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# YEMEN TIMES

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## 28 killed, 33 wounded in tribal vengeance, security forces helpless

# Bloody tribal warfare

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In one of the bloodiest tribal wars in Yemen's recent history, 28 tribesmen were killed and another 33 wounded in a battle that took place last Thursday in the province of Al-Jawf.

The bloodshed resulted from fierce confrontations between the two prominent tribes of Al Saida and Al-Maraziq. The latter is considered one of the largest tribes in the country and belongs to the prominent Bani Nawf clan.

Historically, the revenge series between the two tribes started around one year ago when Al-Maraziq tribe attacked Al Saida tribe after one of its members was hurt in an incident that took place in the governorate between six individuals, three from each tribe over a sum of YR 6,000 (around USD 35). Al-Maraziq tribe's attack on Al Saida resulted in six deaths and one tribesman was wounded.

Apparently, Al Saida tribe did not forget this incident and has been planning for some time to attack the other tribe and cause maximum casualties.

Tribal sources from the region said that Al Saida tribe had set up an ambush killing 2 tribesmen from Al-Maraziq tribe. Al Saida tribesmen waited for Al-Maraziq tribe's convey to reach the 19th Security Division road checkpoint and then seized the opportunity by ambushing them with automatic gunfire resulting in the high death toll. However, in cross fire 6 tribesmen from Al-Maraziq tribe and 22 from Al Saida were killed as well.

### Mediation succeeds

Later on, mediators stepped up their efforts to ease the situation. Eventually, the Peace House Social Organization for fighting revenge in collaboration with the sheikhs of al-



Tribal vengeance and warfare have been a problem for a very long time. The phenomenon has been attributed to weak law enforcement, illegal carrying of weapons, and illiteracy. Despite pledges by the government to tackle this issue, so far no progress has been made.

Jada'an, Dahm, Jahm, and Bani Nawf, succeeded in their mediation efforts to make the two tribes reach a fragile 38-day truce.

Sheikh Abdulwali Al-Okaimi, one of the mediators appealed to the authorities and pro-human rights organizations to help them in saving the lives of the wounded as there were neither sufficient financial resources nor medical facilities in the area. Therefore, the wounded seemed to be in critical conditions, which could possibly result in the increase of fatalities.

According to Al-Okaimi, the wounded were transferred to local hos-

pitals, which were not well equipped to save the wounded tribesmen's lives. He added that the cost of treatment of the wounded might exceed YR 20 million.

### Security forces helpless

The two tribes had disputes among them but mature sheikhs in the two tribes agreed that a lot of lives would have been saved if security forces had taken over the situation.

A sheikh of one of the tribes in the region said, "the soldiers who were present at the scene showed no response to prevent the tribesmen from

shooting one another. If the government is unable to settle or intervene in such quarrels, who will?"

No official sources were available to comment on the incident and the presence of authorities in the region is helpless.

However, the incident took place in a time the government has been pledging to do all the necessary measures to fight the phenomenon of revenge among tribes in response to directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who visited the governorate of Mareb several months ago and commented on this issue specifically.

## He was left at lurch by the international community:

# Seven more in Al-Khaiwani's queue

By MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Prosecution of Press and Publications summoned last week seven more editors and writers from Al-Shoura and other newspapers to be presented for trial based on accusation of writing false information, which potentially means that they could follow Al-Khaiwani to prison.

Journalists Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi, Jamal Al-Ja'abi, Rashida Al-Gaili, Abdullah Sabri, Aidi Al-Manifi, Abdulfatah Al-Hakimi and Jamal Amer are all now under interrogation and could

face the same fate of Al-Khaiwani.

A journalist who has been following up the case from the beginning and who demanded anonymity said that the journalists have no faith in the judicial system and would not be sur-



Al-Khaiwani

prised if all of them are thrown into prison for charges similar to those of Al-Khaiwani.

"They have seen that the little international pressure on the government had resulted in zero results. Hence, they now think that no matter what happens to them, the world is going to be helpless," he openly declared.

Continued on page 13

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## Government and the free press united over its importance: Official launch of JMDP

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Today Monday 6 December will mark the official launch of the Joint



Media Development Programme (JMDP), which is a project initiated by the Danish government in collaboration with the Yemeni stakeholders to bring about comprehensive development to the media sector in Yemen.

The launching of this program will take place in a roundtable meeting and discussion to be held today morning at the Ministry of Planning in Sana'a. It will resemble the beginning of a long-term plan to enhance the level of media in Yemen and promote its role in the development of the country.

The event is to be held by the Danish media development delegation currently in Yemen in collaboration with media stakeholders in the country.

The discussion will be followed by a

press conference in which the Danish mission will clarify any ambiguities or question marks about the mission's objectives and strategies.

It is worth noting that the Danish mission faced some unforeseen difficulties in their current visit to Yemen including a false report to the Political Security Office (PSO), which apparently was mistaken in thinking that they are on a suspicious visit to the country. This resulted in a brief interrogation of the team while they were in Taiz. However, it was clear that the PSO was totally wrong about their intentions and was given false information about the mission, they were apologized to by the Taiz authorities, which also pledged to support and facilitate their mission.

Continued on page 13

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# Yemen court sentences 12 to death for attacks

SANAA, Dec 1 (Reuters) - A court in Yemen sentenced 12 Yemenis to death on Wednesday for attacks on security forces in which a local official and a soldier were killed.

The anti-terrorism court, in an open session attended by journalists, also handed jail sentences of up to 12 years to 17 accomplices, 15 of whom were tried in absentia.

The sentences can be appealed. The accused were also convicted of acts of sabotage and attacking private homes.

Yemen, an impoverished country at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, has been plagued by lawlessness and faced attacks by Islamic militants and disgruntled tribesmen.

In September, Yemen sentenced two al Qaeda militants to death for the 2000 bombing of the U.S. destroyer Cole. A month earlier, five al Qaeda supporters were jailed for the 2002 bombing of a French supertanker and another militant was sentenced to death for planning to kill the U.S. ambassador.



Yemeni Islamist Muhammad Saeed al-Ammari, 25 (L) and Fawaz Yahya Al-Rabyee, 27, appear in a Sanaa court of appeals Dec. 4, during the third hearing into appeals against verdicts handed down on Aug. 28 by a first instance court. REUTERS

# Training Workshop on Disaster Management

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Rashad AL-Alimi, minister of Interior, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Disaster Management Training Program of the UN Secretariat, in cooperation with General Director of Civil Defense, opened a three-day training workshop on Saturday 4 December 2004, at the Police Officers' Club in Sana'a, for civil defense trainees from different governorates as well as other concerned ministries and parties.

The workshop aimed at building national capacities to face disaster and increasing awareness and preparedness at all sectors to address the effects of disasters and emergencies.

The main objective of the workshop was to train the government and gov-

ernorates institutions' staff to formulate contingency and disaster plans. Other objectives also included increasing awareness among trainees of some important concepts related to the contingency planning approach and encouraging the adoption of new integrated approach, highlighting the importance of inter-ministerial cooperation as well as between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations.

The deputy of the minister of interior along with Flavia Pansieri, UNDP Resident Representative, officially opened the workshop. Ambassador of donor countries to the program was also attended. Trainees included representatives from civil defense offices from different governorates, in addition to representatives from concerned ministries, UN agencies and interested NGOs attended too.

## Readers' Voice

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

### This edition's question:

Do you think the problem of tribal vengeance in Yemen can be solved quickly?

- No solution in the short-run, a long-run plan may work
- Law enforcement and disarmng tribes can start immediately
- There is no solution whatsoever

### last edition's question:

When do you think Yemen will allow the emergence of private electronic media (radio, TV) in Yemen?

- Not in the near future 58%
- In less than 2 years 22%
- Within 10 years 20%

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

## Arab culture ministers conference wrapped up

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Arab culture minister 14th conference was held on December 1-2 in Sana'a chaired by Yemeni Minister of Culture Khaled Al-Rowaishan. Under the theme "The role of the Arab culture in preserving identity: Palestine as a model," the conference was organized by the Ministry of Culture & Tourism in coordination with Arab Education, Science and Culture Organization (AESCO).

The opening session of the conference was attended by Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Bajammal who confirmed the importance of joint Arab cultural work.

Many speeches were delivered at the session by Jordanian Minister of Foreign Culture, chairwoman of the 13th cycle of the conference. She said the Arab culture is part of the overall human culture, emphasizing that we should keep up with recent developments without harming our cultural distinctiveness.

Al-Monji Bu-Snina, General Director



Prime Minister delivering his speech at the conference and welcoming the guests of the Capital of Arab Culture.

of the AESCO, indicated that the conference comes to crown one year full of cultural activities in the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital, Sana'a. He also explained the efforts of the AESCO in protecting the Arab culture among which is a mammoth project of an encyclopedia of Arab and Muslim scholars and scientists, authored by some 2000

experts, professors, and scientist from different universities and educational institutions in the Islamic world.

Another speech was delivered by the representative of the Secretary General of the Arab League.

Mr. Al-Rowaishan, chairman of the current cycle of the conference, stressed the importance of creating necessary means to make possible the activation, monitoring, and following up the application of the conference's recommendations.

He also called on all Arab cultural leaders to replenish the Iraqi libraries, suggesting that every Arab country send 25 thousand newly published books to Baghdad libraries.

The conference approved the recommendations set forth by the permanent committee. They covered many issues including promoting Arabic in order to enhance the national identity and enriching the language with the introduction of information and communication technology.

The conference has come out with recommendations intended to counteract Israeli attempts to erase the Arab and Islamic identity of the city of Al-Quds. They urged the AESCO to intensify media activity on the Palestinian Cause, focusing on the threats posed by Israel to the Arabic essence of Al-Quds and exposing the racist practices of Israelis against the Palestinian people to the international community.

The conference approved the next cycle's theme to be "Arab culture and the information community," and that it be held in Masqat, Sultanate of Oman.

The conference honored Abdulaziz bin Su'ood Al-Babautain, Director of Al-Babautain Cultural Establishment, for his exertions in supporting the Arab culture and patronizing talented and creative people.

The conference discussed a plan of comprehensive political and cultural integration in the Arab region.

# Marks Malloch Brown visits Yemen

Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, the

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Chairman of the United Nations Development Group consisting of the heads of all UN funds and programmes working on development issues - conducts a high-level visit to Yemen between 6 and 8 December 2004 to further strengthen the UN system's ongoing dialogue with the Government of Yemen on economic, political and social reforms and to raise the profile of Yemen with a view to assist Yemen achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs are the eight goals which world's leaders have committed themselves to, including H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, at the Millennium summit in New York in September 2000. The UNDP Administrator will also conduct field visits to some projects that are being implemented by the UN system in

Yemen.

The visit coincides with the national efforts to develop Yemen's Third National five-Year Development Plan and the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper based on the MDGs. The visit also constitutes an occasion to congratulate Yemen for being selected among eight countries in the world to benefit from the technical assistance provided by the UN Millennium Project and to acknowledge the progress that has so far been made in many development and political fronts.

The Administrator will discuss with high-level Government officials and heads of UN agencies in Yemen a number of issues by way of promoting Yemen's efforts to make sustainable progress towards achieving the MDGs, moving forward the democratization progress, and ensuring the achievement of a comprehensive and sustainable human development for Yemen to be able to address its devel-

opment challenges.

At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Brown will hold a press conference in which he will explore some development issues and share some of the results that were accomplished during this important visit to the country.

Mark Malloch brown has served as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the UN's global development network, since July 1999. In May 2003, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed him to a second four-year term. He is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

At the request of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Mr. Malloch brown is also leading the UN system in developing a strategy to help support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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# Figures warning of Sana'a water depletion



BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**W**orkshop that's concerned with raising media and community awareness about managing water in Sana'a was launched last Wednesday.

In the workshop, Eng. Mohammed Sa'ad Harmal, Manager of the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP), showed that the death toll is threatening all people living in Sana'a of death of thirst.

Sana'a population is now about 1.8 million people of whom a million people are living in the capital city and the rest are in the villages around it. The underground water was estimated to be 2-3 billion cubic meters and this quantity is available in three divisions. The people in Sana'a annually consume nearly 250 million cubic meters, 80% of that is used in agriculture (of which the majority is used for irrigating qat) and 20% is consumed in daily use and industry.

Nevertheless, the water basin is gradually running out. This is considered a danger especially within the 12-15 coming years, since there is no new provision of underground water.

Even though SBWMP aims to decrease the huge consumption of water in the basin and to increase the usability of basins, the strategies that are implemented do not curb the threat of the imminent catastrophe that poses an actual danger basically to the farmers. All

that is not expected to annually maintain more than 11 million cubic meters of water.

The project that was presented by Harmal recommends building four or five new dams and repairing 11 old ones. That would not, of course, compensate for the provision of the basin with new water; it will however preserve 1.2 million cubic meters in a year.

Eng. Ebrahim al-Hamdi, Deputy Minister of Water and Environment, confirms the necessity of the public understanding of the issue of water and particularly bearing in mind that Yemen is one of the poorest countries in terms of the ground water resources. It is not the issue of the government only but even of the community, from the top of the pyramid to the bottom.

