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# YEMEN TIMES

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Thursday, 11 November 2004 • Issue No. 789 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

## Arafat dead?

PARIS (Reuters) - The fate of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was mired in confusion on Tuesday as French doctors contradicted reports by senior Palestinian officials that the veteran leader had died at a Paris hospital.

Several political sources said Arafat, 75, in a coma for the past six days, had succumbed to the mystery illness that led to his being flown to Paris from the West Bank on Oct. 29, thrusting his Palestinian Authority into crisis.

"He is dead. It is possible they will delay the announcement," one Palestinian source said. "He died after bleeding in the brain began last night. His bodyguards started hugging and kissing and telling each other to be strong."

But a spokesman for French medical services insisted Arafat was still alive, saying: "Mr. Arafat is not dead."

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath told CNN from Paris that Arafat was alive and no decision has been made to take him off life-support.

The flurry of conflicting reports surfaced during a visit to Paris

by a delegation of three senior Palestinian officials, all seen as potential successors to Arafat, to check on the Palestinian leader despite his wife's angry objections.

In four decades leading the Palestinian nationalist cause, Arafat has gone from guerrilla icon to Nobel prize-winning peacemaker to a shunned old leader facing renewed bloodshed with Israel.

Arafat has been in a coma brought on by a still-undisclosed illness, with his dream of a Palestinian state unrealized, a possible succession battle brewing and the threat of chaos in Palestinian territories looming. He has been widely admired by Palestinians as the father of their struggle for statehood but was reviled by many Israelis as the face of terror.

Both sides have wondered whether his death might serve as the catalyst for first real peace effort in years or plunge the region into deeper crisis.

### Swift decline

Arafat had been flown to the Paris military hospital from his

battered West Bank headquarters where he had been effectively confined by Israel for more than two and a half years.

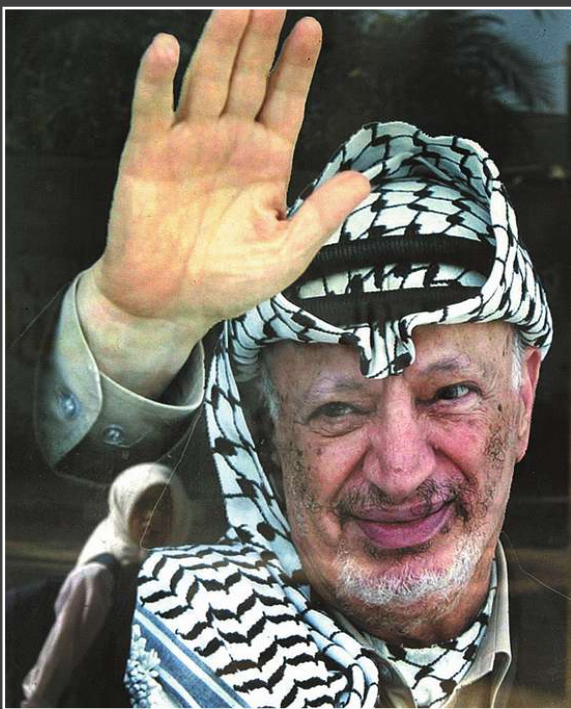
Despite his reputation as a consummate survivor, Arafat's decline came swiftly and with little warning.

Initial claims that he was suffering from a stomach ailment soon gave way to widespread reports that he had slipped into a coma and that his organs were failing. French doctors kept a tight lid on details of Arafat's condition at the behest of his wife, Suha, who engaged in a war of words with senior Palestinians officials over her virtual monopoly on information from his hospital bedside.

But on Tuesday, as the officials arrived in Paris to check on Arafat, doctors said he had slipped deeper into a coma.

The delegation including Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie, Shaath and Palestine Liberation Organization Secretary General Mahmoud Abbas arrived at the hospital after France hinted it was losing patience with the visit dispute.

Continued on page 14



A Palestinian schoolgirl is reflected on a poster of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at Khan Younis refugee camp in southern Gaza Strip Nov. 9. Yasser Arafat slipped deeper into a coma overnight and his health worsened, a doctor at the hospital treating him said on Tuesday, while Palestinian officials clashed with his wife over whether they could visit him. REUTERS

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## Guantanamo precedent Yemeni wins ruling

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

For the first time in any Guantanamo trial, Yemeni prisoner Salim Ahmed Hamdan, 34, received a positive ruling from a US federal court, when he was granted the right for a legal hearing on whether he is a prisoner of war.

This is a landmark decision given by a judge in a military trial of suspected enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay.

Even though he only worked as the personal driver of Osama bin Laden, Salim Ahmed Hamdan was accused of conspiracy to commit war, murder and terrorism.

The Yemeni authorities expressed hope that such action would be the first step in potential release of Yemeni detainees whom the Yemeni government thinks were not direct combatants.

It was reported that this was the first time a US federal court halted legal proceedings before military commissions. No trials have been held, although tentative trial dates for four detainees have been scheduled.

The U.S. District Court judge in Washington halted the pretrial proceedings of the driver after his lawyers filed a petition. He also rejected the U.S. government's argument that Hamdan and other detainees are not prisoners of war but enemy combatants, a classification affording fewer legal protections under the Geneva Conventions.

Hamdan was declared an enemy combatant last month by a review tribunal during a hearing from which his lawyer was barred.

U.S. District Judge James Robertson said that "there is nothing in this record to suggest that a competent tribunal has determined that Hamdan is not a prisoner of war under the Geneva Conventions."

The court also ruled that unless the military commission guidelines are changed to conform to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Hamdan cannot be tried by the commissions and must be moved from the pre-commission wing at the Camp Delta prison camp to the general population.

## IFJ tells Saleh that Al-Khaiwan treatment is "Intolerable"

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has blasted Yemen over its "acts of undue and unacceptable pressure on press freedom and independent journalism."

The criticism comes from IFJ General Secretary Aidan White in a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh asking Yemen's president to "intervene immediately to secure the release of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani."

Al-Khaiwani is editor-in-chief of Al-Shura, a member of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and presently in the Central Prison for a one year jail term over his published writings.

One of the prison's inmates attacked Al-Khaiwani last Friday from the back with a tool, trying to crush his skull. The victim's lower jaw was dislodged and his shoulder, hand and neck were bruised.

Sources also say that after falling to the ground unconscious, Al-Khaiwani was protected by some inmates from being killed.

The letter reads in part, "We ask you to take urgent action to reverse this worrying trend. We ask you to seek the release of our colleague Al-Khaiwani, to ensure that no further punitive

actions will be taken to silence independent voices in the media and to make clear declarations reaffirming the commitment of the Yemen to the highest standards of press freedom."

It adds, "We are concerned at reports about the state of health of our colleague and we ask you to restate your view that the imprisonment of journalists for their professional activity is unacceptable," also adding "Your prompt and humanitarian action would demonstrate to the international media community that your administration is committed to democratic values of pluralism and freedom of expression."

The letter said that the "trial and imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani have been carried out in a manner that has startled the international community of journalists." It also criticized the harassment al-Khaiwani has been subjected to in his jail.

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*Jailed since 1993 in US*

# Al-Moayed facing "inconveniences"

By MUHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni political parties and tribal voices have denounced the inhumane treatment which Yemeni citizen Shiekh Muhammad Ali al-Mo'ayed is facing in the US prison where he is detained.

Those voices have expressed its deep distress through the press, denouncing the inconveniences caused to al-Mo'ayed.

Those concerned were surprised to find such inconveniences and treatment being experienced in a country such as the US, the country of the democratic freedom and human rights.

Same voices have asked for improv-

ing the status of Shiekh al-Mo'ayed and stop the inconveniences, and to deliver him to the Yemeni authorities for trial, in case the accused is found guilty in the US.

Shiekh al-Mo'ayed is in one of the prisons in Brooklyn since November 2003, when he was delivered to the American authorities, along with his Companion Muhammad Zayed, from Germany where both of them spent about one complete year in one of its prisons.

A Yemeni CIA agent called Muhammad al-Ansi who induced al-Mo'ayed from Sana'a to Germany wherein he was arrested by an order from the United States who accused

him of having a connection with the members of al-Qa'edah organization and the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS).

Brooklyn American court has conducted several sittings and the court has decided to postpone the sittings until Dec. 14.

Yemeni authorities say that American authorities have no evidence convicting Shiekh Muhammad Ali al-Mo'ayed and his companion, Muhammad Zayed.

They say that the Americans just rely on voice recordings of casual conversations that two American agents had with the two accused prior to arresting them in Germany.

# Investors apply for new Islamic bank

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Investors from Qatar and Yemen have applied to the Yemeni Central Bank for a permit to establish Islamic Bank in Sana'a with a capital value of \$100 million.

Ahmed Abdulrehman al-Samawi, Governor of the Yemeni Central Bank, told media that the Qatari application has been referred to the Control Sector over the banks for study, along with similar applications applied by Yemeni businessmen.

"Yemen is at present working for joining consolidated Gulf Banking

Network within the Regional Integration frame," he said.

Mr. al-Samawi pointed out that the project of Electronic Payment and Banking Operations Law, admitted finally by the Primes Council, is considered as a necessary step imposed by world improvement groups in the line of financial and banking transactions.

The Governor of the Central Bank emphasized that the cash policy has contributed effective in amending the successful economical progress which was implemented in the framework of the comprehensive economical

reform program.

He advised as well that the foreign assets of the Central Bank has exceeded one trillion YR (about \$5.4 billion), covering five months imports until the end of the current year.

It is mentioned that the Yemeni Central Bank has previously emphasized that a decree stipulates that the capital of any new bank or a foreign bank branch wishing to work in Yemen should not be less than \$30 million as a minimum, so as to cope up with the international directives suitable to the appropriate banking requirements and capital sufficiency.

# UN supports Yemen's economic reforms

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It's appears that Yemen's economic reforms under the guidance of international groups will continue, despite the fear they've been raising among the public.

The Resident Coordinator of the UN System's Operational Activities for Development in Yemen, Flavia Pansieri, agreed with Abdulqader Bajammal, Yemen's Prime Minister, on Nov. 6, to continue the programs of development and combating poverty under the supervision of the international organizations such as the World

Bank, UNICEF, and The World Food Program.

Yemen-UN relations was also an item on the meeting's agenda.

Different programs are run by the international groups, especially related to education, health and childhood.

Coordination between UN office, the government, and the offices of the other international organizations was also discussed.

A Yemeni official said that any postponement of the administrative, economical and financial reform that was agreed on earlier by the financing organizations will lead to less interna-

tion aid.

Dr. Abubakr al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, warned that by not executing the economical reforms at the assigned time, Yemen will hinder foreign investment and delay other reforms that should be done in the fields of administration and judiciary.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that the scope of poverty is growing, that there are now 9 million people barely making ends meet, and 4 million live beneath the line of poverty in a country with a population that doesn't exceed 20 million.

# YJS works on journalism ethics charter

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YJS), Taiz branch, has formed an eight-member committee to word the draft of the journalism honor charter.

The committee consists of Izzaddeen al-Asbahi, Fikri Qasim, Mohammed Abdu Sufyan, Emad Ahmed al-Saqqaf, Abdullah Sultan, Mahdi al-Mashwali, Faisal al-Mansoub and Shukri al-Huthaifi.

This was the result of the discussion session on Nov. 11, intended the study the draft of Yemen journalism ethics charter.

It was attended by Abdulfattah al-Junaid, Abdullah Ameer and Ezadden al-Asbahi, Head of Human Rights Information and Training Center, Emad Ahmed al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-chief of Family and Development, Head of Yemen Times branch in Taiz, and a member of YJS in Taiz, Abdullah Sultan, a number of YJS members and pressmen.

Participants agreed on the significance of moral adherence to the profession's ethics and search for truth.

They emphasized the exploitation of the available democratic margin without being affected by political or social affiliations. Speeches stressed objectivity, reliability, and respect of the reader and maintaining the profession's ethical values, morals and noble message.

They also highlighted the idea of training pressmen and improving their professional standings.

# Yemeni children smuggled to Saudi Arabia

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Security forces stationed on the border with Saudi Arabia have thwarted an attempt by gangs to smuggle 50 children, since Ramadan, say officials.

The source explained to media that the children who were taken from smugglers were aged between 8 and 15.

Yemeni officials at Haradh border area with Saudi Arabia, where many smuggling gangs practice their activities, had asked the government and civic and international organizations to step up their efforts to put an end to such a phenomenon. They also called for conducting field studies to explore reasons and actual motives behind this phenomenon as a prelude for tackling it.

International observers had stressed earlier this year that indicators concerning the phenomenon of smuggling children from Yemen to Saudi Arabia had reached a rate of 50,000 children

from both sexes and whose ages range between 7 to 15 years.

A report prepared by the UNICEF on this phenomenon revealed that its rate was increasing and causing great concern. It also mentioned that the Yemeni authorities were in not in possession of real indicators about this growing phenomenon.

A Yemeni security official had called for annexing the border guard to the Ministry of Interior, instead of the Ministry of Defense to help them perform their tasks easier.

A Yemeni MP has mentioned that many smuggled Yemeni children during 2004 are from the areas of Haradh, close to the borders with Saudi Arabia, and from Aflah Al-Sham in the province of Al-Mahweet.

Many reports indicate the majority of children smuggled into the KSA are treated in an ugly and inhumane way and are being exposed to rape or serve in houses as servants or employed as shepherds.

## 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:

What do you think the situation of Arafat really is?

- He has been dead for some time.
- He has just died in the last two days.
- He is still alive.

### last edition's question:

Do you think that Yemeni journalist Al-Khaiwani's beating in the Central Prison by another convict was arranged by the authorities?

- Yes, it was 89%
- No, it was not 11%

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard!

# Italy trains young diplomats

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A source at the Italian embassy in Sanaa revealed that fifteen young diplomats are flying on November 16 to attend seminars in Italy on international and European economics, laws and relations. Of the fifteen diplomats, there are twelve from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and three others from the Presidential Office.

To mark the event, the Embassy of Italy held last Tuesday evening an official Iftar reception at the embassy's premises in Sanaa.

