

Khaiwani to apologize, or else

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Local, Arab, and international pressure is being exerted on the government to persuade it to release the prisoner of opinion, Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, editor-in-chief of Al-Shura Weekly, mouthpiece of the Public Forces Union Party.

Al-Khaiwani has been detained in the Sana'a Central Prison since September 5th. Many local, Arab and international organizations have urged the government to release him.

According to newspapers, negotiations are being held to release Al-Khaiwani but under the condition that he resigns his post at Al-Shura, agrees to no longer be an editor-in-chief of any other newspaper, and submits a letter of apology.

It is reported that Al-Khaiwani has refused to write the letter.

Continued detention of Al-Khaiwani, without allowing him to defend himself at the Court of Appeal, is a flagrant breach of the law and reflects the influence of state figures, politicians and media people over judicial procedures.

Critics have slashed at the passive approach of the judiciary and the judge chairing Al-Khaiwani's case, who has used unconvincing excuses to adjourn proceedings.

With the case expected to be reviewed this week, very close to the judges' holiday of Ramadhan, the press community is apprehensive of delaying the case, and further depriving Al-Khaiwani of his rights.

They express their fear that the appeal will keep him in prison during the trial proceedings.

The Judicial authorities continue to procrastinate looking into the appeal forwarded by Al-Khaiwani's lawyer. They claim the judge is ill, while he actually looks into other cases, a fact which underlines the political influence over the judiciary, which aims at keeping Al-Khaiwani imprisoned for as long as possible.

The US government has advised Yemen to settle Al-Khaiwani's case quickly because he is a prisoner of opinion, well-informed sources said.

According to Al-Sahwa.net, the sources reported that America has made it clear that continued detention of Al-Khaiwani, because of his opinions, would hinder the efforts of friendly countries that try to strengthen international partnerships for Yemen's development.

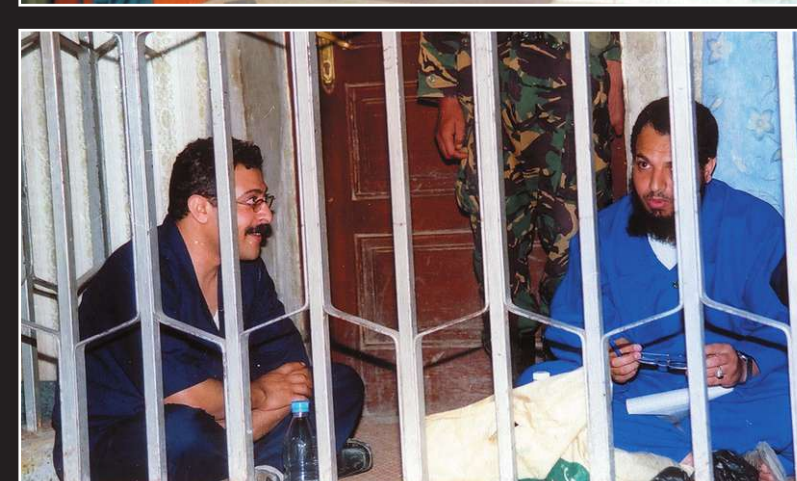
"Yemen's violations of the plurality of opinion by shutting down newspapers, attacking parties, kidnapping and detaining journalists would form a chief topic

in human rights watchdogs' reports," the US advice read.

It went on saying, "These organizations represent an international advisor to donors, such as the Congress which directs US aids."

New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said in a letter sent to President Saleh through the Yemeni ambassador to America that it considered the detention of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani for writing articles, a gross violation of the freedom of expression principle which is recognized worldwide.

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Drama at the hearing. Top: Khaiwani smiles as he hears the accusations against him. Middle: Judge reads out the verdict. Bottom: Murderer Ali Jarallah, who has been sentenced to death chatting with Khaiwani. Photos by S. Dabiah

Al-Khaiwani and Zeid targeted Assaults against opposition party leaders

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last week, two prominent politicians/journalists, who are members of political parties belonging to the "Political Rendezvous", a coalition of opposition parties, were reportedly subject to physical assault in different separate circumstances. However, both attacks were said to be more likely politically motivated. The first was an attempted assault on the imprisoned journalist Abdul-Karim Al-Khaiwani,

Editor-in-Chief of Al-Shoura Newspaper, who was sentenced to a year in prison and the closure of Al-Shoura for a year mid last month, in the Central Prison in Sana'a on last Saturday. A fellow convicted "inmate" (for murder) was said to have attempted on three occasions, last Saturday to assault Al-Khaiwani, without any apparent reason, but was successfully prevented from harming the journalist by the other inmates in the prison.

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Yemen Times Online makes history

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

According to recent statistics, Yemen Times Online (yementimes.com), the website of Yemen Times, had more than 5 million accesses in this year alone. The overall material downloaded from the website from January 1st 2004 until present date exceeded 40,000,000,000 bytes of electronic data. This extends Yemen Times' lead as Yemen's most popular website globally.

Furthermore, the number of accesses has been steadily rising from early 2004, projecting a possible reach of 8 million accesses by the end of the year. This puts the Yemen Times in the lead of regional websites as well.

Yemen Times Online has also been the leader in providing news on Yemen on major news networks such as news.google.com. It is also the top-ranking website in major search engines for queries on "Yemen" as it usually comes first or second on popular engines.

"Our sophisticated online interface used by the staff, branches, and stringers makes us quite advanced in IT compared to many newspapers in the region. We are continuing our efforts to

bolster our lead in this respect even further," said the Information Technology department manager of Yemen Times.

Yemen Times currently enjoys a broad readership ranging from regular locals to citizens in other continents. Its online subscription service now has thousands of subscribers from all over the world. Each of the subscribers receives up-to-date news to his/her email regularly.

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Workshop on social integration

TAIZ BUREAU

The French Organization DIA has organized a workshop from Sept 28-30 on social integration for the members of Taiz local councils. Twenty female and male trainees representing different local councils of the districts of Salah, al-Mudhaffar, and al-Qahirah participated in the workshop. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Nejmuddin Muhammad Abdo, Chairman of the Social project. Mr. Stefan Felandra, Representative of DIA, delivered a speech indicating the importance of conducting such workshops.

The aim of the workshop is to activate the role of the local councils in developing the poorest classes and their integration into the community.

"It is so necessary for us to realize the importance of upgrading the living standards of poor groups and exchanging points of view about experiences as local councils are our partners in the development process," said Mr. Felandra.

Mr. Ayyoub al-Qassemi, Officer-in-charge of the Media and social activities in DIA, clarified that the participants in the workshop would receive a number of theoretical and practical lectures on the connotations of social integration, its

relation with development and the importance of integrating the poorest groups into the community.

Participants will identify the hindrances, devices, negatives and positives of the social integration, as well as attending lectures focusing on local councils' role in developing the poor sectors, and strengthening the social integration process practically. They will also come out with new opinions and concepts. He added that the importance beyond the workshop is to activate the community's role in backing social integration programs meant for the poor segments in Taiz.

Awarding top secondary school students in Aden

By Nazih Abdulla Aden

An awarding ceremony was held on the morning of Monday 27th September in the faculty of Arts of Aden University, for the top ten students of the Preparatory and Secondary stages for the School Year 2003/2004. The party was organized by 'Spacelut Yemen', in the presence of Mr. Ahmed al-Dhulaci, the Assistant Deputy of Aden Governorate, and Dr. Mehdi Abdul Salam, the General Manager of Education Office in the Governorate as well as a number of government officials.

The Assistant Deputy of Aden Governorate delivered a speech in which he congratulated the successful students, praising the role played by them in pursuing their study, in addition to the efforts of the Governorate and the Educational leaderships in taking care of students.

On his part, the Education Director in Aden assured in his speech that Aden Governorate has occupied the first position in the whole of the Republic in the results of the Secondary school examinations. He pointed out that eight of the students from Aden scored in the Republic's top ten positions.

At the conclusion of the party, rewards and merit certificates were distributed among the top students. Additionally, 'Spacelut Yemen' has awarded "Lutfi Aman Secondary School" administration and teachers as well as two students. Dhu Yazn (who scored the first position in the Republic) was awarded complete home furniture and a computer. The second one called Haider Omer Saleh, (who scored the second position in the Republic) received a gift of US\$500.00. Besides, the Secondary administration was supplied with 20 computers as a contribution towards encouraging education in our country.

Girl scout camp

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Within the framework of activities held to celebrate the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the September Revolution, The Girls Scout Association (GSA) concluded on Sunday 26th September a 9-day guiding camp taking place in the Women's Center for Training.

Ms. Najat Al-Khalki, a member at the GSA, told the Yemen Times about the camp "This is the second national guide camp that the GSA has organized to celebrate the anniversaries of September, October and November."

She further said, "There are about 200 participants from different governorates. The aim of this camp is to give

a chance to young girls to take part in celebrating the anniversaries of the revolution, as well as to let them acquire experiences and knowledge from the camp's programs and curricula, the most important of which is to realize the role of women in the development of society."

She gave more explanation on the activities of the camp: "The girls joined different workshops and activities according to their interests. There are skills, leadership, development, amusements, sport games and culture workshops."

It is worth mentioning that the girl scouts (along with a number of boy scout teams) organized on Sunday 21st September, a festival in Al-Sabeen Park.

Mr. Jamal AL-Khwalani, Undersecretary of the capital, Sana'a, attended the event and pointed out the importance of youth camps in evolving young talents and encouraging them to acquire new skills besides deepening and strengthening the relationships between young Yemeni people.

Al-Khwalani also invited everybody to benefit from these camps, and other meetings for youth groups..

He also revealed that the political leadership pays constant attention to the youth sector, as it is one of the bases of the development processes.

Chinese celebrate national day

By MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Chinese Embassy in Sana'a staged last Thursday an enormous ceremony on the occasion of their national day. Tens of Chinese colonies in Yemen and Arab and Foreign Diplomats were invited to the ceremony, in addition to a number of China's friends including Arabs and Yemeni government dignitaries, businessmen as well as Yemeni and Foreign media personnel.

HE the Chinese Ambassador to Sana'a delivered a speech in which he expressed his happiness at the kind treatment the Chinese receive in Yemen, pointing out that such treatment is based on the long time relations between the two brotherly countries.

He also emphasized on the currently strong relations between the two nations in all aspects and wished Yemen and China a prosperous future.

Eighteen school principals heading for Saudi Arabia

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Within the framework of the cultural and educational cooperation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which started after signing the agreement of the boundaries between both the countries in the Year 2004, 18 school principals have headed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the purpose of a short term

course that will last for two weeks.

About 156 students went last year to Saudi Arabia, to study in the Saudi universities, and out of which 109 students are studying in the faculties of education (teachers). The other students are distributed among different Saudi universities. This educational cooperation between the two countries is the first of its kind since the Gulf war that occurred in 1990.

Fires destroy two homes in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

Fire broke out on September 30th in Mohammed Al-Raimi's home, chief of Wadi Al-Qadhi neighborhood in the city of Taiz. It was started by his young daughter who was playing with matchsticks. Firemen and the police rushed to the scene

where furniture was left completely burned.

Coincidentally, another fire was initiated in Ali Al-Ba'adani's home in Al-Shamasi area, Taiz. A container of a flammable chemical had been placed next to the gas-stall. This carelessness ended up causing the loss of most of the house furniture.

Malaysian Batik Collection and Child to school program

By: Fahmia AL-Fotih For the Yemen Times

Ms. Hasnah Kamin, the wife of Malaysian ambassador, held in her residence on Wednesday 29th September, an exhibition of Malaysian Batik collection to benefit the Yemeni Education and Relief Organization (YERO), which sponsors the "Child to School" program.

Ms. Hasnah told the Yemen Times "This is a promotion for Malaysian batik because this batik is brought from Malaysia to our friends here in Sana'a, to see and admire the batik which is a part of Malaysian heritage. We have two purposes and targets. One is to let people know what the Malaysian batik looks like, the other is mainly send the profits of this event to YERRO to help sponsor the "Child to school" program for unfortunate children. In my opinion, education is vital as it makes a difference to life and ones thinking. It makes a difference to how we react and talk. So that's why I took this project, as I think this will help the less-fortunate in Yemen and Sana'a in particular. I am so happy to do this when I see the people buy."

Nouria Naji, the director of YERO, also talked to the Yemen Times "We have a new project that started in February called sponsoring a child to school. Mainly what we are trying to do is to help children who are unfortunate, who work, and who come from poor families, children who cannot afford the fees of schooling. We try as much as we can to help them and also to help their families by giving them rations, not monthly, but every two months or month and half. So we encourage them to keep their children at school. We also

try to make connections with hospitals, and private doctors so that if these children get sick, they can have treatment freely. In fact there are a lot of doctors willing to do so without getting a penny.

At the moment we have only 15 children from three families. These children have already started school in February and they are going very well. Most of them they didn't know how to hold a pen but now they can at least read the alphabet and they can write their names. This is an achievement for us to see them happy. We also try to help the all members of their family for instance, young boys and girls who don't want to study, we put them into training with local organizations which mostly are very helpful and willing in this project. Everybody wants to participate and everybody is keen to do something and this makes us feel good in the end. We are trying to help as many children as we can and put them into school and we are trying to get funding from individuals and from events like this for instance. The profit of this event will go to the children, and I have a big waiting-list".

About the YERO's activities, she said, "We did a lot of work in the beginning. We have tried to help as many juveniles' centers (for both boys' and girls') as we can. We have helped the prisons here in Sana'a. We did and have helped a lot of begger centers in Sana'a which are run by Mr. Rashed AL-Shwal. We have received in a year and half, four certificates of appreciation. We feel happy to know that people appreciate what we are doing"

She concluded, "I would like to thank the Malaysian ambassador's wife who is hosting this event. It is kind of her to do so and it is all her idea."

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Who do you think will be the ultimate winner of the three US presidential debates?

- John Kerry
- George Bush
- They will be even

last edition's question:

Do you think that the verdict executing two and imprisoning other USS Cole defendants a just verdict?

- Yes, I believe it was a just sentence 62%
- No, the defendants deserved more 20%
- No, others involved needed to be brought to trial 18%

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

National team camps in China

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The national football team is leaving for China today to hold an external practice match there with the participation of 22 players under the Algerian Coach Rabeh Sadan. The team is preparing to meet its North Korean counterpart in the away match of the fifth Asian group qualifiers for the World Cup 2006 in Germany.

The North Korean team is leading the group with 8 points, followed by the UAE that has 7 and Yemen that raised its credit to 4 points after defeating the UAE. Thailand is ranked last in the group with 3 points.

The 22 players also staged an internal training camp in Sana'a that lasted for 6 days and was concluded on Wednesday October 6th after being summoned by the Coaching Staff of the team led by Sadan to represent Yemen in the North Korean capital.

The external camp in the Chinese capital Beijing will last for 4 days during which the team is due to stage two practice matches and then set off to face Korea on October 13th.

The national team harvested 4 points in the Asian eliminations for the World Cup through its win over the UAE, and draw with North Korea in the opening game.

One month after this game, the team will play against Thailand in the last encounter in Bangkok.

Training course on combating AIDS

TAIZ BUREAU

A training course on the combat of Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) started last Sunday in Taiz. The course is being organized by the National Program for the Combat of AIDS and Health & Population Office, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Netherlands. It will continue up to October 27th 2004 with the participation of 20 female and male trainees from different districts all over the governorate of Taiz.

The participants will listen to many lectures during the course that aims at raising the awareness of the harms

caused by AIDS, improving the skills of medical field workers and instructing them about the diagnosis and treatment of AIDS sufferers as well as limiting the spread of the epidemic.

Medical sources recently released that the number of last year's AIDS cases in Yemen amounted up to 379, largely due the shortage of health care and the lack of safe means for blood transmission. Blood is almost always transmitted from a person to another in the absence of the necessary laboratory tests.

The course was inaugurated by the Assistant Deputy of the Governorate of Taiz, Ali Mohammad AL-Maqqashi.

Gulf Air honors agents

Gulf Air Annual Agents Award for 2003 Function for both Passenger & Cargo was held on the 15th September at Tajsheba Hotel. His Excellency Ambassador of oman Abdulla Bin Hamd Albady was the

Chief Guest of Honor and gave away the certificates to the winning agents. The following agents were awarded for their performances:

Passengers: Universal Head Office: Gold Adhban Trave: Silver yemen travel & tours:Bronze

Regonization Award: Al Mokaram Travel, Sky Travels & Universal Zubairy Branch

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H.E. Abdulla Bin Hamad Albady among the winning agents in a memorial photograph

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The drive to get women into politics

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Women's National Committee is out in full force to bring women into Yemen's political arena. The committee has proposed a quota system that if parliament passes to law, would ensure that women take up 30% of the seats in parliament, local councils and the Shoura council. It is now pushing for one million signatures to back their drive for women to be more active in both the government and the country's decision making.

Rashida Al-Hamdani, Chairperson of the Women's National Committee, said that she has received some positive feedback.

"I got some positive responses from parliamentary members that they will accept it," said Al-Hamdani. "When we talked to the opposition recently, it was the turning point. They accepted the idea. If that happens, then there will be no need for one million signatures."

Progress made to get women into politics has been far from successful in the last decade. In the elections of 1993 and 1997, two women took seats in parliament. Now after elections in 2003, there is only one woman serving as a member of parliament, she works with 300 male members of parliament. In 1993, 41 women ran to become parliament members, but last year there were only 11. In local councils, women take up 37 positions out of 6,000 across the country, which is less than one percent.

A number of women involved in working for women's rights and the development of the status of women in Yemen believe that more strategies need to be implemented for women to participate in Yemen's politics. Many say that a governmental decision to draw women into political positions would be a big boost, but they hold that more results

could also come from a grassroots approach.