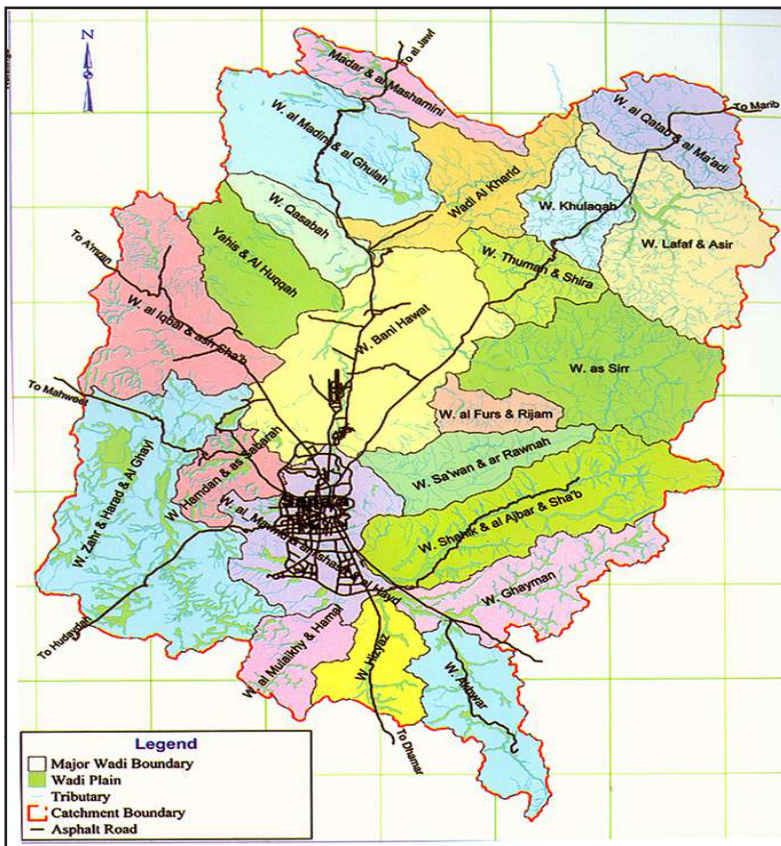
The solutions that may be applied will not solve the problem: it is possible to bring water for drinking from Wadi Surdud but it is not possible for a farmer to buy water for irrigating his farm.

Every farmer should know that 60% of the water he consumes in irrigating his farm is wasted in vain. The modern strategies of irrigation maintain more than building dams, and irrigation at night does so.

This campaign came at the time the Parliament is discussing the law of rationalizing the consumption of water in Sana'a preparing for issuing it after bringing about important referendums.

The governor of Sana'a spoke in the workshop saying that "we will die of thirst unless we realize this threat. We believe in studies and when each person believes in that he/she will understand the danger."

Many working papers were discussed



Sana'a major Wadis sub-basins

in the workshop including the paper presented by the UNICEF, Social Development Fund and other papers that

aimed to raise media awareness about the rationalization of water consumption in Sana'a basin.

## Taiz celebrates World's AIDS Day

TAIZ BUREAU

A public ceremony was held in Taiz on occasion of the International Day for combating AIDS last Wednesday by the Health and Population Bureau and the National Program for Combating the AIDS in Taiz Governorate.

The event was held under the motto "Women in Combating the AIDS - for better awareness and equality in precaution, treatment and medicine".

Deputy Assistant of Taiz Governor Mr. Ali al-Muqdesy, GM of the Health and Population Bureau Mr. Abdul Nasser el-Kabab, Director of Endowment Abdo Hassan, and Director

of the National Program for Combating the AIDS Dr. Saeed Sufyan gave speeches in the event.

The speakers indicated the efforts made in combating the AIDS HIV virus in the country and steps taken to restrict its spread by raising awareness about its dangers.

They also said that plans and methods have been prepared to deal with those affected by AIDS. They also noted the alarming rate of patients falling to this deadly disease.

The event was attended by several medical doctors, hospital cadres, scholars, youths and a group of locals interested in this topic.

## Yemen to swap prisoners with Pakistan

Agencies-Yemen and Pakistan are expected to finalize a deal soon for exchanging prisoners.

Yemen and Pakistan are expected to finalize a deal soon for exchanging prisoners suspected of belonging to Al-Qaeda network, security sources said on Saturday.

The daily al-Rai News cited the sources as saying that Yemen's Interior Minister Rashad al-Alaimi will visit Pakistan next month to sign a security agreement with his Pakistani counterpart, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sharbao, under which the prisoner exchange will be enforced.

Currently, there are 62 Yemenis detained in Pakistani jails, many of whom were captured after escaping Afghanistan when the U.S. occupation

forces entered the country in late 2001. Most of the detainees are also wanted by the Yemeni authorities on charges of security violations.

According to the agreement, Yemen and Pakistan will intensify their efforts in combating terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

## FedEx Ranks first among Cargo airlines worldwide

Memphis, Tenn. - November 16, 2004 - FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE:FDX), continues to lead the air cargo industry, according to Air Cargo World. The trade magazine the company's global leadership. For the second year in a row, the Air Cargo World report found that FedEx Express achieved the largest single share of the global air cargo market (10.6 percent), based on scheduled freight ton-kilometers (FTKs) flown during 2003. FedEx Express has ranked number one on this list since Air Cargo World created the ranking last year. "FedEx Express" ranking at the top of Air Cargo World's Top 50 Cargo Airlines for the second straight year underscores our ability to provide customers with unparalleled access to the global economy through our network said Michael L. Ducker, executive vice president, International, FedEx Express. In 2003, FedEx flew 13.32 billion total scheduled FTKs, a 2.5 percent increase from one year earlier and a notable 38.5 percent increase compared to FTKs flown in 1998.

## Workshop on Beauty Salons & Coiffeur Society concluded

TAIZ BUREAU

The Society for Beauty Salons and Coiffeur with the collaboration of the Private Sector Development Program have organized a 6-day training course last week, during which fifteen female and male trainees received several theoretical connotations in book-keeping, and budget preparation as well as accounts closing mechanisms. The course aims at upgrading the performance level of the society and the enterprises.

Speeches were given by Ismail al-

Mujahed, the Project Coordinator in the Industry Bureau, Sawzan al-Adeemy, the Program Director, and Reyadh al-Qaseemy, Head of the Society.

All speakers stressed on the importance of the development role of the private sector as a factor serving in attracting laborers.

"Therefore, the private sector has to be given due care and continuous training to help the society cope with the community requirements, and upgrade the profession level." Mr. al-Muhahed said.

## Symposium on higher studies concluded

ADEN BUREAU

The scientific symposium on higher studies in the Arab universities was concluded in the city of Aden on Monday Nov. 29.

Under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the course was organized by the University of Aden from 27-29 Nov. in coordination with the Arab Universities Union.

Most of the researches submitted to the course were discussed. They covered three main areas: the first was names and specifications of higher studies, a

critical study in which 12 researches were submitted; the second was the criteria of evaluation, assignment, and distinction in higher studies which received three researches; the third area covered fields of cooperation and coordination among Arab universities.

The researches of the symposium were rich and serious and cast light on problematic aspects of higher studies and scientific researches in Arab universities. The symposium came out with several recommendations and suggestions to improve the current situation in the Arab World.

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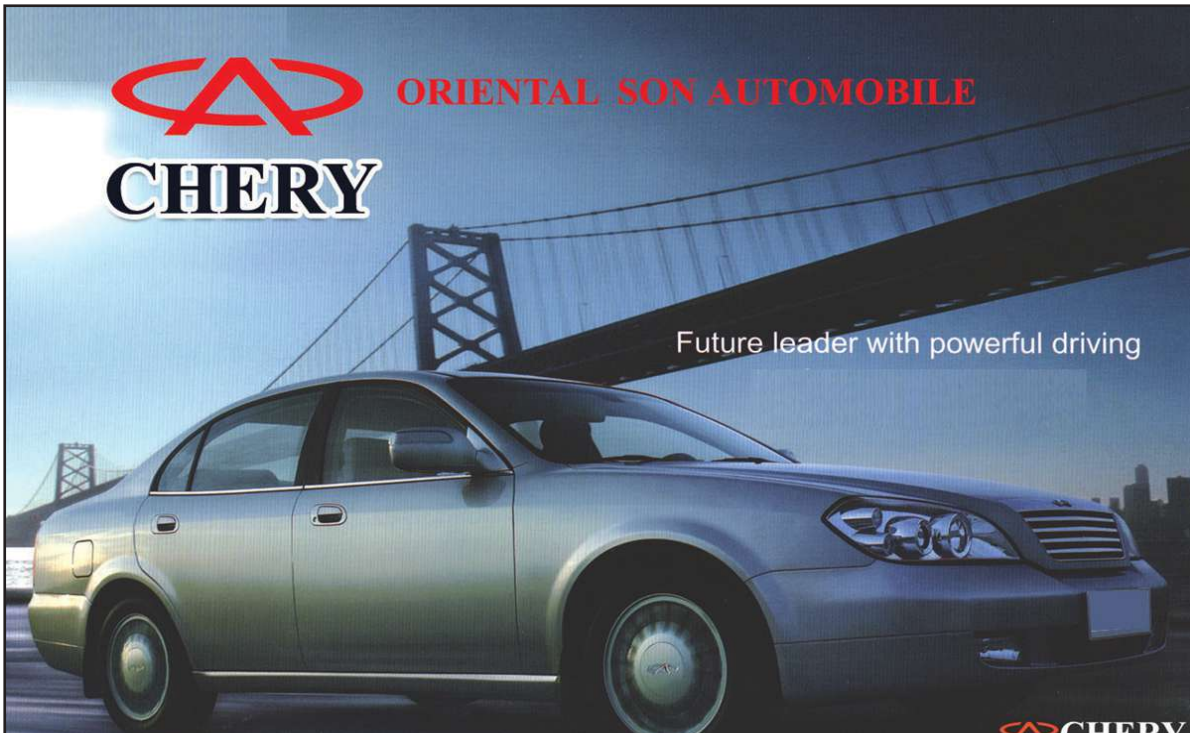
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# Car bombers strike near Baghdad Green Zone

BAGHDAD, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Twin suicide car bombs blew up outside a police station near Baghdad's Green Zone on Saturday, killing at least three people and wounding more than 40 in the latest strike against Iraq's shaky security forces.

Officials at Yarmuk hospital confirmed at least two dead and 35 wounded but said numbers were likely to rise. Doctors at another hospital said they received one dead and eight wounded.

The deafening blasts shook the city centre shortly after 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) and a thick column of black smoke rose from the site, near a main entrance to the Green Zone, home to the interim Iraqi government and foreign embassies. The U.S. military said in a statement the blast was caused by twin car bombs but gave no further details.

The heavy thud of machinegun fire could be heard immediately after the explosion as Iraqi police opened fire. One survivor, policeman Rafid Khudeir, described the moments before the explosion:

"I was in the criminal investigation department and saw our guards open the gates for a police patrol. Then a white car followed them in and blew up outside our building," he told Reuters from his hospital bed, his head in bloody bandages.

One blast was so powerful it blew a car onto the roof of an annex next to the police station. The area around the attack, which includes an entrance into



Smoke rises after a suspected suicide car bomb detonated near a police station beside the protected Green Zone in Baghdad, December 4. Officials at nearby Yarmuk hospital confirmed an initial two dead and 35 wounded from more than one attack in the capital on Saturday but officials expected the death toll to rise. REUTERS

the protected Green Zone frequently used by foreigners and the media, was quickly sealed off by U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Guerrillas have repeatedly attacked Iraqi police and police stations in recent days, part of a months-long campaign to destroy the confidence of

the fledgling security force.

### Mosul Firefight

In other violence, one U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded on Saturday when a roadside bomb hit their convoy near Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, a U.S. military spokes-

woman said.

The attack raised to at least 990 the number of U.S. troops killed since the war was launched last year.

On Friday, insurgents mortared and then stormed a police station near Baghdad airport, killing at least 11 police and setting free around 50 pris-

oners held at the jail.

Earlier this week, a police station in a remote part of western Iraq was attacked and 12 police killed.

And last month, in a well-coordinated two-day assault, insurgents overran more than a dozen police stations in the northern city of Mosul, looting them of weapons and equipment and then setting fire to them or blowing them up.

More than 3,200 of Mosul's 4,000-strong police force fled without firing a shot in defence.

There was another outbreak of violence in Mosul on Friday, with insurgents again attacking police stations and U.S. patrols. U.S. forces fought a three-hour gunbattle with the rebels, killing 22 before restoring order, the army said.

The attacks on local security forces, and the lack of backbone shown by some, have become a source of concern for U.S. military commanders who have based their exit strategy on building up capable Iraq police and National Guards.

Over the past year, U.S. authorities have invested heavily in recruiting and training police and the military-style National Guard, only to see large numbers desert or not turn up to work in the face of insurgent intimidation.

The U.S. military is hoping it will be able to hand over national security to Iraqi forces ahead of elections due at the end of January, but there are already signs that that may not be possible in all areas of the country.

This week, the Pentagon announced it was deploying an additional 12,000 U.S. troops to Iraq in the coming weeks to help with election security, boosting troop numbers to 150,000, their highest level in the Iraq war.

### Election worries

Much of the violence in the country has been claimed by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and is now threatening to derail parliamentary elections set for Jan. 30.

Many among Iraq's 20 percent Sunni Arab minority — from which the insurgency draws the core of its support — have called for a delay in the elections, saying that violence in Sunni areas will prevent the polls being free and fair.

Sunni Arabs, who dominated Iraq during Saddam Hussein's rule, fear they will be marginalised in the new Iraq, as the 60 percent Shi'ite majority exercises new found political clout.

Shi'ites insist the elections should go ahead on time, arguing that any delay would be a surrender to terrorism. Iraq's Kurds in the north say they are ready for elections, but would accept a delay if others wanted it.

Several Sunni Arab parties say they will boycott the elections if they are held on schedule.

Shi'ite and Kurdish politicians have been urging voters to register and prepare for the polls. But in several Sunni areas, voter registration has not even got under way.