The selected trainees and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Office including Secretary of the Ministry for America, Europe and International Organizations Affairs Mr. Mostafa No'man, were present.

H.E. the Ambassador of Italy Giacomo Sanfelice de Monteforte delivered a speech during the Iftar in which he briefed the trainees about the program arranged for them in Italy and expressed his confidence in their ability to gain tremendously from the event. "While attending the seminar, the trainees will get acquainted with the UN system and the way it operates and get know about the functions of the European Union," the Ambassador said.

"The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is due to hold a ceremony upon the arrival of the young Yemeni diplomats to Italy. Such an exchange of experiences and activities reflects the depth of ties and cooperation between the two countries."

When asked about the main duties of the trainees while in Italy, Mr. Sanfelice replied in a statement to the



Ambassador of Italy, Mr. Sanfelice (right) talks to Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mostafa Noaman while having iftar

Yemen Times saying that "they are to meet diplomats, experts and professors of international law to discuss different international matters."

"During their stay, they are expected to visit the regional institutions in Italy to get acquainted with the administrative systems operating there (in the cities of Rome and Milan). This will be a very useful experience to maintain the close ties between ministries of both countries," he said.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Italy, Mr. Luca Bianconi said the program would be quite beneficial, especially as highly qualified and experienced professors that are chosen from famous Italian universities will deliver the lectures. The professors are majored in international

law, relations and economics and in European laws.

On the selection process, Mr. Bianconi said that the 15 candidates were selected from a total of 55 nominated applicants.

"They scored best in a proficiency test of English in which the program will be carried out. We found them eligible and motivated enough to attend the seminars," Mr. Bianconi concluded.

It is worth noting that Yemeni Italian relations have been steadily enhancing in the recent years as several visits and delegations were exchanged between the two countries and a number of activities were held in Italy and Yemen to consolidate the unique ties between the two countries.



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## Hayel Saeed Ana'am died 15 years ago

# A story of a blessed Yemeni man

By EMAD AL-SAQQAF  
TAIZ BUREAU CHIEF

**O**n the blessed 27th night of Ramadan, his soul traveled back to the Almighty leaving a life of success and virtue. He founded the national industry; he spread goodness everywhere and in every soul. It is not a matter of fantasy to say then he is not dead and he is still alive.

But Hayel Saeed An'am is alive with his charitable activities in every city, village, and in every house; he is alive with people's love for him. It is his noble deeds and glittering biography that make him live forever narrating a magical story of strife and a lesson of hope. That's Hayel Saeed An'am.

Hayel brought the first bricks of the national industry and established the greatest economical group in Yemen. What is more is his extreme care about planting goodness everywhere. He was not born with a golden spoon in his mouth; he hadn't 'Alla'addeen lamp' to have his wealth and found the most important economical project in the twinkling of an eye.

He was self-made, hardworking and a man of righteousness and virtue, thus Allah helped him and granted him success in whatever he did. We, in the Yemen Times, do believe that what the government should do towards him and towards the youth of this generation is to include his biography in the school curricula and the faculties of commerce and economy setting an enthusiastic example in their minds.

That's to make the lives of those great fathers alive in our memories, which is considered of their right to be so as mark of recognition towards what they achieved.

Ramadan 28th brings to our hearts



Late Hayel Saeed Ana'am

Qaradh, the village at the foot of Al-A'aruq Mountain where the man of Yemen's economy was born. We arrived among people who have been drinking from the same fountain of tradition, love and smiles for their visitors. They believe in changes but not changes of goodness principles and love of which life goes on.

At the door of a very archaic house, my question was raised, isn't this the house of the family of the deceased?

'Yes' was the answer though there are many modern houses around it. Being maintained by the sons, believing in its significance, that house

Those journeys were immigrations for him because they were too hard to afford, but he was acquiring the first lessons of his commercial work.

In 1922, many villages and different areas were attacked by a storm of infective diseases stealing the lives of a great number of people, of whom Hayel's mother was unfortunately one. The house turned vacant after that unbearable loss, so the father looked for occupying it by advising his obedient child, Hayel, to get married, showing him the purpose of restoring a part of the house's balance. Hayel got married; responsibility became difficult to be handled and the small weaving workshop couldn't help sustain their family's life especially when taxes increased.

He thought of what his elder brother have done, immigration. He discussed this idea with his father who hadn't but to accept the idea and bid his third child farewell. Then the thousand-step journey started with that single step of Hayel in 1923 from Aden towards France.

He embarked on a French ship bound for French port Marcela. He was being, during his journey, guarded by the providence and his father's prayers. He on the ship met unexpectedly his brother, Abdu, and brother-in-law, Abdu No'man, whom tried in the ten-day journey to teach him some French to help him communicate with others at his potential work.

After arriving in France, while the French police was looking for those who entered the country without having a legal residence, he was arrested. Among others, they saw innocent and solemnity in him, so they freed him.

At that time, his brother and brother-in-law was sacked from their work because of the change of the owner of the ship. Abdu No'man traveled to Britain yet Abdu Saeed, after securing the Hayel's position went back home.

The first work of Hayel was on a French ship. He made some trade work like the other sailors learning practically the principles of trade. Being suffered from homesickness, he once recollected the past days and events counting them and realizing he has spent five years of immigration. He decided to go back home wrapping up his first journey.

What he did after that is by all means a brief of a long series of activities and a bright record of achievements. After he was informed that the factory he was working for was sold to another proprietor which meant his loss of work, he opened a small shop in Aden which made him think of staying in Aden.

In Al-A'aruq, we preferred to hear the rest of his life from his closest friend, Haj, Saeed Mudhish (96years), who accompanied Hayel in most of his life. We asked him whether we find



Haifan District.

some thing in his memory, he said: "We used to be together since our childhood. After Hayel traveled to France, I hoped to be with him, so I sent him messages asking him to help me go there."

"He did what I wished and I went there and worked with him for six years in a factory of oil. He was a strong believer; he didn't neglect his religious duties. Then he traveled to Aden and I stayed there. He opened a small leathers' shop in Al-Mualla though he had only 30,000 shillings that wasn't enough to start a project but he surrendered his will to Allah's will."

"Throughout his honest dealings with traders and merchants such as Albess, and Ausudio who were famous, he received a great trust. After that I came back from France and opened a shop in Al-Rasheed St. in which I spent 27 years. At that time, Haj Hayel founded a company which Ali Mohammed Saeed contributed to build the first bricks leading to frequent success and successive enhancement."

"When the coup against the Imam happened, he was actively moving between Aden, Mokha, Hodeida and Sana'a struggling for founding a free national economy and for achieving the other national goal of revolution. Haj Hayel was believing that he is a good example for the family and who ever support his way."

"Aden was looking forward to improvement and better changes particularly after the independence in 1967, but what happened was the opposite. The nationalization decisions of the system there compelled us to leave all our properties and to go to Taiz. But as I've said, his good intentions and honest dealings with others enabled him to establish the first industrial project, Al-Hawban factory for ghee and soap forming a very successful turning point in Hayel's commercial life."

We then asked Haj Saeed Mudhish whether Haj Hayel was frequently connected with his village and if the hand of virtue still stretched. He replied: "Haj Hayel was always in the village. Even his children continually visit it and me; they don't forget their relatives. And Hayel's virtue is still going on and his charitable association extended its activities not to include merely villages but also cities."

A question was shot towards Haj Mudhish about his memories in France, he answered by saying: "The horrible situation that can't be forgotten is that when the German forces attacked France during Second World War. It was, let me say so, like Palestine today. That made me believe that Hitler was right in his view against Jews. That situation is in my memory."

And about Yemen's of the past and

of today, "Yemen was a dark cottage; whatever inside was black. The Imam made all Yemenis live in poverty, diseases and illiteracy and what he only did was collecting money from all even poor people."

"But Yemen today is shining with entire freedom to shape your life. This generation has all means of better life; it hasn't of that age (of Imam) but the pictures. We should praise the efforts of president Ali Abdullah Saleh who

achieved the reunification and his main role in making the great national development, therefore I pray for him."

With the above brief interview we concluded our journey to Al-Aqrudh, in Al-A'aruq, with two prayers in our hearts: one for Haj Hayel Saeed to be granted forgiveness and mercy and the other is for Ali Mohammed Saeed, chief of al-Saeed family, to have health and long age.



Hayel Saeed Mosque in Haifan District.



Emad al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Taiz Bureau Chief with Saeed Mudhish Anam.

the glimpse of the anniversary of sorrow for leaving that man and the grandeur of that blessing night in the month of virtues and forgiveness.

It's been 15 years since that Hayel's heart stopped beating in the modest body, though it keeps on beating with love and goodness in the whole country. The charitable fountains of that heart are still providing our home with many things in all directions.

A long journey should be performed in order to reach to the biography of the first operator of our machine of industry and economy as well as the founding head of the noble principle of competition, what Islam orders us to do, between people in the way of virtue and charity, the immortal projects will never get dry in the hereafter.

My colleague Mohammed Abdu Sufyan and I started our journey towards Taiz, precisely towards Haifan district, to meet the recollection incarnated in every thing we encounter. We passed through fantastic landscapes drawn beautifully by mountains, such as Wa'alan, Dhula'a, al-Ahyuq and Jabal al-A'aruq, which is our destination.

Villages are distinctively scattered on the top, steeps and at the feet of those mountains; there we arrived in

remains carrying all memories. It is the house of struggle and integrated noble meanings. It is where the great economical achievement, not of Hayel's family but of Yemen has been started.

In 1902, that house was full of happiness and hope and the whole family was receiving the third child of Saeed An'am, it was Hayel the brother of Moh'd and Abdu. That was a time of darkness spreading all over our Yemeni lands which the northern part was occupied by the Turkish forces and the southern by the British one. Our country was divided in halves by foreign forces and absolutely driven by illiteracy, diseases and poverty.

Hayel, with other children of his age, spent the first years of his life in Al-Melamah where he studied the Holy Quran. But when he was 16, in 1918, the Turkish occupation left Yemen, leaving the power and control at the hand of another tyrant, Yahya Hameed al-Deen, leading Yemen into another period of darkness and sufferings.

### Exemplary life

He started his life as a clothing weaver at his father's weaving workshop. He used to go with him in clothes marketing journeys to the markets of Al-Rahidah and Khadeer.

### Republic of Yemen Sana'a Basin Water Management Project Expression of Interest for Consulting Services

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit (No. 3774-Yem) from the International Development Association (IDA) to assist in financing of the Sana'a Basin Water management Project (SBWMP) and intends to apply parts of the proceeds for consulting services for the technical assistance for (i) Hydro-geological and Water Resources Monitoring and Investigations under Sub-component 3 (d) of Component 3 of the project; and (ii) Baseline survey under Component 1 of the project.

The project is geographically spread over Sana'a basin in the Sana'a Governorate of the Republic of Yemen.

The period for providing the technical assistance for (i) Hydro-geological and Water Resources Monitoring and Investigations shall be up to the end of year 2008; and for (ii) Baseline survey shall be 4 months.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) represented by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the SBWMP, now invites eligible consultants to indicate their expression of interests (EOIs) in providing the above services for any or both of the items. The interested consultants must provide their approach and methodology, in brief, to undertake the above studies and other supporting information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in the most professional and timely manner. EOIs should also include a profile of the firm, key personnel and specific information regarding their relevant qualifications, description of their experience in similar assignments etc.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Expression of interest must be delivered, in a sealed envelope, to the address below by at or before 10.00 a.m. on November 30, 2004.

Firms submitting EOIs will be considered for short-listing, and a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) will be provided to the short-listed firms.

Eng. Mohamed Harmal,  
Project Director,  
Sana'a Basin Water Management Project,  
Ministry of Water and Environment,  
P.O. Box 11014,  
Rabat Street, Sana'a (Republic of Yemen)  
Telephone: (+967) 1 469159/6/7, Fax: (+967) 1 469158  
E-mail: sbwmp@y.net.ye

### A time of reflection

## Sadness and joy: farewell Ramadan



BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**R**amadan is drawing to a close and we anticipate the arrival of Eid-ul-Fitr, the holiday at the end of the month of Ramadan. This is a time of sadness and a time of joy.

Sadness that the blessed month has to end and joy that we hope to have offered our best during the month, and hope that it will be accepted by Allah and that we will be rewarded.

It is also a time of sadness as the world's crises continue to increase. While we have fasted to gain God-consciousness, self-restraint and piety, we have also felt short-term hunger and thirst. Many of our fellow human beings, Muslims and non-Muslims around the world feel hunger and thirst every day.

As Yemenis, we are blessed with ample supplies of food and clean drinking water. Yet we know millions of people around the globe live in refugee camps or worse, hoping for a crumb of bread and a drink of water.

War and sanctions, drought and disease, some things within our control, others not in our control, have combined to bring about these catastrophes. As humans and especially as Muslims, we must reach out to change the fortunes of those unfortunate masses that are struggling to stay alive.

If we can offer donations, we must

do so. If we can work to lift sanctions, we must do so. If we can offer technology or expertise to find and supply water, we must do so. And if we cannot do any of this, we must offer dua (supplication or prayers) for our fellow humans around the globe and perhaps even in our neighborhoods.

Allah, Subhanahu wa ta'ala, says in the Quran: "And your LORD says: "Call on Me; I will answer your call (Prayer); (Ghafir : 60)

For those who must pay zakat (alms), Ramadan, particularly these concluding days, is a good time to do so. Allah, Subhanahu wa ta'ala, tells us who is eligible to receive alms in the Noble Quran: "Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer the (funds); for those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to the truth); for those in bondage and in debt; in the cause of Allah; and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, and Allah is full of knowledge and wis-

dom." (At-Tawbah : 60) During this month of generosity and sharing, let us each do our part to make sure next year Ramadan finds humanity in a better position than this year.

As we welcome Eid-ul-Fitr and give thanks for the blessings we have, the great month we are completing and looking forward to a prosperous Eid, let us carry the lessons we gained from Ramadan throughout the year so we maintain our focus on Taqwa and pleasing Allah, Subhanahu wa ta'ala.

We ask Allah, Subhanahu wa ta'ala, to accept the efforts of all who fasted and enlivened their nights with salat (prayer) and Thikr (remembrance of ALLAH), to grant us forgiveness and to blanket us with His Mercy and to guide us throughout the coming year.