"The quota system is good, but it is important to develop from the bottom and work up from there," said Ramzia Al-Eryani, Chairwoman of the Yemen Women's Union.

The Women's Union is concentrating on having women in their nationwide centers being involved in numerous services and making sure that they work in the areas they are from. The organization believes that this will build a reputation for women being active in areas and will give them a better chance of being elected in the future.

"We encourage women to serve the people in many areas so that people will see them to as being very good and select them in elections," said Al-Eryani. "If the people have to choose from women they don't know, who haven't served them, and don't have a relationship with them, they will not be happy to vote for the women."

Instead, we aim at people selecting a capable woman who has done social work, projects and helped the community."

Al-Eryani added that the Women's Union is giving an extra effort to show the public that women are well suited for jobs in Yemeni politics. "The goal is to do more than a man because in our tradition people don't like a woman to be in parliament. But if they see her doing more than a man, they will vote for her," said Al-Eryani.

Some believe that even though women as parliament members will be a plus, concentrating on women being involved in local councils will yield longer-term changes.

"The place for change is in the local councils," said Raufa Al-Sharki, Chairperson of Cultural Development Project Planning Foundation. "With local councils in every place around the country, it is local governing that will bring changes."

Al-Sharki also pointed out that if the quota system is implemented, "It will force councils to have a specific percentage of women. That is a way for women to learn how to do politics, which is an area where women were forbidden and were not allowed for centuries."

Others emphasize the need for more

women to be fully educated and to build on their qualifications to be politicians. The US State Department's recent report said that 67.5% of women in Yemen were illiterate in 2002. The World Bank has calculated that only 39% of school-age girls are enrolled in primary school to get a basic education.

The Ministry of Education, with the support of donor countries and The World Bank, has been building more classrooms and schools and recruiting more teachers to boost the enrollment of girls. But according to Najat Al-Fakih, Professor of Education at Sana'a University, there are forces working against the efforts to increase women's literacy. Although enrollment is moving up, many girls continue to drop out after basic education in rural areas due to early marriages. And Yemen's population growth rate, which is one of the highest in the world, is countering the action taken to get more girls to finish their education.

One thing that has been absent has been an overall women's movement. "The women's movement has not gone anywhere," said Afrah Al-Ahmadi, Head of Health and Social Protection Unit at the Social Fund for Development.

Al-Ahmadi believes that the cause of the country lacking a women's movement comes from society in which women are taught "not to challenge the status quo."

Others claim that organizations devoted to the progress of women have yet to develop a coordinated effort.

"Organizations for women have little coordination and are fragmented," said Horia Ahmed, Deputy Chairperson of the Women's National Committee. "It is important for organizations to have a common goal and to distribute responsibilities as decision makers and those that implement those decisions."

Many are worried that the quota system proposal will have a difficult time being passed by the parliament. One of the requirements might be a change to the country's constitution, which is far from likely.

According to Al-Hamdani, the Women's Committee is trying to find a way for the proposal to be implemented without changing the constitution.

"It appears that the law would require amending the constitution, which is something we don't want," said Al-Hamdani. "We'll try to hold a seminar with legal experts to see if it is possible not to amend the law and the constitution so that we can move it along quickly."

Others believe that international pressure may have an influence on the quota system being installed. A representative of a women's organization said, "I think the government will pass the law because donor countries will push for it and the international community would like to see it happen."

The representative also said, "What is important is that the push for women's rights in politics must be done as a group effort and achieve particular goals before the local council elections in 2006, and parliamentary elections in 2009."

Will it be the last?



By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The current situation of football in Yemen, as demonstrated by the national coaching staff of the Youth team and the general regression lead us to the sad conclusion that we have "nothing to look backward to with pride, and nothing to look forward to with hope".

Why did the Coach, Amin Al-Sunaini, not respond to the advice of the wise president when he stated that an experienced foreign Coach is required to lead the hope team along with him? Amin, throughout his coaching post, has never produced for us a positive change in the second half of any encounter, to change the course of events. Utilizing the mistakes of a former games is also totally absent.

The Iraqi Coach maintained his team's clean sheet in the three encounters of the first round, and is expected to surprise football lovers in coming meetings. The Korean Coach, after a 3-0 loss to Iraq, grasped a lesson to defeat Yemen 4-0 in the second meeting of group four qualifiers in the Asian finals. Our Coach benefited from the opening game against Thailand, in which he received a 2-1 defeat, to further lose 4-0 to the Koreans.

Feigning ability while really being unable yields nothing but failure.

It is normal for our champions to come back home from Malaysia with Hunain's pair of boots, with no points but conceding eight goals is the only harvest of three games.

The recent results forced the esteemed Coach of the youth team to bravely declare his resignation after the heavy battle with Korea, however we are convinced that not he alone is responsible for such miserable results, but the players are in the same box. The results should not be surprising: anything is likely to happen to a team in the shadow of haphazard planning and no confidence against spirited opponents accustomed to victory.

The terrible defeats must not be the end of a beginning, as it is hopefully the last one in the history of the Yemeni football if reforms are reconsidered.

What is much more harmful is the spiritual defeat. Why is a considerate Coach obliged to give in so easily after a few defeats?

For us Yemenis, we have been accustomed to tasting the bittersweet losses in many international football competitions for a long time, as that of the 16th Gulf Championship and several eliminations from World Cups. So, why has our Coach not faced the recent calamities with fortitude? Is it not a shame for the commander to quit and leave the warriors suffocating in the embattled area?

Training course on sign language

TAIZ BUREAU

A training course on sign language, organized by the National Youth Cultural Center, started last Sunday and will last for ten days. A number of leading figures from Civil Community Organizations, media personnel, teachers and students from Taiz University, are participating in the event.

Mrs. Abeer Raweh, the course coordinator, stated that this function aims at facilitating ways of dealing with the deaf and dumb, as well as raising the level of awareness among people in society about this matter.

"We always exert effort for the sake of

helping this category of society communicate with other people, and there will be a direct meeting to bring deaf and dumb, and those who are able to speak together," Mrs. Abeer said. She added that the center, through this course, works for spreading sign language since it is universal and not limited to a particular country.

"This course is pondered upon as the first of a series of courses for many sides that deal directly with the deaf and dumb like teachers, traffic officers, lawyers and others" she said, insisting on the necessity of benefiting from such functions.

It is noteworthy that Mrs. Mayyan Al-Asbahi will handle the training task and care for those with special needs.

The EU-OIC joint forum cancelled

The joint forum of the foreign ministers from the European Union and the Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC), which was scheduled to be held in Istanbul on October 4-5, was cancelled.

The EU term president country The Netherlands boycotted the joint forum as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was participating as the Cyprus Turkish State.

On Friday the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying the EU-OIC joint forum was cancelled. The statement said that the EU term presidency objected to TRNC's observer status in the joint forum as the Cyprus Turkish state.

"The Current President of the

European Union has informed the host country that they will not participate in the Forum in objection to the participation of the Turkish Cypriots as the 'Turkish Cypriot State'," said the statement.

"The decision by the EU Presidency not to participate in the Forum, and the call it made to other member states to this effect, has resulted in the cancellation of the Foreign Ministers meeting, whose objectives were not political. The meeting was aimed to provide opportunities to discuss mechanisms with political, economic and cultural dimensions, based on the need for the world communities to act in harmony and cooperation with one another," the press statement concluded.

The OIC, through this statement, expressed regret for the cancellation of the meeting, which the statement described as an event that "was expected to deepen dialogue and reinforce understanding among the two parties."

Earlier on Friday the Turkish Foreign Minister and deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gul said that controversy arose between the EU and the OIC on Cyprus. "As the EU's decisions are important for them, the OIC's decisions are important for the OIC members as well," Gul said indicating the deadlock in the matter.

The President of the TRNC Rauf Denktaş slammed the EU for seeing the Greek Cypriot side as a legitimate state and Turkish Cypriots as a community.

Cultural Functions wrapped up

TAIZ BUREAU

The concluding ceremony of the fourth cultural competition was held at the Al-Sa'eed Forum for Culture (AFC) within the closing days of September. Many districts of Taiz Governorate took part in the competitions staged in the framework of the Fourth Cultural & Sporting Crystal Festival (FCSCF), in Celebration of the Yemeni Revolutions of September and October. The activities were organized by the Office of Youth and Sports (OYS), and Sports Union for All (SUA) in collaboration with Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science

and Culture (AFSC).

Mohammed Al-Ansi, Undersecretary of Taiz Governorate, Abdullah Al-Ammari, General Director of the OYS, Abdullah Moqbil, the Representative of the Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap Industries (YCGSI), Faisal Madhaji, General Manager of Al-Sa'eed Foundation and Ammar Al-Mu'alem, General Director of the Information Office in the Governorate, attended the ceremony which started with the recitation of verses from the holy Qura'an. After that, speeches commending the occasion were delivered by the above-mentioned figures. Fares Al-Aghbari, a member of the organiz-

ing committee stated that the YCGSI represented by Shukri Al-Ghrais played a vital role in supporting the competitions and inspiring the talents of the sons and daughters of the districts. Males from Al-Salam district came first and Females from Mawya second in the competition. The event lasted for four days with 20 districts taking part.

Mohammed Alwan, Chief of the Cultural Committee for Taiz Clubs, Head of the Organizing Committee, Abdulhadi Naji, and Fahema Taha Al-Manefi, committee members arbitrated and organized the contest. Finally Mr. Al-Ansi and his companions honored the winners.

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Improvements on juvenile center for girls

By Peter Willems
Yemen Times Staff

“I feel much safer and happier here at the center because it feels like a boarding school,” said one of the girls staying at the juvenile rehabilitation center that recently moved into a new building. “I have learned so much, and I hope that one day I can restart my life.”

Last July, the center, called The House of Hope, was relocated from inside the capital to a new location on the outskirts of the city on Marib Road, which is among other institutions for the handicapped, the blind and beggars.

But other important changes were made last summer that improved conditions for girls at the center.

Management of the institute was handed over to the newly-founded Yemeni NGO Saleh Social Institution for Development. Afrah Al-Ahmadi, Head of Health and Social Protection Unit at the Social Fund for Development, which offers financial and technical support for the juvenile center, said that the new management team has made a number of improvements.

“The organization has started off very well,” said Al-Ahmadi. “It has a clearly-defined mission statement, consults people in the field and is starting off big to make important changes.”

Al-Ahmadi also added that changes in the institute were necessary.

“There were some serious problems in the previous center. There were not enough activities, there was a lack of transparency and there might have been some abuse within the institute. We have now seen some major improvements,” said Al-Ahmadi.

Fatima Jarallah also became the new director of the center last July. She has put an emphasis on a number of strategies to help improve the rehabilitation process. Each day attention is given to basic education and computer skills while religious studies are provided for the girls twice a week. Vocational training, such as focusing on handicrafts, is also important. Every three months the

center will hold an exhibition of handicrafts so that the girls’ work can be sold.

“The girls will be happy to see an income from their work,” said Jarallah. “I want them to learn the skills because it is important for their future.”

The staff includes a psychologist and a social worker – both women – to help the girls address their problems and become more prepared for the future. In the near future, another psychologist and social worker will be added to the staff. To help girls feel safe, the security guards inside the center are only women.

Jarallah has added another technique to the center. “I am here to give the girls confidence,” said Jarallah. “I never remind them of their crimes. This care changes them. The girls feel safer and feel warmth. You see that they have more confidence than in the old place.”

The government has been working on dealing with children accused of crimes in recent years. To stop children spending time in prisons with adults, a number of juvenile centers for boys have been established along with the center for girls in Sana’a. United Nations Children’s Fund has teamed up with the government to train judges to handle children’s cases differently than with adults.

There are plans to build another juvenile center for girls in Aden in the near future and possibly establishing more in other governorates. Jarallah said that until other centers are built elsewhere, the House of Hope has room to accept girls from other provinces.

According to Jarallah, crimes committed by girls are generally minor, including theft or being runaways. Many of the girls in the center are facing a serious problem, however: It is hard to be accepted by the community and they have been disowned by their families, which will make it difficult to be integrated into mainstream Yemeni life. Even more difficult are those that ran away from home after being victims of abuse.

“Some escape from the house due to problems, such as physical abuse or violence,” said Nahla Al-Nassiri, the center’s social worker. “They are afraid



A security guard at the juvenile center for girls near Sana’a
(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



A well-kept bedroom in the juvenile center for girls near Sana’a
(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Syndicates in Yemen: the future horizons

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen Center for Strategic Studies set up a symposium Tuesday, Sept 28th on laws regulating workers syndicates and the role of women in them.

The first paper, presented by Sa’eed Abdul-Mun’im Anaam, Chairman of the General Syndicate for Petroleum, Mining and Chemicals, dealt with the law regulating the workers syndicates in Yemen before and after the Reunification.

“Since May 22nd, 1990, several laws have been issued in connection with the labor and the laborers such as Civil Service, Insurance, Labor, and other laws. There are also the laws of parties, and elections in addition to frequent amendments of the constitution,” mentioned the paper.

According to the paper, the law organizing syndicates has remained inactive, though. It went from the Government to the Parliament and vice versa as essential issues remained as sticking points between the two sides. “This legislative inefficiency paralyzed the Yemeni syndicates because issuing the law was significant and was to mark a new phase in the syndicates’ history.”

After a lot of dispute, the draft was relegated to the Parliament in April

2001. It remained to be a discussion topic at the Workforce and Social Affairs Commission, and was finally issued in August 2002.

Despite difficulties, the Yemen syndicate work is still in its infancy due to lack of awareness of its importance by the majority of the Yemeni people.”

Miss Fouziah Hussein, head of the Women Department in the Syndicate Commission at the Yemen Petroleum Company, mentioned in her paper the significance of the women’s role in the community and their participation in production. She said that women are facing lots of challenges. They should fight for their rights including equal study, work, and promotion opportunities.

“Women had to find the means to achieve their goals and improve their status. Women joined most of the associations, unions, and political and public organizations which were established in compliance with the circumstances and requirements of each stage of development and growth so as to build a developed community enjoying freedom.”

She added: “Women worked during



the last period attempting to attain equality with men, and obtain their rights fully as prescribed by the constitution and the law. They have the rights to affiliate to public and political organizations, including syndicates and unions. Yet, women participation is still limited. This is because they are not encouraged by syndicate leaders, and are not educated on their syndicate rights. Laborers in general do not know the conditions of syndicate affiliation, and mistakenly think that syndicates are mere opposition bodies encountering officials of the establishments.”

“Non-establishing of a special frame taking care of women affairs in the unions, since the union formations, have much helped conceal women’s real contribution. They are not given the chance to defend their rights,” she concluded.

Crystal concluding celebration staged

TAIZ BUREAU

The Fourth Cultural and Sports Festival of the national soap, Crystal, was concluded with a celebration at Al-Shuhada Square, Taiz, on Monday, Oct. 4. The celebration, organized by the Office of Sports and Youth in Taiz, and ‘Sports for All’ Federation and sponsored by the Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap (YCGS) coincided with the anniversaries of the Yemeni revolutions. It was attended by Mohammed Ahmed al-Ansi, Governorate Assistant Secretary, Hani Abduljabbar Hayel, Deputy Director of the company, Abdullah Saleh al-Amari,



Director of Sports and Youth Office, Colonel Abdullah Mure’i, Assistant Commander of Taiz Security for Police Affairs, Dr. Redha al-Kizdaghli, Information and Communication Consultant of Al-Saeed Group, officers and sportsmen and members of the company’s staff.

The celebration began with a recitation from the Holy Quraan. Speeches were then delivered by Abdullah al-Amari, and Mohammed al-Ansi, highlighting the significance of supporting youth and boosting their talents in

sports and culture. The speeches encouraged Hayel Group to go on sponsoring youth programs in all fields. Hani Abduljabbar said that: “the celebration, organized by YCGS as an annual tradition to celebrate the revolution anniversary, proves our commitments towards the national development. This festival attains significance because it focuses on the most important social group, youth. It also discovers young talents.”

The celebration concluded many sections such as showing the bands and the oberiet, “This is Yemen”, gymnasts, a draw, and winner announcement Prizes worth a hundred, fifty, forty, thirty, and twenty thousands were distributed. The Marathon racer and the top ranked participants in all activities received cups and the rest will receive theirs on Oct. 11 2004 in a similar joyful events.

In the conclusion of the festival a final match between the teams of al-Qaherah district and al-Mudhafar district took place and was finished with penalty kicks.



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Hamas sets terms for end to rockets against Israel

BEIRUT, Oct 5 (Reuters) - The militant Palestinian group Hamas said on Tuesday it would not stop firing its makeshift Qassam rockets at Israel while Israel continued its Gaza offensive and its occupation of Palestinian land.

"The firing of locally made Qassam rockets is nothing but a means of defending our people in the face of the advanced Zionist war machine," Hamas representative in Lebanon Osama Hamdan said in a statement. "As for talk about an initiative to stop the firing of Qassam rockets, we reaffirm that the occupation is the problem and it is up to the enemy to stop its aggression first and to leave our land second."

"Faced with escalating aggression, we in Hamas affirm our right to continue our resistance against the Zionist occupation in all its forms," Hamdan said.

In what appeared to be a signal to militants to halt rocket attacks, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said in a radio speech broadcast on Monday they should "avoid giving the occupation any pretext" to attack Palestinians. Some officials of Hamas, an Islamist group behind dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis, suggested they might be ready to stop firing their rockets if the Jewish state halted the massive offensive in northern Gaza that has killed 68 Palestinians in the last six days of fighting. Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said that Israel would not accept any kind of agreement while rocket fire persisted.

