

One killed, another wounded at Aden court

By ADEN BUREAU - YT

A day of horror and outrage was witnessed on Monday, 28 November when Abdurrahman Mohammad Al-Sawka was killed and Hussein Mohammad Karout wounded when a policeman opened fire to disperse a crowd of people gathering in front of the Sira Court in Aden.

Outraged protestors

The court was crowded with people during a hearing concerning the alleged murder of Awadh Khamis Al-Hinki and Hussein Ali Masaod.

An officer from the Intelligence Department was convicted of the murder of the two victims on 19 October 2004.

The judge of the court adjourned the hearing for the third time and this aroused tension among relatives of the two victims who were present at the court.

A source at the court security said the people assembled held a sit-in blocking the traffic in the street leading to the court.



Presence of security forces is common almost in front of every court in the Republic of Yemen to maintain order. But lack of proper training and awareness may sometimes result in acts by those forces that may end up in fatalities such as the event of Aden on Monday. (Archive/YT)

Continued on page 4

Boat sinks on way to Yemen

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sixteen people are reported dead after a boat sank while traveling from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, according to Somali media sources.

Others are missing and feared to have drowned.

The boat is said to have carried over 115 passengers and left Puntland, a breakaway region of Somalia, last Thursday. It is believed that the boat carried passengers beyond its capacity.

Most of the people on the boat came from Ethiopia and Somalia. Yemen is

home to thousands of refugees from the two countries. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 47,000 Somali refugees live in Yemen.

Last April, over 100 Ethiopian refugees died when their boat collided with a vessel carrying Somali refugees. Another boat carrying around 95 people is believed to have faced a crisis since it has not arrived in Yemen after leaving Somalia last Wednesday.

Although Ethiopia is a stable country, some Ethiopians try to move to other countries that have better economic conditions. In The World Bank's

recent report, Ethiopia's gross domestic product has become worse in recent years. After growing 1.9% in 2002, the economy has contracted by 3.9% last year. Forty-four percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

It is estimated that 430,000 Somalis live outside of Somalia after fleeing the country as fighting continued between clans after Said Barre's regime was ousted in 1991. In October, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was sworn in as Somalia's president in Nairobi, Kenya, after Inter-Governmental Authority on Development headed a two-year peace process and was elected by the coun-

try's interim parliament. The new president is expected to put together a cabinet within a couple of weeks, and a new government will move to Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, in the near future.

"We believe that President Yusuf will bring us peace and a better life in Somalia," said a Somali refugee living in Yemen. "When it happens, there will be less Somali refugees."

The United Nations Security Council has shown support to Yusuf establishing a new government and bringing stability to the country.

Continued on page 4

Parallel to the "G8 Forum for the Future" and focuses on Reform in the Arab World

Yemen participates in Civil Society conference in Morocco

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen will be participating on the 8th and 9th of December 2004 in the civil meeting parallel to the "G8 Forum for the Future" to be held in Rabat, Morocco and to be organized by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in cooperation with the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights, the International Federation for Human Rights and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. The event will be attended by 60 participants including representatives of civil societies from Yemen, actors from 14 other Arab states, 9 international organizations and representatives of 4 Asian and European NGOs. It is sponsored by the World Bank and the European Commission.

The "Forum for the Future" was launched last June upon an initiative by the latest G8 Summit as periodical meeting on the ministerial level to coordinate dialogue between the countries of the G8 and the broader Middle East adding to the Arab states: Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Turkey. Such dialogue tackles political, economic, social and educational reform. The Forum held a preliminary meeting in New York last September with the participation of a selected host of Arab and Middle Eastern representatives. The first official meeting will be held in Morocco on 10th and 11th December 2004.

Continued on page 4

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An end to payroll fraud?

Occupation card system to be applied

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

TAIZ - A course about the system of occupation cards was held Nov. 27 at the Hall of Softil Hotel.

Director of the Civil Service Office in Taiz sai: "the implementation of the program constitutes one of the primary steps to apply the system of the occupation card containing the photo and the biological fingerprint.

which the participants are to receive theoretical and practical training on how to apply the system of occupation cards and eliminate job duality.

Commercial marketing course in Taiz

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taiz is conducting a commercial marketing strategies training course for companies and factories Nov. 28 to Dec. 8.

Closer ties for Yemen and Pakistan

Abdul Elah M. Hajar Ambassador of Yemen called on the Federal Minister for Interior Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Shepao in his office in Islamabad on Nov. 24.

a great deal to bring two Muslim countries to closer relationship.

Japan gives agricultural grant

The Government of Japan has given a US \$6,835 grant to Mouza Agricultural Cooperative Association in Mouza District in Taiz Governorate under the Japanese program called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects."

It aims at supporting small-scale community based projects to be implemented by locals.

- 1- Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Al-Mahara Governorate.
2- Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Zabeed, Hodaidah Governorate.
3- Improvement of Water Supply in Al-Jaradi District, Mahweet Governorate.
4- Providing Medical Equipment for Mobile Ophthalmologic Clinic.
5- Improvement of Water Supply and Irrigation System in Sana'a Governorate.
6- Providing T.V Equipments for Sana'a Environmental Awareness Center.
7- Construction of Woman's Capacity Development Center in Malajem, Beidha Govt.
8- Providing Medical Equipment for Regional Malaria Control in Hajar, Hadramout.
9- Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Socotra Island.
10- Production of Bricks for Income Generation in Mouza District, Taiz Govt.

Japan helps preserve Zabid culture

The government of Japan has decided to extend a cultural grant amounting to US \$46,430 to the General Organization for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts for the purchase of conservation equipment for Zabid Historical Museum in Zabid Citadel.

Sheikh Miftah's wife assaulted

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The wife of Sheikh Mohammad Miftah, Orator of the Great Mosque in Al-Rawdha, an area on the northern edge of the capital, complains of being assaulted by members from the political security.

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: When do you think Yemen will allow the emergence of private electronic media (radio, TV) in Yemen? - In less than 2 years 88% - Within 10 years 8% - Not in the near future 4%

last edition's question: When do you think Sanaa is going to face a water shortage crisis? Within ten years 88% Not in the foreseen future 8% Within 50 years 4% Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Inventory on health institutions

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of USAID, the Ministry of General Health & Population Amran Governor, Brigadaire/ Taha Abdullah Hajar, a training course on inventory for the public and private health institutions of Amran ran Nov. 22 to 28.

The inventory process is for all the public and private health institutions in all the governorates of the Republic.

An agreement was signed at the Embassy of Japan in Sana'a by Dr. Abdulla Mohammed Bawazir, President of the General Organization for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts and H.E. Yuichi Ishii, the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen.

means. The latest misconduct we have been subject to was the storming of our house by police security elements at midnight Saturday Nov.20. Threatening us by the use of weapon, they forcibly snatched the keys of Noralhuda Librery, situated in 26 September Street and took all the books available, worth of about YR 15 million.

The bereaved wife added: "abiding by neither law, legislation, ethics nor humanitarian principles they did all what I mentioned before a group of eyewitnesses."

Concluding her letter, Miftah's wife appealed to the Public Prosecutor to look into the matter and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In its latest issue Nov. 30, Al-Balagh weekly mentioned: " Sheikh Miftah currently lives in a bad condition. He is treated in an inhumane way in the political security prison."

The newspaper added: "Sheikh Miftah receives psychological torture resulting in the deterioration of his health.

It is worth mentioning that Sheikh Miftah was arrested in last September for being allegedly suspected of supporting Cleric Hussein Al-Houthi who rebelled against the government in the north province of Sa'ada.

WFRT to host ... Symposium on women's rights

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The third symposium on Women Rights and Social Justice is to be held in early December under the motto "Women rights in Islam and the Social Justice."

The event, which is to be organized by the Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) in collaboration with GTZ, aims at assessing and following up with its special program on Women Rights in Islam.

The symposium is comprised of five topics:

- 1- Intellectual stagnation and its reflections on the level of the family, socially, cultural and politically.
2- Innovation of the philosophy and connotations,
3- Women's rights and their misunderstood roles in Islam
4- The characteristics and the Islamic personification; and
5- Human rights and the social justice

The head of the WFRT, Suad al-

Qadasi pledges that the WFRT would continue its events and activities, which is "an expression of the Forum's awareness of the extent of the problem of misinterpreting Islam and preaching in a way that is disadvantageous to women's right, which contradicts to Islamic values.

The program targets activists, community members, the media, academics, and mosques preachers whose role is prominent in influencing and changing the negative perceptions of women.

It is worth indicating that the program of "Women's rights in Islam" was initiated by the WFRT in early 2004, and was concluded by distributing the forms for assessing the target points and issues.

The WFRT's efforts have also been focused on the relationship between old and outdated social and cultural traditions and violence and disregard to women. The forum tries to encourage female participants to be more involved in its activities and introduces new incentives in this respect.

Workshop on health information system

Under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed Yahia Al-No'ami, Minister of Public Health and Population, the USAID project, PHRplus, has concluded its Statistic and Health Information System workshop for Al-Jawf which was organized from Nov. 27 to December 2nd, at Sana'a International Hotel.

An understanding of the Health Information System, including how data are collected and why, how data are reported, processed and published is crucial for a good understanding of the operation of the Yemeni Health Care Delivery System.

As part of the health sector reform strategy, decentralization of the health system means also a decentralization of the responsibility to collect reliable data at the district and facility level. The workshop was held upon request-

ing the US Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Partners for Health Reformplus Project, by the MoPHP's General Department of Health Statistics and Health Information to provide training in the principles of statistics to Governorate Health Offices and District Health Management teams to assist in the application of statistical methods to applied statistical problems.

The training workshop involved members of the training and support teams of Al-Jawf Governorate Health and Population Offices and members of the district health management teams for six days beginning on Nov. 27.

By the end of the training course, 45 participants have been acquainted with the Yemeni Health Information System.

Protest against Iranian company

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ten Somali workers as well as an Ethiopian are protesting against the Iranian sewer company for the postponement of their salaries for two months, and financial rights of the dismissed workers who had been working for the company for more than a year in Sana'a.

reception of their salaries that are daily YR 750 for each one.

The employees got into a quarrel with officials of the company a month ago. Policemen intervened and they got their rights but, according to the workers, the problem has reemerged.

The Somali and Ethiopian workers are facing many problems because they have not any association or syndicate to support their rights.

Media ethics amidst international changes

BY YEMEN TIMES

A symposium, that was organized by Media Center on the media work controls and ethics in the shadow of the international changes was held on Sunday Nov. 28 2004.

From his side, Dr. Abdulla al-Zalab, Dean of the Institute, has addressed the journalism professionals to the necessity of coping with the international changes and the sticking to the profession manners and ethics.

the Press and Printing Law and the restrictions that the journalists fall in as well the demanding for protecting the Journalists in case they fall exposed to illegal litigation.

Dr. Ali al-Buraihy, in the name of the Institute, has indicated in his paper that there is no difference between the Politician and the journalist pointing out that the obscuring in information to be given to the journalist might lead to the hindrances facing him. The symposium was attended by a number of media personalities, concerned individuals, and the related authorities.

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National program holds workshop

Experts talk about climate change

By Ismail al-Ghabry
Yemen Times Staff

The General Authority for Environment Protection has organized its first workshop on the National Program to adapt to climate changes on Nov. 29.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To present the theme and main objectives of NAPA;
- To clarify the NAPA process and the role of all relevant stakeholders;
- To present and discuss the work plans of national teams;
- To enhance public awareness activities on climate change related issues.

A word was delivered by the Chairman of the General Authority for Environment Protection, Eng. Mahmood Shidiwah. He emphasized the importance of the climate change

phenomenon that enables this international phenomenon to be connected to different essential sectors.

He also assured that the climate change phenomenon is directly connected to the direct sustainable development operation which require collective efforts by the official and population authorities to reduce the general principle of the development operation.

He added that Yemen is considered a pioneering country which signed the first Climate Change Agreement in Rio de Janeiro and then combined that with the Kyoto Protocol this year.

After that, a word of the UNDP Representative was delivered by the UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Yemen, Randa Abo-Al-Hosn in which she said the following:

"Recognizing climate change issues as a significant human development



The workshop aimed at identifying the importance of all relevant stakeholders in environmental protection.

change, a global climate change convention was adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. As you are well aware, the goal of the convention is to, as much as possible, manage the adverse environment effects of climate change through coping and mitigation measures".

She also said, "Within Yemen there is a lack of base data that can assist us measure, plan and mitigate against these negative effects. The three climate zones of Yemen (coastal, arid and mountainous) will all be affected differently, as will urban areas be differently effected to rural areas, as will be the broader environment be differently effected from the human population.

"Exactly what effect climate change will have on the Yemeni environment and ultimately on the human popula-

tion is unknown. Before we can predict the severity of these negative effects and plan to mitigate or cope with these effects, there is some fundamental information that must be gathered and analyzed."

After that, the Unit Head of Climate Change, in the General Authority for Environment Protection, delivered a word in which he talked about concentration heat occlusion gases. So, it is a duty to take care of the environment and to preserve and protect it for the present and future of the nation.

Thus, the workshop aimed to recognize the importance of involvement and co-operation of all the relevant stakeholders including key ministries, NGOs, academic institutions and private sector.



Some of the participants in the workshop.

Investment opportunities in Yemeni islands discussed

By Hassan Al-Zaydi
Yemen Times Staff

Events of the First International Conference on Investment Opportunities in the Yemeni Islands had started last Tuesday, at the Indoor Sport Hall, Sana'a, lasting until December 4. Some 340 participants representing a number of local, Arab and International companies have attended its sessions.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Director General of the Yemeni Islands Development Authority has mentioned that the Authority has performed the researches and studies for the islands, numbering 183; scattering in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Arab Sea.

The Authority has presented a vast database to the conference, describing the contents and possible investment opportunities in the economical and environmental aspects.