We wish everyone a prosperous Eid "Eid Mubarak" and may we all be granted the privilege of witnessing Ramadan next year. Many happy returns!



Confectionary and nuts fill Yemeni markets with Ramadan drawing to a close and Eid Al-Fitr nearing

**Generation After Generation...  
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سوا

530mm 650mm 850mm 1000mm 1200mm 1431mm 1600mm

# U.S. forces take hold in centre Falluja-residents

FALLUJA, Iraq, Nov 9 (Reuters) - U.S. forces backed by Iraqi troops surged into the heart of Falluja on Tuesday, taking a grip on Iraq's most rebellious city after a day of intense street-to-street combat.

The Pentagon said at least 10 U.S. and two Iraqi soldiers had died since the offensive began on Monday night.

After sunset on Tuesday U.S. tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the northern part of Falluja came under fierce assault from rebels firing rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47 rifles.

Residents said explosions echoed in the night, but it appeared most large-scale fighting had eased.

Some U.S. tanks were seen pulling back from central areas of the city for the night. Others remained in place.

"I think we are looking at several more days of tough urban fighting," said the U.S. commander in charge of day-to-day military operations in Iraq, Lieutenant-General Thomas Metz.

Metz told reporters insurgent casualties had been higher than expected and civilian losses low. He gave no details.

A U.S. military ambulance driver told Reuters he had seen many casualties.

Residents said a U.S. air strike hit a clinic in a central district, killing some medical staff and patients.

A 9-year-old boy, was also severely injured by shrapnel in the abdomen when his home was bombed by U.S. jets overnight.



U.S. Marines carry an injured colleague after an offensive in Sunni Muslim city of Falluja, November 9, U.S. forces punched to the heart of Falluja on Tuesday after fierce fighting with guerrillas in Iraq's most rebellious city, a U.S. military source said. The source gave no details about the advance to the centre, the furthest U.S. forces have penetrated in the Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad in seven months. The picture is taken by an embedded Reuters photographer accompanying the U.S. military.

His parents were unable to get him to hospital and he bled to death. They buried him their garden, they said. **INSURGENTS STRIKE BACK**  
As battles raged in Falluja, insur-

gents hit back elsewhere with attacks on police stations in Baquba and Baghdad, fighting in Ramadi and a mortar attack in the northern city of Mosul.

But in Baquba, the official in charge of the main morgue denied earlier reports 45 were killed in attacks claimed by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. He said he had not dealt

with any dead from the attacks.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi used emergency powers he activated on Sunday to impose an indefinite curfew on Baghdad from 10:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) to 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) every night.

In Falluja, a Marines tank company commander — part of a U.S.-led force of at least 10,000 — said guerrillas were battling hard in the northern Jolan district.

"They are putting up a strong fight and I saw many of them on the street I was on," Captain Robert Bodisch told Reuters.

Many families had fled the city of 300,000 to escape air raids before the offensive. The U.S. military said about 150,000 residents had taken refuge outside Falluja.

Residents say they have no power and use kerosene lamps at night. They keep to ground floors for safety. Telephones are erratic and food shops have been closed for six days.

Iraqi troops brought nine handcuffed prisoners to a railway station on the northern edge of the Jolan area where U.S. and Iraqi forces are based. They said two of them were Egyptians and one was Syrian. The rest were Iraqis.

The interim Iraqi government and its U.S. backers say foreign Muslim militants led by Zarqawi are holed up in Falluja along with Iraqi rebels.

But Metz said Zarqawi and other leaders had most likely escaped the

city to regroup elsewhere.

A suspected car bomb outside an Iraqi National Guard base near Kirkuk killed three people and wounded two. In Samarra, a senior local government official was assassinated, police said.

Sami al-Jumaili, a doctor at the main Falluja hospital who escaped arrest when it was taken on Monday, said the city was running out of supplies and only a few clinics remained open.

"There is not a single surgeon in Falluja. We had one ambulance hit by U.S. fire and a doctor wounded. There are scores of injured civilians in their homes whom we can't move.

"A 13-year-old child just died in my hands," he said by telephone from a house where he had gone to help the wounded.

The government sees Falluja and its sister city of Ramadi as rebel havens that must be retaken before January elections.

But a leading Sunni cleric on Tuesday urged Iraqis to boycott the election because of the treatment of Falluja.

Defence experts believe that while U.S. forces have the muscle to win the battle of Falluja, victory still may not deal a lasting blow to the insurgency in Iraq.

"It may not take long to capture the city, but nothing will have been resolved. It will be a symbolic victory," French military strategist Jean-Louis Dufour said.

## UN awaits Iran uranium suspension letter-diplomats

VIENNA, Nov 9 (Reuters) - Iran must tell the United Nations nuclear watchdog in writing that it will suspend its uranium enrichment programme from a specific date to help it avoid sanctions, Western diplomats said on Tuesday.

"Iran needs to send a letter to the (International Atomic Energy Agency) stating that it will suspend enrichment on such-and-such a date," a Western diplomat who follows the IAEA in Vienna told Reuters.

"Iran has been told that the IAEA needs this letter by tomorrow (Wednesday) if it is going to be in the report," the diplomat said, referring to IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei's progress report on Iran inspections.

Several Vienna-based diplomats said ElBaradei had promised Tehran a positive report if a series of talks between France, Britain and Germany aimed at freezing Iran's controversial uranium enrichment programme went well.

The combination of a positive IAEA report and verified suspension of all activities related to uranium enrichment, a process of purifying fuel for use in nuclear power plants or weapons, would guarantee that Iran would escape a referral to the U.N. Security Council this month, diplomats say.

It would also give British Prime Minister Tony Blair a positive message to take to White House talks with re-elected President George W. Bush on Thursday and Friday. That would strengthen Europe's hand in urging the United States to engage with Iran.

Washington, which accuses Iran of developing nuclear weapons under cover of an atomic energy programme, wants Tehran reported to the U.N. Security Council for hiding its enrichment programme for 18 years. Iran denies wanting nuclear weapons.

**Don Quixote**  
The European Union's "big three"

states reached a tentative deal with Tehran on freezing enrichment activities during talks in Paris over the weekend. Diplomats close to the talks said the deal should be formally announced on Tuesday or Wednesday.

An EU diplomat said if Iran accepted the deal, the United States would be unlikely to push for an IAEA board meeting on Nov. 25 to refer the Iranian programme to the Security Council.

"The U.S. is quite aware of the odds of getting a referral if we have an agreement. It won't play Don Quixote," he said.

Another European diplomat close to the negotiations said there had been a flow of exchanges between the three EU capitals and Tehran since the latest round of talks ended on Saturday.

Among issues still being discussed were the wording of the duration of the suspension and the scope of activities to be halted while Iran and the EU open talks on a wide range of political and economic benefits.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told parliament he hoped Tehran would agree to the deal.

"I very much hope that the government of Iran accepts the draft, including the need for a full suspension of uranium enrichment processing and full related activities," Straw said.

The Europeans aim to move from a suspension to a termination of Iran's enrichment ability, but Tehran has ruled out anything but a temporary halt.

Once a start date for the suspension has been set, the IAEA will send inspectors to all sites linked to Iran's enrichment programme to verify implementation of the freeze.

"The IAEA would need to have people in place the day they begin the suspension," said one diplomat.

Verification of the suspension could come very quickly, though the installation of monitoring cameras and sealing of equipment and facilities would take some time, diplomats said.

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## Fresh unrest in Ivory Coast despite peace efforts

ABIDJAN, Nov 9 (Reuters) - French soldiers fired to disperse protesters in Ivory Coast on Tuesday after days of rioting in the main city Abidjan.

Three people lay dead after the shooting. One was an Ivorian paramilitary policeman, one man had his head blown off and a woman lay lifeless on the ground with a large wound in her back.

Demonstrators said the gunfire had come from French troops in a hotel while the French military declined immediate comment.

The continuing unrest on the ground underscored doubts about the prospects for stability despite an upbeat assessment from South African President Thabo Mbeki on a one-day peace mission to the world's biggest cocoa grower.

Demonstrators in Abidjan ransacked the Hotel Ivoire after French troops pulled out and smoke rose into the sky. The hotel was a towering symbol of the post-independence boom the West African state enjoyed thanks largely to its plentiful cocoa.

The unrest, which has paralysed the vital cocoa industry, began after former colonial power France destroyed most of the country's military aircraft in response to an air raid which killed nine French peacekeepers.

French troops deployed in Abidjan, saying their only aim was to protect French citizens and property, but Ivorian militants accused them of planning to topple President Laurent Gbagbo.

Despite official appeals for calm, anti-French sentiment was still running high on Tuesday among backers of Gbagbo, who lost control of the north of the country in 2002 to a rebel movement.

Protesters brought the body of a young man with a bullet in his neck to the gates of Gbagbo's home near the Hotel Ivoire.

"This is France, this is France!" they chanted.

A United Nations car was ablaze and streets were littered with debris. Thousands of people thronged the streets, some carrying branches and metal bars.



French troops stand near a dead Ivorian youth as they confront protesters at the entrance of the 43rd BIMA French military base in the Port Bouet, Abidjan, November 7, 2004. Hundreds of demonstrators faced off with French troops in Abidjan on Monday after state radio urged protesters to form a "human shield" to protect the house of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo. Picture taken November 7, NO ARCHIVE NO RESALES REUTERS

### Paris sends planes

Paris said it was sending aircraft to help supply more than 2,000 French nationals and other foreigners sheltering at French and U.N. military bases in Ivory Coast and would evacuate people who had been injured or felt traumatised by the violence.

Around 700 people have been injured and many businesses and homes gutted since the unrest broke out. An Ivorian minister said 50 demonstrators had been shot and killed by French troops.

"The French intervened in a disproportionate way. They destroyed the republic's property, they killed and wounded. We don't understand this violence," National Reconciliation Minister Sebastien Dano told Reuters.

"It is France which is attacking and humiliating us."

The White House added its voice to international calls for an end to violence against peacekeepers and citizens. It said the United Nations

Security Council may consider additional action if Mbeki's peace mission did not yield results.

The South African president, at the head of an African Union delegation, held talks with Gbagbo just before the latest violence broke out. He said the Ivorian leader had pledged to implement peace deals with the rebels.

"I must say I am very pleased by the commitment of the President Laurent Gbagbo to implement in full Marcoussis and Accra III (peace pacts) so that Ivory Coast can go through a transitional process," Mbeki said.

Each side in Ivory Coast has accused the other of failing to stick to the peace process. Gbagbo's forces shattered an 18-month ceasefire to start air raids on rebel territory last Thursday which started the latest cycle of unrest.

France is pressing for a U.N. Security Council resolution to impose an arms embargo on the country and slap travel bans and asset freezes on people considered a threat to peace.

## Afghans extend deadline for UN hostages

KABUL, Nov 9 (Reuters) - A Taliban splinter group that has threatened to kill three U.N. hostages again extended a deadline on its demands after the government said it would respond to them on Wednesday, a spokesman for the group said.

The kidnappers have demanded the release of 26 Taliban prisoners, some of whom may be in U.S. custody, as part of a deal to free U.N. workers Annetta Flanigan from Northern Ireland, Shqipe Hebibi from Kosovo and Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan.

"We have had contact with representatives of the government and the United Nations who said they would respond to the demands tomorrow," Sayed Khalid Agha of the Jaish-e Muslemeen (Army of Muslims) told Reuters on Tuesday.

"So we have extended the deadline until 11 a.m. (0630 GMT) tomorrow."

The three U.N. workers were abducted in Kabul on Oct. 28 after helping to run presidential polls won by U.S.-backed incumbent Hamid Karzai.

Earlier, two other spokesmen for the kidnappers said they had demanded a response by 3:00 p.m. (1030 GMT).

When this, like several previous deadlines, passed Sayed Khalid Agha said it had been set for 11 p.m. (1830 GMT) and if there was no response, the Jaish-e Muslemeen Shura, or council, would make a decision to kill the hostages.

Another militant spokesman, Mullah Sabir Momin, had said Hebibi would be killed first and the "beheading" shown on video. "The decision on the other two will be taken after seeing the reaction of the Afghan government and the U.N.," he said.

Momin said Hebibi seemed the most important hostage. "She says she is a Muslim. If a Muslim helps infidels or America, that Muslim will be punished first."

### GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES HOPE

The government has expressed hope for the release of the hostages — two of whom were allowed to call home



Filipino students offer prayers in front of a portrait of Angelito Nayan, who is held by militants in Afghanistan together with two other foreign U.N. workers, during a prayer vigil in Las Pinas, south of Manila, November 9. Afghan kidnappers threatened to kill one of three captives if demands are not met by 1030 GMT on November 9, 12 days after the U.N. workers, including Nayan, were abducted in Kabul. REUTERS

on Monday — but indicated it was unwilling to meet the kidnappers' demands.

"We know about their ultimatum and our response is that we hope they free the hostages on the basis of the decree of the Ulema and appeals from Afghans and the international community," Defence Ministry spokesman Zaher Azimi said.

In an interview with CNN, Karzai said the government was working hard to secure the release of the workers, adding: "Let's hope they will be free very soon."

Karzai declined to give details of efforts to free the three, but said: "We are working on it on a minute-to-minute basis, day and night."

Both the government and the United Nations have declined to comment on talks, but officials and the U.S. military have said they were hopeful the hostages would be freed.

Momin said the Shura had sanctioned the killing of the hostages in a

meeting three days ago, but had extended deadlines in response to numerous appeals, including from leaders of Afghanistan's Mujahideen (holy warriors).

However, he dismissed the appeal from the Ulema, or council of clerics, saying they were "working for the infidels"

Hopes were raised on Monday when Hebibi was allowed to telephone a friend in Kosovo and Nayan spoke to the foreign ministry in Manila. Hebibi said she was well and not being badly treated, a relative said, while an official in Manila said Nayan told the ministry: "Tell my sister I'm OK."

The demand for the release of prisoners from U.S. custody is a significant hurdle given Washington's policy of not cutting such deals. But the Afghan government has in the past negotiated the release of several kidnapped foreigners, some by paying ransoms.