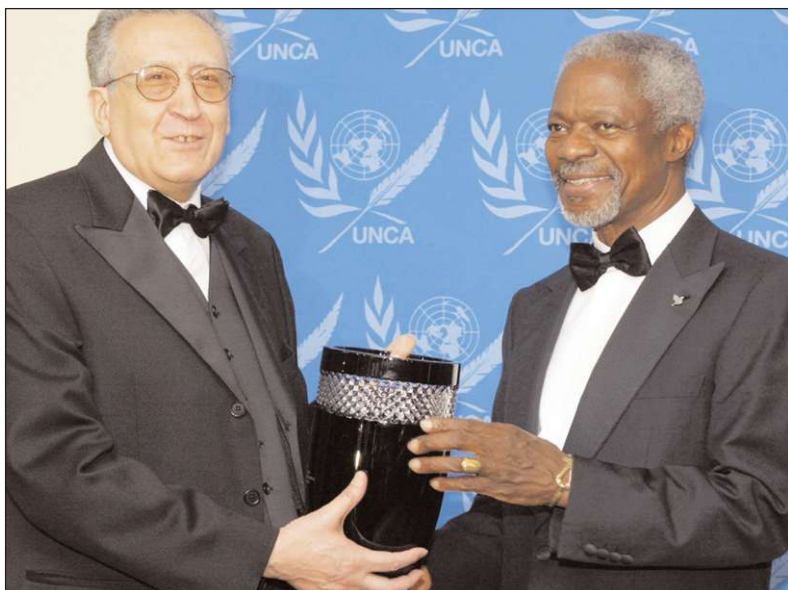
## Iraq polls can't occur amid current violence - UN envoy

AMSTERDAM, Dec 4 (Reuters) - It would be impossible to hold elections in Iraq in January if the security situation remains as precarious as it is, U.N. adviser Lakhdar Brahimi told a Dutch newspaper in an interview published on Saturday.

"Elections are no magic potion, but part of a political process. They must be prepared well and take place at the right time to produce the good effects that you expect from them," Brahimi, architect of the political process leading to elections in Iraq, told NRC Handelsblad.

Asked if it was possible to hold elections as conditions exist now, Brahimi said: "If the circumstances stay as they are, I personally don't think so."

"It is a mess in Iraq," Brahimi told the paper. "The international community, hopefully together with the Americans, must help the Iraqis to clean up this mess. If you let it deteriorate, the situation will become even more dangerous."



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan (L) gives the United Nations Correspondents Association's 'Citizen of the World Award' to Lakhdar Brahimi the top international diplomat who was the architect of the current interim government in Iraq during a ceremony at U.N. headquarters in New York, Dec 3. REUTERS

His comments were translated from Dutch by Reuters.

In the latest strike against Iraq's shaky security forces, twin suicide car bombs blew up outside a police station near Baghdad's Green Zone on Saturday, killing at least three people and wounding more than 40.

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## Israeli forces detain senior Hamas militant

TULKARM, West Bank, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Israeli forces detained a senior leader of Hamas's military wing in the West Bank on Saturday during a night-time raid on his hideout, witnesses said.

Rami al-Tayyah, 26, identified by Israeli security sources as head of the Islamic group's armed wing in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, has been wanted by Israel since 2002.

Witnesses said Israeli forces surrounded an apartment building in Tulkarm and took Tayyah into custody. "Don't kill him, we need him alive," one resident quoted a soldier as telling his comrades.

The security sources said Tayyah had established numerous Hamas cells that carried out dozens of shooting and bomb attacks against Israelis.

Tayyah, the sources said, has evaded capture during the Palestinian uprising

by hiding out among the local populace and moving from place to place disguised as a woman.

A member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and the owner of the apartment where Tayyah was hiding were also taken into custody in the raid. Troops found two automatic rifles, a pistol and ammunition at the hideout, the security sources said. On Friday, a Hamas leader said the group could accept creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and a long-term truce with Israel, signalling a possible new overture to end hostilities.

Hamas, sworn to Israel's destruction, has made such offers before, but this was the first time since the Nov. 11 death of Yasser Arafat and reflects a softening of the Islamic group's tone before a Palestinian election next month.

## Two coalition soldiers killed on Iraq border

BAGHDAD, Dec 4 (Reuters) - A suicide car bomb attack at a small U.S. military base on the Iraq-Jordan border killed two multi-national force soldiers and wounded five, the U.S. military said on Saturday.

The attack occurred on Friday afternoon at the Trebeel border crossing, 550 km (340 miles) west of Baghdad. It det-

onated outside the immigration office and close to a small U.S. military forward operating base.

"It was a suicide car bomb attack," a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad confirmed on Saturday.

He would not give the nationalities of those killed and wounded, but almost all coalition military personnel serving in

western Iraq are Americans.

A Jordanian border official told Reuters on Friday that the crossing, a main trade conduit between Iraq and Jordan, would be closed for several hours as a precautionary measure.

Travellers say Trebeel has seen frequent attacks by insurgents on U.S.-led troops and Iraqi security forces.

## UK's Black Watch troops end 30-day Iraq transfer

LONDON, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Britain's Black Watch regiment returned to its base in Basra in southern Iraq on Saturday after a month-long mission standing in for U.S. troops in a more violent part of the country, the Ministry of Defence said.

Around 850 troops were sent to a base south of Baghdad to replace U.S.

soldiers taking part in the storming of rebel-held Falluja. The regiment came under almost daily bombardment during the mission, suffering five fatalities.

"The battle group has completed its 30-day mission," the ministry said in a statement. "The Black Watch's area will now be taken over by two U.S. and one Iraqi battalions." The soldiers'

move north to the area dubbed the "Triangle of Death" from the relatively quiet south was controversial in Britain where anti-war sentiment remains strong.

Critics said it was politically motivated to show support for U.S. President George W. Bush just before the U.S. election.

## Dutch PM against lesser EU status for Turkey-report

BERLIN, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende has written to German conservative leader Angela Merkel rejecting her proposal for a "privileged partnership" between the EU and Turkey, the tabloid newspaper Bild said on Saturday.

Merkel, head of Germany's opposition Christian Democrats, has been a firm opponent of offering full European Union membership to Turkey but her proposal for a "privileged partnership" instead has been firmly rejected by Ankara.

Balkenende, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, wrote

to his fellow conservative leader saying he could not support the proposal "as it would mean changing the rules while the game was still going on," Bild said.

A photograph of the letter printed in the newspaper showed it was dated Oct. 11, 2004.

EU leaders are due to meet on Dec. 16-17 to agree whether to start talks aimed at preparing the way for Turkey to join the 25-member bloc, a project that has caused divisions about Europe's ability to integrate a relatively poor, mainly Muslim nation of some 70 million people.

Sceptics including Austria, France's

ruling conservatives and Germany's conservatives have urged the EU to offer Turkey a special "privileged partner" status that would fall short of full membership.

The German government of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has also dismissed the proposal, saying that to offer a status less than full membership would be to go back on promises already made to Turkey.

The Dutch government, which holds the EU presidency until the end of the year, is currently seeking agreement on a form of words that will outline possible options if the entry talks do not succeed.



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan (L) gives the United Nations Correspondents Association's 'Citizen of the World Award' to Lakhdar Brahimi the top international diplomat who was the architect of the current interim government in Iraq during a ceremony at U.N. headquarters in New York, December 3. REUTERS



# Idols chopped up by Taliban back at Kabul Museum

KABUL, Dec 4 (Reuters) - A collection of pre-Islamic wooden idols chopped up by the Taliban in 2001 in their drive for a pure Muslim state is back on display in Afghanistan after painstaking repair in a project financed by the Austrian government.

The near life-sized idols, some bearing at least a passing resemblance to the mysterious stone statues of Easter Island, went on display this week at the Kabul Museum, which was badly ravaged in Afghanistan's civil war and Taliban rule until 2001.

The idols come from Kafiristan — literally "Land of the Infidels" — a near legendary region of the majestic Hindu Kush mountain range straddling the borders of eastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan.

They date back to a period of ancestor worship before the region's tribespeople were forced to follow Islam in the late 19th century and the area became known as Afghanistan's Nuristan province and Pakistan's Chitral district.

"I consider this to be a most important collection," said Max Klimburg, a retired University of Vienna professor who oversaw the restoration effort financed by the Austrian government.

"It goes back to the time when that population of Nuristan was not yet Islamised and had their own very traditional beliefs in different gods, ghosts and deities."

The collection is made up of more than a dozen statues brought back as trophies by the Afghan army from its brutal Islamisation drive in the 1890s. It also includes artifacts collected by Klimburg and returned to Afghanistan in 1978 as a gift from the German government, which had purchased his col-



A pre-Islamic wooden idol on display at the Kabul Museum Dec. 4. A collection of pre-Islamic wooden idols chopped up by the Taliban in 2001 in their drive for a pure Muslim state is back on display in Afghanistan after painstaking repair in a project financed by the Austrian government. REUTERS

lection.

## Islamic iconoclasts

Having survived one bout of iconoclasm in the 19th century and bloody factional fighting that racked Kabul in the 1990s, the collection was targeted by a new generation of Islamic zealots after the Taliban took Kabul.

"Most of the figures had been chopped up by the Taliban and they were restored, very nicely as you can see," Klimburg said. "No figure has been lost."

The Taliban attempted to destroy the idols because they considered such images an affront to their purist concepts of Islam.

In early 2001, the fundamentalists shocked the world with the extent of their intolerance by blowing up two giant stone Buddhas that had overlooked the central town of Bamiyan for some 1,600 years.

Restoration work on 11 of the wooden figures in the museum's collection was carried out in May by an Italian-Austrian specialist, Giovanni Rindler. Experts at the Kabul Museum restored three others.

Among the figures is the upper half of an ancestor effigy from the Kalasha Valleys of Chitral, where about 3,500 inhabitants of the former Kafiristan still live and adhere to their traditional beliefs despite energetic attempts to

convert them to Islam or Christianity.

Klimburg said the figure had been sawn into two pieces to facilitate its illegal export from Afghanistan to a collector overseas in the 1970s. It was confiscated at the Kabul airport, but the lower half of the figure is still missing.

Other objects in the collection include house and temple posts and chairs and utensils such as water pots.

Klimburg said his own collection had included three long-stemmed silver cups and a large male bust, but these were now missing, apparently looted and sold to collectors abroad as part of a massive illegal worldwide trade in antiquities.

# N.Korea says met US officials, no nuclear progress

SEOUL, Dec 4 (Reuters) - North Korea made clear on Saturday it would not return to six-party talks on its nuclear programmes until U.S. President George W. Bush assembled his new team and Washington decided its policy toward Pyongyang.

North Korean and U.S. officials met twice this week in New York but made no progress on restarting the talks, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said, according to KCNA news agency.

"Our analysis of the results of the contact in New York prompts us to judge that the U.S. side showed no willingness to change its policy toward us," the spokesman said.

"Under this situation, it is clear that the six-party talks will not produce any results," he said. He also said the North had no great expectations for the new Bush administration.

"We are not impatient as regards the issue of the resumption of the talks nor would we like to make a hasty final conclusion," he said. "As the second Bush administration has not yet emerged, we would like to wait a bit longer to follow with patience what a policy it will shape."

This was the North's clearest mention yet of Bush's election victory over Democrat challenger John Kerry a month ago and the most explicit explanation why it was not ready to resume talks.

On Thursday, the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun quoted U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage as saying he hoped the six-way talks could resume within a few weeks.

"I believe they're looking to see if a new Bush administration may have some softer people in it, to see if they can get a better deal," he said. "It's a mistake."

Contacts took place between the United States and North Korea in New York on Nov. 30 and Dec. 3, the



A South Korean protester holding a defaced North Korean national flag, scuffles with riot police during a rally against the North's nuclear weapon programme and the South Korean government's plan to amend or abolish the National Security Law which prescribes North Korea as the enemy, in Seoul Dec. 4. North Korea made clear on Saturday it would not return to six-party talks on its nuclear programmes until U.S. President George W. Bush has assembled his new team and decide its policy toward Pyongyang. REUTERS

North's spokesman said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Susan Pittman confirmed the Tuesday meeting but had no information on the encounter the North said took place on Friday.

"We have face-to-face meetings from time to time through the U.N. mission in New York," she said by telephone. "We're not going to get into the

specifics of the meeting. It was a routine meeting."

## Stiffer stance

"We continue to state our position, as we have repeatedly, that we remain ready to resume the six-party talks without the conditions and we called on them to follow through with the six-party talks."

Typically, such meetings of the

"New York channel" are between members of the North's mission to the United Nations and State Department officials.

North and South Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia and China have met for three rounds of talks in Beijing but made little substantive progress. A fourth round scheduled for September never materialised.

"The reaction from North Korea, which had probably wished Kerry would win the election, came in line with expectations," said Yu Suk-ryul, a professor at Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

"North Korea seemed to try to take a stiffer stance against the United States as Bush's new administration is seen being packed with those that have a negative voice on the North. It will monitor things closely until the new government is finally launched," he said by telephone.

A Chinese envoy visited Pyongyang from Nov. 24 to 27 for an "in-depth exchange of views" on the crisis, the North Korean spokesman said. The New York meetings followed.

"We remain unchanged in our stand to seek a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue," he said, adding the United States needed to drop its hostile policy toward the North.

"The U.S. will be grossly mistaken if it thinks we entertain any expectation for its new administration to be formed," the spokesman said.

He denied Pyongyang had delayed the six-way talks because it had been awaiting the U.S. election or insisting on bilateral talks with Washington.

"The stalemate was attributable to the fact that the present U.S. administration destroyed the groundwork of the talks, reneging on the agreement reached at the third round of the talks, and, furthermore, has become extremely undisguised in its hostile acts to bring down our system," he said.

# Commonwealth presses Mozambique for access to polls

MAPUTO, Dec 4 (Reuters) - The Commonwealth has piled pressure on Mozambique to allow full access to the polls to pick a successor to President Joaquim Chissano, who has held office for nearly two decades.

The Commonwealth joined former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the leading figure among several hundred international observers, the European Union and African groups that have complained that they were not allowed access to voter tabulation centres, raising questions about independent verification.

In an interim statement issued in Maputo, Commonwealth observer group head Vaughan Lewis said voting during the Dec. 1-2 election went well and although counting at polling stations took a long time, it was meticulous and transparent.

"We hope that other observers, the political parties and our Commonwealth colleagues can be given full access to and information about the rest of the results procedures. This is as important for the credibility of the next part of the process as it was for the part which has just been completed," Lewis said.

