

World Association of Newspaper reports on press freedom in Yemen

Another negative report on Yemen's Press freedom



YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The World Association of Newspaper joined the growing number of international organizations in reporting about the negative developments in the press freedom record in Yemen.

In a recent report issued by the Paris-based prominent organization on Monday 22 November, the ongoing imprisonment of journalist Abdulkareem Al-Kaiwani was explicitly mentioned. It pointed out to this act as a negative development in the country's press freedom record. Al-Khaiwani, the editor-in-Chief of Al-Shoura newspaper was sentenced on September the fifth to a year in jail and was harassed and beaten a num-

ber of times at the Central Prison in Sanaa.

He was convicted of incitement, insulting the president, publishing false news and causing tribal and sectarian discrimination.

The report did mention that Yemen is ahead of other states in the Arabian Peninsula, but it also said that it is battling against violations that limit press freedom in the country.

"The country which probably enjoys the greatest press freedom in the Persian Gulf, is continuing its battle for freedom of expression," the report said.

Meanwhile, Yemen was mentioned in the report among many other Arab countries that also were subject to criticism

for their oppression of freedom of the press.

Less press freedom in MENA

The organization brought a negative image of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region saying that press freedom in the region has been undergoing a downward trend in the last five months.

"Freedom of expression continues to suffer throughout the region [Middle East and North Africa]. The press freedom situation in many counties remains alarming, as government control over the press is rigid. In those countries where journalists do enjoy a measure of freedom of expression, they must contend

with severe laws that often result in criminal prosecution, arrest and censorship," the report said.

Not enough pressure

With this newly published report, additional pressure has been exerted on the Yemeni government to rethink its ongoing policies against the free press.

A large number of protest letters, negative reports, complaints, request letters, and inquiries were sent to the authorities to help ease the pressure on the press but to so far to no avail.

However, so far, no response was received from the Yemeni authorities, who seem to still be unwilling to save the country's remaining press freedom from

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PORSCHÉ

100 more "reformed" Al Qaeda sympathizers released

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government recently released 100 detainees suspected of being sympathetic to the Al-Qaeda international terrorist network after going through the dialogue process, said Hamoud Al-Hitar, Head of Yemen's Dialogue Committee.

According to Al-Hitar, the detainees, who were not charged with any crimes and signed a commitment to follow the constitution and laws and refrain from violence, were released at the end of Ramadan.

"One hundred Al-Qaeda sympathizers were released and they were not detainees convicted of any crime," Al-Hitar told Yemen Times. "They renounced completely their previous beliefs on violence and terrorism, and they showed their respect to the constitution. They also respect the rights of non-Muslims living in Yemen and the rights and interests of countries that have relationships with Yemen."

Since the Dialogue Committee



Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, Head of the Dialogue Committee
(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

was established in the fall of 2002, 346 suspects have been released.

Up to 176 followers of Believing Youth, a renegade organization once founded by radical cleric Hussein Al-Houthi, are expected to be released in the near future. Al-Hitar said that they have been successful in persuading the members of the organization, but the Yemeni government is still following up on investigations to guarantee no criminal acts have been committed.

"The government is still concerned and needs to investigate further before the members of Believing Youth are released," said Al-Hitar.

Those from Believing Youth that renounced violence and are expected to be released are some of the 350 members of the organization that are detained.

Al-Hitar explains that the Dialogue Committee, which is made up of 20 members, bases its practice on peace, tolerance and the importance of people living together without any conflict.

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Yemen on high alert to combat possible locusts swarm

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen announced Tuesday that it was ready to challenge any locusts swarming the Red Sea region, Abdu al-Rumaih, Head of Locusts Fight center said.

He pointed out that field teams had been dispatched to the Southern and Western regions of the country which include Tihamah, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa and Aden Gulf.

Millions of hungry locusts have landed in parts of Israel and moved towards Egypt, reaching Saudi Arabia. Egypt's Agriculture Minister Ahmed al-Leithi denied fresh swarms of locusts were attacking Egypt, noting the ministry received no reports on further locusts that flew on their way to the African coasts.

Speaking during a People's Assembly session in reply to a number of parliamentary questions on locusts, the minister said, "If climatic conditions are okay,

we won't see more locusts attacking Egypt."

Al-Rumaih was quoted as saying that his center already requested the ministry of defense to take measures to combat any possible locust swarm on the country, using helicopters. The center already informed the cabinet concerning emergency plan to combat locusts swarm.

Continued on page 4

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Second Yemenia A330 airbus arrives

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The second newly purchased Airbus plane model A330 has arrived from Toulouse in France last Tuesday evening at the Sana'a International Airport to join the fleet of Yemenia Airways, which also includes another four modern planes.

This comes in the frame of efforts to expand and upgrade the air transportation means of Yemen's national air carrier Yemen Airways (Yemenia) to cope with the high standards of international air carriers to compete regionally and help enhance the economy of the country.

Mr. Amin Al-Haimy, Deputy Managing Director for Commercial Affairs and Information Technology of Yemenia, affirmed that the cost of the newly imported plane is US\$ 90 million to be paid by the Yemenia.

In a reception and ceremony held on the occasion at the Sana'a International Airport, Jean Louis Rxsto, Senior Consultant at the French Embassy to

Sana'a expressed his pleasure and satisfaction about the importing of the plane that was manufactured by the European Company Airbus, which is based in Toulouse, France. He ascertained that the purchase of the plane reflects the depth of the Yemeni-French and Yemeni-European ties.

The newly bought plane will start operation within weeks and will fly to distant cities to bring and transport passengers. This is expected to encourage European and French tourists along with many other tourists from all over the world to visit Yemen with confidence by its technologically advanced Yemenia planes.

A number of media personnel from France attended the handover ceremony in Toulouse and arrived on board the plane to Sana'a on Tuesday.

General Manager of Public Relations of Yemenia ascertained that the airline company currently possesses 12 planes, five of which are Airbus model, three modern Boeing planes, plus the earlier Boeing 727 and 737 models.



The newly introduced plane 330 Airbus

Three women attempt to commit suicide

TAIZ BUREAU

Three women were reported to have attempted to commit suicide. A 22-year-old Wathiqah Sarhan, from Al-Hawban district, to the east of Taiz, took a dose of a pesticide. She was then rushed to a hospital where her life could be saved. Her suicide attempt was the result of a dispute between her and her family.

Another young woman from the rural area of Jabal Habashi, attempted to kill herself. One Mohsana Mohammed, 25, tied herself up to a tree trunk, poured kerosene on her body and set herself alight. She was transferred to Al-Thawra General Hospital in the city of Taiz with first-degree burns.

Another unfortunate suicide attempt took place in Far'a Al-Udain district, and the victim was a woman. She put on ten dresses and several headscarves, soaked them with kerosene and then set herself aflame. The woman could be transported to the hospital but died the next day. The cause of her act was her

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:

Do you expect the Iraqi elections to be held on 30 January 2005?

- Yes
- No

last edition's question:

Should qat be outlawed in Yemen?

Yes 68.7%
No 31.2%

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husband divorcing her on the telephone.

It is notable that suicide attempts have increased among women especially the young ones for a host of reasons.

Crash at Sana'a University

By RAMZY AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Several people are injured after a car accident near the Faculty of Law at the University of Sana'a on Nov. 21.

A taxi left the General Secretariat of the university when a Toyota pick-up crashed into it, pushing it nearly 30 meters.

The injured people were rushed to the University Hospital.

Witnesses say it is the second accident to happen at the place on the same day, "not more than three hours between the two accidents."

What is new in this case is that it happened not on a highway but rather inside the university campus causing a threat to the university students.

"It is similar to the accident that happened in Ramadan. They show the crazy speed of driving vehicles inside the university on one hand and the 'I don't care' attitude of the drivers," said one witness.



One of the two cars is crushed into a useless mass of iron

Course on combating poverty

TAIZ BUREAU

In cooperation with Al-Mutwakel Development Society and Private Sector Development Program, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a special course for Women and poverty is running Nov. 21 to 29.

As many as 40 participants took part in the opening of course.

A number of lectures were deliv-

ered, on the concepts of loans, managing small enterprises and benefiting from them in the alleviation of poverty.

Many expressive speeches were delivered throughout the activities of the course, attended by Shawqi Al-Qadhi, MP, Abdu Al-Hakimi, General Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs and Labor in Taiz and a number of personalities of distinction.

Symposium on higher studies at Aden University

ADEN BUREAU

A conference on higher studies in the Arab world is about to be held in Aden.

"Higher Studies in the Arab World: Present and Future," is name of the conference, to be held Nov. 27 - 29 at Aden University.

"A lot of preparations are being carried out," said Prof Dr. Abdulkarim Yahya Rase'e, President of Aden University.

"Education, higher studies and scientific research and the role of the university in the society are the basic functions of the university in the modern age that is known as the age of technologies and development, allow-

ing the universities to have the capabilities to help in their role.

"This symposium is to be held in response to the real need for such scientific. That was realized by the universities and the Arab Universities Union, relating to the significance in facing the challenges of the 3rd millennium and in their effective interaction with the information technology and the huge developments in all fields of science reassuring the sustainable development for the Arab community," he added.

There are about 30 researchers taking part.

The planning committee approved only the agenda of the activities and the program of visiting the tourist and cultural places.

Thousands try to infiltrate into the KSA

By NEWS SERVICES

Saudi chief border guard Gen. Talal Ankawi said more than 1,000 people are arrested daily trying to cross clandestinely into Saudi Arabia.

Ankawi was quoted by the daily al-Riyadh Wednesday as saying an average of 50,000 people try to infiltrate the kingdom on a monthly basis, mostly through the border with Yemen.

They are spotted easily either through the naked eye or with the help of heat sensors erected along border points, Ankawi said. Very few are able to cross without being spotted due to the long and open border with Yemen, but the majority are seized.

Commercial shops burglarized in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

A number of commercial shops were burglarized on Nov. 17 in Taiz: Against Oil Company, in Jamal St., Al-Dhafer Shops were burglarized.

The burglars made a hole from the back of the shops towards Al-Ojainat symmetry and took goods worth about 1 million YR.

A telecommunication center was also attacked the same way. The burglars made a slot in the wall of Al-Emad center taking all mobile scratch cards, with a total worth of YR100,000. Police are investigating.

Yemenis wait behind bars

Sanaa, Yemen, Nov. 17 (UPI) — An inmate at Yemen's central prison in Sanaa, believed to be among dozens jailed for years waiting for their cases to be heard, has committed suicide.

The English-language daily al-Rai News quoted security sources to confirm the death.

The paper suggested that the dead might be among dozens of inmates who have been held for several years waiting for trial and sentencing.

"I have been sitting in prison for more than 10 years and still no court ruling has been issued in my case," Saleh Mohammed Nasser, an inmate, told the newspaper.

Two other prisoners — Saleh Falafel and Mohammed Matiri — said they have been waiting in prison since July 2001 waiting for their case to be appealed.

Digital TV training from French

By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Media Training Institute is organizing a course from Nov. 21 to Dec. 2 on the Television Montage in cooperation with the French Embassy.

The French expert Karee Trapulsi will instruct the trainees throughout the course functions.

A number of trainees from the General Radio & T.V. Corporation and the Educational Channel, part of the Ministry of Education as well as many others from Health Awareness Center are taking part.

While inaugurating the course, Dr. Abdullah Al-Zalib, Dean of Media Training Center, said the course is due to provide the participants with new skills on the basics of photography in the digital television montage plus developing this field.

The course is of great importance as the trainees are expected to come up with several benefits and polish their interests in different areas.

Karee Trapulsi, who is responsible for the training, stated, "I am very happy at my being in Yemen. It is my first visit to such a nice country."

"The course on the television montage for which I am responsible, aims at developing the abilities of media workers in the digital-operated television montage. The course includes practice on the basics of photography at the time of montage.

"It demands the trainees to do a television film including all the basics of photography and montage. The participants actually possess good abilities and by attending the course activities, they will be qualified and more competent in their careers," she added.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) Request for Expressions of Interest Short-term Project Planning Consultant

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice of the Health Reform Support Project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue number 607 on 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra newspaper issue number 13944 on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue number 641 on 12th June 2003.

The government of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project (HRSP), and intends to apply the proceeds of this credit for the procurement of consultancy services.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population now invites eligible consultants to express their interest in providing consultancy services towards **developing and updating the implementation plan of the project.**

The consultant will provide professional technical support towards the planning and management of the HRSP as follows:

I- Project Implementation Plan Activities:

In close coordination with the general directors of the MOPHP responsible for the subcomponents of the project, develop quarterly and annual implementation plans (for the whole and each subcomponent of the project) for the remaining duration of the project.

II- Project Procurement Plan Activities:

Based on the developed and updated project implementation plan (mentioned above) and in close coordination with the general directors of the MOPHP responsible for the subcomponents of the project, develop with the procurement specialist of the CAU quarterly and annual procurement plans (for the whole and each subcomponent of the project) for the remaining duration of the project.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the required services and have the relevant experience.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999, and May 2000).*

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 8th December 2004. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours.

Credit Administration Unit
Health Reform Support Project
Ministry of Public Health and Population
P.O. Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah - Sanaa - Republic of Yemen
Tel: +967(1) 252224 - Fax: +967(1) 251622
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Aggressive behaviour

Children learn what is modeled

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

What makes a child move toward violence and aggressiveness, either with family members at home, with neighbours' children or with colleagues at school?

Is this violence considered a natural instinct or a casual state of some children at a specific age or, else, a feature stuck to all ages? Do the behaviors of the family play a role in the way of dealing with its desires? What is the role of the school and community? What about media, and TV in particular, in shaping the child's culture?

All the above questions were shot against those who have direct relations with children.

Suppression breeds aggressiveness. Abdullah Saif thinks that suppression and not listening to children contributes to creating an atmosphere of violence and makes children accordingly more aggressive. That's a substitute for their expressing themselves, which they were deprived from when being younger.

The majority of fathers would like to appear harsher and much more severe in front of their children. They are actually building a thick wall between them and children that are in a pressing need for who listens to their ideas and speech. Abdullah suggests that the solution to the aggressiveness of children is to treat a child in a way of respecting its abilities, its style of

thinking and not limiting it to orders. Boosting its self-confidence and making it speak freely are of the suggestive solutions. Our Prophet Mohammed set a good example for us when he descended the platform while speaking to an enormous crowd in order to kiss his grandsons, al-Hassan and al-Hussein.

Acquired behavior

Abdulaziz, a teacher, says aggressiveness of children is an acquired behavior. Its reasons are the way of treating them among the single family. A child that is subjected to punishment and beating will act out in community and school. Ameen Saleh, a teacher, summarizes the children's aggressiveness as follows:

1. the parents' quarrel in front of their children who tend to imitate them and transfer that to others either through insulting talks or beatings.

2. the severe corporal punishment committed by some fathers.

3. the community where a child lives may be full of abnormal and aggressive people. Therefore children learn from them the abnormal behaviors and affect their peers in turn and that's because parents don't observe their children.

4. not punishing a child in certain cases is wrong. Sometimes parents laugh at the behaviors of their children without telling them that they are wrong. Thus children repeat such behaviors.

5. the role of media, TV in particular, which because they have a dangerous

role in creating the aggressiveness of children throughout what they watch of imaginary series and action films planting the seeds of evil in their hearts. They try then to practice what they watched in and outside their houses.

Teacher Amin concluded his talk with saying that this phenomenon is acquired not inherited. There's a prophetic saying that a child is born with a pure instinct (without having any religion) but its parents later may make such choices for the child.

Bad treatment

About the role of the family in the children's aggressiveness, Mohammed's mother said: "The bad treatment of the family to the child, such as beating it severely, neglecting its ideas and little troubles, and trying to shut it up is not good for the child as some people think. What is more harmful is punishing, or insulting, it before its friends and peers. All these reasons contribute to child aggressiveness with others in streets, houses and schools."

