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YEMEN TIMES

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As the government declares a three-day mourning Yemen grieves loss of UAE's great leader

YEMEN TIMES STAFF & REUTERS

In an official message broadcast on national TV and official news agency Saba, Yemen's president conveyed his condolences to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the demise of its president Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, who died at the age of 90 after 33 years of rule.

"The Arab and Islamic nations has lost one of its elite leaders and good men who had dedicated himself and

spared no efforts to serve their cases and worked on unifying the stance and achieving solidarity among them in front of major challenges and to have them gain a suitable position among world nations," the statement said.

The statement conveyed Yemen's condolences to the family of the late leader and the people of UAE and the whole Muslim and Arab worlds.

"Yemen is greatly saddened by the departure of the courageous Arab leader, and expresses its sincere grati-

tude for his noble stances that supported the Yemeni people in various situations and for supporting the causes of the Umma in different times and places."

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi commented on this tragic event saying: "The death of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nehayan is not only a loss for the people of the UAE, but is also a substantial loss for Yemen and the Arab World."

Continued on page 2



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Correction



Abdissalam Moalim Adam, Ambassador of Somalia based in Yemen (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



Ahmed Al-Basha, Head of the African Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Yemen Times would like to inform its readers that in the Front Page story that appeared in the Oct. 28 issue of the Yemen Times on Somalia, the names and titles underneath two photos were mistakenly reversed. The two photos (from left to right) were of Abdissalam Moalim Adam, the Ambassador of Somalia based in Yemen, and Ahmed Al-Basha, the Head of the African Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Yemen Times apologies for the error both to H.E. Abdissalam and Mr. Al-Basha and to our readers and for any confusion the name-reversal may have caused. Pictured here are the photos correctly identifying these two prominent individuals.

Palestinian Ambassador to Yemen says . . .

PLO will carry on despite Arafat's illness

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

When Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat traveled to Paris late last week for tests to discover the cause of his illness, uncertainty began to loom over Palestine and the rest of the Middle East. Many are wondering who would replace Arafat, who has led the Palestinians for nearly four decades, if he passes away or is unable to carry out his responsibilities as President of the Palestinian Authority and Head of the Fatah organization.

Some are expecting a power struggle among high-ranking politicians which could divide the Palestinians seeking the end of occupation and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Worse yet, some are speculating that there might be chaos if there is a power vacuum and violence will escalate in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict that started in the fall of 2000.

Continued on page 2



Palestinian Ambassador in Yemen, Dr. Khalid El-Sheikh. (Yemen Times photo.)

Official results still not out: Bush on verge of victory

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bush's campaign declared victory over Democratic Sen. John

BUSH: 254
KERRY: 252

Kerry and claimed re-election to a second term in the White House on Wednesday, but Kerry refused to concede until all ballots were counted in Ohio.

In a dispute that evoked memories of the prolonged election recount in Florida in 2000, questions about provisional and absentee ballots in the potentially decisive state of Ohio delayed the outcome of a contested presidential election.

Ohio was crucial to the electoral calculations of both candidates as they tried to piece together the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House. Without Ohio, neither candidate reached the magic number.

White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, in a pre-dawn appearance before Bush supporters at a planned victory rally, said Bush had compiled a "statistically insurmountable" lead in Ohio and had won a majority of the popular vote.

"We are convinced that President Bush has won re-election," Card said, adding Bush would make a statement later on Wednesday.

Kerry's running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, told supporters in Boston there would be no concession until all votes had been counted in Ohio.

"It's been a long night, but we've waited four years for this victory, we can wait one more night," Edwards said, adding: "We will fight for every vote."

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Al-Qaeda suspects & Believing Youth to be released

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The government is planning to release about 112 al-Qaeda suspects and 176 Believing Youth, prisoners who have not been charged with any criminal acts, said Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, head of the Intellectual Dialogue Committee last Tuesday.

Al-Qaeda and the Believing Youth are two prohibited organizations in Yemen.

The prospective released prisoners have undergone the latest dialogue round that had started at the beginning of last week. They were convinced with the arguments of the committee members and decided to come back to the right path.

President Saleh had announced that

some 264 detainees were freed in previous dialogue rounds are now practicing their life as good citizens. He also promised that some 1,758 prisoners over different charges would be released soon.

He said the government has paid large sums of money for those who failed to pay.

The president said that there is no prisoner of opinion in Yemeni prisons, ignoring the case of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, who is being imprisoned for articles published in his newspaper.

The president considered Al-Khaiwani as an inciter of insurgency and not a prisoner of opinion.

Well-informed sources say that some prisoners the committee had ordered to be released are still imprisoned.

Authorities seize drugs

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Authorities in Taiz confiscated large quantities of smuggled and illegal drugs in an area near to Shar'ab, Oct. 26.

The 19 packages of drugs from unknown sources, and at a value of YR 9 million, were seized and taken away from the smugglers by central police officers after a joint effort with representatives from the Attorney

General, the police, and the Health and Population Office in Taiz.

The smugglers used to bring into the country drugs from several sources to sell it in local markets in Taiz districts.

These drugs along with different goods and some types of wines are smuggled through the coast of the Red Sea.

Some of them can be seized while many others pass into the country by smugglers employing various means.

Publishes 5th issue

Magazine deals with women's issues

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

To help raise awareness on human rights and women rights within the Yemeni community, the WFRT has issued the fifth issue of its magazine "Freedoms and Rights."

It was enriched by numerous topics on rights, participated in by a large number of activists and advocates in our country and different Arab countries, especially dealing with women's rights in Islam, as it relates to the verification between the verses and the jurisprudence.

It has contained a number of topics such as "Halving the women's ransom (blood money) in the Shariah and the Fact" by Muhammad Saif al-Odainy, and "Halving the Women's witness" by the Advocate Jamal al-Jo'bi, and some other topics relevant to women.

As well, Dr. Abdul Wahab Shamsan

has an article "Humanitarian International Law and the Violations Against Women."

And also some others like Dr. Fuad al-Salahi and Prof., Muhammad Abdullah al-Hakimy have participated by their writings on women.

The "Freedoms and Rights" issue is considered the sole magazine which focuses and studies the facts of human and women's rights, to the local and Arab level.

Meanwhile, the 10th and 11th issues of "The Forum" have handled the New Liberalism Globalization, "How to Challenge Women's Rights and its Problems," "The Women's Movement in Globalization Era - Will it be Demolished?" and a number of conflicts existing among the generations in the women's movement, in addition to other women's issues.

Carelessness kills 5 children in Taiz

YT TAIZ BUREAU

Five children were killed when a grenade was mistakenly triggered and then exploded on Sunday Oct. 24 2004 in al-Haimat al-Olya district of Taiz. The victimized children were instantly killed when they were playing with a live grenade that they found at one of rooms at their father's house.

The boys, Qamar Abdullah Ahmed Murshid (13 years), Latifah Abdullah A. Murshid (8 years), Faraj Abdullah A. Murshid (7 years), Abdurazzaq Ali Ahmed Murshid (5 years), and Ola'a

Ali Ahmed Murshid (9 years) left behind a mourning family that was accused of carelessness in not ensuring that weapons are left out of reach of children.

The incident also resulted in grief and sorrow in the neighborhood and in many parts of the city of Taiz.

Such incidents have become more common than ever due to the increasing number of weapons in the country and lack of the most basic regulations that limit the trade and carrying of weapons, particularly out of the capital city Sanaa.

In wake of president's oath Yemen asks Arab League to support Somalia

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government asked the Arab League last week to create an Arab fund that would assist Somalia to rebuild after its 13-year civil war.

The request came two weeks after Somalia's new president Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed took the oath of office in Nairobi, Kenya. Yusuf is expected to unite numerous clans that have been fighting for power since dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted in 1991 and stabilize the war-torn country.

Yemen has shown support of Yusuf to end the fighting. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was the one Arab leader that attended the inauguration in Nairobi and called on international assistance to help the new president bring peace to Somalia.

"In the past, Yemen has repeatedly asked the Arab League to help a government in Somalia establish peace, create a democratic government and rebuild the country," Ahmed Al-Basha, Head of the African Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Yemen Times. "The call for assistance is justified and when the new government is formed, it should be supported by the Arab League."

The new Somali president plans to appoint a new prime minister and form a cabinet in the coming weeks, and the new government will move to Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, in the near future.

Somalia will require substantial support from other countries. According to The World Bank, 43 per cent of the population lives in extreme poverty, living on \$1 a day.

Due to fighting, famine and disease, as many as one million Somalis have died during the civil war, and the country's infrastructure, education and healthcare have been left in shambles. Only 17 per cent of the children

Al-Wahda Foundation's land plundered

YT TAIZ BUREAU

Al-Wahda Entrepreneurial Foundation sources claimed that a Sheikh who had been working for the real estate authority in Taiz along with a number of his aides forcibly plundered a land belonging to the foundation located in Salman Mountain near the gate of Taiz University.

The source said that this action resulted in major concern among the people who have shares in the foundation as the state-owned lands became subject to plunder by powerful persons who seize the chance during official holidays to take over new land for personal benefit. The case of the land plunder was raised to officials at the governorate to act swiftly and return the land from the hands of the sheikh.

The phenomenon of land takeover has been frequently occurring in the last years as a result of lack of law enforcement and the inability of authorities to prevent influential figures from accumulating wealth by employing illegal means and by using their authority and might.

are enrolled in primary school, and with limited healthcare, life expectancy is 47 years.

"The political settlement will need support from Arab countries and the international community as well," said Al-Basha.

Yusuf may face obstacles to try and unify the country. Although most tribal leaders support the selection of Yusuf as president, some in Mogadishu do not recognize him as the nation's leader. Mogadishu is divided between a large number of clans, and roughly 60,000 armed militiamen are based in the capital.

Last Saturday, fighting erupted between Puntland and Somaliland that killed over 100 people. Somaliland, a northern territory that claimed independence during the civil war and has not supported the election, has fought

with Puntland, another breakaway region, for years over land disputes.

Other attempts to stabilize the country during the civil war have failed. After Abdulkassim Sala Hassan was appointed president at a conference held in Djibouti in 2000, he controlled only a small part of the capital and limited areas in south Somalia.

Last week, Yusuf asked the African Union (AU) to send 20,000 peace-keeping troops to Somalia to help disarm the militias and stabilize the country during the rebuilding process. It is said that the AU will accept the request.

It is estimated that around 430,000 Somalis live outside of their homeland. Yemen is host to at least 47,000 Somali refugees, the largest Somali population in the Middle East.

Continued from page 1

Yemen grieves loss of UAE's great leader

He added that Yemenis could never forget the deceased president for his good deeds, particularly for Yemen. He added that sadness for his death is evident throughout the country.

"Sheikh Zayed has helped us achieve many accomplishments in Yemen particularly through his role in the reconstruction of the Marib Dam. He supported the development process in Yemen in a diversity of fields," the minister explained.

Yemeni television switched to Quranic readings after the news. "Today we lost the sage of the Arab world," Kuwait Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said. "He called for justice and through it tried to unite the Arab nation."

The funeral of Sheikh Zayed was held on Wednesday afternoon and his eldest son and expected heir Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan would receive condolences for three days as of Wednesday.

The state said the flag would be flown at half-mast for 40 days. Government offices will close for eight days and private firms for three days starting Wednesday, when foreign and Arab leaders are expected to arrive in the capital for the funeral.

Millions in the UAE grieved for the loss

of a ruler who made the country one of the few Arab development successes.

"Our father has died," sobbed Farah Seif in Dubai. Under the constitution, Vice-President and Prime Minister Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, will act as president until the federal council which groups rulers of the seven emirates meets within 30 days to elect a president.

Abu Dhabi crown prince Sheikh Khalifa will automatically take over as ruler of the capital Abu Dhabi. Officials expect the council to elect Khalifa president with power remaining in Abu Dhabi where 93 percent of the oil wealth is concentrated.

"The royal court announces ... to the world the death of the leader of the nation Sheikh Zayed on Tuesday evening," the state said. Broadcast media switched to readings from the Koran.

Born in 1948, Sheikh Khalifa plays a big role in running the UAE. He heads Abu Dhabi's Supreme Petroleum Council, which drafts oil policy, and is deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces. The pro-Western moderniser heads Abu Dhabi's investment arm, estimated to hold over \$200 billion in assets abroad.

"Any change from father to son will be

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:

Are you convinced of the accuracy of the US election results despite the glitches that occurred in some states such as Florida?

- Yes
- No

last edition's question:

Who would you like to see win in Tuesday's US presidential election?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| John Kerry | 37% |
| Einstein! | 36% |
| George W. Bush | 27% |

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PLO will carry on despite Arafat's illness

Dr. Khalid El-Sheikh, Palestinian Ambassador to Yemen, told Yemen Times that although the possible absence of Arafat would be hard to accept, the transfer of power would be carried out smoothly by Palestinian authorities.

"After Arafat's departure for treatment, I think we have proven that in a calm manner we can take care of the situation," said El-Sheikh. "We have establishments and institutions that are working well, and we have basic laws that can guarantee the continuity and make things clear to everybody."

By Palestinian law, if Arafat passes away, Speaker of the Palestinian Parliament, Rouhi Fattouh, would replace the leader and elections would be held within 60 days. According to Arafat's instructions, former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas heads the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) while the current Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei is in charge of the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority is responsible for governing Palestinian territories but is viewed as being under the power of the PLO.

"I am certain that there will be no struggle," said El-Sheikh. "Things are institutionalized, and everybody knows his place. Abbas and all of us have worked with Arafat for many years. We understand each other and know our goals. We might have little differences on techniques and how to manage things, but the goals are clear to every one of us: the liberalization of our land, the establishment of the state and the withdrawal of Israeli occupa-

tion based on the 1967 borders."

Last Saturday, Abbas presided over a meeting of the executive committee of the PLO. It was the first time Arafat was not able to attend an executive committee meeting in the last 35 years. Abbas told the press after the meeting that business continues as usual while Arafat is in the hospital in Paris.

"President Arafat wants us to continue normally, particularly in these difficult circumstances," said Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen and the number two man in PLO's executive committee. "Palestinian leadership institutions will continue in the framework of the Palestinian Authority, according to the Palestinian basic law."

Abbas also addressed the Palestinians to remain united while Arafat's condition is in question. "We call on all our people and factions to unite and work together in a responsible fashion to protect our destiny," Abbas said.

