHAFEEQ MOHAMMED
amsafer@yahoo.com

Years from now a typical doctor visit might not include dull magazines, pharmacy lines and saying "Ahh", instead, a chip implanted in the body will function as a constant on board doctor, detecting diseases early and delivering drugs straight into the blood stream. Sound like an Orwellian / Asimov hybrid to be seen in an episode of a Jostonic future Space age Cartoon? Think again. Biosensors could make this scenario a reality before your toddler goes to college.

Why Biosensor?

Bacteria... Our invisible friends, our invisible enemies. Some aid our digestion, others destroy our poisons. Still other "bugs" make us sick. Living inside and outside our bodies, natural bacteria are a fact of life. We have learned to live with them and they with us. Soldiers and sailors in action worry that even more dangerous bacteria are lurking in the environment. These are "killer" bacteria—the kind used as weapons. Such biological warfare agents are viewed by many to be as threatening to human life as nuclear weapons. The key to protecting a military unit or community from dangerous bacteria is to detect them before they reach their intended victims. People can then be warned to leave an area or at least wear protective gear. Bacteria can be detected using "biosensors."

What is Biosensors?

A biosensor is a device that detects, records, and transmits information regarding a physiological change or the presence of various chemical or biological materials in the environment. More technically a Biosensor will be defined as a "Compact analytical device incorporating a biological or biologically-derived sensing element either integrated within or intimately associated with a physicochemical transducer." The usual aim of a biosensor is to produce either discrete or continuous digital electronic signal which are proportional to signal analyte or a related group of analytes.

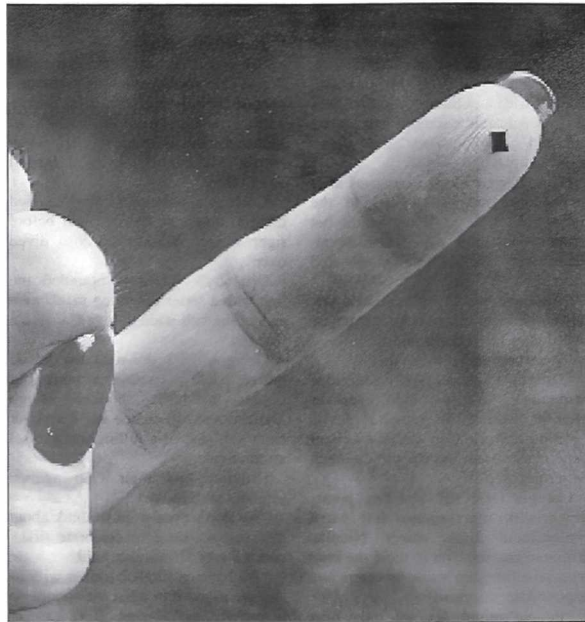
Biosensors, which come in a large variety of sizes and shapes, are used to monitor changes in environmental conditions. They can detect and measure concentrations of specific bacteria or hazardous chemicals; they can measure acidity levels (pH).

Bioreporters

Genetically engineered bacteria can also be useful because of their ability to "tattle" on the environment. Such Bacteria give off a detectable signal, such as light, in the presence of a specific pollutant they like to eat. They may glow in the presence of toluene, a hazardous compound found in gasoline and other petroleum products. They can indicate whether an underground fuel tank is leaking or whether the site of an oil spill has been cleaned up effectively. These informer bacteria are called Bioreporters

Biosensors in Medical and Other environmental Probs

Biosensors are already thriving in the medical field. From 1990's biosensors have been used as immunosensors to destroy or weaken invading bacteria



and neutralize organic poisons in the human body. External biosensors are used in emergency room as a point-of-care diagnostic units - such as I-Stat's (Manufacturing company) "LABS-on-a-CHIP", which can reveal almost immediately whether a patient is in cardiac arrest by testing blood chemistry.

Other companies are developing implantable biosensors that track blood glucose levels and deliver insulin. Microchip (company) is testing a chip implant that offers long term, time-controlled drug delivery. Their next step is a manually wirelessly controlled biosensors that detects and treats an acute condition and then a Biosensor that will approximate an artificial organ. It will sense a condition and respond automatically without user intervention.