She added that the more aggressive the parents towards their children are, the more aggressive the children will be. The aggressive child will surely be an aggressive father when it grows up.

Some families don't understand their child's emotions and don't realize that they direct them towards deviation, she also said.

Looking after children

The solution to this problem as Mohammed's mother thinks is that the

parents should understand their children's problems. They should listen to their talk and let them feel that the care about the children. There shouldn't be any kind of discrimination between them under pretexts like intelligence and childish desires.

View of sociology

Sociologists say that a part of the personality is inherited while the other is acquired as a natural result of the child interaction with the surroundings and the degree of effect on it.

The second part is completely related to different effects of relative and teachers and their personalities. The child's behaviors go hand in hand with the influence of brothers and friends. The aggressive family can't but affect the child to be as aggressive as they are and vice versa.

Psychologists in turn confirm that the child life is specifically shaped depending on the circumstances particularly in its early three or four years. When a child meets its basic needs of food, drink, rest, love and kindness since its first weeks and months of its life, it will live in happiness when it grows up.

There is a psychological belief that the psychological problems of adults come out of childhood experiences. The states of worry, anger, aggressiveness, and failed marriage are results of what happened in childhood. Other social diseases, such as selfishness, isolation, divorce, distrust, and terrorism rises from the early years of a child, especially the first three or four.

Women's issues discussed

BY RANA GHANEM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

SAF for Human Rights, under the auspices of Aden Governor Dr. Yehia al-Shuaiby, held its 3rd democratic meeting in Aden Governorate, on Nov. 23.

Women and the political parties as well as women political contribution from the religious vision were issues discussed.

In addition there was discussion on the history of women's movement in Yemen, besides the women's struggle in the southern part of the homeland during former years.

The meeting discussed the arguments and problems with women and their political possibility, the socio-psychological vision to exclude women from administrative and political positions, and international laws that stipulates the equality and non-discrimination between the two genders.

Yemeni laws still discriminate the extent of women participation in such areas.

The studies were prepared by a group of doctors of the university and the activists in this line.

The symposium was attended by about 70 participants, activists, and those interested in these issues, and also by a number of media.

Suqotra protection project continues

BY MUHAMMAD BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The work is currently going on in executing the second phase of Suqotra Archipelago protection and development project which work was kicked off in Dec. 2003.

The value of the project expected to be achieved in 2008, and in II phases is US\$10 million, as mentioned in the report of the General Corporation for Protecting the Environment, Preserving & Developing Suqotra Archipelago.

That \$10 million is financed by the Italian Government and the UNDP Project whereas the number of the land and marine protectorates included in the project as per the Republican Decree No.(275) is 39 protectorates besides the national recreation grounds, the utilization of the resources for traditional usefulness, and the general

utility for constructing services facilities.

According to a report distributed by Saba' News Agency on Nov. 17, Suqotra Island as an international tourism investment area, is favored by a number of development projects and the building of the infrastructure for the tourism investment such as an international airport.

There are also projects of connecting the protectorates and the island areas by a ring road, (Moori Deksum), besides the social development, water & electricity, health projects etc.

The land and marine of Suqotra Island's protectorates are distinguished by rare natural essential variety in the world from the point of marine lives and birds, fish fodders, and the lot of Olibanum trees and its assortments, Dragon trees, Suqotrian cucumber, and the rare coral reefs and the marine sponges in addition to its being a home to the rocky lobsters.



World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) Vacancy Announcement

The WFP is establishing a pool of pre-selected candidates (Roster) for Staff Assistant post for its main office in Sana'a.

The responsibilities of the Staff Assistant, shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Draft and type routine correspondence and take notes at meeting; make correction to texts or data already on diskettes.
- Operate a variety of office equipment such as photocopier, facsimile, printer and maintain supplies.
- Receive telephone calls and office visitors and refer them to the appropriate source or reply personally to queries when possible.
- Collect, sort and distribute correspondence, reports and other material and transmit correspondence, documents, etc. via electronic mail, fax, courier service or other means.
- Set-up, classify and maintain unit files.
- Check accuracy of simple calculations, coding and data.
- Assist maintaining on computer databases an updated inventory of non-expandable equipments for the office.
- Assist in the administration work.
- Undertake any other assigned duties.

Qualifications:

- Completion of Secondary Education.
- Good knowledge of Arabic and very good command of English Language.
- Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time.
- Good knowledge of computer/Word processing and Excel and use of modern office equipment.

Experience

Minimum 3 years experience in administrative and clerical work.

Interested applicants should deliver their applications along with their detailed CV's in English. This post is open to Yemeni Nationals.

WFP is an equal opportunity Organization and the female candidates are encouraged to apply.

All applications to be submitted to the WFP Representative in Sana'a not later than **01 December 2004** in closed envelope clearly marked:

(Application for Staff Assistant Roster, at WFP Sana'a) at the following address:

World Food Programme, Sana'a, villa No. 22 - Nwakhshut St. St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P. O. Box 7181, Republic of Yemen. Tel: 01 214100/101 Fax: 01 205515, E-mail: WFP.Sanaa@wfp.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions within its project: "*Decentralization and Local Development Support Programme*".

I. Coordination Assistant (One National)**Main Duties:**

Assist the project co-ordinator to track, support and monitor programme implementation, including donor co-ordination and the administration of donor support. Prepare any additional documents requested.

II. Field Operations Manager (One National)**Main Duties:**

Assist the project team to manage field activities including the operations of the mid-level technical team and District Facilitation Teams (DFT). Prepare and manage the implementation of an annual field programme; guide and monitor (DFT) and mid-level technical team operations. Propose interventions to issues agreed by the project team for remedy.

III. Field Technical Advisor (Three Nationals)**Main Duties:**

To provide technical support to the District Facilitation Teams in the building of capacity of local authorities to improve their performance in 1) Participatory & Strategic Planning & Budgeting 2) Implementation including procurement, accounting, project management and monitoring 3) Institutional Development, Training.

IV. Consultant (One National)**Main Duties:**

Conduct a situation analysis in pilot districts including land use patterns, land tenure analysis, water use and management arrangements, current projects in land and water management, agriculture supply chain etc., identify at least five good practices inland and water governance at local level and at least five unsustainable practices and policies leading to land and water degradation.

For detailed terms of reference and required qualification for the positions, interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for to:

**Human Resources Unit
UNDP, P. O. Box 551 Sana'a
Fax: 448841
E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org**

The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, 5th December 2004. Responses will only be made to short listed candidates.

Beautiful scenery

Eid in Hodeidah's surroundings

By Abdulwahab Al Sofi
For the Yemen Times
abdulwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com

After we had fasted during the blessed month Ramadan, we as Moslems enjoyed Eid Alfitr. All people in Yemen commemorate this occasion every year. This commemoration differs from place and from one governorate to another.

In Hodeidah there are many entertaining resorts which people can enjoy after finishing Eid. People accompany their children to the Eid oratory after they wear new clothes in the early morning to perform the Eid prayer.

Then they have to visit their relatives to shake hands and congratulate each other on this occasion. Sweets and juice are prepared for visitors. Many kinds of sweets and juice are intro-

duced to the visitors who are either neighbours, relatives or friends.

In addition to that, families assemble together to have the lunch. Relatives and friends invite each others on the next day of Eid to have lunch and then chew Qat together. This of course, strengthens the relationship among families and relatives.

That is why, all malice's and antipathy expire from people, as Ramadan erases sins from fasting people. Eid Alfitr comes to obliterate all that malice's and hate. In Hodeidah, most families leave their homes and go to celebrate their happiness on the sea coast, parks, gardens and many other little far resorts.

They can go to many entertaining places such as Al Org resort which is about 40kg far of Hodeidah city on the Al Saleef road and Bura's mountain which takes an hour and half by the car.

There are also many fantastic farms



Families with their children celebrating Eid al-Fitr in Hodeidah



A breath-taking view of the waves that crash against the rocks accompanied with the music of nature

in Bajil's suburb. Cornice stretches on the sea coast of the city. There, people breathe pure air and can commune with silence and stillness of the sea at a time.

They also can listen to the weaves din shattered on the shore's rocks at another time. On the coast, the majority of people come to enjoy the wonderful golden sightliness at the sunset where

people meditate the mystery of the sea.

Some people prefer to spend their entertainment, in gardens or parks where children can enjoy the green and the games. There, families can also relax under the shade of excessive trees.

This is aside from the children who wear new colorful clothes playing on the green grass, increase all prettier.

Children really decorate the place as if a beautiful picture was painted carefully.

There is nothing more beautiful than children when their gladness begets wide sweaty smiles. Their smiles even help make fill us with comfort and renew our hope.

Many happy Eid and many happy returns!

Still used among tribes

The beauty of the Zamil

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Since the 1960s, Zamil (folk chants) is considered as one of the means for expressing one's attitude for many tribesmen in Yemen. The Yemeni tribes have great interest in folk chants to express themselves or to describe a particular attitude.

The Zamil, which is a means of expression among societies across Yemen, is composed of poetical stanzas to be delivered by a performer after it has been agreed by his followers. He can be authorized to do so on behalf of his tribe.

The Zamil does not exceed four stanzas in length, as it is common among different Yemeni tribes.

The Zamil varies according to the occasions on which it is delivered. We sometimes find that it is performed in the form of addressing a message and receiving its reply between two tribes.

On other occasions, Zamil may contain poetical stanzas to commend a certain tribe or to highlight its qualities and attributes. Great occasions saw Zamil delivered by famed Sheikhs and prominent tribesmen. The stance of the tribe towards a certain issue is reflected in the words and phrases contained in the Zamil.

Looking back to the stances of Yemeni tribes, in the conflicts

between republicans and royalists, we found that tribes supporting the royalists expressed their attitude through the following popular Zamil:

We will never be republicans even if we died out,

Even though yesterday turns into today and sun rises from Aden,

And even if the earth inflames and the sky throws bullets.

Zamil is chanted when members of the tribe arrange themselves in two rows and then perform the Zamil together, after the poet delivers the stanzas and they listen to him. They keep chanting till their arrival. When members of the other tribe receive them, they stop chanting to listen to the reply.

Continued from page 1

Al Qaeda sympathizers released

"The Committee has the job to show moderate Islam that is based on peace and the co-existence among people," said Al-Hitar. "In our dialogue, we can point to what is in the Holy Koran emphasizing peace and the co-existence among people. Any time there is an argument with the detainees, we open the Holy Koran and show them what it says."

Some have been concerned that some of the suspects may go back to radical ideas and belief after they are released.

"I support detainees being released if they did not commit a crime, but I'm not sure that their ingrained belief system can be changed," said a Yemeni analyst.

Al-Hitar claims, however, that along with the government monitoring those that have been released, the Dialogue Committee carries out follow-up sessions to guide the once-detained suspects of following a new

path.

"We continue to meet with those that have been released which reinforces their new beliefs," said Al-Hitar. "We want to make sure that the ideas and beliefs remain and really believe in them."

Al-Hitar said that the Dialogue Committee is also looking into developing a program to help those released reintegrate into society. The program will include assisting them to find jobs and offering guidance to adjust while being reintegrated. "We will help them adjust to become citizens and completely move away from extremist views," said Al-Hitar.

The Dialogue Committee's unique contribution to the war on terror runs parallel to the government's focus on increasing security nationwide. Since the government joined the United States to fight terror after the attacks on US soil on September 11, 2001, security forces have rounded up hun-

dreds of terrorist suspects, including key member of Al-Qaeda. Suspects charged of being involved in the bombing of the USS Cole at the port of Aden in 2000 and the French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen near Mukalla in 2002 were put on trial earlier this year. Last month, the Yemeni government said that no Al-Qaeda cells have remained in the country as a result of its focus on the war on terror.

Other countries are showing interest in the Dialogue Committee's approach. Al-Hitar said that governments in other parts of the world now contact him to learn about the committee's practices to convince suspects of turning away from violence. Last spring, Al-Hitar traveled to England to share his methods of dialogue with the British Foreign Office. Al-Hitar was also invited to attend the conference of Higher Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo.

Yemen on high alert to combat possible locusts swarm

He said that according to information Yemen obtained from Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Eritrea, Yemen is possibly to be swarmed by locusts coming from the Western coast of the

Red Sea.

However, Yemen is hopeful that the Saudi locusts' fighters' teams will be able to control the locusts swarm that invaded Tabook area as well as the

ability of Yemeni people in combating the locusts, mainly in the mountainous areas as people like eating locusts as they did in 1990.



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Iraq conference hears calls for full voting

U.S. tells Syria to work harder on border security

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Foreign ministers at an international conference on the political future of Iraq told the interim Iraqi government on Tuesday it must make sure as many people as possible take part in Jan. 30 elections.

In speeches in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, they said full participation was the key to reconciliation in Iraq, where insurgents are waging war on the government and its U.S. and British patrons.

Some Arab Sunni Muslim groups are threatening to boycott the elections, partly in protest at the foreign occupation. Iraqi officials have played down the gravity of the threat, which could weaken the legitimacy of a post-election government.

The 21 foreign ministers, from the United States, Europe, Japan, China and Arab and Middle East countries, have agreed in advance on a compromise statement which does not condemn the insurgency outright but puts the emphasis on political dialogue.

Egyptian Foreign Minister and host Ahmed Aboul Gheit told the opening session Iraq's salvation lay in making the election successful and ensuring that all "reasonable forces" take part.

"A consensus ... will not come about except by expanding the scope of dialogue between national forces, bridging the gap which divides the various parties and rejecting the politics of violence and intimidation," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said: "As we approach the elections, every effort must be made to provide incentives for the various Iraqi groups to participate in a national reconciliation process."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari gestures as he addresses a news conference during an international conference on the political future of Iraq in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, November 23. Foreign ministers told the interim Iraqi government that it must make sure as many people as possible take part in January 30 elections. REUTERS

Shara, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and European Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner made similar appeals.

"It is essential that polling take place in January, without postponement, and above that it should take place in all parts of the country. I hope that Iraqis of all religions and ethnic backgrounds will participate," said Ferrero-Waldner.

The ministers come both from governments which backed the U.S. and British invasion of Iraq last year and from governments which warned that

an invasion would be disastrous.

FRANCE CONCILIATORY

They say their aim is now to help restore internal peace and security in Iraq, where thousands of people have been killed since the invasion in daily acts of violence.

The statement prepared in advance advises the Iraqi government to call a meeting of as many political groups as possible before the elections to encourage full participation.

Foreign Minister Michel Barnier of France, one of the countries that most strongly opposed the invasion, said all

Iraqis had to "feel a sense of ownership".

"We are determined to make a success of the general elections ... They must be held across the country, in all fairness and be open to all those components of Iraqi society which accept the rules of democracy," he added.

In weeks of negotiations over the final statement, France failed to persuade the United States, Britain and the Iraqi government to accept a firm date for a troop withdrawal.

The text as it stands merely repeats the language of a U.N. resolution which, in effect, allows a future Iraqi government to invite U.S. and British forces to stay indefinitely.

Barnier returned to the theme on Tuesday, saying that for the sake of peace Iraqis must know that the troops will go.

He said the U.N. resolution, passed by the Security Council in June, means the mandate for the troops ends on Dec. 31, 2005.

"Hostility towards foreign troops leads many Iraqis to distance themselves from the process. It is therefore vital to recall this deadline and state clearly that Iraqis will have full mastery over their country's affairs, including over security and military issues," Barnier said.

But he also struck a conciliatory tone towards the United States and Britain, represented at the conference by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

"We all know what positions our different countries held in the period that led to the current situation developing. But today we must turn to the future. France, and Europe, are ready to do so," he said.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Nov 23 (Reuters) - The United States told Syria on Tuesday it should try harder to stop fighters, weapons and money crossing the Syrian border into Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell had talks in Egypt on Tuesday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara on border security, a chronic irritant in relations between Damascus and U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Syrians have taken some steps recently but we think there is a lot more they can do," Powell told a news conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where he and Shara were at a conference on the political future of Iraq.