## Protests mount in Indian Kashmir over alleged rape

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 9 (Reuters) - Indian police fired tear gas shells on Tuesday to disperse hundreds of students in Kashmir protesting over the alleged rape of a 10-year-old girl and her mother by soldiers.

Witnesses said more than 800 students shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) ... down with security forces" hurled stones at police during clashes on Srinagar's Kashmir University campus.

The protesters set fire to a police vehicle, police said.

The army has denied the allegation and has ordered an inquiry into the incident, which has seen the disputed Himalayan region racked by protests for the past three days.

Human rights groups accuse both the Indian army and militant groups of widespread abuses in Kashmir. Indian authorities say they investigate all reports and punish those found guilty.

The Srinagar protest came as an angry mob in the northern town of Handwara stoned the motorcade of Mehbooba Mufti, chief of Kashmir's ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), as she headed to a meeting with the woman and her daughter.

In a separate incident, two people were killed when suspected rebels attacked the house of a member of India's ruling Congress party west of Srinagar, a day after Home Minister Shivraj Patil concluded a three-day tour of the troubled region.

India has long accused



Students of Kashmir University shout slogans against the Indian army during a protest in Srinagar November 9, 2004. Protesters held for the second consecutive day in the troubled Kashmir region against what the protesters said was the rape of a Kashmiri woman and her daughter by Indian army soldiers in Handwara, north Kashmir. The Indian army has ordered a probe into the allegations. REUTERS

neighbouring Pakistan of stoking a 15-year-old rebellion against New Delhi's rule in its only Muslim-majority state, which has killed more than 40,000 people.

Islamabad denies the charges but calls the Kashmir rebellion an indigenous freedom struggle and

accuses the Indian army of major human rights abuses in the region.

Authorities say violence has eased a little since the nuclear-armed arch-rivals launched a peace process last year but there are still regular shootings and bomb attacks.

As a goodwill gesture during the

Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, India handed over 25 Pakistani prisoners at the Wagah border crossing in India's northern Punjab state.

The prisoners had been detained for illegally crossing into Indian territory.

## Bomb explosion in Nepal's capital wounds 38

KATHMANDU, Nov 9 (Reuters) - A bomb tore through a government office in the Nepali capital on Tuesday, wounding at least 38 people in an attack police suspect was carried out by Maoist rebels.

Three men walked into the office of the Employees Provident Fund and left a bomb on the first floor, a police officer said.

It exploded moments after they left and most of those wounded were labourers working in the high-rise building.

"The mode of operation is the same as used by the Maoists," the officer said. But there was no comment from the

guerrillas who are fighting to topple the constitutional monarchy.

It was the biggest attack in Kathmandu after a temporary festival truce between government forces and Maoist rebels ended last month.

The blast damaged an escalator in the building and shattered several windows, a witness said.

The Maoist revolt has claimed more than 10,000 lives since 1996, wrecked the impoverished economy and scared away tourists, who used to flock to world's only Hindu kingdom, which is famed for its soaring snow-capped peaks.



Nepali army officers inspect the bomb-shattered office of the Nepali Provident Fund in Sundhara, Kathmandu November 9. A bomb tore through a government office in the Nepali capital on Tuesday, wounding at least 38 people in an attack police suspect was carried out by Maoist rebels. REUTERS

# Nuclear waste reaches German depot after protests

GORLEBEN, Germany, Nov 9 (Reuters) - A convoy of nuclear waste reached the northern German storage depot of Gorleben on Tuesday after authorities cleared away anti-nuclear activists who descended on the area to block its path.

Thousands of protesters accompanied the convoy, many wearing black bands for a French activist who died in France on Sunday after having a leg cut off by a train carrying the waste. He had been sitting on a railway track in protest.

The 100 tonnes of nuclear waste left the French reprocessing facility of La Hague on Saturday by train, and was transferred onto 12 flatbed trucks in Dannenberg, 20 km (12 miles) from the depot. The convoy was escorted to the depot by 10,000 police.

There were sporadic clashes between police, wielding batons, and demonstrators trying to disrupt transport between Dannenberg and Gorleben.

Some 1,500 demonstrators held up the convoy by blocking the road until police carried off the demonstrators and towed a number of tractors away.



Special flat bed trucks carry Castor nuclear waste containers to the interim storage facility in the northern German town of Gorleben November 9. A controversial shipment of twelve Castor containers with spent nuclear fuel arrived at the storage facility in Gorleben on Tuesday morning after it left the French reprocessing plant of La Hague on Saturday.

Authorities said most of the protests were peaceful.

Anti-nuclear activists protesting against such shipments have clashed violently with police in previous years.

In 2002, protesters disrupted the passage of a train by setting tyres alight on the tracks and by chaining themselves to rails.

There are now 56 nuclear waste con-

tainers stored at Gorleben, which has room for 420 containers. Protesters fear that the interim depot at Gorleben could be turned into the permanent waste depot.

# Slovenian centrist Jansa elected prime minister

LJUBLJANA, Nov 9 (Reuters) - The Slovenian parliament elected centrist leader Janez Jansa as new prime minister on Tuesday, giving him a clear mandate to form a ruling coalition after elections last month.

Jansa won the backing of 57 deputies in the 90-seat parliament, now controlled by centre-right parties after 12 years of mostly left-wing rule in the tiny Alpine nation.

In May, Slovenia became the first ex-Yugoslav country to join the European Union.

Jansa, whose centre-right Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) came first in the election capturing 29 seats, has 15 days to present a cabinet.

Analysts say a key challenge faced by the next government is to patch up thorny relations with Slovenia's neighbour Croatia, a fellow ex-Yugoslav nation that hopes to join the EU later this decade.

The two countries have not yet agreed fully on how the border between them should run on the Adriatic coast, provoking spats between their fishermen.

Jansa told parliament he wanted to improve ties with Croatia but analysts say his ability to deliver will depend on whether he succeeds to bring the defeated ruling liberals into a rainbow coalition.

"It is still unclear whether Jansa will be able to form a broad coalition,

which would make it easier for him to soothe relations with Croatia," Milan Brglez, international relations expert at the Ljubljana's Faculty of Social Sciences, said.

Jansa's other potential coalition partners include the conservative New Slovenia party with nine seats, People's Party with seven seats and pensioners' party Desus with four seats.

That would be enough for a majority, but could leave Jansa at the mercy of the nationalist People's Party, calling for a tougher line on Croatia.

The party's supporters caused an incident on the border with Croatia in the run-up to the October elections when they refused to show their passports to Croatian border guards. They were briefly detained, causing an outcry in Slovenia.

Analysts expect Jansa to broadly continue economic policies of the outgoing government. He has vowed to speed up privatisation, increase labour market flexibility and reduce taxes.

At the same time he pledged that pensions would increase in line with average wages, prompting some concern about current plans to further reduce the budget deficit.

Slovenia's central bank said last week the government should stick to a tight fiscal course to ensure the country qualifies for euro zone membership in 2007.

# Chirac phones Bush at last, France eyes better ties

PARIS, Nov 9 (Reuters) - French President Jacques Chirac finally phoned George W. Bush on Tuesday to congratulate him a week after his re-election as U.S. president, and his Foreign Minister Michel Barnier called for better transatlantic ties.

Relations between the two Cold War-era allies have been cold since Chirac opposed last year's U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and both sides have said that patching things up will be a priority in the second Bush administration.

Chirac's office said he had told Bush he looked forward to continuing the two nations' "constructive and friendly relations".

"(Bush) highlighted the United States and France were doing great things together," Chirac's spokesman Jerome Bonafont said, pointing to cooperation in the fight against terrorism and in addressing crises in Afghanistan and Ivory Coast.

Many other state leaders congratulated

Bush in person well before Chirac made his phone call. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder — another critic of the war in Iraq — called Bush on Friday while Chirac only sent Bush a letter last week.

In an opinion piece entitled "Letter to an American friend," published by the daily Le Monde, Barnier called for a fresh impetus to transatlantic relations.

### Dialogue insufficient

But he also stood by criticism of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, saying such crises were calling international law into question.

"It is obvious that on the political front, dialogue between the European Union and the United States is neither sufficient, nor sufficiently regular," Barnier wrote.

"America needs a capable and responsible Europe. And Europe needs a strong America that is involved in world affairs, committed to multilateral

ism ... convinced that the world needs rules — and rules that apply to everyone."

Barnier proposed a working group of independent and recognised personalities from both sides of the Atlantic to find ways to improve dialogue. He also called for better cooperation to help solve conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

"Let's reactivate the Quartet," he said, referring to a peace mediating group in the Middle East comprising the European Union, the United States, the United Nations and Russia.

"There are many other subjects, many other regions that should benefit from our new dialogue so there will not be a second Iraq; so there will be no more crises in which international law is so profoundly questioned, in its legitimacy and even its utility."

France has worked hard to patch up ties with Washington but continues to promote a multilateral approach to solving

world conflicts. The two countries also remain divided over global trade issues and have clashed over NATO's role in Iraq.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Monday he wanted to make clear to European nations that the United States wanted good relations despite the disagreement over Iraq.

"I'll be spending a lot of time in Europe in the weeks coming up just to make sure our European friends have no illusions that the president wants to have a strong relationship with all of our European friends and allies and notwithstanding any disagreements we have had in the past," Powell told reporters as he flew to Mexico City for talks.

In a survey last week, 65 percent of French people questioned said Bush's re-election was a bad thing, and three-quarters said they expected no change in relations between Paris and Washington.



Janez Jansa (L), the leader of the Slovenian Democrats (SDS) receives congratulations after being elected as the new Slovenian Prime Minister in Ljubljana, October 9. The Slovenian parliament elected centrist leader Janez Jansa as new prime minister on Tuesday, giving him a clear mandate to form a ruling coalition after elections last month.

# Hostage freed at L.A. Mexico Consulate

LOS ANGELES, Nov 9 (Reuters) - A man with an unknown message for the media sparked a citywide alert on Tuesday by briefly taking a female clerk hostage at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles before he was shot by police.

Police said the Spanish-speaking man entered the consulate around 8:30 a.m., grabbed a female employee, put his arm around her neck and took her out through the building and down to the street. There he was shot and critically wounded by police and the woman escaped shaken but unharmed.

Police said there was no evidence of terrorism as a motive but said they had little clue what the man wanted.

Dressed in black and wearing a ski cap, the man was seen on television video wearing a hand-lettered placard but the words were obscured by the hostage's body.

"Motive at this time, we don't know. The man yelled in Spanish to call 911 and he wanted the media here," Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton told a news conference. "There is no indication at this point that terrorism was involved."

Bratton said police did not believe the man, who appeared to be brandishing some kind of weapon, knew the woman he had seized. He said the man,

a Los Angeles-area resident, appeared to have acted alone.

Scores of police, firefighters, tactical officers in body armor and FBI agents surrounded the consulate in the city's MacArthur Park area long after the incident.

Nearby streets were closed off to traffic for several hours and apartments were evacuated as police, with permission from the Mexican government, searched the sovereign territory of the evacuated Consulate as a precaution after the standoff.

"Everybody is OK," Mexican Consul General Ruben Beltran told reporters. He thanked police for their swift reaction.

"The only thing this person wanted in taking the consulate was to speak to news organizations. Until now, we have no idea what his demands were," said Allan Nahum, a spokesman for Mexico's foreign ministry in Mexico City.

Bratton said it was unclear how the man was armed but eyewitnesses reported seeing a weapon.

"I heard yelling. He said he had a gun and demanded we leave right away. She was yelling. Obviously she was fearing for her life," Manuel Ramirez, who was visiting the Consulate at the time, told reporters.

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## Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basis of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

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

OUR  
OPINION

To the free world:

## Please act!

The front page story of last edition on the beating up of journalist Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani in the central prison in Sana'a is a sign that his life is in severe danger. I use my column to cry to the world, through honorable ambassadors in Yemen to act, and act quickly! If it is inhuman to treat a criminal who committed murder in such a way, treating a writer in such a manner is even graver and more outrageous!

It is true that a number of international protests by organizations and individuals from the world have poured to the desks of the President and the Foreign Minister. But it seems that this is not enough. Our government needs to be informed that what it is doing is wrong, and needs to be accountable for it!

This is why I call upon every person with influence to act along with us to save the life of Al-Khaiwani and his career. If it is not for his own self, let it be for his children and family! He doesn't deserve to die in such a horrific way at the central prison in Sana'a.

Ambassadors of developed countries in Yemen can at least express concern and show that they are aware of what is going on to Al-Khaiwani, who is now symbolizing a crossroads for Yemen's future, either to more democracy if he is freed, or to a collapse of democracy if he is kept behind bars.

I know diplomacy and protocols make it inappropriate for an ambassador to ask the government or regime of another country to release a prisoner. But the case here is different. This is a human being, and human rights are something that developed countries have been calling for over and over again. There were incidents in the past in which ambassadors expressed concern about human rights violations and other negative phenomenon, and I am sure they agree with me that this is an unprecedented violation of human rights that needs a firm stance.

Certainly, those ambassadors are keen to help, but are reluctant to act without the endorsement of their countries. But through this letter I want them to consult their conscience and send a fax or a letter to, arrange for a meeting with, or at least make a phone call to the decision-makers and ask them about Al-Khaiwani.

If I have to plead to the conscience of those ambassadors, I will be willing to do. I know what is in stake here. As the free press, we are indeed in a crisis, and we realize how catastrophic the situation could be if we don't act.

So, once again, I call upon representatives of the free and developed world to speak up and show that they care. A small word from any ambassador would make a big difference for us.

If ambassadors act firmly and stand by the free press and reformists like us who want to change the situation around us, then they will always be honored for their noble role. They would be satisfied that they did what they were supposed to even if Al-Khaiwani dies of torture or beating.

But if they don't act at all and Al-Khaiwani passes away or is kept under such a situation, then they would feel the guilt for the rest of their lives. It is a duty and a responsibility because they know that the government can only listen to them and may not at all take local voices crying for justice into consideration.

A final word to the ambassadors in question is this: Please, please stand by us at this time and show that you care. It is a critical time that requires action to save the life of a journalist who was thrown to prison for reasons that no lawyer on earth agrees on, and was prevented from having a lawyer all this time. His life is under tremendous threat and he still has hope in that he would celebrate eid with his family.