The Director General of the Authority Dr. Awadh Bamatraf said that the information on these islands was not accessible, before the establishment of the Authority, only to military authorities.



Prime Minister speaking at the conference.

"The specialized teams of the Authority have conducted field visits and surveys through which the Authority has identified the importance of the islands' locations and the investment potentials over there," he said.

The seven inhabited islands were taken care of, and the economic surveys have contained the tourism, fishery and navigational functions of these islands and other possible functions.

He said the Authority has split up the

islands into sectors, most significant of which is Hunaish sector, comprising 22 islands, Aden sector comprising 23 islands, and Alwaheedah sector with forty-eight islands as well as Arab Sea and Indian Sea with five islands. These

islands are open to investment in several fields.

Prime Minister, Bajammal, has welcomed the investors in a speech, emphasizing that the Government is so interested in the scientific and social development and that it will provide the necessary facilities for the investors.

The discussion held last Tuesday has tackled the papers submitted by Dr

Mohammed Qahtan on the legal status of these islands in the development and investment realm and also the Yemeni economy, and the guide of investment opportunities in the Yemeni islands as well as the environmental investment, and the building and the architectural planning in the islands. Moreover, an analytical paper on al-Duwymah, Kamaran, Meyun islands was presented too.



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وظيفة شاغرة

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Organized by CBF

Working together for development

By Yasser Al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

Cultures Bridges Forum (CBF) organized an extended meeting with NGOs, donor countries and the European Union in Sana'a Nov. 29

Under the slogan "to work together towards effective role of NGOs in entire development," the meeting was led by Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eryani, Head of CBF and the political advisor of the president of the Republic.

He said "working together towards effective role of NGOs' is an open call for cooperation, and partnership for the entire development." Achieving the partnership and fruitful connection with the NGOs in all their orientations

aims to fulfill the purpose of us all, cooperation for developing the role of NGOs.

Al-Eryani pointed out that, "the participation of the president in the eighth summit held in USA in June shows the desire of Yemen, leaders and people, for reform, entire development, and improving the democratic experience in proportion with the nature and requirements of the Yemen society."

He confirmed that the basic aims of the international initiative for reform is a pressing and public requirement for all, and the NGOs are supposed to be a strategy for this purpose. Change doesn't come directly from highest level but from the base.

"The scope in Yemen is open for cooperation and partnership between the base and top of the pyramid," he

added. Johan F. L. Blankenberg, Ambassador of Netherlands and the representative of EU in Sana'a, confirmed the historical role the NGOs have been playing, and that comes before the role of the governmental ones.

He pointed out that the charitable organizations appeared before the new country and the government's care about the NGOs is a part of this aspect. The government aims to increase the role of woman participation in education and public occupation in order to create strong and well organized infrastructure.

The representatives of NGOs raised some points that dealt with the bases and principles on which the NGOs are able to support the efforts of fighting

poverty throughout participating in providing employment chances by training the male and female staffs and teaching them the different handicrafts allowing them to improve the level of their life.

They are also participating in increasing awareness among people about the importance of democracy, human rights and the environmental in the various economic, political and social fields. They show how the government and the nation are trying to stabilize these values that are based on the Islamic principles.

The extended meeting with the EU and the donor countries is concerned with preparing for the extended conference of the NGOs expected to be held during the first half of the coming year.

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Commemorative ceremony for Palestine's leader

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A great ceremony was organized Monday Nov. 29 jointly by Kana'an for Palestine Society (KPS) and the Palestinian Embassy at the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, Sana'a University on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, Palestinian Ambassador Khaled Al-Sheikh, and Gen. Yahya Mohammed Abullah Saleh, Director of KPS, diplomats, representatives of NGOs, members of the Palestinian community in



Yasser Arafat

Yemen and a huge crowd of students.

The ceremony was devoted to commemorate late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the symbol of the Palestinian people's cause.

In his speech on the occasion, Vice-President eulogized the martyred president.

"Struggler Yasser Arafat represented the cause of the Palestinian people on the Arab and international level, and when he died the whole world bid farewell to him," said he.

He added: "The world now has begun to sense the pains of the Palestinian people. We must seize the opportunity in 2005 to make it the year for declaring the Palestinian State."

He recommended Yemeni universities to open branches for KPS to

expand its circle of activities.

Vice-President also reiterated the support of the Yemeni people and leadership for the Palestinians until they get their lawful rights.

Khaled Al-Sheikh, Palestinian Ambassador to Yemen, indicated Yemen's role in advocating the Palestinian cause. "Yemen has shouldered the cares of Palestinians," said he.

In his speech at the commemoration ceremony, Director of the KSP called on the Arab leaders to yoke sayings with deeds, and provide real back-up

for the Palestinians. He also praised the dead leader saying: "Thousands of words will never be sufficient to numerate your achievements and characteristics."

A host of Yemeni and Palestinian children performed at the commencement of the ceremony the anthems of the two countries. The ceremony was vibrating with enthusiastic chants.

On the other hand, Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan sent a message on the occasion condoling the Palestinian people who are "mourning the loss of their leaders."

"Let us hope that this memory will be an inspiration to the Palestinian people at this difficult time, so that they may remain united and strengthened in their efforts to realize their national aspirations for statehood and self-determination through peaceful means."

Mr. Annan added in his message that he would continue to work with all parties for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, based on Security Council resolutions, and on the principle of land for peace.

Continued from page 1

One killed, another wounded at Aden court

Security measures were intensified in the vicinity of the court to enable the suspect to be taken out peacefully since the protestors attempted to snatch him from among the police recruits.

The drama of the shooting

On the other hand, an eyewitness said a policeman belonging to the central security got out of a police vehicle and fired randomly in the air and to the ground in an apparent attempt to disperse the crowd. As a result, passerby Hussein Karout was wounded in his foot and Abdurrahman Al-Sawka was killed while he was standing near the court carrying his child.

An eyewitness described the murder scene by saying that despite being fatally shot, the victim tried to keep himself balanced and not fall in order

not to harm his child before he was prevented from falling by some of the horror-stricken people, who were present at the moment.

Another eyewitness said, "I heard the shooting and shouting of the protestors. So, I left the court and found a bleeding person on the ground while a large crowd of people gathered in an attempt to take him away and there was a female child crying because her father was shot."

He added, "I saw a police officer snatching the gun from the soldier who supposedly was the one who opened fire. He then rushed him into the vehicle and both fled the scene."

A third eyewitness shouted, "We came to the court to attend the trial of the murderer who killed two civilians and belonged to the Intelligence Department. We are now seeing another

one killed by security forces in front of our own naked eyes!"

Security forces blame the crowd

In a statement to the Yemen Times, a source at the Security Authority said what happened was a result of the violent actions of the protestors standing in front of the court. He claims that the protestors threw stones at the police elements and blocked the street in an attempt to kill the defendant, was allegedly convicted of the murder two civilians, while he was inside the court building.

Investigations are still underway to find out the real causes behind the incident and it is expected that the family of the civilian who was killed in front of the court would file a lawsuit against the security forces for the murder of their relative.

Boat sinks on way to Yemen

"The Council welcomes the progress made in the Somalia national reconciliation process - in particular the establishment of the Transitional Federal Parliament, the election of the speaker of the parliament, the president and the appointment of the prime minister, which provides a sound and solid framework to achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution to the situation," said the Council's statement at the end of a two-day meeting in Nairobi in November.

Yusuf has asked the African Union to provide a 15,000-20,000 peace-keeping force to help disarm different

militias. In the process the new government would have a Somali National Security Force trained to replace the peacekeeping soldiers.

Bringing stability to Somalia will not be easy, however. Mogadishu, which has been divided between factions during the ongoing civil war, is home to an estimated 60,000 armed men belonging to clans that hold different parts of the capital. Clashes have erupted recently between militias as clan leaders are fighting for a position before the new government arrives in the capital. In mid-November, gunmen raided Yusuf's

home in Nairobi, hours after he moved in. The new leader was unharmed and the purpose of the raid is still unknown.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh attended the ceremony of the new Somali president taking the oath of office in Nairobi and called on the international community to help bring stability to the war-torn country. In early November, the Yemeni government asked the Arab League to create an Arab fund that would assist the rebuilding of Somalia.

Yemen participates in Civil Society conference in Morocco

The parallel meeting aims at launching a new mechanism for proceeding with the process of reform and enhancing human rights in the region. This is alongside other mechanism in which the civil society plays an activating role e.g. the mechanisms of the United Nations and the Euro-Mediterranean and African partnership. The civil society should play an effective role in such a mechanism in order to render it the most effective as possible. Priority on the agenda of the forum would be given to the issues of political reform and human rights. Moreover, it allows a chance for dialogue with the Arab governments, the majority of which reject dialogue with the civil society locally or on the regional level within the framework of the Arab League.

The conference of the civil society underlines the lessons learnt from other region resembling the Arab world regarding reform. The year 2004 will be evaluated regarding the best and worst practices on the track of reform and the means enhance the role of the civil society and the international community in enhancing reform and human rights in the Arab world. The recommendations of the conference will be presented to the first official meeting of the Forum for the Future.

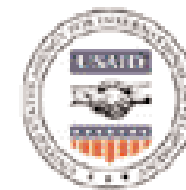
It is noteworthy that this conference complements the series of conferences held by the civil society institutions on reform over the year. The most distinguished of which was the First Civil Forum. The Forum was organized by the CIHRS in Beirut in March 19-22 2004, in cooperation with the Association for Defending Rights and Freedoms (ADL) and the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) and in coordination with the EMHRN and the FIDH with the participation of 87 participants representing 52 NGOs from 13 Arab states in addition to 13 observers from 10 countries. The

Forum issued the "Second Independence" initiative including the recommendations of the civil society in a number of important issues regarding reform. Besides, there was a conference held in Cairo July 5-7, 2004 organized by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and the Al Siyassa Al Dawlia Journal. It was attended by 100 participants from 15 Arab states and concluded a document entitled: "Priorities and Mechanisms of Reform in the Arab World". Both documents in addition to a third one issued by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the International Federation for Human Rights and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network last June on the occasion of the EU-US summit. Such are the documents upon which the Rabat conference is prepared so that it would be a continuation of the strenuous efforts of the civil society on the issue of reform.

Worth-mentioning is that the Beirut Conference held in March 2004 was held parallel to the Arab summit and sent its recommendations to the Arab kings and presidents and the Secretariat of the Arab League. Attached to the said documents was a request to present the recommendations to the Tunis Summit meeting and to involve the civil society representatives as observers. However, it was not approved. Furthermore, Tunisia had rejected hosting the Civil Forum. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies is yet to receive the reply of the Algerian government regarding a request sent months ago to allow holding a meeting parallel to the forthcoming Arab summit in Algeria March 2005. Moreover, the by-laws of the Arab League do not allow the participation of non-governmental organizations in its meetings unless the governments concerned approve the

application - a unique procedure in the Arab world.

Source: Yemen Times & Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

"Health and Population Specialist"

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), American Embassy/Sana'a, under the supervision of the USAID Senior Health Advisor and the general supervision of the USAID Representative. Employee serves as a health and population specialist under USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-005: "Increased Use of Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health Services in Targeted Governorates." (i.e. Marib, al-Jawf, Shabwa, Amran and Sa'ada). Employee will focus on delivery of health services primarily to women (maternal and reproductive health), and the health of children. Employee will provide input and technical direction into the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of assigned activities and projects. The employee will also conduct related discussions with officials from the Yemeni Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors.

Required Qualifications:

Education: BS degree in Public Health, Nursing, Health Planning and Management, or related Social Sciences field is required. MA/MS degree in these fields is preferred.

Prior Work Experience: Four to six years work experience in Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Health Planning and Management, or related Social Sciences field is required. Experience managing public health development projects is preferred. Up to two years of graduate work in a field related to the position may be substituted for the required work experience.

Knowledge: A thorough knowledge and understanding of the Yemen health system, the government and non-government entities working in the health field, issues related to maternal, reproductive and child health, the economic, political, and cultural characteristics of the target population is required. Thorough knowledge of development prospects/priorities relating to health is preferred.

Grade/Salary: FSN-10.

How to apply: All Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dkhair Hinyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155, no later than December 15, 2004.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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Lebanese march in support of Syria, against U.N.

BEIRUT, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Thousands of Lebanese marched through Beirut on Tuesday to protest against a U.N. resolution calling on Syria to pull its troops out of Lebanon. Syria has roughly 14,000 troops in Lebanon, and a major say in Beirut politics. The march was encouraged by the government and the Syrian-backed guerrilla group Hizbollah, which has strong support in Lebanon for fighting Israel.

The mostly male crowd held banners saying "A million yesses to the relationship between Syria and Lebanon" and "Beirut with Bashar al-Assad forever". Dozens of police and army lined the streets.

The protest was organised after an unauthorised march earlier this month in which hundreds of mainly Christian students called for an end to Syrian interference in Lebanon.

Opposition to Damascus' role in Lebanon has become more vocal in recent months, encouraged by U.N. Security Council resolution 1559 instructing Syria to pull out.

For the pro-Syrian protest, dubbed the "March of a million" by organisers, roads were closed and posters of Lebanese President Emile Lahoud and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad were put up around Beirut.

"Resolution 1559 is international interference in Lebanese internal affairs," Hizbollah deputy chief Naim Kasseem told protesters gathered on Beirut's Martyr's Square, where several speakers urged the Lebanese to remain united under pressure.

"The Lebanese reject it, both government and people."

The U.S. and French-backed resolution in September aimed to head off an amendment to the Lebanese constitu-

tion which allowed pro-Syrian Lahoud to extend his term. Parliament passed the amendment anyway.

Lahoud and the government say Syrian involvement in Lebanon is an internal Lebanese matter. Damascus too says U.N. resolution 1559 was prompted by a U.S. desire to put pressure on Syria, not out of concern for Lebanese sovereignty.