"We discussed ... our desire to see

more done on the border, to prevent the flow of terrorists and weapons across the border. We discussed that rather directly," he said.

"We will try to provide as much information to the Syrians about the activity that is taking place in Syria that they really need to get on top of and do something about," he added.

Earlier this month Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said Syria had agreed to work with Baghdad on controlling the border to stop illegal crossings.

He said the Syrian government had responded positively to the Iraqi government's demands on border security.

Powell gave no details of U.S. reservations about Syria's efforts to prevent infiltration.



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, prepares to shake hands with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Shara before their talks at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, November 23, 2004 where a conference focusing on Iraq's stabilization is taking place. The conference involves Iraq's neighbours, Egypt, the Group of Eight industrialized nations, China, the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union. REUTERS

US, Iraqis sweep through "triangle of death"

BAGHDAD, Nov 23 (Reuters) - U.S.-led forces launched an offensive on Tuesday on a cluster of rebellious towns southwest of Baghdad in what has become popularly known as the "triangle of death", the U.S. military said.

"The joint Iraqi-U.S. force captured 32 suspected insurgents, including a number of high-interest individuals, in a series of early-morning raids some 50 miles (80 km) south of Baghdad," it said in a statement.

The new offensive, dubbed Operation Plymouth Rock in an apparent reference to the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, involves 5,000 American, British and Iraqi forces.

The push began in the town of Jabala but would stretch to several Sunni Muslim towns southwest of the capital where insurgents have long since banished police and rule the streets.

It comes weeks after a U.S.-led offensive to crush rebels in the Sunni town of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad.

Violence in Sunni areas has spiked since the start of the Falluja assault, which drew condemnation from some



In this undated picture, handed out by the U.S. military in Iraq, November 23, smoke billows from a suspected insurgent stronghold after it was struck by a U.S. aerial attack in the war-torn city of Falluja. Iraq's U.N. representative, Samir Shakir Sumaidaie, told Reuters that attacks on insurgents in Falluja made it easier to hold the elections because it had destroyed the base and infrastructure of groups seeking to rule the country. REUTERS

Sunni political groups and clerics who have threatened to boycott a Jan. 30 election in protest.

Long the main power in Iraqi poli-

tics, the 20-percent Sunni Arab minority fears domination by the 60-percent Shi'ite majority. Many Shi'ites have been particularly angered by attacks on Shi'ite pilgrims passing through the area southwest of Baghdad to the holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala.

The U.S. military said it was trying to cut lines of communication between rebels in the western Falluja area, Baghdad and the province of Babylon, southwest of the capital.

"In the past three weeks, Iraqi security forces and Marines have rounded up nearly 250 insurgents," it said, referring to the area of the present offensive.

"Since the joint force began operating together in mid-August, more than 600 anti-Iraqi elements have been taken out of action."

تحياتنا
أجمل التحاني والتبريكات للشباب الخلق
سمير مطهر الشامي
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فأله الله يبرهنه
المبتهنون / والدك مطهر الشامي وكافة آل الشامي الكرام
 محمد حميد الدين وكافة آل حميد الدين الكرام
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Buddhists "treated like 3rd class" in Thai south

YALA, Thailand, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Buddhists in Thailand's Muslim-majority south say they are being treated like "third-class citizens" as the government struggles to end months of ethnic and religious unrest that has killed nearly 500 people.

Fear has descended on the three southernmost provinces near the Malaysian border, and Thai Buddhists, who make up just 20 percent of the mainly Malay-speaking region's 1.8 million population, say their plight is being ignored.

Many of them are second or third generation Chinese Thais who form the backbone of the local economy — entrepreneurs running everything from grocery shops to construction firms, furniture factories and hotels.

But the almost daily bombings and shootings, which are being blamed on a resurgent Muslim separatist movement, are taking their toll on business, and support from the government in Bangkok, 1,100 km (700 miles) away, is not forthcoming, they say.

"Muslim spiritual leaders say Muslims in the south have been treated like second-class citizens, but I think Buddhists here have been treated like third-class citizens," one furniture factory owner told Reuters.

He did not want to give his name for fear of reprisals.

"The government sponsors 80 Muslims from the south to go to Mecca, but it doesn't give similar sponsorships to monks to study Buddhism in India," said the 60-year-old, who grew up in the southern province of Yala.

The region has a history of armed opposition to the mainly Buddhist administration in Bangkok, but never



A soldier tries to put out a fire burning in a school building in Thailand's largely Muslim province of Pattani 1,100 km south of Bangkok November 23. Five schools in Pattani were set on fire simultaneously on Tuesday night, one day after Buddhist police shot dead two Muslim militants who were trying to kill them. REUTERS

has he seen violence like the last 10 months, the man added.

Underscoring the severity of the problem, the deputy governor of Pattani province Sunthorn Rithipakdi was shot and wounded in the back as he visited the scene of an earlier shootout between suspected Muslim militants and two armed village volunteers.

However, following conflicting reports from PM Thaksin Shinawatra and interior ministry officials, it was unclear if he was shot by the same suspects or accidentally by one of his own party.

Five schools — a frequent target of militants along with other symbols of the government — were set on fire

in three separate districts of Pattani, police said.

RAW DEALS ALL ROUND?

Sawas Sumalyasak, the spiritual leader of Thailand's 6 million Muslims, said last week that most Thais look on Muslims as second-class citizens, an attitude that stirs resentment in the deep south, where many see themselves as Malay, not Thai.

But Buddhists say they too get a raw deal from corrupt and arrogant local officials and have suffered violence and crime at the hands of bandits and gangs for decades.

"Twenty years ago people were afraid of being kidnapped or threatened for protection money if bandits

thought they were rich," said another man who runs a road-building firm in Yala.

"Once you paid the ransom, you were safe for a while. But now you don't know who these people are and everyone from the poor to the rich have been living in fear."

Shops in Yala, which this year won a United Nations award as a "city of peace", now shut as early as 6 p.m., and schools finish an hour early to allow students to get home before sunset.

"Other cities are joining the government's energy saving campaign, but in Yala and two other southern provinces we have to use extra street lights to help the public feel more secure," said Yala Mayor Pongsak Yingchoncharoen.

His staff revealed the mayor usually wore a bullet-proof vest under his shirt to public functions.

Believing that the police and army cannot protect them, many Buddhists are arming themselves, or pulling up stakes and heading elsewhere.

The tourist industry, which is heavily reliant on Malaysians in search of sand, sex and shopping, has been particularly hard hit, leaving the region's pristine beaches and unspoilt mountain parks virtually empty.

Repeated requests from businessmen for state help have gone unanswered, as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra concentrates his efforts on a peace initiative involving the "bombing" of the south with millions of paper doves on Dec 5, the King's birthday.

"Sending paper birds is a good abstract gesture, but please also give us some concrete help," said one construction contractor.

U.N. urges support for E.Timor after pull out

DILI, Nov 23 (Reuters) - The U.N. agency in charge of peacekeeping in East Timor said on Tuesday the world's youngest country would continue to need international assistance after its personnel leave in May 2005.

The Security Council extended the life of the U.N. Mission of Support in East Timor, or UNMISSET, for a final six months last week, after Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued the country was still too fragile to stand on its own.

"It is clear that some form of continued international assistance will be indispensable in public administration, in particular in the justice and finance sectors," UNMISSET head Sukehiro Hasegawa told reporters in the capital Dili.

East Timor became independent in May 2002 after centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, 24 years of occupation by Indonesia and 2-3 years of U.N. administration.

The Timorese people voted overwhelmingly in an August 1999 referendum to break free of Jakarta, prompting a rampage by gangs supported by ele-

ments in the Indonesian army.

Around 1,000 people were killed in violence surrounding the vote, prompting Australia to send in troops to restore order. The U.N. then ran the territory until independence.

Hasegawa said a U.N.-backed judicial body sought to complete all 1999 violence-related investigations this month and the trials by May next year.

"However, the Serious Crimes Process will not be able to respond fully to the desire for justice to all victims of the violence in 1999," Hasegawa said.

"There will be several proposals from the continuation of the current (unit) to the establishment of an international tribunal or an international truth and reconciliation commission."

Dili has said it would prefer the last option so as not to antagonise its huge neighbour Indonesia.

UNMISSET numbered 11,000 troops and civilians when first authorised in 1999. It has dwindled to fewer than 1,000 now, including 472 troops and military observers.



The U.N. special representative to East Timor, Sukehiro Hasegawa, speaks at a news conference in Dili November 23. The U.N. agency in charge of peacekeeping in East Timor said on Tuesday the world's youngest country would continue to need international assistance after its personnel leave in May 2005. Reuters

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship Scheme



British Embassy
Sana'a

The British Embassy invites applications for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's **Chevening Scholarship Scheme**. This highly-competitive scheme offers full-time postgraduate scholarships of varying length to Yemeni women and men who will play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development.

Applicants, who must be under 40, should have a university degree and very good written and spoken English. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their potential and motivation to rise to positions of authority & influence.

Spouses and children are not funded under the scheme.

The deadline for applications is **6 December 2004**.

The application form and full information can be:

- Collected from the British Council, 3rd floor, Administrative Tower, Sana'a Trade Centre, Algiers Street, Sana'a,
- Posted upon request by calling: 448356/7/8/9.
- Downloaded from the British Council web site:

www.britishcouncil.org/yemen/education/scholar.htm

Applications are to be submitted only by mail to PO Box 2157, Sana'a.

For further information on the scheme please visit the following web site: www.chevening.com

You can also visit the web site: www.educationuk.org to find information on UK universities and available courses.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites applications for the following positions:

I. Senior Economist (ALD4) International

Main Duties:

Monitor economic and policy developments. Provide policy advice to the country office in the context of UN system's support to the government. Ensure the development of a coordinated approach and dialogue on socio-economic issues among national authorities, the UN system and other development partners, multilateral and bilateral donors.

II. Resource management Analyst (ICS-10 level) (National)

Main Duties:

Manage and supervise the Resource Management Unit. This includes the Financial Resources (oversees the financial management systems for programme and accounts, advise on UNDP financial policies and procedures, manage budgets etc.) Human Resources (manage all human resources matters concerning International/National staff members and consultants as well as all compensation issues and benefits; supervise the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Unit ensuring efficiency and achievement of results.

III. Service Centre Analyst (ICS9-level) (National)

Main Duties:

Plan and supervise all operations activities relating to office premises, equipment procurement, travel, privileges and immunities, immigration procedures, visas, missions, conferences and workshops, events, inventory, transportation management.

IV. Programme Associate (Environment) (ICS-6 level) (National)

Main Duties:

Assess the impact of sectoral socio-economic conditions and changes on the environment portfolio, collect and maintain relevant data and identify linkage opportunities. Draft appropriate sections of project documents, maintain a pipeline of proposals, arrange for appraisal processes and ensure linkages with other country and regional initiatives. Process mandatory and budgetary revisions, maintain records, documents.

V. Programme Assistant (ICS-5 level) (National)

Main Duties:

Maintain expenditure ledgers and verify, analyze and reconcile various programme expenditure reports. Maintain records, documents and work plans for the monitoring of project implementation. Draft correspondence, presentations.

VI. Webmaster/Developer – Service Contract (SC5/SC6 level) (National)

Main Duties:

Manage, maintain and help develop the UN website, UNDP's Internet, intranet, extranet websites and other external web projects such as for UNDP programmes.

VII. Registry Clerk – Service Contract (SC3/SC4) (National)

Main Duties:

Provide quality reception, photocopying and fax services to the office. Assist in sorting incoming correspondence using computer registration system. Draft routine correspondence and assist in facilitating transport fleet operational management. Keep updated directories and e-mail lists and distribute information.

For detailed terms of reference and required qualification for the positions, interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for to:

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The deadline for receiving applications for position I (Senior Economist) is Wednesday 15th December 2004 whilst for the remaining positions the deadline is Sunday, 5th December 2004. Response will only be made to short listed candidates.

China's Hu boosts Cuba ties in first visit

HAVANA, Nov 22 (Reuters) - China's President Hu Jintao arrived in Cuba on Monday on his first visit as Chinese leader to offer the Western Hemisphere's only communist state closer political and economic ties.

Hu praised the "heroic Cuban people" and urged them to continue building socialism under the leadership of President Fidel Castro, 16 years his senior and in power since 1959.

"We sincerely wish the Cuban people do not let up in their advance on the road of socialist construction," Hu said in a written greeting on his arrival from an Asia-Pacific summit in Chile. He was met by Castro's younger brother and designated successor, Raul.

Castro, who broke his knee in a fall in October, received his visitor sitting in a wheel-chair as they met for talks at the government headquarters, the Palace of the Revolution.

Diplomats in Havana said Hu's visit could not have come at a better time for Castro, who faces four more years of sanctions and pressure after the reelection of U.S. President George W. Bush.



China's President Hu Jintao (3rd-L) and Cuban President Fidel Castro (R) sit together for talks while meeting at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, November 22. Hu Jintao is in Cuba on an official two-day visit. REUTERS

Cuba is looking for trade and investment from China to pull up its economy, which has never fully recovered from the collapse of its former patron, the Soviet Union. Relations with the

European Union are at a standstill, Russia has little to offer Cuba and most of Latin America has other priorities.

Castro last week lauded China as the new "engine of the world economy, saying it would eclipse the United States and that Cuba was looking to China to double its nickel output.

China's state-owned Minmetals Corp. signed an agreement to invest in Cuban ferro-nickel production, with funding from the China Development Bank and guarantees from Sinosure, the Chinese Export and Credit Insurance Corp.

The joint-venture would allow Cuba to start up the unfinished Camarioca plant in Holguin province, which has been mothballed since Soviet backing disappeared.

China's largest financial conglomer-

ate, CITIC Group, agreed to negotiate setting up another joint-venture to explore untapped Cuban nickel deposits in central Camaguey province.

China will sell Cuba one million television sets with soft loans and rescheduled for 10 years free of interest four loans granted to Cuba between 1990 and 1994.

The two countries will also deepen cooperation in biotechnology, according to one of 16 accords signed.

Cuba was the first Latin American nation to establish ties with China in 1960, but Castro aligned Cuba with the Soviet Union and there was mistrust between Havana and Beijing.

Their more recent friendship was sealed during a landmark visit to Havana by former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin in 1993.

During Cuba's post-Soviet crisis, China shipped rice and bicycles to Cubans, while opening its market to Cuban sugar and nickel. It also became an important source of credit for the cash-strapped Cuban state.

While praising China's rapid growth under a one-party system, Castro has not followed the Chinese model of market socialism for Cuba, where timid openings in the 1990s of the highly centralized economy are being reversed.

Some two hundred Chinese businessmen crowded the verandas of Havana's Hotel Nacional Monday to attend seminars on opportunities in mining, oil, tourism and other industries.

"This country is still underdeveloped, so there are a lot of things that can be done," said Gao Weijie, chairman of the China Ocean Shipping Company Americas Inc.

Blair sets stage for election battle on security

LONDON, Nov 23 (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Tony Blair sets the stage on Tuesday for an election battle over crime and tackling terrorism when he outlines his legislative plans for the next parliamentary session ahead of a vote expected in May.

Proposals to curb crime ranging from street violence and drug abuse to terrorism will feature in the government's plans, which will be read out by Queen Elizabeth in a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament.

Blair, vying for a third term, wants to beef up his Labour Party's credentials on crime, aware that it is a prime concern of voters and an area where the opposition Conservative Party could make inroads, analysts said.

"This is an area of vulnerability (for Labour) and Blair wants to take pre-emptive action to outflank the Conservatives," said Wyn Grant, a politics professor at Warwick University.

Bills to introduce identification cards and set up a British version of the FBI, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, will be unveiled along with new powers to tackle drug barons, test suspected drug users and force addicts into treatment.