Up to now, it has been reported that the Palestinian leader has suffered from a blood platelet deficiency. Doctors have ruled out that Arafat, who is 75 years old, has leukemia, a blood-related cancer that can be fatal.

"We receive reports on the leader's health day by day, and they show that he is improving," said El-Sheikh.

Last Saturday, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh sent a letter to Palestinian Prime Minister Qorei accusing Israel of trying to divide Palestinian factions while Arafat's health has deteriorated. The letter said that the Palestinians were "aware of

the malicious efforts by the Israeli entity and its intelligence services to poison the Palestinian national unity and trying to incite differences and conflicts."

El-Sheikh believes that Israel might capitalize on the absence of Arafat but said the Palestinians will overcome it as an obstacle.

"We know the Israelis will try to invest in this. They have been trying to divide the Palestinians, trying to make conditions for a civil war and this has continued while we have been able to overcome these attempts," said El-Sheikh. "I'm sure we'll face the same thing, but we will overcome this."

Soon after the Palestinian Intifada emerged in 2000, the Israeli government forced Arafat to reside in his compound in Ramallah and has been confined for nearly three years. Although Israel did not guarantee the safety of Arafat to return to the compound if he traveled since December 2001, the government has said that the leader would be allowed to return to Ramallah from Paris after medical tests.

According to El-Sheikh, if Arafat's health worsens and he passes away, the leader as a symbol of Palestinians aiming for liberation and establishing an independent state will be missed a great deal.

"Hopefully he will recover, return and lead his people. In fact, we need him at this difficult time," said El-Sheikh. "He is our leader, and he is the father for many of us. He is the only Palestinian leader that has stayed for such a long time, so it will be hard to deal with it if he is gone."

Bush on verge of victory

Two television networks projected Bush would win Ohio but three others did not make a call as Bush took a lead of 125,000 votes with 100 percent of precincts reporting.

It appeared unlikely on Wednesday that there were enough votes left uncounted to close the gap. Ohio's Republican Secretary of State Ken Blackwell said there could have been as many as 175,000 provisional ballots cast after voters had their registrations questioned.

It was a bad night for Democrats nationwide, as Republicans expanded their majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives and knocked off Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

That will make it easier for Bush to push his conservative agenda through Congress if he is re-elected, potentially making his tax cuts permanent and appointing more federal judges including possibly some U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Bush captured Florida, the biggest of the toss-up battleground states, and rolled up wins across the country to move within reach of victory. Kerry won Pennsylvania's

21 electoral votes but New Hampshire was the only state won by Bush in the bitter 2000 election that he had captured.

Long lines of voters

Long voter lines were reported nationwide and few major voting glitches were recorded in the final act of a presidential campaign marked by deep disputes over the war in Iraq, the fight against terrorism and the economy.

Kerry had challenged Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq without adequate allied backing and his economic record of tax cuts, job losses and burgeoning budget deficits.

But Bush's argument that he could keep America safe after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on Washington and New York, and his criticism of Kerry as an ineffective and flip-flopping leader, resonated with enough voters to put him on the verge of a win.

With 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, Bush had captured 28 states with 254 electoral votes. Kerry won 20 states and 252 votes. Bush held a lead of nearly 4 million votes over Kerry nationwide with 98 percent of the precincts reporting.

Still undecided were Iowa, New Mexico and Ohio, but only Ohio could make either candidate a winner.

Bush's projected win in Florida, where his brother Jeb is governor, gave him a giant boost in his bid for re-election and added 27 electoral votes to his column.

Bush, who watched the results in the White House with his family, including his father, former President Bush, said early in the evening he was confident of victory.

"We're very upbeat, thank you," Bush told reporters. "I believe I will win."

Kerry, watching the results in his hometown of Boston, did not make an appearance before reporters but sent out aides to predict a win.

The dollar lost ground and U.S. Treasury prices firmed early on Wednesday after the uncertainty in Ohio made the market more cautious about betting on a Bush victory.

The lingering bitterness over that election, when Bush lost the popular vote to Democrat Al Gore but narrowly won the Electoral College after the U.S. Supreme Court stopped a vote recount in Florida, fueled Democratic get-out-the vote efforts this year.

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Time management a huge issue

What does Ramadan do to school work?

BY RAMZI AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

“**R**amadan is a month of fasting.” This is repeatedly heard and said by many people during their working hours. The meaning is a relative matter; it may be produced to mean, “We shouldn’t work during this holy month,” “we should have less work than usual” or “we should be much more sincere in our work.” It shows either dropping responsibilities or devoting efforts in doing their duties.

The Yemen Times asked some questions at Sana’a University to assess this philosophy, making Ramadan or fasting a reason for neglecting work and dropping tasks, in the field of education. We sought the students’ attitudes and academics’ views in this respect.

Many questions were asked to know whether the university educational process is affected in Ramadan. If so, is it a positive or negative influence?

Time management

One of the crucial observations that occur in the beginning of Ramadan is the time manipulation. Some of students and teachers face a difficulty in dividing their time, yet others do have the ability to invest time appropriately. What is unanimously agreed is that Ramadan is not to be blamed or murmured for how we organize our lives in Ramadan.

Osamah al-Ojail ‘prefers not to study during Ramadan’ mentioning that he has to keep time for “revising what has been studied in the past period and in reciting the Koran as well, for Ramadan is a great chance to do so.”

“It is very hard to stay up almost all night and to get up early in the following morning,” he commented.



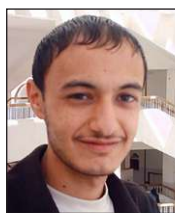
Shawqi al-Qadasi agreed to the same idea of not attending classes, but for different reasons. “Lack of enough sleep makes me lose the ability to concentrate,” he said. He believes that Ramadan is not for studying, but rather worshipping, so time should be spent in that.



Mohammed al-Sofi suggested having “some free time between classes to allow the students to move between halls: we need sometimes five minutes to move from a hall to another.”

When discussing considering such matter by the teachers he said, “a teacher was about to fight with a student in a class because of the student’s being one minute late.” He wonders whether it is fair and condemns the loss of time management.

Haihat frankly said, “I like to study in Ramadan because this month is not for sleeping and rest, but it is for worship.” She also sees that “to learn is the best way to worship Allah.”



“Timing is a problem.” Zaid al-Sharafi said, “we should wait up all night to study and come in the early morning, it is difficult to manage.”

Rimma Abdulwahab Ali considered Ramadan as “the month of working, so it’s our duty to work hard during this month.” It’s normal to study. “Time is not wasted in this case. On the contrary, we make use of it properly,” she said.

Ahmed al-Nini presented the problem from another angle; he agrees ‘to study but the reduction of the time of classes makes it difficult. Few teachers can complete a lesson, so he or she leaves the rest as a self study to be done by students themselves.’

Khadijah al-Thubhani hoped Ramadan to be a holiday. “We, the girls, face a great difficulty to manage our day time, we have to come to the university and to do some work at home,” she explained.

Another students said that his belief in the sacredness and blessings of Ramadan makes him ignore any trouble he may face.



Sadam Muhsin, an M.A. student, faculty of arts, talked about studying in Ramadan pointing out that, “it is a very wise policy to have the MA study in the afternoon, so there’s no problem concerning the convenience of time.”

Mohammed al-Ba’adani, Head of

General Yemeni Students Union at the branch of the faculty of languages, said that, “Studying is a phase of worship, though it is actually different in Ramadan in terms of the students’ attendance. The university decided the study to be stopped on Ramadan 21st but that’s extremely difficult for students to bear. The majority of students stopped attending classes before that.”

“There is no problem regarding timing except for those who exaggerate in staying up all the night,” he added. What surprised him is that “a doctor prevented a girl to attend his class because of being late for few minutes though he knew she was praying.”



Al-Ba’adani presented the problems of the students in the hostel saying that they find it difficult to secure their food during this month.

“They should spend these holy days among their families, for anyway, though the university provided them with meals, food is not suitable,” he considerably expressed.

Month of enthusiasm

Prof. Thakur, Head of the English Department, Faculty of Arts, “as far as I’m concerned, there should be teaching during Ramadan also, certainly during the first two or three weeks. Islam is a great religion; Ramadan is a beautiful way of purifying ourselves. Religion doesn’t make us idle or lazy. It gives us more energy, greater vitality, more of enthusiasm and more of courage to face the difficulties in life.”

“I personally think that, as Muslims do in India, for example, they adhere to the usual working hours. Fasting should make us more competent, better able to face the difficulties in life. It should give us better efficiency. Religion is a beautiful thing. It is not a pretext for idleness or the difficulties of life with courage, enthusiasm, energy and vitality. But of course when it’s the festival time, there should be holidays. But I personally think that, as Muslims do in India and in many countries, it should not mean less work but it should mean at least as much work as at any other time, if possible more work of a greater and better quality.”

Students’ duties

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed al-Quyadi, Department of English, Faculty of Education, said when asking about studying in Ramadan, “Ramadan, the month of historic and great achievements as far as Muslims are concerned,

should not be thought of as the month of relax and long hours of sleep. In this month, the grand Badr Battle between the believers of the word of Allah headed by Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) and the non-believers, was fought. This great battle should be taken by us all as an example of hard labour and fight at the different fronts of life. This undoubtedly means fulfilling our tasks and duties and, at the same time, doing good to the others around us. If this is not appropriately done, the opposite can be the case because doing good to ourselves and others is a good sign of making life go as it should go. Ignoring this means that we are doing harm to ourselves and to others whom we may be responsible for in a way or another.

“Let me not talk a great deal without getting into what I want to focus on in these lines, which is the necessary and minimum things that university teachers and students should and should not do. The first and foremost requirement is that they should fast this is mentioned here just for the sake of reminding.”

Not only this, but they should perform all the other religious duties as performing prayers, giving Zakat and Charity, continuous mentioning of Allah.etc. regarding the other duties that are performed daily apart from the previously mentioned ones, university students should do a number of daily routines, most of which are given below: Teachers and students should make good use of time.

This is related, among other things, to coming to class on time. This, of course, will make them able to do all their teaching and learning tasks as accurate and punctual as possible, it is very necessary that they should balance between their times of work, rest and sleep. This means it is healthy and wise to have a few hours of sleep at night which will make the coming working day more comfortable and productive.

The time of the university day, which is usually between 10 and 2:30, should also be used properly so that it can be used for reading the Holy Quran, doing light assignments. It is advisable that teachers and students should be generous to their family members, neighbours and the needy people since it is the month in which Muslims should be merciful on others taking Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) as their model.

Another important thing that university students should do specifically is that they should cooperate with their teachers and classmates which will make their learning a success.

Furthermore, students should be



Prof. D. Thakur



Dr. Al-Quyadi

very attentive to their teachers’ advice and instructions regarding the learning tasks assigned by their teachers. This will indicate that they are good learners who pay a lot of respect to their teachers. A specific advice to the teachers is that they should treat their students as equally as possible irrespective of the students’ colour, sex and social background.

“Regarding the other side of the teachers’ and students’ tasks and duties that they should not do, I can highlight some points as follows: teachers and students should not (unintentionally or unconsciously) break their fast by bad deeds or bad words. This is at the moral level and physically they should not eat too much at night because, for some people, Ramadan means excessive eating which is not the real meaning of Ramadan. In other words, excessive eating will lead to feeling lazy and then ignoring very important and necessary tasks.

“From a pedagogical point of view, students should not come to class late because this is not a good sign of a university students. It causes interpretation to the teacher and the other students. To gain a lot from teachers, students should not ignore their teachers’ instructions and advice.

University students are supposed to be at the level of their teachers’ expectations in the way that they have to be well-behaved. This means that they should not drive their teachers crazy by being undisciplined, noisy and inactive

inside the classroom. This will cause chaos inside the classroom and so effective learning will not take place.

Additionally, students should not show their teachers any sign of being unwilling or uncooperative to learn because this can destroy the teachers’ interest and motivation to teach. More importantly, students should not sleep in class while the teacher is killing him/herself to get information across to the students’ minds.

“From a behavioral point of view, university students should not disturb teachers and also other students by knocking the door of the classroom or even sometimes dashing into the classroom while teachers are teaching. Another important point worth mentioning here is that students should not intentionally or the classroom’ or buildings’ furniture and other fittings. More importantly, they should not leave the classrooms in a disorganized manner in terms of chairs and other things in the classroom.

“In conclusion, what university teachers and students should and should not do is an issue of great concern to all educationists. As far as I am among such educationists, I can say that this concern must be shared among all people concerned with the education business. Therefore, university teachers and students are urged to put their hands in each other’s and cooperate so that they can complete each other for the purpose giving the learning process a great success.

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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Nothing is uglier than towns and, places without trees. Trees give us shade, and green color makes us feel at ease. They also purify the air as they give off oxygen by day.

That is why we should do our best to keep the green color all over our lovable Yemen. There is no doubt that Yemen is a really first class tourist- country despite of the acts of terrorism which refrain tourists from coming so we must remove the troubles and difficulties they meet and solve all the problems face the tourists.

This is because Yemen is rich of

many natural sights. It has diver climates during the four seasons. That is why we see many tourist resorts, which enrich us with wide biodiversity.

I will not narrate the main statistics of biodiversity in Yemen. One of these places is the Bora’s Mountain, which takes an hour and half by car from Hodeidah city. I visited many farms and many forests, and I saw many natural and industrial panoramas. Yet I don’t imagine that many forests are located in a mountain.

The excessive, diverse trees are cuddling this mountain which is always, in tears as if it was sad. Instead of that, it must be much happier as now people can visit this place easily as road has been paved and

asphalted to the top of the mountain. As soon as you arrive there, the charming nature thrills persons with pleasure and absentmindedness. Then you must give glory to God.

Greenness covers every part of the mountain water running from the top to the bottom of the mountain, the running water along with year’s seasons begets a beautiful sound mixed with the bird twittering.

This is aside from the thick trees carrying many monkeys, snakes, and birds, cover the soft rock. In addition to that, the most beautiful sight is the silver mark of pearls on both your body and rocks under the trees formed by the penetrating of sunshines through the branches.

Those pearls increase the enjoy-

ment of visitors sitting under the shade during relaxing. Lastly I can say nothing, but appeal to our government to develop these resorts for better appearance and better services.