The Commonwealth — which largely groups former British colonies — also noted that some polling stations did not open at all and some opened a day late and confusion about locations of polling stations meant some people were unable to vote.

It added that in rural areas, distances to polling stations were sometimes excessive.

Radio Mozambique said on Friday that with 313,431 votes counted, businessman Armando Guebuza, the candidate of Chissano's ruling Frelimo, had 231,537 votes versus 75,348 for his main opponent, Afonso Dhlakama of the former rebel Renamo.

Three other candidates from smaller

parties shared the balance.

With poll observers saying a maximum of 30 percent of registered voters cast their ballots in the Dec. 1-2 election in the former Portuguese colony, the radio's count represented around 10 percent of those presumed to have voted.

There was no independent confirmation of the figures and on Saturday morning Radio Mozambique did not update its data. Mozambique's official electoral commission is obliged to announce the final results by Dec. 17.

On Friday, Renamo campaign director Eduardo Namburete told a news conference Renamo and Dhlakama still believed they had won the polls. He added that the radio's data was misleading and represented mainly urban areas known to back Frelimo.

"The picture given by the radio, that Renamo is losing, is misleading. It is based on data largely from urban areas. Once all data is in, the matter will be clear," Namburete said. He said if Renamo lost it would accept the results provided the process was free and fair: "That is what has to be determined, whether the poll was free and fair. If it wasn't, I am not in a position to say how we would react."

Guebuza's campaign did not comment on the radio results.

Heavy rains and logistics problems during the two days of voting helped to keep turnout low.

The election is not expected to affect key policies in impoverished Mozambique, where the World Bank has launched one of its biggest programmes in Africa to rebuild the country.

Economic growth is among the highest in the world, averaging 10 percent over the last decade, but half of Mozambique's 18 million people are very poor and unemployment is at 50 percent.

# Muslim rebels kill 5 police in Kashmir gunbattle

SRINAGAR, India, Dec 4 (Reuters) - A Muslim rebel attack on an Indian Kashmir police camp left five police and one rebel dead in the region's biggest raid since Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz visited India last month, police said on Saturday.

Six police were also wounded in the attack on the camp in Sopore town, 30 miles north of Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

A little-known militant group, Al-Mansoorian, claimed responsibility for the attack, which began on Friday and lasted 24 hours. Indian security agencies say Al-Mansoorian is the new name of Lashkar-e-Taiba, an outlawed Pakistan-based guerrilla group. The rebels are fighting Indian rule in Kashmir.

"The fierce firefight ended today (Saturday) at 5.30 and the search operation of the camp building is continuing," Farooq Ahmad, a police offi-

cer in Sopore, told Reuters by telephone.

Ahmad said the body of one of the militants had been recovered from the building, which was damaged in the encounter. "It is still not clear how many militants were involved in the attack," Ahmad added.

Islamabad denies India's allegations that it is supporting the 15-year-old revolt in Kashmir but says it provides moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiri "freedom fighters."

The countries, which both claim the Himalayan region, have fought two wars over the disputed territory.

Last month, New Delhi began to withdraw a small number of its more than 400,000 troops in Kashmir, citing a decline in incursions from Pakistan and a drop in guerrilla attacks.

About 45,000 people have been killed since an armed rebellion broke out in the region in 1989.



A Kashmiri man with a group of children walks past Indian soldiers after a suicide attack by militants on an Indian police camp in Sopore, 48 km (30 miles) north of Srinagar, Dec. 3. Guerrillas attacked a police camp in Indian-held Kashmir on Friday, hurling grenades and shooting indiscriminately at guards at its gate, killing five policemen, authorities said. REUTERS



# Ukraine's Yanukovich to run again in repeat vote

KIEV, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on Saturday he would stand against opposition liberal Viktor Yushchenko again in a re-run of their contested presidential election and he defiantly vowed he would win.

Even as Yushchenko's supporters kept up wild celebrations in the streets after Friday's landmark ruling by the Supreme Court that gave them victory, Yanukovich's camp said the Moscow-backed prime minister would run again in the repeat play-off on Dec. 26.

"He is convinced he will win the second time as he won the first time since 15 million Ukrainians stand behind him," his spokeswoman, Anna German, said.

Ukraine's parliament was due to meet to lay the legal grounds for the new vote after the Supreme Court annulled the results of the Nov. 21 rigged poll, that had given victory to Moscow-backed Yanukovich and that Yushchenko had contested.

German said Yanukovich regarded the court's decision as having been made under "huge political pressure".

Despite Yanukovich's apparent confidence, analysts say Yushchenko appears well-set to sweep into power in the new ballot following a successful 12-day "people's power" campaign to overturn the results of the Nov. 21 run-off.

Yanukovich was dismissed by parliament on Wednesday, but outgoing President Leonid Kuchma has not yet signed a decree making the decision official. He has been out of the public eye, apparently because of illness, for the past few days.

After boisterous street revelling in Kiev overnight, Yushchenko's supporters were dusting themselves down on Saturday for a weekend of fresh street action.

In line with Yushchenko's plea to keep up pressure on the Moscow-backed government, supporters maintained a noisy presence outside government headquarters, beating out a tattoo on metal oil drums.

"Ukraine is henceforth a true demo-



Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (R) gives the thumb up as he greets tens of thousands of supporters during a rally in central Kiev Dec. 3. Opposition leader Yushchenko, triumphant after a favourable Supreme Court ruling in the contested presidential election, declared on Friday: "Henceforth Ukraine is a true democratic state."

REUTERS

cratic state," Yushchenko declared on Friday night to a crowd on Kiev's Independence Square, where his supporters, clad in his orange campaign colours, have thronged for the past 12 days, often in bitter cold.

The crisis, following a bitter November election battle between the Western-oriented Yushchenko and Yanukovich, plunged the ex-Soviet state into turmoil and set Russia at odds with the West.

Supreme Court judges, after five days of deliberations, agreed with Yushchenko's allegations that the Nov. 21 run-off vote had been rigged. It said it should be played again on Dec. 26.

### Legal framework

Parliament was scheduled on Saturday to get down to work to amend laws to provide a legal framework for the new round. Deputies were also to start putting together a new government.

The court ruling also dealt a slap in the face to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who only on Thursday met Kuchma and supported him in opposing a repeat of the run-off. Putin had campaigned for Yanukovich.

The turn of events could strain ties further between Russia, concerned about Ukraine slipping out of its orbit of influence, and the West, which had backed Yushchenko's charges of cheating and called for new elections.

The Kremlin leader, on a visit to New Delhi, had no immediate comment on events in Ukraine. But, in a foreign policy speech, he accused the United States of pursuing a dictatorial foreign policy and criticised the West for following double standards on terrorism and Chechnya.

In a cool reaction to the court ruling, parliamentary speaker Boris Gryzlov, a loyal lieutenant of Putin's, said: "We are now dealing not with a solution of the political crisis, but with the search for a way out of crisis."

The United States welcomed the court's decision, saying it was important the new vote be free and fair. Canada said it would send a large number of observers to monitor the rerun.

"It's a great result. It opens up the way to a resolution of the political crisis," said opposition analyst Myron Wasyluk.

Kuchma, who backed Yanukovich in the first election, is due to step down after 10 years in office tainted by scandal. Analysts say there are signs his aides have been trying to negotiate with the Yushchenko camp over a deal to ensure him immunity from prosecution once he leaves.

In contrast to the festivities in Kiev and the Ukrainian-speaking west of the country, the court judgment was met with dismay in the Russian-speaking eastern city of Donetsk, where around 4,000 Yanukovich supporters gathered on Friday.

# ETA bombs put radical Basque party in tight spot

MADRID, Dec 4 (Reuters) - The armed Basque separatist group ETA showed it was not a spent force with Friday's coordinated attacks at five Madrid petrol stations, but it also further isolated the guerrillas' closest political allies, Batasuna.

The attacks ended months of relative inactivity by ETA and were the first to hit Madrid in two years, signalling the group could still kill despite a fierce police crackdown.

The bombs also dashed hopes for a Christmas truce or a distancing between ETA and Batasuna, the party accused of being ETA's political wing and banned for not condemning ETA violence.

Batasuna also declined to condemn the latest bombs and said on Saturday it was sticking by its proposal for peace talks unveiled last month.

Mainstream parties said that refusal was a lost opportunity.

"These attacks have once again shown up Batasuna," the Basque regional government, led by the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, said after the bombs.

"(Batasuna) should react politically ... if they don't want their public pronouncement (on peace talks) to have been a waste of paper," the Basque government said.

ETA has killed more than 800 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for Basque independence from Spain and France, though it has not killed anyone for 18 months.

The outlawed group has been weakened by a police crackdown in Spain

and France that has rounded up more than 100 ETA suspects this year, including its top leadership.

Friday's attacks slightly wounded two police officers and snarled traffic for hours as Madrid people left the capital for a long holiday weekend.

ETA forewarned of the blasts with a telephone call, allowing police to evacuate the five bomb sites.

The political class in Madrid has no time for Batasuna. But non-violent Basque nationalists, though frustrated by the party, view it as needed if Madrid should ever decide to negotiate with a group it brands as terrorist.

### May elections

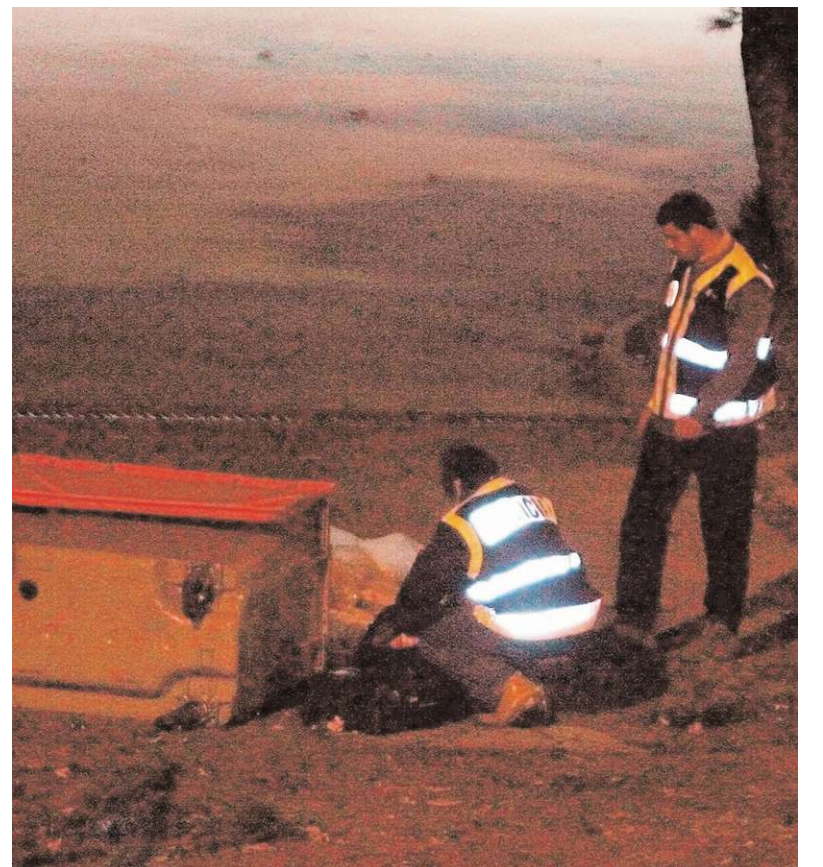
Batasuna's last grasp on power is due to run out in May, when its seven representatives in the 75-member Basque parliament will lose their seats unless the party can become legal again and present candidates.

Batasuna on Nov. 14 called for peace talks to resolve Spain's Basque conflict, possibly with an eye toward the May elections.

Batasuna leader Arnaldo Otegi declined to condemn the attacks on Saturday and told a news conference the party still held hope for a negotiated solution.

"The message from these actions (the bombs) means that the conflict persists and our position (calling for talks) is more valid today than it was on Nov. 14," Otegi said.

Otegi would need to clearly condemn ETA violence if the party were to have hopes of becoming legal again.



Spanish policemen inspect a garbage bin that contained a bomb after a small explosion near a petrol station in Madrid, Dec. 3. The Basque separatist group ETA set off five bombs at petrol stations around Madrid on Friday, putting a stranglehold on the city at the start of a long holiday weekend.

REUTERS

# Secretary-General welcomes recommendations on strengthened United Nations

(NEW YORK, 2 December) United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today gave strong support to an eagerly awaited report on meeting the world's new and evolving security threats, presented to him this morning by the chairman of an independent panel, former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun of Thailand.

"I wholly endorse its core arguments for a broader, more comprehensive system of collective security: one that tackles both new and old threats, and addresses the security concerns of all States - rich and poor, weak and strong," the Secretary-General said, in a letter transmitting the report. A more secure world: Our shared responsibility, to the UN General Assembly for consideration and action.

"The report offers the United Nations a unique opportunity to refashion and renew our institutions," he says in the letter, and promises to quickly consider and implement specific recommendations that fall within his purview. He urges other UN bodies to do the same.

In particular, the Secretary-General pledges to take a lead in promoting a new comprehensive strategy against terrorism, and to articulate his vision for consideration by governments in the new year.

The panel of 16 former heads of state, foreign ministers, security, military, diplomatic and development officials reaffirms the right of states to

defend themselves, including preemptively when an attack is imminent, and says that in the case of "nightmare scenarios" - for instance those combining terrorists and weapons of mass destruction - the UN Security Council may have to act earlier, more proactively and more decisively than in the past.

On issues such as the rules governing use of force, "that go to the heart of who we are as the United Nations and what we stand for", the Secretary-General says that decisions should be taken by world leaders at a special UN summit scheduled for next September. "I cannot over-emphasize how important a new consensus on this issue is for a renewed system of collective security," he adds.

Mr. Annan plans to submit a report of his own in March, factoring in the panel's recommendations. The March paper would help set the agenda for the 2005 summit on implementing the UN Millennium Declaration.