I call upon you to realize the strife, and help us achieve a more democratic Yemen that appreciates and values freedom of expression.

This is an opportunity to prove your sincerity and love to Yemen and its people.

Please, please seize it!

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly  
First English Newspaper in Yemen, Founded in 1991  
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## Was never a moderate

## Arafat had 35 years to find peace

BY BARRY RUBIN

History gave Yasir Arafat far more time than most leaders to achieve his mission. After all, at the time of his death he had been leader of the Palestinians for 35 years. Yet he left his people in a terrible situation, with no state, in the midst of a losing war, and with a bankrupt economy. Whether his successors can revive and complete the Palestinians' historic mission depends on how they define their goal.

Looking back at his career, Arafat never really veered from the belief that his life's mission was to destroy Israel by any means necessary and replace it with a Palestinian Arab state. An independent Palestinian state that did not include all of Israel held no appeal to him. He was equally indifferent to his people's material welfare and anything particular about the design of a viable political and economic system.

Now, in the post-Arafat era, Palestinians must choose one of several strategies. Unfortunately, most of the alternatives call for the continued use of violence and terrorism.

The moderate strategy seeks an independent Palestine state as quickly as possible, on the assumption that once there is no more Israeli presence or violence, the Palestinians can concentrate on constructive pursuits, including resettling refugees and improving living standards. But this is the view of only a small minority of leaders, notably former Prime Minister Abu Mazin and Muhammad Dahlan, who heads his own militia in the Gaza Strip.

If Arafat had taken this road - accepting Israel's existence, ending terrorism, and confronting Palestinian extremists - the conflict would have ended long ago. But, with no single all-powerful leader, it will be hard for any successor to force through the difficult decisions required by such an orientation.

The hard-line strategy is the traditional ideological approach championed by many Fatah and PLO veterans who returned from exile to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Arafat. Their current leaders include men like Palestine National Council head Salim al-Zanun and Fatah ideological chief Sakr Habash, who favor continuing to battle Israel until it is destroyed, at which point they will rule Palestine with a relatively secular nationalist regime. They look down at younger challengers and view the Islamists as a threat.

The younger generation of indigenous West Bank Palestinians, whose leaders began political activity in the uprising of the late 1970's, embraces a militant strategy that views the hardliners as burned-out old fogies, enervated by corruption. Unlike the hard-line secularists, the militants, whose best-known leader is Marwan Barghuti, the head of the Tanzim grassroots grouping in Fatah, are willing to work with the Islamists.

The militants argue that a two-stage strategy is needed to defeat Israel. First, long-term continuation of violence will force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. Then, with Palestinians gaining the upper hand, they can advance to a second stage in which all of Israel is conquered, implying armed struggle - which often takes the form of anti-civilian terrorism - for many more years.

Finally, there is the revolutionary Islamist vision espoused by Hamas, which seeks to continue fighting and using terrorism, regardless of how much time it takes and lives it costs, until it defeats both Israel and Palestinian secular nationalists. Palestine will then be an Islamist state in which moderates would be shot and the old nationalist leadership forcibly retired or jailed for corruption. In the meantime, however, Hamas is willing to form alliances with the nationalists, particularly the militant faction of Fatah.

The problem for Palestinian moderates

is clear: any leader willing to agree a peace treaty with Israel would be opposed - passionately and even violently - by roughly 80% of the movement. A key question is whether the Palestinian masses, fed up with their leadership's bickering, corruption, and incompetence, could make their wishes known to find an end to a conflict that has cost them so much. But none of the main leadership factions are proposing that the masses be consulted very much. Nor did Arafat leave in place any institutional mechanisms for doing so.

Moreover, the popular appeal of radical religion, ideology, and misinformation should not be underestimated. Few Palestinians are even aware that four years ago Arafat turned down an independent state equal in size to the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to more than \$20 billion in refugee compensation.

The main problem left by Arafat is the lack of any leadership at all. Rarely in history has a political movement been so deliberately set by its founder on a course toward chaos. Arafat not only left no successor, but no order. Over the decades, the movement has developed a political culture of indiscipline. Arafat presided over a sort of anarchy, encouraging rivalries, undermining other potential leaders, and ensuring that all authority (and money) ran through his hands.

Only if the post-Arafat movement decides that it really wants a Palestinian state in exchange for ending the conflict with Israel in every respect will there be a real chance of peace. Arafat's death may well mark the beginning of that process, but the transition to a new Palestinian leadership could take years, and there is no assurance that it will be a moderate one.

Barry Rubin is director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center and co-author of Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography.

## Different regions, different population issues

## The case for slowing population growth

BY JEFFREY SACHS

Global debates about population policy are confusing. One side argues that rising human populations threaten our environment and prosperity. Land, water, energy, and biodiversity all seem to be under greater stress than ever, and population growth appears to be a major source of that stress.

The other side of the debate, mainly in rich countries, argues that households are now having so few children that there won't be enough to care for aging parents.

Those who fret about population growth have the better argument. Issues confronting Europe, Japan, and to a lesser extent the United States and some middle-income countries concerning aging populations are manageable. Moreover, the benefits of slower population growth outweigh the adjustment costs.

By contrast, if global populations continue to rise rapidly, the stresses on the world's resources will worsen. Governments should therefore refrain from deliberate policies to raise birthrates, even in places where birth rates are low.

Part of the confusion of the public debate reflects different population trends in different parts of the world. The fastest population growth is taking place in the poorest regions. Poor people, especially poor people living on farms, tend to have the most children (often six or more per woman), and therefore the highest rates of population growth.

Poor farm families rely on their children for farm chores and for security when parents reach old age. Poor families lack access to contraception and family planning. Finally, poor families have many children as a kind of insurance policy against high child mortality rates.

As a result of high fertility rates in Africa, the UN Population Division predicts a doubling of Africa's population

from around 900 million today to around 1.8 billion in 2050. Rapidly growing populations are also young populations, because of the high number of children per household. In Africa, the median age is now a mere 19 years and is projected to rise to around 28 years in 2050.

In Europe, the trends run in the other direction. The UN projects a decline in population to around 630 million in 2050, from around 725 million people today. With few children and longer life expectancy, the median age of the population rises sharply in this forecast, from 39 years in 2005 to around 48 years in 2050.

For the world as a whole, population is expected to continue to grow by another 2.5 billion people from 2005 to 2050. All of that growth will be in the developing world: 1.3 billion more people in Asia, 900 million more in Africa, the rest in Latin America and other regions.

Adding another 2.5 billion people to the planet will put enormous strains not only on societies with rising populations, but on the entire planet. Total energy use is soaring, reflecting the combined effect of rising per capita incomes - and thus rising per capita energy use - and population growth.

Higher energy use is already changing the world's climate in dangerous ways. Furthermore, the strains of increased global populations, combined with income growth, are leading to rapid deforestation, depletion of fisheries, land degradation, and the loss of habitat and extinction of a vast number of animal and plant species.

Population growth in developing regions - especially Africa, India, and other parts of Asia - needs to slow. Public policies can play an important role by extending access to family planning services to the poor, expanding social security systems, reducing child mortality through public health investments, and improving education and job opportunities for women.

A part of the European public, looking at Europe's looming population decline,

wants to head in the other direction, promoting a return to larger families. That would be a big mistake. Advocates of faster European population growth worry that there won't be enough young workers to pay for public pensions. But this concern can be met through increased saving by today's young and middle-aged as they prepare for retirement, and by working past the age of 65.

These workers will reap large benefits from living in societies with stable or gradually declining populations. Most obviously, they will spend much less in direct household expenditures to raise children. They will also save on investments in new roads, power plants, schools, and other public services. They will enjoy less congested cities and fewer environmental pressures on the countryside. European economies will face lower costs in limiting emissions of greenhouse gases from energy use, leading to more effective control of climate change. The quality of life, in short, will tend to improve as Europe's population declines in coming decades.

There is nothing radical in calling for slower population growth. For tens of thousands of years, the human population tended to rise and fall without a substantial long-term trend. Only in the past two centuries, with the rise of modern economic life, did the world's population soar, from around one billion people in 1820 to 6.3 billion today and around 9 billion by 2050.

This explosive growth was made possible by huge advances in science and technology. But this unprecedented growth has also put tremendous pressures on the planet. We should intensify our efforts to slow population growth through voluntary means, and we should recognize that leveling off of the Earth's population now would add to human happiness and strengthen environmental sustainability later.

Jeffrey D. Sachs is Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

America and  
the world

For a good part of its 216 year history, the United States often adopted an isolationist policy, in which the newly created nation saw no reason that it should be party to any of the global conflicts that ensued in the rest of the world. It further went on to ensure that the countries of the Eastern Hemisphere should stay out all together of any events that were occurring in the Western Hemisphere. As such it was able to concentrate on its own expansion and economic and political development. As World War I dragged indecisively in Europe and the Middle East, the United States partially goaded by Zionist interests that have evolved in the United States with considerable political and economic clout was thrust in full force into the war. The Zionists have convinced the British that they could encourage American involvement in the war, if the British Government promised to facilitate the establishment of a "national home" for the Jews in Palestine. The British and French have both heretofore agreed to divide up the Middle East into respective British and French "Mandates". Both sides kept their end of the bargains amidst significant opposition by many Americans, who felt that America has no interest in getting pitted in European power clashes, emanating from ambitious imperialism drives. Of course, the Balfour Declaration was not made public as the sole mitigating circumstance that brought the United States into the war. On the contrary, the American involvement was sold to the American public as a necessity to defend "freedom and democracy".

In World War II, America was attacked by Japan and that was sufficient reason to bring the United States into the global conflict. Without a doubt, United States involvement changed the balance heavily in favor of the allies that were fighting the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan and Italy). The victory changed the role for the United States in the international theater from a standby onlooker to a major player in the global ideological division that prevailed, as the Soviet Union also took on the role of the Second leading world power and came out with significant territorial outreach. With the Cold War, the world achieved some relative peace and stability, except for the contained conflicts that emerged here and there, some of which were incited by the international ideological split. In this era, many countries, especially the former colonies that emerged as the colonial powers relinquished their territorial holdings in Asia and Africa and even some of the Latin American states, managed to insure their sovereignty by assembling into a non-aligned bloc. This bloc of small and relatively powerless countries enjoyed the friction between the East and West Bloc to assure their independence and to embark on their development agendas. Few of these countries evolved into healthy and developing states. Most of them, however evolved into dictatorships with poor economies and depressing human and social conditions, which offered little hope for any respite for the majority of their populations. In the meantime, most of the western economies, powered by an American Marshall Plan were able to come out of the destruction and social upheavals left after the Second World War and actually went on to be very active economies enjoying prosperous growth and access to all the increasing amenities brought about by newly developed modern consumer goods that satisfied the comfort desires and entertainment quests of most of the citizens.

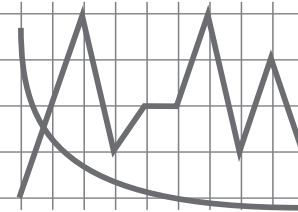
Some of this economic prosperity filtered down to some of the non-major economies of the world, especially those of East Asia and from the Eastern Bloc China. However, the leading power in the East Bloc, was unable to keep pace with its competitors in the West, especially the United States. Because of the Soviet's persistence in maintaining military parity with its adversaries and the cumbersome red tape that set in to enforce scientific socialism, the collapse of the Soviet Union became eminent, and with it the Communist Empire it defiantly tried to hold on for many years.

The Cold War was over, but the world was not to see the peace and tranquility that was hoped for, as the World sought to create a New World Order that was supposedly to remove the obstacles to relieving the world of the many social ills and economic disequilibrium suffered by many of the countries of the world in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

However, the Middle East was still embroiled in the conflict that emanated from the Balfour Declaration, which created a new state born out of Zionist chauvinism that insists on the right of ethnic dislocation in the pursuit of mythical persuasions that have no regard for the rights of the indigenous population of the land that was to become not only the "national home" for the Jews, but the bastion of an aggressive land hungry society, with no end to its right of territorial expansion and no mercy to anyone that could stand in its way, notwithstanding their historical and legitimate rights to the very same land. Not even ethnic kinship prevented the Zionist movement from recognizing the rights of their Arab cousins in the land deemed to be their sole gift from God. As if God would sanction an injustice for the sole purpose of satisfying chauvinistic drives that have no basis in any theological persuasion or moral and legitimate statutes.

Because of this conflict, and all the bitterness the world witnessed the outgrowth of extreme dogma that sought to correct an injustice by the application of unorthodox and similarly irrational dogmatic attachment also based on spiritual doctrine. With the rapid spread of disillusionment at the inability of the dominating power that came out the victor of the Cold War to set in a new World Order based on sound moral grounds and equitable treatment for all mankind, a new global conflict emerged with undefined role players with global reach claiming their own spiritual objectives and a US that was determined to eke out the maximum benefit of its victory and unlimited power. In a world like this, there is really no telling where mankind is heading, but there is no slight evidence of the world moving on the right track.

# YT Business



*Now flying to Sana'a*

## Air Arabia and low-cost travel

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**A**ir Arabia, an airline based in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), entered the Yemeni market this week when its first flight arrived at Sana'a International Airport.

The airline, which has been in operation for a little over a year, is the first low-cost airline in the Middle East and the North Africa region offering the lowest prices combined with good quality service.

Its first flight to Sana'a arrived last Tuesday.

"Our low-cost airline fares are typically 30% lower than other airlines in the market and are sometimes even lower if you book a flight well in advance," said Rohit Ramachandran, Commercial and Business Development Analyst at Air Arabia. "With the lower prices for passengers, we are the ones making money these days."

Air Arabia, which has teamed up with local Yemeni business Ghaydan Trading Co. – the General Sales Agent of Air Arabia – uses innovative tactics to offer low prices while competing with full-service airlines.

To keep costs down, Air Arabia operates with one standard aircraft, Airbus A320. This strategy reduces the expenses of spare parts, maintenance and training of flight crews.

"That's the cornerstone of a low-cost model," said Ramachandran. "The more different airplane types you have, your inventory costs go up."