Tourism in Yemen is expected to grow in the future. It brings several advantages. First tourism earns foreign currency for our country. Second, it provides employment. Tourism in general helps people of different countries to understand each other better.

It is the must that our government encourages tourism and protects all the natural resorts in Yemen. Tourism is a main resource of national income may be improved under the sincerity of our minister Mr.Khled Al Rowaishan.

Ramadan and the Yemeni community in Birmingham

By DR KHALIL ABDUL-AZIZ
BORDELSEY GREEN
UNITED KINGDOM

Although it could be said that the Holy month of Ramadan is neither felt nor experienced in all the major cities of the United Kingdom, this may not hold true for the city of Birmingham. Birmingham is the second largest city in the United Kingdom and is situated at the heart of England. This beautiful city with its canals, large parks, traditional and modern buildings, in addition to other land marks such as the Bourneville village and being the origin of chocolate manufacturing is a very attractive city for tourists. Birmingham is also unique for its mixed racial inhabitants. Out of the 1 million total inhabitants, 20% are of Asian origin, with Islam being their main religion.

The Yemeni community constitutes the second largest Asian community with approximate 10,000 members. The Muslim community as a whole has played and continues to play a very active role in the life of the city. Their presence is felt by the presence of the many different Mosques that decorate the city.

Beautiful Mosques of different shape and sizes are found throughout the city and parallel those found in Islamic cities. These Mosques play important roles in the life of the Muslim community, particularly during the month of Ramadan.

The Yemeni community is found concentrated mainly in three different districts of the city of Birmingham, namely Basal Health, Sparkhill/Sparkbrook and at Sandwell. Although Yemenis in Birmingham originate from different parts of Yemen, the majority comes from Taiz and are largely concentrated in the Basal Health area of the city. The smallest part of the Yemeni community resides at Sandwell area of the city and because of the distance, has its own community centre.

It is managed by Mr. Seid Ben Seid, a very pleasant and friendly chap who strives continuously in looking after the welfare of the community. The major part of the Yemeni community lives in the Basal Health area and has a long history, dating back to the late Sheikh Al-shaokani era. Basal Health is well known for having the Yemeni community centre called Al-Zawiyah. This famous and historic Yemeni place dates back to Al-Shaokani era and has continuously played an active role in the life of the Yemeni community. Presently, it is headed by Sheikh Bakiel and provides various services to the community as well as being used as a Mosque for daily and Friday prayers, and undoubtedly plays a major role in the life of the community during the month of Ramadan.

The history of the Yemeni community, not only in Birmingham, but in the whole of the United Kingdom, is associated with the history of the Al-Zawiyah and therefore greater effort should be made in looking after this historic place.

Although the Yemeni community is one of the oldest communities in Birmingham, its success has remained limited. Unlike other communities which have excelled in education producing professionals in all walks of life (teachers, doctors, social workers, lawyers, journalists, scientists etc) and participated fully and effectively in society, the Yemeni community has lagged behind and its future is in question with continual threat of factory closure. The only option for the community is to focus seriously on education. However, the community would need external advice, motivation and continual support from the Yemeni government in order to succeed in this area.

The Amanat-Muath Welfare Trusts, which was founded with the financial help of the late Hail S. Anam, has come to play the major role in the life of the Yemeni community in Birmingham. The centre is talking some of the problems faced by the community and provides education, social support as well as acting as a gathering place for the community. However, with the exten-

sion of the services of the Trust to the wider communities of the city, the Yemeni community is fearing that this would be done at the cost of their own benefits since they feel that being all ready the most disadvantaged community in the city, they would have little chance of competing with rest of the communities for the services of the Trust

The centre has a small mosque used for daily and Friday prayers. During Friday prayer, the mosque fills and over flow with worshipers to fill all of the major Halls of the centre. The centre also plays a vital role in the community life during the Holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan in the United Kingdom has coincided with shortest days of the winter timing. Fasting starts at six o'clock in the morning and continues until just after 4 o'clock in the evening. Iftar and dinner is provided by the Amanah centre not only for the Yemeni community but also for the rest of the Muslim community.

Tarweeh is also held at the centre everyday from 7 o'clock onward and is attended by whole families. Like Friday prayers, during Tarweeh prayers the mosque fills with worshipers and, over flow to fill the rest of the Halls in the centre. Attendance of whole families for Tarweeh is facilitated by the Amanah provision of a nursery for infants and a youth club for the youths, run by Mr Ali-Alrwani an active member of the community, for the youth. In this manner parents conduct their worship in peace while their young enjoy themselves at the youth club. Iftar consists of dates, khoha (Yemeni coffee), in addition to samosa, Bugia and porridge.

The main meal course is similar to that consumed by Yemeni families back home in Yemen and consists of Murak (soap) salta, aseed, rice prepared in different varieties complemented by vegetables, especially important from Yemen and include Karath, spring onion, garlic etc. With the exception of Karath, the rest of the vegetables are plentiful in the city, however, those from Yemen are preferred and people are generally willing to buy them at higher prices.

There is a huge market for Yemeni products in the UK, particularly during the month of Ramadan. However, such opportunity has not been exploited effectively thus far by Businessmen both from here and from the Yemen. Therefore the limited supply of Yemeni products that arrives in Birmingham is sold instantly and in many occasions has to be rationed by shopkeepers. The Yemeni community continues to live in hope that one day they would be able to buy all their needs of Yemeni products from their local shops, like the rest of other communities in Birmingham. Sahoor, which is taken at 5 o'clock in the morning, consist of chappati (Boor) with traditional Yemeni ghee with or without Yemeni honey while others stick to the traditional British breakfast consisting of serials, toast and omelette. During the last ten days of Ramadan, Tahjod is done at the Amanah's mosque and Sahoor is provided there as well by generous charitable individuals. Ramadan is lived and felt directly and indirectly by the whole community in Birmingham. Many changes and accommodations are made to meet the need of Muslims by many institutions including schools and work places. Since many school children observe fasting, even at early ages, schools with predominantly Muslim children's close half an hour early in order for the children to go home in time for Iftar with their parents. In addition, schools encourage parents to take their fasting children home for an hour at Midday to rest before resumption of the afternoon sessions. Similar arrangements are made in many work places where workers are allowed to start work early and go home early in time for Iftar. Although prayer rooms are found in many work places, additional prayer rooms are made available for Muslims during the month of Ramadan.

While Tarweeh is conducted in every mosques of the city during the month of Ramadan, Eid prayer is conducted collectively by the whole Muslim community at the City Central

Mosque.

Although the Mosque is large, it can not accommodate the whole community at once. Instead, Eid prayer is conducted six or more times in order for all to pray. Following Eid prayer the Yemeni community gathers at the Amanah centre to celebrate the rest of the Eid day. Food and drinks are provided and presents are given to all children and the whole family gets the chance to spend a very enjoyable day.

A note from Yemen Times:

The above article was published before in the name of "Yemen Times Staff", which is incorrect. The original writer of the article is Dr Khalil Abdulaziz. We would like to apologize to Dr. Khalil for the unintentional drop of his name and placement of "Yemen Times Staff" instead and also would like to apologize to the readers for not publishing this correction until now.



Birmingham Central Mosque is one of the most popular mosques in the UK. The mosque was built in 1969 and officially opened in 1975 as the largest mosque in Western Europe. It is also a major destination for thousands of Yemenis and Muslims in Birmingham and the UK, especially during Ramadhan. (centralmosque.org.uk)

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Doctors say Arafat improving, rule out leukaemia

CLAMART, France, Nov 2 (Reuters) - French doctors said on Tuesday Yasser Arafat was responding to treatment and ruled out leukaemia, though aides said the Palestinian leader could remain in a French military hospital for several more weeks.

Arafat was well enough to follow the U.S. presidential election and had taken calls from heads of state and senior Palestinian officials, said aides in the southwestern Paris suburb where the 75-year-old leader is being treated.

Initial tests "confirmed the abnormal blood count, high white blood cell count and low platelet count and ruled out a diagnosis of leukaemia," Palestinian envoy to Paris Leila Shahid said in a statement read to journalists.

The statement, drawn up by doctors at the Percy military hospital and approved by Arafat, was the first by the hospital since his admission and broadly confirmed aides' comments.

It said there had been a "general improvement" in his condition over his first three days in hospital, which allowed doctors to perform more tests.

"Pathology tests have shown an improvement in his white blood cell count and persistent abnormalities in some biological constants concerning the digestive function," the statement said.

Arafat was rushed to France from his shell-battered compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah last Friday with severe stomach pains, diarrhoea and vomiting and what doctors said at the time could be leukaemia.

Aides said he would likely remain in hospital for at least another three weeks.

"As long as Arafat remains in a

healthy place and is receiving proper medical care he will improve tremendously. If he returns to the Muqata (compound) in Ramallah he will have a setback," Mohammed Dahlan, a Palestinian former interior minister, told Reuters.

"By Saturday the doctors will most probably have the final diagnosis. Then he will need some time for treatment. It could take three to four weeks. But it all depends on the diagnosis of the doctors," a senior aide said.

SYMBOL OF RESISTENCE

Arafat, for decades a symbol of the Palestinian struggle with Israel for a state, had been in effect confined to his offices by Israeli forces for the past 2-1/2 years.

Israel accuses Arafat of fomenting violence in an uprising against Israeli occupation that broke out in 2000, which he denies. Under President George W. Bush, Washington has tried to shut him out of the Middle East picture.

Aides, keen to present Arafat as still in charge, said he was watching Tuesday's U.S. elections but refused to be drawn on whether he preferred Bush or Democratic challenger John Kerry.

"Arafat is following the American elections and he will be watching closely ... because it will have a huge impact on the Palestinians," senior aide Mohammad Rashid told Reuters.

Arafat called an aide to condemn a suicide bombing which killed four people including the bomber in Tel Aviv on Monday. He also spoke to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie and other Arab leaders, aides said.



Leila Shahid (L), Palestinian Authority representative in France, stands with Percy military hospital chief doctor Colonel Christian Estripeau (R) during a joint press briefing outside the hospital in Clamart near Paris, Nov. 2. The statement, drawn up with French doctors treating 75-year-old Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, indicated that his condition was improving with treatment and ruled out a diagnosis of leukaemia. REUTERS

Egyptian stabs four of his daughters to death

CAIRO, Nov 2 (Reuters) - An Egyptian father stabbed four of his seven daughters to death, telling investigators that his wife with whom he regularly argued had encouraged them to insult him, prosecution sources said on Tuesday.

The sources said the 47-year-old government employee also seriously injured his three other daughters when

he attacked them all with a knife on Monday after suhour, the pre-dawn meal before the day's fast in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The incident took place in the governorate of Sohag, south of Cairo.

The four daughters killed were aged between six and 15 years, while the three survivors were aged between three and 13. The man had no sons.

Iraqi rebels hit ministry, oil, security forces

BAGHDAD, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Rebels bracing for a U.S.-led assault on their Falluja and Ramadi strongholds showed their muscle on Tuesday with a bloody car bombing in Baghdad, strikes on oil pipelines and several attacks on Iraqi security forces. A morning car bomb blast at the Education Ministry brought fresh carnage to the busy streets of Baghdad, killing six people and wounding eight, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

"I'm not crying because I'm wounded, but because of my brother. I was with him and I don't know what happened to him," said a weeping Abbas Kadhim, 32, who was hit in the stomach by fragments of concrete as he sat in his car near the ministry.

The blast in Baghdad's mainly Sunni Adhamiya district badly damaged the Education Ministry building and destroyed 31 cars. Flames licked the body of an elderly man killed in the explosion, which scattered body parts across the street.

There was no word on the motive for the bombing, which occurred on the U.S. presidential election day.

With U.S. Marines poised for an onslaught on the rebellious Sunni Muslim cities of Falluja and Ramadi, part of a drive to pacify Iraq before national elections due in January, insurgents seemed bent on showing their power.

Saboteurs mounted the biggest attacks yet on Iraq's oil infrastructure, blowing up four pipelines in the north and halting most exports via Turkey, oil officials said.

Monday night's pipeline attacks also sharply reduced crude supplies to Iraq's biggest refinery at Baiji.

In the northern city of Mosul, a suspected car bomb blew up near an Iraqi National Guard patrol, killing two Guards and wounding four, witnesses and survivors said.

An unknown militant group holding an Iraqi-British woman hostage threatened to turn her over to a group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi



An Iraqi university student passes through the scene of the car bomb attack which went off outside the Education ministry in the capital Baghdad, November 2, 2004. A suspected car bomb exploded outside the Education Ministry in central Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least five people, two of them women. REUTERS

if Britain did not quit Iraq.

Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday it had received a video tape from the group saying it would hand over Margaret Hassan to Zarqawi's group within 48 hours "if Britain does not meet its demands, mainly for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq".

Zarqawi's group, Al Qaeda Organisation of Holy War in Iraq, is blamed for hostage beheadings and the bloodiest suicide attacks.

"IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"

Zarqawi's group claimed responsibility for the Mosul attack and said in a Web posting that Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's battle against insurgents was "an impossible dream".

Roadside blasts and car bombs killed three other members of the

security forces and wounded up to a score in the Sunni towns of Samarra, Abu Ghraib and Haditha.

As often, the violence was concentrated in a swathe of mainly Sunni central Iraq, which includes Falluja and Ramadi.

Dhia Najim, a freelance cameraman filming for Reuters, was among 10 people killed in Ramadi on Monday. His colleagues and family said he was shot by a U.S. sniper. The U.S. military said he died in a firefight between Marines and insurgents.

A Marine assault on Falluja in April failed to dislodge insurgents and touched off a kidnapping spree that has seen scores of foreigners abducted in Iraq. More than 35 have been killed.

Zarqawi's group, in an Internet video, showed the beheading of Japanese hostage Shosei Koda as he

lay on a U.S. flag. Koda's remains were found in Baghdad on Saturday.

The group warned Tokyo to withdraw its forces from Iraq or "drown in the hell of the mujahideen" along with "crusader forces".

An American, a Filipino and a Nepali were kidnapped by gunmen who stormed their Saudi company's villa in Baghdad on Monday evening. An Interior Ministry spokesman said an Iraqi guard and one of the kidnappers were killed in the shootout.

Two Iraqi guards said on Tuesday they were freed overnight after being abducted along with the foreigners employed by Riyadh-based Saudi Arabian Trading and Contracting Company.