"We want Syria to stay, we are nothing without Syria," said Ghiwa Ghiyah, a 17-year-old student.

"We and the Syrians are one people... and the resolution was awful interference by the Americans," said 25-year-old Jamil Ibrahim, a school teacher joining the march.

Opposition politicians say the bid to mobilise support risks needless confrontation with the United Nations and threatens Lebanon's cohesion, fragile since the 1975-1990 civil war.



Lebanese men marched with posters of Syria President Bashar al-Assad and Lebanese President Emile Lahoud during a rally in Beirut November 30. Thousands of Lebanese marched through Beirut on Tuesday in a protest encouraged by the government and guerrilla group Hizbollah against a U.N. resolution calling on Syria to pull its troop out of Lebanon. REUTERS

Iran boasts of victory over US on nuclear case

TEHRAN, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Iran boasted on Tuesday it had defeated U.S. efforts to send its nuclear case to the U.N. Security Council while warning that its uranium enrichment freeze would only last for a few months.

"The Americans have been calling for Iran to be reported to the Security Council for a year and a half, now the whole world has turned down America's calls," Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani told a news conference.

"Despite the U.S. propaganda Iran has not relinquished its right to the (nuclear) fuel cycle and it never will do," said the cleric, who is secretary-general of Iran's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council.

His comments appeared to undermine European Union efforts to persuade Tehran to permanently mothball enrichment facilities — which can be used to make atomic reactor fuel or nuclear bombs — and were likely to fuel U.S. concerns that Iran secretly plans to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran, which insists its nuclear programme is solely for electricity generation, on Monday escaped possible U.N. sanctions after agreeing to suspend all uranium processing and enrichment activities.

The EU hopes Iran will make the suspension permanent in return for trade deals and other incentives. But Tehran says the suspension is a voluntary and temporary measure designed to gain international trust.

"The length of the suspension will only be for the length of the negotiations with the Europeans and ... must be rational and not too long," Rohani said.

"We're talking about months, not years," he added.

The United States, which already has a ban on trade and investment with Iran, OPEC's second biggest oil producer, has voiced scepticism Iran will stick to the nuclear freeze and says it may take Iran's case to the Security Council on its own.



Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani speaks with journalists in Tehran November 30. Iran reiterated on Tuesday it was only prepared to keep its uranium enrichment activities frozen for a few months and would not, as the EU and Washington wants, permanently mothball facilities which could make atomic bombs. REUTERS

growing frustration with Iran, which reneged on a similar suspension six months ago and wrangled over each step of negotiations on the current freeze.

But Rohani said Iran's talks with the EU over the nuclear issue were a positive sign to the world.

"This is a historical opportunity for Iran and Europe to prove to the world that unilateralism is condemned, that the world's most complicated matters can be solved by negotiation."

"Negotiations with Europe will be complicated, it won't be easy and will have lots of ups and downs," he added, warning: "If the Europeans do not show honesty, we will leave the talks."

"Europe wants objective guarantees that our enrichment activities won't be diverted to making weapons. How to implement this guarantee will be the most difficult part of the negotia-

tions," he said.

The Iran-EU talks are due to resume on Dec. 15, by which time the two sides must resolve a dispute over 20 enrichment centrifuges which Iran wanted to exempt from the freeze.

Iran says it will not use the centrifuges to enrich uranium — a process which can make atomic reactor fuel or bomb-grade material. But it wants to use them for other tests and research.

EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana said Iran's nuclear freeze meant talks would resume on a trade and cooperation agreement. The talks have been on hold for more than a year due to the nuclear issue.

Rohani said the world had nothing to fear from Iran's nuclear facilities. "If we had wanted to make a nuclear bomb we would have made one in the last 20 years," he said.

Positive sign
Western diplomats have expressed

Car bomb kills seven, wounds 20 in Iraq

BAIJI, Iraq, Nov 30 (Reuters) - A car bomb in a crowded market north of Baghdad killed at least seven civilians and wounded 18 on Tuesday as a U.S. military patrol passed by.

As well as daily attacks on Iraqi security forces and civilians, November has been one of the deadliest months for U.S. troops, with at least 134 killed — just one short of the figure in April which was the highest monthly toll so far.

The U.S. military says it expects violence to escalate before elections scheduled for Jan. 30.

The bomb went off in a busy staging area in the oil-refining town of Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, as a U.S. military patrol was passing. The blast destroyed market stalls and caused panic among scores of shoppers, witnesses said.

A doctor at Baiji hospital, Samir Mehdi, said he had received seven dead civilians from the blast and 18 wounded. A U.S. military spokesman said two U.S. soldiers were wounded.

In a separate attack in the town, an insurgent fired a rocket-propelled

grenade at a U.S. tank, wounding a U.S. soldier and damaging the tank, the U.S. spokesman said. And in Baghdad, a suicide car bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy on the road to the airport, wounding five soldiers, the military said.

Baiji, site of a major oil refinery, has seen a surge in violence over the past three weeks, since U.S. forces launched their offensive on the rebel town of Falluja.

That assault sparked guerrilla attacks across a swathe of Sunni Muslim regions of the country including towns such as Samarra, Tikrit, Baquba and Mosul, as well as Baiji.

The U.S. military says it expects more attacks in the build up to the elections and has said it will do all it can before then to quell the insurgency and put Iraqi forces in charge of security.

Leading Sunni Arab political parties want the elections postponed by up to six months, saying their supporters will not be able to vote freely due to the violence in Sunni areas.

Election delay?
Sunni Arabs make up only around 20

percent of Iraq's population but dominated the ruling elite during the rule of Saddam Hussein. Several Sunni parties say they will boycott the elections unless the government agrees to postpone them.

But parties representing Iraq's 60-percent Shi'ite Muslim majority, oppressed under Saddam, are demanding polls go ahead on time to cement their political dominance in the new Iraq.

Backed by Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most revered religious leader, Shi'ite parties have refused to accept any delay, saying that would mean giving in to guerrilla violence.

Iraq's two main Kurdish political parties initially signed a petition calling for a delay in the vote, but have since said they would be happy for the election to go ahead as scheduled.

As part of efforts to generate enthusiasm for the elections, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Tuesday he would travel to Jordan this week for talks with Iraqi exiles. The government dismissed reports that exiles with links to the insurgency would be present at the talks.



A U.S. Army armoured vehicle stands guard near a crater after a powerful car bomb exploded in Baiji, 112 miles north of Baghdad November 30. The bomb, which was detonated as a U.S. military convoy was passing, killed at least seven people and wounded 20, underlining Iraq's severe security problems with elections just two months away. REUTERS

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Japan, India woo SE Asia to counter China muscle

VIENTIANE, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Japan and India courted southeast Asian leaders on Tuesday, a day after China signed a landmark deal with ASEAN to create an Asian free trade market of 1.8 billion people by 2015.

Officials from the 10-member Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and Tokyo said tariff-cutting talks on their Japan-ASEAN trade zone would start in April and be wrapped up in two years.

"We were very, very stimulated by China's initiative," a Japanese official told reporters at the summit in the sleepy Laos capital. "We want to make it speedy, not because of China, but because this sort of negotiation needs impetus."

ASEAN's free trade deal with China is due to be phased in from 2010, and its agreement with Japan, who sent Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to Vientiane, by 2012.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, another guest at the annual jamboree of ASEAN — which groups Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar — also made plans to get its own regional trade zone done and dusted by 2016.

"India is a country which has been growing at 6 to 7 percent for the last several years and this is a fact which is of interest to ASEAN countries," said Indian foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna.

Amid a flurry of trade deals all designed to keep pace with China's



Leaders of member countries gather for the signing ceremony on the Vientiane Action Programme during the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Nov. 29. The ASEAN Summit is being held from November 29-30 in the Lao capital. REUTERS

growing economic and political clout, South Korea, the last one of the three North Asian guests at the summit, also pressed for a piece of the action.

Seoul, which edged closer to a mini-

free trade pact with Singapore on Monday, said it would open talks on reducing trade levies with its southern neighbours in early 2005.

Not to be outdone by Japan, negoti-

ations with South Korea will also take only two years, a summit statement said.

In a free trade frenzy sparked by China's moves two years ago, the

prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand also put in their first appearances at an ASEAN summit with overtures for their rendition of a free trade zone.

However, Australian Prime Minister John Howard put some Asian noses out of joint with his refusal to sign a non-aggression pact with ASEAN, a stance that has led to calls for his exclusion from the forum in the future.

CHINA SMILES

The ever-broadening grin on the face of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao each time he appeared in public bore testimony to China's growing confidence in its ability to turn economic into political power in its strategically important southern reaches. "The agreements signed today show that China-ASEAN relations have developed on their original foundation to a new level," Wen told reporters after the trade deal was signed.

Another sign of Beijing flexing its muscles was an initiative on Monday to establish an East Asia Summit (EAS), echoing Malaysia's proposed East Asian Economic Caucus, stillborn a decade ago after encountering stiff opposition from the U.S.

Beijing's commitment to such a summit "will not budge an inch as China grows stronger", Wen said late on Monday.

Details of the EAS, which first appeared in a summit statement that was then withdrawn, remain sketchy, but the idea was sufficiently controversial to prompt an exercise in damage control from top ASEAN officials.

Secretary General Ong Keng Yong insisted plans were only at the "brainstorming" stage and suggested communique writers had jumped the gun in giving a new name to a forum that brings together ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea, a group hitherto referred to as "ASEAN+3".

"Our drafters tended to be too quick on the draw," Ong told a news conference on Monday after the revised statement emerged.

The second version of the communique that said: "We agreed to transform the ASEAN+3 summit into the East Asian Summit" was watered down to: "We discussed the convening of an East Asia Summit".

Under the terms of the China-ASEAN trade deal, which combines economies worth more than \$2 trillion, the two sides will start tariff cuts on July 1, 2005, with a target of axing duties on 4,000 types of goods to between zero and five percent by 2010.

However, in a sign talks are not as smooth as initially planned, duties on "sensitive goods" such as sugar, iron, steel and cars would be cut to below 20 percent only by 2012.

Furthermore, the deal only encompasses ASEAN's six more advanced economies. The four poorer members — Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar — have until 2015 to comply.

In the first nine months of 2004, China's trade with ASEAN countries grew by 35 percent from a year earlier and is due to surpass \$100 billion this year.

Wen sidesteps Koizumi's invitation to visit Japan

VIENTIANE, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Tuesday invited Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to visit Japan, but Wen sidestepped a reply in a sign that ties remain bedevilled by a spat rooted in Japan's wartime history.

In a meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in the Lao capital, Wen asked Koizumi to "appropriately handle" the issue of his visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are honoured along with Japan's nearly 2.5 million war dead.

Koizumi's invitation to Wen, the first since he took over as premier from Zhu Rongji in March 2003, signalled the atmosphere between Asia's two major powers was improving, Japanese government spokesman Akira Chiba told reporters.

Political ties have been on the rocks, with China unhappy about Koizumi's periodic Yasukuni visits, Japan upset over an intrusion into its territorial waters by a Chinese nuclear submarine this month and the two countries quibbling about aid.

Wen said he "hopes to visit Japan in a favourable condition and environment", Chiba said.

Former premier Zhu Rongji was the last top leader to visit Japan and that was four years ago.

SHRINE DIVIDES JAPANESE PUBLIC

Koizumi's visits to the Yasukuni Shrine have been a major sticking point keeping Sino-Japanese political relations from blossoming along with their booming economic and trade ties.

The Japanese public itself is sharply divided over the issue, according to an opinion poll published on Tuesday.

In a weekend telephone poll by the liberal Asahi newspaper, 38 percent of the 1,885 respondents said they wanted Koizumi to keep making annual visits to the shrine, while 39 percent said he



Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi (R) and Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao shake hands at the start of talks in Vientiane, Laos Nov. 30, after Chinese President Hu Jintao criticised Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni shrine when the two met at Pacific Rim summit in Santiago earlier this month. The Japanese public is sharply divided over Koizumi's visit to the shrine for war dead that has become focus of a dispute with China, an opinion poll published on Tuesday showed. JAPAN OUTNO SALES NO ARCHIVES. REUTERS

should stop. The rest gave unspecified replies or no answer.

Xinhua quoted Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei as saying Wen had asked that Koizumi's annual visits to the shrine be stopped.

"The prime minister of Japan repeated his view that the reason he visits the shrine is to soothe the souls of those who lost their lives in action against their will and to reaffirm his vow never to engage in warfare," Chiba said.

Koizumi, for his part, asked Wen for assurances that China would prevent any future submarine incursions. China has expressed regret for what it said was an accident but it has yet to give Japan the assurances Tokyo seeks to guarantee that another such incursion will not happen, Chiba said.

"We will keep on asking for prevention" of similar incidents," he said.

TALKS GO OVERTIME AGAIN

The Wen-Koizumi meeting came just over a week after Koizumi met Chinese President and Communist Party chief Hu Jintao in Santiago, Chile. Like those talks, Tuesday's meeting in Vientiane stretched far beyond the scheduled time — to over an hour from a planned 25 minutes.

Koizumi, who has visited Yasukuni every year since taking office in April 2001, has repeatedly said his visits are to pray for peace and that Japan should never go to war again.

But the visits to the shrine, viewed by critics as a symbol of Japan's past militarism, have stoked anger in China, where many still resent Japan's invasion and occupation of parts of the country from 1931 to 1945.

Japan has further upset Beijing with comments suggesting that Japanese aid will soon come to a halt.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told a news conference on Tuesday that economic aid from Japan was not a one-sided hand-out. It benefitted Japanese companies and boosted the development of both countries.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said last Friday that Japan should stop aid to China in the near future because of the latter's robust economic growth.

Last year, Tokyo scaled back loans to China by 20 percent to around 96.7 billion yen (\$943.7 million). Japan's cumulative aid to China stands at 3.3 trillion yen.