More controversial anti-terrorism measures - such as plans to use phone tap records in courts or for specialist courts without juries to try terror suspects - are not expected to feature in the Queen's Speech but may form part of Labour's election promises next year.

Blair's critics say many anti-crime

measures erode civil liberties. Some also accuse him of scaremongering over terror to win voters' support - the same charge Democrats levelled at U.S. President George W. Bush in the run-up to his re-election.

Mark Oaten, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, accused the government of creating a "climate of fear".

"In the run-up to a general election, both the home secretary and prime minister are starting to talk up issues of fear and crime," he told BBC radio. "The warning shot to them should be not to play politics with terror."

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said the government was responding to opinion polls. "All the polls show us people are concerned about crime and security," he said.

Regardless of his legislative plans, opinion polls suggest Blair will win a third term. An ICM survey for the Guardian newspaper last week put Labour on 38 percent and the Conservatives on 30 - the biggest gap found by ICM since May 2003.

Blair is expected to include a bill on the European Union constitution, which may say what question will be asked in a referendum in early 2006, after parliament debates the treaty.

Most Britons oppose the constitution, polls show.

Legislation to target animal rights activists who harass science researchers will also feature, along with a crackdown on unscrupulous money-lending.



Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Agriculture
and Irrigation
Groundwater & Soil
Conservation project

Announcement

(Vacancies for individual International Consultants)

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to assist in financing towards the cost of the Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project (GSCP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for recruitment of individual International Consultants whose Terms of References are given below:

1. IRRIGATION ENGINEERING ADVISOR

The Irrigation Advisor shall be a Civil/Irrigation Engineer with a minimum of 25 years of experience in planning design, implementation, and operation and maintenance of irrigation projects in arid and semi-arid regions. He shall have a degree in Civil Engineering and shall have administrative and managerial experience to enable him to assist the Project Management in the implementation of all project works. He shall have had experience with the design and implementation of buried conduits for the conveyance and distribution of irrigation water, in addition to spate improvement and water harvesting works. Proficiency in English will be required. The total period of assignment shall be 25 sm intermittently over 4 years. Proficiency in English will be required and knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage.

2. IRRIGATION ENGINEER (3 NOS.)

The Irrigation Engineer shall be a Civil Irrigation Engineer with a minimum of 15 years of experience of which at least 5 years shall be in the design, implementation, and operation and maintenance of irrigation projects in arid and semi-arid regions. He shall have a degree in Civil Engineering and shall have administrative managerial experience to enable him to assist the PCU and the Irrigation Advisor in the implementation of all project works. He shall have experience with the design and implementation of buried conduits for the conveyance and distribution of irrigation water, in addition to spate improvement water harvesting and bank protection works. The total period of assignment for each engineer is 10 sm in two period of 5-6 sm each. Proficiency in English will be required and knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage.

3. M & E SPECIALIST

The M & E Specialist shall be an Agricultural Economist/Economist with 15 years experience of which at least 5-10 years shall be in the field of M & E of agricultural/rural development projects which are externally financed. He shall have at least an MSc. Degree in Agricultural Economics / Economics. The M & E Specialist shall have a managerial experience, which enable him to advise and help the project management. His total assignment shall be 15 sm in three periods intermittently over 4 years period. The M & e Specialist shall be fluent in English Language and knowledge of Arabic Language would be an asset

4. IRRIGATION AGRONOMIST

The Irrigation Agronomist shall have MSc Degree in Agronomy (Irrigation) with 15 years practical and research experience in irrigated agricultural with track record of practical irrigation experience with spate, water harvesting, piped conveyance and localized irrigation systems and working with Water Users Groups/Associations and cost-sharing. A good knowledge of both English and Arabic would be necessary. The total period of assignment shall be 6 sm in two periods intermittently over three years.

5. DAMS DESIGNS ENGINEER

The Dams Engineer shall be a qualified Civil Engineer with an M.Sc degree in Dams/Hydraulic Engineering and having a minimum experience of 15 years of which 10 years must have been in the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of medium and small sized dams. Proficiency in English will be required and knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage. The total period of assignment shall be 3 sm. The Consultant is required to provide assistance to the engineers of the General Director of irrigation in establishing design and safety norms for investigation, construction, supervision and maintenance of small dams and similar structures.

6. HYDRAULIC ENGINEER (SPATE WORKS DESIGN)

The Hydraulic Engineer shall be a qualified Civil/Irrigation Engineer with an M.Sc. degree in Hydraulic Engineering and having a minimum experience of 15 years of which 10 years must have been in the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of medium and small dams, spate and water harvesting structures. Proficiency in English will be required. Knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage. The total period of assignment is 2 months intermittently for two periods of one month each to provide technical assistance to the "General Directorate of Irrigation" in providing design and safety norms for design, construction, supervision and O&M of similar structures to be implemented in EGMA.

7. GEOLOGIST

The Geologist shall have an MSc degree in Geology with a practical experience of not less than 15 years in geological investigations of water retaining structures such as small and medium dams storing water. The Geologist shall work under the overall supervision of GDI. Proficiency in English is required. Knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage. The total period is 15 days.

8. HYDROGEOLOGIST

The Hydro-geologist shall have an M.Sc. degree in Hydrogeology with practical extensive experience of not less than 15 years in hydrogeology and geophysics. Experience will be required in the utilization and conservation of water basins and water resources project planning. The Hydro-geologist shall be able to design and interpret groundwater mathematical models and shall have experience in the use of computer systems for water resources planning. The Hydro-geologist shall work under the over-all supervision of GDI. A good knowledge of English will be necessary and working knowledge of Arabic would be desirable. The total period of assignment is 15 days.

9. QUALITY CONTROL EXPERT

The Quality Control Engineer shall be a Civil/Irrigation Engineer with a minimum of 15 years experience in the design, construction and O&M of small dams in the arid and semi-arid regions. He shall have a MSc degree in Civil/Irrigation Engineering and shall be fully conversant with international standards for quality control of materials, construction and soil and material testing in the field as well

as in the laboratory. Proficiency in English will be required and a working knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage. The total period of assignment is 15 days.

10. HYDROLOGIST

The Hydrologist shall have an MSc. Degree in Hydrology with extensive experience of not less than 15 years in surface and groundwater hydrology, irrigation and water resources projects and be fully conversant with the use of the computerized methods in water resources analysis. The Hydrologist shall have practical experience with the installation and maintenance of Hydrological and water cycle monitoring equipment in addition to being familiar with water resources analysis procedures. The Hydrologist shall work under the overall supervision of the GDI/CWMU. Proficiency in English will be required and a working knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage. The total period is 2 sm intermittently for two periods of one month each.

11. Public Awareness Expert

The Public Awareness Expert (Communication Expert) shall have an MSc Degree in Sociology or Journalism and Mass Communications and shall have a minimum of 15 years experience of which 10 years shall be in the field of designing and implementing public information and awareness campaigns in the agriculture and rural sectors with emphasis on soil and water conservation. He shall be fully conversant with the various media broad casts, audio-visual displays, print medias etc and should be able to create messages through these medias for public information and awareness on the participatory management and conservation of groundwater and on the need of not expanding the groundwater irrigated areas in Yemen with a view to Arrest rapid decline of groundwater aquifer level. The expert shall work under the over-all supervision of National Water Resources Authority Chairman and Sector Head of MIS. A good knowledge of both English and Arabic would be necessary. The total period of assignment for the assignment shall be 2-3 sm and shall be in 3-4 periods over three years.

More details of the TORS can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the Director of PCU whose address is give below on or before 11th December 2004.

Groundwater and Soil Conservation project
Al-Hay El-Seyasi, near Djibouti Embassy
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
P.O. Box No. 18733
Tel. 445315/443219, Fax: 445261
e-mail: GSCP@yemen.net.ye

Words of Wisdom

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

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

OUR
OPINION“Al-Wala’a,
la al-Kafa’a”
is useless

Based on my observation and experience it seems to me that the way Arab regimes appoint and empower the people around them is the main reason behind the repressiveness and backwardness in Arab countries.

“Al-Wala’a, la al-Kafa’a” is the Arabic phrase that explains the way that Arab regimes manage their countries. It is literally translated “Loyalty not qualifications.” This implies that Arab regimes think that the ones who are eligible to run the country’s affairs need to be loyal rather than qualified. In other words, what is important for the regime is to ensure that every decision-maker hired will first obey the regime’s commands and be totally loyal to it before he or she could be appointed.

This has limited the chances that any minister, or high ranking official could raise his/her voice to his president and disagree with the president’s way of thinking or orders, even if they believe their orders to be wrong.

Meanwhile, those who have an honest attitude who cannot compliment the wrong doings of their president would be neglected or punished for such behavior.

Yet it is impossible for any country to develop unless the president is aware of the need to give preference to qualified and honest people over those puppets who fear their president’s anger more than they fear for the people or the country.

On the other hand, one should not expect a lot from officials who continuously look for ways to please their boss rather than help the country develop and prosper.

Here is an opportunity to point out to some newly appointed officials who have slowly started to break this rule.

For example, the new governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi has demonstrated that the budget he receives for the governorate is now more wisely used to focus on the priorities of the city rather than paying tens of millions of Yemeni rials of the budget to publish congratulatory messages to greet the president for Eid or other national occasions.

Al-Shuaibi can greet the president with a fax or a cable message. There is no need to spend millions of rials just for the sake of showing the world that he greeted the president.

I remember the time when I visited Iraq before the war in 2003. I noticed how poverty was evident in every street and every lane of the city and also realized the increasing number of beggars everywhere. Yet at the same time, golden statues would be built to glorify the president then, Saddam Hussein, in an attempt to show their loyalty and respect to his person, even if that meant spending millions of US dollars from the public budget to let the president know how much they admire him.

I believe that the era for such beliefs and acts is now over, and if there is a better way forward, then it would be to focus more on the country and people’s interest. Arab officials need to know that they work for a whole country and not for a boss who appointed them.

But in order for this change to occur, the mentality of “Al-Wala’a, la al-Kafa’a” needs to change for good in the minds of our leaders. When will ever start realizing the hopelessness in this phrase?

The Editor

Letters to the Editor

Tourism and plastic bags
don’t coexist

Yemen also has what tourists don’t want: Nothing is uglier than towns, places and trees covered with plastic bags. In issue 785 we learned that plastic bags are dangerous, but only in respect to what is carried in them. Nobody seems to care about dangers by throwing them away. Thus the aesthetic aspect is not the most important, but as for tourists, they are shocked to see how the loveliest landscape and architectural highlights are disguised. I worked as a tour guide in Yemen for 15 years and it is the country I like the most but each time I am upset about the waste and the missing responsibility of parents to teach their children about nature and creation and the missing respect towards the well-known sentence: al-nazzafa min al-iman!

Hanne Schönig
schoenig@owz.uni-halle.de

Tips to promote
tourism in Yemen

I have been to Yemen for two months now for studying Arabic in Sana’a. Every single weekend I have traveled around and I can only agree with all those articles in divers newspapers that Yemen is an amazing country that has lots to offer to tourists.

There are certainly plenty of measurements that could be undertaken to increase tourism which cannot be influenced by the average Yemeni. However, there are also things that can be done by everyone to make visitors enjoy Yemen even more.

One point is definitely the cleanliness of towns and villages. While Sana’a is one of the cleanest towns on earth, there are lots of appalling examples of really filthy places. According to what I read, cleanliness is considered an Islamic duty. So how is it possible that places like Manakha (just to name one) are covered with thrown away plastic bags and bottles? How can people live in such a dirt? Sure, I have not seen a single trash can but I do not consider that as an excuse to simply throw garbage on the street. If it wasn’t for the beautiful surroundings, I would discourage any tourist from visiting these dirty places. It is not that difficult to keep a neighborhood clean - and every single Yemeni can easily contribute to that.

Another point is education of kids. I am sure that most parents teach their children manners. However, there are too many kids who seem to go crazy without their parents watching over them. So far it happened to me three times that kids threw stones at me. I can only assume that the reason was my refusal to give them money. When I started to explain my problems to the tourist police, they immediately asked me if somebody threw stones at me. So it seems that this problem is rather common.

Furthermore, these days plastic guns are sold all over. I did not even know that those actually function until I felt this sharp pain on my leg. Meanwhile almost daily. Even when other adults watched the scene, I have never experienced their dis-

approval. On the contrary, I was explained that those are kids happily playing. I am very sorry, I don’t share this view. I got hurt and no matter if it is stones or plastic gun ammunition, it may be quite dangerous if one gets hit in the face for example.

Although I have been traveling in about 30 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, things like that have never ever happened to me. So how come, foreigners are treated this way in Yemen? How come parents do not punish their kids for such behavior? Why don’t other adults stop those kids from shooting with ammunition? How come that Yemeni kids even get the idea that throwing stones or shooting people is somehow acceptable behavior? Also this is some issue every single Yemeni can influence.

I am very sorry to say that the dirt of some places but especially the behavior of those Yemeni kids affect my enjoyment of traveling in Yemen considerably. And both are completely unnecessary. Yemen is such a beautiful country that certainly deserves lots of visitors. So I hope that more and more Yemenis become aware of those problems and stand up to solve them, insha’allah.

A. Scholze
asonnenkinder@hotmail.com

About “the Rule of
law editorial”

I found the editorial published in issue 788 entitled “The rule of law: An urgency” to be an informative article. I believe that corruption should be punished at all costs. How can a government work against these tactics?

That “fresh start” is not only needed but should be the basic plan on which progress can be made and I feel it will be made, with good work. Citizens and the government can and should work together. Gradually there will be progress. I believe enforcement of the law is indeed the best thing to do.

Barbara K
Kamelsqueen@yahoo.com

Haifi’s article was excellent!

I believe that Hassan Al-Haifi’s Common Sense column of last week entitled “Any hopes for the coming years?” was indeed an excellent article and one of the best I’ve read in the Yemen Times.

I would emphasize that without the extreme Christian fanatics backing Bush, he would not have been elected to another 4 year term. Bush’s description of the invasion of Iraq as a “Crusade” is what it’s all about. The majority of people in the U.S. wanted Moslem blood in revenge for 9-11 and Mr. Bush is giving it to them by the carload. The world is about to see what Mr. Bush can do with his new thermonuclear “gravity” bombs.

Robert Lindh
lindh@swnebr.net

A Belgian prays for Arafat

I am Belgian (with English roots). I saw the burial of President Arafat at the TV with a deep emotion. He was a hero and a martyr and a man I admired very much. It was nice to see all the Arabs Heads of States at Cairo for the ceremony. I pray God for his soul and for Palestine.

Kenneth Heselwood
kenneth.heselwood@skynet.be

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

“English Language Instructor”

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

Required Qualifications:

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

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

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

Grade/Salary: EFM/MOH/Non Ordinary Resident: FP-07 or FP-06 (to be confirmed by Washington) Ordinary Resident: FSN-07-08 (Depending on qualifications).

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dahar Himyar Street, P. O. Box 22347, Sana’a, Yemen, Tel: 303-155, Fax: 303-182 no later than December 05, 2004.

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

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

No personal grudges
against the USA, but...

One of the most distressing characteristics found in much of the feedback emanating from those who seem to have a strong appreciation for just about anything that the Bush Administration does or says is that it take any dissenting or opposing opinion as manifesting a strong grudge by the opinion maker or critic against the United States. In addition, it appears that the Bush dictum: “Either you are with us or against us”, is firmly implanted in the minds and hearts of such rejecters of anyone having differing views on the policies of the United States, either at home or abroad. This rather simplistic and premature judgment is neither healthy or reasonable from people who supposedly believe that they are actually working or backing the efforts to promote and disseminate democracy and human rights (Very seldom, though, has the Bush Administration cited the human rights side of their self-assigned international mission in their claims of undertaking this messianic mission). Even if these critical opinions come from the people who are the most concerned or affected by the American actions here and there, it is always viewed as unacceptable and portraying a demonic grudge on the part of the critic.