Medical teleensors

This "medical teleensor" chip on a fingertip can measure and transmit body temperature.

An array of chips attached to your body may provide additional information on blood pressure, oxygen level, pulse rate, breathing (chest expansion). Knee bending during physical rehabilitation and foot pressure distribution. Biosensors are also used to detect the state of aging diseases like "diabetes" and Alzheimer. This is accomplished by sensing the metal ion concentrations in the body.

These chips may be attached at various points on a soldier using a nonirritating adhesive like that used in waterproof band-aids. These medical teleensors would send physiological data by wireless transmission to an intelligent monitor on another soldier's helmet. The monitor could alert medics if the data showed that the soldier's condition fit one of five levels of trauma. The monitor also would receive and transmit global satellite positioning data to help medics locate the wounded soldier.

Wireless monitors attached to the skin could provide valuable information on the physiological condition of Intensive Care Patient's in Hospital, high-risk out patients, babies at risk of suffering sudden infant death syndrome and Police and fire fighting personnel in hazardous situations.

Detecting Cancer And Health Abnormalities

Another type of biosensor uses sophisticated technology to detect a specific trait or abnormality in a living organism. Thompson Cancer Survival Center of Knoxville, (USA) have developed a new laser technique for nonsurgically determining whether tumors in the esophagus are cancerous or benign.

This laser-based fluorescence method has eliminated the need for biopsy, reducing pain and recovery time for patients.

In DNA Sequence Analysis

DNA can be used to identify organisms ranging from humans to bacteria and viruses. The identification consists of reading the sequence of the DNA letters (A, G, C, and T). By knowing the DNA sequence, a doctor can determine whether you are a carrier of a disease gene known to exist in your family, whether blood at a crime scene was that of the arrested suspect, or whether a bio warfare bacterium was descending on a battlefield. Studies in this area is very fast and less expensive now with Biosensors. Success of the DNA sequence would revolutionize Bio-Medical Science

Applications of Biosensors are limited to our imagination.

In view of the space constraint only a few are listed below

- Environmental Monitoring. (eg: Detect 'Anthrax' etc)
- Food And Drink
- Process Industries (eg: Petroleum and Chemical refineries)
- Defense and Security
- Anthropometry - to measure human body surface.

Conclusion.

The indication is that analytical chemistry and sensor technology in particular, could follow the same trend as microelectronics. As chemical analysis becomes simpler and more widely available, we can expect to see a proliferation of uses in conjunction with microprocessors and telecommunication equipment. Equipment capable of monitoring data as well as processing it could find wide application in monitoring health, food we eat and our environment.

Fifth Inter-College Literary Competitions, 2003-2004

The Fifth Inter-college Literary competitions in English Short Story, Poem, and Essay will be organized under the auspices of Yemen Times for the Academic Session 2003-2004. Competitions will be held in two categories, viz. Senior (level 3 and 4) and Junior (level 1 and 2). A bonafide student of any college in the Republic of Yemen is eligible to participate in the competition. Participants are free to choose any theme for English Short Stories and Poems.

Topics for the Essay contest:

Senior group (level 3 and 4):

"As Technology Advances, Humanity Declines"
(2000 words)

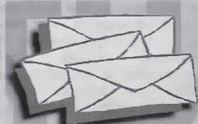
Junior group (level 1 and 2):

"United We Stand, Divided We Fall"
(1500 words)

A participant can participate in any or all events. Entries should be original and should be typed or neatly written on one side of the paper. These are to be certified to be original by the Head of English Department of the respective college and sent to Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Last date for submission of entries is 30 November, 2003

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Coordinator



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Do this to remember me!