Musharraf can be Pakistan president and army chief

ISLAMABAD, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Pakistan passed a law on Tuesday that will allow President Pervez Musharraf to stay on as army chief despite his pledge that he would quit his military post by the end of the year.

Musharraf was on an official visit to Latin America, and in his absence Acting President Pervez Mohammad Soomro, who is chairman of the upper house of parliament or Senate, signed the bill that was passed last month into law.

"The president can now keep both offices," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told Reuters.

Islamist and mainstream opposition parties had opposed the law letting Musharraf, who came to power in a bloodless coup five years ago, be both president and army chief. They say it will hinder democracy in Pakistan.

Musharraf has said he has not yet taken a final decision on whether to quit as army chief but experts say he can now legally justify keeping both positions.

Under a deal with an alliance of Islamist parties last year, Musharraf pledged to take off his military uniform by the end of 2004 in return for support for constitutional changes validating his rule and giving him extensive power.

Musharraf recently suggested he was no longer bound by that pledge, saying quitting the army could undermine his authority in the war on terror as well as his ability to push forward a nascent peace process with arch-rival India.

"Darkest day"

Opposition groups denounced the signing of the bill and said it dealt a serious blow to democracy in Pakistan, which has been ruled by the military for more than half of the 57 years it has been an independent state.

"It is the darkest day in the political history of Pakistan," said Raza Rabbani, a senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) led by exiled former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "It is perhaps the last nail in the coffin of democracy in Pakistan."

The signing of the bill came just three days after the main Islamist opposition kicked off a public campaign to try to force Musharraf to quit the powerful army position.

The Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD), a grouping made up of PPP and other secular parties, has planned a protest campaign and will hold its first rally in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Dec. 5.

Despite ideological differences, the two alliances are trying to find common ground for a joint struggle against Musharraf.

But the release earlier this month of Asif Ali Zardari, Bhutto's husband, after eight years in jail, triggered speculation that Musharraf was reaching out to secular groups among the opposition.

While Western countries have voiced concern over Musharraf's democratic credentials, criticism has been muted because of his role in helping the United States in the war on terror.

On Tuesday, Washington's new ambassador to Islamabad Ryan C. Crocker praised Pakistan's hunt for al Qaeda-linked militants in tribal lands near the Afghan border, and said it was up to Pakistanis to decide what posts Musharraf can hold.

"Our aim is to see democracy developed in a broader sense of the term," Crocker told reporters in the northwestern city of Peshawar. "On this specific issue (of quitting the army), this is something that Pakistani people are going to have to decide for themselves."

Bush seeks to warm up chilly Canadian relations

OTTAWA, Nov 30 (Reuters) - President George W. Bush on Tuesday began a two-day mission to Canada to warm relations chilled over Iraq, insults to the White House and needling trade disputes.

It is part of a Bush administration drive to reach out to countries that opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, though Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin also says Canada and the United States need to end the rancor between them.

Some of Canada's ruling Liberals have made it clear they would prefer to have a Democrat in the White House, but the two sides realize they need to deal with whoever is in power.

"It will give us an opportunity ... to start on a solid footing with the second Bush administration," said Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew.

But it will be the first visit to the Canadian capital of Ottawa since Bush took office in 2001, a fact that Canada's opposition Conservatives blame on Liberal hostility.

"The reality is that the U.S. president is making his first visit to Canada, its largest trading partner, at the end of his term," Conservative Belinda Stronach told Parliament on the eve of the visit.

"There is no better proof of Liberal failure to build this critical relationship," she said, adding that it had resulted in the failure to resolve a U.S. ban on the import of live Canadian cattle and some Canadian beef as well as a lingering dispute over lumber.

The trade relationship between the two countries is the world's richest, amounting to about half a trillion dollars a year.

Beefban



U.S. President George W. Bush (L) and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin walk towards the Cabinet Room of the Parliament Building on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 30. The president and first lady will spend the night in Ottawa and then travel to Halifax tomorrow before returning to the White House in the afternoon. REUTERS

Bush is expected to point out that an end to the beef ban, imposed after the discovery of a mad cow in Canada last year, could come within months. The White House Office of Management and Budget has up to 90 days to approve a lifting of the ban, which would then be implemented within 60 days.

A White House official said Bush would make clear "the process is under way to resolve the issue," while White House spokesman Scott McClellan said as Bush arrived on Tuesday that "no specifics" would be included in a joint statement later on the subject.

The two leaders are also expected to produce a work plan to further "security, prosperity and quality of

life."

Canada's refusal to take part in the Iraq war prompted Bush to call off an earlier visit that had been planned for May 2003. In the run-up to the war, a spokeswoman for then-Prime Minister Jean Chretien referred to Bush as a moron.

Just two weeks ago a Liberal member of Parliament who has repeatedly denigrated the U.S. president stomped on a Bush doll; Martin eventually expelled her from the Liberal caucus.

While many Canadians were horrified at the anti-Bush outbursts, others applauded. An Ipsos-Reid poll published on Tuesday showed that 58 percent of Canadians felt Bush's re-election was a bad thing, compared to 26 percent who supported it.

Ukrainian opposition says pulls out of talks

KIEV, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Ukrainian opposition leaders backing presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said on Tuesday they had withdrawn from talks on last week's disputed election.

"The authorities — Kuchma and Yanukovich — used the talks to cheat," Taras Stetskyv, a member of parliament and long-standing Ukrainian nationalist, told a crowd massed on Kiev's Independence Square.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was the official winner of last week's election to replace outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and which the opposition says was rigged.

"We are stopping talks with the authorities. We will talk with them

only from the position of people power."

Talks between Yushchenko's camp and supporters of Yanukovich have made little progress since mediators from the European Union and Russia secured agreement on the creation of a "working group" to solve the crisis.

Stetskyv urged supporters in the streets and blockading government institutions to shun violence. He said opposition supporters had called for an emergency session of parliament later in the evening.

Parliament failed on Tuesday to proceed with a vote of no confidence in Yanukovich's government and a new session of the assembly was scheduled for Wednesday.



Supporters of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko wearing campaign banners sit outside the building of Ukraine's Interior Ministry as they take part in a protest rally in Kiev, November 30, 2004. A top Ukrainian opposition leader, quoted by Interfax-Ukraine news agency, said supporters of presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko had withdrawn from talks on last week's disputed election. REUTERS

Now or never for N. Irish deal, says Paisley

LONDON/DUBLIN, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Northern Irish Protestant leader Ian Paisley challenged his IRA foes on Tuesday to give up their weapons, saying it was "now or never" for Catholic republicans to agree a lasting political settlement with his party.

Over the last two weeks, Northern Ireland's main parties — Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Irish Republican Army allies Sinn Fein — have stepped up efforts to agree a deal on restoring local government in the province.

After meeting British Prime Minister Tony Blair, veteran hardliner Paisley said a deal on sharing power between divided Catholic and Protestant communities in the province was closer than ever, but warned IRA arms were a stumbling block.

"Until the people of Northern Ireland see that the arms of the IRA are put away ... we can't really look any further," said Paisley, whose DUP represents most of the Protestant majority.

"It's now or never. You must have done with your arms. You must put them away. Everyone must be convinced that the completion is a real act."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams declined to comment on IRA "decommissioning" but said he was worried the timeframe for doing a deal was getting longer.

"We are concerned that the timeframe is stretching. We want to see all of this done very, very quickly indeed," he told reporters in Dublin after a meeting with Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern.

Ahern said last week he hoped to have a decision on any agreement in a matter of days.

Power-sharing

Britain and Ireland are trying to broker an improbable deal between the DUP and Sinn Fein, an accommodation



Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams (R) talks with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at Government Buildings in Dublin Ireland, Nov 30. Northern Irish Protestant leader Ian Paisley challenged his IRA foes on Tuesday to give up their weapons, saying it was "now or never" for Catholic republicans to agree a lasting political settlement with his party. Over the last two weeks, Northern Ireland's main parties — Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Irish Republican Army allies Sinn Fein — have stepped up efforts to agree a deal on restoring local government in the province. REUTERS

long considered impossible in the bitter world of Northern Ireland politics.

Both sides blame each other for a 30-year political and sectarian conflict in the British-ruled province which claimed more than 3,600 lives before rival paramilitary groups called cease-fires prior to a 1998 peace agreement.

A new deal would involve the IRA destroying all the weapons which sustained its long campaign against British rule, and the DUP pledging to share power with Sinn Fein, the largest Catholic party, whose leaders it has long denounced as terrorists.

London and Dublin believe the IRA — which has carried out three, partial acts of disarmament in strict secrecy — is willing to fully disarm, but the DUP's demand for photographic proof of decommissioning is a potential deal-breaker.

Sinn Fein has been pressing for rapid movement from Britain to withdraw troops from the province and dismantle security installations in return for concessions from the IRA.

Northern Ireland's 1998 Good Friday Agreement established a devolved government and assembly in Belfast to share power between Protestant unionists, who support British rule, and Catholic nationalists and republicans who want a united Ireland.

But home rule broke down in 2002 after unionists walked out over allegations of IRA activity, and Britain reimposed direct rule from London.

Adams is due to lead a Sinn Fein delegation for a meeting with Blair in London on Wednesday in the latest stage of their shuttle diplomacy to get a deal agreed.

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نتقدم بخالص العزاء والموساة إلى كل من

محمد عبد الودود المنصوب السقاف
وإلى عادل ورائد ووائل المنصوب السقاف
وكافة عائلة المنصوب السقاف

وذلك لوفاة رجل الأعمال المعروف

عبد الودود المنصوب السقاف

تغمده الله بواسع رحمته، وألهم أهله الصبر والسلوان.

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

عن جميع موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز
رئيس التحرير/ وليد عبد العزيز السقاف

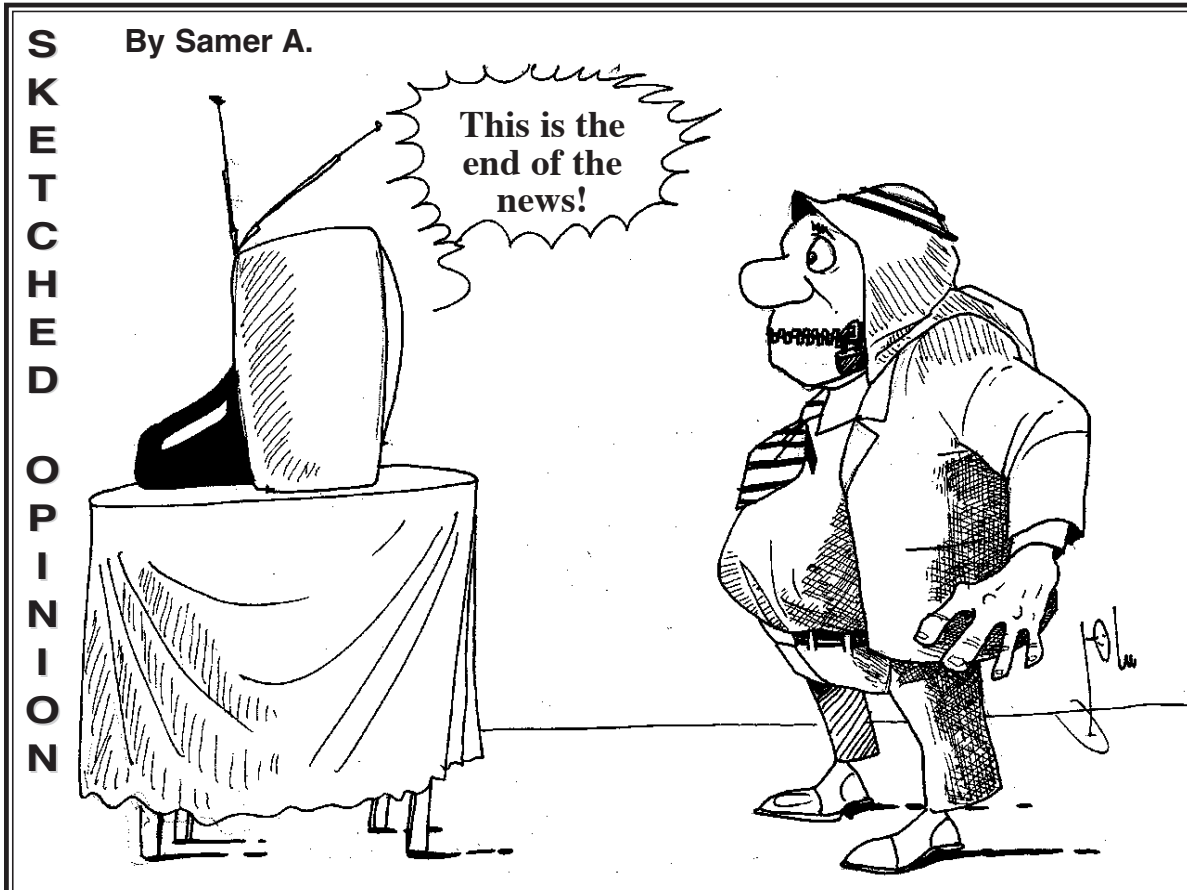
Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Main Headlines