The U.S. military denied an Iraqi police report that insurgents had captured a U.S. soldier in Samarra.

Sudan army surrounds Darfur camps - U.N. officials

EL-FASHER, Sudan, Nov 2 (Reuters) - The Sudanese army and police surrounded camps holding internally displaced people in the south of Sudan's troubled Darfur region on Tuesday, blocking access to aid agencies, U.N. officials said.

They said security forces moved in before dawn and removed some people from two camps near Nyala, while in a third camp Sudanese forces fired shots in the air and teargas to disperse crowds.

"Early this morning, police surrounded two camps and later on relocated a number of IDPs (internally displaced people)," the World Food Programme (WFP) spokeswoman in Nyala, Bettina Leuscher, told Reuters.

Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said in Khartoum that he was not aware of the incident but would investigate.

More than 1.5 million people have been driven from their homes by violence in Darfur in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The conflict erupted in early 2003 when two rebel groups began a revolt after years of skirmishes between African farmers and Arab nomads over land and scarce resources.

The United Nations has said at least 70,000 people have died from disease and malnutrition since March, a figure disputed by Khartoum.

Leuscher identified the two surrounded camps as Otash and Al-Jeer Sureaf, both in South Darfur state. She said one WFP worker entered Al-Jeer Sureaf and saw police relocating people.

Other U.N. officials said aid workers

were unable to enter the camps.

George Somerville, a U.N. spokesman in Khartoum, said Sudanese army and police had fired shots into the air and teargas to disperse large crowds at al-Shaeria camp, about 100 km (60 miles) northeast of Nyala.

"There is a high level of discontent among the IDPs because they fear the government wants to relocate them," he said, but added the United Nations was not aware of anyone being removed from al-Shaeria.

Jan Pronk, the chief U.N. envoy in Sudan, said the forced relocation of homeless people in Darfur camps was "in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law."

"It is also in flagrant violation of (U.N.) agreements reached with the government," he told reporters at the

United Nations headquarters in New York, adding that the Sudanese government should "stop it and reverse what has happened."

Humanitarian workers say police have previously said that people they have removed from camps had not fled violence, but had come from nearby towns to get food and then return home.

RISING TENSIONS

Aid officials say security across other parts of the region has deteriorated in recent weeks despite a ceasefire which is being monitored by African Union (AU) troops.

Leuscher said rising tension was barring vital aid reaching areas of West Darfur state.

"Roughly 160,000 people in Zalingei, Nertiti and Goloare are no

longer accessible by road ... and we cannot bring food to these areas," Leuscher said. "In general the situation has become more tense over the last few weeks (in West Darfur)."

The WFP said 88 aid workers from the U.N. and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were evacuated from the three areas on Monday because of the lack of security.

Sudan's foreign minister blamed rebel activity for any deteriorating security.

The United Nations accuses Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, of terrorising the African communities with campaigns of rape and looting. Rebels say Khartoum has aided the Janjaweed but the government denies this and says they are outlaws.



An aerial view of an abandoned village in the desert of North Darfur in western Sudan, Nov. 2. Attacks by government-backed Arab militias have forced more than 1.5 million Sudanese to flee their villages over the past 20 months, creating what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. REUTERS

Afghan kidnappers demand freeing of named prisoners

KABUL, Nov 2 (Reuters) - A militant Afghan group holding three foreign U.N. workers has given negotiators a list of Taliban prisoners and said it will kill the hostages unless they — and all Afghans jailed in Guantanamo Bay — are freed. The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims) had handed over the names of at least 25 Taliban followers jailed in Afghanistan whose release it was demanding. “The United Nations has asked for the list of prisoners and we have given a list of at least 25 people inside Afghanistan,” AIP quoted the group’s leader Mullah Sayed Mohammad Akbar Agha as saying.

“But we can’t give a list for the Guantanamo Bay prisoners. There are many Afghan prisoners there. All of them should be released,” Agha said. The U.N. workers — Filipino Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan from Northern Ireland and Shqipe Hebibi from Kosovo — were snatched from a busy Kabul street on Thursday, sparking fears that Afghan militants were copying the tactics of insurgents in Iraq.

The Pakistan-based AIP did not say if it had the list.

Mullah Agha earlier told Reuters that Wednesday’s noon (0730 GMT) deadline for the prisoner release remained in place for now but could be extended if negotiations progressed.

He said negotiations with a “tajir” — an influential trader with wide contacts — were continuing.

A video the group released showed the kidnap victims beside a masked militant, and included a series of demands.

The group has previously called for



French soldiers from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) patrol as an Afghan girl looks on in Kabul November 2. Afghan kidnappers holding three foreign U.N. workers hostages said on Tuesday the progress of negotiations for their release would determine whether they extended a deadline to execute the trio. REUTERS

the release of all Taliban and al Qaeda prisoners in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, the evacuation of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and the closure of U.N. operations in the country.

DISQUIET AMONG AFGHANS

Disquiet has been steadily growing among Afghans over the kidnappings and on Tuesday the head of the country’s council of religious elders said it was a sin for Muslims to harm U.N. workers.

“Islam is a religion of peace and

kindness,” Sheikh u Hadis Mulawai Fazel Hadi Shinwari, head of the All Afghanistan Ulama said in a statement issued through the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

“These people have come to serve the people of Afghanistan. Prophet Mohammad said: If someone kills a Mo’ahed (a non-Muslim authorised to enter a Muslim country), he won’t smell the fragrance of heaven.”

Former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, still an influential figure, also called the kidnappings un-Islamic.

“How can we say these people are Muslims? How can we accept them?” he told Reuters in an interview.

Agha said the negotiator had asked for more proof the hostages were alive, and the group would provide it after asking the hostages the names of siblings and husbands.

The kidnap victims had helped organise Afghanistan’s first presidential election, held on Oct. 9. Karzai, the undeclared winner, expects to pick a new cabinet by end-November.

Zarqawi group shows beheading of Japanese-Web

DUBAI, Nov 2 (Reuters) - A group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi showed the beheading of Japanese hostage Shosei Koda in Iraq while he was lying on top of a U.S. flag in an Internet video posted on Tuesday.

Al Qaeda Organisation of Holy War in Iraq said Tokyo had offered a ransom of “millions of dollars” for 24-year-old Koda. It warned Japan to withdraw its forces from Iraq or “drown in the hell of the mujahideen” along with “crusader forces”.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhsa Takashima denied the ransom claim. “It’s just groundless. We have not done that,” he said, denouncing the video posting as “disgusting”.

Japanese officials confirmed on Sunday that the body and severed head of a man found in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad was that of Koda. Zarqawi’s group gave Tokyo a 48-hour deadline late last Tuesday to save Koda by withdrawing its forces from Iraq, a demand that the Japanese government refused.

The video showed the hostage, who was wearing a white T-shirt, kneeling with a U.S. flag laid out behind him. Koda’s hands were tied behind his back and three masked men dressed all in black stood beneath the group’s banner.

After reading a statement, the men grabbed Koda and put him on the flag

before sawing off his head with a large knife and holding it aloft and placing it on top of the corpse.

“We had given the Japanese government 48 hours to save its citizen and meet our demands ... and after the deadline passed we cut off the head of this infidel,” one of the militants said.

“Let the whole world know that Al Qaeda Organisation of Holy War is firm in its jihad (holy war) despite the Japanese government’s offer of a ransom of millions of dollars to release their parasite son,” said a separate statement from the group dated Nov. 2 and posted on a Web site often used by Islamists.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a close ally of U.S. President George W. Bush, has condemned the killing and vowed to keep Japan’s troops in Iraq.

Tokyo sent about 550 troops to Samawa, south of Baghdad, to help in the reconstruction of Iraq despite opposition from most voters. Some critics say the dispatch violates Japan’s pacifist constitution.

Zarqawi’s group is blamed for the bloodiest suicide attacks and killing of hostages in Iraq.

Scores of foreigners have been abducted since April, many of them were freed but more than 35 have been killed. Kidnappers aim to drive U.S.-led forces and foreign workers from Iraq.

Tehama steals the show in the auto expo

H.E. Mr. Omar Mohsin Al-Amoudi, The Minister of Transport with Mr. Omar Mohd. Abdo Thabet inspecting NISSAN ARMADA. In the recently held Auto Exhibition at the Sana’a Expo Centre, Tehama Trading Company, stole the show by exhibiting the largest Sports Utility Vehicle – NISSAN ARMADA – and by displaying other Nissan Brand vehicles in a Yemeni scenario.

Ignoring the modern gimmicks of showmanship for such exhibitions, Tehama went for a village scene, maintaining Yemeni surroundings.

The heavy duty 4x4 station wagons SUPER SAFARI and PATHFINDER were displayed in rocky and rural parking area with the usual items seen thrown around in a village. The double meaning message “TAKE ME WHERE YOU LIKE” for the Pathfinder brought a smile on everyone’s face.

Tehama also focused the front reception area with the display of ARMADA, the largest vehicle available from Nissan range and their banners ROOM FOR EVERYONE captured everyone’s attention.



Japan envoy concerned at S.Lanka peace impasse

COLOMBO, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Japan’s peace envoy to Sri Lanka said on Tuesday he was concerned by lack of visible progress in forging lasting peace between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels.

Wrapping up his eighth visit as peace envoy for Sri Lanka’s No.1 aid donor nation, Yasushi Akashi said he had noted flexibility on the part of the government, but was miffed by comments made by the rebels’ political wing leader.

“Although we are somewhat concerned about the lack of visible progress ... I can detect currents and moves which are headed towards a positive direction,” Akashi told a news conference.

“The speed towards the resumption of negotiations has been slower than expected,” he added.

The government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) agreed to a ceasefire in 2002, after the rebels’ bloody war for autonomy had killed more than 64,000 people. But peace talks stalled last year, leaving the process in limbo.

The government and the Tigers are deadlocked over the rebels’ central demand for interim self rule in vast tracts of the war-torn north and east that they control, and analysts don’t expect



Japan’s special peace envoy Yasushi Akashi arrives at a press conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka on November 2, 2004. Akashi said he was concerned by a lack of visible progress in forging lasting peace between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels, but said he could see some positive signs. REUTERS

talks to resume for months at best.

“I detected certain flexibility on the part of the government,” Akashi said. “I raised the matter of political killings and child abductions in the east ... I got the usual answers from the LTTE.”

NO WAR, NO PEACE

The military has blamed a rash of killings in Sri Lanka’s restive east, many of the victims vocal opponents of

the Tigers, on feuding among rival rebel factions. The Tigers, on the United States’ list of banned terrorist organisations along with groups like al Qaeda, deny any hand in the killings.

Akashi met with Tiger political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan on Monday in the rebels’ northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, and said afterwards he thought there were good prospects for

resumption of talks.

However, as soon as he set off on his way back to Colombo, Thamilselvan snubbed Akashi, saying he “did not bring any realistic or productive message from the government” and that “the present climate does not facilitate a permanent solution”.

Thamilselvan went on to dismiss a new set of peace counter-proposals the government says it has drawn up, even though he had not seen them, dashing hopes that stalled peace talks would resume soon.

“I was somewhat surprised between the discrepancy of my actual discussions with Mr. Thamilselvan and what was reported afterwards,” Akashi said.

“My actual meeting was more encouraging, and Mr. Thamilselvan was fully aware that we are at an important turning point and there’s a unique window of opportunity.”

Donor nations led by Japan last year pledged \$4.5 billion in aid to Sri Lanka, and while some aid has been released, it is conditional on progress in the peace process.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage is due to pass through Sri Lanka next month on a regional tour, while Norway’s peace envoy Erik Solheim is scheduled to visit too.

Zambia-Zimbabwe solve border row to build bridge

LUSAKA, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Zambia and Zimbabwe have resolved a border dispute which stalled a \$60 million bridge project over the Zambezi river after financiers pulled out, senior government officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Works and Supply Minister Kennedy Shepande said Zimbabwe had dropped its objection to the project and a Japanese and a Chinese company had submitted bids for the bridge, which will link Zambia and Botswana.

The project was delayed after Zimbabwe said the bridge would encroach on its territory and it should therefore be involved.

The bridge will be built at a point where the three southern African countries share a

common border.

The Zambezi is one of Africa’s largest and longest rivers.

Shepande said the bridge would be a vital trade link between South Africa and other southern African countries and East African nations and that it would enhance regional integration.

He said Zimbabwe had dropped its objection which it raised in April as work was due to begin.

“The technical hitch on the boundary has been resolved and we are now moving towards starting the project ... Zimbabwe will not be part of the project,” Shepande told Reuters.

Shepande declined to name the Japanese and Chinese companies that had submitted

bids to finance and construct the bridge until Zambia and Botswana officials meet next month to choose which they want.

Japan’s Mitsubishi Corporation <7011.T> had originally won the bid, but withdrew after Zimbabwe raised its objection.

“Zambia and Botswana have agreed on a private-government partnership through which the firm picked to construct the bridge will operate it and collect (toll) fees for a specific number of years to recover their costs and make profits,” Shepande said.

The bridge will then be handed over to Zambia and Botswana who will manage it jointly, he said. It is expected to take about a 1-1/2 years to construct.

Why U.S. Election Day is on Tuesday

WASHINGTON, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Why do Americans vote on Tuesday? The simple answer is because Congress decided they have to. But the reason behind the date is a bit more complicated.

Polling in other countries often takes place on a weekend, presumably so that more voters can participate, but U.S. elections have been held on the first Tuesday in November since 1845, when Congress first agreed on a

nationally uniform date.

The main issue then was the convenience of congressmen, according to Don Ritchie, an associate Senate historian.

"Congress wanted to be in their home states to vote, but in those days they had to convene in Washington on the first Monday in December," Ritchie said.

Because travel was often time-consuming, especially for lawmakers from western states, members of Congress gave themselves the better part of a month to get from their home districts to Washington.

Their choice of Tuesday was probably based on convenience, Ritchie said. Friday or Monday would have been the beginning or end of the working week, when accounts needed to be opened or settled. Saturday or Sunday might have conflicted with worship services.

"A middle-of-the-week date didn't interfere with commerce and didn't interfere with religious purposes," he said.