In most cases, the negative feedback referred to above, does not actually argue the case for the US, or attempt to stick to the subject under discussion. More often than not, such feedback veers off on tangents and leans towards the personal; i.e., the defenders of the Bush Administration or US policies take it for granted that any criticism thereto is tantamount to an inescapable animosity harbored by the critics of the US towards anything or everything American. Seldom have those who view criticism against Mr. George Bush as purely anti-Americanism seek to convey a true familiarity with the actual situation on the ground, where the policies involved are at play, or simply underscore the uncompromising stance of many ultra right-wing thinkers that only their positions have any form of acceptability and all else simply should be thrown to the incinerator (They would not even accept the recycle bin). In fact, the unfortunate attitude as such, seems to show look of any concern, if not contempt for the viewpoints of those who would stand to be directly affected by the actions associated with US foreign policy. Nor do they display any consideration for the awful consequences that arise out of these supposedly messianic missions that the ultra right in the United States have taken upon themselves to deliver.

This rather simple and premature attitude towards the opinions of others, in some cases goes beyond just rejecting differing viewpoints, but is carried further, in some cases, to insults or insinuations that are irrelevant, bigoted and reflective of an intolerance that points to a considerable degree of naivety and uncompromising dogmatic position: totalitarian tendencies.

As such, one would like to say to such defenders of the Bush Administration and the ultra right wing agenda that the neo-cons in the United States seem to be espousing that their attitude only reinforces the contention that perhaps the American people are indeed losing their capacity to reason and to judge events in their right perspective. What is also ironic in such attitude is that, those criticizing US current policy, view such attitude as really being un-American and tend to work to foment stronger anti-US feeling.

If the recent elections in the United States have proven anything, it is that half the people of the United States have shown that they are opposing present US policy at home and abroad and feel that the Bush Administration is neither representing the values that Americans are expected to stand for (which to many people throughout the world were worthy of praise and even emulation), nor the directions they wish for America to be set upon. This 50/50 split is not healthy in any given society, and is bound to lead to significant complications in determining the trend that the US should embark on. Yet, it seems that the Bush Administration actually interprets its very narrow win (irrespective of the obviously unorthodox tactics that might have been used to reach such results) as an indisputable mandate from the American people that the course that they are on is the only right course to pursue. So, their attitude is now, well America and World, “you ain’t seen nothing yet!”

When reason and prudence tend to take a back seat in any regime that is blessed with the awesome might of the United States with such polarized tendencies in the society, one is bound to conclude that the world is in for some serious pondering: What do the American people really want from the rest of the world? Is America simply turning into a big bully that has little regard for the hopes and aspirations of the rest of humanity? Should any nation, even with the might of the United States, simply be allowed to unleash its destructive power wherever and whenever its inconsiderate dogmatic leaders take it.

Often, there is discussion of how the United States presidential race was decided because of the strong “moral” convictions held by the right wingers, etc. They point to the attitude towards abortion and gay rights, which the latter presumably oppose, and which won over many “Catholics” to the right wing electorate. Are the moral issues of abortion and gay rights more significant than the senseless and premature daily death of tens and sometimes hundreds of Iraqis killed (by Americans and “insurgents” alike) by the venue created by a hastily arranged military adventure, which lacks any logical or rational justifications, and underscores the misuse of power and might. Furthermore, there is the tragic misuse of institutional arrangements and media to direct public opinion based on deception, innuendos that have no basis and the tickling of arrogant sentiments that belie any inclination to moral stausion and shows contempt for the intellect of the human mind to determine where true morality lies.

So, the observer at this juncture, deems it necessary to reintroduce some sense to those who blaspheme critics of the current US Administration and to remind them that we are all living in this world together. Morality and submission to the will and dictates of God Al-Mighty certainly go beyond saving unborn babies or accepting or rejecting social deviates, who have lost all sense of natural instinct because of the complexities created by a military industrial complex that needs ongoing death to thrive.



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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana’a

Email: yementimes@yementimes.com
Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches:
Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596;
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttai@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (3) 206-886

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Can't bring freedom with force

Gunboat democracy?

By RALF DAHRENDORF

In one sense, Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were also weapons of mass distraction. Without doubt, President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair believed that Saddam Hussein either had, or had the wherewithal to produce, such weapons when they decided for pre-emptive war. In the case of Iraq, there was particular fear of chemical and biological weapons.

But WMD were not the only motive for war. Both leaders were outraged about a murderous dictator and hoped that toppling him would open the door for democracy in Iraq. This (they hoped) would automatically bring about a degree of stability that would help resolve other conflicts in the region, and also guarantee the uninterrupted flow of oil.

Mixed motives are not necessarily bad motives. In fact, most human motives are mixed. The real question is whether democracy could really have done the trick, and then, whether missiles and tanks are the right method to

bring democracy to a country that has suffered dictatorial rule for a long period of time.

Historical precedents played a part in the Iraq decision, not least because President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, cited them often. One example is Nazi Germany. To be sure, the Allies did not enter that war to bring democracy to Germany. In any case, Germany started the war. The Allies defended those to whom they were bound by treaty, and then the integrity of their own countries.

Perhaps the entry of the United States into the (European) war had something to do with the post-war order. But there were actually two views about that order. One was that Germany should be flattened and reduced to a pre-industrial society from which no effective aggression could ever emerge again. The other was that Germany should be helped on the way to democracy.

As it happened, the protagonists of the first view were sidelined and the proponents of democratization prevailed. Indeed, the US was effective in using its "soft power" to build democ-

racy in post-war Germany, though Britain was better. Democratic manners came more naturally to the British occupation forces.

The second example, the end of the Cold War in 1989, was also a success story. Of course, communism's collapse was not the result of a pre-emptive strike by the West (though the arms race helped drive the system to implosion). After 1989, however, Western assistance, not least by the US and Britain, eased the transition to democracy, the rule of law, and market economies in most post-communist countries.

So why does this not seem to work in Iraq? Evidently, differences of culture and circumstances abound. Even so, why has so little come of the intention of the Iraq war's leaders to give democracy a chance in that country?

One reason is that bringing democracy with missiles and tanks is almost a contradiction in terms. Democracy is by definition a peaceful method of settling conflicts. Of course, the bombing of Dresden in 1945 was not exactly peaceful. One must doubt whether it contributed anything to making democ-



racy more acceptable after WWII. Still, when the fighting was over, the bombing stopped for good, and out of the tanks came people who were intent on creating democratic conditions and capable of doing so.

There is much talk these days about "hard" and "soft power," about America having one and Europe the other. In fact, the two belong together. Soft power without the backing of hard power changes little: witness Iran. On the other hand, hard power without soft power means only destruction. It is the greatest single weakness of the US forces that in 2004 – contrary to 1945 – they do not have the capacity to stop

the bombing, get out of their tanks, and encourage indigenous democratic development from the bottom up.

Where such capacity exists, there would also be recognition of the fact that democracy does not mean the same institutions in all cultural contexts. If there are elections in Iraq in January – and this is a very big "if" – they may not resolve much. Involving the people and providing for peaceful conflict resolution may require institutions peculiar to the region and its history.

It is a great shame that so many Europeans have steered clear of Iraq with a mixture of self-righteousness and anti-American *Schadenfreude*.

Greater European input might have balanced the "hard power" of the US military machine with the "soft power" of Europe's experience of diversity and of dealing with post-war situations.

In fact, Europe's failure is not just a shame, but a historic calamity. Missiles and tanks alone cannot bring democracy, but coupled with the civil power of sensitive help for the defeated, democracy can be adapted to Iraq and the rest of the Middle East.

Ralf Dahrendorf, author of numerous acclaimed books and a former European Commissioner from Germany.

Dutch go through soul-searching

Holland after van Gogh

By NORBERT BOTH AND NABIL TAOUATI

The murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh and the ensuing arson attacks against mosques, churches, and Islamic schools have caused more soul-searching in Dutch homes in the last week than in the past two decades. The old Netherlands, it seems, has ceased to be, never to return.

The goal now must be to unite the Dutch people. This will require much work on the part of both immigrants and native Dutch. As long as moderates keep their heads, a new Netherlands may be born out of the terrible events of the past weeks.

It is often said of the various immigrant groups in the Netherlands that they lack the ability to "cleanse themselves" through honest self-appraisal and criticism. There are many who acknowledge this and want to change.

Non-committal multiculturalism has long kept the conservatism of Dutch Moroccans and Dutch Turks hidden from the public eye. Among immigrants, soul-searching is closely related to belonging and commitment, which in practice boils down to feeling part of society and feeling responsible for the city, neighborhood, and street where you live.

We native Dutch also find it hard to hold a mirror to ourselves. We are bad listeners and air our views whether or not we have thought deeply about them. There is a lack of self-examination. As a result, many people no longer understand themselves, which makes it hard for them to understand others. Freedom of expression is becoming a caricature.

When asked what it was like to be interviewed by Theo van Gogh, European Commissioner Frits Bolkestein said, "He was impertinent, and that is a good thing; he was offensive, and that is not." It is as simple as that. In today's Netherlands, assertive-

ness is seen as a good thing, modesty as a form of self-chastisement. Respect is for wimps!

Moral relativism has damaged public life. Many youngsters now see politics as a kind of computer game. It is no longer about message or content – it is just one more form of entertainment, and what matters is who wins and who loses. Context has been lost.

Extreme ideas offer an alternative compass to disoriented souls like Mohammed Bouyeri, van Gogh's suspected murderer. He is not so much a product of zealous imams from rural Morocco as of the West's information society. The gospel of Muslim extremism has found a global market through the Internet. Something similar is happening on the extreme right, with "white power" offering an apparent certainty to youngsters who are adrift.

The real struggle is about ideas. Indeed, what is most ominous is that extremists realize this more clearly than the moderate, silent majority, who find

the noise irritating but do not know how to start a serious dialogue.

Meanwhile, tolerance degenerates into multicultural segregation. We do not live together, but in isolation from each other. The Turkish-Dutch headmaster of the Muslim school in Uden that was burned down after van Gogh's murder voiced the inhibitions we all feel when he asked, rhetorically, "Is the enemy not within us?"

A revived permissive society is not the answer. The state must battle terrorism, public space must not be abandoned to extremists, and Islam in Europe must adapt to Europe. People who live in a society they hate, amidst people they despise, cannot contribute to a shared future. Life in Europe will only remain worth living if all cultures and religions accept the laws that represent the common interest.

So a European Islam is needed urgently. It can be given shape by, for example, training imams in Europe, by encouraging mosques to promote social

cohesion in their neighborhoods, and by more active participation by Muslims in the public debate.

At the same time, native Europeans must learn to accept that Islam may offer new vantage points on such moral issues as euthanasia, abortion, individuality, and solidarity. This way Islam could really become a source of inspiration for the European community of values.

If we want to build something better on the ruins of multicultural indifference, our dialogue must become more profound. Prejudice must make way for empathy, and alienation for respect. Essentially, this is all about giving a new meaning to solidarity, beyond the left-right dichotomy.

It is time for a civilizing mission that will emerge from society itself and bring people together. This mission must also reflect a new politics that does not accentuate differences, but

helps shape a new sense of who "we" are.

The Netherlands need not be the focus of international religious conflict. What is precious must be preserved, and what enriches must be absorbed. This process must begin in school. Children must learn that they do not live in a monoculture, but in a pluralist society bound together by universal values and common laws. They must learn that critical thought is valuable, and that doubt is healthy.

Restoring the past is not an option. Rudderless societies are easy prey for bigotry. This is not just a matter for politicians. All of us must help turn Europe's motto "unity in diversity" into a genuine guiding principle.

Norbert Both is a political scientist and co-author of the book Srebrenica: Record of a War Crime; Nabil Taouati is a business economist.

Palestinians in East Jerusalem convinced Arafat is gone

By ERICA SILVERMAN

East Jerusalem – As the world awaits official confirmation of Yasser Arafat's condition, Palestinians in East Jerusalem are convinced their beloved leader has already died.

As Palestinians observed Laylat-al-Qadr, the Night of Power, the streets were filled with people attending prayer at Al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City. Bursts of violence broke out on Salah Ed-Din Street, a main thoroughfare in the East leading directly to Herod's gate entering the Old City. Groups of young men hurled glass bottles at Israeli soldiers and set tires aflame in front of the police station, expressing anxiety over the perceived loss of their leader.

Families and young couples moved swiftly to avoid the violence and just 50 meters away near Damascus Gate shopping and festivities in anticipation of the Ein Eftir continued. As groups of young men near the gate threw rocks at Israeli soldiers, taunting them

repeatedly, the soldiers responded and rushed through the shopping area chasing the men into the Old City.

As the soldiers tried to make their way through the maze of tables, many vendors closed due to the damage that ensued. The confusion was peppered with firecrackers set off every evening during the month of Ramadan. Israeli police and security forces rapidly set up additional check points around the Eastern part of the city, particularly near the Old City and on the roads bordering and leading to West Jerusalem.

Largely desensitized to violence the Palestinians continued to engage in their activities, although the streets were chaotic. As soldiers rushed forward through shards of flying glass, an older gentleman stopped to offer tea to those who gathered to watch. Menal, a twenty-five year old Palestinian student at Al Quds University, stated that she believes Arafat has already died, although in her heart she hopes he is still alive.

She explained that she identifies with him as the leader of the Palestinian people and knows him, a

common sentiment amongst Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Many people speak of a personal connection to Arafat, either through their employment or a relative, giving the impression a family member has been lost and not just a political leader. "I wish he would return just to see the look on Sharon's face," she mused.

A Palestinian waiter at the Ambassador Hotel choked back tears and said he was so upset over "Arafat's death" that he had not been able to eat and break the daily fast of Ramadan. A tense sadness presided over the city that was not present during other Ramadan nights, although the emotional outpour found in Gaza and the West Bank was not visible here in Jerusalem.

In the Muslim Quarter of the Old City shops continued to accommodate the steady flow of people. Hamza, a twenty-two year old shop keeper, stated that "Every Palestinian feels upset; he is one of us."

He spoke of Arafat as the "symbol of the Palestinian people," and the "son of Jerusalem," indicating when the time comes he should be buried in

Jerusalem, although he views Ramallah as a close second. Palestinians in Jerusalem are skeptical whether new leadership, even that of Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and Mahmoud Abbas, will fight for their rights in the way that Arafat did, and will retain the vision of Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Hamza attributed the stronger reaction of the Palestinians in Gaza and Ramallah to their close proximity to Muqata, Arafat's tattered headquarters, and the harsh living conditions of the occupied territories as compared to Jerusalem.

There is a great deal of uncertainty for the Palestinians in East Jerusalem; uncertainty over the details of Arafat's illness and purported death, uncertainty over his burial, uncertainty surrounding a transfer of power to new leadership, and uncertainty over the authority of the coming elections. There has been very little criticism of Arafat since he was flown to Paris for treatment; instead solidarity of support for a beloved leader has been displayed.

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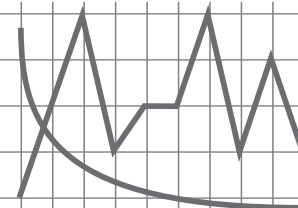


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YT Business



An interview with Mustapha Rouis

New World Bank manager arrives

This week Mustapha Rouis arrived in Sana'a to take over the position of Country Manager at The World Bank in Yemen. Rouis has been working with The World Bank for over 25 years. He has been the Lead Economist and Country Manager at different times throughout his career and has experience in East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Central Asia and Latin America.

The World Bank has been working closely with the Yemeni government since the mid-90s in a number of areas for development, such as health, education and economic reform. Rouis is replacing the previous Country Manager, Robert Hindle, who finished his three-year stint in Yemen at the end of September.

Rouis talked to Yemen Times reporter Peter Willems about his view of working on the development in Yemen and possible results in the future.