Israeli strike kills Islamic Jihad chief-witnesses

GAZA, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Israel killed the chief military commander of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in an airstrike on Tuesday, the highest profile Israeli assassination for months, local leaders of the group said.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment on the death of Bashir ad-Dabbash, 38. Another militant was critically wounded in the strike, witnesses said.

Islamic Jihad, sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state, has been one of the main groups behind a suicide bombing campaign that has killed hundreds of Israelis during 4 years of conflict.

"Israel will soon see our reaction. Revenge will be painful and inside the depths of the Zionist entity," one local leader said at the morgue in Gaza.

Dabbash was the most senior militant killed in Gaza since Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi in April.

The strike came as Israeli forces continued a massive offensive in northern Gaza to stop rocket attacks.

At least 68 Palestinians, including 40 militants, have been killed in the raid, which followed the killing of two Israeli toddlers in a Palestinian rocket attack. Two Israeli soldiers and a woman settler have also died.



Palestinians push the car of the chief military commander of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad Bashir ad-Dabbash, after a suspected Israeli airstrike in Gaza Strip, October 5. Israel killed the chief military commander of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in an air strike in Gaza City on Tuesday, local leaders of the group said. The Israeli army had no immediate comment on the death of Bashir ad-Dabbash. REUTERS

Syria reshuffles cabinet, new interior minister

DAMASCUS, Oct 4 (Reuters) - President Bashar al-Assad reshuffled Syria's cabinet on Monday, changing eight ministers including the key interior, economy and information portfolios, a government source said.

Ghazi Kanaan, a former head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, was named interior minister, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

The reshuffle of the one-year-old cabinet handed the information portfolio to the editor-in-chief of the ruling party's newspaper Mahdi Dakhil-Allah.

Amer Lotfi, the manager of the state-owned cotton arm in Aleppo, replaced Ghassan al-Rifai, a former World Bank official, as economy and commerce minister. Rifai was in the first cabinet appointed by Assad after he assumed power in 2000 succeeding his late father Hafez al-Assad.

The industry portfolio went to Ghassan Tayara, the country's engineers syndicate chief.

The reshuffle that introduced eight first time ministers also included the portfolios of health, Islamic endowments, Justice and social affairs and labour.

Terror fears boost security industry-experts

DOHA, Oct 5 (Reuters) - The "fear factor" is bolstering demand for security as businesses seek protection against the threat of terror attacks, participants at a defence exhibit said on Tuesday.

The Milipol defence exhibit, which opened in the Gulf state of Qatar this week, showcased technology ranging from armoured vehicles and laser-guided weapons to satellite devices that scan tankers for bombs.

Organisers say they have had a 35 percent increase in the number of companies exhibiting at Milipol - a testament to the world's growing concern with security.

"Security is more important today than at any other time. Not only in the Middle East, but internationally," Milipol Director General Gilles Fournier told Reuters.

Militants, many linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, have struck around the globe, targeting Western banks, foreigners and embassies in countries from Spain to Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

"I don't think there's any question

that acts of terrorism keep us very busy," said Marcelino Malavet, director of operations at DynCorp, a leading global security firm.

Demand for security services has risen in the Gulf after the U.S. war on Iraq and militant attacks against energy companies and Western housing compounds in Saudi Arabia, which has witnessed an al Qaeda-linked 17-month campaign of bombings, kidnappings and shootings.

So far, over 70 foreigners have been killed in Saudi Arabia.

Al Qaeda, responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, has vowed to carry out more attacks. Earlier this month, bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri urged Muslims to organise resistance against "crusader America" and its allies.

"Providing protection in Iraq and Afghanistan has become much more challenging as more and more incidents occur each day and terrorists are trying harder," said Malavet.

Qatar has hosted Milipol ever other year since 1996.

Iraq town struggles back to life after US assault

SAMARRA, Iraq, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Iraqi security forces and American troops patrolled the battered streets of Samarra on Tuesday, as normal life began returning after a U.S.-led assault wrested the city from rebels.

The mayor of Samarra, Taha al-Hindera, told Reuters water and electricity were available again and a bridge leading into the city of 250,000 had been partially reopened.

"There are police patrols around the city and life is coming back to normal," a Sunni Muslim cleric, Ahmed al-Dayi, said.

Some 3,000 U.S. troops and 2,000 Iraqi soldiers, backed by U.S. warplanes and artillery, stormed Samarra, 60 miles (100 km) north of Baghdad, in a 36-hour weekend assault to dislodge an estimated 500 to 1,000 guerrillas roaming the mainly Sunni city.

The attack was part of plans by the U.S.-backed Iraqi interim government to suppress insurgents to enable nationwide parliamentary elections to go ahead on time in January.

"Thank God life is returning to normal. It is not the same as before the clashes but it has improved," said Saad Abdel Wahab, a 34-year-old taxi driver.

"Water and electricity is coming back and petrol stations are starting to



An Iraqi family sit amid the rubble outside their home in the northern city of Samarra October 3. U.S.-led forces backed by warplanes tightened their grip on the rebel stronghold of Samarra Saturday, saying they had killed 125 rebels in one of the largest offensives since the fall of Saddam Hussein. REUTERS

open. Shops are opening again and people are walking freely in the streets."

U.S. forces said they killed 125

fighters and captured 88 in the Samarra assault, which destroyed dozens of buildings and, according to locals, inflicted a heavy toll on civilians.

In previous fighting with U.S.-Iraqi forces, insurgents melted into the local population, only to resurface later.

American snipers maintained some positions on rooftops in Samarra, witnesses said.

Residents said they were still under a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed when fighting erupted but town officials suggested it might be eased soon.

Residents said U.S. bulldozers had dug positions in one part of town, which they feared presaged a new round of fighting.

"U.S. troops are stationed near schools and they are an easy target for the resistance. The surrounding buildings where people live will get hit. That is what happened before," said Saad Mahmoud, 27, a labourer.

Some families who had fled the clashes by boat because roads were closed began returning home.

Iraqi Defence Minister Hazim al-Shalaan told Al Arabiya television on Monday Iraqi forces captured 42 suspected foreign fighters in Samarra. They included 18 Egyptians and 18 Sudanese.

Other challenges facing U.S. and Iraqi forces include Falluja and Ramadi, guerrilla strongholds west of Baghdad which the U.S. military tried unsuccessfully to capture in April.

Britain's Straw says Iraq elections must go ahead

BAGHDAD, Oct 5 (Reuters) - British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, on a surprise visit to Iraq, said on Tuesday violence must not upset plans to hold nationwide elections.

"I believe they can and should take place by the end of January in all of Iraq," Straw said.

Straw said his trip had been long planned and was not directly connected to efforts for the release of 62-year-old British engineer Ken Bigley, kidnapped in Baghdad on Sept. 16.

"But of course when I get to Baghdad the issue of Ken Bigley and his plight will be high on my agenda," he told reporters in northern Iraq, where he met Kurdish leaders.

Asked whether there had been any contact with Bigley's captors, he said: "Not to my knowledge."

Britain has vowed not to bargain with the kidnappers, Islamic militants led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. They have already beheaded two Americans seized with the Briton.

The son of Libyan leader Muammar

Gaddafi said he was using his charity foundation contacts in Iraq to help free Bigley. He said he believed the next 48 hours would be critical.

A taped appeal to the kidnappers from Bigley's 86-year-old mother Lil has been played repeatedly on Iraqi radio.

Straw's visit to Iraq coincides with a bloody trial of strength between insurgents and U.S.-Iraqi forces trying to stop them from sabotaging the planned elections.

Rampant insecurity has raised questions about whether the polls can go ahead, but interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi again pledged to hold them on time.

"We won't let terrorist forces dictate our schedule," he told Iraq's interim assembly. "Military operations will go on until stability has been established in all Iraqi cities."

A U.S.-Iraqi assault drove insurgents off the streets of the northern town of Samarra at the weekend. Police patrolled the town on Tuesday and water and electricity was restored.



British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw addresses reporters during his visit to Arbil October 5. Straw, on a surprise visit to Iraq, said on Tuesday violence must not upset plans to hold nationwide elections. REUTERS

But rebels remain in control of other areas such as the Sunni Muslim bastions of Falluja and Ramadi, west of Baghdad, and the Shi'ite slum district of Sadr City in the capital.

Fresh violence

Three Iraqi civilians were killed and three wounded in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday when U.S. troops opened fire after a car bomb blast targeting their convoy, witnesses said.

The U.S. military said four soldiers had been wounded by rocket-propelled grenade fire after the bombing. Another car bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy in Ramadi, killing four Iraqis and wounding two, hospital officials said.

Five decapitated bodies, all believed to be Iraqis, have been found in northern towns, local officials said.

In Baghdad, mortar fire killed one civilian and wounded another near a passport office in the city centre.

Two senior Iraqi customs officials were assassinated in Latifiya, south of Baghdad, on Monday, police said. A

roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier and wounded a second in the Iraqi capital on Monday night, the military said.

That raised to 807 the U.S. combat death toll since the United States invaded Iraq last year to topple Saddam Hussein and eliminate what Washington said was the peril posed by his weapons of mass destruction and links with al Qaeda.

No such weapons have been found and U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday he knew of no "strong, hard evidence" linking Saddam with Osama bin Laden's network that carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Rumsfeld said on Tuesday his remark had been misunderstood. "I have acknowledged since September 2002 that there were ties between al Qaeda and Iraq," he said in statement issued after his comments to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Any admission by the U.S. administration that it had scant evidence to link Saddam with al Qaeda could embarrass

President George W. Bush in his campaign for re-election on Nov. 2.

Bush has said Zarqawi was "in and out of Baghdad" before the war and was the best evidence of an al Qaeda connection.

With Bush under fire over Iraq, the man he sent to run the country appeared to join critics of the administration's postwar planning, saying it had initially failed to send enough forces to ensure stability or stop looting after Saddam's fall.

"We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Paul Bremer said in a speech reported by the Washington Post on Tuesday. "We never had enough troops on the ground."

French teargas stone-hurling Ivory Coast militants



Ivory Coast demonstrators throw stones at French soldiers during a demonstration in front of the French military base in Abidjan, October 5, REUTERS

ABIDJAN, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Demonstrators hurled rocks at French soldiers outside their base in Ivory Coast's main city of Abidjan on Tuesday and troops used teargas to try to disperse

them. It was the third day in a row protesters had gathered at the base, calling for a 4,000-strong French peacekeeping force in the West African country to quit a ceasefire line separating the government-held south from the rebel-held north. Ivorian security forces calmed a crowd of several hundred demonstrators early on Tuesday but after they left, the protesters resumed firing stones with catapults at the French soldiers and some began making small petrol bombs.

"Instead of calming down, the protests seem to be getting bigger," said Colonel Henry Aussavy, spokesman for the French force in

Ivory Coast, adding the protesters had been throwing burning tyres at armoured vehicles.

The world's top cocoa grower has been split since a civil war mushroomed out of a failed coup against President Laurent Gbagbo in September 2002. The ceasefire line between government and rebel forces is policed by French and U.N. troops.

Charles Ble Goude, the firebrand leader of the pro-Gbagbo "Young Patriots", had given the French troops until October 2 to recall their troops from posts around the country to their Abidjan headquarters or face protests.

Only about 50 people gathered outside the base on Sunday but the numbers have since swelled, despite a televised appeal by Gbagbo late on Monday for the protests to stop.

"To all those who want to organise protests in front of the French base)

and in front of the U.N., I am asking them to stay at home," Gbagbo said on state television. Ble Goude said the French could no longer be trusted after 12 French soldiers were arrested and accused of stealing from a bank they were guarding in the rebel-held town of Man.

"We are here at the request of Ble Goude and we are going to stay here and continue our protests until October 15," said unemployed Alain Sare, 25. "We are going to take it in turn so

we can be here all the time."

On Monday, a French army patrol in the town of Sikensi 100 km (60 miles) northwest of Abidjan was confronted by an angry, machete-wielding crowd, the French army said.

The soldiers escaped after firing an anti-riot rubber bullet at the ring-leader, who fled with the rest of the group.

Blair to visit Sudan, Ethiopia

KHARTOUM/LONDON, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Four days after a heart operation sparking debate over his future, Britain's Tony Blair flies to Africa on Tuesday to keep international pressure on Sudan over Darfur and attend a regional summit in Ethiopia.

Sudanese officials said Blair would visit Khartoum on Wednesday, making him the most senior Western government visitor since the Darfur conflict erupted last year and the first British leader to go there since Sudan's 1956 independence.

He will meet Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, but not visit the western region of Darfur, where a humanitarian disaster is unfolding. In London, Blair's office would not confirm the Sudan trip.

But Ismail said Blair's visit was very important because Britain could push all sides in Darfur to reach a peace deal in talks due to reconvene in Nigeria on Oct. 21. Ismail also told reporters in Khartoum he hoped for British aid to reconstruct and develop his war-torn country. Sudan is accused of allowing Arab militia to attack non-Arab farmers in Darfur, and is under threat of sanctions by the United Nations unless violence there ends. Blair follows U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and various European ministers who have been to Sudan recently to urge action from Khartoum to protect

refugees and rein in the Janjaweed Arab militia. Washington calls the killing there genocide. Sudan denies links to the Janjaweed and calls them outlaws.

Darfuri members of Sudan's parliament said Britain, Sudan's former colonial power, should provide more aid for Darfur and put pressure on Khartoum to implement democratic reform. Britain is one of the largest donors in the Darfur crisis, which the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian disaster. It says more than 1.5 million people have been displaced and up to 50,000 killed.

BLAIR "FRESH AND ALERT"

On Thursday and Friday, Blair will attend the British-sponsored Commission for Africa meeting in Ethiopia to map out policy on trade, aid and debt for Britain to press when it heads the G8 industrial bloc and the European Union in 2005.

Some view the commission as yet another talking-shop on Africa. But Britain insists it is acting from a moral imperative to help a continent Blair has referred to as a "scar on the conscience of the world".

"He believes the answer for Africa's problems is not for the outside world to impose solutions or to say to Africa 'you're on your own', but a holistic approach," Blair's spokesman said. "More aid, yes. More debt relief, yes. Fairer trade, definitely.

But also better governance and the capacity within Africa to tackle con-

flict."

For some, however, the main significance of Blair's trip will be to see how he stands up to three nights on the road so soon after Friday's successful treatment for heart palpitations.

Aides say Blair, 51, is "fresh and alert" after a weekend recuperating at his Chequers country residence. Just as much as Africa issues, journalists with Blair are sure to pepper him with questions about the succession debate he opened up last week with a surprise announcement he wanted to serve a third term — but not a fourth — as Britain's leader. Blair is favourite to win an election expected in 2005.

But many had expected him to hand over soon after that to his powerful finance minister and de facto No. 2, Gordon Brown.

Faced with his heart treatment and the leaked news of his purchase of a retirement home in central London, Blair sought to squash such speculation by saying last Thursday night he had decided to serve a full third term if he wins the next election.

That sent British political circles into a spin. Brown was rumoured to be furious and many analysts predicted Blair's announcement that he would not go on beyond a third term would spark a protracted leadership struggle. Although a member of the Commission for Africa, Brown will not be attending the Ethiopia meeting, sending instead his deputy, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Paul Boateng.

Afghan president campaigns; 7 killed by mine

GHAZNI, Afghanistan, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai campaigned on Tuesday for the first time since an assassination attempt last month, telling cheering supporters that a historic vote in four days would be a turning point for the war-torn nation.

While Karzai and his main rivals spread out ahead of Saturday's presidential election, the Afghan Islamic Press newspaper reported seven policemen were killed when their vehicle detonated a mine in the southern province of Kandahar.

There were no immediate details, but the Taliban guerrillas who have vowed to disrupt the poll were believed responsible.

Hundreds of troops, police and security guards, including special American bodyguards, were on alert as Karzai spoke to about 10,000 people gathered outside a Muslim shrine in the town of

Ghazni, southwest of Kabul.

"This vote is not just to choose a president, but for peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Karzai, a close ally of U.S. President George W. Bush.

"Instead of fighting, we are campaigning for our elections. We should be proud that we have freedom at last."

Snipers patrolled nearby rooftops and soldiers pointed automatic rifles at the crowd as Karzai, dressed in Afghanistan's trademark shwar kamis and a karakul cap, spoke alternately in the country's two main languages, Dari and Pashto.

When he saw posters in the crowd of some of the other 18 candidates in the fray, Karzai said "It's good we have freedom. It's good people are holding up posters of others. I am very glad many candidates are standing against me."

All this is very new to Afghanistan, which has been torn by war since the

1979 Soviet invasion and has not held any form of election since the late 1960s. It will be the first time ever that Afghans will directly elect their own leader.

BUSH SUCCESS?

The poll is being claimed as a foreign policy success by Bush, who ousted Afghanistan's Islamic fundamentalist Taliban rulers in late 2001 for refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden after his al Qaeda network attacked U.S. cities that September.

The U.S. president, who faces reelection himself next month, is hoping that a smooth election in Afghanistan could provide a model for January polls in Iraq, which has been plagued by increasing violence and lawlessness since U.S.-led forces removed Saddam Hussein from power in 2003.

Violence is still the overriding concern in Afghanistan as well. Karzai

escaped a rocket attack on his helicopter when he arrived in the town of Gardez to campaign three weeks ago, which was blamed on the Taliban.

On Monday, Afghan troops killed at least seven Taliban gunmen in the southern province of Uruzgan, a provincial spokesman said.

And in the southern city of Kandahar, two suspected Taliban militants were killed by a bomb of their own making, the provincial security chief said. General Salim Khan said a passer-by was also wounded.