A day will come, when my body will lie on a white bed which is put carefully in one corner in a hospital, full of the smell of death and rebirth. At this moment the doctor will declare that my brain has stopped and my life is finished. When this happens, don't try to put soul in to my body. Don't use the machinery. Don't call that bed, "the death bed", call it, "the life bed". Then come on and take from my body parts which will help others - these people who don't enjoy a healthy life. Begin with my eyes, give it to the blind

people, who can't see sunrise in this life, or innocent smile on the face of a baby, or the luster of love in the eyes of someone they love. And give my heart to a human being who is denied the privilege of rest. And give my blood to somebody who has survived a fatal accident. Maybe, he will live until he sees his grandson, playing around him. You must try to scan every corner in my brain, take every cell and let it be carefully nurtured. Maybe it would help a dumb person until he can shout to push the football, or a deaf girl until she can listen to the music of the clattering rain. Then you may burn other parts,

which are still, and throw the ashes in to the air until it can help the flowers to blossom.

If there is anything which must be buried then you can bury my faults and my weaknesses.

If you want to remember me, remember me by some kind deeds of mine, or a sweet word, or the innocent smile, then give them to one who deserves these. If you do what I ask, I'll live forever.

AfrAh Ahmed Humran
Level 3
Department of English
Faculty of Education
Al-Mahweet

Losers Georgia join Uruguay party

By JULIAN LINDEN

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Georgia left their first Rugby World Cup without a win after going down 24-12 to Uruguay but celebrated as though they had won the tournament by joining the South Americans in a lap of honour.

After heavy defeats by England, South Africa and Samoa, the two minnows fought out a scrappy but evenly matched game on Tuesday to determine last place in pool C.

Georgia were slight favourites after an encouraging 46-19 loss to the Springboks last week but could not contain their more experienced opponents, who scored three unanswered tries.

"Although we haven't finished yet, this is the icing on the cake," Uruguay lock Juan Carlos Bado said.

"We were happy just to qualify," Georgia captain Ilia Zedginidze responded: "We just didn't recover after the South Africa game."

"But the World Cup was an excellent experience for us and we will do much better next time."

Georgia were still just five points down with two minutes left when replacement lock rower Nicolas Brignoni crashed over to score the final try after a fine step inside by centre and captain Diego Aguirre.

"People might say we only beat Georgia but that was a fantastic per-

formance," Uruguay assistant coach Paul Heady said.

"I think we showed tonight that we have a forward pack that can mix it with any other in the competition."

Superior kicking

Uruguay, who beat Spain at the first World Cup appearance four years ago, opened the scoring in the 14th minute with a penalty from fullback Juan Menchaca but Georgia levelled when winger Makhaz Urjukashvili landed one in front.

Uruguay's superior kicking enabled them to dominate the first half before right winger Alfonso Cardoso dived over.

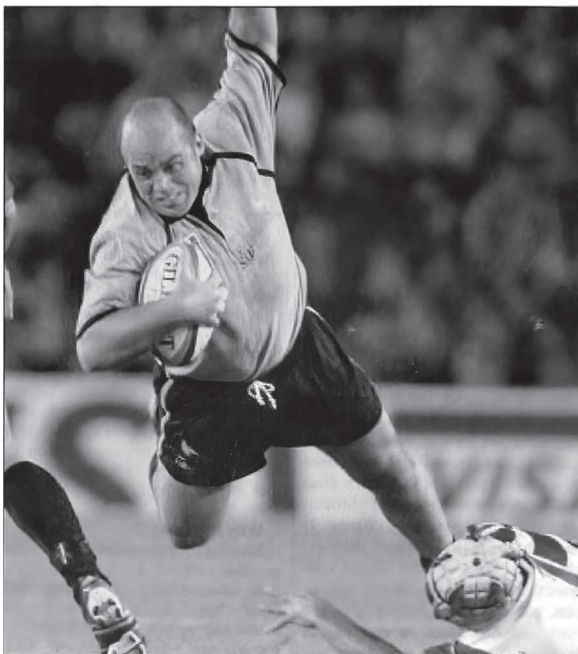
Uruguay's forwards pounded the line with a series of rolling mauls then swung the ball wide to give Cardoso a free run.

Georgia, 10-3 down at the break, pulled back to within a point but Uruguay's burly hooker Diego Lamelas then ploughed his way over from the back of a rolling maul to set up the finale.

Uruguay end their Cup against England on Sunday.

"We don't even want to think about that yet, we have to celebrate first," coach Diego Ormaechea said.