- Journalists international union renews the call for the release of journalist al-Khaiwani
- Germany enlists three Yemeni governorates on its development assistance program
- Yemen to host a number of international conferences
- Yemen purchases \$ 100 million worth Russian weapons
- American pressures delay release of detainees on charges of terror
- Tens of Iraqis expelled from Yemen for unclear reasons
- Paid prison inmate attacks al-Khaiwani then sends an apology letter
- Lawyer Khalid al-A'ansi would see Al-Mouyad case file in America
- Final preparations for Higher Studies Conference at Arab Universities to be held at Aden University
- National conference on Population to be held in Sana'a beginning of next year
- News on clashes between Yemen and Eritrea
- Muqbil: Throughout his struggle march, Arafat represented the other side of the Palestinian cause justice
- YSP and its parliamentary bloc mourn Mujahid Abushawareb
- Attempted to burn himself in front of the White House,
- Spy al-Anssi discloses his involvement with the Americans
- Calling for unity of the ranks,
- Hamas: Palestinian inter-fighting, a red line
- Eritrea escalates its provocative activities against Yemen
- Duplication of Anssi and Maweri examples, aims at undermining Yemeni regime success in war on terror
- Al-Anssi's attempt to burn himself, evidence on Al-Mouyad innocence and a message to all traitors and conspirators against their homelands and peoples
- Yemeni lawyer meets Sheik al-Mouyad in Washington
- Electric short circuit behind fire erupted in an oil tanker in Hudeida
- Somalia's president visit to Yemen, successful and fruitful
- A British report: There are positives in raising diesel prices
- American journalist: President Saleh was hesitant in fighting terror but Bush convinced him
- Killing on Yemen-Saudi borders
- Tightening the grip against al-Khaiwani in his prison doubles
- Private sector in Yemen accuses the government of scorning it
- Abushawareb son denies that a Saudi-plate car caused the death of his father, saying it was mere accident
- A car bearing Saudi plate, causing the death of Abushawareb seized
- Cabinet calls on investors to contribute to building industrial zones
- Yemeni islands conference on November 30
- Probability of locusts reaching Yemen
- Because of violations in Ramadan, Authorities arrest secretaries of al-Buhra sect's villages
- Iraqi embassy prepares for facilitating voting of Iraqis living in Yemen
- President Saleh: Our relations with Germany developed and concrete and we highly appreciate its support for Yemen
- FM al-Qirbi: Sana'a Grouping Summit to be held in Khartoum on 27-28 December
- Arab League praises Yemen's efforts for supporting reconstruction of Somalia
- Sana'a hosts session 14 of Arab Culture ministers



- Activities of democratic forum on empowerment women politically concluded
- Saudi Arabia begins a naturalization campaign of Yemenis inside the Yemeni border territories
- Indian ship carrying 20 sailors sinks offshore Socotra Island
- In its statement following its ordinary session,
- The NUO central committee calls for a comprehensive national reform



Al-Sahwa weekly, 25 Nov. 2004.

Main headlines

- Thousands of people, sheikhs and notables in Yemen take part in the funeral of Sheikh Mujahid Abu Shawareb
- GPC, Sana'a branch, university holds an organizational students session supervised by Basurah
- Inhumane measures against prisoners,
- Beit al-Faqieh security brutal aggression on citizen on the second day of Eid al-Fitr

Under the title "This is America", columnist Ahmed Othman wrote an article saying the American forces have rendered the Iraqi city of Falluja into heaps of rubble and a mass grave. Those forces have dropped cluster bombs and all types of internationally-banned weapons and thousands of children, women and elderly people corpses remained for days in the city's streets. The wounded bleed to death and those of whom who remained alive have been killed by soldiers of the American forces.

The American forces have prevented journalists and reporters from covering the events and the massacres in Falluja. They have also prevented relief and other humanitarian organizations from entering the city in an attempt to rescue a wounded child or a woman to bury the dead.

Eyewitnesses, with tears in their eyes, talked about dogs eating from bodies of the victims of the civilians that were littering the streets of Falluja, a sight clearly depicting the American civilization and democracy of which we are still demanded to apply as a humanitarian example in our countries as a means for getting rid of despotism of the regimes that are the main cause of what we are being exposed to.

We have forgotten or rather appeared to forget that the American civilization was basically founded on the annihilation of the red Indians in America.

Despite of all that happened of massacres at the hands of the American forces soldiers some American congressmen confirmed the necessity of stopping the idea of taking reporters to accompany the American army so that they would not be embarrassed before the world.

As for the carnages perpetrated by American soldiers, they are an example of the democratic reform for

which America wants us to demonstrate in our countries in support for implementing them in our Arab countries.



Al-Shumou weekly, 27 Nov.2004.

Main headlines

- In continuation of former conspiratorial plots,
- Yemen faces regional and international conspiracies targeting the military establishment
- 150 Palestinians spend a night at the border Rafah land crossing
- Khartoum emphasizes its commitment to ceasefire in Darfur
- Saudi warning against eating locusts

Columnist Taha al-Amiri writes in his article that America went to Iraq as invader and presented to the world an example of the ugliest destructive occupation humanity has ever known. In justifying its occupation the American administration resorted to a group of lies and worked with all its capabilities, influence and Iraqi, Arab and international alliances for deceiving the world public opinion in order to achieve its goals.

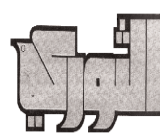
The writer says there could not be any rational person in the world who would believe America, except its followers of agents and spies who have failed to gain the trust and respect of their peoples and resorted to America to support them, as what happened in Iraq.

America has gone to Iraq under pretext of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction and when the world discovered its lies, it said had gone to deliver the people of Iraq from the dictator and when its presence aims were disclosed it alleged that its presence was part of its war on terror.

And after its practice to the most unsightly kinds of terror in Iraq, America has later alleged it has gone to Iraq to make it an ideal example in the Middle East.

Then horror haunted the hearts of its allies in the region for fear of circulating death and destruction in their countries, as was done in Iraq.

The Israeli colonialist occupation of Palestine and the American destructive occupation in Iraq have a common goal and their means are the same; military tanks democracy and organized annihilation against the Arab people in Palestine and Iraq accompanied by total silence of the world.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 25 Nov, 2004.

Main headlines

- Despite the elapse of almost a year, Public properties prosecution carries in investigating into corruption of al-Hudeida University
- Weakness of legislation and influential groups behind spread of the acts of taxation evasiveness
- UNESCO denies deletion of Sana'a from the list of historical cities

Columnist Abdulbari Tahir writes that press freedoms in Yemen are facing the dilemma of repeated wars and the aggravating corruption. Following the unity in 1990 licenses for publication of newspapers were granted to about 150 or more newspapers and magazines of which 50 weekly newspapers had been published. As soon as the war of 1994 ended, many of those newspapers disappeared.

In fact many of them had been created by the circumstances of conflict and competition between the YSP and the GPC, the two poles of the unity state. Although the war ended with the victory of the unity, it had affected in various forms the

margin of the democratic liberties, particularly the freedom of opinion and expression.

There were many attempts to amend the law of press no. 25 for 1990, the last of which was the draft law presented by the journalists syndicate that was rejected by the journalists and the government had consequently withdrawn it. The ministry of Human Rights has done well in studying the law and defining the articles conflicting with the constitution.

Since the war of 1994, the press prosecution and the ministry of information started in monitoring the press and maltreating journalists accompanied by severe sentences against them. No party organ newspaper or private independent one was spared from this policy.

The queerest is that most of the opposition newspapers were facing several law suits at more than one courting a way the newspaper and its staff could not be able to follow up those cases. Many journalists were exposed to attacks by beating, kidnapping and closure of newspapers and imprisonment.

Some random judgments were issued against journalists preventing them from writing for life and arbitrary detentions were repeatedly carried out in violation of h3e constitution and the law. Journalists disappeared inside prisons of the

political security for weeks and more than one punishment was inflicted on them for one violation.

The war of 1994 left dangerous results on the press freedoms the impact of which are still there.

The catastrophe is repeated with the Houthis insurgency that has deepened the wound of the press freedoms.

This war has contributed to more hard-line measures in facing the narrow margin of freedoms. Lately, journalist al-Khaiwani, editor in chief of Al-Shoura newspaper was prosecuted even during the holiday of judiciary and he was sentenced to one year imprisonment and suspending the newspaper for six months.

The sentence was implemented immediately after its issuance in despotic and police manner.

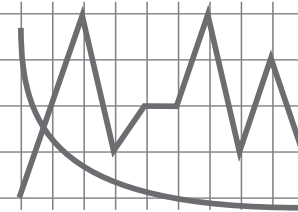


Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Organization, 23 Nov. 2004.

Main headlines

- NUO central committee warns against dangers of political congestion
- NUO General Secretariat condemns occupation massacres in Falluja

YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	185.2300	185.4400
Sterling Pound	350.6800	351.0800
Euro	246.2000	246.4800
Saudi Rial	49.3900	49.4400
Kuwaiti Dinar	628.5400	629.2500
UAE Dirhem	50.4300	50.4900
Egyptian Pound	29.7400	29.7800
Bahraini Dinar	491.3400	491.9000
Qatari Rial	50.8900	50.9500
Jordanian Dinar	261.0700	261.3700
Omani Rial	481.1200	481.6700
Swiss Franc	162.5800	162.7700
Swedish Crown	27.5900	27.6200
Japanese Yen	1.8061	1.8081

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Workforce in Yemen

More qualified workers needed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A recent study has confirmed the gap between supply and demand of the workforce can be attributed to lack of qualifications in fields that the labour market is in need of.

The study recommends joining all national forces in order to bridge that gap, and to adopt technological means as well as qualifying workers at training centers.

The study has confirmed results of the survey made for the workforce, carried out by the ministry of Social Affairs in association with the Statistics Central Apparatus, United Nations Development Programme and the regional office of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Beirut.

Results of that survey indicated that there were negative indicators and results, the survey reached, concerning the work local forces.

The study has also said that there is a problem in defining the volume of labour market demand and weakness in accommodating outputs of education.

It said that the problem is accumulative and has its social, economic and psychological connections, in addition to its relationship with the level of awareness of the people regarding the concept of work and its values.

The study requested general reconsideration of education and the creation of the interconnection between the three educational stages, university, technical and general. It says that is one of the significant and essential factors for bridging the existing gap between supply and demand.

It also demanded the association of higher education outputs with the specialized parties that would in turn



A large portion of the workforce in Yemen does not meet the needs of the labor market. This is ascribed to many reasons mainly lack of efficient training strategies

undertake determining the type of required specialties and the volume of labour.

The study also stressed the importance of responding to the request of the prime minister in this regard, in which he emphasized the social and national responsibility of the private sector concerning qualification and

training as well as production. That would consequently increase production and absorb part of education outputs.

In addition to his calling attention to the most outstanding indicators reached by the survey, which confirmed the increasing need of technicians and specialists.

The survey, conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Social Fund for Development, had targeted the creation of detailed statements on conditions of institutions, their employees and their future requirements of qualified work forces.

It also aimed at defining the exist-

ing situations in the labour market and the benefit from results of analysis in order to draw up policies and programs concerning the labour markets and its future needs.

The aim of that is to realize balance between supply and demand for the work forces, a matter which would help alleviate unemployment and

improve performance of institutions through providing them with qualified and trained human talents that would respond to their changeable needs.

The number of establishments targeted by the survey was 7,113. Some 6,450 installations also responded to the survey, so that the response constituted 90.8% in the entire country.

The net demand of workforce during the years 2004-2006 has amounted to 44,468 requests.

The results mentioned that 29.7% of installations included in the survey are facing deficit in technical and assistant professionals, while 25.2% of them are facing shortages in specialist's jobs.

The survey elucidated that the number of employees needing training and employment is 42,277 workers composing a proportion of 16.4% out of the total workers in installations covered by the survey.

The survey explains that the rate of estimated yearly increase of the workforce supply is 168,000 persons.

In conclusion, there are numbers of proposed remedies for the labour market by increasing opportunities of training and qualification and finding skilled workers of technicians and professionals.

It is also necessary that training centers should respond to requirements and developments of the labour market.

Yemen had been selected as part of eight countries in the world for participating in the project of the world millennium for the development of an enlarged strategy for decreasing.

Results of the survey would help evaluate multi-needs necessary for the millennium project.

U.S. – Yemen Council Yemen enhances trade ties with the U.S.



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
mkamaly@yahoo.com

Yemen and the U.S.A. discussed a series of important economic issues recently. Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Ahmad Mohammad Sufan represented Yemen and Kathi Nophili, Assistant of the US Trade Representative the US side in the annual meeting held in the US capital Washington.

The first annual meetings of the US-Yemen Council concentrated on trade and investment development and the means of enhancing cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the framework of the two sides' intentions to establish a joint trade zone.

Meanwhile Mr. Sufan proposed an explanation on the economic developments, the course of the economic reforms and Yemen's potential membership in the

International Trade Organization (ITO).

He pointed out the economic and trade policies implemented by Yemen for the purpose of attracting investment and upgrading trade and investment climate.

He also mentioned the legislative steps adopted by Yemen

Sufan emphasized the importance of US support for the steps adopted by Yemen in different areas including Yemen's membership in the international trade organization and offering the technical support.

On her part, Mrs. Kathi Nophili clarified the attention of her government in supporting Yemen to facilitate and draw the process of Yemen's membership closer to the organization and the technical support.

Among the areas discussed are the intellectual ownership, technical and health aspects as well as the health of plant related to the trade process. The discussion also covered the custom-related issues, specifications, standards and quality control.

From the Yemeni side, Abdulwahab Al-Hajri, Ambassador of Yemen to Washington, President of Customs Authority, President of the Bureau of Telecommunication and Coordination with the ITO, Chief of Staff of Specifications and Standards, the Undesecretary of Agriculture Ministry and a number of specialists from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Cultural and Commercial Attachee in Whashington attended the meeting.

US officials from Foreign, Agriculture, Commerce and Treasury Ministries and other parties concerned with trade and investment issues represented their government in the meeting.

The Yemeni Planning and International Cooperation Minister held discussions in Washington with Klay Lowry, Deputy Chief of the Millennium Fund and a team accompanying him. The discussions focused on the steps adopted by Yemen toward the assistance of 2006 Fund and other support for which Yemen has been nominated this year.

YT ADEN BUREAU

A delegation headed by Dr Yahya al-Shu'aibi, Governor of Aden concluded a 5-day visit to China on 25 November, during which a memorandum of cooperation was signed with their Chinese counterparts headed by Mayor of Shanghai. The agreement would pave the way for Aden's governorate to learn from the successful achievements of the Chinese city that is considered a world-class industrial zone. The memorandum of cooperation facilitates the exchange of visits and experiences in the field of development of local councils and economic and commercial cooperation in the field of civil planning, cleaning, environment services, and other issues.