Officials hope the Taliban and its allies will be thwarted by a security effort involving a national army of more than 17,000, about 25,000 police, 18,000 U.S.-led coalition troops and a NATO-led International Security Assistance Force of over 8,000.

The campaign, which has been lacklustre so far mainly because of security

concerns, has picked up in the last few days ahead of its scheduled close on Wednesday.

Karzai's main challenger, Yunus Qanuni, campaigned in Kabul, addressing about 4,000 supporters in the city's main stadium.

"Dear brothers and sisters, you are the ones who will elect the president of Afghanistan," the former education minister said. "I want your support, I want your vote."

In the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif, another candidate, Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum, addressed about 2,000 people.

Many in Afghanistan are more concerned about a peaceful voter rather than who will win.

"We are so happy. This is the first time we can elect our president," said Ibrahim, a 33-year-old plumber who returned to Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban.

"The people want peace here in Afghanistan," he said.

Lima Azimi, a student, also focused on the right to vote and the fact that it treated men and women equally.

"I feel very happy that we have the chance to go side by side with our brothers and elect our president and our future," she said.

More than 10.5 million people have signed up to vote within the country, from a population of about 28 million.

Almost 750,000 Afghan refugees in neighbouring Pakistan who fled the violence in their homeland have also registered. An estimated 400,000 to 600,000 are eligible to vote in Iran as registered Afghan refugees.

Karzai is the favourite, but it is unclear if he will get the 51 percent majority needed for an outright win. If no one gets a majority, the top two candidates will fight a runoff in November. REUTERS1628 05102004 GMT

Continued from page 1

Khairani to apologize, or else

Ann Cooper, executive director of the CPJ, called upon the President to fulfill his promise to abolish the imprisonment of journalists. She appealed to him to do whatever he can to "set Al-Khairani free and cancel charges against him." The Yemeni government also received a protest letter from the International Federation for Human Rights, one of the UN's agencies. It condemned barring Al-Khairani and Al-Shura.

The IFHR confirmed to the Yemeni government that detaining a citizen for his expressed opinion is an infringement of the democratic system to which Yemen more than once vowed to adhere, a source in the IFHR said.

The source added: "The imprisonment sentence has shown that Yemen's democracy needs the reformation of laws and legislation regulating political affairs."

The US advice and the IFHR's letter came at a time when protests against Al-Khairani's detention are increasing.

Moreover, the Arab Organization for Human Rights has expressed its resentment. "We have received with concern the news of shutting down the Yemeni newspaper of Al-Shura for six months, and imprisonment of its editor-in-chief, Abdulkarim Al-Khairani, for one year," the AOHHR's statement read.

The organization particularly felt concern over the closing down of Al-Shura, and driving out its staff out after detaining them for hours.

"As AOHHR denounces these violations of freedom of expression, it requests the Yemeni government to abide by the initiative previously issued by the President - canceling journalists

imprisonment. It requests the Yemeni authorities to quickly release the editor-in-chief of Al-Shura Weekly, and take legal measurements to stop punishments that shackle press freedom," the statement added.

On the other hand, the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists called on the Yemeni government to release Abdulkarim Al-Khairani, lift the ban on Al-Shura, and conduct an independent investigation into corruption issues stirred by the newspaper. The program announced the commencement of a campaign to collect signatures in solidarity with Al-Khairani who is still in the Central Prison, Sana'a. The signature list is then to be delivered to the Yemeni authorities.

The program considered the procedures against Al-Shura and its editor-in-chief as continuation of the press freedom siege. "Gagging the press will not allow the public to know information, which will consequently draw them away from political participation, causing them to pale into insignificance," the urgent statement added.

The program called the sentence against Al-Shura and Al-Khairani a non-application of the head of state's directives that cancelled the imprisonment of journalists.

"This may expose these directives as being a sheer means to win the support of the international community, and not to safeguard a principle stated by the Yemeni constitution," the statement elaborated.

On the other hand, the Parliament's Culture and the Information Committee has received

the replies of some of the concerned authorities it visited to probe into the case of Al-Khairani, and the ban of Al-Shura. After the sit-in staged by journalists before the Parliament Hall, the Committee visited the ministries of justice, information, interior, and human rights. It asked them to answer the journalists' letter. Only two ministries had replied by October 2nd.

The Center for Training and Press Protection is still collecting signatures for freeing Abdulkarim Al-Khairani and Al-Shura. A statement released by the Center condemned the acts against Al-Khairani including the kidnapping, and the moral and physical maltreatment after storming the headquarters of Al-Shura, shutting it down, and putting guards around it.

The Center launched a campaign last week targeting one hundred thousand signatures to support a solidarity and condemnatory statement as a first stage, which is to be ensued by one-million signatures from all over the country.

The statement showed concern over the health and psychological state of the prisoner. "Al-Khairani's state is worsening, and nothing guarantees his safety," the statement said.

It denounced the policy of subjugation and intimidation, asking that imprisonment of press publication sentences be cancelled, and that Political Security forces be restrained under the authority of the law.

Sit-in holders at the Taiz Yemen Intellectuals and Writers Union expressed their condemnation of kidnapping Al-Khairani and the following derogatory and scary proceedings. They also denounced the unfair sentence because it violates sound legal protocol. "The sentence was

issued by an unspecialized court. The case was described as urgent while this was not true. Besides, the case was looked into during a judicial holiday," they explained.

Their statement added: "What has happened can not be understood except as some sort of targeting, the prevalence of an old mindset, and an attempt to harass honest writers. It is a stark violation of freedom of expression, and political revenge of an abusive authority, making use of the carrot and stick approach. It is a very vivid sign of the repulsion of different others."

In Hadhramout, journalists asked for the release of Al-Khairani. The final statement of the Yemen Journalists Syndicate, Hadhramout branch, said: "We call for the immediate release of Abdulkarim Al-Khairani, editor-in-chief of Al-Shura, member of the YJS, who is confined in the Central Prison."

Nowadays, journalists are studying new solidarity-expressing acts including organizing a march to the Presidency House, and the Cabinet Office as well as activating the case and charging the authorities of violating Al-Khairani's rights as a citizen, a human being, and a man of opinion.

Harsh restrictions are still imposed upon Al-Khairani. He is deprived of contact, reading, and writing since he was kidnapped on September 5th from Al-Shura's office. The Political Security's men snatched him under the pretext of applying the Court of First-Instance's sentence despite his lawyer's rejection of the unfair sentence. On Sunday October 3rd, the Court of Appeal will be looking into the case on the request of the Prosecuting representative of the authorities - and not Al-Khairani's lawyer.

Assaults against opposition party leaders

Al-Khairani is a member of the Popular Forces Party, a moderate religious party, and the Chief Editor of its mouthpiece Al-Shura. Al-Khairani and the Al-Shura were charged with sympathy for the late Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, the Shiite religious leader, who was embroiled in a two and a half month confrontation with Government forces in Sa'ada Governorate which ended with the killing of Al-Houthi some three weeks ago in his last cavern hideout in Mirran Mountains north of Sa'ada. The PFP and Al-Shura claim however that the sentence was a violation of the freedom of the press, guaranteed by the Constitution of Yemen and for the editor's opinions about the presidency. According to Al-Balagh Newspaper, there have been many expressions of concern for Al-Khairani, who is deliberately being placed among convicted criminals, with a view towards exposing him to danger.

On another note, Al-Balagh reported on the same issue of Tuesday, 5 October that another leading political figure in the opposition, writer and educator was also assaulted last Monday, October 4, by five men in civilian outfits at the Yarmouk Gasoline Station in Tunis Street in

Sana'a. The victim, Hassan Mohammed Zeid is the Chief of the Political Bureau of the Al-Haq Party, another moderate religious party. The five men took Mr. Zeid out of his car, which was blocked by a waiting car as he came out of the station. One of the attackers kept hitting Mr. Zeid in the face, while the rest of the attackers went on to break all the glass in his car. The attackers then quickly ran off on a taxi sedan. The attack was reported to the Al-Himyari police precinct. The Al-Haq Party denounced this attack and its perpetrators and those who incited the attack and held the security organs responsible for fully investigating the assault. The attacks, said the party press release was a deliberate attack endangering democracy, social peace and security and regarded the targeting of Mr. Zeid as implicitly targeting the Al-Haq Party. Both the PFP and Al-Haq are suspected of having Zeidi Shiite inclinations and have been exposed to heavy media attacks and threats of dissolution by some official press organs. Both parties regard all this enmity against them as really an effort to further reduce the marginal democracy that is still superficially allowed to exist in Yemen and to clamp down on all forms of opposing opinions.

French protesters try to block plutonium delivery

CHERBOURG, France, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Protesters bolted a heavy truck to the road leading to a French nuclear reprocessing plant on Tuesday and chained themselves to the vehicle to try to stop a controversial delivery of U.S. weapons-grade plutonium.

Police used chain cutters to cut free the protesters, who wore bright orange overalls, and dragged them away. The yellow truck, which had "Stop Plutonium" written across it, remained.

Environmental group Greenpeace said police detained four of its protesters. The group wants to stop the delivery of 140 kg (308 lb) of plutonium which it expects to arrive by ship in the French port of Cherbourg on Tuesday night.

The plutonium will then be taken about 18 km (12 miles) to the reprocessing plant in La Hague peninsula, before being driven nearly 1,000 km (660 miles) to a factory in southeastern France for recycling.

Greenpeace says the transport is vulnerable to a terrorist attack. French state-owned nuclear energy firm Areva, which is being paid to reprocess the plutonium, says it is safe.

"So easily a rocket-propelled grenade could go through those trucks and expose plutonium around this area. That's not safe transport," Greenpeace activist Thomas Breuer told reporters.

"This plutonium shipment is part of an industry plan to expand the trade in bomb material and must be stopped," said Tom Clements of Greenpeace International.

Laurence Pernot, a spokesman for Areva's Cogema unit which will recycle the plutonium, said the aim was to make the plutonium safe by reprocessing it.

"We do not quite understand how an organisation that traditionally fights against the proliferation of nuclear weapons can today wage a protest



French parliamentarian Didier Julia leaves a special commission at the National Assembly in Paris, October 5, after a self-appointed mission failed to free French journalists held hostage in Iraq. REUTERS

against an operation aimed at curtailing that same proliferation phenomenon," she said.

Russian-made missiles were among an arms cache seized by French police in the southwestern French Basque area on Sunday.

The plutonium shipment is part of a post-Cold War agreement between the United States and Russia to get rid of plutonium from excess nuclear warheads.

Cogema will recycle the plutonium into nuclear fuel at its Cadarache and Marcoule plants in southeastern France and ship it back to the United States which plans to use it in an electricity-generating reactor.

This is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's controversial programme to turn plutonium from the "excess" nuclear warheads into mixed-oxide (MOX) plutonium-uranium enriched fuel.

Kerry pounces on Bremer's remarks on Iraq

TIPTON, Iowa, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Democratic White House challenger John Kerry accused President George W. Bush of mismanaging the war in Iraq after a former top aide said the U.S. paid the price for not deploying enough troops after last year's invasion.

Paul Bremer, the former administrator for Iraq, said in a speech this week that the U.S. intervention in Iraq was hampered early on by a lack of adequate forces and efforts to contain looting after the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Bremer said. "We never had enough troops on the ground."

Kerry, at a campaign stop in Iowa, seized on the remarks, stating, "There is a long list of mistakes (in Iraq) and I'm glad Paul Bremer has finally acknowledged at least two of them."

The decorated Vietnam veteran also said he hoped Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney would do the same.

Bremer made the remarks at an insurance conference in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, according to The Washington Post, which reported them on Tuesday.

The Massachusetts senator's latest attack came exactly four weeks before the presidential election, with polls showing he erased much of the deficit he faced before last week's debate against Bush.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush relied on the recommendations of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the military commanders, not Bremer, when it came to determining troop levels.

McClellan noted that Bremer said troop levels in Iraq today were adequate to deal with a deadly insurgency.

"If there is or ever has been a request for more troops or resources, the president would make sure that the com-



U.S. Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry (R) greets supporters after a Town Hall meeting in Tipton, Iowa, October 5. Kerry accused President George W. Bush of mismanaging the war in Iraq after a former top aide said the U.S. paid the price for not deploying enough troops after last year's invasion. Paul Bremer, the former administrator for Iraq, said in a speech this week that the U.S. intervention in Iraq was hampered early on by a lack of adequate forces and efforts to contain looting after the ouster of Saddam Hussein. REUTERS

manders have what they needed," the spokesman added.

At a town hall meeting in Iowa, a key battleground state that Bush just visited on Monday, Kerry renewed his charge that Bush is stubborn and "out of touch" on issues at home and abroad.

The Democrat, as he did in last week's debate, evoked Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush, whom he said knew the value of assembling a wide coalition to take on Iraq and share the cost in the first Gulf War.

Kerry said instead Bush the son has forced Americans to shoulder 90 percent of the costs and the bulk of casu-

alties in Iraq.

"That is not a grand coalition. That is not what the American people deserve and need," Kerry said at Tipton Middle School.

Kerry spent much of the session discussing his plans to help middle class families struggling with higher energy, health care and tuition costs as incomes fall and job losses rise.

"Today, the president goes around America and he tells you that the economy is just fine; we're getting stronger every day; that things are better. But he's not in touch with the lives of the people — the average Americans," Kerry said.

Iowa has lost some 28,000 manufac-

turing jobs since Bush took office, and Kerry said if elected he would create more than 100,000 jobs in the state.

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt called Kerry's economic plan ineffective and said the senator's own advisers had admitted it would not create jobs.

"Kerry's plans for job-killing tax hikes would devastate Iowa's growing economy, and Kerry's false attacks are designed to obscure Iowa's low 4.5 percent unemployment rate," Schmidt said in a statement.

Democrat Al Gore carried Iowa by 4,144 votes over Bush in 2000. In Cedar County, where Kerry spoke, Gore beat Bush by a mere two votes.

Bomb warnings show airlines are hostage to hoaxers

BERLIN, Oct 5 (Reuters) - German airline Lufthansa diverted an Israel-bound plane to Cyprus on Tuesday in the sixth mid-air bomb scare over Europe in 10 days, acting at Israel's insistence despite concluding the threat was a hoax.

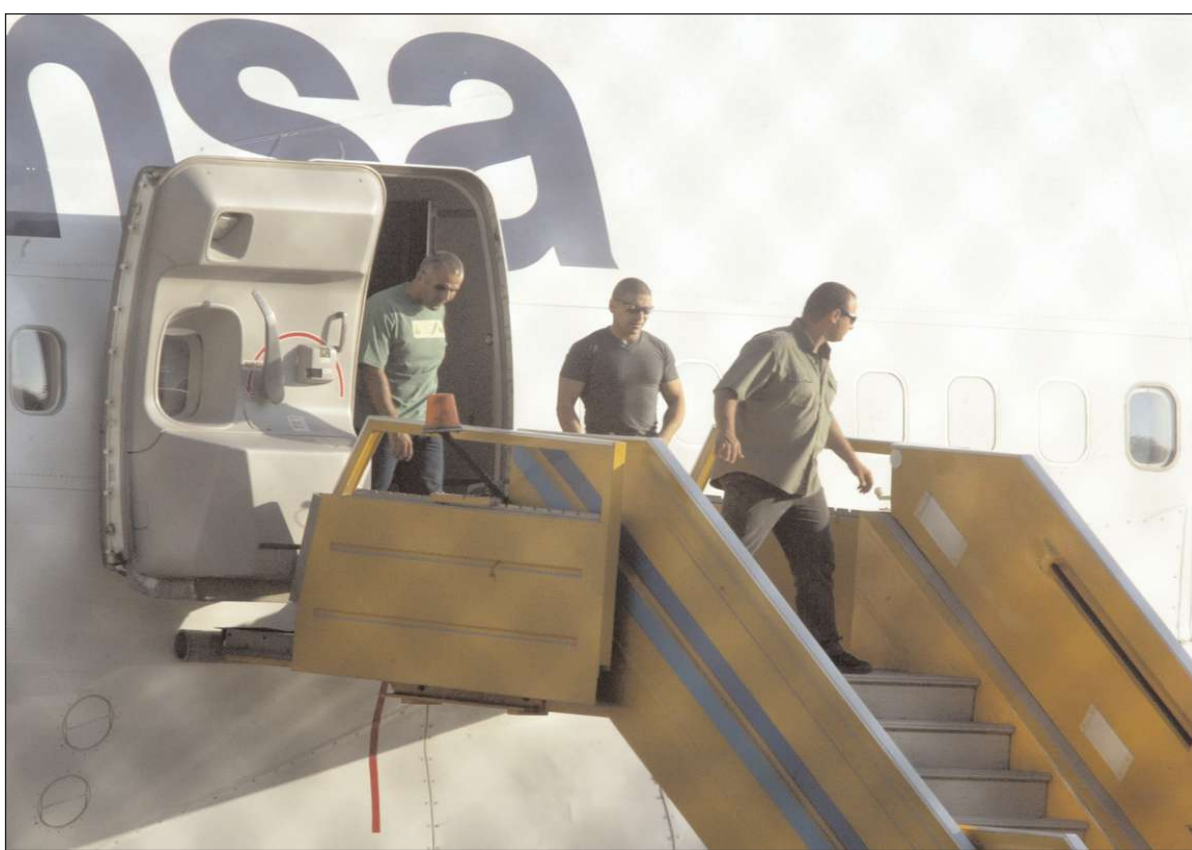
It was the latest incident to highlight how hoaxers, for the price of a phone call, can cause disruption costing tens of thousands of dollars even when airlines know the likelihood of a genuine bomb on board is minute.