"We have an English trainer with us and we asked him what we should do to prepare and he said: 'Just go play golf'."



Uruguay's Rodrigo Sanchez is tackled by Georgia's Gregoire Yachvili during their Rugby World Cup pool C match at Sydney's Football Stadium. Georgia have left their inaugural Rugby World Cup without a win after being beaten 24-12 by Uruguay. REUTERS/Jacky Naegelen

Pakistan hold South Africa to seal series win

By ABDUL WAHEED

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) - Pakistan have forced a draw in the second test after surviving a few anxious moments to seal their first test series win over South Africa.

Pakistan ended Tuesday on 242 for six, 60 runs short of their victory target. Shoaib Malik (23) and Moin Khan (9) played out 15.5 tense overs in a stand of 33, forcing the draw after Pakistan had lost three wickets in 22 balls to give South Africa a sniff of victory.

Pakistan took the series by virtue of their win in the first test at Lahore, only their second in 10 matches against South Africa.

The touring side scored 278 and 371 for eight declared, with Pakistan making 348 and 242 for six.

Pakistan appeared to be close to an

honourable draw on 187 for three after two sessions of tense cricket before running into trouble.

After spinner Paul Adams had Asim Kamal (38) caught by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, fast bowler Makhaya Ntini trapped Inzamam-ul-Haq lbw for 60.

In the next over Shaun Pollock bowled Abdul Razzaq (10) with a ball that came back sharply to leave Pakistan facing possible defeat with 18 overs remaining.

Pakistan had an important let off when Gary Kirsten put down Shoaib Malik (8) with the total on 219 for six.

The ball ballooned off Malik's bat handle as he tried to avoid a short ball from Ntini but Kirsten failed to latch on to the chance.

The experienced Moin, who took 29 balls to get off the mark, and Malik than

pulled down the shutters before the match was called off two overs early.

The South Africans had 94 overs to force a result but with the Pakistanis dropping anchor the bowlers struggled to get wickets on a pitch that held up well.

Jacques Kallis trapped Imran Farhat (eight) lbw and Ntini had Yasir Hameed (17) caught at deep square leg before lunch when only 55 runs were scored in 30 overs.

But Taufeeq Umar made 71, including 12 fours, Inzamam 60 and Kamal 38 to rescue their side.

Taufeeq played a careless shot to be

caught by Graeme Smith at wide mid-on off Robin Peterson 25 minutes before tea.

Declared man of the series for his 313 runs and nine catches — a record by a Pakistani fielder — Taufeeq also became the leading test run scorer for Pakistan against South Africa with a tally of 593 runs in eight innings.

Inzamam was the cornerstone of the batting, putting on 79 from 175 balls with Taufeeq and 62 with Kamal on the way to his 33rd test half century.

The series win improved Pakistan's position from seventh to fifth place in the official test rankings.

Man U's Scholes out for a month

By Pete Oliver

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes will be out of action for up to four weeks after surgery on a groin injury.

"Paul Scholes's groin problem has re-occurred and he had to have surgery this morning on both groins. He's likely to be out for three to four weeks," said the premier league champions on Tuesday.

Scholes is likely to miss England's friendly against Denmark on November 15 plus a number of important games for United.

The 28-year-old was troubled by the injury earlier this season and missed four games during a month on the sidelines.

A period of rest looked to have cleared up the problem and he returned in the 4-1 win at Leicester City in late September but he will now again be unavailable to manager Alex Ferguson.

As well as the start of their League Cup campaign with a visit to Leeds United later on Tuesday, the Old Trafford side face Liverpool and Chelsea in November as well as two Champions League games against Rangers and Panathinaikos.