Inter-connected threats in a dangerous world

"The panel's insistence that we must see the inter-connectedness of contemporary threats to our security is particularly important," the Secretary-General says in his letter. "We cannot treat issues such as terrorism or civil wars or extreme poverty in isolation."

He further endorses the panelists' view that development is the "indispensable foundation" of collective

security, and that eradication of poverty and disease is an essential part of the effort to achieve a safer world. "If we are to succeed in better protecting the security of our citizens, it is essential that due attention and necessary resources are devoted to achieving the Millennium Development Goals," he says.

Other conclusions drawn by the Secretary-General from the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change:

- The UN must do more to advance an effective and principled counter-terrorism strategy, respectful of human rights and the rule of law. One of the obstacles so far has been the inability of Member States to agree on a definition of terrorism; the definition arrived at by the panelists will help in building a useful consensus.

- A major push to rebuild public health at all levels, from the global to the local, as future by the Panel, would not only help to stem disease and epidemics, but also form a bulwark against bio-terrorism.

- Member States are encouraged to positively consider Panel recommendations on improving sanctions and mediation, in cases where preventive measures fail to head off armed conflict.

- As the Panel indicates, the world's nuclear non-proliferation regime is in a precarious state. Their recommendations hold the potential for reducing

the possibility of a nuclear attack by either States or non-State actors, and require urgent action.

- The Panel offers a vision of a United Nations for the 21st century, recommending reforms for each of its principal organs. These concerns have also figured in the Secretary-General's reform efforts, including the need for a more representative Security Council. The Panel's exposition of alternative formulae for Council expansion should facilitate discussion and decisions in 2005.

In commending the Panel's report to the General Assembly, Mr. Annan expresses the hope that it "brings us much closer to finding answers to some of the burning questions of the new century".

Besides the chair, the other members of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change are: Robert Badinter (France), Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway), Mary Chinery-Hesse (Ghana), Gareth Evans (Australia), David Hannay (Britain), Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay), Amr Moussa (Egypt), Satish Nambiar (India), Sadako Ogata (Japan), Yevgeny M. Primakov (Russia), Qian Qichen (China), Nafis Sadiq (Pakistan), Salim Ahmed Salim (Tanzania), Brent Scowcroft (United States) and Joao Baena Soares (Brazil). Stanford University professor Stephen Stedman guided their research and compiled the report.

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 بمناسبة عقد الثران وقرب الزفاف  
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## Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR  
OPINIONWhen 35 bucks  
kill 34 people

The front-page story of today's edition on the incredible tribal clashes that resulted in the killing of 28 tribesmen because of old vengeance is indeed another reminder of the pathetic and appalling situation of tribal vengeance in Yemen.

Tribal wars can erupt suddenly and sometimes for stupid reasons. It is truly bizarre to see that the war between the two tribes of Al Saida and Al-Mazariq what led to the total of 34 deaths—6 deaths a few months earlier plus 28 on Thursday—was actually a result of a dispute over YR 6,000; approximately USD 35.

Where else could such a thing happen? The disease of tribal vengeance in the country has taken its toll. Thousands of Yemenis were killed and wounded because of tribal conflicts that result from silly and unexplainable reasons.

Law enforcement is a word we as Yemenis have been very much unable to see in our reality in today's Yemen. The result is clear; more chaos, more killings!

Year after year, tribal clashes and bloodsheds continued to top headline news all over the Yemeni press, but when it came to action and remedies, little was done.

The government on one hand claims that it is doing its best in minimizing tribal clashes, but in reality, it is certainly unable to do a lot about it, and knows that very well.

In a time the world is progressing at an unprecedented rate, we in Yemen are still unable, and sometimes seem unwilling, to deal with one of our chronic diseases that is devastating most of the tribal regions of the country.

Tribal revenge is certainly a cycle of violence that never ends. In order to break it, government intervention could be the only solution.

But analysts think that the government cannot interfere easily because of the so-called respect of tribal traditions plus the excuse that forces are not equipped enough to battle tribesmen who are fully armed with advanced ammunition and artillery.

I wouldn't want to put myself in the President's shoes because I know what he is facing.

Tribal values reach into the depth of the military army, and for many soldiers, the sense of belonging to the tribe is much stronger to that feeling of national belonging. This could make a soldier fight for his tribe against his own brigade if a conflict between the two occurs one day.

Furthermore, President Saleh doesn't seem to be convinced that the number of weapons in Yemen needs to be reduced. I cannot forget the interview the President gave to an international channel about the need not to take away the weapons from the hands of citizens, but to rather regulate the carrying of weapons.

I disagree with the president on this point, even though he may have better experience in dealing with tribes throughout the country.

The President may think that taking way weapons from tribes is a danger to the security of the country, which may in fact be true because for many tribesmen carrying a weapon—from early childhood—is a source of manhood.

But on the other hand, the president cannot let the situation get out of control and have tribes batter each other in the way we saw on Thursday.

It is indeed a dilemma. But in any case, the issue here is not only about weapons, but also about mentality, education, awareness, governance, and long-term planning.

In case we ensure that children of tribesmen are educated properly and attain a good educational background to become useful citizens for their communities, they may as well voluntarily abandon their weapons that they would carry along otherwise.

There is no easy solution to the problem of tribal vengeance, but there is no doubt that time is running out and a solution needs to be secured to prevent the spill of more blood for nothing.

We cannot have a solution overnight, but we can at least start somewhere!

The Editor

## Will always support Ethiopia Independent Somaliland a non-negotiable

BY ALI MOHAMED NOUR.  
(ALI TOOSANE)  
HARGIES/SOMLILAND  
Email: toosane@lycos.com

Since we proclaimed the rebirth of our country as an independent State in May 1991 at Buroo 13 years ago, Somaliland has achieved a great deal by way of putting in place its own Constitution, established democratic institutions, its own currency with out external provisions and so on.

Yet, the international community still reluctant to recognize Somaliland although it has fulfilled all the requirements for Statehood. Namely: Article (1) of the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, signed on 26 December, 1933, provides that the State should possess the following qualifications: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into a relation with the other states.

There is no doubt that Somaliland possesses all the qualifications for statehood. It has security, commercial, and diplomatic agreements with her neighbour Ethiopia.

Similarly, it has similar links though to a small degree with the Republic of Djibouti. Interestingly enough, its people occupy the territory of the former British Protectorate.

We are worried about Somaliland's statehood as being ignored for too long, because terrorism take root and grow when people don't have the means to control their own government.

Today's terrorism in the world has been linked not only with religious or ethnic extremism, but also with problems of poor governance, inter-state conflicts, suppression of freedoms and human rights as well as criminality etc.

On several occasions, the United Nations warned that Somalia was becoming a heaven for terrorists and for the smuggling of weapons including surface - to - air missiles. In addition to, the assistance of Islamic Fundamentalist Groups, strongly influenced by Egypt and Saudi Arab's hard - line Wahabism.

Really, all these things happened as the result of, recent killings of innocent humanitarian aid workers in Somaliland were organized in Mogadishu. So if a State like Somaliland is ignored for too long, the insecurity in Somalia could spread into Somaliland and in fact this will undermine the stability of the whole region, particularly neighboring countries like Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Today Egypt wants the African Union and Arab League not to recognize Somaliland's Statehood and let Eritrea to remain hostile with their brothers in Ethiopia. However the African Union and the Arab league can't overlook the fact that Somaliland has a strong case to back its independence since the Statehood of Somaliland does not contravene the charter of the newly-formed organization of Africa AU, particularly the inviolability of colonial borders.

Somaliland has the right of backing of the former African Organization OAU Cairo Resolution of 1964, which has ratified the sanctity of inherited colonial boundaries in Africa.

Definitely, the weaknesses of the former African Organization OAU permit Egypt, Saudi Arabia and probably Libya to commit impoverishing and destabilization programmes against

the states of the region particularly Somaliland and Ethiopia.

Both Somaliland's political livestock exports ban and Eritrea's hosting and training camps for several opposition groups such as ONLF, OLF are typical examples of impoverishing and destabilization programs in the region. So that if the newly formed organization of Africa AU is realistic their mandate they should have to find a political solution this violence.

Many Somalilanders including me can't understand why Arab league particularly Egypt, Saudi Arabi and probably Libya ignores Somaliland's right to exist. Are they saying the recognition issue of Somaliland may undermine or affect the newly formed Southern - Somali State in Kenya? I would argue that the opposite is true. The sooner Somaliland is recognized the better chance to restore peace, law and order in the South.

Truly the Arab league is running to find what they called a counter-balance of Ethiopia in the region in order to arm against us our brother Ethiopia again and destabilize the Horn of Africa.

Equally significant is that the Arab league is not so happy the bilateral relations we have to day our brothers Ethiopia as well as the use of Ethiopia our port Barbra. So that it is clear the Arab league is firmly, politically, and emotionally committed to the survival of the unity of Somalia. Let me say my words.

Our children's children will look back through their history books with admiration and thanks for the Ethiopian people. In fact, an Ethiopia in danger is our danger. Any person, state, organization that fights against Ethiopia will never have our support. We shall give whatever help we can to our brothers Ethiopia as they did for us. On the other hand, unstable Ethiopia is not good for Somaliland, Djibouti, Kenya and even the stability of the whole region; Ethiopia is the heart land of the Horn of Africa.

Finally, we Somalilanders know our goal and we are determined to reach it. The independence of our country is nonnegotiable.

### The injudiciousness of an Indian Insurance co.

BY: MAHMOUD D. SUFIAN  
G. MANAGER OF M.  
IMPORT CO.

The aim of insuring a company is to get payment for damaged consignment after through investment.

This being the motif "Mahmoud import co." Based in Yemen committed itself customer with the Oriental Insurance co. based in New Delhi. Regretfully on the 18th of Nov. 98 damaged occurred on our bags of rice consignment. In accordance to the regulation all relevant investigations were made and the investigation official declared we are enti-

led for payment. Though we presented all the necessary documents to the Oriental Insurance co. and claimed accordingly, the insurance co. became defiant to accomplish the payment. We corresponded untiringly since then obtain our legal payment, but to no avail. Now we are obligated to disclose the tricky treatment of clients by the afore mentioned insurance co. is the aim of establishing an insurance co. to collect membership money and turn a deaf ear when it comes to payment?

We now strongly demand that the India Embassy in Sana'a to interfere and bring us a solution for the long awaited claim.

### Letters to the Editor

Yemen-Somalia ties  
were always strong

History shows us that the Somali people have enjoyed special cultural and commercial relationships with their brothers in Yemen, which date back to thousands of years. In the course of history people from both sides of the Red Sea have immigrated from one side to the other in search of life and adventure. For instance, the Meheri in Yemen are also found in Somalia (Puntland) as a Somali clan and physically the people and their landscape is quite similar to the northern parts of Somalia and those who reside it.

Above all, the following footprints reveals that:

1. The Pharaohs known the incense producing areas in the Red Sea as the Punt.

2. Meheri & Somalis live side by side in Socotra which is adjacent to the Somali peninsula and the longest mountain in Socotra is called "The Somali mountain".

3. The Kingdom of Arwa in Yemen is considered as a Somali historical event by the Somalis and locally they call it "Arawello".

4. The well-known historian, Ibn Khaldun has stated that the Somali and Meheri people have common ancestors.

5. In Dufaar, there are ancient graves with heaps of stones while in Somalia there are similar graves known by the Somalis as the "grave monuments" or "Taallo geeriyad" in Somali.

6. There are strong indications that oil will be found in Somalia just like Yemen.

7. The political situation in Somalia looks like that of Yemen when the southern part of Yemen declared independence in order to weaken the unity of the Yemeni people and strangely we have the self declared government of S/land in Somalia.

On this occasion, I would like to thank his excellency President Ali Abdalla for his relentless efforts in the Somali peace process and I wish him the best the new Somali President Mr. Abdullah Yusuf, who was recently on official visit to Yemen.

Abdulrazak Osman Dirie  
bakool55@hotmail.com



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Attn: Office Administrator

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Business as usual

One is not sure if the new year will bring us some respite from all the hardships faced by the Iraqis and the Palestinians, but it seems clear that the Bush Administration has not shown us on the ground that there are concrete steps coming that will relieve the agonizing pain of a venue of perpetual conflict.

The characteristic beating around the bush has clearly shown that for all intents and purposes, for the people most directly affected – the Palestinians and the Iraqis – it is business as usual – with little hope of truly coming out of the horrible effects of an ongoing occupation, in both cases, that is not about to see any end. Perhaps, one might even suggest that with the "mandate" that the Bush Administration believes it has gotten from the American people; there is good reason to continue on the agenda set forth by a bunch of self-styled dogmatist, who have let ideology dominate their thinking and their pursuits for all the years they have been in public service.

Unabashedly, these right wing elements that have found their niche in the top of the leadership ladder, or close to it, will take not item to consider the catastrophic consequences of war based on misguided ideology, spiced by an irrational extremism, supposedly based on religion, while lacking any moral grounds that demonstrate a true adherence to conscientious behavior. Their misconstrued ideals are fuelled with the unlimited might and power of the United States at their command. These right wing demagogues are out to prove that power can be ill placed and power can be maintained in their hands, by an acquired capacity to manipulate public opinion and move the masses in ways that are not compatible with human wisdom or moral determinations. It is not hard to discern that in such a venue, the value of human life and safety is overwhelmed by the insistence that divine will is dictated by the evil intentions of men (or women), who mistakenly believe that God Al-Mighty would find remorse in upholding evil intents and narrow minded inclinations.

The daily scenes of carnage that the observer is witnessing in Falluja, in Iraq, and in Gaza and the West Bank over the last couple of months would only reinforce the belief that the people at the helms in Israel and the United States are driven by the same chauvinistic drives and arrogant attitudes. Needless to say, they originate from roots of similar ideals that are tainted by chauvinism and a mistaken assumption that God has willed for might and power to be in their hands and thus this makes their quests unmistakably irreversible.