The governor of Aden praised the level of sophisticated technological and administrative advancement of Shanghai in particular and of China in general, and expressed willingness to cooperate and benefit from the Chinese experience in municipality-related development.

Among the major fields of potential sharing of experience was the Shanghai Free Zone, which is seen as a successful model of global marketing in creating a competitive trading hub in the region. The governor noted that Aden Free Zone authority could learn from such a successful example.

The governor and his delegation also met with a number of officials of the

local Parliament and toured one of the oldest universities of Shanghai, which considers education one of its most important priorities.

The Yemeni delegation company was formed of Waheed Rasheed, Deputy

governor, Engineer Qaid Rashed, Executive General Director of Cleaning and Aden Improvement Fund, and Yazan Sultan Naji, Head of Financial Development and Planning Department of the Local Council.



A panoramic view of the Chinese city of Shanghai

New technology and health

Are removable eye lenses just for flirts?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

“Those eyes that have intensely white and deep-black

Has killed us but don't give rebirth to who they did kill.

They kill this heart till it stood still Though they're the weakest of what Allah created,” a poet said.

Blue, green, and hassle eyes, what once was a dream of every girl came true. It is possible nowadays to change the color of eyes as a one is changing their clothes. This is traced back to the overspread of the removable lenses that occupied the minds of girls in which the space channels played a role throughout their promotion for women to seem more beautiful and attractive.

The artificial removable lenses became a prerequisite to complete beauty. We don't here speak out against the removable lenses if they are used for medical purposes under the supervision of a specialized doctor. But to use them as a matter of showing off or a way of temptation is not acceptable and all youth, especially girls, should not be misled by every foreign or abnormal thing. They should be aware enough of every negative to reject it justifiably.

The girls we see today wearing the artificial colorful removable lenses in order to tempt others, especially the girls that are veiled, they use their eyes as a kind of magic to deceive others. Where does this happen?

Everywhere: in universities, even in markets as well. The colorful removable lenses are of the conditions of marriage besides the dress and accessories; the bride chooses the color she likes in order to appear in her nicest attraction at that night.

Though the removable lenses' prices are high, they are sought for by an increasing number of people especially after the distribution cheap bad models in markets that cause problems in health affecting the safety of eyes.

Doctors warn of using the removable lenses without the consultation of specialized doctors, but some girls don't care about the dangerous harms, such as scratching the eye, ulceration that

may lead to blindness.

There are some kinds of removable lenses that are usable only for a week or a month but people use them more than that. Some other expensive kind of removable lenses should only be used for a mere day and common people can't afford having them.

Removable lenses are normal

To know the views of youth in using the removable removable lenses, we met some of different classes in our society and asked them about this topic.

Rawdha, a teacher at Al-Hadaf Center for Computer Training, said: “It is true that a girl or a woman will appear in a beautiful appearance if she uses the lenses in festivals and weddings, that's a normal thing, but she shouldn't use them during the working hours.”

Teacher Abdullah al-Yameni had an interesting response, he said: “There are some girls whose eyes are like ‘monkeys’ that's why we see them frequently going to the make-ups shops, sometimes to buy eyelids and some other times to have green, blue, or red removable lenses. They don't know how and what to do in order to tempt others in the different departments.”

Each dress has special lenses

Eglal Saeed Ali, Taiz University, said: “I don't use those removable lenses but some girls do so to attract others' attention. Some other girls use them in order to match the color of their dresses with their eyes. Each dress their wear in a party has a special lenses in terms of color. But it is preferred that a girl should be satisfied with the color of their natural eyes.”

Divine lenses are better

From Aden, Nabeel al-Adani conveyed his opinion saying that: “I like the girl through her eyes, I know a girl whose eyes are beautiful, so I go to her work to have a glance. That magical glance revives me; it provides with power and comfort and I hope to be a student in her class. I like those providentially made lenses; they are more beautiful than the artificial ones.”

Man with removable lenses

Malikah Habeeb, an officer in Lahj,

expressed her view by saying: “I know a young man using removable lenses. When I asked him why, he said that he wants to speak the language of eyes. His talk is interesting and the woman admires the nice talk but the beauty of eyes is the permanent one that he or she sleeps and gets up without having it changed.”

Satisfied with what she does

Mohammed Ahmed al-Rubai'e, from Sana'a, said: “The beauty of woman is necessary: when she uses removable lenses to beautify herself, it is no matter then since she is satisfied with that.”

Rawyah Abdullah Hassan, Faculty of Arts, level 4, said that: “The girl tries to beautiful as much as possible, so she uses the colorful removable lenses in order to add a kind of beauty to hers. But in my opinion, the girl, as was created by God, is more beautiful.”

Bushra Abdu Qasim, a university student, said: “Yemeni girls imitate the West though we are in an Islamic society. Islam doesn't accept removable lenses because that's intervention in creation.”

Lenses for near sightedness

Rola, English studies, Taiz University, said: “Some people use removable lenses because they suffer from near sightedness, they have excuse. But those who use them for showing off, observing fashion, or attracting others, I know some girls of this kind that try to make match between the shoe, bag and the eyes' colors.”

Abeer al-Zuqari, History studies at Taiz University: “Allah creates every thing at balanced level; the girls that use these lenses aim to tempt and attract attention.”

Manal, an officer: “I have wore removable lenses since two years, because I suffer from a slight poor sight. The nature of my work, being compelled to sit in front of computers for hours, enforces me to use them but not always. My removable lenses was prescribed by the doctor and I follow his instructions, so I face no troubles concerning using them; I like so much the green and hassle colors.”



A collection of various contact lenses

Doctors' views

We should ask a specialized doctor in eyes diseases to pass his medical judgment on this argument:

Dr. Ali Alawi said: “Removable lenses are very thin slides of transparent color. They are of two types: flexible and rigid ones; some of them can be used for a month or a year; another can be only used for one day or one week. Each type has special features of course. Even the permanent lenses should be removed before sleep. The lenses can be used either for strengthening sight or for conglotation...etc.”

Some young girls prefer to wear removable lenses for another purposes and I advise them not to wear removable lenses in hot areas.

Ophthalmologist. Adel Al-Ahmadi says: “we usually use medical lenses instead of glasses but this calls for more attention. Ophthalmologists are responsible for the prescription of medical lenses that need to be checked on the eye, making sure they fit the conglotation of the eye.”

The placement of the lens should parallel the cornea and should not move more than what is required. It is recommended that the lenses have to neither be tightly fixed nor move easily. Lenses are listed among things the

bride hires to add to her charms in the wedding party. This behavior causes infection for the eye-sightedness as different people usually use these lenses. Harmful germs move from one eye to another to affect the eye and this may result in a total loss of eye-sightedness.”

He added: “this is a real story happened for one of the young brides on the day of her marriage. She was accustomed to wearing removable lenses as always for beautification purposes and the hot substance of hair-dressing went down to the eye. As a result, the lenses melted and the girl lived blind for the rest of her life.”

Of the dangerous problems to which users of removable lenses are exposed is that when they try the colorful lenses on their eyes to specify the suitable color. When the Ophthalmologist prescribes it for the person, the lens is supposed to be tried by many others and since no 100% sterilization is implemented by the doctors.

Concerning rules and regulations to be taken into account when using removable lenses, The doctor said hands must be washed well when touching lenses as well as using special solutions to make certain they are germ-free. Lenses should contain preservatives to prevent germs and

viruses and should not be used while swimming and be cleaned with the use of saliva since it carries germs.

Removable lenses must not be used if the eye is reddened. Allergy and and blood congestion should be treated first. If the eye is infected with allergy once again, the lens used has to be replaced by a new one. It is possible that this kind of lenses does not fit the eye.

We advise that people should not wear lenses for a long period of time even though they are of a durable type. Lenses have to be washed permanently and no use of eye drops is recommended while wearing lenses since eye drops mostly contain chemical compounds and preservatives that cause allergy to the cornea. If some pain is felt, lenses are to be removed. We warn of wearing glasses while being on board a plane since this causes pressure for the eye due to air pressure.

Sleeping with lenses has its negative influences on cornea and high temperature also helps increase eye dryness. If this happens wearing goggles is not recommended.

Finally we would like to say that lenses are not the 100% substitute for glasses since the patient can not bear to wear them after he stopped that for a certain period of time as blemishes

Genetics shows that ...

We live by folk ideology, not science

By Jonathan Marks

All cultures impose on their members ideas about who they are, how they came to be, and where they fit in socially. For example, pre-modern Europe believed that a woman who had sex before marriage might carry the imprint of her lover within her, so that her child born in wedlock would resemble the earlier lover, rather than the husband. This served to justify the premium placed on female chastity.

Folk ideas about heredity are a particularly powerful cultural tool, but they are not unique to pre-modern societies. Even contemporary science has its own cultural ideologies about heredity, which are often difficult to disentangle from the complex data and high technology that we believe produces objective, value-free glimpses of nature.

In the field of human origins, it is

well-known that a human DNA sequence is nearly 99% identical to the corresponding part of a chimpanzee's DNA. From there, it is not uncommon to hear the conclusion that we are “nothing but” chimpanzees (and fated to be aggressive, or to possess whatever attributes are being imputed to apes these days), or that apes merit human rights. Once again, social meanings are enmeshed within beliefs about heredity.

Actually, that overwhelming similarity between human and chimpanzee DNA is a product of two cultural facts: our familiarity with the chimpanzee's body, and our unfamiliarity with DNA. After all, when the chimpanzee itself was new and interesting (in the 1700's), contemporary scholars commonly judged it to be overwhelmingly similar to the human form – so much so, that it was commonly classified as a variant of humans.

After several centuries studying apes, we are familiar with every sub-

tle difference in form between our species and theirs. But the emergence of molecular comparisons in the 1960's, and DNA technologies in the 1980's, presented a new way of comparing species. The comparison of linear polymers – proteins made up of chains of amino acids, or DNA made up of chains of nucleotides – held out the promise of a simple tabular approach to evolution.

When we compare the genetic material of humans and chimpanzees, we do, indeed, find that it corresponds at nearly 99 of every 100 comparable sites. But this method omits much of what has been learned about genomic evolution in the last quarter-century. Mutational processes are far more complex than was thought a few decades ago; with strand slippage, duplication, transposition, and illegitimate recombination producing qualitative differences between closely-related genomes.

So, while measuring nucleotide

similarity in homologous regions is indeed in the 98-99% range, this number does not incorporate or acknowledge the measured difference in the size of the human and chimpanzee genomes, or the widespread differences in chromosome or genome structure. Because a DNA sequence is a one-dimensional entity, it lends itself much better to single-number comparisons than a four-dimensional body does. The genes that lead to the production of the human and chimpanzee femur may be 98-99% identical, but it is impossible to say whether the bones themselves are more or less similar than that.

Perhaps the most seductive aspect of the DNA comparison is its lack of biological context. The value of 98-99% similarity between human and ape DNA stands outside the rest of life. We can gain some zoological perspective on what that number really means by comparing another species to apes and humans. Compared to the

body of an oyster, for example, chimpanzees and humans are at least 99% identical – bone for bone, muscle for muscle, nerve for nerve, organ for organ. If anything, the DNA comparison underestimates the profound similarity of the human and ape bodies in the great tapestry of nature.

Context reveals something at the low end of the scale as well. Two DNA sequences generated at random must be 25% identical, by virtue of the fact that DNA is a sequence of only four bases. Therefore, all multicellular life, having presumably developed from a single common ancestral form, must be over 25% identical in their DNA sequences.

In other words, a human and a carrot have much in common genetically, despite their being little similarity between them physically. Here the DNA comparison grossly overestimates the actual relationships between species. Genetic comparisons simply do not afford an “inner view” of the

relationships between species, or an encapsulation of those relationships.

In other words, this apparent fact of nature – the overwhelming genetic similarity of human and ape – is a fact constructed from culture. That is not to say it is inaccurate or false; just that its meaning is far less obvious than it may appear superficially.

We make sense of the world, and of our place in it, culturally – and science provides more information for constructing that place. But like any other peoples, our own application of that information to the puzzle of our existence is strongly influenced by our non-scientific ideas, our pervasive folk ideologies of heredity.

Jonathan Marks is a biological anthropologist at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the author of *What It Means To Be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People, and Their Genes*.

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Among the world's oldest cities

Sana'a, the city of memories

BY GHADEER AL-HUSSEIN

A few years ago after a long trip out of Yemen, I stood by the bridge of Al-Sailah. I saw a scene that I could never forget up.

It was a cold night whose moon was covered by a gloomy cloudy whether. Rain was also expected any moment. On that night, Old Sana'a seemed a bewitched town drawn by fog. It looked pale and fast asleep just like the princess of "Sleeping Beauty".

Such a scene kept haunting and possessing me: the scene of Old Sana'a wearing a foggy, transparent cloak and oozing grief and exhaustion. Every path and zigzag was moaning and panting as if it were to travel to the darkness itself.

For a little while, and in the morning of a sunny summer's day, I stood by the arena of Bab Al-Yemen, the Gate of Yemen. The gate was wide open, revealing the spectacular and glorious scenery of the old town.

I beheld the steady high hermitage of the Great Mosque revealing its rich history, as if it were waiting for its visitors. Once you set foot in this charming town you will hear very arresting, weird and unusual sounds which you may have never heard before. U

I stood captured and bewitched by the charm and fascination of the town, not just because of the marvelous architecture of its fabulous buildings, but also because of the peculiar, wonderful harmony of a wonderful mixture of the architecture, colors and lights of the town.