South African cricket players (L-R) Mark Boucher, Jacques Kallis, Graeme Smith, Makhaya Ntini and Paul Adams celebrate the dismissal of Pakistani batsman Imran Farhat (not in picture) on the fifth and final day of the second test in Faisalabad. REUTERS/Mohsin Raza



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

By Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Don't take things said too literally today. Family discussions may get blown out of proportion. Think before you speak. Cool down before dealing with a sensitive issue.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
You can make interesting and positive changes today. After your looks, change your image, develop a skill or hobby — now is the time. Someone who admires your work will take a personal interest in you.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
Wheeling and dealing should be your intent today, especially with people you know quite well. Help an older relative with some everyday responsibilities.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Romance will unfold whether you are single or already in a relationship. Your charm will win the hearts of those you encounter, so don't be shy. Let your heart lead the way.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Having a garage sale or turning your hobby into something prosperous should be your intent. Get the whole family to help. Open your doors to the neighbors.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You will discover that there are all sorts of ways to meet new people if you get involved in something unusual. Your restlessness is mounting, so satisfy your curious nature. Socializing will lead to romance.



Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Be careful what you discuss today. Someone is likely to discourage you unnecessarily. Problems with someone you live with will escalate quickly. Back off and let this person cool down.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Talk about your future plans with a good friend and you will get a clearer picture of your situation. Romantic possibilities will develop with someone you meet through a friend.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Keep an eye on your money matters. Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely. Cover all necessary groundwork before making a financial promise to someone.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Stop worrying about business and start to enjoy yourself. Opportunities for romance will develop if you take a pleasure trip or attend a social event. Someone you meet will change the way you think.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Don't overspend, especially if you are entertaining. You must stop anyone who has been trying to run your life. Start making the changes that you've been considering.



Pisces
(Feb 19-Mar 20)
You will get recognition today for your creative endeavors and your ingenious ideas. Spending time with friends, relatives or neighbors will lead to some interesting conversations. You could meet someone who will make a difference to your future.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	24	24	24	24	23	23	23
Lo	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	33	33	34	34	34	34	34
Lo	27	27	27	26	26	26	26
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀

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What does it mean Call Center (221) in a GSM phone company?



By BAR HAMID AL JUNAID
BARJUNAIID_1@HOTMAIL.COM
SABA FOM

Due to the overwhelming rapid growth in digital technology, GSM operators throughout the world have become a main contributor to the communication link between countries and within a country. Little difference is there between GSM companies of today and bee hives in terms of structure, work, production, etc. Bees have a queen, which is the human resource manager. And employees are the working bees.

I am one of the employees in such a company and I like to give a brief introduction about its 221 call center, which is the customer care toll-free number.

I have been working in this place and have come to realize that one can be most productive when he surrounded by loving staffers and under the umbrella of reliable, straightforward, honest, and visionary managers.

Customer service agents are available 24 hours a day. We receive more than 10,000 calls a day so I am trying to give you a short report about the place that you always call.

What is a Call Center?

Let's face it, not everyone knows what a call center is. When was the last time someone asked what you did and you said "I work in a call center" and the response you got back was to look like you had antennae growing out of your head!

Here is a definition of "call center" (without the antennae):

Call (verb): to make a request or demand

Center (noun): a point, area, person or thing that is most important or pivotal

total in relation to an indicated activity or interest

The definition of call center is changing, but the core fundamentals of a customer making a call (via a phone, email, web site, or fax) to a center (point, area, person or thing) will remain constant because customers view the call as an important or pivotal activity for them. Call center, contact center or customer interaction center - or whatever name you give - operates on near identical principals of meeting customer needs in real-time.

A call center is traditionally defined as a physical location where calls are placed or received, in high volume for the purpose of sales, marketing, customer service, telemarketing, technical support or other specialized business activities. One early definition described a call center as a place of doing business by phone that combined a centralized database with an automatic call distribution system. That's close, but it's really much more than that.

It is a:

- Huge telemarketing and Telesales center
- Fundraising and collections organization
- Help desks both internal and external

Hence, a call center is a central place where customers and other telephone calls are handled by an organization, usually with some amount of computer automation. Typically, a call center has the ability to handle a considerable volume of calls at the same time, to screen calls and forward them to someone qualified to handle them, and to log calls. Call centers are used by mail-order catalog organizations, telemarketing companies, computer product help desks, and any large organization that uses the telephone to sell or service products and services.