Mustapha Rouis, Country Manager at The World Bank based in Sana'a, Yemen (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Q: What is your first impression of Yemen now that you will be working to assist the development in a number of areas?

A: First of all, let me say that I am delighted to have the opportunity to work on Yemen. I have heard a lot about the kindness of the Yemeni people and their huge cultural wealth. Second, the World Bank and Yemen have a very close relationship and partnership aimed at improving the welfare of the people, with particular focus on reducing poverty. Though I am not yet familiar with Yemen, my first impression is that Yemen is faced with a lot of challenges.

Many of them are related to the areas of human development, including education, health, population and gender. If you look at the human development indicators and compare Yemen to other countries, it doesn't take you very long to realize that the challenges

facing Yemen are daunting.

The second challenge facing the country is with respect to the resources of growth. The main source of growth in this country has been the oil sector, a non-renewable resource. Sooner or later it will pose a challenge for the country, both in terms of government revenue and foreign exchange earnings. Unless the country starts to diversify away from the energy sector, the challenge will be magnified. In focusing on the non-energy sectors, the emphasis should be placed on having an investment climate conducive to private sector development.

The third challenge facing Yemen is weak institutional capacity at all levels, be it in the government or the private sector, and it is very much linked to the first factor which is human development. Institutional capacity usually covers the ability to formulate policies and development programs;

implement them; monitor them; and evaluate them.

Q: Could you give more details on how to help increase investments in the country, particularly private investment?

A: One of the key ingredients for growth and development is having a good investment climate. The investment climate covers the legal and regulatory environment, the governance, the infrastructure and the macroeconomic framework. For investment to take place, be it foreign direct investment or domestic investment, the enabling environment has to be conducive to investment.

One of the prerequisites for growth is a stable macroeconomic framework which is characterized by low inflation and a market-determined interest rate and foreign exchange rate. Controlling inflation comes from a combination of factors, including maintaining a prudent fiscal and monetary policy. Although Yemen has maintained

until quite recently a stable macroeconomic framework, I understand that this framework is now under stress. The budget deficit is widening and inflation has increased dramatically, so these indicators need to be reversed.

The second factor influencing positively the investment climate is good governance which encompasses transparency, accountability and rule of law, to mention a few. I think that Yemen has made some progress in these areas, but a lot remains to be done.

The third area is infrastructure. It includes energy, telecommunication, roads, ports and the like, all of which are in need of improvement.

The fourth one is the legal and regulatory framework. I think from what I know so far, the country is doing pretty well on that. But the question is the enforcement of laws.

In addition to the three broad areas I have just mentioned, it is critical, as stated in the 2000 World Development Report on poverty, to empower the people to have a voice in the economic development of the country.

Once you work at the community and grassroots levels, there are a number of advantages. One is that you are responding to the needs of those communities, so you are not way off from their priorities. It also helps ensure better use of resources, through better transparency and accountability.

Lastly, even if you do all these things, you focus on the economic fundamentals and on the empowerment of the beneficiaries, sometimes it is not enough to eradicate poverty. There may still be a need for direct intervention through the implementation of social safety nets. That's where social investment funds or similar arrangements like that are important.

Q: The World Bank has mentioned that the Yemeni government needs to pick up the pace of economic reform. Do you expect the Yemeni government to implement reform at a faster pace in the future?

A: The World Bank has had an excellent relationship with the government. My job is to continue on that road. I think I have the benefit in my particular case of being an economist. I can devote more time to economic issues, which are looming high on the

agenda. I hope I will be of help to make a difference.

But at the end of the day, the help that comes from the outside is not as important as the commitment from the country. One thing is for sure: Retarding the implementation of critical reforms can only exacerbate the problems down the road, a situation which neither the government of Yemen nor its development partners would like to be in.

Q: The World Bank has mentioned that lending to Yemen may change if it does not see different results in the future. Would you like to comment on that?

A: Money is not the issue really. The contribution of The World Bank is not just lending. It is carrying out analytical work, transferring knowledge and best practice, providing policy advice, providing technical assistance and then the transfer of resources. Usually there is a tendency in some countries of seeing The World Bank as purely a lending agency, when, in fact, the other aspects are equally, if not more, critical in promoting development.

Getting back to lending, the level depends on a number of factors, including the performance of the portfolio and the speed of implementation of policy reforms. The World Bank will soon embark on the preparation, in a consultative manner, of the next Country Assistance Strategy for Yemen in which all these questions will be addressed.

Q: Do you believe there will be positive results coming from economic reform down the road?

A: It has been well established both in the literature and in empirical analysis of the strong link between reform and growth. It is also well known that successful countries are those that spend say 10% or so on figuring out what to do and 90% on implementation. Those that do the opposite end up with a less successful outcome. We are looking forward to Yemen to turn things around.

It is my job to listen carefully. I don't come with specific answers. I will share experience of what has worked well in other countries and less so in others. In a context where capacity is very limited, one has to focus on

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	185.1800	185.3800
Sterling Pound	343.7400	344.1100
Euro	241.3400	241.6000
Saudi Rial	49.3700	49.4300
Kuwaiti Dinar	629.0900	629.7700
UAE Dirhem	50.4200	50.4700
Egyptian Pound	29.6500	29.6800
Bahraini Dinar	491.1700	491.7000
Qatari Rial	50.8600	50.9200
Jordanian Dinar	261.0200	261.3000
Omani Rial	480.9900	481.5100
Swiss Franc	159.5800	159.7600
Swedish Crown	26.9100	26.9400
Japanese Yen	1.7952	1.7972

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

policies that will be capacity savings which are easy to implement while at the same time building capacity to deal with tougher issues.

There are always certain things that can make a huge difference which you can easily implement. They are neither politically costly nor economically costly, and yet we overlook those things.

One example which was highlighted in a recent World Development Report was the case of Uganda. Uganda was trying to transfer resources to local schools. In the beginning, only 20-30% of the money was reaching the schools. All the government needed to do to reverse the situation was to advertise in the newspapers the allocations to the schools.

Overnight the process became transparent and everyone knew what to expect. As a result, the situation reversed with most of the money reaching the schools. This was not at all costly and no institutions were involved. So, one has to look for things that could be implemented with very little cost, political or economical.

Q: What sectors in Yemen have the best potential in economic growth?

A: Yemen is a country endowed with good resources: a fantastic location, famous cultural heritage, a well located port, gas and mineral resources, and cheap labor. All these resources present opportunities for development by the private sector in areas such as services - including tourism and transport - and manufacturing.

But unless the investment climate improves, and the role of the state is well defined, the prospects for growth and development will be limited. In this regard, encouraging non-energy exports will have the merit of ensuring the country to be competitive. Also encouraging foreign direct investment to take place is essential, as it has the benefit of bringing in resources but also of bringing in knowledge and a new market.

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المستشفى الألماني الحديث : حكمة يمانية - خبرة ألمانية

A special series (Part 5)

Uncovering Saddam's reign of terror

In the context of mass graves investigations, physical evidence encompasses the bodies of the murder victims, the corpus delicti, and any artifacts, such as projectiles, that may be recovered in or around the grave. In essence, forensic experts corroborate witness and documentary evidence by identifying victims. This may be a general identification, e.g. Kurdish, or a specific identification, e.g. John Doe. Mass killings and determining the cause and manner of death. If the charges entail genocide and crimes against humanity, they also look for patterns in the mayhem: Did the victims belong to a particular ethnic or religious group? What methods did the killers use to dispatch their victims? Were the methods similar at different execution sites? Did the killers make an effort to cover their tracks?

Past experience in several countries suggests that evidence from mass graves can fulfill several evidentiary needs in proving serious international human rights or humanitarian law crimes. First, forensic investigations can help locate and identify missing enemy combatants (in the case of Iraq, this would primarily involve Iranian and Kuwaiti combatants) and determine whether they died in battle or were the victims of war crimes. Second, forensic investigations of mass graves can help uphold a charge of genocide, which requires that the prosecution prove that the alleged perpetrators committed acts with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. As such, particular persons become victims because of how they were perceived by the perpetrators. A forensic investigation will then focus on ascertaining the categorical identification of the dead, such as the victims ethnicity, religion or race, and the cause and manner of death.

This approach was applied successfully in the ICTY's prosecution of Radislav Krstic, the Bosnian Serb commander of the Drina Corps who was convicted in 2001 of genocide against the Bosnian Muslim population during the siege of the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica six years earlier. During the pre-trial investigation, forensic experts exhumed a series of mass grave in the hills surrounding Srebrenica and found they contained the remains of hundreds of Bosnian Muslim men, many of whom bore blindfolds and ligatures and wounding patterns consistent with execution-style killings.

Finally, forensic scientists can help prosecutors determine if a series of mass killings constitutes a crime against humanity, which encompasses a wide range of acts: mass murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, rape, torture committed against civilians on a large scale. Forensic exhumations and postmortem examinations can corroborate witness testimony and documentary evidence by determining if the victims of mass killings were civilians, determining how they had died, and, if the accused is a high ranking military or civilian official, by demonstrating, for example, that the systematic and widespread nature of the killings suggested they had been planned in high places.

In such cases, prosecutors do not need to prove every single murder, or every single massacre, but they do need to confirm a pattern of killing and destruction directed against civilians or those otherwise protected under the Geneva conventions.

Investigation of the graves of the missing in Iraq will be a formidable undertaking, fraught with logistical, humanitarian, and legal challenges. These complex investigations require multi-disciplinary teams, long-term planning, and substantial financial and logistical support. To exhume even a few mass graves will require millions of U.S. dollars and possibly tens of millions if a comprehensive DNA-led strategy is pursued. In this regard, experiences in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are instructive.

Since the establishment of two ad hoc international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the 1990s, only a small fraction of the remains of the missing have been identified and returned to families for proper burial. By 1999, dozens of forensic scientists from twenty countries had traveled to the former Yugoslavia republic to investigate the whereabouts of the missing on behalf of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and to train local scientists in the procedures of unearthing mass graves. While these investigations produced significant court-admissible evidence, they were less successful in identifying the dead. When peace came to Bosnia in 1995, 30,000 people were missing. By June 2003, after eight years work by dozens of full-time forensic specialists, about 15,000 bodies had been exhumed and around 9,000 (thirty percent) identified. DNA analysis has contributed to about 3,000 of these identifications.

In Rwanda, the sheer number of dead

(estimated between 500,000 and 800,000) has made it virtually impossible for the country's government or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to undertake large-scale forensic investigations. Indeed, out of nearly 500 individuals examined from exhumations in the eastern town of Kibuye in 1995, only seventeen were identified. Six carried identifying documents and eleven more had clothing or personal effects recognizable to acquaintances. None had hospital X-rays or dental records. For only two of the victims could surviving blood relatives be located. Soon after the Kibuye exhumation, the Rwanda tribunal ended its forensic program.

The experience of the international tribunals points to a tension between the identification by category needed for criminal prosecution and the personal identification desired by families and loved ones, a tension that is exacerbated by the much greater resources required for the latter. The absence of identifiable physical remains greatly impedes the ability of families to accept and to commemorate properly the death of missing relatives. For this reason, the Iraqi authorities and the international community need to make resources available to ensure that at the very least exhumations are conducted in a commemorative manner, as a key dimension of social reconstruction in the aftermath of the trauma of mass killings. The authorities need to work with community leaders and families to help them address their loss in a way that accords them and their missing loved ones status and dignity.

Security and Limited Resources

War and subsequent looting of Iraq's medical facilities has left its medicolegal system in shambles. The forensic facility in southern city of Basra, for instance, was completely looted following the war, leaving it without plumbing and electricity. While Iraq has well-trained and dedicated forensic pathologists, it has no forensic anthropologists. Similarly, while Iraqi archeologists, numbering around 160, are skilled at historical excavations involving mainly artifacts, they have no forensic experience.

Iraqi medical professionals and forensic scientists have traditionally identified the dead through circumstantial evidence, including visual recognition of the body or presence of identity documents in the clothing of the deceased. As a result, Iraq has no procedure in place for collecting and preserving antemortem dental documentation or medical radiographs that are often vital for identification of skeletal remains. Iraq also does not have the capacity to conduct DNA analysis of bone and teeth, which, when compared with blood samples collected from relatives of victims, can lead to positive identifications. It is unlikely, based on experience in Bosnia and elsewhere, that even one-fourth of the missing persons exhumed from Iraq's mass graves will be positively identified using forensic techniques including DNA analysis.

Iraq's capacity to investigate suspected mass graves has also been undermined by the ICRC's withdrawal from the country in October 2003. Prior to its departure, the ICRC and the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad were working on a training program in forensic anthropology for Iraqi pathologists and physicians. The ICRC had also developed a plan to assist local Iraqi communities conduct basic, community-led exhumations. The ICRC intends to re-instate these programs once the security situation allows the organization to return international staff to Iraq.

In the summer of 2003, the CPAs three-person forensic unit developed a five-step Mass Graves Action Plan. Step One focused on raising public awareness about the necessity of preserving graves so that they could be exhumed in an orderly and professional manner. Step Two entailed the dispatching of international forensic teams to conduct preliminary assessments of graves.

Step Three sought to secure several mass graves for full-scale forensic investigations, although by February 2004 only a few of these sites were under twenty-four-hour guard. Step Four envisioned the training of local archeologists and health professionals to conduct exhumations and cursory post-mortem examinations. In November 2003, the CPA forensic unit conducted a three-day training seminar in Baghdad for representatives of nongovernmental organizations and university scientists and archeologists on the forensic investigation of mass graves.

The forensic unit held a follow-up seminar in Sulaimaniyya in April 2004. Step Four entailed working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to establish a national Iraqi Bureau of Missing Persons. Step Five envisioned a period of transition whereby the CPA would turn over responsibility for forensic investigations of

past crimes to a new Iraqi government with assistance from the international community, as requested.

As of the end of June 2004, no such bureau had been established; nor have the Iraqi authorities established one in the months since. CPA initiatives to help Iraqis develop a comprehensive plan to carry out both criminal and humanitarian exhumations of mass graves throughout the country also have not materialized. Human Rights Watch believes that the responsibility for developing and implementing such a comprehensive plan should be assumed initially by a joint Iraqi and international commission which would eventually be run by Iraqis alone.

The CPA action plan divided gravesites into three levels. Level 1 sites were to be investigated by international forensic teams to collect evidence for future trials. These sites, estimated between ten and twenty, must be representative of five major periods of repression, including the 1988 Anfal campaign against the Kurds and the 1991 killings of Shia Muslims and Kurds for the mass uprising at the end of the Gulf War. The CPA estimated that each Level 1 exhumation will take six to eight weeks to complete. Level 2 sites, which may number between forty and sixty, were to be investigated by Iraqi-trained teams for historical purposes, namely, to document sites associated with major periods of repression throughout Iraq. Level 3 sites were those that would be turned over to local communities for exhumation and reburial.

By the time the CPA was formally dissolved on June 28, 2004, no program had been designed to apply DNA analysis to the identification of the remains of the missing in Iraq. According to CPA officials, this was for several reasons. First, the CPA believed that DNA analysis would be too costly and time consuming given the number of dead and the logistics involved in gathering and preserving bone and teeth samples from graves.

A nationwide DNA collection program would have required the formation of an overall coordinating body responsible for the collection, storage, transport, and chain of custody of DNA samples, as well as the selection and accreditation of laboratories to conduct the analysis. This body would also have needed to set strict standards to ensure that DNA data was not used, disclosed, or transferred for purposes other than for identification purposes without the consent of the donor.

Second, as it was likely that local residents with little or no forensic supervision would exhume many of the graves in Iraq, a considerable risk existed that bone and teeth samples could become contaminated or mislabeled which would complicate the identification process. Finally, there was always the danger that the use of DNA analysis could raise unrealistic or false expectation on the part of the families of the missing.