Air Arabia currently has four aircraft flying in the region, but in January 2005 it will add another Airbus A320 to its fleet.

The low-cost airline has also made a unique change in giving out tickets. Customers dealing with Air Arabia no longer have to acquire or carry tickets made out of paper. The airline uses only electronic tickets, as a passenger only needs his or her reservation number to board the plane.

According to Air Arabia, the use of electronic tickets is a significant cost-

cutting strategy. The average cost of processing traditional paper tickets is \$8 per ticket. If an airline handles one million passengers without paper tickets, the airline saves \$8 million.

Air Arabia also saves money by simplifying the sales process. "Traditional airlines distribute their products through global distribution systems," said Ramachandran. "Passengers or travel agents make bookings through the systems in which the airlines have to pay the global distribution company. We have an internet based booking system, so a customer or a travel agent can log on to our website and make a booking. We don't have to pay a penny for all the bookings that come because it's our system."

The airline has focused on keeping labor costs low. Up to now, Air Arabia has been running with just over 200 employees. "From management to pilots, cabin crews, sales, marketing, engineers, and so forth, we have around 210 employees. A full-service airline would probably start with seven to eight times as many employees," said Ramachandran.

Air Arabia has been able to save money by not creating its own catering infrastructure. Instead, the airline has outsourced the job and offers meals on the planes that the customers pay for. The idea is that since flights are within the region, a meal may not be necessary, and the customers will have the choice of paying around \$3.50 for a meal while paying much less for the ticket.

Customers wanting to save more on a ticket can use Air Arabia's program based on supply and demand. The price of tickets are cheaper the earlier one reserves a seat, and the prices gradually increase as it gets closer to the day of departure and the plane is filling up.

"We have a very good opportunity of succeeding in the Yemeni market," said Arhab Al-Sarhi, General Manager of General Sales Agent of Air Arabia.

"I believe that a low-cost airline can be very profitable in this region. And Air Arabia has paid close attention to the Yemeni people and expatriates living in the country to focus on taking care



Arhab Al-Sarhi (left), General Manager of General Sales Agent of Air Arabia, and Rohit Ramachandran, Commercial and Business Development Analyst at Air Arabia. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

of their needs. They will now be provided with a low-cost form of travel."

Air Arabia uses its innovative business strategies to reach out to customers as well. In July, the airline started selling tickets in 50 post offices across the UAE to make it more convenient for customers. The airline is developing a program that will allow customers to buy tickets using an ATM. The company expects this advanced point of sale program to be up and running next year.

To make sure customers get more for their money, Air Arabia has

designed the seating arrangements in the planes to provide plenty of space. Ramachandran said that the average space between seats among most airlines is 29 to 31 inches. Air Arabia has arranged its seats to give its passengers 34 inches of leg room.

And to save money for the airline and time for passengers, Air Arabia has reduced its turnaround time (the time between landing and take off) at airports to 45 minutes, while many of its competitors average one hour and twenty minutes.

Air Arabia's current destinations

include Alexandria and Assiut (Egypt); Bahrain; Beirut (Lebanon); Colombo (Sri Lanka); Aleppo and Damascus (Syria); Doha (Qatar); Riyadh, Jeddah and Damman (Saudi Arabia); Kuwait; Muscat (Oman) and Khartoum (Sudan). It has plans to fly to Pakistan and India in the near future.

The airline began its operations in October 2003 under Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah and Member of the Supreme Council of the UAE. The philosophy of the company has been based on following the strategies of

low-cost airlines in the United States and Europe, which have proven to be very profitable over the last few years, while customizing its services to the market in the Middle East.

"Since we started our operations we have seen that the customers have been the winners," said Ramachandran. "Airlines in this region have been charging fairly high prices, and passengers have been looking at traveling by air as a sort of luxury for a long, long time. Now we have people who are able to travel more often at more affordable prices."

### 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

### Foreign ministers meet

## Yemen and Algeria to boost cooperation

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**Y**emen and Algeria signed agreements recently to promote consulate cooperation and to boost coordination between the foreign ministries in the two countries.

In a statement issued at the end of a two-day visit by Algerian foreign minister Abdulaziz Belkhadem to Sana'a, the two countries stressed the need for more cooperation at different levels including energy, oil, gas and investments.

Yemen foreign minister Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi and Abdulaziz Belkhadem said in a press conference that there is "no way out for the violence in Iraq except through the withdrawal of the invading forces."

They also valued the potential role the UN could play in Iraq, condemning "the inhuman treatment of the prisoners and hostages."

They also called for the support of the newly elected president of Somalia, setting up a fund for rebuilding the war-torn country. They expressed support for the Palestinian people, demanding the US to force Israel to implement the Road Map.

The two ministers reiterated their



Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulaziz Belkhadem

condemnation for terrorism, demanding a clear definition to this phenomenon through an international conference hosted by the UN. They said that terrorism has tarnished the image of Arabs and Muslims, calling for more cooperation between Muslim countries to avoid such practices that do not serve Islam.

Concerning the Algerian conflict with Morocco over the Great Desert, the Algerian minister denied reports that his country started military threats on the borders with Morocco

and that their dispute should be resolved through the UN.

Al-Qirbi pointed out that Yemen's cooperation with Algeria in the fight of terrorism is based on the Arab agreement in this respect. He denied that there are "no Algerian extremists in Yemeni prisons."

"We used to have Algerian prisoners but their problem is over. The significance of our cooperation in the fight on terrorism lies in the fact that both Yemen and Algeria have suffered from this problem," he added.

### Coming Dec. 16, 17

## Census will help planning, development

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**B**y holding its general census on Dec. 16 and 17, Yemen seeks to boost its development and help social and economic challenges.

It considers the census as one of the essential pillars that would help move into the modern world, as information from the census is connected to the future: with technical, vocational education and social development and also with work, science as well as manpower that the country aspires to develop.

Figures derived from documents of the National Council for Population indicate that Yemen's population has more than doubled during the past 30 years, from 8.1 million people in mid '70s to 17.5 million people at the end of the '90s.

It is expected to reach at around 30 million people in the year 2025.

Instead of depending on unverified figures, the Yemeni government wants to define the situation, and lower the rate of growth to a reasonable average not exceeding per cent.

The census would draw a clear map illustrating age groups, qualitative composition of the population and an accurate definition of the proportion of

males to females as well as the proportion of age groups to the population in general.

The population change must be balanced with the resources and the economic and living standards made possible with the gross domestic product in a way that is interwoven with population policy of the homeland including the health of mother and child, family, and reproduction health.

So the preparations for the date of census must be backed up by the society, official establishments, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and political parties and all social segments.

The Yemen government also expects the census to create an effect in the level of implementation of census plans and the campaigns prepared for them.

That includes enlightenment on contents and goals of the census and dissemination of awareness about the nature of population problems and expected developments, the increase of political support for population programs and the ideal use of media instruments in enlightenment for the giving prominence to the Islamic stance on various issues.

The stages for preparing for the census include explanation of dimensions of population growth and its effect on the process of development and changes

in Yemeni society.

Population growth interacts through averages of birth, mortality and migration abroad, but it is measured on the basis of the variance between the rate of birth and that of mortality.

The census would clarify the facets of existing dysfunction.

Official sources view the census results to set plans for economic growth in the manner that would preserve the society and its continuation of its development.

It would also put into consideration the volume of agricultural land area and the animal and fish wealth as well as mineral, oil and gas riches.

Joining forces by all concerned parties, the popular, political, partisan and media efforts would certainly serve the census.

Those data and statements are also needed in the governorates and districts in addition to the capital for the purpose of drawing up their local plans for development by using studies scientific methods.

The census would also help overcome the existing problems such as the rise in the average of the individual's consumption, the construction movement advance over agricultural lands, ecological imbalance and the rise in averages and amounts of production solid and liquid wastes.

# Yemenia awards outstanding sales agents

As part of Yemen Airways' efforts towards boosting passenger ticket and air cargo sales, the national airlines of the Republic of Yemen (also known as Yemenia) hosted a ceremony on Monday November 8, 2004 at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a in order to honor the Yemenia ticket sales agents in Yemen and to hand out awards to the agents of outstanding achievement for 2003. The ceremony included a dinner and was attended by the management officials of Yemenia, representatives from the various entities that make up the travel and tourism sector, as well as a number of social and public dignitaries and members of the press.

During the ceremony, Captain Abdul-Khaliq al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Board of Yemen Airways Company delivered a speech in which he welcomed the guests and expressed the significance that this event means to him personally and to Yemen Airways in general. He pointed out that this ceremony has become an annual tradition adopted by Yemenia, in which the company acknowledges its gratitude and manifests its appreciation for the role that the

ticket sales agents play in shaping its success. He also confirmed that the success of Yemenia is not solely reliant on the company's efforts alone, but is really a mutual group effort and should be viewed as the result of the cooperation of all the parties that interact with the airlines, including the distinguished agents. He cited some of the many new systems that Yemenia has introduced in its operations and services, including the use of the most up to date modern technology, such as the communications facilities that are provided by the Internet all with a view towards improving passenger travel and air cargo services.

He also said: "In light of the of the competition that the air travel industry is witnessing today, the way to success relies on cooperation and continuous contact and close relations between the various entities and agents engaged in travel and tourism. It is our national duty which compels us to make Yemenia lead the way towards enhancing the travel and tour industry in Yemen".

He added: "We should always be in touch and hold discussions in the future to talk about the different issues and solve any problems, especially any that are



Chairman Al-Qadhi welcoming guests

effecting the ability of the agents to boost their sales."

Furthermore he pointed out: "Recently, Yemenia was able to achieve significant success in the framework of implementing its modernization plan. This includes adding a number of planes to the modern Yemenia fleet such as two new French Airbus (A330-200) passenger aircraft that are valued at US\$140 million each and have a capacity of carrying 277 passengers and 25 tons of air freight. These planes and other planes will contribute to the growth and expansion of the Yemen Airways. The driving force for the achievements that Yemenia has realized is the market competition".

The agents also had their say in the ceremony and pointed out some of the issues that they are confronted with and some of the suggestions they had for facilitating their work and further improving their relations with Yemenia.

It is noteworthy to mention that on Saturday Nov. 6 2004 Yemen Airways also held a dinner party at the Sheraton Hotel in Sana'a in which it honored its employees in as part of the company's strategy of maintaining continuous contact and communications between all the various departments in the airline and encouraging continuous interaction among its staff. In addition, Yemenia also celebrated the inclusion and



launch of the first of its two new planes to be added to its fleet.

Tourism (Zubeiri Street Branch)

**The following agents were awarded by Yemenia, for outstanding achievements in 2003:**

**A) In the Sana'a area:**

1. Yemen Between Continents
2. National Travel
3. Universal Travel and Tourism (60 Meter Street Branch)
4. Orbit Travel Agency
5. Arabian Horizons
6. Sky Travel and Tourism
7. Murjan Travel Agency
8. Universal Travel and

9. Sahar for Tourism and Travel
10. Al-Huraish for Travel
11. Arabian Peninsula Travel Agency
12. Bazara'a Travel and Tourism

**B) Al-Mukalla (Hadhramaut) Branch:**

1. Bamatraf Travel Agency
2. Al-Husseini Travel Agency
3. Universal Travel and Tourism

**C) Seyoun Area**

1. Al-Ghanna'a Travel Agency



Chairman Abdulkhaleq Al-Qadhi



Group picture of Yemeni officials and Sales Agents



Agent receiving award

*A special series (1)*

# Uncovering Saddam's reign of terror in Iraq

By HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

After more than 35 years of Ba'athist rule, Saddam Hussein and a number of other former Iraqi government officials responsible for perpetrating the most heinous crimes under international law crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes are about to be tried for their alleged crimes. This is the moment that Iraqis across the country, as well as many living abroad, have been waiting for and never thought they would see.

For far too many victims, it is of course too late. For other victims and family members, the trials will be the only formal recognition and acknowledgement they are likely to get of the grave injustices and loss that they suffered. The sheer scale of the crimes perpetrated by the Ba'ath government is unimaginable: there are too many mass graves and too many killed or disappeared to ever entertain the hope that each and every victim will be accounted for. Those for whom the fate of their disappeared loved ones will never be resolved will be looking to the trials of the alleged perpetrators for justice and for closure.

The term disappeared refers to cases in which state agents or their associates take persons into custody but do not acknowledge holding those persons or do not disclose their location, thereby placing them outside the protection of the law. A widespread or systematic pattern of enforced disappearances constitutes a crime against humanity. Because the fate of the disappeared person remains unknown, international law regards it as a continuing offense, exempt from any statute of limitations.

Disappearance constitutes a serious ongoing violation that causes contin-

ued suffering for surviving family members, making it essential that the Iraqi authorities, with the assistance of the international community, facilitate the identification of as many remains of victims as possible, and assist surviving family members and communities with appropriate ways of commemorating the deaths and according respect and dignity to the victims. The crime of disappearing someone is continuous until the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person becomes known.

***In the case of both documents and mass graves, U.S.-led coalition forces failed to secure the relevant sites at the time of the overthrow of the former government.***

A key to the success of any trials will be the availability of solid documentary and forensic evidence. Since the overthrow of the Iraqi government in April 2003 by the U.S.-led coalition forces, over 250 mass graves have been located across Iraq. Some are believed to contain the remains of thousands of victims, including entire families.

As Ba'athist officials fled their posts in the run up to and during the war in March and April 2003, they left behind stack upon stack of official documents, describing with disturbing detail the crimes they had committed over the years. Survivors of these crimes, families of those who were killed or disappeared, eyewitness, and others have since come forward to describe the nightmare in which they had been living. Even some of those who were complicit in these crimes have provided information about aspects of these crimes, including the locations of mass

graves. Scores of the alleged key perpetrators are today behind bars awaiting indictment and trial, including most of the so-called deck of 55.

Witness testimonies are usually the ballast of a prosecutor's case involving mass murder. But such testimonies hold greatest weight if they are supported by physical and documentary evidence. When trying high-level perpetrators for serious crimes, there are two components: 1) establishing that the crimes occurred, for which witness and forensic evidence are crucial; and

2) linking perpetrators who often were far away from the crime scene with responsibility for the crimes, for which witness testimony, especially from insider witnesses, and documentary evidence, are key.