Employees at call centers are always friendly and informative

Call centers are generally set up as large rooms, with workstations that include a computer, a telephone set (or headset) hooked into a large telecom switch and one or more supervisor stations. It may stand by itself, or be linked with other centers. It may also be linked to a corporate data network, including mainframes, microcomputers. Increasingly, the voice and data pathways into the center are linked through a set of new technologies called CTI, or computer-telephony integration.

Job responsibilities:

The main responsibilities of a customer center staffer are to receive inbound calls from customers related to products and services. It includes clarifying the needs of the customer, answering customer inquiries and assisting in the resolution of concerns. Tracking and documenting customer contacts is also important. Anyone working here must remain accessible to answer calls, handle difficult calls

and avoid escalation whenever possible. This center also issues service orders, covers claim reports, including technical and financial claim reports plus maintain service orders.

Responsibilities include strategic planning and oversight of workflow and staffing requirements, review and analysis reports are done with an eye for increasing performance output and controlling expenses.

Qualifications:

- This position requires a dynamic individual with excellent interpersonal and leadership abilities, the ability to show dramatic results, and visionary strategic planning.
- Knowledge of forecasting, scheduling and labor modeling, and a background in technical requirements of call center environments.
- Experience developing, writing and implementing operating procedures that support company goals, quality standards and security of client records is essential.

as are excellent project management and presentation skills.

Principle accountabilities:

- Establish and maintain "state-of-the-art" customer call center.
- Provide overall direction and motivation to service center team.
- Insure that call center personnel are adequately trained.
- Drive development of policies, procedures and processes that support operations excellence.
- Leverage technology to enhance operational effectiveness and customer satisfaction.
- Develop and enhance cooperative interdepartmental relationships and communications of a broad scope throughout the company and with individuals external to the company.
- Establish and monitor call center metrics to evaluate operational effectiveness.
- Leverage call center metrics to assess customer satisfaction.
- Maintain knowledge on current industry-wide trends and potential impact on the support business.
- Resolve issues of a complex scope that impact the team and overall business objectives. Identify equipment and facility requirements to insure customer satisfaction levels

are met.

- Drive continuous improvement of call center operations.

Managers and coordinators:

Responsibilities also include overseeing collector and manager work schedules/work loads, reviewing and analyzing all reports with an eye for increasing performance output, controlling expenses, and developing/motivating staff through both formal and information coaching.

This position requires a dynamic individual with excellent interpersonal/leadership abilities, the ability to show dramatic results, and strong computer skills. The person responsible for such a position should lead and manage worldwide customer support organization, building on your track record in strategic leadership, organizational agility, performance management and team building. Hence, he/she will be the corporate voice of the customer, as the company seeks to achieve unheard of levels of customer satisfaction.

Working in this post is not easy, and I hope that I was able to give in-depth and explanatory information about the (211) Call Center for your service.

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■ Wanted: Correspondent through the Net for Spectrum Magazine, Ibb Univ. For cultural and experience exchange between our university and western universities. This work is volunteering. Please contact to: Sameer Annozaili, P.O.Box: 128-Ibb-Yemen or Sam-Ytiibb@yahoo.com.

■ A university graduate, having a bachelor degree in Electronics & Communication and experience in computer soft-

ware. Contact: Eng. Adel, tel. 01-253241

■ House maid is available, for cleaning, cooking, take care of kids or office cleaning. Contact: 73817782

■ A University graduate having a bachelor degree in computer and control engineer/control eng. looking for engineer job in any company. Contact: Saqr Abduwasa Abdu Saad. 71706511

■ Christopher: I've got experience in the following fields about 10 years, in four countries (India, Singapore, Maldives & Yemen). If there is an opportunities in Procurement Manager, Purchasing Officer, Marketing Manager and Executive Secretary or any training oriented fields please contact me at 73816219

■ Maths And Physics teacher for all levels, Arabic and English, having a master degree in english department, ability of translation, please contact : 604106.

■ A highly qualified Female Indian professional M.A (English), Ph.D., with a degree in Education seeks teaching assignment in a university or reputed high school. contact P.O.Box: 14533, Sana'a, Phone: 01-465396, 73889013.