Airline officials and security analysts said carriers had no choice but to play safe, given the international security climate and the fear of a terrorist attack.

"There's very little you can do about hoaxes because nobody wants to be the airline that decides to disregard the threat call and then get bitten badly," said Philip Baum, editor of Aviation Security International.

"If there is a threat on an aircraft then you treat it as real, given that the terrorist threat is so high at the moment," said Michael Burns, director of aviation markets at security technology group Qinetiq.

"You don't need any weapons. All you need is a level of heightened fear in the community and you can use hoax calls to play on that, and you get an economic response."



Cypriot bomb disposal experts disembark from a Lufthansa aircraft forced to divert to Cyprus as it flew from Frankfurt to Israel, October 5. REUTERS

Tuesday's incident was different from the other five recent scares in Europe because Lufthansa, in consultation with German security officials, had decided a bomb warning to flight LH686 from Frankfurt to Tel Aviv was "not serious" and planned to let it fly on to its destination with 331 passengers and 16 crew.

Israel, however, insisted it landed in Cyprus, and sent two fighter planes to escort it. Police with sniffer dogs were searching the Boeing 747-400 at Larnaca airport.

DIVERTED

In all the other incidents, airlines treated the bomb threats as genuine and diverted their aircraft.

Three of the cases involved Greece's Olympic Airlines, while the others affected British Airways and Singapore Airlines. All the flights had taken off from Greece or Germany; all the incidents turned out to be hoaxes.

Baum said airlines would normally only divert planes if they received a specific threat citing, for example, a flight number, route, time or possibly the nature and location of the alleged explosive device.

A Lufthansa spokesman said Tuesday's warning was "unconcrete" but declined to go into details.

Olympic Airlines Managing Director Odysseas Vlamis told Reuters the carrier's policy was to consult security services and then make a recommendation to the pilot.

"The last word whether to divert the plane always rests with the pilot of the plane and the airline always backs the decision of the pilot," Vlamis said.

He said the cost of diverting a plane was about 100,000 euros (\$123,000), including fuel, passenger connections and accommodation and landing fees.

"It could just be a prankster or someone suffering from psychological problems," Vlamis said. "But generally it has been recorded that airlines have seen a rise in hoax calls when there are long-standing problems with personnel, or when the airline is in the process of changing ownership, or even when there are phenomena of competition."

Baum said hoax calls were sometimes received from passengers running late for a flight and trying to delay its departure. But genuine terrorists were the least likely to issue warnings.

"If a group really does want to go to the lengths necessary to put a bomb on a commercial jet, which is no easy thing to do, then the chances are that bomb is going to actually blow up and there isn't going to be any threat call at all," he said.

Hundreds of German doctors probed for corruption

BERLIN, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Hundreds of German doctors are being investigated for corruption on suspicion of having taken expensive holidays from a surgical instruments maker, a regional state prosecutor said on Tuesday.

The Darmstadt state prosecutor's office said 350 hospital doctors from all over Germany and representatives from a medical equipment firm were under investigation.

The doctors were accused of accepting payments as high as 20,000 euros (\$24,550) and skiing holidays in the exclusive Swiss resort of St. Moritz in

exchange for using only the firm's vascular surgery instruments, the spokesman said.

Others received trips to a medical congress in New York with an extra few days in Hawaii.

Darmstadt prosecutors did not name the German company, but said investigations could eventually cover up to 500 doctors.

A spokeswoman for doctors' association the Marburger Bund, said "there are always black sheep, in every profession, but we need to wait and see how many doctors are actually charged".

مبروك المولد البكر
اجمل التهاني واطيب التبريكات نرفها للاستاذ
فنجي مقبل قائد
بمناسبة اترافه مولودته البكره التي اسمها
جيهان
جعلها الله قره عين والديها وانبتها نباتا حسنا
المهنتون: توفيق ورفيق، سامي ودعمان القباطي، وليد محبوب،
حازم عبدالباقي، وليد علي عبدالوطني وجميع الاهل الاصداقاء

مبروك الزفاف
اجمل التهاني القلبية مكللة بعبق الجلتار
وشذى الورود والياسمين نهدبها للاستاذ
نجيب خالد الشريف
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون فالف مبروك
المهنتون:
بنك التضامن الاسلامي الدولي وصحيفة يمن تايمز

Words of Wisdom

The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Never-ending bureaucracies

One of the diseases that developing countries - Arab countries in particular - have in common, is an agonizing bureaucracy. How many times have you experienced waiting in a long queue to process your paper work, while governmental employees are chatting with each other and sipping their morning tea?

How many times have you tried to have an employee hurry up in signing the papers as you still have plenty of other work to do, and see this employ looking over the papers of another file and laughing with his fellow employee and eventually tells you, "I guess you will have to come tomorrow?"

Some Arab countries have developed an extremely slow habit of piling files, delaying the work of others, and taking citizens for granted.

Once upon a time, I noticed an old man going to the cashier of a private bank rightfully asking to withdraw an amount from his account. But during the whole process, he would pray for the cashier and say "May God protect you, may God help you as you helped me. Thank you my son, I am so grateful..." and so on. This was happening as the cashier was busy doing some other stuff and didn't even look into the old man's face. In fact, the more the old man pleaded, the more the employee expressed arrogance and kept on doing other things. Until I then told the cashier, why don't you do your work and look into the old man's request? Then the man said, "OK, I'm coming. Who are you to talk any way?" I was shocked at the behavior of this employee but I realized that our private business sector still has a very long way to teach employees how to be friendly towards customers and speed up their processes.

I thought to myself, if this is happening in a private enterprise, how would things be in the government?

Indeed, the Arab world in particular still has to take many steps to rid itself of bureaucracy that kills potential. Investors need facilities and quick responses to establish businesses. People who can contribute positively to the development of the Arab world should be given a priority by relaxing bureaucracy that prevents them from working in an atmosphere conducive to the creation of ideas and initiatives.

If there is one thing that we need to focus on to develop our countries, it should be developing a respect for the value of time and commitment. It is unfortunate that on many occasions, officials do not value time of their own, but also the time of those who deal with them. This consequently leads to inefficient utilization of energies and skills. Again, this has a negative impact on the overall productivity of Arab nations justifying the low ranks of our countries in various issues such as contribution to global culture, politics, and science.

The developed world is now speeding up processes in government and private circles. You may have noticed the e-government services in Singapore or the express immigration entry in airports using biometrics and smart card solutions.

By such actions, they aim to enable their individuals and establishments to do more work in a shorter time. This is a recipe for success because hard work, efficiently and the proper utilization of time is the essence of prosperity and progress.

Will our countries understand what they are doing wrong in this respect?

I hope so!

The Editor

The geopolitical truth about terrorism

JOSEPH HREVNACK
johrevnack@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Terrorism is a tool. It is not something that is a tangible entity and so therefore one cannot wage a conventional war against it. By doing so, it enables the people in power to fight a war for whatever reason they choose to with the outward appearance of moral justification to the general population. This is so because of the harsh connotations associated with terrorism and the fear it invokes in people. By playing off of people's fears it is letting terrorists win and by fighting a conventional war it makes the conditions that produce terror in the first place more prevalent. This is a vicious cycle and it must be broken somehow.

The fact is that if a group of people want to kill others, they can. A rogue act by an individual or a few people against others cannot be stopped. Think about it: if you wanted to perform an act of violence on your fellow man couldn't you do it if you really wanted too? The only way you could stop events like this would be to live under a totalitarian rule where the very rights you hold to be self evident are put on the back burner for security. Even then, you would still have the occasional wing-nut or two slip through the cracks of the system. The way you fight terrorism is by making the

underlying motivations for it null and void. You do this through the principles of what made this country great to begin with, egalitarian compromise and open debate. This is the complete anti-thesis of how this "War on Terror" is being fought and it almost seems intentionally so.

Terrorists do not fight because they hate our freedom or for any other jingoistic factor. The reason why they attack us or other groups of people is because they have a political agenda whose needs are not being met. People are inherently good, including terrorists, and will not fight unless they have a legitimate reason to do so. This is just human nature. Usually when a group resorts to violence it is because one or more of their basic human rights are being violated. This is universally true in almost all instances of terror, all one has to do to understand this is to try to be objective and put themselves in the other person's shoes and ask themselves what they would do if they were in that situation.

I do not ask these difficult questions with a motivation to try to justify terror. I only ask these questions to try to get people to understand the root causes of terror, and to make an effort to try to rid the world of them. People will not fight if they have decent paying jobs and are not poor. People will not fight if they have food in their stomachs. People will not fight if they have an opportunity for social advancement. People will not

fight if they have an education. People will not fight if they have a decent environment to raise a family. People will not fight if their land is not forcefully taken from them. And people will not fight if their land is not under constant occupation.

So making these conditions manifest in the world is the real way you fight terror. By doing what we are doing in this country it will only make these conditions worse and it will only increase terror for years to come. We are losing this war because we are going about fighting it in the wrong way and we are less safe three years after 9-11 for doing it. What kind of a world will our children have if the people currently in power have their way by waging a hundred year war on terror? Will it be a world worth living in?

In summary, the way that we are fighting terrorism is wrong. It is in fact making the world a less safe place to live in. The only way to stop terrorism by a conventional war would be to take away the basic human rights that we Americans hold dear to the point that it would be a complete contradiction to the very principles this country was founded upon. The real way you fight terror is to cure the underlying causes by wiping out poverty and hunger. A global redistribution of wealth is called for and it is the only way this world will last and get past the Dark Age that it has currently found itself in.

Protest letter concerning the future political order of Federal States of Somalia and the position of the Banaadiri and the Banaadir

MR. MOHAMED ABBAS SUFI
PRESIDENT OF THE BANAADIRI
COMMUNITY IN ITALY
ABOKAR M. SADIQ
PRESIDENT OF THE BANAADIRI
COMMUNITY IN SWITZERLAND

Further to the conference of the reconciliation of Somalia in Kenya, we Banaadiri protest that the power of decision making has been given to armed groups and to those who take orders from them. We firmly oppose any type of federal government whereby power is given to armed tribes, groups, and non-Banaadiris, who occupy our territory, to decide about the destiny of the Banaadiri people.

The region of Banaadir includes the coastal region from Warshikh to north of Mogadishu to Raskyamboni to the border of Kenya, including the city of Kisimayo.

The people of Banaadir are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural people, who have inherited different customs and history. They are a population composed of Arab origin, Bantu and other Cusciti groups.

The main point of our protest is that

we do not wish others, who today occupy our territory, to decide about the destiny and fate of hundreds of thousands of Banaadiri families, who were exposed to murder, kidnappings, economic destruction and ethnic cleansing.

Today, our homeland has been occupied by armed militia groups from Somalia interior. Further, thousands of Banaadiris, the original inhabitants of Banaadir, have been forced to leave their country from the cities of Warshikh, Mogadishu, Marka, Barawwa, Kisimayo and the islands close to the border with Kenya, populated by Baajuni - one of the groups of Banaadiris. The Banaadiri population has been virtually hunted from their territories, their properties confiscated, and those who remained blackmailed or kidnapped by armed gangs.

The two groups such as the SNU and SANU, cannot speak of representing the people of Banaadiris, as they are only tribal organizations. Furthermore, there are individuals who claim to speak on behalf of Banaadiris, but who have not been chosen by anybody, nor do they represent anybody. Those who represent SNU and SANU work only in the name

of their organization which creates confusion, and prevents outsiders from knowing the problem of Banaadir and Banaadiris. As Banaadiris do not have any political parties to represent them, those who claim to represent them do not represent the Banaadiri people. We do not wish to see the Banaadiris disintegrate as did Somlia. Our tradition is one of the oldest traditions of respect, tolerance and dignity in the Horn of Africa. The problem of Banaadir cannot be solved by force.

We request from the international community protection, consideration of our unique position, and that the Banaadiris be enabled to choose their own representatives without having armed groups or others imposed upon them. All this would help to bring about justice for a people who have suffered tremendously during the 14 years of civil war. It may also help to avoid a future blood bath if peace and stability is brought to Somalia.

Editors note: Yemen Times has in issue 728 dated 11th April 2004 published a full report on Banaadir under the title "Banaadir: The country of Harbors"

Letters to the Editor

The commonest sense

If there is a person who goes everywhere and fights and argues with other people, and tries to convince others that he has sound excuses for his fights, we call such a person a troublemaker. This is "common sense."

Some people say (in Yemen) that Sept 11th bombing was done by Jews to frame Arabs, some say it was even done by the Japanese to settle an old debt!! So, I am not surprised to read as suggested in a "common-sense" column that the Russians took the hostage crisis at school as an opportunity to create animosity among the local people.

It is a known fact, rather I'd call it "common sense", that every criminal on earth has genuine (from the criminals' point of view) excuses for the crimes they have committed. But, the fact is that the rest of the world is not willing to pay the price for their excuses.

Moslem rebels have all the right (a legitimate right) to fight for their rights fight for their religion and for a piece

of land on any part of this earth. It is the right of 35% of Sunnis to Control 65% of Shias in Iraq. And people in Kashmir go through many miseries and the rest of the India is doing extremely well. If Kashmir becomes independent they would have prosperity. And it is a legitimate right of Taliban to destroy Bamian Buddhist statues in Afghanistan, but they also have a legitimate right to erect mosques in other non-Moslem countries and violate the sound pollution laws. Now its the legitimate right of the Moslems in France to fight against the ban of wearing scarves in the schools. Who are the trouble-makers?

It is a shame that we see no article in Yemen Times, on Monday the 6th, about the attack at the Russian school, nor any condemnation, instead we see a vindication for the acts of those terrorists.

Tom Dennis

Future of Iraq at stake
Iraq has a dark future for its people without the US. Everyone knows this. Just

because you try to do right and help others does not mean that all will like you. We teach this to our children every day. We teach them that good leaders do the right thing even though others want you to do wrong. We teach them to do good and to fight evil.

The Militant Islamic terrorists know that their deaths are for Satan, and they love him not Allah. Death is always the way of Satan, not God. His follower knows nothing else. As long as Satan can be helped by others in the Middle East, through false cultic religions, death will come to the region until God returns. Satan loves the ignorant and the weakness of the Middle Eastern countries to stop death. The cult of the Middle East continues to make Satan smile. God has given man the ability to do right or wrong. The thieves, the murders, the hostage takers, the suicidal murders, the liars, the rapists, and the corrupt government officials will all end up in hell. That is their end.

The reason the US was cre-

ated into a nation was to follow Gods will. It has proven its worth time and time again. God has blessed our nation. Even though the murder of 3000 innocent men and women, mothers and fathers has happened in our country, we will fight evil everywhere. Satan will be fought by us. The US is great because of its fight against the atheist of communism, the murders of Nazism, and the dictators of Iraq and Afghanistan. God fearing men and women have made this country great.

Our country does have some who do not believe in God and follow Satan. We have communists and terrorists that hate God and freedom. They protest in the streets but the followers of God fight the followers of Satan when he raises his head. We have to fight for the future of our country and the world. Good will always hate evil. Satan deceives the weak and makes them see the evil look good and the good look bad.

Ron Coyken
coyken@opexonline.com



COMMON SENSE

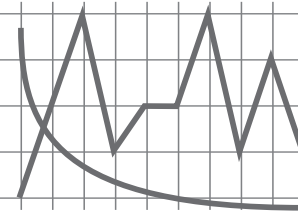
By Hassan Al-Haifi

For the Palestinians, it's endless suffering

This observer is flabbergasted by the obvious closed-eyed attitude of the international community to the mass suffering that is being inflicted on the Palestinians of Jabalya, Gaza.