This report provides an in-depth account of what has happened to key archival and forensic evidence since the ouster of Saddam Hussein in April 2003. The study is based on research conducted in Baghdad and the four northern governorates of Kirkuk, Mosul, Arbil, and Sulaimaniyya in February 2004, as well as earlier research conducted between April and June 2003 on mass graves in the governorates of Basra, Diyala, al-Hilla, al-Diwaniyya (al-Qadisiyya), al-Anbar, Karbala, and al-Najaf.

The report focuses on two major sources of that evidence, documentary and forensic. It surveys what's been done and not done by the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority and the interim Iraqi authorities since the invasion of March-April 2003 to preserve the evidence, and assess the implications for justice for Ba'athist era abuses and for some resolution regarding the fate of victims whose families live with uncertainty.

In the case of both documents and mass graves, U.S.-led coalition forces failed to secure the relevant sites at the time of the overthrow of the former government. They subsequently failed to put in place the professional expertise and assistance necessary to ensure proper classification and exhumation procedures, with the result that key evidentiary materials have been lost or tainted. In the case of mass graves, these failures also have frustrated the goal of enabling families to know the fate of missing relatives.

The findings of the report are all the more disturbing against the backdrop of a tribunal established to bring justice for serious past crimes, the Iraqi Special Tribunal. Human Rights Watch has serious concerns that the tribunal is fundamentally flawed and may be incapable of delivering justice.

The extent of the negligence with which key documentary and forensic evidence has been treated to date is surprising, given that the U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi authorities alike knew that trials of Hussein and key Ba'ath government officials would be important landmarks in Iraq's political recovery, that successful trials require solid evidence, and that, as international experience has shown, preserving such trial-ready evidence is a difficult task.

Some of the evidence has been destroyed, but it is not too late to

assume custody of millions of additional pieces of evidence. Some of this material, if it is given the urgent attention it needs and deserves, may prove critical in the proceedings of the upcoming trials. It will also play an important role as Iraqis attempt to construct an accurate historical record of their traumatic experiences under Ba'ath Party rule.

Human Rights Watch strongly urges the Interim Government of Iraq to set up a Commission for Missing Persons, comprised of international as well as Iraqi experts, to establish effective procedures for protecting mass graves and conducting exhumations, and to oversee implementation of such a system. The government should similarly appoint a committee, again utilizing international as well as Iraqi expertise, to set standards for and oversee the handling of documents of the former government.

**Recommendations****To the Interim Government of Iraq**

- Establish as an urgent matter a Commission for Missing Persons that initially engages international as well as Iraqi expertise and administration. The Commission should establish a system for protecting and preserving



Documents held by the Iraq Memorial Foundation in Baghdad.  
(c) 2003 Eric Stover/Human Rights Watch

mass graves, create protocols for exhumations of gravesites, and set and oversee implementation of priorities for exhumations of mass gravesites that balance the needs of families to identify victims alongside the evidentiary needs of criminal proceedings against the alleged perpetrators. Wherever possible, exhumations should be commemorative events, part of a process of social reconstruction in which families and communities can re-bury the victims with dignity, and pay them the respect that they had been denied by political violence.

- Promulgate a system, in conjunction with this exhumation and documentation effort, for issuing death certificates, which are required by the government for surviving family members to assert rights such as inheritance and remarriage.

- Appoint a body of Iraqi and international experts to recommend standards and best practices for the handling of confiscated documents of the former government, including for the following purposes: 1) establishing a chain of custody in order to assure authenticity; 2) facilitating the archiving of documents in a manner that addresses both the evidentiary needs of criminal judicial proceedings against former high officials as well as the

humanitarian needs of victims' families of the former government to resolve the fate of missing loved ones; and 3) working with Iraqi nongovernmental organizations and political parties to secure, to the extent possible, the return to a national archive of originals of state documents currently in their possession.

**To the US and other coalition governments**

- Establish a process for returning to Iraqi government custody the originals of all documents seized by U.S. and coalition forces since the overthrow of the former government.

- Ensure that officials of the Iraqi Special Tribunal or the Iraqi criminal court have access to all confiscated documents to determine whether they represent potential evidence in future criminal proceedings.

**To the international donor community**

Ensure that resources are made available for the forensic and documentary evidence preservation priorities identified in this report, including for documentation, humanitarian, and truth-telling purposes separate from any trials for serious past crimes.

*To be continued next issue*



Documents strewn on desk and floor in security prison in Kirkuk, April 2003, the day after the city fell to Kurdish and U.S. forces.  
(c) 2003 Eric Stover/Human Rights Watch

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

# Main Headlines

- While attempting to smuggle them into Seyoun, two tons of YR 2 billion narcotics seized
- Canadian company digs for gold in Saada
- Hittar: Soon release of suspects of Al-Qaeda and Believing Youth organizations
- The president and Amir of Qatar hold talks
- Bush/ Kerry Israel security first, constants of Iraq occupation and encounter of Islamic terror second
- Central Bank of Yemen possesses reserve enough to cover the country's imports for a year and a half
- Oil leaks to the Red Sea in Safer during loading a Liberian tanker
- Correspondents without borders demand quick release of al-Khaiwani
- Yemeni-American dispute over Yemenis identification cards of Yemenis detained in Guantanamo
- WB advises Yemen depend on oil alternatives
- Yemen declares 3-day mourning on decease of Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan
- Largest pardon to Yemeni prisoners at the end of Ramadan
- Opening the regional center for fighting money laundering the end of this month
- Preparations underway for holding the international conference of non-governmental organizations
- His house searched for more than once, Religious Scholar Muftah tortured in the Political Security prison
- Armed group attacks governor and security director of Lahj
- Emirates declares mourning on decease of Zaid
- Government suspends giving licenses for newspapers until issuing a new law containing impracticable conditions
- Who poisoned Arafat?

**Al-Wahda weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 2 Nov. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- NUO discusses final preparations for its 10<sup>th</sup> general conference
- Yemeni government sells American assistance to two merchants in Hudeidah
- Leakage of quantities of crude oil during loading of a Liberian-flag tanker

Columnist Abdullah al-Khamiri says in his article the American occupation armies in Iraq have changed into a hammer destroying whatever near to them and suspect about its source, whether it was weak or strong, a house or a school or others. That is what we see happen in the behaviour of the American occupation forces in the Iraqi city of Falluja day and night.

To justify those acts, the American forces fabricated a ghost personality and named it al-Zarqawi. The al-Zarqawi which the United States says has come from Jordan to Iraq to lead an armed resistance against the American presence is but only an excuse for carrying out destruction of residential houses on the heads of their inhabitants in this city, without taking into consideration of any human conscience and without paying respect to humanity due to the savage nature of the American forces and a depiction of the loss of moral and the arrogance. Women and children are everyday killed in this city by the U.S. warplanes and military tanks under pretext that the city is harboring al-Zarqawi. We would wonder are there not other Zarqawis in other cities of Iraq other than Falluja?

When Mr Kofi Annan, he UN Secretary-General described the action

of the American and British administrations in the Middle East as shameful violation of the international law meant by that the war of annihilation Israel has launched in Palestine under the protection of those two administrations that are now practicing the same role in Iraq, particularly in Falluja that has resisted the occupiers

**Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 4 Nov. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- Muqbil: Sheikh Zaid was an example to be followed
- Publisher of Isbou newspaper assails his own paper and offers apology to the Saudi ambassador
- Reform the course of unity and democracy and struggle for a better Yemen: YSP in Aden
- Taiz female teachers deprived of their right to work
- YSP Secretary-General congratulates the return of sheikh al-Ahmar

Columnist Abdulbarri Tahir says in his article the burial alive of a girl was a habit followed in the pre-Islam era. And despite that Islam has prohibited it, some Arabs continued in burying alive the talents, skills and intelligent brains even at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The writer has brought this historical story on the occasion of mentioning about the suspension of Al-Nida'a newspaper in Yemen even after the publication of its first edition. The writer says the Al-Nida'a newspaper is not a political adversary but rather a voice, rather "exceptional" for some because since its first issue has called for freedom, democracy and justice and

used a judicious rational address. Suspension of al-Nida'a newspaper arouses suspicion about respect of the law in a country where law is the weakest aspect. When the law is weak in countering terrorism, corruption, arms trafficking, plundering the public property and challenging the state, but powerful in fighting the word and freedom of expression, force would become the only governing power.

The state has scored victory over all military rebellions because it declares its bias to democracy and political pluralism, the right to peaceful transfer of power and resorting to balloting boxes.

Confronting the word kidnapping, as what happened to journalist al-Khaiwani and closing the Shoura newspaper and silencing the voice of Al-Nida'a newspaper are acts more dangerous than facing a military rebellion. By suppression the freedom of expression, the state declares its bias to military duel and opens the door widely before the force and violence.

**Al-Mithaq weekly organ of the General People's congress, 8 Nov. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- President Saleh: Looking forward to enhancing our partnership with the United States of America and developing bilateral cooperation in all fields
- GPC secretary general congratulates all national organizations on advent of eid al-Fitr
- Palestinian sources accuse Israel of poisoning Arafat
- Ayad Alawi government in Iraq declares 60-day state of emergency

Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh wrote the

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By Samer A.

decease of Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan president of the United Arab Emirate saying it the right of every unionist Arab everywhere in the Arab homeland to feel sorry and concern about the absence of a unionist leader such as Sheikh Zaid. For decades the man proved to be as one of the wise fathers encountering disputes and differences between Arab brethren and working for healing the rift.

Death has taken this unionist leader at a very critical and difficult time. The war of annihilation, the Israelis are launching on the Palestinians do not stop and its rate is increasing. The war in Iraq is taking dangerous dimensions through the use of excessive force and destroying cities and villages in pursuit of the resistance.

The resistance has proved that peoples would not squander their freedom and independence very easily, as occupiers may think. In addition there are more problems and pressures in more than a part of the Arab homeland.

The simplest review of the biography of the unionist leader Zaid makes us realize the danger of his absence at this critical stage and miss his incessant attempts in mustering the minimum level of Arab solidarity.

**Al-Wahda weekly, 3 Nov. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- A factory for Sabaeen mintage production and inscriptions, discovered
- Designing of tourist villages at coastal sites soon
- Council of Ministers fixes date for the general census
- Al-Qaeda installs its new leader in Saudi Arabia
- Yemeni Journalists syndicate sees judgment against Al-Mithaq newspaper as danger threatens press freedoms

Columnist Abdullah al-Bahri discusses important factors leading to develop and flourish tourism in Yemen, saying our country as a whole is full of tourist characterized landmarks and historical places. Most of those sites and areas have abundant ancient treasures frequented by many tourists desiring to be acquainted with Yemeni civilizations.

The successes in general with regard to attracting most of the great numbers of tourists to Yemen are a matter connected to all channels interested and concerned with tourist affairs. There are several factors having direct impact on progress and development of tourism, among them is what we have lately seen of movement and activity across many a sea, air and land inlets through which the tourists come as groups, tourist and for investment. That is a proof that our country is leading secure and stable life let alone many facts helped the process

of political investment and the development of tourism industry.

**Al-Nahar weekly, 4 Nov. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- International demand to Yemen to freeze Zandani's properties and assets
- The nation painfully affected by the decease of Zaid
- In Taiz, lack of security, robbery of installations and armed robbery
- Secret extremist organization at Sana'a University disclosed
- Unidentified gangs tried to smuggle them, 50 children rescued from grip of smugglers at Hardh border crossing
- Dhaliq prosecution hinders efforts for the release of prisoners
- Somali citizens smuggled into Yemen
- Diplomatic source: Sudan asked postponement of convening the tripartite grouping foreign ministers

Columnist Hajie al-Juhafi says since 1995 and our country has been pursuing a policy of economic reforms similar to other countries implemented that policy before us. Hen we were used to hear that the Yemeni people would suffer from programs of austerity and hard economic price policies and that after a

few years they would enjoy the fruits of that and prosperity would come.

Despite the passage of almost ten years on those reforms the situations are increasing in badness and the poor people numbers are on an increase and the corrupt go deeper in their corruption and richness.

Policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund put some conditions in return for any support or loan and nevertheless it is said that the experts of corruption managed to deceive experts of the Bank and the Fund over the past ten years and our country would lose a \$ 287 million worth support from the WB if the government would not pas on a new price dose. Surely the dose of fuel would be passed on because the magnates of corruption would not allow the loss of that sum.

The other thing is that the power centers that are dueling over the use of oil and gas have become threatening the whole country with an economic disaster unless matters are taken care of from now and even the monetary liquidity would not be enough to stand up in its face even for several months.

What happens is that the doses and economic reforms have not been accompanied with monitoring and accountability and administrative and financial reforms because the state institutions spending is rising by doubles regarding those of fuel, electricity and communications, etcetera....

Continued from page 1

## Arafat dead?

The hospital had ruled out leukemia but had not given any diagnosis of Arafat's illness. Palestinian officials said he had suffered from liver failure. All three leaders who flew into Paris on Monday are potential successors and Arafat's wife had accused them of wanting to "bury him alive." Shaath said the delegation wanted to get the full facts on Arafat. Despite the bickering, Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Monday he

was impressed by the Palestinian leaders' handling of Arafat's absence and said he hoped the "relative calm" in the region would continue. "I hope that sense of quiet and calm can be maintained and (that) it gives us something to work with," Powell told reporters on the way to Mexico. He reiterated that the United States was "ready to engage as soon as it is appropriate to engage" with the so-called road map peace plan

## "Intolerable"

"We find it intolerable that he appears to have been targeted and harassed for honest and professional activity as a journalist and we are dismayed at his treatment at the hands of the authorities. We are also concerned at the unrestrained actions of the political security forces in targeting journalists and writers," the IFJ letter said.