The observer is at a loss to understand how men can let chauvinism and arrogance betray human instinct and moral suasions that God has also implanted in the conscience of mankind. What has happened to all the basic fundamentals of human rights and the efforts of so many philosophers, prophets and deliverers, who were driven by a feeling of pity for the suffering and the unjustly treated throughout the span of history? Was the turn of the Millennium a signal for a retraction in the way mankind behaves towards each other? The mask of goodness and the pronounced fealty to democratic ideals are worn by these proponents of war and perpetual conflict, of course waged by others and thousands of miles away from where the blood is being wastefully shed, as in the case of the Americans and behind a labyrinth of defenses and a façade of modern urban and rural splendor, as in the case of the Israelis, leads one to think that people can be so lacking of altruistic values. Of course, mankind has seen a lot of evil empire chasers and hoarders of the Earth, who actually believed that they are God like in strength and can impose their irrational will on their fellow men, at any costs and notwithstanding how much suffering is inflicted on the thousands of innocent lives that must fall to the millions of ordnances that are unleashed at random, wherever the continuous quest for greater power is sought by these demagogues. These are not views that come out of a latent jealousy or hatred for those who possess all the destructive power that is needed to annihilate the human race. Now this comes out of a disappointment that men still are unable to limit the evil drives that drive some of their own to a desire to unleash this might for the sake of imposing their selfish desires or to serve narrow minded interests that have nothing to do with advancing the cause of liberty and the elimination of poverty throughout the world.

More than half of the population of the world is hardly able to live any decent worthwhile life, while a minority of their human folk is actually making it more difficult for these people to find avenues that will take them out of their pitiful lots. We have at least four more years to observe more wanton destruction in Iraq, and no façade of an election process is going to show that Iraq will remain in the inferno created by these demagogues. Four years to see destruction in Gaza and the West Bank as well, as the Likudniks in Israel celebrate the passing away of one of their staunchest strugglers for his people. Thanks to the blessings of misguided religious fanatics, who haven't the faintest idea of what religion is really about both in the United States and in Israel, the land that prophets and messengers of God trekked on will be no more than a playground, where demagogues have played simulated games of warfare and mayhem in their comfortable offices.

So, rest assured, humanity that there is little to hope for in the coming years. Yes Abu Ghreib and Guantanamo are all part of the plan to insist that humanity need not seek the cover of the moral instincts of mankind. The devil has easily shown that he can overcome with that, because there are human beings who are not part of this world. They live in a world of make believe that has no room for hope or moral conduct or beliefs, because their religion is more closer to the devil's than to that preached by any of the prophets and messengers of God, who trekked these holy lands.



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# A more secure world

By KOFI A. ANNAN

Fifteen years ago the world was bitterly divided over strategies for economic development.

Rich countries backed the "Washington consensus" and "structural adjustment" – policies which were bitterly resented by the developing countries themselves, and furiously criticized by civil society movements within the industrialised world. The United Nations was assumed to be irrelevant on the subject or, worse, a special pleader on behalf of corrupt and spendthrift developing-country governments.

Today, things have certainly changed. Discussion of development policy – including among the leading industrial countries – is informed by broad agreement between aid donors and recipients on what each needs to do to achieve development. Three key international meetings – the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, and UN conferences on financing for development in Monterrey and sustainable development in Johannesburg in 2002 – have led to a remarkable global consensus on how to grow economies, alleviate poverty and protect the environment.

The eight Millennium Development Goals, set four years ago, are the benchmarks for measuring progress in development by 2015. They include halving the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary schooling; increasing the power and status of

women; slashing infant and maternal mortality; halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria; getting all countries to adopt policies that are socially and environmentally sustainable; and – of crucial importance if the others are to be achieved – a global partnership between rich and poor countries, based on open markets, debt relief, investment, and carefully targeted financial aid.

Whether we will reach those goals by 2015 is still very uncertain, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where a much greater effort is still needed, both from donors and from many African governments. But at least in the struggle to make the world fairer and more prosperous we now have agreement on what needs to be done.

Regrettably, we are still some way from a similar consensus on how to make the world more secure. There, things have if anything got worse in the last few years. A moment of global solidarity against terrorism in 2001 was quickly replaced by acrimonious arguments over the war in Iraq, which turned out to be symptomatic of deeper divisions on fundamental questions. How can we best protect ourselves against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction? When is the use of force permissible – and who should decide? Is "preventive war" sometimes justified, or is it simply aggression under another name? And, in a world that has become "unipolar", what role should the United Nations play?

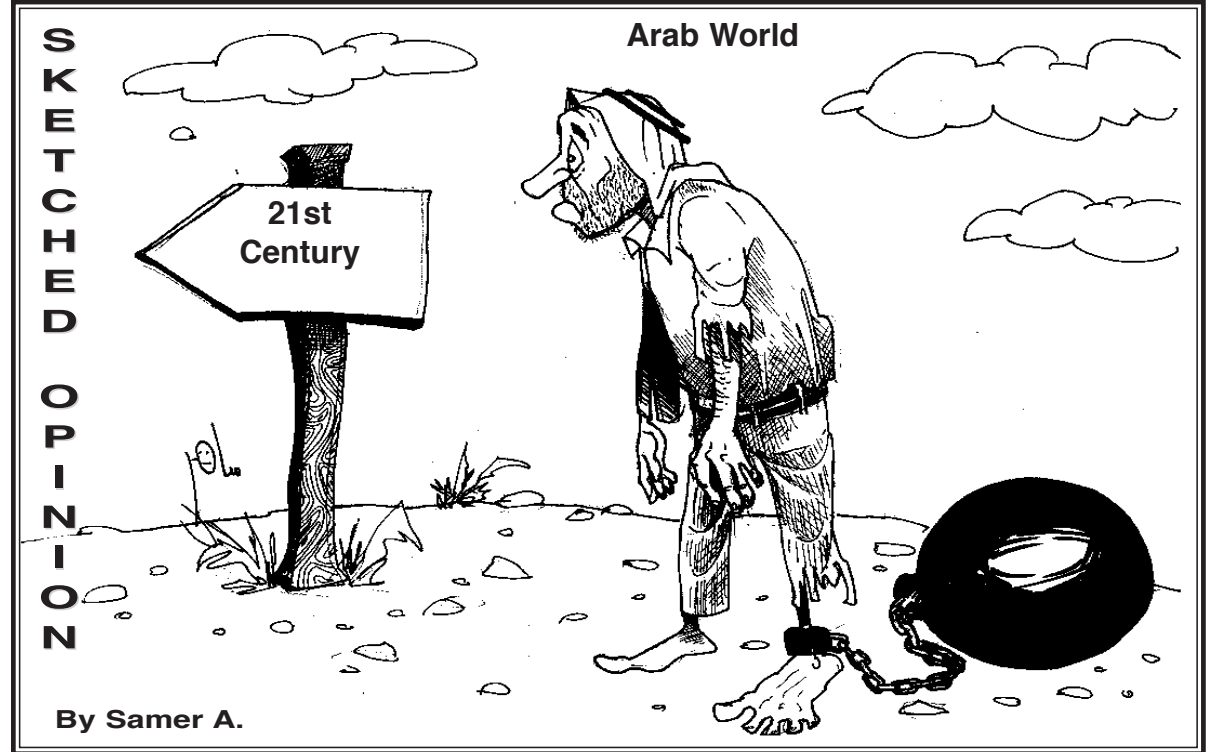
Those new debates came on top of earlier ones that arose in the 1990s. Is state sovereignty an absolute principle, or does the international community

have a responsibility to prevent or resolve conflicts within states – especially when they involve genocide or other comparable atrocities?

To suggest answers to such questions, a year ago, I appointed a panel of 16 distinguished men and women from all parts of the world, and from different fields of expertise – political, military, diplomatic, economic, social. I asked them to assess the threats facing humanity today, and recommend how we need to change, in both our policies and our institutions, in order to meet those threats.

Yesterday [2 Dec], they delivered their report, "A More Secure World – Our Shared Responsibility". Its 101 recommendations are the most comprehensive and coherent set of proposals for forging a common response to common threats that I have seen. It offers a clear explanation and reaffirmation of the right of self-defence; guidelines on the use of force to help the Security Council deal more decisively and proactively with both mass atrocities inside states and "nightmare scenarios" (such as those combining terrorists and weapons of mass destruction); agreement on a definition of terrorism (which has eluded the international community until now); and proposals to prevent a cascade of nuclear proliferation and improve bio-security. It also contains a welter of practical proposals to update UN bodies – including the Security Council – and make the Organization more effective, notably in prevention and peacebuilding.

Above all, it clearly spells out the interconnectedness of our age, in which the destinies of peoples and the threats



they face are interwoven. Not only is a threat against one nation a threat against all, but failure to deal with one threat can undermine our defence against all the others. A major terrorist attack in the heart of the industrial world can devastate the world economy, plunging millions of people back into extreme poverty; and the collapse of a state in the poorest part of the world can punch a gaping hole in our common defence against both terrorism and epidemic disease.

Few people could read this report and remain in doubt that making this world more secure is indeed a shared responsibility, as well as a shared interest. The report tells us how to do it, and why we must act now. It puts the ball firmly in the court of the world's political leaders. I urge them to seize it and run with it. The chance is too important to miss.

The author is Secretary-General of the United Nations. The full text of the report can be found at [www.un.org/secureworld](http://www.un.org/secureworld)



## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

### Hands Off Al-Jazeera!

## Down with the Media à la Fox News!

Several days ago while I was watching Al-Fayhaa Channel an interview was underway with an Iraqi dissident of Saddam's downfallen regime. Now, the man is working for Allawi's government in a position relating to Press and Media. He claims that he has spent most of his life as an opponent of Saddam but unfortunately his talk and opinion regarding kicking out Al-Jazeera Qatari based News Channel from Iraq, showed the man himself more like those working under Saddam's Regime, if it was not only for the sole difference of declaring being one day a dissident of the former regime.

The man went on to accuse the worldwide famed channel "Aljazeera" labeling it as supporter and instigator of terrorism as well as a Zionist mouthpiece. Here at least when he refers to it as Zionist he concurs with the opinion of Arab Officials. Furthermore, the Americans have declared on many occasions their distaste with regard to Al-Jazeera whether in Afghanistan or Iraq, just see how Aljazeera correspondent Sr. Taiseer Aloon is being harassed and mistreated by the Spanish authorities in Madrid, merely in obedience of an American wish.

Americans and some Europeans day and night do brag about their press freedom and when a third world country succeeds in establishing a TV channel with high level freedom of opinion and reporting they declare that such a channel must rationalize its address and approach of the ongoing events. This unfortunately reveals the contradiction between what they believe is right in their own countries and how they disapprove of the same, elsewhere. Take for example USA, the government dares not gag the press and media but instead encourages and pays for apprentices such as "Fox News" for example.

Far be from it! we do not want a Fox News Type of reporting which although has got a nice musical theme but on the other hand the funniest reporting ever to be seen on planet

earth. In fact it is even far more worse than our dismal Arab state run TV Channels, despite the advanced techniques and being seated in USA.

Now, one is at a loss Arab official media call Aljazeera a Zionist mouthpiece and the Americans and their Iraqi marionettes are also equally angry with it.

Faisal Al-Qassem a prominent announcer working for Al-Jazeera wonders whether it is high time to define Zionism amidst Arab Media, and whether such a thing is represented in newly emerging independent Arab press and media which do away with state tutelage and identify themselves with normal people's worries, feelings and daily issues by naming things with their true names or the Arab Official Media which serves Zionism by misleading the people and adopting Gobbel's theory of continued lying? Hence who is Zionist that who discovers illnesses and calls for remedies or that telling lies continuously so as to cover up the truth all along.

Faisal also alluded to the fact that most Arab official channels report most of their airtime about the travels, visits and receptions of the Monarchs, Presidents and Emirs. That by hiding their seething internal problems they do serve Zionism in contrast to Aljazeera which reveals the illnesses in order to tackle them.

In my humble opinion, Arabs have become fed up with the official media which tends to cover up and ignore all the seething problems in the Arab Street. As a matter of fact having an independent professional tool such as Aljazeera fills an important gap in our daily lives. No other Arab Channel has succeeded to become a competitor of Aljazeera which is still gaining Arab attention by the minute.

Give me another channel dealing with Arab affairs as frankly as Aljazeera does and I shall think again. Unfortunately this is still impossible and farfetched and this is why we are afraid for Aljazeera. So, Viva "Aljazeera" and à bas Fox News and its likes anywhere and everywhere.

# China's New Latin Beat

By ENRIQUE DUSSEL PETERS

China's President Hu Jintao has just returned home from his first trip to Latin America, where he sought new long-term sources of supplies for his country's booming economy. These new ties offer Latin America and the Caribbean both a new market and an example of how a dynamic economy can reduce poverty.

But Latin America should also be on its guard. While China may be a ravenous importer of Latin American commodities, it is also a formidable competitor. Both the public and private sector throughout the region should take immediate measures to face up to this new competition and to work toward cooperative projects with the Chinese.

Ordinary people in Latin America are only now recognizing China's importance as a global economic player. Indeed, until recently, most people took little notice of China. But China's soaring growth, seen in contrast with stagnation in Latin America's economies, has awakened governments and businessmen across the region.

Comparisons between China's economy and that of Latin America are stunning. The World Bank estimates that dire poverty in China, calculated as individual income of \$1 per day, has been reduced from about 500 million people at the start of the 1980's to less than 90 million in 2000. Meanwhile, poverty rates in South America have remained relatively constant.

Economic growth rates reveal the same gap. From 1978 to 2003, annual real GDP growth in China averaged 8.1% while growth in Mexico – the fastest in Latin America, barely reached 1% a year.

Although growing, China's trade with Latin America and the Caribbean remains small, representing less than 2% of both exports and imports in 2002. The nature of that trading relationship differs substantially from country to country.