While the killing of two Israeli children reportedly by Ghassan rockets fired by Hamas, may not be viewed, from a humanitarian point, as an applaudable act, the furious attack launched by Israeli troops on the squalid refugee camps of Gaza surely is not blessed with a civilized rationale by all means. Needless to say that the Palestinians of Gaza are already undergoing the epitome of suffering after already having been driven away by the Israelis from their original homes in Palestine, on more than one occasion. For years of merely watching by the international community, while the Israelis continue to swallow up the Holy Land by forced removal of the original Christian and Moslem Arab inhabitants (with thousands of them killed indiscriminately along the way), the Palestinians have been compelled to turn to armed resistance to try to salvage what they could of their remaining homeland. Yet, thanks to the crude efforts of resistance by some of the frustrated Palestinians, the Israelis mercilessly take advantage of world silence and unleash their state of the art killing machine without regard to the victims as revenge for the death of illegitimate settlers on illegitimately occupied territory, who are exposing themselves to obvious danger by settling on territory that is not theirs. While the Israelis are living in the highest of modern splendor, the indigenous population are forced to live in the worst of conditions in make-shift refugee camps that have solidified into pitiful slums, deprived of the most basic of hygienic and resourceful surroundings. Yet, the Israelis still insist that it is their God-given right to steal land and push out anyone that stands in their way and bring suffering to anyone that stands to prevent them from snatching any land they wish to take. They will push the Palestinians to the breaking point and then cry out terrorism when these poor Palestinians see someone else enjoy all the modern amenities, or kill hundreds of their own indiscriminately and become forced to turn to the justice of the gun, as a last resort to save whatever remains of their homeland. No, it is terrorism, when a fully mechanized army storms barbarically into a largely civilian enclave, that is by its own nature, an abode of suffering, on the pretext of securing their own illegitimate settlers. This is how a Guardian reporter describes the real terror that is being unleashed in the Holy Land at Jabalya: "Israeli forces have demolished the homes of hundreds of Palestinians, bulldozed swaths of agricultural land and destroyed infrastructure. More than 70 people have died in Operation Days of Penitence, launched in northern Gaza six days ago after a Hamas rocket attack killed two Israeli children. The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said that the dead included 31 civilians. Nineteen were under 18." This is the self defense that Washington calls the Israeli actions in Gaza and Palestine. The right to counter an illegitimate and cruel occupation and the outright plunder of land is not self defense but terror in the expansive Likudnik mentality that is now reigning in Tel Aviv and Washington, DC. What kind of world are we being led into? Right is being viewed as wrong. Mass murder is being portrayed as legitimate self defense. The use of all the killing technology against helpless students or young girls going to school is sanctified, while trying to hold on to the last bit of territory, inherited for generations is condoned in the worst of slander. Yes, Israel is thriving on the free hand given to it by Washington to help the Bushniks avenge the victims of 9/11 and the only good Arab is a dead Arab has its firm grip on the psyche of the Likudnik demagogues in Israel and the United States. Bombs away is the cherished slogan of the Israeli Defense Forces as they trample on anything and everything that could support life in the Holy Land for any Arab. In addition, the emphasis is on the targeting the children, as dictated by the Ariel Sharon Zionist mentality, which sees the best way to serve the Zionism cause is by eliminating as many Palestinian children as possible. Look at the numbers in Jabalya: 19 of the 31 civilians killed in Jabalya were under 18. The Guardian tells it all: "Most of the nine people killed yesterday were Palestinian fighters, but a teenage girl was among the dead, shot in her home. In southern Gaza Israeli forces killed a four-year-old boy in Khan Yunis refugee camp, where several Palestinian children have been shot dead in recent weeks". How can the rules of self defense be allowed to bend to the liking of the occupier and the illegitimate settler, while no efforts are spared to spread hopelessness for any kind of a life for the indigenous population of the land? What has this world come to? Thanks to the spread of an ugly mentality among many misguided Americans (the Likudnik mentality), all values have been changed to favor the aggressor and the mass murderers of innocent civilians trapped in squalid camps and slum residences created by accumulated previous years of systematic repression and tortuous occupation. They say this is Judean-Christian doctrine. The Palestinians say this is hell on Earth. Tanks against school children, who wake up each day wondering if they will again ever see their homes, their parents and their pathetic dwellings, when they come back from school. This is self defense in Likudnik mentality. But, in the end, one must ask: what mentality is it of the Arab states as they find the only way to revive any pride in themselves is to replay old footage of battles that were won more than thirty years ago, when Arabs understood well that the Palestine tragedy is every Arabs' tragedy. Now the proud Arab kings and presidents see the tragedy in two theaters, Iraq and Palestine, while all they do is comfort themselves with stale worthless propaganda. Are they still in need of another theater before they realize where they are at?

YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8800	184.1000
Sterling Pound	332.4700	332.8700
Euro	229.5800	229.8600
Saudi Rial	49.3000	49.3600
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.6300	628.3700
UAE Dirhem	50.3300	50.3900
Egyptian Pound	29.6200	29.6500
Bahraini Dinar	490.3900	490.9700
Qatari Rial	50.7900	50.8500
Jordanian Dinar	260.7600	261.0700
Omani Rial	480.2400	480.8100
Swiss Franc	147.9300	148.1100
Swedish Crown	25.4100	25.4400
Japanese Yen	1.6724	1.6744

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Deteriorated services & type of infrastructure affect,

Investment & saving condition in Yemen

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A report on the national strategy of employment in Yemen has drawn up a very poor image of investment and saving situation, considering the total rates of private and public investments as being not enough for the growth of bigger rates compatible with growth of non-oil exports and increase in volume of labour force.

The report mentions that despite of the application of economic reforms and improvement of environment suitable for investment such as political and economic stability, the investment growth rate of investment amounted in 1995-2000 by 18% a year; a small number has shifted from the status of public sector to the private.

The report has added that deterioration of the infrastructure in Yemen constitutes a hindrance before accumulation of capitals and economic development. The multi-faced acute crisis of

waters submits big barriers and restraints. The amounts of annual rainfall hover between 500-800mm in the mountainous areas and about 50-100mm in coastal areas and do not exceed 50mm in the eastern regions.

The report also mentions that the energy is no better situation than waters. Despite of Yemen's capability of exporting electric power it suffers from inconvenient circumstances for generating it via a limited national network generating limited coverage. Overland transportation is also deteriorating and causing problems because of weakness of repair services and the telephone network is also short of covering the entire Yemeni area with the availability of 2.3 telephone line for each 100 persons.

The report mentions also that the essential problem concerning institutions lies in the judicial system. Legislations are not fully applied and there is an 84% of the population who do not trust judicial measures and this is reflected negatively on types of loans available and double the volume of

floundering debts.

The report considers that the condition of the Yemeni judiciary doubles the amount of problems facing investors and savers. Yemen does also face security challenges every now and then affecting the treatment of investment impediments and the creation of environment suitable for investors.

As regards the administrative circumstances, the report reviewed Yemen's efforts for establishing legal establishments to catch up with organized economy, considering that putting

the obtaining of license and commercial register as a condition, would place hindrances before investors especially levied and multiple duties, which impose burdens on owners of small projects.

The report has also a fond that liberalization of Yemeni economy was not enough to activate the growth based on export and employment. It has not successes in channelling resources towards commodities and services ready for circulation and thus Yemen remains horribly dependent on oil exports.

Private-public sectors' new partnership

Establishment of the Arab Organisation for Tourism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Convening of the constituent conference of the Arab Organisation for Tourism came as complementary to the Arab efforts aimed at activation of intertourism. The conference has grouped in Sana'a 18 countries that studied a draft of the organization's system as a regional grouping reviving hope for laying the first brick for the establishment of this important tourist and economic entity, necessary for developing tourism in Yemen or between the Arab countries.

The convention of the conference represents an Arab step forward towards cooperation to overcome all factors violating security safety and to adopt scientific methods, researches and field studies as a basis in the new work of the Arab Organisation as a nucleus for alliance and cooperation

with the private sector in the Arab world.

The conference also aims at attaining the goals aspired for from the organization of Arab Tourism in its participation in activation and promotion for investment projects in the Arab countries through deepening discussions with the private sector on promotion and means of enhancement of cooperation of both private and public sectors in Yemen and Arab countries.

Participants in the conference have affirmed the private sector's capability of drawing up long-term plans on tourism industry under cooperation of both private and public sectors and training and rehabilitation of Arab cadres for engaging them in implementation of the organization's objectives.

The participants have also explained that the Arab tourism has witnessed a noticeable increase in volume among

the Arab countries after the events of September 11 by a rate reached 28% while the Arab intertrade is still at a proportion of 8%. The participants also stress the significance of Arab tourism industry as considered the strategic goal of the Arab economy.

They have revealed their countries' desire for building one or many companies for supporting 4-star hotels in the Arab world and gather their ownership, and to add new investments as well as the establishment of companies for running medium hotels. The conference has affirmed the importance of active partnership between private and public sectors for the development of Arab tourism. They also emphasized on the work for creating a clear vision supporting the Arab tourist sector and providing for a convenient infrastructure for the advance of Arab tourism.

Yemen expects from the conference promotion for tourist, investment con-

stituents and legal facilities encouraging for attraction of Arab capitals to invest in the Yemeni tourist sector.

The foundation of the Arab Organisation of Tourism represents a joint Arab project inspiring hope in

development of Arab economies and breathing life into the present recession befalling the Arab tourist sector.



JOB VACANCY

Project Accountant based in Sayoun, Hadramout.

Oxfam GB in Yemen is looking for a dynamic accountant to work in a community based health care project funded by the European Union to improve the health status in remote villages of Sayoun and Sah districts in Hadramout through strengthening district health management, community involvement, health education/promotion, quality of health services; training of health providers and midwives, rehabilitation of facilities, and community pharmacies/DRF.

Key Competencies and requirement

- University degree in accounting.
- Ability to implement office and finance systems
- Procedural and legal knowledge on various administrative and finance functions especially pertaining to the NGO sector
- Ability to handle administrative and finance matters and work to deadlines
- Ability to work with others and as part of the team
- Good Arabic and English writing skills
- Knowledge and skills in computer usage
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time
- Willingness and eagerness to learn about organizational and financial procedures

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 15th October 2004 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

The Country Program Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax no: 01 445 650 Or email: habass@oxfam.org.uk or mmalahy@oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organization dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.

Tackling weakness at employment bureaus

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Outcomes of recently-meetings of the National Conference on the policy of employment in Yemen have revealed that treating what the employment bureaus suffer of many weakness points. Such weaknesses begin from providing services, which represent the main goal behind founding those bureaus, also the establishment of relationships with employers, coordination with the program on labour market and to exert endeavour for working out and developing a national strategy for labour and employment that help integrate labour issues into the comprehensive development framework.

The conference, organized by the ministry of social affairs and labour in association with International Labour Organisation, came out with certain points aimed at activation of labour market, developing the sector of very

small, small and medium companies, enhancement of administrating the labour market and incorporation of concepts related to gender to policies of employment.

Report by the ILO disclosed that employment bureaus in Yemen were unable to provide services they were established for because there is a low number of those registered with the bureaus to get jobs and only 5% of the unemployed is registered with them.

The survey report has considered that annexing the department of employment bureaus to the department of labour inspection at the ministry of social affairs has formed a barrier before activity of the this department and prevented reciprocal relations with employers, in addition to lack of coordination between employment

Figures in the survey mention that out of 15146 registered persons only 2016 have received help from the bureaus in finding jobs and the remainder 13130 stayed without help

and got no response to their applications despite that employers reported of their need for the employment of 3070 persons and their demands were not met by employment bureaus.

Advisor to the ILO has defined a number of main areas for effecting change in employment bureaus. The main aspects of change defined by the advisor are the building of new administrative structure to be responsible for them, working for the improvement of information system available at employment bureaus, registering information on employers and workers at data bank, building a database on terms of profession safety and accidents of labour as well as child labour and local activities of social funds.

The conference has recommended the creation of specialised services at the employment bureaus to help those looking for jobs and to face challenges of unemployment by securing around 188 thousand jobs a year in order to reduce unemployment rate by 1%.

The culture of people of Banaadir (part 1)

By Irena Knehtl &
Mohammed Abati*
For the Yemen Times
iren_knehtl@yahoo.com

The Banaadiris (also spelled "Benadir") are a people with their roots in ancient Arabia, Persia and South and Central Asia. Their name is derived from the Persian word "Bandar", which means "harbour" or port, reflecting their origins as seafaring traders who crossed the Indian Ocean to the easternmost part of Africa and established centres of commerce which linked that continent with Asia. The first Banaadir communities were established in what is today southern Somalia about one thousand years ago. The first group of settlers originally resided in Al-Ahsa on the Persian Gulf near Bahrain. Further they were exclusively composed of 39 families, led by seven brothers. These 30 families belonged exclusively to four clans. There were 12 families from the Muqarri clan, 12 families from Jidati, 6 families from the Aqabi, and 6 families from the Ismaili clan. Successively other groups emigrated from different regions of the Arabian Peninsula at different times, but mostly from Yemen. During the tenth century along the Banaadir coast, shoe factories and textile plants were established and the production of clothes was exported to Arab countries, Persia, India, China and other centres along the East African coast.

The Banaadiris are a multi ethnic people from Horn of Africa. They are live along the south coast of that geographic area which Italians called "Somalia" in 1908. The real protagonists of the urbanization of Banaadir were the people of Yemen, who founded the first schools, and constructed the infrastructure of the area. They also developed the economy, introduced monetary systems, improved agricultural techniques to meet international standards, and linked it to Moslem and world trade. Banaadir's historical profile started probably in Mesopotamia, crossed Yemen and reached the coast of Africa where the Banaadir civilization grew in flourished.

Mohammed Ahmed H. Mohammed Abati, a Banaadir scholar and co-ordinator of the Banaadir Community in New Zealand, in this fascinating account further explores the historical background, arts, crafts and lifestyles, and food of the people of Banaadir.

Yemen Times has in issue 727 of 12th April, 2004, published a full report about Banaadir, under the title "Banaadir, The Country of Harbours".

Introduction Into The Area

Somalia is situated on the Horn of Africa. It stands at the crossroads between Africa and the Near East and lies within a region of great cultural diversity.

It can be divided into three areas

1. *The Northern & Central Ranges:* Pastoral nomads live in the country's northern and central ranges, where they herd camels, goats, cattle and sheep.

2. *The Southern Arable Lands:* Cultivator and semi-cultivator farmers produce grain, cotton and fruit in the southern arable lands between the Juba and Shabelle rivers.

3. *The Coastal Urban areas:* The group of urban people is formed by the inhabitants of the historical landing points on the coast of the Indian Ocean.

Unlike other countries in Africa, Somalia too is undergoing a dynamic period of deep cultural and social transformation. This is leading, among recurrent conflicts and internal tensions, to the formation of a new ethnic identity within the context of its present national unity. Somalia is one of the rare African countries where culture, tradition and ethnicity are apparently homogeneous. However, some clearly defined differences can be perceived among Somalis, ethnic compo-



Golden armlet (Sharuuryo)

nents and, as a consequence, some traditional forms of Somali culture. This is mainly due to the geographical and ecological context of Somalis ethnic groups.

In the past there were many other sites along the coasts of East Africa besides the above centres; from the archipelago of Lamu to Malindi, from Mogadishu to Sofala in Mozambique.

They formed a chain of seaports normally visited by traders and travellers

crossing the many routes of the Indian Ocean. This consistent encounter of people entailed a dynamic cultural exchange giving rise to a close cultural affinity of the entire population of the East African coast.

The Banaadiri Urban Communities

The urban people live in the following parts: Warshik, Mogadishu, Gendershe, Afgoi, Marka, Barawe and their surrounding areas, which extend further along the coast up to Kismayo near the Bajuni Islands of Chula and Chuaie and Bur Gao.

They are a multi-ethnic group which include Arabs, Persians, Cushitic groups and Bantu who have resided in what is today southern Somalia.

The main groups are the 'Rer Hamar' natives of Mogadishu, 'Rer Marka' natives of Marka, 'Rer Barawe' natives of Barawe and the 'Bajunis' the original inhabitants of Kismayo and the Bajuni Islands. These groups of people are similar but have different dialects. The Banaadir communities live in ancient stone homes which their forebears built in the old parts of the cities. Many of their cultural traditions are similar to Arabic culture and Swahili(2).

The coastal strip of Somalia between Warsheikh and down to Ras Kiamboni had been always and throughout the centuries a distinct



Necklace with pendant (Gablalaw xarfo iyo gabasha iyo qasab)

region different from the rest of Somalia.

The Banaadiri people who are the founders of these coastal cities lived in these areas since time immemorial.

They are made up of communities of diverse origin bounded together by centuries of common tradition, values and beliefs. The mainstay of the Banaadiri culture is peaceful coexistence, hard work and loyalty based on neighbourhood and deep association to their locality rather than blood affiliation.

Banaadiri Arts, Crafts & Lifestyles

The geographical proximity to the Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf, and the Banaadiris seafaring and trade practice resulted in constant traffic of commerce and human interactions and exchanges of ideas, which have profoundly influenced the motifs of the arts, crafts and lifestyles. Therefore, the workmanship of the Banaadiri, and their expertise in woodcrafts, jewellery production of the "Qallinshube" (well-respected silver-minter group) and mastery in fashioned clothes is well recognised (3).

The Weaver's Cloth "Futa Banaadir"

The first industry established along the Banaadir coast was weaving, dating back to the tenth century and today cloth weaving remains one of the area's main art forms.

In 1330, the Arab traveller Ibn Battuta wrote of Somalia's thriving cloth industry:

"In this place (Banaadir) are manufactured unequalled woven fabrics named after it, which are exported from there to Egypt and elsewhere."

As a crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Somalia, especially the Banaadir coast, was a pivotal point of trade, linking ports from Egypt to India. Its capital of Mogadishu sits on the Indian Ocean, 1300 kilometres from the Gulf of Aden and equidistant



Banaadiri women weaving outdoors

from Cairo, Baghdad and the trading cities of India's south-western coast. It was once a major centre of the trade in spices, aromatic gums, ivory and textiles. Somalia had rich crops of papayas, grapefruit, bananas, and mangoes and, above all, cotton. The fields of the Juba-Shabele land plain were dotted with cotton plants. Somalis produced over 350,000 pieces of cloth annually from the fertile ground. Because the ginning and weaving processes traditionally fell to lower-caste Somali tribes, the product was cheap enough to export successfully to countries like India, Egypt and Kenya.

The white cloth was also the Somali national dress. One length of it, known in traders Arabic as "Futa", wrapped every man's waist as a long skirt. Another shorter piece, called "Go", draped the torso like a shawl. Women wore a long wrap called "Guntino".

By the last decade of the last century, however, the white futa Banaadiri had been completely replaced by western clothes, a grey sheeting manufactured by western countries to the dimensions of the Somali skirt.

The Italian colonists introduced European style clothing. A drop in the world cotton market made production and transportation elsewhere very competitive. These market forces led to the near eradication of the Banaadiri futa.

Today, as a result, Somalia's southern ports of Marka and Barawa no longer bustle with commerce and their medieval fortifications crumble in the wind and tides. So far, the weavers have survived against the odds. They have survived because, resourcefully they introduced design and colour into their weaving, developing - or discovering - a new substantial market among their own people. Using locally grown vegetable dyes such as saffron and imported dyed yarns from India and Pakistan, the Banaadiri weavers began, in the late 1950s, to weave brilliant reds, blues, yellows, blacks and purples into their futas and guntinos, giving their people traditional cloths to use for marriages, funerals, furniture, war dancing and everyday farming.