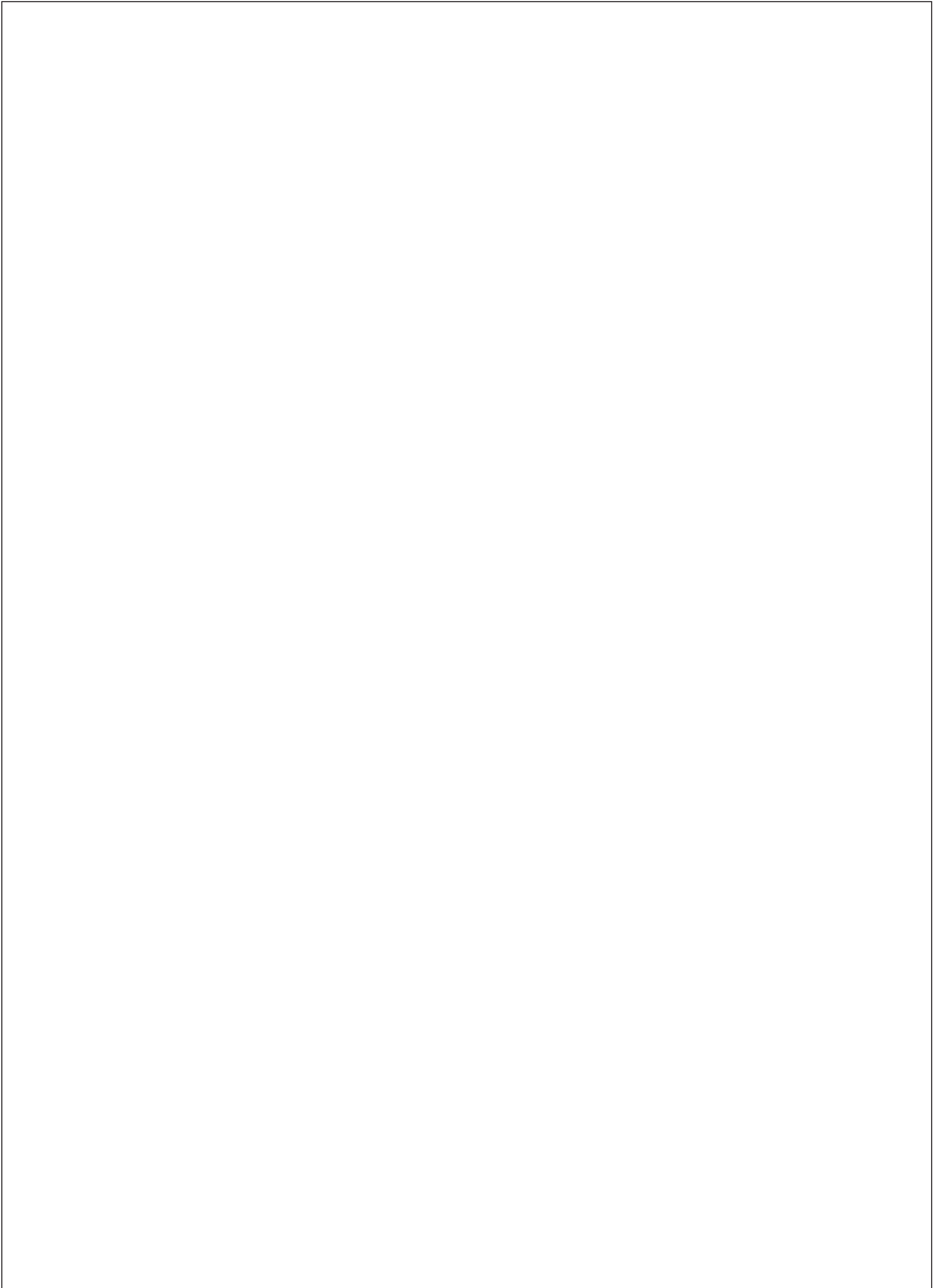
The IFJ also pointed out that their fears have been confirmed by "the action to withdraw the license of al-Hurriye newspaper and to instruct the printing company that prints the paper not to print it."

It notes that "this disproportionate action over a minor change in the newspaper logos can only be interpreted as an attempt to silence an established

newspaper. We note, too, that the Ministry of Information has closed operations of a new magazine, al-Neda, for the technical reason of operating just two days past its licensing period.

The letter states "We cannot avoid the conclusion that publications and journalists are being targeted because their contents include coverage of events and topics not favoured by the government," adding "These actions, coupled with the imprisonment of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, reveal a pattern of oppression that it is impossible to ignore."

The IFJ showed readiness to work with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to support all actions that will strengthen professional and independent journalism



The second tourney of Arab Champions**Sha'ab Ibb loses twice to Jeddah Union**

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sha'ab Ibb was defeated in the second tourney of Arab Champions.

In the opener held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sha'ab Ibb club was callously hit 10-0 by the Saudi Jeddah Union in a tragicomic scenario. After having two players sent off, one of whom is the goalkeeper, the morale of the players accordingly collapsed.

The Kuwaiti referee initiated the disappointment in the 23th minute of the game time by sending off the Sha'ab goalkeeper Faisal Al-Haj over obstructing Saudi striker Hamza Edris to open through a penalty kick the series of goals.

Another red card was issued on the face of the Yemeni defender Eihab Al-Nuzaili in minute 33 of the game time by the referee who kept running the match as a true enemy. This undoubtedly affirmed the collapse of Yemenis to stand up against the offensives repeatedly raged by the opponent.

Ibrahim Soyed scored the second goal for his side in minute two of first half's compensation time which was counted four minutes. Striker Hamza Edris scored twice in the fourth minute of the compensation time and in minute 8 of the second half to raise his team's advantage to four goals. The fifth goal was put by the Croatian professional, Maryo Saryo Fitch and sixth goal by Mohammad Eisi in minute 29 of the second half.

Ibrahim Soyed scored three

times one in minute 38, another one just one minute after and a third in the last minute of the main game time and striker Hamza Edris concluded the series of goals by scoring the tenth to push higher his side advantage to 10 goals.

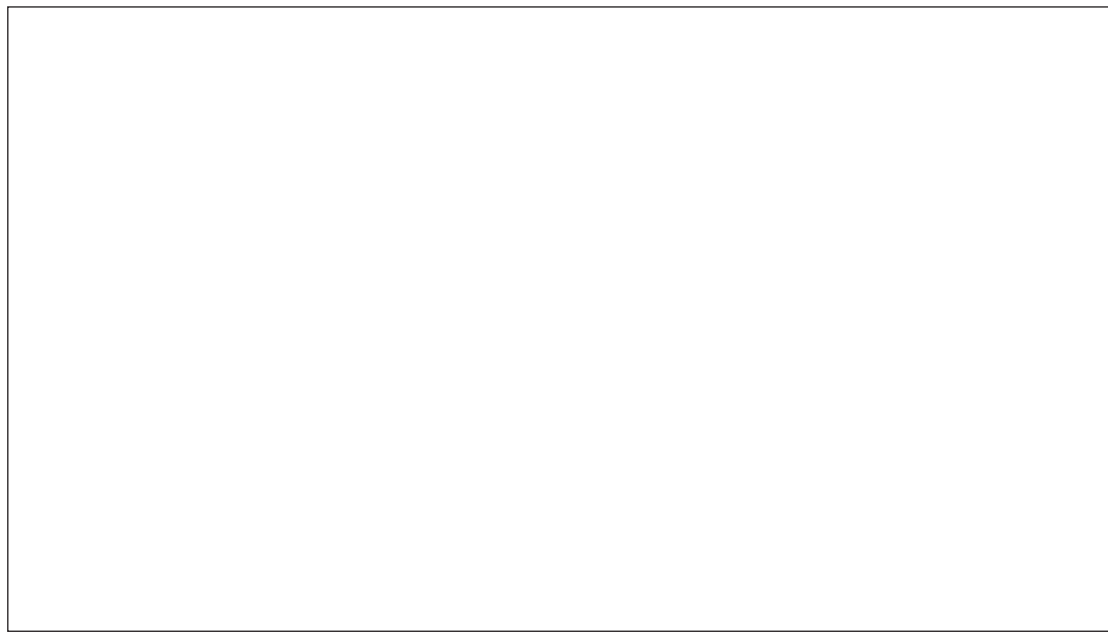
The game proved itself to be played by the one side since the Sha'ab goalkeeper was sent off along with the defender Ehab Al-Nuzaili and the sack of Abdulsalam Al-Ghurbani for being fatally injured.

Sheikh Abdulwahid Salah President of Sa'ab Ibb Club and Sheikh Al-Balawi President of Saudi Union Club attended the game which was run by the Kuwaiti referee Mansour Abil and monitored by Mohammad Yaseen from Djibouti.

The second meeting was just two days after the opener. Sha'b Ibb was beaten 2-0 by hosts Saudi Jeddah Union, which is thought of as a lighter defeat since the former played with reserve members.

The Yemeni Football Federation (YFF), as a result, holds the view that Sha'ab Ibb Club will no longer be allowed to participate in external tournaments. It has been discovered late that the players of Sha'ab Ibb Club and its coaching staff agreed to play the away and home games in the KSA, after receiving extra money for having the plays held in Saudi Arabia.

However, according to the FIFA's regulations, one of the games should be staged with the team members being hosts while the other with the team being guests.



Players of Sha'ab Ibb

Jeddah Union entered the game with the reserve players as they ensured qualification for the second round (16th round) of the championship.

Coach of Jeddah Union changed the format of its team to grant a well-earned break to the main players, as they are preparing for the finals, an encounter of the Asian champions.

Players of Sha'ab Ibb entered the match with degraded morale after suffering a heavy loss in the previous one. The players appeared a bit better than they did earlier, but could not approach the untouched net

of the opponent.

The first half came to an end with Saudi Jeddah Union one-goal lead over Sha'ab Ibb. The goal came through a strong shot by striker Mannan Abu Shafeer after the ball mistakenly hit off the back of the Sha'ab defender Mohammad Ali to change direction towards the net in minute 10.

The second goal was scored in the second half through a corner kick by player Gahwaji and put in the net off by Al-Tariqi's head.

Numerous offensives for Jeddah Union were lost after strikers Yami and Gahwaji raced to score them,

but all attempts had gone in awry.

A few minutes prior to the game, player of Jeddah Union Mush'al al-Sa'eed affirmed to television that the play would be incontestable.

Former Egyptian referee Jamal Ghandour stated, half an hour before the match started, that there would be no remarkable equivalence between both the teams.

One day following the event, Abdulahid Salah, President of Sha'ab Ibb called for a press conference to gather the different media means for the sake of unveiling the secret behind the shameful achievement of his club.

President's Cup**Footsal Championship to Aden Refinery**

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
ADEN BUREAU

The first President's Cup footsal tournament was won by Aden Refinery Company Nov. 5 at the stadium of the garden of Aden Hotel. They beat Aden Hotel 4-2.

The concluding game was attended by Fadhl Al-Hilali, General Manager of Aden Hotel, Sami

Makkawi, First Deputy Chairman of the National Bank of Yemen, Ammar Abdulateef, General Manager of Agriculture Credit Bank, Ahmad Ali Bin Sankar, Administrative and Financial Director at the National Bank of Yemen, and Dr. Ahmad Mosa General Manager of the activities at Aden University.

Aden Refinery won through

penalty shots after regulation time ended in a 1-1 tie.

The international referee Ameen Murshid Aqlan ran the meeting.

The winner, after the game was over, received prizes including clocks and merit certificates. The runner-up and third ranking Yemen Mobile's team also received merit certificates and other prizes.

The National Bank of Yemen

team was awarded for being the ideal one throughout the championship.

Qais Mohammad Saleh from Adsen Hotel's team was awarded as the championship scorer for having 15 goals in the event.

Nasser Ali Nasser from Yemen Mobile's team won the best player prize and Wajdi Anwar, goalkeeper of the television team.

"The idea of holding the first footsal championship carrying the name of the president is a good initiative," Said Dr. Ahmad Ali Bin Sankar. He added: "the championship witnesses in its last days distinctive success due to the mild participation of the teams and efforts of the security systems. Additionally, the supervising committee played a pioneering role reflected in its continuing existence during the championship and in overcoming the obstacles. We should not forget the role of media and sporting analysts that were among the factors behind the success of the championship.

Dr. Bin Sankar also mentioned there are many negative aspects associating with the event that can be specified as deficient lighting of the stadium, misunderstanding among the participants of the game rules, and insufficient security measures.

It is worth-noting the final match between the teams of Aden Hotel and Aden Refineries company was fantastic enough to gratify the supporters in terms of equivalence between both the teams.

**THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY**

BY Eugenia

**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
Financial changes will ease your stress. Put a little time and effort into your surroundings. Patience may be required but, if you can master that, you will excel.

**Taurus**  
(Apr 20 - May 20)  
Think about love and getting together with someone you like to spend time with. Today is all about making plans and stabilizing your personal life. A promotion is possible.

**Gemini**  
(May 21 - Jun 20)  
Changes at work will lead to a better position. Social activities will lead to a chance meeting or hearing about someone from your past.

**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
Friends will brighten your day. A hobby you enjoy will spark enthusiasm to turn it into a profitable pastime. Love and romance should be penciled in.

**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
You have to listen and discuss if you want to filter through some of the problems that are stressing you out. You will see both sides of the situation today.

**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
You can count on a friend to come through for you. Favors will be granted and relationships will develop. This is a good time to start something new or to finish what you've already begun.

**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Work should be your concern. Changes may not appear to be going your way but, if you are patient, everything will turn out in your favor. Acceptance is the key.

**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Don't let anxiety get the better of you. Things aren't as bad as they seem. Develop and promote your true talents - you have more going for you than you realize.

**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
Focus on what you can do to make your family life better. You can help an older relative accomplish what he or she needs to do. For this, you will be rewarded.

**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
The more involved you get in something that interests you, the better you will do. Take any help being offered. You will form a strong bond with someone who will complement you.

**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
There is so much happening that it is difficult for you to keep things straight. You may be enticed by someone who really isn't good for you. You may have to say no.

**Pisces**  
(Feb 19-Mar 20)  
Nothing will stop you today if you are serious about getting something done. Someone will be there for you regardless of what it is you need. Romance should be on your mind.

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*If security can be dealt with ...*

## Yemen has what tourists want

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**N**othing 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'as 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.

*Continued on page 10*

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 enjoyment 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.