Tuesday Elections will decide the new dweller of the White House. Reuters



Supporters cheer as Marine One lands on the South Lawn of the White House, carrying U.S. President George W. Bush and his family, on election day, November 2. Voters turned out in large numbers on Tuesday to deliver an unpredictable verdict on Bush and Democratic nominee John Kerry as the long, bitter and deadlocked White House race drew to a close. REUTERS

Canada slams "serious problems" with Ukraine vote

OTTAWA, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Canada said on Tuesday there had been "serious problems" with the first round of Ukraine's presidential election over the weekend and urged Kiev to ensure that the second round was trouble-free.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union complained of media bias and voters being turned away from polling stations after being left off lists.

"The Ukrainian authorities should ensure that the serious problems encountered in the first round of (voting) should be resolved by the time the second round is held," Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew told Parliament.

A run-off race will be held later this month to determine a winner between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and liberal challenger Viktor Yushchenko. Both men received just over 39 percent in Sunday's vote.

There are more than a million Canadians of ethnic Ukrainian origin in Canada — around three percent of the overall population — and Ottawa pays close attention to events in the former Soviet republic.

Ukrainian authorities reprimanded Canada's ambassador to Kiev in September after he said he feared the election could be marred by irregularities.

Germany unveils plan to close 105 military bases

BERLIN, Nov 2 (Reuters) - German Defence Minister Peter Struck announced the closure of 105 bases on Tuesday, part of plans to convert the military from a Cold War defender to a force of international peacekeepers. Some units will be dissolved, some merged with others, reducing the number of bases to 390 in 2010, Struck said. Germany aims by then to cut its armed forces to 250,000 troops, from 280,000 at present.

"The structure and location of the military have been too strongly oriented towards the needs of the Cold War," Struck told a news conference. Germany's reform will cut its heavy tanks units, designed to repel an invasion from the former Soviet Union, seen as a threat during the East-West standoff.

The base reduction plan has prompted calls for compensation from opposition politicians, although the hardest hit states, North Rhine-

Westphalia and northern Schleswig-Holstein, are both run by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats.

Struck said the federal government, struggling to rein in spending to meet European Union rules, would not pay any money. The base closures should save around 200 million euros in operating costs. Possible sale of land could add to the savings.

Conservative defence expert

Christian Schmidt said the government was neglecting homeland defence with its stress on international missions. However, Struck is well-known in Germany for saying Germany's defence begins at the Hindu Kush, a mountain range near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan.

The plans partly mirror those of the United States, which is withdrawing some 30,000 troops from Germany as part of a major force realignment to

tackle extremist threats. Germany has joined that battle, though it opposed the U.S.-led Iraq war.

Germany's military, which has almost 7,000 troops stationed abroad, was kept on a tight leash for decades after World War Two, when Hitler's armies wreaked havoc in Europe. Germany's leaders have shown more willingness to back engagement in the past decade, sending major deployments to the Balkans and Afghanistan.

Only minor glitches reported in Florida voting

MIAMI, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Monitors and lawyers giving the U.S. presidential election in Florida unprecedented scrutiny reported minor glitches but no major problems on Tuesday as the state tried to avoid a repeat of the 2000 ballot fiasco.

Amid sporadic dirty tricks, the bulk of voters confronted no more than long lines across the key battleground state that sent Republican George W. Bush to the White House four years ago after five messy weeks of lawsuits and recounts.

"There have not been any problems except that the lines are long," said Manuel Antonio Garretton Merino, director of Chile's Institute of Public Affairs and one of six foreign observers brought to Florida by human rights group Global Exchange.

"Above all you see great motivation and a big turnout. It's like people are saying we won't let (2000) happen again."

More than 10 million Floridians were eligible to vote and all the signs pointed to a high turnout, election officials said. In Miami-Dade County, the state's most populous, a third of the million-strong electorate had voted before Election Day by casting early ballots or sending in absentee ballots.

Determined to avoid becoming a laughingstock again, the state led by the president's younger brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, overhauled its creaky punch-card ballot system in favor of comput-



Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry (L) and his wife Teresa Heinz-Kerry (2nd R) leave a polling station with daughters Vanessa (2nd L) and Alexandra (R) after Kerry voted at State House in Boston, Nov. 2. Unusually large numbers of voters turned out on Tuesday to choose between U.S. President George W. Bush and Kerry after a deadlocked White House campaign marked by deep divisions over the war in Iraq, the battle against terrorism and the economy. REUTERS

er voting technology and reformed its election laws.

Nonetheless there were pre-election problems over missing absentee ballots, fraudulent registrations and voter lists, and lawsuits have challenged the ATM-like touch-screen machines to be used by more than 5.5 million voters in the state.

At a polling station in a black neighborhood of Miami's Coconut Grove,

voting was largely smooth, although some disputes arose over provisional ballots, which are given to people whose voting status cannot be immediately determined.

"They're doing a really great job," said Sandra Scippio, 47, a librarian's assistant who waited 75 minutes to vote.

"One thing they ought to have is refreshments for people to keep them



U.S. President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush are followed by daughters Barbara (2nd L) and Jenna (R), after arriving back to the White House, on election day, November 2. Voters turned out in large numbers on Tuesday to deliver an unpredictable verdict on Bush and democratic nominee John Kerry as the long, bitter and deadlocked White House race drew to a close. REUTERS

cool and also to keep the temperatures down," she said, referring to sharp divisions that led to arguments between supporters of Bush and of Democrat Sen. John Kerry.

Foreign election monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were also in the state, in addition to the group from Global Exchange, while Republicans and Democrats fielded thousands of

lawyers. The state is a key prize for Bush and Kerry.

In 2000, Florida kept the country waiting for five weeks as it counted and recounted punch-card ballots, while Democrat and Republican lawyers battled in court.

Finally, the U.S. Supreme Court halted the recounts, giving Bush a 537-vote victory in the state over Democrat

Al Gore.

This year, the state has 1.5 million new voters and 27 electoral votes, making it one of three top swing states — along with Pennsylvania and Ohio — that analysts believe hold the keys to the White House.

Palm Beach County elections chief Theresa LePore said voters were complaining about getting fake calls directing them to incorrect precincts, or telling them they were not registered and could not vote.

"It's causing a lot of confusion with the voters," she said.

In Daytona Beach, 13,244 early votes were lost when poll workers cut the power to a vote-counting machine, said Deannie Lowe, the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections.

The ballots will have to be re-fed into a machine.

"It will take some time, but we have the ballots. Every vote will be counted," said Lowe.

Activists for anti-Bush group MoveOnPAC complained that someone called BellSouth, the local phone company, and canceled most of the group's phone lines in Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

"We have our lawyers looking into this because it's totally unacceptable," said spokesman Jose Quinonez.

In Deerfield Beach, democracy advocates said someone put up a sign telling people wrongly that if they had a traffic violation they could not vote.

Dutch filmmaker, who angered Muslims, shot dead

AMSTERDAM, Nov 2 (Reuters) - A controversial Dutch filmmaker accused by Muslims of ridiculing their religion was stabbed and shot dead on his bicycle on Tuesday, shocking the Netherlands where the murder was denounced as an attack on free speech.

Theo van Gogh, a distant relative of 19th century Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, stirred controversy with newspaper articles, books and films voicing his contentious views on Islam after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Van Gogh, 47, was attacked near a park close to the centre of the Dutch

capital in the morning on his way to work in what could be the second political killing in the country in two years after anti-immigration politician Pim Fortuyn was shot.

Police arrested a man near the scene after an exchange of gunfire in which the suspect wounded a police officer. The suspect, who was wounded in the leg, was a 26-year-old man with dual Dutch and Moroccan citizenship.

Police said the murder was clearly premeditated.

A note was found at the scene and, Dutch media said, it contained lines from the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

Van Gogh, who branded imams women-haters and ridiculed the Prophet Mohammad in his newspaper columns, was hailed as a champion of free speech by some Dutch but others called him an extremist, while Muslims said they found his work insulting.

He had received death threats but had rejected protection after a recent television programme, called Submission, about domestic violence in some Muslim marriages.

"Van Gogh was someone who joined the public debate with outspoken views. He was a champion of free

speech. The Netherlands is a country in which people can speak their mind. We must all stand for that," said Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

Security for politicians was stepped up after the killing of Fortuyn by an animal rights activist ahead of a May 2002 election in which his party took second place.

The Netherlands is home to nearly one million Muslims or 5.5 percent of the population.

NOISY DEMONSTRATION

Several thousand people demonstrated at Amsterdam's central Dam square and railway drivers were urged to honk their horns to protest the murder.

People banged on drums, pots and pans and blew whistles for some 15 minutes, with some participants holding up signs saying "Muslims against Violence".

Abdou Menebhi, of the Amsterdam Moroccan council, urged his co-religionists to obey a minute of silence in the mosque in the evening during regular Ramadan holy month prayers.

The UMAH association of Moroccan-Dutch academics said they

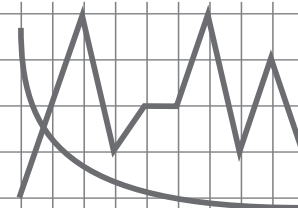
did not share Van Gogh's opinions but condemned his murder.

Police in the Hague, seat of the Dutch government, arrested several people who had been shouting anti-immigrant slogans.

Immigration, integration and Islam are burning issues in the Netherlands where outspoken parliamentarians such as Geert Wilders, an opponent of Turkish EU membership, have received death threats.

"In this country, nobody can be killed because of what he says, that is not what we want," Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk told the crowd.

YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| US Dollar | 184.9900 | 185.2100 |
| Sterling Pound | 340.0600 | 340.4600 |
| Euro | 236.5900 | 236.8700 |
| Saudi Rial | 49.3300 | 49.3900 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 627.7000 | 628.4500 |
| UAE Dirhem | 50.3600 | 50.4200 |
| Egyptian Pound | 29.6200 | 29.6600 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 490.6800 | 491.2600 |
| Qatari Rial | 50.8200 | 50.8800 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 261.0800 | 261.3900 |
| Omani Rial | 480.5200 | 481.0900 |
| Swiss Franc | 154.8300 | 155.0100 |
| Swedish Crown | 26.1600 | 26.1900 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.7502 | 1.7523 |

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

President wants more investment

Saleh gives a boost to agriculture sector

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is angry about Yemeni investors who don't invest their money in the domestic sectors (in order not to pay alms tax and other taxes), while also exploiting licenses to build mosques, so they can import construction materials for other construction.

The president said that merchants and businessmen are smuggling hard currency abroad at a time Yemen is looking for foreign investors.

He wondered about the causes, noting that security is established and the law on investments offers great facilities for investors.

In a festival held by Yemen's Agricultural Cooperative Union to celebrate the 14 October Revolution, the president offered many suggestions including a call for the private sector to build projects related to packing and preservation of agricultural products, as well as tool and implement factories, so these products don't have to be imported.

He gave directives to an agriculture encouragement fund to build a factory for irrigation equipment, and contributed \$2 million toward an investment partnership.



Yemen enjoys fertile lands in various geographical and climactic regions. The picture shows a fruit ranch in Tihama plain, Hodeidah province

Minister of Agriculture Omer Hassan Suweid said Yemen is seeking

to build more water dams and barratries to encounter waters crisis

and to take care of agricultural production where there is a 65% of the

work force working in it, noting that projects for development of irriga-

tion have started in the governorates of Lahj and Abyan.

The Yemeni president also inaugurated a project of distributing irrigation networks covering 3,000 hectares and also another 5,750 hectares in more than 17 governorates being covered during the past two years.

This, in addition to distribution of 80,000 irrigation pipes covering 20,000 feddan in Tihama, Abyan and Lahj on cotton farmers. Some 1,060 plough machines are also going to farmers.

In addition, the agricultural cooperative union, during the last period, implemented a large number of water dams and water installations at a cost of YR 2.4 billion in nine governorates and finished irrigation installations covering an area of 7,884 hectares at a cost of more than a YR 1 billion.

Chairman of the agricultural cooperative union Mohammed Basheer says the union has contributed also to implementing 12 projects for marketing and exporting costing more than one billion riyals and currently there are six projects under construction at a cost of YR 529 million.

The government pins some hope on the agricultural sector to help a qualitative transfer in production and increase national exports.

Also seeks loan for Al-Dhale project

Cabinet moves to control prices

By Mahyoub Al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

Yemen's parliamentary cabinet has directed the ministry of industry and trade, and the ministry of oil and minerals, to take effective measures to address the problem in prices and supply during Ramadan.

The cabinet insisted on the ministry of industry and trade to observe prices regularly and to stop any unnatural rises or any attempt at monopoly. It also directed the ministry of oil and minerals to apply legal procedures against those who intend to illegally raise gas prices.

Following these directives, Yemen Gas Company formed a team to search and solve any problems in the gas supply. Many field visits were performed by the company teams in collaboration with the responsible authorities to observe the stations and gas-selling shops.

Dr. Najib Al-Awj, Deputy General Executive Director of the company, showed that pointed out that the company took a number of measurements jointly with the Capital Secretariat and ministry of constructions to ensure obeying the rules to keep it at normal level.

"Some 45,000 gas stalls were distributed in Sana'a although average daily consumption does not exceed 28,000. This step was done to support the daily share of the liquefied gas either in Sana'a or in any other province. Tens of trucks are working

daily, providing gas in cities. The working hours of those centers were also extended in Ramadan," he added.

In other moves, the Cabinet signed with the first letters the agreement of the loan granted to Yemen by the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) on July 6. The loan is to share in financing the Society's Resources Management Project in Al-Dhale.

The project, worth \$22.8 million, aims at improving the rural living standards in the governorate through ensuring livelihood for the poor, besides adopting a wise use of resources available in agriculture, water and animal wealth.

Moreover, it is intended to reinforce

the aspects of getting benefit from the social development plans and improving the targeted abilities of societies in both organizational and productive fields.

The cabinet put emphasis on the necessity for selecting the qualified administration in the committee implementing the project. The committee is to be set up from all concerned authorities.

The cabinet compelled the state minister for parliamentary and Shura Council Affairs to coordinate with the ministers of planning and international cooperation and legal affairs to complete the required procedures for approving the agreement.



Letter of invitation for Pre-qualification

The Ministry of Public Health and Population in Sana'a is seeking assistance for the following task to be funded by the German Financial Cooperation with Yemen.