Brazil and Argentina have, for example, significantly increased agricultural exports to China, while Central America and Mexico have seen their imports from China increase dramatically. This is important because it illustrates the dissimilar regional impact that trade with China has on Latin America and the Caribbean, owing to the export of South

America's basic goods, coupled with the growth of Chinese imports into Mexico.

In the 10 years between 1993 and 2003, China's and Hong Kong's exports to Mexico rose from 1.12% of total Mexican imports to 5.8%. Since 2003, China has become Mexico's most important trading partner after the United States. Indeed, Mexico's trade deficit with China reached \$9 billion in 2003. In the second quarter of 2004, Chinese exports to Mexico grew by 67%, while Mexico's exports to China fell by 1.3%.

These changes have also had a severe impact on Mexico's trade with the US. Although Latin American and Chinese exports to the US have both grown significantly since 1990, China replaced Mexico in 2003 as the second-leading exporter to the US in value terms after Canada.

Mexico's competition in the US market from China has increased particularly in light manufacturing – mostly clothing and electronics. In Central America and Mexico clothing production is vitally important – generating 400,000 and 600,000 jobs, respectively – and represents the heart of Central America's maquiladoras (free trade zones), which

account for more than 70% of regional exports to the US. Losing this sector of the economy to the hyper-competitive Chinese will be a hard hit, as textile exports are often the first step on the development ladder.

With respect to other goods, including computers, Chinese-made products are set to replace Mexican output in overwhelming numbers. Mexico's so-called "Silicon Valley South" companies in Guadalajara have, by their own estimates, already lost more than \$500 million worth of projects and approximately 20,000 jobs to Asia, especially to China, and this trend will continue in the short term.

If Latin America fails to deal with its new competitor, the peoples of the region will lose jobs and opportunities to develop as they should. But there are lessons to be learned and advantages to be gained from China if Latin American governments and businesses are willing to think creatively.

Enrique Dussel Peters is Professor of Economics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

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# Iraq's Silent Dead

By JEFFREY SACHS

Evidence is mounting that America's war in Iraq has killed tens of thousands of civilian Iraqis, and perhaps well over one hundred thousand. Yet this carnage is systematically ignored in the United States, where the media and government portray a war in which there are no civilian deaths, because there are no Iraqi civilians, only insurgents.

American behavior and self-perceptions reveal the ease with which a civilized country can engage in large-scale killing of civilians without public discussion. In late October, the British medical journal *Lancet* published a study of civilian deaths in Iraq since the US-led invasion began. The sample survey documented an extra 100,000 Iraqi civilian deaths compared to the death rate in the preceding year, when Saddam Hussein was still in power – and this estimate did not even count excess deaths in Falluja, which was deemed too

dangerous to include.

The study also noted that the majority of deaths resulted from violence, and that a high proportion of the violent deaths were due to US aerial bombing. The epidemiologists acknowledged the uncertainties of these estimates, but presented enough data to warrant an urgent follow-up investigation and reconsideration by the Bush administration and the US military of aerial bombing of Iraq's urban areas.

America's public reaction has been as remarkable as the *Lancet* study, for the reaction has been no reaction. The vaunted *New York Times* ran a single story of 770 words on page 8 of the paper (October 29). The *Times* reporter apparently did not interview a single Bush administration or US military official. No follow-up stories or editorials appeared, and no *New York Times* reporters assessed the story on the ground. Coverage in other US papers was similarly frivolous. The *Washington Post* (October 29) carried a single 758-word story on page 16.

Recent reporting on the bombing of Falluja has also been an exercise in self-denial. The *New York Times* (November 6) wrote that "warplanes pounded rebel positions" in Falluja, without noting that "rebel positions" are actually in civilian neighborhoods. Another *New York Times* story (November 12), citing "military officials," dutifully reported that, "Since the assault began on Monday, about 600 rebels have been killed, along with 18 American and 5 Iraqi soldiers." The issue of civilian deaths was not even raised.

Violence is only one reason for the increase in civilian deaths in Iraq. Children in urban war zones die in vast numbers from diarrhea, respiratory infections, and other causes, owing to unsafe drinking water, lack of refrigerated foods, and acute shortages of blood and basic medicines at clinics and hospitals (that is, if civilians even dare to leave their houses for medical care). Yet the Red Crescent and other relief agencies have been unable to relieve Falluja's civilian population.

On November 14, the front page of *The New York Times* led with the following description: "Army tanks and fighting vehicles blasted their way into the last main rebel stronghold in Falluja at sundown on Saturday after American warplanes and artillery prepared the way with a savage barrage on the district. Earlier in the afternoon, 10 separate plumes of smoke rose from Southern Falluja, as it etched against the desert sky, and probably exclaimed catastrophe for the insurgents."

There is, once again, virtually no mention of the catastrophe for civilians etched against that desert sky. There is a hint, though, in a brief mention in the middle of the story of a father looking over his wounded sons in a hospital and declaring that, "Now Americans are shooting randomly at anything that moves."

A few days later, a US television film crew was in a bombed-out mosque with US troops. While the cameras were rolling, a US marine turned to an unarmed and wounded Iraqi lying on the

ground and murdered the man with gunshots to the head. (Reportedly, there were a few other such cases of outright murder.) But the American media more or less brushed aside this shocking incident, too. *The Wall Street Journal* actually wrote an editorial on November 18 that criticized the critics, noting as usual that whatever the US does, its enemies in Iraq do worse, as if this excuses American abuses.

It does not. The US is killing massive numbers of Iraqi civilians, embittering the population and the Islamic world, and laying the ground for escalating vio-

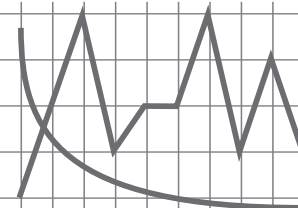
lence and death. No number of slaughtered Iraqis will bring peace. The American fantasy of a final battle, in Falluja or elsewhere, or the capture of some terrorist mastermind, perpetuates a cycle of bloodletting that puts the world in peril. Worse still, America's public opinion, media, and election results have left the world's most powerful military without practical restraint.

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

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## YT Business

Yemen's economy  
in need of a boostExchange Rate for  
the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	185.2800	185.4700
Sterling Pound	359.9900	360.3600
Euro	247.6700	247.9300
Saudi Rial	49.4000	49.4500
Kuwaiti Dinar	628.4800	629.1300
UAE Dirhem	50.4400	50.5000
Egyptian Pound	29.7600	29.7900
Bahraini Dinar	491.4700	491.9800
Qatari Rial	50.9000	50.9500
Jordanian Dinar	261.3300	261.5900
Omani Rial	481.2500	481.7500
Swiss Franc	162.9100	163.0800
Swedish Crown	27.5700	27.5900
Japanese Yen	1.8158	1.8177

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The World Bank's most recent report on Yemen's economy showed some disturbing indicators. The growth of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) slowed from 4.1% in 2001 to an estimated 3.1% in 2003 and is expected to drop to 2.5% this year. Oil production, which leveled off in the last few years, is down nearly 9% in 2004. Although growth in non-oil sectors should remain around 4%, it will fall short of the government's goal in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper - put together in 2002 - for the second year in a row. Inflationary pressure is also continuing: Inflation hit 12% last year and is expected to reach 13% in 2004.

Economists and analysts that spoke to Yemen Times stressed that the private sector needs to be the engine for economic growth and the country becomes less dependent on the public sector and oil which provides the government with revenue and takes up most of the country's exports.

"If you look at some places that flourish, like Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong, there is no oil," said

Mahfooth Shammakh, Capital Secretariat at the Chamber of Commerce in Sana'a and Director of Salem Mohammed Shammakh & Co. "They flourish because they depend on the private sector, not the government or natural resources."

Mohamed Al-Hawri, Professor of Economics at Sana'a University, pointed out that the private sector has a long way to develop and lead the growth of the economy. "Ninety-five percent of the private sector is made up of small enterprises," said Al-Hawri. "A small company has one to four employees, medium-size businesses have five to nine, while a large company has 10 or more employees. The sector needs a lot of work to expand."

Many think that the improvement of the investment climate is key. A better investment environment would encourage more foreign and domestic investment which would stimulate growth.

"A lot has been done in the last few years to improve the investment environment, but we still have a lot to do," said Dawood Othman, Chairman of the Economics Department at Sana'a University. "We need to improve on the infrastructure and services, especially electricity and roads. The private sector can reach the energy sector to make it grow."

Since the Yemeni government joined the United States on the war on terror in 2001, physical security has improved considerably. Although the judicial system is within the government's reform program, what analysts want to see is better financial security.

"There has been some judicial reform, but the country still needs to move faster to set up a system that protects investments and businesses," said Shammakh. "If we have an independent, well-run judicial system, everything will be developed. It's 99% of the foundation that an economy should be operating on."

Othman added that a developed justice system would help bring financial institutes into the process of growth in the private sector. At the end of 2003, the loan-to-deposit ratio for Yemen's banking sector amounted to 29%, a very low figure based on international standards, and banks have been dependent on letters of credit, letters of guarantee and buying Yemeni T-bills to make a profit.

"The financial sector can be involved much more than now," said Othman. "There is plenty of money in the banks, but it is not borrowed and invested to help the private sector grow."

There is also concern that Yemen Mobile entering the telecommunication



A vendor selling his goods in Old Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

sector may scare some investors away in the future.

"The government's responsibility is to create a business environment, regulate the economy and open the market to private companies," said Othman. "Bringing its own telecommunication company into the market might hurt the idea of competition in the long run. Private investors might hesitate to enter the sector or the market, which will not help the growth of the economy over time."

Mustapha Rouis, the new Country Manager of The World Bank based in Yemen, recently said that a country focusing on producing and exporting quality products to compete in the world market is an essential catalyst to growth. According to Othman, the government has plans to create industrial zones to encourage the growth of the industrial sector.

"The government is going to establish industrial zones to help investors focus on the sector. This needs to be accelerated to help attract investors and get Yemen to produce and compete in exports," said Othman.

Othman added that to compete, attention should be given to the development of skills in Yemen's labor force. "Labor skills need to be developed. We need institutions to produce qualified people with skills for the private sector. We have an advantage of

having cheap labor but do not have the skills needed in the private sector. We need to make the labor force as the real world requires with a very good education system at all levels," said Othman. Analysts also want to see government subsidies of diesel fuel removed and the money redirected to areas that would be more beneficial to the market. The World Bank report estimates that petroleum subsidies might reach \$800 million this year, and it is believed that with diesel being cheaper than the prices in neighboring countries, some is smuggled out of the country.

"The subsidies on diesel is a waste of money," said Shammakh. "It is important to lift the subsidies, which can be done in a gradual process, but it is just as important for the money to go to where it is needed, not into another black hole."

Economists say that there is another worry that adds to the urgency of a boost in the economy: the population is growing faster than economic growth. According to the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), a private organization based in the United States, Yemen's population grows around 4% yearly. At this rate, the country's population, now estimated at 20 million today, will

reach 71 million in 2050. Without the economy picking up the pace, it could add more to 42% of the Yemenis currently living below the poverty line and as many as 40% out of work.

"With population increasing at this rate, economic growth at this time is not enough," said Othman. "Population growth is a real problem and can wipe out any economic growth. There is a correlation between development and population growth: When development gains full momentum, population growth slows down. This is the main challenge Yemen faces: Accelerate economic development to slow down population growth."

Since economic reform began in the mid-nineties, the government has been successful in implementing the initial steps aimed at stabilizing the economy. It has been able to reduce its debt, stabilize its currency and has built up substantial foreign reserves. But with economic growth slowing down, more needs to be done.

"Economic reform up to now has created a better chance for us to improve on growth," said Othman. "We have a long way to go and have to face a number of challenges, but we now have the opportunity to accelerate growth and diversify the economy."



Men waiting for work early in the morning in Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



A worker with his tools on the streets in Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

World companies implementing  
power projects in MarebBY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Korean company Hyundai and an Iranian one have got qualified for a contract for building a project of power transformation stations and power transport lines from the gas-powered electric station in Mareb governorate to the capital Sana'a at a cost estimated at \$176 million. Another four companies, one German, two Chinese and one Iranian have got qualified for a contract for the construction of a project of gas-powered 300 MEGAWATT electric station in the area of Safer, the governorate of Mareb at a cost of \$152 million.

Engineer Abdulmuti al-Junaid, director-general of the State Establishment of Electricity told the Yemeni Saba news

agency all documents related to the two projects, the tenders and analysis of technical and financial tenders had been analyzed by the establishment of electricity and the American investing company, would be submitted in the coming few days to the Higher Committee of Tenders to be studied and approved, expecting that starting with field works of the two projects would begin beginning of the next year.

Mr al-Junaid indicated the big importance of the two projects that are considered among the most important electric power projects in Yemen by using natural gas in producing power and also using high voltage (400 kilovolt) in electric power transfer for the first time in Yemen. He has also affirmed that all the main cities connected to the unified network would benefit from the two projects of the gas-powered electric station and

stations for transformation and transport lines. The station would be connected to the unified national network in order to secure and meet needs of those cities for electric power. The director-general of the Electricity Establishment also disclosed about negotiation his institution was conducting at present with an investing company for construction of a second gas-powered station for generating electricity in Yemen by adding 400 megawatts, pointing that the establishment is presently carrying out president Ali Abdullah Saleh's directives for adding 3000 megawatts to the electric network by building a number of power generating stations working by the use of gas.

Engineer al-Junaid has also said the establishment is studying the possibility of building three gas pipelines from Mareb to three regions where power gen-

erating stations are to be constructed in the coming period. He explained that the first pipeline to be build across to Ma'bar where it is decided to build a power generating station with a capacity of 1200 megawatts and the second to Aden for the building of a power generating station with capacity of 700 megawatts. The third pipeline would be built to reach Hudeida for the building of gas-powered electric generating station with a capacity of 400 megawatts. It is to be recalled that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development contributes with \$100 million to implementation of the project of transformation stations and electric power transport lines. The Saudi Fund for Development contributes with \$50 million and the Arab Fund for Development with \$80 million to the implementation of the gas-powered electric station project.