The buildings strongly indicate undisputed skills in all arts of architecture. There are some engravings on gypsum which are very beautifully made. In the grayish light of the dawn the old town wakes up very lively. And as soon as the warm sunshine



Sana'a is one of the oldest cities all over the world; a magical city that overwhelms visitors with an unforgettable sense of beauty, charm and distinction. It is a living museum and an evidence of the Yemenis' craftsmanship and creativity.

spreads, the town is full of vitality in all its streets and markets.

The markets of old Sana'a are very special, because they were built to cope with the very narrow streets of the town. So you can see all shops crammed with a large variety of goods and merchandise including gifts and antiques.

There were some craftsmen who were hammering some boards and sparks of gold and silver for the purpose of turning them into Arabic engravings designs as thick as papers. The neighboring craftsmen were sewing belts of Janbia (the famous Yemeni dagger worn around the waist).

The threads used in such belts are

silky and painted by the water of gold and silver. Not very far from those craftsmen, there were some barbers in tiny shops on the corners.

In the midst of those shops I faced a different world. There were shops in which you can buy copper plates, belts, sandals, Yemeni traditional hats "Emamas" and other similar items.

In the midst of all this, in an old antiques shop I was amazed by what I found. I actually found some walnut wood boxes which were made in the 17th century. I also found some ancient candelabras which used to decorate old rich palaces and houses, which woke up and arose a dream world in myself.

When I reached the famous AL-

Milh Market, my instincts were again fascinated and captured by peculiar mixture of scenes, sounds and the different smells of variable spices. By the entrances of shops there were large bags full of raisins, dates, and other kinds of things.

Within these scenes and views, some brief cafes were there also with some restaurants that were selling grilled and barbecued meat and also sweet pies. There were also around this some walking traditional tradesmen who were drawing attention to their merchandise.

The day went so fast while I was hanging around in the old town. As a matter of fact, the time which you spend in old Sana'a never allows you

to enjoy all of the town's precious treasures and tourist places.

I paced more quickly till I reached the Bridge of Al-Sailah. The sunset was taking place among wonderful gold, red and purple colors that was reflecting against the ancient buildings composing and painting a fascinating and arresting picture.

At that moment, I couldn't help it! I screamed aloud, addressing the father and builder of the town, "Sam" the son of prophet "Noah". I told him, "Now, at length, you can really rest in peace, for your daughter has returned shiny, glorious, steady and productive as you have always wished."

Nearby my position in the same place by Al-Sailah, there was a cultur-

al evening. The place was crowded with citizens talking about Sana'a as being the capital of Arabic culture for the year 2004. I silently clapped. I was just like those citizens and other millions of people around the world.

I shared with them the love for that old town which contains a great deal of cultural heritage. "Sana'a is a town that lives inside you, and it's always a place that you could hardly leave," I told myself.

It's interesting to note that the racks and shelves of the mosques of Sana'a were believed to be first founded by "Waber Bin Bahnas Al-Ansari, one of the companions of prophet Mohammed,(POH),in the sixth year of Hegira.

This was reported by Al-Razi in "The History of Sana'a".

The mosques' racks project was developed by Ayob Bin Yahya Al-Thaqafi in the reign of Al-Waleed Bin Abdul-Malik. Ayob was Al-Waleed's governor of Yemen. Unfortunately, this great project was destroyed by the flood in the year 265 of Hegira.

Luckily, the rack project was rebuilt by Prince Asa'ad Bin Yafor Al-Hawali.

The project of the racks and shelves of mosques of Sana'a is still as left by Al-Hawali with the exception of the eastern section which was built by Queen Arwa Al-Sulaihi in the 525 year of Hegira.

Sana'a is one of the oldest cities in the world, and up to the date, it is still called the city of Sam Bin Noah, the man who founded the city over 2000 years ago.

Sana'a was uniquely described by a beautiful poem written by the famous scholar Ahmed Bin Easa Al-Rada'ai.

(Resources: Description of the Arab Peninsula for Al-Hasan Al-Hamdani, and The Group of Yemen's Countries written by Judge/Mohammed Al-Yemani.)

Hawf to be announced a protectorate

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's Environment Protection Public Authority (EPPA) is preparing for the announcement of Hawf as a protectorate.

For more than two years, legislative and administrative preparations have been taking place to announce a 30,000-hectare sized protectorate in Hawf, Al-Mahrah.

Hawf is distinguished with a unique biodiversity, trees and rare animals. Its forest is considered of the greatest forests in the peninsula.

It is under the people's destruction of the surroundings of the inhabitation areas when cutting down the trees to be used as firewood or for cleaning the place while constructing new buildings. What contributes to this matter is that the consistent grazing of livestock that brings the biodiversity in the area of wildlife to loss.

According to the report of Land and Cost Protected Area Project (LCPAP) belonging to EPPA, distributed by Saba News Agency on Nov. 20, there are not carnivorous animals in the forest of Hawf. There are only some omnivorous animals that are threatened because of hunting them.

The report pointed out that the local community of Hawf found a special strategy for its own aiming at organizing the process of exploiting the resources of the area. People prevent firewood gathering, cutting trees, and grazing in some places and organizing that in other places. Not only that, even the government takes strict rules concerning the use of resources and locals' movements. All that, even the punishments included in those laws, doesn't stop the threat on

the diversity of Hawf.

Hawf has been inhabited with tribes for many centuries. The majority of villages contain 3-7 cottages. Each one of them is dwelt by 2-5 families of relatives. In every settlement is of 10-12 persons with their livestock. Their lifestyle is similar to the nomad life that is dominated by the severe climate and the rich natural resources. They have no differences and they live on what they earn.

According to a study by LCPAP, Hawf, Gadheb, and Rahan are the only areas that have settlements made of modern houses. There are 27 small settlements that are described of having rural features; they are among mountains and valleys. There are about 800 families inside the protectorate and it includes about 3200 persons.

Grazing and the seasonal movements of locals is the distinctive feature of people there. The people of a village build 2-3 cottages in different locations that are in proportion with their lifestyle. Those buildings are of the forest's leaves and their roofs are made of straw and plastic coverings. The climate, the availability of water, the natural fodders, and the life circle of harvests are basic reasons for the movements of those people.

The study shows that 6.31% of the population work in agriculture, 29% in fishing, 7.36% in grazing and the rest in other various activities. The woman is considered a vital economical element in the community of Hawf that parting is frequently applied. Concerning the biodiversity of Hawf, the study mentions that there was registrations for 220 kinds of plants are in 65 families 165 species of pteridophyta and close-grained plants. It also includes 45 kinds of trees, 49 of small ones, 88 types of perfumes' grasses, 12 of the crops.

There are other nine marine kinds of plants will be registered including weeds which are found in marches.

The study says that 7% of Yemeni plants, nearly 3,000 kinds, are available in a limited area that is 90 square kilometers in size in Hawf.

Even though the biodiversity is deteriorated because of unjust hunting and destroying the settlements of animals, there are various studies that prove the availability of some kinds of mammals and a great number of rare birds. The study includes house rats, Arabian wolf, and red fox indicating their inhabitations. Some reptiles were registered too. Birds are a key element in the biodiversity of animals in Hawf and 65 kinds of them were registered, some of them are traveling yet some are from Dhafor, near to Hawf.

Surveys showed that a number of kinds are subjected to hunting in an organized way by the locals including, hyrax, some types of wolves and foxes, leopard and guzzles. They also pointed out that hyenas and jackals are of the active animals in that area.

Concerning birds, some locals say that some birds, like doves and partridges are targeted for food. There are two kinds of tortoises in the coastline of the protectorate; they are eaten by people so that they are threatened by extinct. These tortoises are at the top of the European list of nature's protection.

To sum up, announcing Hawf a protectorate is of great significance and it's clear that EPPA is doing the final touches of the announcement especially when it was able to make leaders from the local community to cooperate with it in managing the protectorate and makes it a success. That's in order to maintain the biodiversity of trees, birds and animals that reflect the providence's blessings and cheer the human soul up.

Leads to distrust, divorce

Playing with marital secrets

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Marital affairs are always subject to problems that test the strength of the marriage love between couples, especially when these problems don't lead to separation and divorce.

There are traditional kinds of quarrels that all families in all communities are accustomed to; this is the kind of troubles that are about the house, children, and the expenses. Simply the husband and his wife solve these matters.

But what happens when revealing the marital secrets before relatives and friends? Does one of them forgive his or her partner? This is considered the most sensitive topic to be afforded by any of them. Is the trust between partners shaken or does it remain the same?

These questions were asked some husbands and wives.

Some women boasting

We asked Ayman's mother about whether the marital secrets are a public matter that other people can easily receive.

She answered saying: "The marital secrets can never be revealed to others because they are related only to the husband and wife; none of them should mentioned to anybody, though it is of the close relatives. Their respect is lessened in the eyes of others; they will be subjected to mockery by both friends and relatives.

"This matter takes place when a wife

talks boastfully in front of others; she shows off by narrating her husband's kind treatment and then she goes on explaining details without feeling that it is shame to do so. This wife doesn't understand that her talk is the source of mockery. Her life becomes like an open book that can be read by any one. This is the way she destroys her house.

"The same thing can similarly happen by the husband who reveals the marital. Such behaviors are by no means of manliness."

Where they get my secrets

Ali Saeed thinks that, "women are revealing marital secrets in details more than men. I, for example, separated from my wife because of this problem. My marital life was unbearable; wherever I go I was preceded by my marital secrets that are only connected with my wife and me.

"I was wondering where those secrets that shouldn't leave the walls of the bedroom are leaking. My wife was the only source of revealing secrets. What makes the problem more complicated is that when I talked with her about this thing, she didn't deny but considered it a matter of entertainment to talk about such secrets or, otherwise to present me in a better picture.

"That's not an insulting talk or about secrets in her view. Then I realized that my life with her became impossible; I lost my trust in her. I thus decided to separate from her."

Men are revealing more

To be fair, giving a woman's viewpoint, we met M. S. A. who said: "it is unfair to blame only the woman for revealing the marital secrets. I know

some men who feel interested in narrating their stories with their wives in details in a very shameful manner. When a wise man tried to advise them not to do so, their response is "she's just a woman." I don't think those people are counted real men; they are not trusted at all. Likewise, as there are some bad women, there are some similar men."

Absence of love and trust

Mohammed al-Jaradi thinks that, "revealing marital secrets cause various problems. When the trust and love between partners is lost, this phenomenon starts spreading widely. Then their life can't go on.

"The husband won't feel happy because of the doubt he might be in. He will believe that his wife doesn't love and respect him. He may start thinking of a second wife as the best solution. The gap between them becomes larger so that they'll ignore the rights of each other and their duties as well.

"Islam and the social customs concentrate on keeping the marital secrets even after divorce maintaining the honor of the family."

One mother also took part in this argument saying that: "The marital secrets shouldn't be revealed to anybody regardless of his or her relation because they are only concerned with the partners who are supposed to be as one body.

Of the principles of the sacred relation, marriage is to keep secrets which revealing them is a threat to it. Revealing the marital secrets reveals ill-mannered and weak believing people.



Independence Day 30 NOVEMBER

شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

تتقدم بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة

الأخ / علي عبد الله صالح رئيس الجمهورية حفظة الله

بمناسبة حلول ذكرى عيد الإستقلال 30 من نوفمبر، وإلى جماهير شعبنا اليمني العظيم، متمنين دوام التقدم والازدهار للوطن اليمني الذي يشهد إنجازات تنموية كبيرة في ظل رعاية فخامته الحكيمة وكل عام واتم بخير

مهندس / عبد الله احمد بقشان

رئيس مجلس إدارة شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

Yemeni Fish

Presents the heartiest congratulations to the President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

*On the occasion of Independence Day 30th November.
We wish to Yemen the best of success and progress towards
building a strong country headed by its wise leadership
for years to come.*

Eng. \Abdullah Buqshan

Chairman of the Board of Director, Yemeni Fish Company

شركة أسماك اليمن



Asian World Cup 2006 qualifiers

Eight teams move to second round

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
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YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After a tough competition lasting for many months in several Asian stadiums, eight teams have advanced to the second round of the Asian World Cup 2006 qualifiers. The last games held on Nov. 17 determined

the qualifier of each group. No new surprises came, except for Kuwait's attaining the qualification card from among the fourth group at the expense of the Chinese team, with a goal difference.

Kuwait is the third Arab qualifier after Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to complete the number of the eight qualifiers, which are Iran, Japan, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, North Korea, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia.

The qualifiers will be divided into two groups with four teams each.

The first of each group will qualify directly,

Group	Team	No. of plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals it has	Goals scored in its net	Credit of points
One	Iran	6	5	---	1	22	3	15
Two	Uzbekistan	6	5	1	---	23	3	16
Three	Japan	6	6	---	---	16	1	18
Four	Kuwait	6	5	---	1	15	2	15
Five	North Korea	6	3	2	1	12	6	11
Six	Bahrain	6	4	2	---	15	3	14
Seven	South Korea	6	4	2	---	9	2	14
Eight	Saudi Arabia	6	6	---	---	14	1	18

The qualifier of each group along with the number of plays and goals as well as the team's credit of points.

whereas the second team of Group One is to meet its counterpart of Group Two to determine the third qualifier and the loser will await meeting the last ranking team of the CONCACAF; Confederation of North Central American & Caribbean Association Football.

In the concluding round, Yemen's national team produced for us a wonderful scenario against Thailand, affirming that it is going on in progressive steps and its level from one meeting to another is improved. The team showed possession of the ball over the course of the play with Thailand in Bangkok. It scored prior to the hosts who equalized in the compensation time to end the meeting with a 1-1 tie.

By this the team showed it has the adequate preparation for the 17th Gulf Championship due to start in the Qatari capital of Doha just after one week.

Brief selections

- Japan followed by Saudi Arabia attained the share of the lion in the forest in terms of winning all the encounters and scoring large numbers of goals.