Data of Publication: 2.11.2004
Country: Yemen
Project: Productive Health and support to Basic Health Services
Subcomponent: Social marketing Program of Contraceptive through the Private Sector.
Project-executing Agency: Ministry of Public Health and Population, Sana'a
Finance: Federal Republic of Germany through KFW
Object: Pre-qualification for consulting services for a Social Marketing Program of contraceptives through the private sector in Yemen.

Bidders: The pre-qualification documents must give a clear picture of the consultants general and financial capacities and of his experience. The documents will show his sector specific and regional Know-How and adequate staffing. The process of selection and awarding of contracts for consulting services is based on KFW's Guidelines for the Assignment of Consultants in German Financial Cooperation from June 2004, available on the KFW web page www.KFW.de: Development Cooperation/Information for industry/ Business opportunities/ Tenders for consulting services / Guidelines for the Assignment of consultants in German Financial cooperation.

Joint Ventures between consulting firms are allowed. For purposes of pre-qualification details have to be submitted in respect f both the international consultant and the Yemeni counterpart structure as defined below.

Submission Requirements: Applications with the following information and documentation are requested:

- Corporate profile and status (international consultant and Yemeni counterpart)
- Evidence of financial resources i.e. balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last three years, confirmation of guarantee line given by company's bank (International consultant only: for Yemeni counterparts this will be required at tender stage).
- Declaration of undertaking (Appendix 1 of KFW's Guidelines for the Assignment of Consultants under German Financial Cooperation. This can be found on the KFW website: <http://www.KFW.de>
- Relevant references from the last 10 years demonstrating technical qualifications and experience in similar surroundings and countries.
- If a cooperation with other entities is planned, relevant declaration of intent specifying the leading entity.
- Biographical data on long-term consultant envisaged to undertake assignment as well as back-up services from the home office; specifically competence in social marketing activities needs to be documented.

Please note: applications shall be as brief as possible, yet as comprehensive as necessary. They shall be well-structured and project-specific. Submissions with irrelevant or unspecific data and which are overly voluminous shall be penalized during evaluation.

Addresses:
 Ministry of Public Health and Population
 Deputy Minister of Planning and Development
 Deputy Minister of Population and reproductive Health
 P. O. Box 299
 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

KFW Entwicklungsbank
 Attn: Mrs. Francisca Vongviyavit - L II c3
 Postfach 11 11 41
 60046 Frankfurt am Main
 Fax: 0049 (69) 7431-3279
 Email: Francisca.Vongviyavit@KFW.de

Submission date: The pre-qualification documents (hard copy in English language) will have to be received by the MPHP at the above address (original and 1 copy) no later than 12.12.2004. All application are to be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for the German Financial Cooperation social Marketing Program of contraceptives through the private Sector". The bidder will simultaneously send 1 origin and 1 copy of the pre-qualification documents to KFW, Frankfurt.

Further information: Please refer to MPHP or KFW asking for the prequalification information on the said program.

Meant to spread wealth

Zakat serves many purposes

BY DR. MANEA AL-HAZMI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Zakat, or obligatory charity, is the third Pillar of Islam. Allah says "Take Sadaqah (alms) from their wealth in order to purify them and sanctify them with it (surah At-Taubah, 103).

Zakat was addressed with prayer in 82 verses in Qur'an because of its importance. It is a financial act of worship dedicated to Allah in order to gain his pleasure.

Proportion of Zakat

Zakat is a certain fixed proportion of the wealth and of every kind of the property liable to Zakat. It is due on

one's wealth held for one year.

The percentage due on gold, silver and cash funds that have reached the amount of about 85 grams of gold is 2.5%. The other properties such as animals, fruits, lands for investment, and metals have different amounts of Zakat that you can find in the books of jurisprudence.

Spending of Zakat

Zakat is spent on the poor, employed to collect Zakat, to attract the hearts of new Muslims and those being close to Islam, to free the captives, for those in debt, for Allah's cause, for the wayfarer (a traveler who is cut off from everything.)

Allah says "As-Sadaqat (here it means Zakat) are only for the

حَدِّ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِمْ بِهَا وَصَلِّ عَلَيْهِمْ
إِنَّ صَلَاتَكَ سَكَنٌ لَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

Fuqara' (poor), and Al-Masakin (the poor) and those employed to collect (the funds), and to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islam), and to free the captives, and for those in debt, and for Allah's Cause (i.e. for Mujahidun-those fighting in a holy battle), from everything; a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise" (surah At-Taubah, 60).

Punishment for refusing paying Zakat

Allah has a severe punishment against those who refuse to pay Zakat. Allah says "And those who hoard up gold and silver [Al-Kanz: the money, the Zakat of which has not been paid] and spend them not in the Way of Allah, announce unto them a painful of torment.

On the Day when that, gold and silver, will be heated in the Fire of Hell and with it will be branded their foreheads, their flanks, and their backs and it will be said to them: This is the treasure which you hoarded for yourselves. Now taste of what you used to hoard" (surah At-Taubah, 34-35). The ruler has the right to take Zakat by force from those who refuse to pay it.

Benefits of Zakat

The original meaning of Zakat is both purification and growth. Zakat purifies the donors from selfishness, miserliness and stinginess. Zakat augments the wealth and makes it abundant.

The Prophet, peace be upon him said "Never will charity diminish the wealth, rather it augments it".

Zakat is a manifestation of social mutual responsibility among the Muslims. So the wealthy among them may sympathize with the poor.

And the poor among them may love the wealthy. Also Zakat is the major economic means for establishing social justice and leading the Muslim society to prosperity and security.

Yemeni artist Hani Al-Akbari

Building on the past

Irena Knehtl
iren_knehtl@yahoo.com

The Yemeni House of Culture in Sana'a has the exhibition of Yemeni artist Hani Ali Mohammed Al-Akbari. His exhibition, his second in Yemen, within the framework of Sanaa - the Arab Culture Capital festivities, was opened by His Excellency Mr. Khaled Rowaishan, the Yemeni Minister for Culture, and received high marks both from Yemeni and foreign visitors.

Born in 1961, Hani graduated from the Fine Arts Academy in Florence, in Italy (1987). He is member of Yemeni artist organization, held posts at Ministry of Culture, and a teacher of free art at Faculty of Engineering at Science and Technology University in Sanaa. He participated in a number of local and foreign exhibitions.

Independently in Firenze in Italy (1987) and in Yemen (1989).

Unlike Yemen's contemporary art, the art of Yemeni artist Hani Ali Mohammed Al-Akbari, is as rich as it should be. It partakes of past splendor, dazzling formats, delicate threads, and messages abound. The Yemeni theme in his works is the influence of traditional forms, substance, balance and design.

Hani is eager to draw upon the land, the Yemeni land, and the Yemeni experience as his format. It is the land itself, the timeless Yemeni land, that insistently demands recording. Perhaps because one knows that tomorrow, it will not look exactly the same - yet will always be there. Certainly the land, and the dramatic way the sun plays with the land, are always inspiring. There is a search to continuity from yesterday to today that too takes many forms.

The format of color and basic geometric design, is developed into



the shapes and simple combinations. Then there is grace, an all-powerful force. Grace by itself is form without content. Grace is moonlight on the water, not the sunlight at noon. Yet grace in Hani's artwork brings artistic expression into the world. It is the

grace that enhances the quality of our lives.

Here it seems as if grace arises out of adherence to form and the artist is becoming one with brush and canvas. In human affairs, grace is aligned with form, with mastery of aesthetic



and cultural forms honored by time and honored by traditions. Through appreciation of graceful forms in human culture, we apprehend the pure beauty of the ideal of life raised above the mere struggle for survival.

Care and lending the grace to

dignity of small matters, while giving the weight of deep and careful consideration to matters of greater consequence. The artwork of Yemeni artist Hani Ali Mohammed Al-Akbari is a testimony to the vitality of Yemeni contemporary art today.

Ramadan rituals

Incense runs deep into Yemen's history

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Incense is available in Ramadan night sessions in mosques, some business establishments and companies in which work is done at night. Its fragrance affects the senses and souls. The profession of making incense earns encouraging financial interests.

There are many famous kinds that are used especially in Ramadan. "Al-Adani" (named after Aden) is the best known. Besides, al-luban, al-mur, al-sabir are historically reknown. Yemenis prefer al-luban product in the religious sessions for it is the best kind, planted in the higher forest-covered mountains.

This kind of incense is produced in several areas such as Wadi Hagar and Socotra. While in sessions and offices, al-mur, considered the second best incense product is used. This kind is presented in ancient yemeni inscriptions as Amrur yet its scientific name is "commiphora." Al-mur with al-luban attained a significant position among the exported substances.

Al-mur trees are planted on farms harvested with a cut in the tree stem to let liquid go out. Mur was planted in various places in Yemen such as Bilad al-Asha'air in Tihama.

The Greek scripts by Herodotus that gum and mur, and aromatic trees were of the Yemeni incense products that is of the most famous Arabian product. The Roman Pliny elaborated his description of the Yemeni products, Yemeni incense and incense wood and its main products: gum and mur.

He described the way they were harvested, their shapes, quality levels, colors and different names.

Incense was associated with special religious rituals. Incense was exported to the Roman Empire on 7,000-10,000 camels annually. These figures do not account for the gross incense production of Southern Arabia-Yemen. On the contrary, a huge quantity was exported to Iraq through "Jarha" in the Arab Gulf besides other quantities to India.

Legends and tales

According to historical references, there are many incense-related legends and stories passing from generation to generation. Of those stories is that the tree of incense and its derivatives is usually found in the middle of a forest.

That shows there is an adventure should take place to reach it. It is said that this tree is in the shadow of the tangled forests surrounded by big poisonous snakes that hug the natural incense because they are fond of its smell.

These stories have been still narrated



by many people and a number of Indian merchants in Aden who deal with the incense industry, importing and exporting incense for over 100 years.

Some sources relate those stories with frightening people of the trade pirates and incense smugglers in order not to fight them or their money.

Incense in the Sun Temple

Yemeni people are interested in incense in Ramadan rituals. They were

performed in the first years of Islam. But the historical sources relating these goods show obviously the high position attained by Yemen. This position was concerned with the religious rituals from the beginning of history, and founding of early civilizations.

People used to burn incense as a sacrifice to gods but for Sumarion and Babilions burnt it to free themselves from sins. Pharaohs used it to be in touch with gods. Sophism and groups

of Al-Sunnah used it in the Islamic reign when making Ramdan mawalids in the session.

There are many evidences that prove the history of Yemeni incense, such as what is said by the Canadian archeologist who headed the Canadian mission that searched for archeological remains in Mareb, when he unearthed new discoveries in the Sun Temple, half of which are still buried. The mission found some of the gum that was special for the queen Bilqis in her temple. That incense kept its normal shape and smell for more than 3000 years while underground.

Adeni women making the best incense

Aden is famous for making, marketing and exporting incense, which Yemeni take care to have in Ramadan. They are eager to ask the traders whether the incense they sell is from Aden or imported. Aden was of the main routes of incense trade to Egypt Ghaza countries by the Red and Mediterranean Seas, and countries around the Arab Sea.

There were in Aden many offices of large companies that import and export incense and perfumes. The secret of their profession of making incense is ascribed to Aden's women, who are experts in improving incense derivatives by cooking it with other sub-

stances.

There are secrets in the quality of incense such as its natural cortex of the tree which has a very enjoyable smell, the traditional Indian wood, German Sultan misk and the Chinese one. Besides there are many kinds of perfumes like the Eastern perfumes, misk core, rooh al-rooh, sawt al-arab and some quantities of sugar.

Merchants today complain because of the extinction of incense trees that took the virtues of Yemen's fame. Incense is threatened with extinction because of the wars and the armed conflicts by the foreign armies throughout history as well as the natural disasters.

Hands of destruction, senselessness, negligence and scarcity of rain are of the reasons behind the current state of incense. Merchants think they should be pay some efforts for maintaining what remains of the incense trees.

They suggest planting more trees for there are still fewer members of trees of old and natural incense with its distinctive natural derivatives. It is worth mentioning that those trees are in Shabwa and some rural areas in Hadramout and what is produced pales into insignificance in comparison to production potential. We should ask: can Yemen plant incense and maintain what remains of gum specifically in Socotra?

Police Hospital appeals, Ministry of Interior asleep

Doctor laments poor medical system

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Roza mukrid al-Aghbari is internal and cardiac diseases; she got her M.S. degree in 1994. She joined the Public Police Hospital in the beginning of 1995. Ministry of Interior granted her the first lieutenant rank breaking the laws and regulations the state she should have been given a higher rank because of her higher degree.

She has been in service for the past years without having any promotion opposing the military service law. Dr. Roza is just on a salary YR 22,000 including the bonuses and other incentives. She doesn't receive any housing and others allowances that are given to most of her partners; she is deprived of them all.

Dr. Roza is the only doctor who has this specialization in the frame of ministry of interior. In addition, she has no privileges, not merely because she is a woman but she hasn't relatives or supporters to support her in front of the ministry leadership. Which deny the woman's rights to be as equal as a man even though she is distinguished and more active.

Dr. Roza presented many complaints to the ministry of interior hoping to get her situation improved and her rights to be received in proportion with her qualifications since joining the ministry in 1995. All the complaints were in vain. Though we have systems and laws organizing attaining military promotions within specific periods, this thing is not applicable to Dr. Roza as other officers of the ministry of interior who get regular promotions following the statements of laws.

When we asking her about the reasons and motives that made her marginalized and prevent her to have her rights, she answered:

It is logical to say that we are in the era of computer and technology; it is supposed to attain promotions automatically according to the service period and qualifications. It is not possible for a doctor, like me, to leave my work for months in order to go to the ministry asking for my rights and promotions. Why do we have administrative systems in the ministry then? Isn't it of their duties to organize work and give rights?

Concerning their rejection of giving all my rights as any employee in the ministry, I didn't find what convince and explain the reasons. Many people suffer from this problem. Besides the absence of institutional organization for the administrative work in the ministry, the cause of this thing is the prevailing corruption that the administrative establishments and workers are drowning in.

Dr. Roza presented a complaint to the office the previous minister major. It was transferred to the legal affairs department; instead of taking her rights.