■ I'm a dental surgeon from india with good clinical experience, if there is any opportunity in a hospital please contact me 05/309782, 73535352

■ Excellent English, Computer courses, Toefl, experience in Yemen & Emirates, please contact 345517, 73842717

■ A university graduate, having a bachelor degree of arts, department of english, looking for a teacher job in a private school or any job related to my specialization, please call 04/502401

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Driven by longing

By Irena Knehtl

Yemeni artist **Samira Abdo Ali** has created some of the most distilled images of Yemen likely to be seen... She was born by the sea, to which she is as devoted as to her art. This is not to say that her paintings are limited in any way, for though she has captured the essence of the landscape around her, her vision has gone far beyond the boundaries of Yemen. Her paintings express a yearning to be somewhere higher. Her familiarity with her environment and a keen desire not to repeat what is around her, have enabled her to create landscapes that are unique in their ability to cut through visual noise. The area around the city of her birth - Aden - offers some of most breathtaking combination of sea, mountains, and sand, of past and present and possibly future. Her artwork creates a notable sense of artistic tensions in the viewer. The effort to reconcile the only adds to its beauty. She wants the viewer to see her landscapes through her eyes. Human longing is what drives her art, characterized by desire to see a better world. She seems constantly searching for it, in the legends, in tales, in the past, in the history. We are not allowed to forget that the better world is screened off from our world, and our inability to find channels for communication and understanding. She rarely bothers with sketching, the oil got straight on. By painting directly, the paintings move on with her. She paints at home and likes silence and comfort of familiarity. Her current style seems to be a fusion of abstract and realism. But she often goes back to realism to keep in touch with valuable lessons.



ism to keep in touch with valuable lessons.

Samira Abdo Ali is also the first female Cinema and TV Director at the Yemeni TV.

Actually her desire was to make films that should likewise communicate desire for a better world to the world. She came out with excellence during her studies for Master degree at the prestigious Moscow Film Academy during 1986 for film directing and animation. Also there in 1980 she won award as the best



political cartoonist. She is also about to finish her Doctorate at the Film Institute in Cairo.

Back to Yemen, she twice exhibited her artwork in Sana'a during the nineties.

Awards and recognition followed: For her well researched and beautifully documented series in 18 parts on Yemeni handicrafts, regularly shown on Yemeni TV, she was awarded Gold medal at the Film Festival in Cairo in 1998. Parts of her series were the only foreign Arab film also shown on the Egyptian TV. Directing the short film "The Lawyer" covering social issues of Yemeni women, also recently shown on Yemeni TV won her award and recognition at the Cairo Film Festival during this year as the best Arab short film.

Also during Nineties she directed 3 short films from Yemeni folk stories, twice, during 1989 and 2001, she directed children series for the

Yemeni TV, as well as children theater. But it was her last year researched and beautifully presented program during the Holy month of Ramadhan "Science and the Quran" that won her audience all over Yemen. The program this year will

be under the title "The history of Science" also directed by Samira. Well known as illustrator of children books, and writer of children stories, she is also writer of short stories regularly published in various Yemeni newspapers and magazines.

Euro-Arab cultural dialogue

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The cultural exchange between different cultures and civilizations has always been a great event in which people from various countries get to know and learn about each other more. This was the objective of the celebrations and events carried out jointly by the French Embassy, the German Embassy and the Cultural Center for Language, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism earlier this month.

The events started with a musical concert by a Yemeni-French-German musical group. It was an interesting event in which the three cultures were mixed together and reflected both European and Arab arts. Not only music, but an exhibition for paintings and modern art took place in the events at the Cultural House in Sana'a, the exhibition will be lasting until the 25th of this month.

In spite of the disparity between European and Yemeni arts yet the mixing between the two in one exhibitions has been an interesting experience to witness. one of the French artists exclaimed. She added that this is the first time she works in a musical group with Arab artists and this experience has taught her a lot about cultural exchange.

Mr. Guido Zebisch Cultural Attaché at the German Embassy said that the musical group consisted of 5 Yemeni artists, a French artist with her group and a German artist with her group. The idea behind this musical initiative was triggered by the dialogue between cultures concept between Europe and the Arab world and that the whole team enjoyed their being together and the visits and tours they took around the capital Sana'a, he added.



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