- The first round of the Asian qualifiers saw 296 goals, 131 of which are the share of Arab teams. The round also witnessed 96 games, 87

of which ended in victories while 9 in draws. Group one, two and three have never witnessed any draws.

- Uzbekistan followed by Iran proved to be the strongest offensive teams throughout the round as the former scored 23 goals and the latter 22 goals.

- Japan and Saudi Arabia asserted themselves to have the strongest defense since only a single goal was scored in the net of each team.

- Serilank is the weakest team in the competition for it never scored any goal.

- It is the first group which scored the largest number of goals that is 50 and it is the eight group that scored the less number of goals which is only 30. The Japanese and Saudi teams are the only two who won all the encounters with 18 points each.

- The fourth group is the strongest in the sense of tough competitions among its members as the qualifier has not been announced till the final seconds of the last encounter when Kuwait qualified for the second round at the expense of China with only one goal difference after the two teams reaped 15 points each.

- 3 Arab teams out of twelve could advance to the second round.



Newly progressing Bahrain's football team, one of the Arab qualifiers for the second round of the Asian competitions for the World Cup 2006.

Judo competition

Yemeni juniors are West Asian champs

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen occupied first position in the Judo competition of west Asian countries staged in Sana'a with a credit of seven medals, followed by Syria with six medals. Iraq stood third, Kuwait fourth, Qatar fifth and Palestine came last in the competition.

Yemen gained three gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals while Syria earned two gold medals and the same number is for silver and bronze medals.

The Yemeni General Judo Federation made

the necessary arrangements for hosting the West Asian Countries Judo Competition. Junior participants from the seven Asian countries in addition to Yemen took part in the event which was organized Nov.25-26.

The competition was staged at 22 May Hall for International Conferences and Sporting Activities in the capital Sana'a.

Abdulrahman Al-Akwa, Minister of Youth and Sports confirmed that Yemen should be always present in such competitions.

President of Yemeni Judo Federation (YJF) No'man Shafer stated that the goal behind

hosting the championship is to demonstrate a positive profile of Yemen's ability to organize such events in a wonderful way.

He added that the preparation of Yemen's judo team was good as the team under the technical staff conducted extensive external and internal camps since the beginning of this year.



An open external camp was staged in Sana'a in which the team was summoned to receive training and useful lessons three days a week for more than two months. Another training camp was held in Hodeida for 10 days and a third training camp took place last October in Japan and lasted

for 20 days. The president of the federation affirmed that the federation has summoned foreign experts in the game so that Yemen could benefit in hosting and organizing the championship.

A training course started last week's under the Tunisian expert Maher Al-Serafi, an advisor to the Qatari Judo Federation.

Another Iranian expert handled the task on the following day to complete the necessary arrangement for the competition.

It is worth noting that a micro-championship was held under the direct supervision of the Tunisian expert three days after the participating teams arrived in Yemen.

The purpose behind it was to hearten the participants and give them more practice.

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

<p>Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)</p> <p>A speculative financial venture will pay off. Deal with issues quickly before the festive season blocks you from getting things completed. A creative skill will be lucrative.</p>	<p>Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)</p> <p>Today is about trying to excel. You can make a career or financial move. A home-based business will work out well.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)</p> <p>You can have it all if you are strong and control what is going on around you. Believe in your abilities and offer suggestions and help to others. You will get what you want.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You will be in too generous a mood. Think before you offer to pay for others. Don't back yourself into a corner by making impossible promises.</p>
<p>Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Don't let anyone put added pressure on you. You can only do so much, so don't feel guilty because someone wants more from you. Do what's best for you for a change.</p>	<p>Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)</p> <p>Not everyone will catch on to what you are trying to do. The ones who do will be right by your side. Shared ideas will lead to a lucrative deal.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>If you let things develop naturally, you will stand a much better chance in the end. Your jealous nature may get the better of you, causing upset at home and with friends.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)</p> <p>You'll be living in the fast lane, having a great time. The excitement that comes from following your dream can be exhilarating but dangerous as well.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)</p> <p>Plan the vacation you earned. Someone from your past will entice you once again. This time you are ready to take on anyone and everyone.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)</p> <p>You'll be thinking about your future and your plans for the upcoming year. Decide for yourself if you have fulfilled your goals. It's not too late to backtrack.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>Moving around is what it's all about today. The more versatile and candid you are, the better you will do. Purchases made today will ensure someone's happiness.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)</p> <p>Keep on top of work-related matters. If you are asked to do something, don't trust someone else to do it. You will only get out what you put in.</p>

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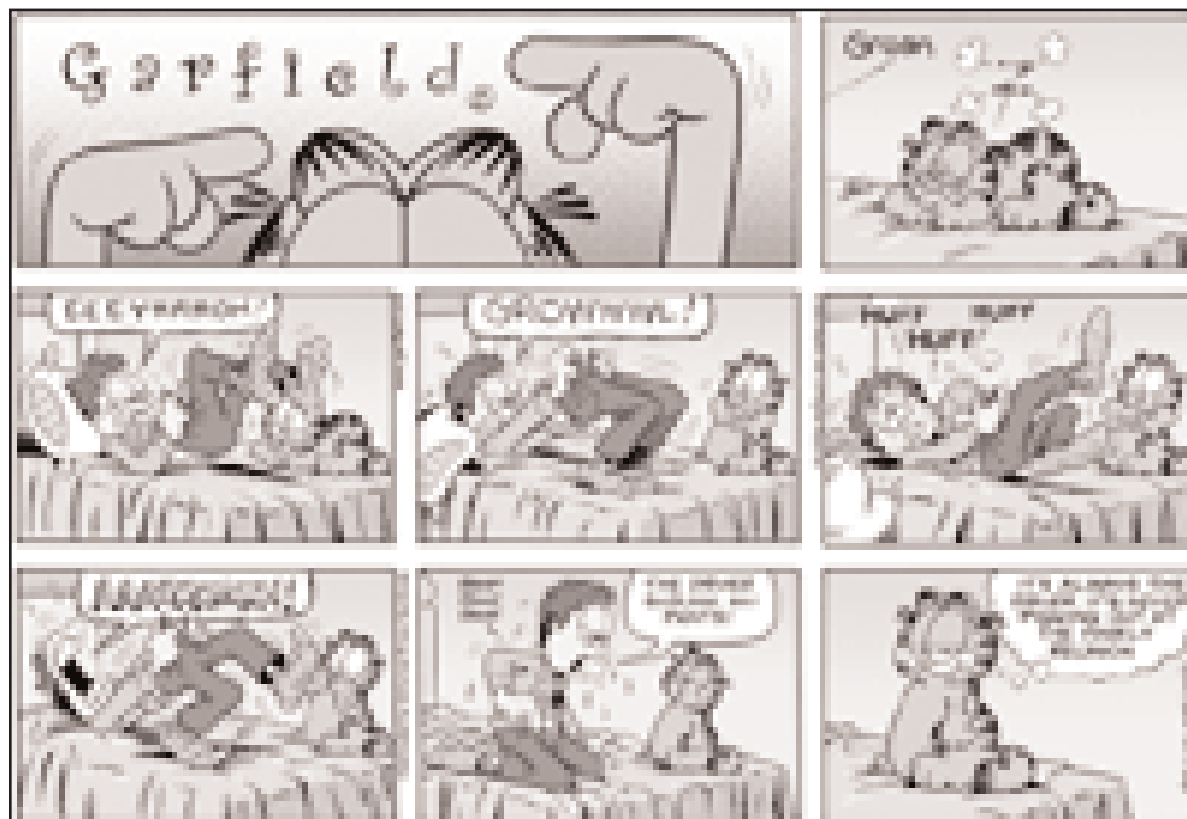
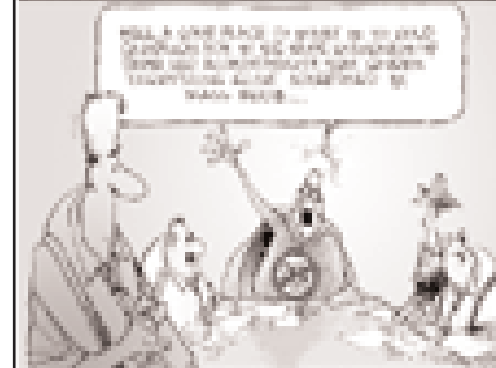
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الفائز Winner
Al-Radhi Ibrahim Sharaf

Secret of his success
1. Manners الأخلاق الفاضلة
Manners make the man الأخلاق تصنع الرجل
It is not a matter of fantasy to say that Hael Saeed is not dead and he is still alive ليس خيالاً أن نقول بأن هائل سعيد انعم لم يموت وأنه لا زال حياً في نفوسنا .

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

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Near Asnaf

Al-Abbas Mosque restored to glory

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Al-Abbas Mosque is a testimony to the living traditions and architectural achievements of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Built over 800 years ago, the mosque is situated on the remains of a pre-Islamic shrine or temple on a site considered sacred since ancient times.

Its cubic form also has ancient precedents, including the Kaaba in Mecca. The local population continues to revere the mosque and the site today still holds special significance for them.

Set in the highlands of Yemen, 40 kilometres from Sana'a, Al-Abbas Mosque dates from the last days of the Sulayhid Dynasty. An inscription in the interior dates the building to Dhu al-Hijjah 519 (December 1125-January 1126 in the Gregorian calendar) and names the founder as Sultan Musa bin Muhammed al-Fitti.

Another inscription names the builder or architect as Muhammed ibn Abul-Fath ibn Arhab. However, the mosque is in fact named after a little-known figure called 'Abbas', a holy man who is believed to be buried there.

The lower parts of the mosque's walls are made of stone, with mud bricks at the upper levels. Almost square in plan, the mosque has a flat roof, making it cubic in shape. Inside are six columns, four in stone dating from pre-Islamic times and two in brick.

Three of the columns have antique capitals. The columns divide the interior into four rows, leading towards the mihrab wall.

The mosque's elaborate coffered ceiling is in complete contrast to the building's modest exterior. Most of it has survived intact since its construction. The ceiling's twenty-two caissons are covered with intricate decoration carved, gilded and painted in tempera on a wooden support.

By the 1980s, the ceiling was suffering from rot and warping. In 1985, the



Al-Abbas mosque

Yemeni Government asked the French Centre for Yemeni Studies in Sana'a to help preserve it. The ceiling was dismantled with funding from UNESCO and removed to the National Museum at Sana'a.

In 1987, the French Centre asked archaeologist and conservator Marylene Barret to carry out the restoration of the ceiling, which took three years. The cleaning and restoration was a slow, painstaking process, and the importance of preserving the history of the ceiling was respected.

Major repairs were also required on the roof, and the decision was taken to restore the fabric of the building itself. Marylene Barret undertook this work with Yemeni architect Abdullah al-Hadrami, together with a team of French and Yemeni archaeologists and the best local craftsmen, who completed the restoration project in 1996.

Traditional materials and techniques – many still in use today, such as qudad, a traditional mortar composed of lime and volcanic aggregate that is polished with a smooth stone and daubed with animal fat – were employed wherever possible. No speculative elements were inserted:

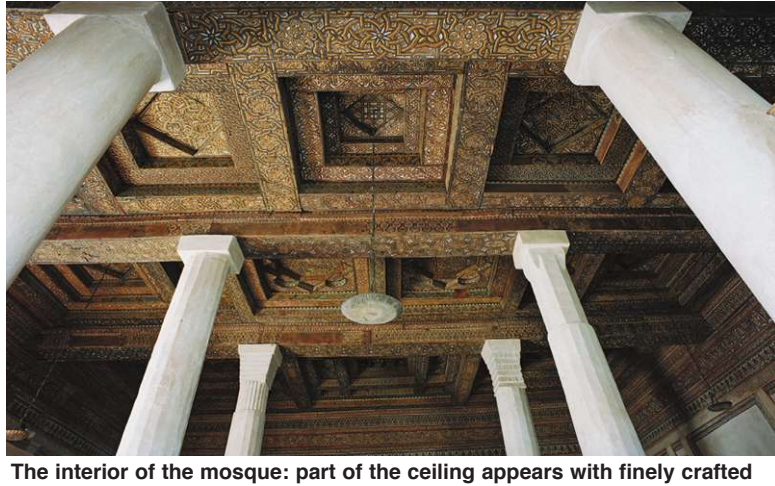
all new elements can be traced back to original examples in both their form and their location.

After the completion of the roof, one thousand separate pieces of ceiling were carefully assembled like a puzzle and numbered in the museum. They were then transported to the mosque, one row at a time, and fixed to an ingenious new supporting structure of U-shaped box beams that is entirely hidden now that the restored panels are in place.

Since the restoration, the building's original elegance and decoration have come alive, increasing the interest of the local residents, who are proud of their mosque and are especially happy to see the beautiful ceiling back in place.

The restoration principles employed in Al-Abbas Mosque may well serve as a guide for further projects concerned with the preservation of cultural property, and the project may stimulate further research, particularly in relation to a number of ruins surrounding the mosque site.

This scheme has been chosen to receive an Award because it applies exemplary conservation standards and



The interior of the mosque: part of the ceiling appears with finely crafted decoration that date back to an old period in history.

engages local pride in safeguarding this culturally significant monument for future generations.

The project represents the establishment of a successful and sustainable partnership between local and external expertise for the conservation process. Although the restoration spanned approximately ten years during exceptional political conditions, the consistency, dedication and commitment of both the external and local stakeholders ensured that the fabric of the building was not compromised in any way.

In fact, the process has raised the benchmark for restoration in the region, reviving traditional practices in tandem with modern scientific approaches to conservation. These range from the use of traditional mortars and plasters to complex structural repairs and the conservation of the delicate decorative ceiling paintings.

The project also demonstrates sensitivity in dealing with the building as a living fabric. The restoration has extended the significance and usefulness of this historic mosque for the benefit of the larger social, cultural and physical landscape in which it is situated.

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