Dr. Roza was compelled to leave her work in the Hospital in March 30, 2004. she was informed of losing all her rights including the salary. She went again to the minister major general Rashad al-Aleemi who ignored this matter. And about the kind treatment she received in the hospital and the ministry. She said: I'm treated in an insulting way, as to be prevented from entering the hospital or being sacked in front of patients, being intended to quit my salary without reasons and the reports sent by the Hospital to the ministry were wrong. Though I'm the head of the department of internal and cardiac diseases and women, the hospital deals with me as if I'm a new unspecialized graduate, where in the fact there isn't any department known like that in the Hospital at all.

"I am not the only one who receive harassments, but there are many of the



Dr. Roza mukrid al-Aghbari

M.S. and Ph.D. holders who face the same problem. 61 doctors presented a group complaint of the director for insulting and applying styles of racial discrimination and regionalism but their attempts were futile. Many competent doctors left the hospital. Some went abroad, or worked in other public and private hospitals in spite of their having military ranks.

"We shouldn't forget that a number of them were attacked inside the hospital while the working hours, without reasons but criticizing the miserable condition of the hospital, they request reforming it and improving the medical services offered to patients. The hospital administration refuses to adhere to the principles of this profes-

sion," she added.

Dr. Roza said that she has some files to include documents assigned by dozens of doctors showing the level of the deteriorated medical services in the ministry of interior. This condition is basically ascribed to the present director of the hospital who doesn't belong to medicine; he a police officer. He was working as a guard at the gate of al-Sab'een Hospital for Motherhood and Childhood and then deputy director of the Police Hospital from 95-97 to become its director up to now."

When asking her about the treatment women in general receive by the members of the ministry of interior, she explained: "The women's work in

the ministry of interior indicates the high level woman reached in her understanding of the responsibility towards the society in participating in the medical or police sector. The patients who are members of the ministry staff deal with woman in a respectable manner. Likewise, many of the ministry leaders who frequently visit the hospital for their families medical care are so respectful in treating us."

And about the medical services offered by the hospital to the ministry of interior and their families and whether they are free or not. Dr. Roza said: "The medical care is supposed to be entirely free, but what happens in reality is different. The administration compels the patients specially who are in need for carrying out a surgery to pay money without giving them receipts."

When comparing the Police Hospital to the Military Hospital belonging to the ministry of defense. Dr. Roza said: "there is no chance to compare between the two hospitals. It is unfair to run a comparison. The military Hospital has a history telling the proper scientific bases on which it was established. It offers medical services with a leadership that have historical qualified experience reaching 30 years, in addition to the professional principles and morals the hospital leaders are aware of. The Police Hospital is in need for all these features for it hasn't the medical services that are scientifically, professionally and practically offered in an acceptable manner. The hospital is under the undersecretary of the ministry for financial and administrative affairs though there's a general director for supply and he has an assistant for the medical affairs (who is also have no relative or previous practice with this work) but he's marginalized and he has no practical role to play. The doctor talked sadly about the issues of the specialized doctors having either M.S.

and Ph.D. who were sacked from the Police Hospital. And in the same time getting place to the director's child (15 years old) to be one of the medical staff.

"Whatever the reasons claimed by the hospital's administration, this issue proves the administrative failure in realizing the necessity of having a specialized staff to serve the patients. The administration is failed to solve the problem of those doctors and to keep them. Who remains of the staff is treated in an uncivilized manner though they have a respectable scientific competence. The result of that is compelled to sign contracts with other doctors who are not as competent as the doctors of the Police Hospital would be subjected to the inhumane treatments and harassments while the minister and the ministry leaders hear and see.

The last thing to be said by Dr. Roza is: "We are in a pressing need to who can understand our situation first as human beings and to be treated as humanly as doctors offering human services and devoting all the efforts for a better care for the core of families and society, policemen. It is no surprise to know that we are convinced that the ministry is satisfied with the current status and it doesn't care and I mean specifically the sector of financial and administrative affairs.

We urgently need a competent administrative organizing the medicals services like the military Hospital. I don't think that will be difficult for the ministry leaders. We demand to have at least a 40 per cent allowances especially for those who work in the medical labs and the promotions should be in proportions to the experience and the scientific ranks. We need to end the current treatments based on favoritism and regionalism. We hope our message to be heard and replied to by the human rights and freedoms organizations and whom it may concern in Yemen or Abroad.

Abdominal fat linked to women's heart attack risk

In elderly women, there appears to be no association between obesity in itself and the odds of having a heart attack, researchers report. However, fat distribution does have an effect — in particular, the amount of "visceral adipose tissue" or abdominal fat.

"Visceral adiposity was an independent risk factor for (heart attack) in these women," Dr. Barbara J. Nicklas told Reuters Health.

Nicklas, of Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and colleagues examined data from participants recruited between 1997 and 1998 for the Health, Aging and Body Composition Study.

The "well-functioning" subjects were between 70 and 79 year old, 1116

were men and 1387 were women.

After an average follow-up of 4-1/2 years, there were 116 heart attacks among the participants: 45 in women and 71 in men.

The team reports in the American Journal of Epidemiology that they saw no association between heart attacks and adiposity or fat distribution in the men.

In the women, although there was no association with total fat mass, visceral adipose tissue increased the risk of having a heart attack by 67 percent.

These and other findings, the researchers conclude, show that "although the absolute volume of visceral fat may be relatively small, it is the best obesity-related predictor" of heart attack in elderly, well-functioning women.

Fruits and veggies no help against cancer

Consuming a diet that is high in fruits and vegetables seems to reduce the risk of heart attack and strokes, but not cancer, according to a report in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Walter C. Willett, from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues investigated the protective effects of such diets by analyzing data from 71,910 women who participated in the Nurses' Health study and from 37,725 men who participated in the Health Professionals' Follow-up Study.

All of the subjects were free from major disease when the studies began in the mid-1980s and they were followed through 1998. Food frequency questionnaires were administered on a regular basis to assess diet.

During follow-up, 9329 cases of heart attack, stroke, cancer, or death occurred among women and 4957 occurred among men.

Compared with no fruit or vegetable intake, consuming five or more serv-



ings per day reduced the risk of heart attack and stroke by 12 percent, the researchers note. In contrast, no effect on cancer risk was seen.

Further analysis revealed that consumption of green leafy vegetables

provided the greatest reduction in heart attack and stroke risk. Consuming just one serving per day decreased the risk by 11 percent.

"Our results provide further evidence that high intake of fruits and

vegetables is associated with a modest reduction in major chronic disease risk and support the recommendation of consuming five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily," the authors state.

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Main Headlines

- Their representatives to visit him soon,
- EU embassies follow up al-Khaiwani case
- Activists from Tahrir party still under arrest
- Arab thinkers demand the formation of international court to prosecute Muslim scholars
- EU condemns the authority for continued imprisonment of al-Khaiwani
- Military campaign and Egyptian preachers to Saada
- Accompanying 2005 budget, a gas and diesel crisis
- Israel's MOSAD chases Hamas in Yemen
- Yemen buys its stolen books after retrieving them from India, a gang for smuggling school text books arrested
- Resignations in a body in Taiz University
- Transparency International Organization 2004 report: Yemen most corrupt among the Arab countries
- Arrest of chairman of Yemeni-American Friendship society
- Accused the MOSAD involvement in Iraq explosions, announced the release of 1700 prisoners, the president: Contacts with
- Washington to set free 106 detainees in Guantanamo
- Tunisian opposition describes presidential elections as "farce"
- Among 150 Arabs, Yemeni prisoners in Iraq threatened with death sentences
- FM: the decision of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip, an evasion from permanent and comprehensive solution of the conflict in the region
- Final checking of Yemeni-Saudi border markings
- Six international companies confirm their participation in Islands Conference
- The president calls on Yemeni businessmen to invest in Yemen and encouragement of building economic groups
- The president visits Italy this month
- To be attended by 300 local, Gulf and European government organizations and bodies, European-Gulf dialogue conference to be held in Sana'a discusses woman empowerment politically and economically
- Yemen calls for Arab League meeting to discuss support for Somalia
- The UN contributes to repair damage of al-Houthi insurgency

Saut Al-Shoura weekly, 25 Oct, 2004.

Main headlines

- YR billion worth secret deal, indications to renewed war in Saada
- Prison administration refuses handing over his medical checks, Khaiwani still exposed to attack
- Military troops set siege against Hamdan area; the presidency summons cleric Badrudin al-Houthi
- A field study on violence against children
- Journalists syndicate expresses concern over Khaiwani case

Columnist Ali Mohammed al-Sirari says in an article refusal of political reforms is similar to their ignoring them. Both squander more time and prolong the period of suffering imposed on our peoples.

The ruling elites in the Arab countries have been dominating their peoples' decisions of destiny for a long time and they have throughout that time not learnt the basic principles of political participation. They also have not allowed those who differ with them to publicly announce their ideas and criticism. Whenever a political group has dared to announce a stance adverse to the existing situations in the country, the ruling authorities would quickly accuse that group of rebellion against the homeland and its interests and high values. Thus the term of opposition has become a synonym to that of traitor the authorities would hunt them down with an all-out war.

It is a kind of bad luck for the Arab ruling elites is that they believe what their propaganda media talk about

them and listen carefully to the praise and beautiful characteristics they give them. Many changes have occurred in the international arena after the end of the cold war and the internal oppression the Arab regimes practice against their peoples is no longer realizing the western and the American interests as was the case during the cold war. The September 11 events may have decided for good the American and the European stand towards the political monopoly and deterioration of the levels of democracy in the Arab region. Those conditions have become a source of danger threatening the interests of the west and its national security as they believe that the region has rendered into an area producing international terror capable of reaching to the heart of the western society itself. So and without a pre-planning there emerged a harmony of interests between the western countries demands and the Arab countries' need for democracy and modernity and they have become a national and international demand and the western circles are no longer representing a guaranteed ally to support the Arab ruling elites' pursuit of practicing suppression against their peoples.

Main headlines

- International reports: Yemeni oil in pockets of westerners, and local brokers and officials
- Information cancels license of publishing Al-Nidaa newspaper
- Under foreign pressures, the ruling party works for domination over charity work

Al Wassat weekly, 27 Oct. 2004.

- Suppression against workers of Issaie Company
- Investigation with an intelligence officer in Aden
- In a report by Transparency International, High level of corruption in Yemen and other Arab countries

Columnist Rashida al-Qaily says in her article it is god that opposition press opens files of excessive spending on life by some leaderships of opposition parties. It is improper for the opposition to turn a blind eye on areas of corruption inside the opposition. When the opposition criticizes itself it would in this case walk an important step on the road of affirming its credibility in fighting corruption of the authority and being biased to woes of the people and their sufferings.

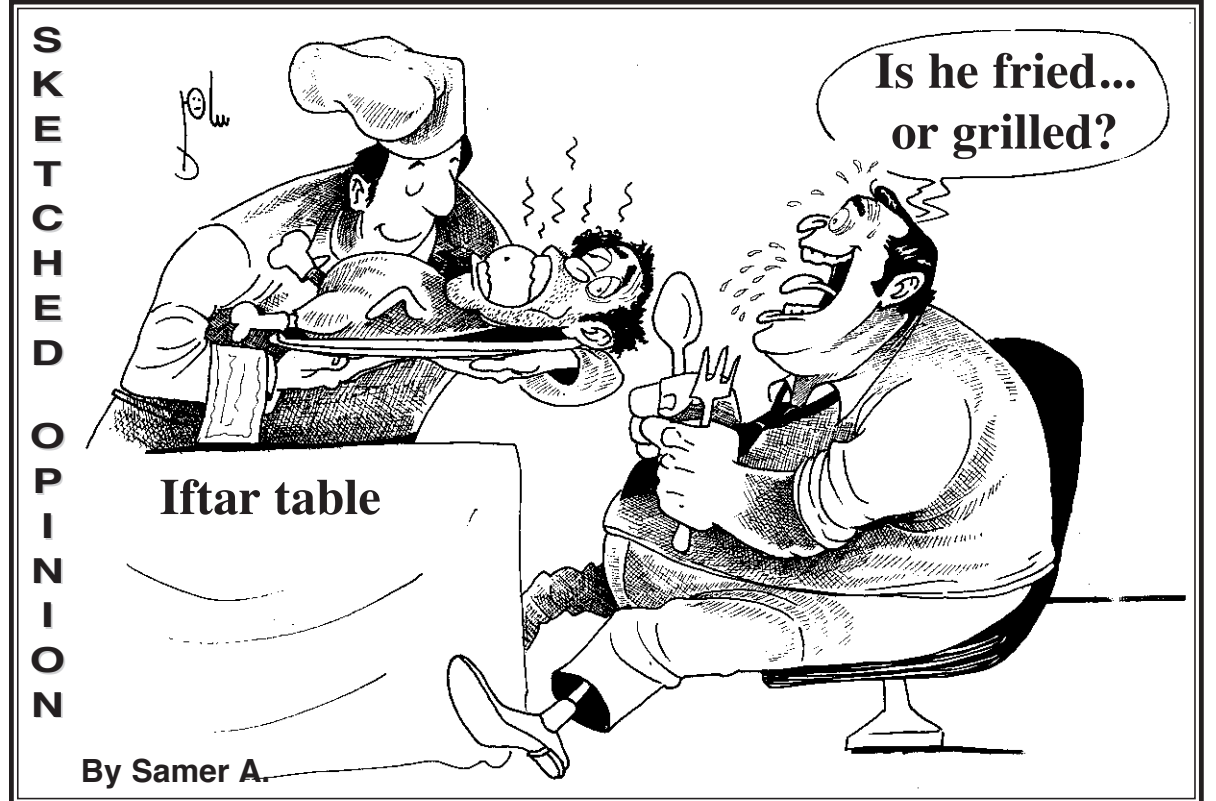
Even in case those amounts of money and properties are proved to be legal those leaderships have to implement the principle of accountability concerning the ways of acquiring those properties and privileges. They should be examples in struggle.

Al-Isbou weekly, 28 Oct. 2004

Main headlines

- Governorates children homeless in the capital
- Two Airbus airliners for the Yemenia

An article published by the newspaper on the religious dialogue with the extremists says in reality the liberalism does not possess a strong structure inside the Arab societies and



as an idea coming from the west any internal political pressure cannot create an atmosphere of freedoms. Arab liberal hope that the western demands of political reforms would be profitable in creating democratic changes in the region though political pluralism would grant the Islamists a great share in the trust of ordinary people. That is because of the limitedness of the effect of civil society organizations versus the influence of the religious address. In Yemen the dialogue with extremist prisoners has not gone beyond the religion. It is an encounter of a religious address with another religious address. Officials have their justifications that it is easier in influencing them with a religious address.