The CPA had relied on governments to donate forensic teams and equipment, but few were forthcoming because of security concerns and the high cost of such operations. Human Rights Watch understood that some European forensic teams were also concerned about the use of forensic evidence resulting from their work being used in future trials that could lead to death sentences being passed by the Iraq Special Tribunal.

In March 2004, the Dutch government decided not to send a forensic team to work on a Site 1 investigation and, earlier in the month, the Finnish government withdrew a team from Iraq earlier following an attack on Finnish businessmen in Baghdad. Meanwhile, in February 2004, insurgents detonated a daisy-chain bomb on a remote road in southern Iraq injuring several Kuwaiti forensic scientists en route to exhume a mass grave believed to contain the remains of Kuwaiti prisoners of war executed by Iraq forces during the 1991 Gulf War.

In discussions with U.S. Department of Justice officials in March 2004, Human Rights Watch expressed concern about mounting media speculation that indictments against the first group of defendants may be issued within the coming months without the availability of forensic evidence. DOJ officials said that trials would not proceed without the forensic evidence, but added: "We cannot spend eight weeks at a grave site in a secure environment to get at the evidence. We need to carry out surgical visits to gravesites, to estimate the size and age of the site and the identities and origin of the victims by exhuming a section of each chosen site."

They stressed that this should be done as speedily as possible: "We need forensic testimony for the process. We know we have to get to the gravesites as soon as possible for any trials or indictments. Given the high costs of such operations, and the recognition

that the U.S. army cannot protect us, it was felt that the short-term sampling approach, involving multiple teams covering a short period of four to five weeks would be more realistic. Officials expressed the hope that such teams could be deployed on the ground by June or July at the latest. In April 2003, however, with continuing deteriorating conditions in Iraq and the outbreak of a spate of abductions, and in some cases killings, of foreigners in Iraq, the CPAs forensic team was withdrawn from Iraq as a precautionary measure.

In late July 2004 RCLO Adviser Greg Kehoe told Human Rights Watch that efforts to begin exhumations for evidentiary purposes were ongoing since April, but that the issue of security remained a major concern and plans had been put on hold for that reason. However, he added that exhumations have now begun and will continue for the foreseeable future, using the short-term sampling approach. The aim was to spend some six weeks on each selected site, undertaking typical crime scene forensic work with a view to documenting what executions did take place, the manner of the executions, and the religious, ethnic and other affiliations of the victims. DNA analysis was being ruled out on grounds of cost and for practical considerations, principally the ability to obtain DNA samples from living relatives for comparison. If any identity cards or other artifacts are found in the course of exhumations that would help identify individual victims, that would be a bonus, he said.

By mid-October 2004, only two forensic exhumations of mass graves had begun in Iraq, despite the CPAs plan to have several sites completed by the turn over of power to the Iraqis at the end of June 2004. In August 2004, a U.S. team of archeologists and engineers began examining a series of mass graves located about seventy kilometers (forty-two miles) south of Mosul, near the village of Hadhar.

Human Rights Watch researchers visited the Hadhar graves in February 2004. As of mid-October, approximately 300 sets of human remains, mostly of Kurdish women and children, had been discovered in the Hadhar graves. Of these, between 15 and 20 percent bear identifying documents. It appears that the remains are those of victims of the Anfal campaign who were buried at the site in 1988. Many of the victims reportedly bear single gunshot wounds to the head.

As of October 2004, the greatest constraint on the forensic investigation of mass graves in Iraq remained the lack of security. Security at gravesites is paramount. Twenty-four hour site security is essential once forensic work has commenced. This not only insures the integrity of the crime scene and the safety of personnel, but also the security of supplies and equipment left at the site when forensic personnel are absent. A CPA official told Human Rights Watch in February 2004 that coalition military commanders were reluctant to provide in situ protection of forensic teams working at mass grave sites because of other competing demands.

This was especially true in the southern areas of Iraq. RCLO Advisor Greg Kehoe told Human Rights Watch that the U.S.-led Multinational Force had agreed to provide security, which would represent a departure from the stance under the CPA. Equally important is the need to have an overall plan in place that will keep communities informed of exhumations and enable forensic teams to work safely and effectively. Until a plan is in place and the security situation improves, it is unlikely that any full-scale effort to conduct multiple forensic investigations or exhumations of Level One gravesites will commence in the near future.

Humanitarian Needs

In criminal cases involving genocide and crimes against humanity, the ad hoc international tribunals have placed greater emphasis on categorical identification as opposed to personal identification of victims. This approach has created a tension between the humanitarian needs of families of the missing and the evidentiary needs and mandate of international war crimes tribunals. On the one side are the families who wish to know the fate of their missing relatives and, if they have died, to receive their remains. On the other side are the ad hoc tribunals that have lacked the resources to undertake forensic investigations aimed at identifying all of the dead. The Iraqi authorities would do well to heed this dilemma and initiate a program that helps communities recover the dead in a dignified manner for anonymous burial at memorial sites.

Only a small number of the remains of the hundreds of thousands who disappeared during Ba'thist rule in Iraq will ever be identified and returned to families for proper burial. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of remains have already been condemned to

unidentifiable status due to substandard exhumations and identifications. There has been no coordinated documentation of where the remains claimed from the mass graves were reburied.

This situation stands in stark contrast to the expectations of many Iraqis who believe graves will be located and that remains will be exhumed, identified, and returned to families for reburial. Forensic anthropologist William D. Haglund, who has accompanied Human Rights Watch researchers to several mass graves in Iraq, believes that the presence of well-equipped foreign military forces may have raised Iraqi expectations:

One dynamic that may inspire Iraqis is that they see an occupation force with wonderful logistics, immense resources, and a can do attitude. To the observing Iraqis, there is a perceived promise that these resources will be brought to bear in a major way on grave exhumations and identification of the dead. This perception was certainly bolstered at one of the missing persons centers because of the promises they believe CPA representatives have given them.

The reality is that for many families resolving the fate of missing relatives will be realized not by exhumations but by discovering their names on an execution list or a list of those arrested and detained by Iraqi security forces or through the knowledge that relatives went to war or were arrested and were never heard from again. Still, for other families, the fate of missing relatives will only be resolved by having their remains identified. Without bodies and funerals, relatives of the missing often are unable to visualize the death of their loved ones and accept it as real, and are unable to fulfill their religious and communal obligations to the dead.

Without the remains of loved ones, many Iraqis families are experiencing ambiguous loss, a condition in which no tangible evidence exists that a missing person is alive or dead. The absence of bodies has also robbed families of the visual cues that would help them to acknowledge the death of their loved ones and to pass through the stages of mourning and grief. Moreover, their experience remains unverified by the community around them, so that there is little validation of what they are experiencing and feeling. Because ambiguous loss is a loss that goes on and on, those who experience it often become physically and emotionally exhausted from the relentless uncertainty.

Mass violence and its aftermath must also be understood as a collective experience. Individuals lose family members and communities are decimated, as was the case in northern Iraq when Iraqi troops destroyed more than 2,000 Kurdish villages in the 1987-89 period alone. In Iraq, many families are dealing with the ambiguous loss of relatives as well as the loss of their homes and communities. Iraqis of all faiths view bereavement as an experience to be shared, strengthening the solidarity of family and community. In this context, an important source of resilience for families of the missing will be the communal involvement in efforts to locate, exhume, reburial, memorialize; and, to the extent possible, identify the dead.

Whenever possible, exhumations in Iraq should thus be commemorative events designed to help individual mourners and communities receive acknowledgement of their loss and move forward in the grieving process. Exhumations should be viewed as part of a process of social reconstruction, one that gives families and communities the possibility and means of disinterring and re-burying the dead in a respectful manner, of paying homage to them, and of giving them the status and dignity of which they were

deprived by war and political violence.

The problem of the missing in Iraq will only be solved through a comprehensive program that satisfies both the evidentiary needs of criminal trials and the humanitarian needs of the families of the missing and their communities. The Iraqi authorities, in consultation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, should establish a joint Commission on the Missing that is Iraqi and international in composition to oversee the grave exhumation process.

This body should seek the advice and participation of local and international organizations, including representatives from family and local religious groups, the International Commission of Missing Persons, and forensic teams sent to Iraq by governments and other entities. The Commission should oversee the training of local forensic scientists, archeologists, and health professionals in the recovery and analysis and in the assessment and treatment of the mental health of the surviving families of the missing. Participation of international members on the commission will help facilitate the procurement of funds and personnel and the passing on of lessons learned from forensic investigations in other countries. Over time, the commission could be transformed into an all-Iraqi commission.

Whenever a mass grave is located, the joint Iraqi-international Commission on the Missing, working in collaboration with local authorities, should secure the site and consult communities about the best approach and timetable for exhuming it. Suitable local people (e.g. medical doctors or others with formal training either in archaeology or anatomy) will need to be identified and trained in the basic methods and procedures of excavation and forensic anthropology. Other suitable people will need to be trained to assist with the more manual aspects of excavation, recording of findings in writing, securing clothing and other artifacts and labeling these and the remains accurately, and taking photographs.

The joint Commission should also have a plan in place for dealing with both identified and unidentified remains retrieved during community-lead exhumations. This plan should be nationwide in scope, but flexible enough to deal with the particular wishes of families and their communities. Some families, for example, may wish to receive identified remains for burial in their local cemetery, while others may be willing to have them buried in a regional or national memorial cemetery. Plans are already underway to establish a memorial museum and cemetery for Kurdish victims near the northern city of Kirkuk. Other locations may choose to follow a similar path and the joint Commission should facilitate such an approach.

Acknowledgments

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Concluded

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Castles from sand, gardens from heaven:

The magic of Yemeni sands

By IRENA KNEHTL
iren_knehtl@maktoob.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemeni eastern and southern governorates, Al-Jawf, Marib, Shabwa and Hadramawt are the governorates that surround the sands of the mystical Al-Rub Al-Khali desert or empty Quarter, the great desert of Southern Arabia.

These are the Yemeni governorates that fade into winds, draught and barren stretches. Inside each of them is more sand, both in surface and volume along

with more daunting landscape featuring high sand dunes.

In those governorates there are desiccated places, where rare blooming flowers are a sign of hot weather that is still to come. Although here everything still bears the mark of the past, the area stood on an ancient trade route from India.

A unique "island civilization" developed in the middle of vast sea of sand and rock. Odor of camel clung from lamb fat and sesame oil. Scent of perfumed smoke, cardamom coffee was the air that everyone breathes. What you see in the atmosphere is not a bird,

nor a blade of grass, but great grandeur. You can see the full moon presiding over the stars, and once foretold the destiny of nations. Roads here have particular significance, and in Arabia one of the most important rights is the right for passage.

The Al-Rub Al-Khali, the Empty Quarter desert, is the world's largest sand desert. There is more sand in the Empty Quarter, both in surface areas and volume, than any other place on Earth. Although the Sahara is world best - known desert, it is actually only 10 percent sand, with the remainder made up of rock, scrub and mountain-



The area composed of the eastern governorates is home to a number of rare species of wildlife.

ous terrain. Here sand temperatures can reach 80 Celsius.

A massive, trackless expanse of shifting sand dunes, covers an area of more than 250,000 square miles, or 650,000 square kilometers, and extends to 1,200 by 500 kilometers. As one of the driest places on earth, most of it consists of massive rolling sand dunes, but to the west there is gravel plains that rise towards the mountains of Yemen. The sandy and stormy eastern part is the richest in petroleum and minerals.

It is worth noting that Al-Hazem in Al-Jawf is the center of Yemeni eastern

governorates.

It is bordering Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

British explorer Sir Wilfred Thesiger, was the first Westerner to navigate the eastern section in Empty Quarter in 1945. He recorded his observations and encounters in the popular book, "The Arabian Sands".

All Yemen governorates that surround Al-Rub Al-Khali except Al-Jawf, which is a predominantly agricultural area, oil has been discovered in commercial quantities.

However, Al-Jawf area is known for

ancient salt and natural minerals, such as gold and silver. The province is thought to have been an important source of wealth of the ancient Sabean kingdom in the past.

The area is home to a number of rare species of wildlife, including the Arab oryx, gazelle, rich variety of birds and animal life. Leopards have been seen in the Asir National Park. There are also wolves, jackals, and hyenas.

I went to Al-Rub Al-Khali just in time to write down some oral poetry before man lost or gave up his battle with nature in this mysterious place. And here is the poetry.

Poetry on the beauty of Al-Rub Al-Khali:

Rain oh cloud up to the root of the trees...

Oh, how my heart is being pulled because of Dhayjim, like the rope is pulled over the roller.

The emotions, I tried to repress, have burst open.

Bitter is my cure.

Even bitter herbs do not cure the hearts of those who love.

Everything imaginable occurred to me all at once.

While my heart boiled over like a coffee in a pot made in AlAkhsa.

Earth

...and sky I gobbled up, but for me it was not even chicken feed.

I drank the oceans in one sip and swallowed the years.

As clock of course wool, I threw the day around my shoulders, wrapped myself in the dark night, gathered the stars.

A rider of month left since the summer.

O God, send us a night where clouds are not dispersed by the wind.

Making good on their promise with floods.

I climbed a rock, a lovely rock, where white dark - winged falcons made their abode.

O, my heart that is swept by the bowing winds, as foam and dust from the surface of a desert pool left by torrent.

O God, grant us a night with the promise of flashing lightning and heavy clouds that

—will bring rains from Al-Hazim, from Al-Jawf.

...It's violent gushes tearing into the fine crests of the sand dunes.

The joy of cultivators who will toil to irrigate their majestic palms from wells.

And refreshing camels, weakened by far from water in the hot season.

With necks as graceful as those of gazelles.

Well covered with fat, their

...woolly hair coal-black with some silver behind their ears.

The legs of camel are long, her color black and her neck slender.

Heavy clouds rolling in the wake of other.

A vast darkness, its flashes of lighting.

The stormy mood and distant thunder,

the blinding flashes, the lowering clouds.

Wind scented with winter rain, pointing to the

...sand.

What news had they of those sands whiter.

She loves the man who is sent to draw the water.

And he is fond of her.

With the festive, swinging fait, she heads straight to the well.

Her lips a mosaic of coral.

Her neck like the gazelle of the garden.

With her back against the date palm he watched her walk away.

He saw her and that

...was enough.

The camel troops were overwhelmed.

O, God, he who knows the souls intentions secrets.

For you, I ask a night stretching from the east, he promised.

Flashes of lighting and ruling thunder are unmistakable signs.

As soon as one cloud drifts away the next one follows in its traces and brings to blossom the wide empty vastness

...that they lay bare for so long.

Camels now appears dark like indigo.

As slopes washed by the powerful rain.

Like a prince who rides at the head of his army.

When a host of nomads who view for the water at the well.

A messenger, riding a camel from Oman.

He winds his way through the rolling stony hills.

Seen from a distance his silhouette is

...as fast moving object.

He burns up the mils in the wide empty plains.

His legs paddling like a swimmer, his color is reddish, his ride magnificent.

Though he is not flying, neither is he running.

Like ships at sea hurling on the waves.

His legs rocking.

Is front parts curving down as gazelles on the run.

Earth and the sky may heavy

...clouds release their rains.

Seaming curtains of rain are pouring down on the earth.

Rains that irrigate the branches of palms and their yellow stalks heavy with burdens of young dates that are enveloped for protection.

They irrigate the watering place of her whose curls are sprinkled with perfume.

The gray sheets of rains keep falling, the

...thunder rumbling in their rain.

And the sky water splashes in the gullies of the sand files with pouring rains and lighting ripping through the dark.

And flashes like the glittering steel of Indian swords while the clouds dip towards the crests of the sand-hills of a mountain socked with rain in heavy clouds.

Oh, rider of camel who

...travels the empty wilderness.

Beware of places once inhabited by your beloved one.

Like dreams at night, they seem to have never existed at all.

When the sea surges - nothing has the power to contain it.

Even the clouds above the hilltops are now swept up by the water.