Nowadays you see men wear a "Macaawis", a brightly coloured cloth, similar to an Indonesian sarong. With this they may wear a Western shirt or wear Western dress and cover their heads with "Kofia Barawe" a Banaadir cap.

Weavers invented dozens of patterns with names like "teeth" and "goats in the sand dunes". These have become standard, and today are worn in major ceremonies and the religious festivities that keep the national spirit of this Islamic stronghold alive. The weaving methods are the same; the weaver first takes the dyed yarn in 24 batches of eight metre lengths, each tied together and marked with spittle and kohl. He dunks them into a sizing of flour and water to make the fibres stiff and strong. Then, in a stretching method called "darisi", the threads are wrapped from one strategically placed vertical stick in the building to another

and left to dry like a long L-shaped blanket

When the yarn has dried, it is wound onto a wooden spindle called the "fur-fur", then unwound and tied into the heddle loops, following the colour pattern indicated by loose strings on the bamboo heddle. The weaver affixes the heddle to the loom and stretches the threads of the new warp out behind the loom to a single iron hook set in the floor seven and a half to eight metres away. There all the warp threads are gathered into one far knot, tied to a length of rope and attached to the hook. The other end of the rope is led back to the weaver's seat. As weaving progresses and cloth is wound onto the cloth beam, the warp is fed towards the loom, anchoring it to the hook each time with a new knot further down the rope.

Jewels

The style forms of Banaadiri jewels are typical of all the historic centres of the Indian Ocean coasts. Production techniques are traced back, generally to the technique used by the artisans of the Middle East and India. Jewels highlight the aesthetic sense of dress; many African people excel in their choice of clothing and the Banaadiri, especially their women, stand out for their regal bearing and dignity.

Most of the jewels are used in the coastal towns of Banaadir (Mogadishu, Marka, Barawe and Kismayo). They belonged to the rich merchant class of those centres, which, at the beginning of this century, appeared, at least outwardly, to be heavily influenced by Arab customs (5); women used to go out veiled and wrapped up in black cloaks.

In the first decades of our century, we see therefore, that many families

had strengthened their economic position and had accumulated considerable property, both moveable and immovable. Also women, particularly through donations and heritage, had considerable wealth.

The wealth of gold displayed by the women of the Banaadir coastal towns was a sign of the favourable economic situation and served a double purpose; firstly, to stress the social status of the owner, in an environment characterized by a very stratified system of social classes that contrasted sharply with the "pastoral democracy" of the interior; secondly, to constitute the woman's own capital on which she could rely in the case, far from infrequent, of repudiation by her husband.

Gold ornaments were worn in everyday life, pairs of bracelets, one on each wrist, of the kinds called "Buuf-Buuf", "Gos-Gos" and "Gablalaw". Very widespread was the "Murryad", a choker necklace made of hollow gold beads, which were filled with frankincense and gums and gave off a pleasant scent. It is especially during wedding festivities that, even nowadays, a great quantity of jewellery is displayed; the female guests wear rings on almost all fingers, two or three necklaces of different kinds and large heavy armlets (Sharuuryo).

During the dances, which mark the wedding ceremonies "Rajuul", thick silver anklets with little bells are worn. Each dancer wears one Rajuul on the right ankle and moves, beating the time with her foot, so that the bells tinkle. This custom came to Banaadir coastal towns from Hadramut (Yemen).

*The author is a Banaadiri scholar and Coordinator of the Banaadiri Community in New Zealand.



Guntino a costume worn by Banaadir women

Children Of War

(Don't Forget Their Pain)

Innocent children from bombed-up homes
Weeping, desperate and so alone
Victims of tyranny, war and greed
Hoping for the day when they'll finally be freed
Waiting in the genocide, until it's their time
Haunted by the question 'what was their crime?'
Future plans, childhood dreams?
Just flown away with the running streams
Children's lives finished before they've even started,
How can some of us be so cold hearted!
Erasing the little ones-for pieces of land
God made it for us all-what's there to understand?
The years pass by and everything's the same

Except the murderers getting better at their vicious game
Still slaughtering millions-including the meek
Can we just watch and ignore-are we really that weak?
It's so easy to forget, when the sound of pain isn't heard
And when the thought of death and dying isn't feared
The world needs truth and justice, are we aware?
People are still dying - does anyone care?
How long will it take, before we can see
That WE need to make the change, OUR efforts are the key
We can really do it-yes help rid the world of sorrow
If we start working together today-we can save tomorrow
Shahida Safoon

Bird flu is a crisis of global importance

Bangkok/Rome, 27 September 2004 — The avian influenza epidemic in Asia is a "crisis of global importance" and will continue to demand the attention of the international community for some time to come, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said in a joint statement today.

Recent outbreaks in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand show that the virus continues to circulate in the region and will not probably be eradicated in the near future, the two organizations said.

More research is urgently needed as the role of wildlife, domestic ducks and pigs in transmitting the virus among animals is still not fully understood. A permanent threat to animal and human health continues to exist.

Major investments needed

While much progress has been made in early detection and reaction, countries still need to step up proactive surveillance and control measures. Major investments are required

to strengthen veterinary services, in particular for surveillance, early warning, detection, reporting and response and for the rehabilitation and restructuring of the poultry sector, FAO/OIE said.

The newly published FAO Recommendations on the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Asia, prepared in close collaboration with OIE, review the factors that should be taken into account in designing and implementing control programmes and explain how countries can adopt a strategy appropriate to their individual situation.

In response to recent controversies on vaccination against bird flu, OIE and FAO reiterated that the slaughter of infected animals is the best way of controlling and ultimately stamping out the disease.

However, FAO/OIE acknowledged that this policy may not be practical or adequate in certain countries because of social and economic reasons or because of high viral challenge due to infection in villages, wild birds or domestic waterfowl. In

such cases, countries wishing to eradicate the disease may choose to use vaccination as a complementary measure to the stamping out policy.

Vaccination

The two agencies stressed that vaccines, if used, should be produced in accordance with the international guidelines prescribed in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

The OIE Terrestrial Code states that a country may be considered free from HPAI based on the absence of virus irrespective of whether vaccination has been carried out. Therefore, the two organisations confirm that the use of vaccines does not imply automatic loss of export markets.

It has been shown that the use of such vaccines does not only protect healthy birds from disease but also reduces the load of viruses excreted by infected birds and thus the likelihood of transmission of the virus to other birds and to humans.

However, the decision on whether to use vaccines has to be made by



each country based on its own situation, OIE/FAO said.

The factors countries should consider in making their decision include

their ability to detect and react to the disease as early as possible and the need for transparent and timely notification; this will have to be supported by a good institutional framework and sound legislation underpinning veterinary services.

Any vaccination strategy should be developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including the private sector. The types of poultry and production sectors to be vaccinated must be determined and clearly documented. Infected poultry and those in contact with the virus should not be vaccinated.

The two agencies said vaccination should be carried out under the supervision of official veterinary services and be accompanied by a parallel surveillance strategy. This would include the capacity of the veterinary services to identify and monitor the circulating virus as well as the response to vaccination, by means including the use of non-vaccinated sentinel birds and the application of serological tests capable of differentiating infected from vaccinated animals.

Major supplier won't make flu vaccine this season

CHICAGO/LONDON, Oct 5 (Reuters) - The company that makes half the flu vaccine used in the United States will not supply any vaccine for the coming flu season because of manufacturing problems at its plant in Britain.

British regulators on Tuesday suspended the manufacturing license of Chiron Corp. citing "problems with the manufacturing process."

Chiron said the suspension would prevent it from releasing its vaccine, known as Fluvirin, for the 2004-2005 season.

Influenza typically kills 36,000 Americans a year and 500,000 people worldwide.

None of Chiron's flu vaccine had reached the general public.

"The fact that the U.S. will potentially only have 50 million doses is a public health nightmare," said Bernstein & Co. analyst Geoffrey Porges.

Chiron's flu vaccine is produced at an FDA-licensed facility in Liverpool, England. About 90 percent of the vaccine produced there is shipped to the United States, the company said recently. Most of the rest goes to Britain.

"FDA officials are working with their British counterparts to learn more about the situation," said Tony Jewell, a spokesman for the Department of

Health and Human Services.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that 185 million Americans get vaccinated against flu every year, including the elderly, chronically ill, babies and their caregivers.

Britain's Department of Health said the suspension would not impact a flu campaign that is under way in Britain because additional doses were being brought in from other suppliers.

"By the end of October we should have all the extra doses in place," the spokeswoman said.

For Chiron, Porges said the decision will take \$280 million in revenue out of Chiron's year and lower earnings per share by about 40 percent. Porges does not own any shares of Chiron and his company has no banking relationship with Chiron.

The company's shares were halted on the Nasdaq. The shares closed at \$45.42 Monday on the exchange.

Shares in Novartis, which owns about 40 percent of Chiron, slipped almost one percent in an otherwise flat Swiss market.

Earlier this year, Chiron said it would delay shipment of Fluvirin because lots containing 4 million doses did not meet sterility standards. The company halted production while it explored the cause of the contamination.

Sedentary kids have raised risk of chronic fatigue

LONDON, Oct 6 (Reuters) - Playing sports and being active in childhood could help reduce the risk of suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome later in life, according to a study on Wednesday.

In research reported online by the British Medical Journal, experts in London said that the disabling condition which is also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) is more common in sedentary youngsters.

"Contrary to previous suggestions that high levels of exercise increase risk, we found that the most sedentary children were at greatest risk," said Russell Viner of the Royal Free and University College Medical School.

He added that the finding is further evidence of the need to promote healthy exercise and reduce sedentary behaviour among children.

Viner and his colleagues studied the medical history of 16,567 babies born in 1970 whose health had been monitored until they were 30 years old.

Children who had higher levels of

exercise had a lower risk, while being female and from a higher social class seemed to increase the chance of the illness.

But there was no association with academic ability, obesity, birth order, psychological problems and allergies.

The symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) are similar to those of influenza.

But unlike influenza, the headache, tender lymph nodes, weakness, muscle and joint aches and inability to concentrate, continue for six months and longer.

Sufferers — more often women than men — are often too tired to do normal activities and feel exhausted. In the United States an estimated 500,000 people have the illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We found no evidence to support the suggestion that chronic illness, whether physical or mental, in either parent is common among adolescents with CFS/ME," Viner added.

Medical insurance system between success and failure

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Introduction

Yemen is the only country that has no system of medical insurance, though many infectious diseases spread rapidly. What is more, the Ministry of Public Health and Population is unable to offer basic medical services to poor people and people of limited income. Even the state officers don't get the simplest medical care except for influential people who get medical grants. Additionally, privatizing hospitals has become one of the most significant investment areas in Yemen, even though this is something that deteriorates their performance.

Social medical insurance and the result of a survey.

Before talking about the medical insurance that Yemen (through the Ministry of Public Health and Population) is going to implement after financing from the European Community Federation and after a pilot in one district to analyze its success, we should know how the medical system works.

There were two medical systems in Yemen:

- Private and public medical system in

the northern provinces that was governmentally and privately financed.

- A public medical system in the southern and eastern provinces that was governmentally financed.

After the unification, the two systems were integrated forming only one system, a private and public system which deteriorated in its performance and services. This compels any patient to prefer the private sector.

Government attitude towards medical insurance

The government said that it has assigned an international consultancy staff to study the possible implementation of medical insurance in Yemen. These staff will arrive in Yemen soon and will hold many studies then present the results on the style of the medical system. The European Community Federation in its current project of financing the reform of the medical sector in Yemen, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, started by studying social medical insurance that relies on people who will pay fees periodically, in order to protect them from expensive payments at the time of illness. This system includes farmers, craftsmen, workers...etc.

The consultation workshop concerning medical insurance, organized by the

Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the European Community Federation in Sana'a last Sunday October 3rd 2004, revealed the results of the groups dialogue with people in Al-Shamayateen district in Taiz and the results of the family survey conducted there. Dr. Ragheb al-Qurashi, member of the medical policies and technical support in the Public Administration of Medical Insurance and the project coordinator said, "the workshop aimed at exposing the results the team has collected in May, hoping that we come out with new ideas that may help in improving this project and bringing it to light in a complete phase."

We presented the results of conversation with people, non-governmental organizations' representatives, and leaders of the local authority, we know the medical conditions in the society and the public view regarding the present medical services and collected the suggestions for development in this field. The quick family survey allowed us to gauge how many people accept medical insurance and to measure their readiness to participate in it. Not only that but it allowed us to know their expectations, and the services they wish to have. This study gave positive results and opportunities for the project's success."

In collaboration with the European Community Federation, the necessary resources will be provided to Khalifah Hospital and some other medical centers in Al-Turbah district in order to improve the medical services presented to people. Then the actual practice of the program will start in the beginning of the coming year. We will wait for the results and in case of success, the project will expand to include the other districts.

Conclusion

This attempt is undoubtedly positive and distinctive. It should be successful if the Ministry of Health keeps its promises and commitments to establish projects of social medical insurance in all the districts where there are hardworking local authorities with high intellectuality in collecting fees, raising awareness among people and improving the quality of the services. Additionally, the state represented by the Ministry of Health, should continue sponsoring this project even after the European Community Federation has finished sponsoring it. That is necessary to offer medical services of high quality to all the needy districts in Yemen. Otherwise, the money of the poor people, who are the majority of population, will go to sorcerers and soothsayers instead.

SIEMENS to upgrade GSM services in Yemen with US\$28 million network expansion project

The Siemens Information and Communication Mobile Group has been awarded an aggregate of contracts to upgrade, expand and modernize SabaFon's GSM services. The deal with the provider is worth US\$28 million and includes the second EDGE contract for Siemens in the Middle East.

As part of the project, Siemens will deploy its General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) platform and upgrade SabaFon's infrastructure to a Packet Switching and High Speed Data Rate network which will prepare SabaFon's Switching Network for 3G. Siemens will also implement its leading EDGE and charge@once technologies, and expand its capacity by 250,000 subscribers. It also includes the upgrade of SabaFon's Radio Network by 150 EDGE ready new Base Stations. It incorporates professional services such as installation and commissioning, system integration, a customized concept for spares inventory, training and enabling network operations. SabaFon's new services will be deployed by end 2004.

When the project is completed, both SabaFon's prepaid and postpaid GSM users will potentially enjoy a wealth of Siemens E-GPRS based VAS such as MMS, Internet Access, Video Streaming, PoC, IM and LBS.

We are happy to sustain SabaFon

success in such a dynamic and competitive market as in Yemen. The achieved leading position of SabaFon in Yemen is incentive for both of our companies to enhance it further with state-of-the-art technology and support from Siemens. From an Infrastructure angle, SabaFon is one of the pioneering operators in current technology as well as the readiness to move straightforward to 3G says Mr. Soenke Peters, Vice President and Head of Siemens networks, Middle East.

We in Siemens do believe in business partnerships and most of all consider SabaFon to be a fundamental pillar of our success in the Middle East. We highly value SabaFon's contribution to Siemens on strategic decisions and hope we will always prove to be the right partner to rely upon he adds.

An acknowledged leader in the world of mobile network services, Siemens has worked extensively with operators across the world, enabling them to offer numerous voice, multimedia and data services to their

customers and wherever they may be at the time. In particular, the company is a leading provider of GPRS, EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution) and UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System), technologies.

We are satisfied with Siemens professional performance since the outset of SabaFon operations, which reflects the solid and fundamental partnership course as progressing from one achievement to the other says H.E. Sheikh Hameed Al Ahmar, Chairman of SabaFon.

The network expansion is a continuous process, both in terms of lines and coverage. Added to that, we embarked upon deploying a wealth of VAS offerings that would enable both postpaid and prepaid subscribers to enjoy new generation services on par with international operators. We, in SabaFon, have elaborated ambitious plans for the future and we look forward to see Siemens as part of it he added.

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Main Headlines

- Council for Arabs and Africans takes Sana'a its headquarters
- Document on protection of journalists against arbitrary firing to be signed
- Fears that Bajammal would get rid of his rivals before changing the government
- Strong verdicts against those condemned of blasting USS Cole destroyer
- Nigeria wins the secretariat of the senate and shoura councils league
- Change and dealing a blow to corruption pillars a political will
- Political security releases a Kenyan cleric and a Tanzanian one
- American report: Russians urge Putin to aim military strike to Yemen
- Americans advise Yemenis government to release al-Khaiwani
- Sentences of execution and imprisonment against those accused of Cole destroyer explosion
- The security in Hodeidah governorate arrest an activist of Islamic Liberation Party
- In the case of Cole, Criminal Court issues judgment of execution of al-Nashiri and Al-Hada and imprisons others
- Warnings against American activity infiltration into some tribal circles
- For the third time, a sitting for speeches of defense in the case of the assassination of Jarallah Omer
- Under a popular watching, insistence on passing a new price dose
- In Aden military troops demolish hundreds of houses and expel their inhabitants
- World Bank discloses truth about deterioration of situations in Yemen
- Involved in supporting the rebellion, the security interrogates two ministers; criminal court passes judgment against Judge Loqman
- The American ambassador to Yemen runs a network at the Sheraton Hotel for raising 100 thousand signatures
- Directives to Yemen's embassy in Washington in the wake of suspicious variables and activities in Detroit
- FM al-Qirbi: We received international logistic assistance in the war in Saada
- Government withdraws YR 280 billion to make for deficit in the present year budget
- Al-Sadr organization welcomes he French initiative and occupation army continues shelling Iraqi cities
- On he intifadha anniversary, nine martyred and 20 wounded in Nablus and Jenin
- In his speech on 26 September, the president: The revolution was not a luxury but inevitable necessity for getting rid of a reactionary backward regime
- Vice-President opens development and services projects n Aden
- PM in an interview to Dubai satellite Channel: Dealing with consequences of al-Houthi insurgency would include unification of education and closure of non-government religions schools
- A petrochemical complex to be built in Yemeni islands
- In the Emirates, government trend for changing Islamic religious curricula
- President Saleh discusses relations of Yemen with Algeria and Jordan
- An official source: Weapons ships seized by Saudi authorities did not sail from Yemeni ports
- Secretary-General and two assistants and approving the annual budget of the general secretariat of the League of senate and shoura councils in Africa and the Arab World

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 30 Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- During his meeting with leadership of the National Institute for Democracy,
- PM confirms the laying of democracy foundations among the society
- Restructure the Free Zones and board of directors
- Preparations for holding the first national conference for students and youth

In its editorial the newspaper says some parties inside and outside the country, from those having hostile stands towards the revolution, unity and democracy, is haunted with feelings of jealousy and envy when they see and perceive that Yemen has achieved successes in any fields or at any level. This is especially seen regarding Yemen successes in the foreign policy and its developing relations with others that are based on the approach of rationality and keenness on Yemen's interests and avoiding Yemen the dangers and challenges. Those would try by all means work for offending Yemen and its relations with its brethren and friends. If they cannot achieve that end they would fabricate hostile allegations against Yemen. An instance of such allegations is that they claim that Yemen's good relations with the United States of America are due to "Yemen subservience to America", of which we wonder what kind of subservience they are alleging.