On the other hand dialogue is considered a sound decision and rational, better than continued confrontation. Nevertheless, the terrorist threat is still hidden.

Semitism and the question is who would make them understand that the Arab of they underestimate are more deep-rooted in Semitism than the Jews? The Arabs were the descendents of Sam the son Noah and were existent on this earth before the existence of the so-called the Jewish race.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 26 Oct. 2004.

Main headlines

- Intensified preparations for the 10th national conference of the Organisation
- Sheikhs of Ibb demand speed up trial of an influential
- Authority would be responsible for what could happen to Khaiwani

Columnist Annas Sinan says in an article the oil sector is one of the great revenues feeding the general budget of the state with billions and it is considered the backbone of the Yemeni economy. These revenues of this greatly important source are still shrouded with mystery and there is manipulation in its figures in favour of those influential and centers of corruption that could tighten their grip around those revenues. In the past few months, many issues were disclosed pertaining to this sector concerning certain game of selling some of it to the companies working in this sector. The selling of the oil sector 53 one only one aspect of the game.

The absence of a Yemeni company working in the area of discovery and production of oil is one of the most important issues that were pointed to

in the report of the oil parliamentary committee of which the government is still delaying in presenting a project for its establishment to the parliament up until now.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 1 November 2004.

Main headlines

- Al-Hittar: The release of 112 of those accused of having links to al-Qaeda organization and 176 of those affiliate of the "Believing Youth"
- The president of Yemen calls on all Palestinian political parties and factions to close their ranks in the way enhancing their capability of maintaining struggle
- Foreign ministers of Sana'a grouping discuss commercial cooperation and preparation for the next summit

Columnist Iskandar al-Asbahi says in his article our society is not in a position allowing being preoccupied in dialect that prevents it from action. Our society is in need of all enlightened ranks to all of them work for this country.

The columnist adds that instead of being a force of radiation for the progress of the country, some of the opposition parties are playing a role mainly meant for destruction and spread of despair among the society, they have relinquished their role as partners in building the homeland and developing it and treating its issues. There are successes and failures in the work of the government but the opposition only focuses on the negative aspects or fabricates incorrect realities.

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BALCO head angrily speaks out on steroid charges

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - The man at the center of a global sporting doping scandal broke his silence on Monday to accuse prosecutors of "cheating to win" their case.

Speaking for the first time since his indictment in February, Victor Conte said: "They (federal prosecutors) have clearly been cheating to win, much the same as they are accusing the athletes involved in the case of doing."

The head of BALCO — the laboratory at the center of the doping scandal — issued a statement to Reuters after federal officials filed documents last Friday containing new details in the steroid distribution case.

"The feds seem to have absolutely no regard for the law or anyone's rights," Conte said.

"They seem to be determined to win, no matter what it takes. The irony in this case is unbelievable."

Greg Anderson, trainer for baseball star Barry Bonds, BALCO owner Conte, vice president James Valente, and well-known track coach Remi Korchemny have been charged with steroid distribution in a case linked to some of the best-known names in track and field and baseball.

"Illegally leak"

Since his indictment in February, Conte has declined to speak in public, although he has fumed behind the scenes.

"First the feds lie and then they leak. They fabricated evidence and then they illegally leak it to the media," he said in his statement on Monday. "This has been a pattern since the very beginning of the BALCO case."

In their latest filing, prosecutors said they had evidence of Conte's discussion of steroid matters in internet postings, syringes from BALCO's trash and correspondence between Conte and athletes and coaches discussing steroids — as well as Conte's own admissions.

"In the course of the search warrant at BALCO, Conte voluntarily agreed to speak with agents and provided a complete statement regarding his involve-



Victor Conte, the man at the center of a global sporting doping scandal broke his silence on Nov. 1, to accuse prosecutors of 'cheating to win' their case. Conte, owner of BALCO Laboratories, talks to the press outside the Phillip Burton Federal Courthouse after a court hearing in San Francisco, June 25. Reuters

ment in knowingly illegally distributing steroids to numerous professional athletes in violation of federal law," the government said.

An Internal Revenue Service memo made public on Friday said Conte had provided steroids and advice on them to track and field athletes including Regina Jacobs, Marion Jones, Tim Montgomery and Chryste Gaines as well as baseball stars Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and Jason Giambi.

Completely fabricated

The memo, dated September 3, 2003, said Jones and Bonds received steroids known as the clear and the cream for free in exchange for endorsement of a zinc supplement ZMA. Both athletes have praised ZMA in public but deny using steroids.

"The memoranda of interviews are full of information that was completely fabricated by law enforcement officers," Conte said in his statement on Monday.

Giambi and Sheffield publicly denied using steroids while Montgomery and fellow sprinter Gaines have decided to

go before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Jacobs, who has retired, was banned for four years in July after a positive test for the anabolic steroid THG.

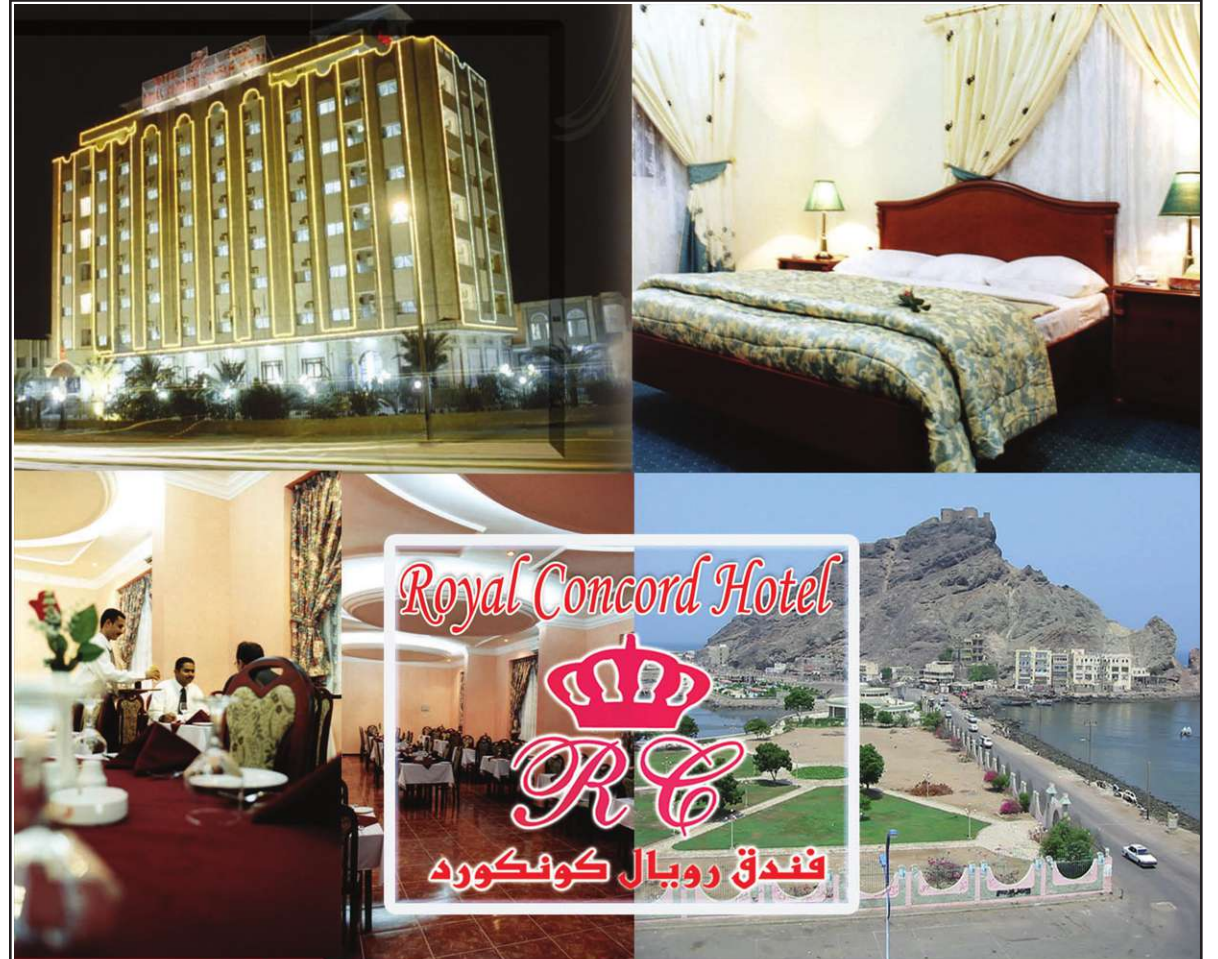
Defendants in criminal cases typically decline public comment because of fears that any remarks could harm their case. But Conte apparently feels that his reputation has taken a battering in the arena of public opinion.

"It seems as if the government has now realized that it would be almost impossible for us to get a fair trial," said Conte, a former professional musician without professional training in science.

"Their actions seem to indicate that they are far more concerned about the court of public opinion than they are about what occurs in the legal courtroom."

Prosecutors have not commented in public about the case.

Conte, Valente and Anderson have asked a judge to dismiss the cases against them because of alleged prosecutorial misconduct. A judge will hear the motions next month.



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| <h4>صور</h4> <p>لهاواتف نوكيا، من رقم الصورة لهاواتف سيمنز، من رقم الصورة</p> <h4>شعارات</h4> <p>لهاواتف نوكيا، شن رقم الشعار، لهاواتف سيمنز، شس رقم الشعار</p> <h4>صور خاصة وشعارات خاصة</h4> <p>قم بزيارة موقعنا على الإنترنت www.spacetyemen.com ثم انقر على SMS Tools ثم لهاواتف سيمنز، Logo Composer أو My Picture والتابع التعليمات المذكورة</p> | <h4>نغمات</h4> <p>لهاواتف نوكيا، نغن رقم النغمة سيمنز، نفس رقم النغمة</p> <h4>بطاقات التهنئة</h4> <p>لهاواتف نوكيا، بن رقم البطاقة رقم الهاتف النقال لهاواتف سيمنز، بس رقم البطاقة رقم الهاتف النقال</p> <h4>شعارات سبيستل</h4> <p>لهاواتف نوكيا، شسش رقم الشعار لهاواتف سيمنز، شسش رقم الشعار</p> |
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Socotra: A historical Multi-Cultural Environment

By Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shamsaddin Megalommatis

Most characteristic point throughout the entire text of the Periplus is the reference of various emigrants intermingling with one another. It goes without saying that, throughout this trade and navigation network that the author of the text so analytically describes, inter-ethnic, inter-religious, inter-linguistic and inter-cultural marriages, contacts and exchanges among a multitude of various peoples, ethnic groups, religious denominations, and cultural – behavioural attitudes and systems, as well as interactions of all sorts were the order of the day, the regular and ordinary way of life. Because of this reason, wherever the author stresses the issue, we have to understand it in absolute terms of extensive cultural and ethnic mixture. It is therefore interesting that from the area of Arsinoe (Suez) to Chryse (Indochina - Indonesia) only in two places the issue is stressed: in Rhapta of Azania, the area of present day Dar al-Salam of Tanzania, where Sabaeans and Himyarite colons got married with local women, and practiced an advanced level of colonialism learning the indigenous population language, and in Socotra itself. Quite interestingly, in both cases Yemenites were involved, which shows a characteristic of open-minded, extrospective, people ready to socialize, negotiate and intermingle with other origin people, a deep trait of extroverted mentality and attitude that has diachronically been typical of the Yemenites.

But of course, contrarily to what is said about the East African coast, in Dioscouridou island no local, aboriginal, population seems to have ever been. Through the aforementioned excerpt, we are driven to the conclusion that the first settlers were Hadhramawt Yemenites, Greek speaking Egyptians, and Indians of the Western coast, so



Dragon Blood

certainly Dravidian and not Indo-European Indians. As an ethnic, cultural and linguistic mixture, it is among the most unusual and extraordinary ones, since not a single group seems relatively close to another. Greek speaking Egyptians were the open-minded Egyptians of Alexandria, who were keen to intermingle with the Jews, the Greeks, and the other ethnic groups that were residing in the multiethnic city at the edge of Egypt. So, Khammitic Egyptians, Semitic Yemenites and Dravidian Indians of the Dakkan (the subcontinent in the south of Narmada river) gave the intermingled racial – ethnic background of the island. We do not have this sort of extensive intermingling in any part of the world throughout the World History. Two groups intermingling are a common case, three groups are a very rare case, but again there is no case of three groups belonging to totally different linguistic families.

In our global world, peaceful, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural intermingling consists in a high value of our Civilization and at the same time in a

would be a very erroneous perception of the principle of multi-cultural intermingling, and a very wrong reading of its application at the social level. Dealing with such issues one must bear in mind two things:

through multi-cultural intermingling one never gets completely or drastically altered, deformed or changed, and following multi-cultural intermingling changes one is not the same as one was earlier.

The correct appraisal of cases of multi-cultural intermingling shows that every case is different, and that the only thing in common is a partly change of the original cultural identity. This is the reason that, if you are not committed to crossing the threshold of the global world and of the multiculturalism, you pay a double penalty, and more precisely you stay undeveloped, poor, marginal, miserable and at times depicted as inadaptable, so perilous you deprive yourself from the means of controlling, managing and influencing the multi-cultural intermingling process actively.

Modern Yemen, attracted by all parts of the world, East Africa, India, Turkey and the Caucasus area, Iran and Central Asia, the rest of the Middle East, as well as the West, would certainly gain a lot, if Yemenite scholars,

intellectuals and diplomats raised the Ancient Socotra multicultural model to the level of a successful archetype of wholehearted commitment to Global Multiculturalism.

An Academy of Multiculturalism would give the island the proper radiation of its historical glory and, as an institution organizing conferences, congresses, colloquia, meetings and seminars, it would become the central motive of the Socotran Archipel development. This project would make of the island the epicenter of theoretical considerations, intellectual debates, and academic approaches to this seminal issue that haunts and will be haunting the world in the years ahead.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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key to social, political, financial and economic success. The model of the typically isolated place that sticks to its past in a counterproductive way has been abolished. Only failure can come out of such backward isolationism.

Here one should stress that multi-cultural intermingling does not imply cultural deformation and identity loss. This

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