Above the clouds the freedom has a thousand faces to show.

Count

...the grains of sand in the dune.

Ours is a journey of Ninety years.

Grains are as pearl anointed with grace and beauty that cannot be bought, not even for princely sums.

No price, no matter how high can be set for a thing so precious.

For us every grain in its soil is worth a fight.

In war we glory once its gate is opened.

Once two thousand tents

...in the desert drew water from our well.

One day an enemy tribe took up position in the sand - hills.

But the land is ours - not that of anyone else.

And the sands seal off the well from which we drew our water.



Al-Jawf governorate, the eastern most cultivated area seen from above before fading into the sands (photograph by Irena Knehtl).

Are we losing our faith?

Prudence is key to knowing Islam

By NAWAL ZAID
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The matter of guidance is at the behest of the Almighty. This doesn't imply that we shouldn't call for the true religion of Allah. But before shouldering

the responsibility of this call, we have to evaluate ourselves, to see whether we are following the right way or deviating.

All misdeeds in the Islamic community are absolutely related to the lack of prudence because it is associated with faith. Prudence is avoiding doing all shameful things and what affects moral and injures the noble human emotions.

Lack of prudence means loss of religion that signifies the loss of morals and noble behavior and placing the wrong ones instead. Our life becomes full of barbaric behaviors because of being away from the didactic principles of our religion that sets detailed rules for the whole life.

Everything is clearly presented in a way that may not contradict or even be mixed with other topics. If we consider our life today with a prudent vision, we will discover that it is nearer to the life of animals than to the life of human beings.

The weakness of our belief and our little exposure to the rules of the true religion, Islam, makes us a nation that is led by its whims from all directions looking for what is beautiful in life regardless of the religious view in that respect.

The nation then becomes weak or paralyzed. This is happening when we lose prudence and the real correct example in the society, and have the enemies as the only example. We are looking for the secondary things avoiding the basics and this is how our life will go on since we are not ashamed of ourselves.

I agree with him who says, "Do whatever you want unless you feel prudence". It is prudence that stops a person, who is like the car that has no brakes. When likening the human being to that car, we understand that the possibility of falling down a steep increases. That's our today's status, Moslems' conditions are getting worse and worse because we no longer keep the rules our Prophet Mohammed taught us.

The various devices of modern technology helps in leading us away including the space channels, Internet, etc. It let me think that our being Moslems is just because our fathers are so, there being no

actual understanding of the real identity of Islam.

Our connection with religion has become so surface, we know only that prayers and fasting as part of the religion. We don't of course understand the rules which we have sacrificed. We also lose the social relations when many parents don't teach their children how to interact with the society because they lack the religious awareness.

In schools, teachers don't take care of this part of teaching. Students do always listen to lessons without understanding the meaning. The cause of this state is not being taught the actual principles of Islam by teachers and parents.

Students spend their time with bad friends who drag them to the misuse of the Internet and the space channels that make them ignore prayers and religion as a whole. They deal with what they acquire from these means as signs of intellectual and social development. This is the way they grow up forgetting our Islamic traditions that protect us from wrongdoings.

The preachers that speak in mosques tend to complicate their lessons. They describe the lawful as unlawful and consequently religion seems so complex causing many people to avoid its principles.

Many people in the society want the woman to put off her hijab in order to see her in the best picture as they watch the space channels. Otherwise, they describe her as an uncivilized ugly woman.

We see on the other hand an increasing number of foreigners who adopt Islam and they obey its rules well. How do we teach them that religion while we are getting deteriorated? How can we do that while we abandon reciting the Holy book and if we read it we don't understand its meaning? How can we do that while we become selfish? Those people believe in this faith and they want to know more about it!

We should raise awareness among our children and whoever and ourselves as well about the significance of being well educated in this vital aspect of life.

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Gulf Cup sets stage for global matches Yemen in regional football classic

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
adelkhawlan@yahoo.com
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Fate has put the Yemeni football team in a tough group that includes the KSA, Kuwait and Bahrain in the 17th Gulf Championship.

Although this is only the second time for Yemen to participate in the Championship, there is a hope that can be attributed to the will of the team's Coach, Rabeh Sadan, who is proving he has an ability to improve Yemeni football in the region.

The draw has also set Qatar, Iraq, Emirate and Oman in the second group. A selected group of former footballers of the participating countries including Fu'ad Anwar from the KSA, AbdulAziz Al-Anbary from Kuwait, Adel Khamees from Qatar, Hasan Ali from the UAE, Hani Al-Dhabid from Oman, Ibraheem Al-Sabahi from Yemen and Radhi Shinaishil from Iraq conducted the draw.

This is the second time for the championship to be arranged on the two-group scheme, following that of 1974 in Kuwait. In the semi-finals, the first team of group one will play with the second of group two and the second of group one will meet the first of group two.

The competitions seem to be more effective since the winner of the Cup will be identified only at the end of the final game that combine the two qualifiers of both the groups.

The Gulf round is one of the Arab encounters that receive lavish support since it was born in 1970 in the capital of Bahrain, Manama. It is usually characterized by competitive encounters between teams wanting to jump to global matches.

This round achieved undeniable progress on the Gulf football and clear-cut evidence is the qualification of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Emirate to World Cup finals.

Qatar is already ready to host this event; it has formed committees to impartially organize the competitions. Whereby, these committees exert effort since they have been appointed

for the purpose of providing what guarantees the success of the round.

It is well known that the involved teams are facing difficult tests; winning the round may not be as realistic as receiving lessons to help for future competitions.

It is not debatable that the Saudi team is the luckiest in terms of holding the title; last year's Gulf Championship went to its advantage, but in this round, the KSA is in a totally different atmosphere, particularly with the hungry Iraqi team which surprised football lovers all over the world in its latest presence in China and Greece.



Yemen's national football team.

The previous Gulf encounters witnessed trivial competition between Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq before the latter's resignation. Its return to the participation will resume the scenarios.

This however does not mean that there is no likelihood for another team to be crowned, especially Qatar, which will play at home and before its public. Arabs and Asians also expect the newly progressing Bahrain and Oman to do amazing things, as they did in the last Asian finals in China.

Yemen may be looked at by other participants as questionable, but it has the will and ability to win, especially after thrashing the Emirates and

thwarting their hopes two months ago.

Enthusiasm and desire for winning the cup is crucial. The participants care for honorable representation in the championship since it enables the winner to be prominent in the World Cup 2006 in Germany.

For its side the national team, under the Algerian Coach Rabeh Sadan, cares for accentuating Yemen's presence through high-level tactic and performance.

The draw ceremony witnessed several shocks among which is the Slogan of the Round that was given the name "Sadifi" (my shell). This name expresses Qatar's pride in particular,

and the Gulf's at large; they take pride in their wealth and traditional profession of collecting shells to bring out the pearls inside.

The ceremony kicked off with a song of the Qatari tradition and the décor of the stage was designed in the form of Arabian tent.

The Qatari flag is the main element of the round's slogan and the digits 11 & 17 to mean the eleventh championship held in Qatar in 1993 and the seventeenth championship staged this year respectively.

The slogan also contains four balls, of which the first symbolizes football and the three others stand for volleyball, handballs and basketballs.

Sport-Schumacher voted top German sports star of 20th century

(Reuters) - German television viewers voted seven-times Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher the country's sportsman of the 20th century on Friday.

Eight-time Olympic canoe gold medallist Birgit Fischer was second and tennis champion Steffi Graf third in the poll, carried out some four years after most of the rest of the world decided their favourites.

Schumacher, 35, has won the world championship seven times while Fischer, 42, won her eight gold medals for both East German and reunited Germany in Olympics over 24 years dating back to Moscow in 1980.

Graf, 35, won 22 grand slam titles and was ranked number one in the world for a record 186 consecutive weeks. She held the top ranking for a total of 377 weeks - another record.

"I never would have expected an honour like this," said Schumacher, who won his seventh title this year. "It's a total

surprise."

More than 100,000 viewers voted in the contest, which was broadcast on ZDF television. Franz Beckenbauer, World Cup-winning captain and coach for West Germany, was fourth, ahead of three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker in fifth.

"As someone who played a team sport, I feel a bit uncomfortable being ranked as an individual so high," Beckenbauer said.

Rounding out the top 10 were: boxer Max Schmeling in sixth, one-time Tour de France champion Jan Ullrich seventh, swimmer Franziska van Almsick eighth, Germany striker Gerd Mueller ninth and Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn 10th.

Other notables atop the list included Germany midfielder Michael Ballack 11th, basketball's Dirk Nowitzki 12th, former striker and coach Rudi Voeller 13th, and his former team mate and successor as coach Juergen Klinsmann 16th

Fans arrested for abusing Yorke

REUTERS- Two Blackburn Rovers fans have been arrested over allegations that they racially abused the striker Dwight Yorke during Birmingham City's match at Ewood Park.

The suspects, both in their 20s, attended Blackburn police station voluntarily at 4pm where they were arrested on suspicion of committing a racially aggravated public order offence.

Yorke, who was sold by Blackburn in the summer, was allegedly subjected to "monkey gestures" as he was warming up in front of the Blackburn End before coming on as a substitute in the 3-3 draw on Sunday.

Steve Bruce, the Birmingham manager, said police had interviewed Yorke and midfielder Steven Clemence, who was also warming up at the time of alleged incident.

"Two police officers came down here and Dwight Yorke formally made a complaint against them," Bruce said.

He added that Birmingham were "100 per cent behind Dwight" and that "there's no room" for racism in football.

Bruce also defended David Sullivan, the club's co-owner, who claimed that the alleged



Dwight Yorke with the Blackburn midfielder David Thompson.

incident involving Yorke had been "blown out of proportion".

Sullivan stood by his comments when he was interviewed by the BBC on Tuesday, saying: "I've been spat at football grounds, and punched."

"Whether I was punched for being white or for being Birmingham City co-owner makes no difference to me."

But Bruce said: "One thing is a fact. He's certainly not racist."

"We've got half the team here that we've bought and he's put the money together for the black players we've brought into the club."

"I don't think he's made the comments in the way that's been construed."



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

<p>Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Take on extra work and make some extra cash. It will come in handy as the festive season unfolds. Focus on how to impress your boss or a new client.</p>	<p>Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) Your involvement in a cause that helps children will bring you in contact with someone who will alter your life. Love, partnerships and feeling good about yourself are in the stars.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You will be tempted to spend too much. Think twice about gifts you would love to purchase for your loved ones. You could be doing without the things you really need.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Nothing can stop you, but that doesn't mean that someone won't try. Stay on top of your game and keep an eye out for traitors. Your smooth actions will be enticing.</p>
<p>Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Don't count on anything and you won't be disappointed. That doesn't mean you can't get ahead, but you will have to do so on your own steam.</p>	<p>Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) It will be difficult if you won't budge when it comes to family discussions. Be careful - you may undermine yourself. Taking directions can work in some cases.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) A festive event will lead to a little love and romance. Being a participant will show others how dynamic and amazing you can be. Aggressive and passionate action will pay off.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) This is not the day to trust anyone with your secrets. An upset may be revealed if you aren't silent about what you are up to. Change can be good, so don't fight the inevitable.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20) Something is going on behind your back, but don't be too concerned. It is probably a surprise, and if you are too nosy or indignant about being left out, you may ruin it for yourself.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) You will be in the know, and everyone will want to be on your team. Your aggressive action will keep everyone on his or her toes and elevate you among your peers.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Recognition is coming your way for a job well done. The more you do to get ahead, the better you will feel as the year comes to a close.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20) Getting together with friends or neighbors will lead to helpful information. Take a vacation with someone you really enjoy spending time with.</p>

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Write an article about his earlier life ((about 150 words)) كلمة
 References that can help you المراجع التي يمكنكم الاستفادة بها
 1. Yemen Times issue No 789 .
 2. أحلام الرجل الفاضل تاليف سعيد الجناحي

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Japan Internet love-story: bestseller with a twist

By LINDA SIEG

The hero is no Tom Hanks and the movie has yet to be made. But like the 1998 hit film "You've Got Mail", a new Japanese bestseller is an old-style romance for the Internet age — though with a distinctly Japanese twist.

Ostensibly a true story, "Densha Otoko" — literally, "Train Man" — began as a series of postings on Japan's most popular Internet bulletin board after the protagonist, a young Japanese man, rescued a woman from a pushy drunk on the train.

One of the legions of Japanese geeks enamoured of high tech and pop culture but losers at real-life relations, the

anonymous hero sought advice on how to pursue the girl of his dreams.

The story unfolded in the three months through May as "Train Man", encouraged by equally anonymous bulletin-board mates, plucked up the courage to phone, date and declare his love for "Miss Hermes", so dubbed for the brand-name teacups she gave him as a thank-you gift.

Compiled into book format last month, "Train Man" leapt onto bestseller lists, a reflection, experts say, of how deeply the Internet is seeping into the everyday lives of Japanese youth.

"A lot of my students do spend a lot of their time on the Internet. It is, in a way, their connection to reality," said John Clammer, a professor of comparative culture at Sophia University in Tokyo.

"In a way, the book... legitimises what they do. They can think, I'm not so odd, not some kind of nerd spending all this time on the Internet," Clammer added.

Geek culture

The format of the book, which strings together emails peppered with slang and emoticons over 364 pages, could well give a headache to readers accustomed to literature as flowing prose.

But the look is familiar to the many young Japanese who spend an increasing number of hours each day chatting via brief text messages on cell phones and computers.

Internet use in Japan, though still lagging the United States, has surged, topping 60 percent of the population for the first time in 2003 compared to under 10 percent in 1997.

"Train Man" himself is an archtypical "otaku", Japanese for a geeky youth obsessed with aspects of pop culture such as comics, computer games or electronic widgets.

Such pop culture addicts have become so prevalent that they're being targeted by marketing mavens, a trend highlighted earlier this year when a brokerage research institute estimated that they spend about 260 billion yen (\$2.5 billion) annually on their hobbies.

The flip side, however, is a subculture whose reclusive denizens are stereotypically inept at personal relationships.

Secret space

While young men like Inage might be embarrassed to ask their friends for advice, "Train Man" and his advisers can chat freely because of the complete anonymity of the Internet bulletin board, an aspect of the Internet that appeals to the many Japanese who shy away from revealing feelings face-to-face.

"The Internet is very democratic," Sophia's Clammer said.

"If you want to conceal your identity but talk about things, I think it allows you to do those things outside the constraints of normal social intercourse which is... very bounded by the kind of sociological framing which the Internet dispenses with."

Critics, though, worry that it's precise-



A Japanese man reads a new Japanese bestseller, "Densha Otoko" — literally, "Train man" — at a book store in Tokyo Nov. 22. The book, ostensibly a true story, began as a series of postings on Japan's most popular Internet bulletin board after the protagonist, a young Japanese man, rescued a woman from a pushy drunk on the train. REUTERS

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New Japanese bestseller, "Densha Otoko" — literally, "Train man" — are stacked at a book store in Tokyo Nov. 22, 2004. The book, ostensibly a true story, began as a series of postings on Japan's most popular Internet bulletin board after the protagonist, a young Japanese man, rescued a woman from a pushy drunk on the train. REUTERS

ly such anonymity that makes the Internet dangerous.

Internet message board 2Channel, where "Train Man" originated, came under heavy fire after individuals posted their intention to commit crimes and then followed through with real-life mayhem, as with the fatal stabbing of eight school children in western Japan three years ago.

A recent rash of group suicides involving people who met through the Internet has also deepened such concerns.

Such debates aside, sceptics on the Web and elsewhere have questioned whether "Train Man" is really a true-life love story or just a fictional saga that media have hyped into one of Japan's countless and usually ephemeral fads.

Shinchosha's Gunji, however, dismissed such doubts. "I've met 'Train Man' several times and swapped email with him," she said. "He's getting on well with 'Miss Hermes'. They're dating, she bought the book, and they're happy." (\$1=103.03 Yen)

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