Yemen, free in its decision and courageous in its declared stands, has the loudest voice in the region with regard to facing the American policy, whether regarding to what is happening in Palestine and Iraq and others, or against the full bias of the U.S. to Israel. Yemen was and is still among the first countries in the region that opposed the American hegemony in the region and did not allow making its territories a place for any foreign presence or any kind of other presence. Moreover, Yemen's stands supporting Arab issues in Palestine, Iraq or Libya or Sudan are the cause for Yemen to endure very much.

الاسبوع Al-Isbou weekly, 30 Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- GPC the major opponent to the economic reform
- Government official locks the door of his colleague staffer office

Columnist Qassem Abdulrab says in his article that Iraq which was a title of what America is propagating of freedom and democracy has become almost destroyed and not governed by an Iraqi state or government.

The Americans have announced earlier that they may stay ten years in Iraq, but seems their calculation was simple and naïve. It means that the killing of two to three of their soldiers every day equals ten thousand soldiers in ten years. But their increasing losses and the Iraqis and Arab hatred for them because of their atrocious acts

have made them reach at new convictions. Those convictions could have the aim of a back down by the American administration for easing the pressure on the American president who is to run for next presidency term. It may be due to international developments and reading of the international situation the American do not seem willing to present to the world. The Americans presence in Iraq seems to be ending and this could be a sign of the end of globalization and domination which the American people and the world peoples do not need.

النهار Al-Nahar weekly, 30 Sep.2004.

Main headlines

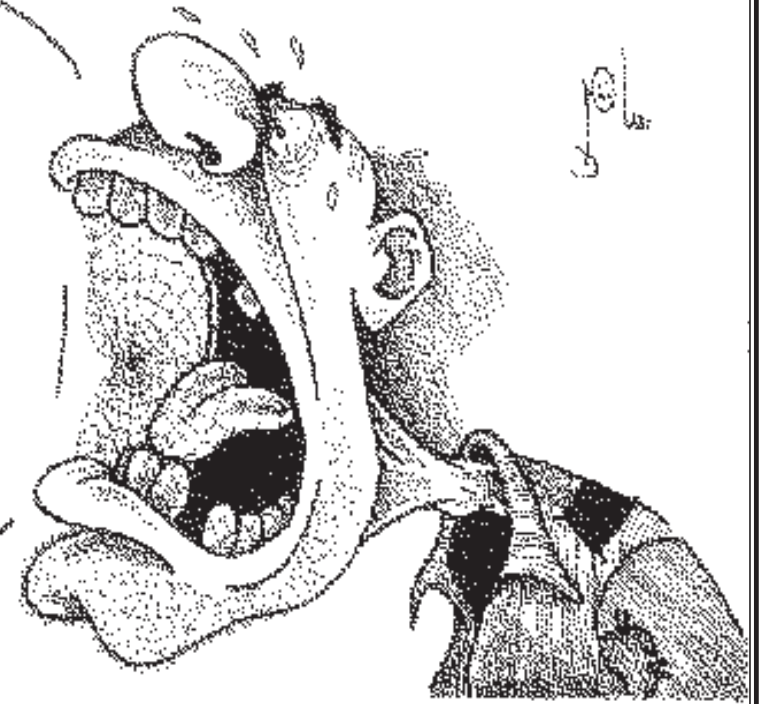
- FM minister takes part in meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington
- Intention for privatizing the state establishment of salt
- Workshop on social integration of local councils in Taiz
- Woman National Committee holds workshop for gender in Dahlie

Columnist Hajie al-Juhafi says in an article on the 42nd anniversary of the Yemeni revolution that many achievements have been realized and no one can deny that and the situation cannot be compared to that it had been in the days of the imamate rule. The generation of today feels the existence of roads, schools, and universities. The generation would not accept anyone confiscating their freedom, dignity

SKETCHED OPINION

Allah orders us to fast one month, But the government wants us to fast forever.

By Samer A.



and prosperity. This generation does not know anything about the imamate and oppression. This generation that hears from fathers about practices and periods of the imamate wonders nowadays about the reason why the state has not imposed its prestige over all parts of the country and why corruption is governing everything. Members of this generation also ask about why there is no equality in the application of the law and opportunities and the reason why the poor and beggars are increasing.

There are many questions in the mind of this generation members. Truly, all realize that the riches and merits of the revolution are very many but those benefiting and entertaining them are few.

Annas weekly, 4 Oct. 2004.

Main headlines

- Al-Mahatwari appealed to the president for stopping the culture of violence, Al-Asbahi warns against an attempt to liquidate him
- Hammed al-Ahmer accuses the ministry of communications of fighting investment
- The new leadership of physicians union intends to reform conditions of the doctor and improve medical services
- Head of the political office of Islah party demands fighting poverty as part of the government priorities
- Number of Yemeni children smuggled to neighborly countries arouses panic of international organisations
- Elections committee begins preparations for presidential elections due in less than two years

Columnist Mohammed Yahya al-Sabri says in an article that verdict was passed in the case of blasting the American destroyer USS Cole and some has considered that event as closing the destroyer file, but this is an incorrect presumption. The writer maintains that legally the trial was permeated with many failures despite of the accused had stayed in prison for more than four years and it was announced for ten times about their standing trial. On the other hand there was something like non-seriousness in presenting and checking evidence and getting sure about the origin.

That is what we claim of the absence of legal soundness in this file but what is not true is what may be considered as a killing illusion to claim that we have closed this file on its political side or that of security. The more important and dangerous aspect of this file is the political and strategic one and then comes the criminal side.

Al-Wassat weekly, 29 Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- After managing to stop the price dose, the parliament endorses a loan violating regulations
- Workers of the state establishment of salt in Aden send distress call
- New chairman and secretary-general for the physicians and pharmacists union

The newspaper's political editor writes that foiling the price dose in the way it has been carried out is a message the entire regime should understand clearly. The majority of the parliament members and also the shoura council stood against what is called the price reforms.

The letter of prime minister Bajammal and its contradiction with his deputy the minister of planning on the volume of the state losses because of the subsidy of diesel made members of the two councils; the parliament and the shoura accuse the government of stealing. By skipping over the companions demonstration at the parliament, it can be said that the government is facing its destiny alone.

The problem of the state is that it wants to implement reforms having direct relationship with the citizen along with overlooking reforms parallel to them on the administrative and

economic side, and this altogether constitutes the corruption which has got very strong.

Al-Thawri weekly, organ of YSP, 30 Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- Parliament approves an oil agreement and new loans
- On the Palestinian intifadha the YSP hails struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to establish their independent national state
- In a new violation of freedoms, Al Wassat newspaper before prosecution on charges of offending Saudi Arabia

YSP organ editorial says as was the case with the banana republics in the seventies of the last century, Yemen is still living this compound of comprehensive violence practiced against opponents and against various elites and segments of the people. Prohibition and fields of red lines mines sowed by the authority are still besieging all, stopping the freedom of movement and the will of action. This is how the broadlines seem to frame the future of Yemen, the frames of the seventies past when pre-organised condemnations and teams of inspection and arrests.

بِقُلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقُدْرَةِ تَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرِ التَّعَاذِي وَأَصْدَقِ الْمَوَاسَاةِ إِلَى الْأَخْتِ الْفَاضِلِ

منى الشاوش

لوفاة المغفور لها - بإذن الله تعالى - الفاضله
والدتها

راجين من المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته وغفرانه ويلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان...
(إننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

الأسيفون:
محمد حمود حميد الدين، سمير مطهر الشامي
وطاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز

المسابقة التي انتظرها الآلاف

The contest awaited by thousands



The greatest contest of the year

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- Do you think that a picture you own is a potential jackpot winner?

Then it is now your opportunity to participate in the first competition of its kind in the Republic of Yemen:

"BEST PHOTO CONTEST"

Yemen Times is organizing the "Best Photo Contest" making it the first establishment to take this initiative for it has always been supportive of talents and initiatives in photography. This contest is the first of its kind in the country and is expected to generate thousands of participants from all over Yemen.

For more information, please refer to following editions of Yemen Times and the Family and Development Magazine.

هل

- التقطتم صورة تحتفظون بها لكونها فريدة، غريبة، جميلة، أو نادرة؟
- لديكم صورة قام بالتقاطها غيركم لكم أو لعضو من عائلتكم أو صديق وتحبذون أن يراها آلاف القراء في اليمن والعالم؟
- تعتقدون أن الصورة التي بحوزتكم قد تكسبكم الملايين؟

إذاً، فقد أتى دوركم للمشاركة في أكبر مسابقة من نوعها في تاريخ الجمهورية اليمنية وهي:

مسابقة

"أجمل صورة"

برعاية كبرى الشركات اليمنية

والتي تنظمها مؤسسة يمن تائمز حيث أولت المؤسسة اهتماماً كبيراً في تنمية وتشجيع المواهب اليمنية في التصوير وبالتالي قررت تنظيم هذه المسابقة والمتوقع لها إقبالاً من قبل الآلاف من المشاركين من شتى أنحاء الجمهورية. وسيحصل الفائزون على جوائز كبيرة وقيمة ستنتشر صورهم في واحدة من أكثر الصحف اليمنية مصداقية وهي صحيفة يمن تائمز بالإضافة إلى أسرع المجلات اليمنية نمواً وهي مجلة الأسرة والتنمية بالإضافة إلى عدد من الوسائل الأخرى.

تابعوا الأعداد القادمة لصحيفة يمن تائمز
ومجلة الأسرة والتنمية لمعرفة المزيد...

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley

Winner will get a present from the institute

Ans. Con. 26

1. the cat.
2. easy go
3. ears

Winner Ahmed Nagi

BY Eugenia

Contest No. (27) مسابقة رقم 27
 إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
 Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer
 لتسأل لوحيد لكليات سنت جيلز ومركز كسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا
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Complete these proverbs :
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 East or west home.....
 When you are in Roma do.....

بيانات المتسابقين
 الاسم:
 رقم الترخيص:

الطبع كموثوق المسندة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بوابتك كاتمنسة (معهد الفاروق صنعنا - تلفوننا ٢١٣٧٦١ ٢١٣٧٦٢ فاكس ٢١٣٥٦٢ شارع جاتل المدخل القوي مغال مجوهوات الخسيري) * انفسر جوهوسه لاسنلا الاحباب هر يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
Don't take unnecessary grief from someone to whom you shouldn't even be giving the time of day. Stand tall and end what isn't working for you.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Make plans to do something special with friends or youngsters. The joy you get and the information you receive will be enough to get your creative ideas flowing.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Take on a project that interests you, but be careful not to let the cost go over budget. Your creative imagination will lead to a cost-efficient solution.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
Someone you have to respond to will cause emotional turmoil. Stay calm and have your facts straight. Getting upset will only give any opponent you face the edge.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
Don't focus on what's not available to you, but instead on what you can do. Financial or legal concerns can be dealt with and should lead to positive and prosperous results.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
The more you involve yourself with others, the better you will do. You have some good ideas and if you share them, someone will step up and join your cause.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
Be careful how you approach people, especially if it pertains to work or your position. Working on your own will bring the best results.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
The results you get today will be dependent on how you treat others. There will be no room for jealousy, but if you emanate good feelings you will nurture a relationship that's important to you.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Do not trust anyone with legal or financial matters. Prepare to protect yourself and your assets. Things are not as they appear.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Be careful how you handle anyone you are in a partnership with. Matters can escalate, leading to irreconcilable differences. Keep your wits about you.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
Mix business with pleasure and you will build a strong relationship with your colleagues. You will get the opportunity to show how good you are at what you do.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
Make time for loved ones. Think of something unique to do that will spark enthusiasm. Love is in a high cycle, so have fun.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	28	28	28	27	26	26	26	Hi	38	37	37	36	35	36	36
Lo	10	9	9	8	7	7	8	Lo	28	28	28	28	27	26	26
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀		☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀

Garfield comic strip panels showing Garfield's morning routine and a conversation with Jon.

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Yemenis writers take stage at Frankfurt fair

By GEORGINA PRODHAN

FRANKFURT, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Yemeni and Arab writers take centre stage at the world's biggest book fair this week, seeking to build bridges between the West and Arab nations against a backdrop of conflict in Iraq and Israel's offensive in Gaza.

The Frankfurt Book Fair has invited the "The Arab World" as its guest of honour to promote an understanding of Arab culture and literature and help heal the wounds of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and their aftermath.

"The necessity for dialogue has never been so urgent as it is today," book fair director Volker Neumann told Reuters in an interview. "This will be the beginning of a dialogue — a late beginning, but a beginning."

A particular element of excitement will be generated this year by the appearance of Ali Ahmed Said, the Syrian-Lebanese poet known as Adonis, who is the bookmakers' favourite to win the Nobel Prize for literature to be announced on Thursday.

The book fair's ambitious vision has also sparked controversy with some Arab writers boycotting the official presentation in protest at what they see as tolerance by the Arab



Noman Yaeesh from Yemen adjusts his traditional outfit called 'Sumda' as he prepares his country's booth before the Frankfurt bookfair, October 5, 2004. The world's largest bookfair with its focal theme "Literature of Arabia" will be open to public from Wednesday, October 6 until October 10.

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League — Frankfurt's partner in organising this year's fair — of literary and cultural censorship and oppression.

Nevertheless, it is a great commercial as well as political opportunity for Arab writers.

"Since September 11, the Western world has experienced a surge of interest in Arab affairs," said Peter Ripken, director of Germany's Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature, in Egypt's Al-Ahram weekly.

But many more books have been sold about Arabs than by them, he said, adding that the fair will give Arab writers an opportunity to sell their own books in a marketplace that last year generated more than \$700 million worth of business.

"The Frankfurt Book Fair will ... give Arabs a chance to speak for themselves,"

he said.

Ninety-three-year-old Egyptian author Nagoub Mahfouz, who helped to put Arabic literature on the world map when he won the Nobel literature prize in 1988, welcomes the chance for younger writers to make a name for themselves.

"It is true that the relations between East and West are at a low point but this is all the more reason why the Arabs should go to Frankfurt," said the hard-of-hearing Mahfouz in remarks relayed to Reuters by telephone by his friend Mohamed Salmawy.

But some critics of the project to promote Arab culture said the stakes were too high in the current political climate.

"As it is, the world already associates this culture solely with oppression, terror and contempt for women's rights," said Egypt's Jamal al-Ghitani in an interview published on www.qantara.de, a website dedicated to dialogue with Islam.

"There is no need to do even more damage with a poor showing at the book fair," he said.

CENSORSHIP IGNORED?

With a broad spectrum of literary luminaries, publishers, critics and opinion-formers gathering for the annual fair, Neumann has assembled a programme that will see almost 200 Arabic writers reading their work.

Discussion will take place alongside architecture and calligraphy exhibitions, films, dance events and samplings of Arab cuisine.

A reading from the work of father figure Mahfouz will launch the project, to be followed by such stars as Morocco's Tahar Ben Jalloun, Algeria's Assia Djebar as well as Nobel tip Adonis.

"Arabic poetry is a tradition that has never got any prize and he is the greatest living Arabic poet," said Fredrik Lind of Hedengren's book store in Stockholm, known for predicting whose works to have in stock ahead of the Nobel prize announcement.

The Arab League has rejected criticism that only government-friendly authors have

been invited. "The books have been chosen by the Arab Publishers' Union, which is a completely independent body," spokesman Hossam Zaki told Reuters.

Syrian novelist Rafik Shami, who accuses the League of turning a blind eye to censorship and oppression of writers, begs to differ. "The Arab League is nothing but a dictators' club," he told Reuters.

The effect of censorship on Arabic literature is compounded by high book prices, a lack of bookshops and libraries and varying degrees of literacy, meaning that reading is an activity only a few enjoy outside the literary centres of Cairo and Beirut, said Andre Gaspard of Arabic publisher Saqi Books.

With its vision of bridge building, commu-

nication and dialogue, the book fair faces a great challenge, Gaspard, the publisher's co-founder and director, told Reuters.

"I'm afraid there is a sort of trauma in the Western mind that they want to show they are not against the Arabs, and I fear that this may overshadow the real issue that for decades there hasn't been proper communication between the Western culture and the Arab culture," he said.

"I hope that this real issue will be addressed, not September 11, not the Muslims, not the Christians, not the Jews ... If this does not happen it will be sad, it will be a missed opportunity."

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