## Job Vacancy

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# Should children take antidepressants?

By CRAIG WHITTINGTON

The last 12 months have witnessed radical changes and considerable controversy regarding how childhood and teenage depression is treated. Although few antidepressant drugs have been licensed for pediatric use, rates of prescribing in the under-18 age group have risen by 60% over the past decade, with over a million children and adolescents receiving what are called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's).

Now, however, concerns over these drugs' safety and side effects in children and adolescents – including elevated suicide rates – have awakened regulators in many countries. After reviewing all relevant pediatric trials, the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) advised that the risks outweighed the benefits for all SSRI's (except fluoxetine), and that these products should not be prescribed as new therapy for patients under 18 years of age with depressive illness.

For the first time, the MHRA made public a summary of the review that this decision was based on, including both efficacy and safety data for all of the trials, regardless of whether they had previously been published or not. This was critical because about half of the trials had not been published in peer-reviewed journals.

The pediatric trial data released by the MHRA presented a unique opportunity to examine whether the unpublished data supported the findings from published studies of SSRI's. My colleagues and I addressed this question in a review published in *The Lancet* in April 2004. The review showed that while the published data generally indicated minimal risk, the unpublished trial data were far less sanguine, and even suggested an



increased risk of serious adverse events, including suicide-related behavior.

The MHRA was not alone in being concerned about pediatric trials. A review in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) in April 2004, claimed that most papers on SSRI trials overstated the evidence for efficacy and understated the risk of harm. An article by the Center for Science in the Public Interest classified all available published placebo-controlled trials of SSRI's in children and adolescents as industry-funded or non-industry funded. The results showed that 90% of industry-funded trials in the published literature were reported as positive, while only 55.6% of non-industry-funded trials were positive.

Taken together, it is not hard to see

why some commentators argue that there has been little attempt by the pharmaceutical industry to properly assess the risks and benefits of their products in under 18's. Often, where trials have been conducted, only favorable results have been published. The problem is widespread and not restricted to drug companies. Both regulators and clinicians who run trials have been criticized.

But concern over the safety of SSRI's is not universally shared. For example, the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology produced a preliminary report in January 2004 that supported the use of SSRI's to treat depression in children and adolescents.

In contrast to UK drug regulators, America's Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) has not yet decided about the safety of SSRI's in treating pediatric depression. But it acknowledges potential safety issues, having commissioned a re-analysis of the SSRI trial data because of concerns that suicide-related behavior may have been misclassified originally.

The re-analysis involves independent experts at Columbia University re-classifying the original trial safety data into "suicidal" (suicide attempt/ suicide ideation/ suicidal behavior without injury), "non-suicidal," and "indeterminate." Regulatory changes, if any, will not be made until a joint meeting of the Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory Committee and the newly formed Pediatric Advisory Committee.

The FDA has faced criticism over its

underlying motives in deciding to re-analyze the safety data. Some experts suggest that it will be difficult to make sense of the issue because of poor reporting in the original trials, thus making any decision based on the re-analysis tenuous at best.

Furthermore, committees in both the US House and Senate are investigating the FDA's handling of this issue after concerns were raised over the original FDA review of the safety of SSRI's in pediatric depression. The concerns seem to stem from disagreement within the FDA itself, with at least one reviewer concluding that there was enough evidence in the trial data to suggest safety concerns.

My own synthesis of the data released so far by the FDA supports that claim. I found that across all trials

of SSRI's in pediatric depression there is, on average, a 72% increase in the risk of "possibly suicide-related" behavior and a 45% increase in the risk of "suicide attempts" in children receiving the drug compared to those receiving a placebo. The researchers at Columbia will need to find substantial errors in the original reports before these risks are overturned.

Adding further fuel to the fire, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer recently filed a civil lawsuit against GlaxoSmithKline for potentially misleading doctors by publicizing a favorable study of paroxetine for pediatric depression while downplaying other unfavorable trials. In response, GlaxoSmithKline made full-trial reports of all studies involving paroxetine in patients under 18 available on their website.

The case points to several changes in the way data are collected and released that are urgently needed to determine definitively whether SSRI's are safe for treating pediatric depression. Tighter regulation of all clinical trials is needed, as is a public worldwide database that contains trial protocols and regularly updated information about trial status and publications. Moreover, both benefits and harms of all trials must be published within a reasonable timeframe, and properly designed, non-industry-funded trials are needed to confirm both safety and efficacy. Finally, product labels must reflect negative or equivocal results.

Such changes may well lead to a dramatic reduction in the use of SSRI's in treating depressed children and adolescents. But whatever the outcome, it is urgent that doubts about the safety of these drugs are resolved.

Craig Whittington is Senior Systematic Reviewer, UK National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health.

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## JOB OPPORTUNITY

A premier business house in the Republic of Yemen looking for energetic and result oriented personnel of the following positions in the Automobile Division:

### 1) Marketing Manager

The candidate should have at least 5 years experience as Marketing Manager in the automobile industry. Age between 30 to 45 years. Qualification BA or equivalent in Marketing and must be fluent in English and Arabic languages (reading, writing and speaking) and has good command in computer.

### 2- Administrator - Preferably Female - Single

The candidate should have at least 2 to 5 years experience as an administrator in a reputed organization. Qualification Bachelor Degree in Accounting and must be fluent in English and Arabic languages (reading, writing and speaking) and good command in computer.

### 3) Cashier - Preferably Female -Single

The candidate should have at least 2 to 3 years experience as Cashier in a reputed organization. Qualification Bachelor Degree in Accounting and must be fluent in English and Arabic languages (reading, writing and speaking) and good command in computer.

### 4) Service Adviser

The Candidate should have at least 5 to 10 years experience in automobile service adviser and related work. Age between 30 to 40 years. Qualification: Vocational Technical Certificate is an added advantage and must be fluent in English and Arabic language. He should be able to work and handle customer under stress attaining high customer satisfaction index.

### 5) Spare Parts Storekeeper/Parts counter salesman

The candidate should have at least 10 to 15 years experience in automobile spare parts business and related work. Age between 35 to 40 years. Qualification Automobile Diploma or Equivalent and must be fluent in English and Arabic languages (reading, writing and speaking) and very good command in computer. Capable of controlling a large stock/inventory of spare parts in warehouse.

### 6) Auto Foreman

The candidate should have at least 3 to 6 years experience in Auto repairs, Trouble shooting, Vehicle Diagnosis, Customer Handling, and Road Testing etc. Age between 25 to 35 years. Qualification: Diploma in Automobile and should be fluent in English and Arabic languages (reading, writing and speaking) and computer knowledge is an advantage. He should be capable of handling efficiently a large workforce of multicultural.

Qualified and interested candidate should send their CV and supporting documents to the attention of Administration Manager fax no. (01) 200989, Email: ARID-CO@Y.NET.YE or mail to Post box number 16921, Sana'a Republic of Yemen

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بِالْحَقِّ وَالْحَقُّ لِلَّهِ وَالْحَقُّ لِلَّهِ

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*An outsider gives an inside look*

# A Portrait of two Yemenis

By Yoni Levine

ANA'A, Yemen -- The Yemen I saw last summer was a country divided, as is commonly said, between "the pants-wearers and the bearers of the Jambiyya." The Jambiyya (ceremonial dagger worn over the traditional robe) is the standard of the people of the mountains, whose visage demands at least two guns, and whose loyalty is held by the tribe and by God, in that order.

The "pants-wearers" hail from the universities and towns; the elite among them have studied abroad, some even in the United States. These men are the consummate bureaucrat, the engineers and the educated workforce, and have, through the generations, slowly severed ties with their tribal roots. It was related to me that His Excellency the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, has been famously quoted as saying, "What need do I have for the pants-wearers, who can be stepped on in the street and no one will protest. On my word alone, one and half million tribesmen with guns will appear here to defend me within the day."

But it seemed more likely that those who don the trouser pants constitute nothing less than Yemen's only hope for economic development and political stability. I was lucky enough to get to know two of such wearers of the pants, both of whom may one day give Yemen the critical push towards desperately-needed democratization, liberalization and reform.

Often, during my afternoons and evenings, I participated in one of Yemen's most hallowed, if slightly disgusting, traditions -- the qat chew. After the workday finishes up at around 1 p.m., Yemeni men, old and young, pile into a top floor sitting room, specially designed for masticating golf ball-sized wads of this bitter stimulant, the qat leaf. The intense conversations induced by this mild narcotic range from politics, religion and history to sports, marriage and Led Zeppelin.

Abu Ghani the Reformer

Several of these qat sessions afforded me a window into Yemen's insular, clannish and otherwise opaque society. One of these pants-wearers, Abu Ghani, was my guide and "in" to the qat chews, where intellectuals, democratic reformers, and the more adventurous of the foreign researchers and aid workers gathered. Besides the usual dismay over America's foreign policy, what I most often heard was a profound

disillusionment with the state's half-hearted effort to simulate the motions of democratic process. In reality, the state was making thinly veiled attempts to snuff out what remains of Yemen's civil liberties.

Abu Ghani is the nephew of a highly prominent politician, and the heir in a line of notable statesmen, recognized for their diplomatic skills, open-mindedness and embrace of liberal values. He had completed his undergraduate studies in Oregon, of all places, and returned with an American wife to Yemen, to help build his country. With only 10 percent of Yemen's population living in cities 30 years ago, Abu Ghani was one of the few to be raised in the capital, Sana'a, and the gentleness and urbanities of the city upbringing had softened and cultivated him.

But the very coincidence that a man of Abu Ghani's stature was available to take me regularly to hear the musings and complaints of a lost generation gave me pause; something was amiss. My suspicions were confirmed when he told me of his recent activism. Abu Ghani had gathered a group of university deans and professors and other leading professionals who were loosely affiliated with the state to discuss Yemen's ills and their possible remedies in a frank and open forum. There were certainly plenty of ills to go around -- Yemen has the highest poverty rate, the most rapid population growth rate, the lowest literacy rate, and some of the worst corruption of all the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, excluding Sudan.

They discussed ways to empower the state to do more with Yemen's precious few resources -- to raise public sector salaries so that officials would not have to accept bribes to feed their families, to cut out the thousands of workers on payroll who have not shown for work in years, and to improve public accounting methods.

But even over these relatively uncontroversial measures, the fear of Big Brother was palpable -- Abu Ghani often found himself the only one talking. While others nodded their assent, no one else was willing to go on record criticizing the state. Abu Ghani himself had thought his good family name would protect him from state retribution, but after a few subtle hints -- police warrants for trumped up tax evasion charges, random house break-ins, and trouble obtaining an exit visa -- Abu Ghani quickly saw that he had gone as far as he could. The men with

pants had been ignored. A fellow qat chewer had explained, "The lowest echelon in the Yemeni political system is not the man on the street, but the tribal sheikh."

Mohammed the Deputy  
The second man of Yemen I came to know was Mohammed, a deputy minister in the state bureaucracy. I labored in his small office through the summer, helping put together and translate the official Annual Economic Report, chronicling Yemen's problems and tentatively suggesting potential growth strategies.

He had worked long days, seeking advice and contributions from the University of Sana'a's economists and from foreign development specialists to draft a special economic report. It was far harsher and more realistic than the annual report in its criticism of government corruption and in the lack of planning for Yemen's economic future once meager oil revenues were expected to dry up in five to ten years.

After working with me to put the final touches on the report, we brought it to the minister for approval, only to be shut down. The report's only failing was its willingness to look Yemen's problems in the eye. "The world does not need to know the extent of our problems. If foreign donors see this, they might be less willing to give us aid," he was told. Mohammed's office had shrunk to just myself and a secretary, and the salary approval process proceeded so slowly that, after a year as deputy minister, he had still not received a single paycheck. Mohammed was seeking work elsewhere.

From the village to the city

Mohammed would arrive each day to the ministry dressed in an impeccable suit and driving his "Monica Lewinsky" (the affectionate nickname for the Toyota Land Cruiser -- the SUV of choice for Yemenis returning from work in America). But Mohammed seemed most comfortable during the weekend I spent with him as he returned to his home village, dressed in his Jambiyya and robe, and inspecting his father's rows of qat plants.

The deputy minister had come from less noble origins than Abu Ghani, hailing from the mountainous district of al-Hayma. Mohammed took me to his home village for a weekend holiday, and I noticed that few in his district were educated through the high school level, and even fewer had distinguished themselves outside the police and the military.

When Mohammed was young, his father's cousin was a top commander in the military, and brought back aid and privileges to his home village. At the age of 12, the powerful commander was gunned down in front of Mohammed's eyes by the young President Saleh's intelligence services. This marked the final ouster of the people of al-Hayma from the upper echelons of the military. But, by the Yemeni code of honor, and to ensure that the commander's children would not take revenge upon him, Saleh made a peace offering to the commander's family.

Among Saleh's gifts was Mohammed's selection for a scholarship to attend Arizona State University in Tucson, where he eventually earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He picked Arizona because it had a small Muslim community and its climate was similar to Yemen -- all the better for studying agriculture.

Being thrust from a childhood as a rural goat-herder and agricultural laborer to the wild dormitory life of a famous American party school was certainly traumatic. Mohammed recollected to me, cringing, how the girls would dress for the Arizona weather, leaving little to the imagination. (In Yemen, nearly all women, particularly in the rural, mountainous areas, wear the long black coveralls, abayas, and the full-face veil, niqab.) In the comfort of a community qat chew at his home village, he told me -- as his cousins and nephews stared on wondrously -- of the wild Friday-night parties and of the college girls from his residential hall, trying to seduce him into their dorm rooms, demanding that they "needed a circumcised penis."

As innocent as he was, Mohammed quickly caught on to what they meant, and, in a desperate bid to staunch America's seduction of his morals, he

fled the next summer back to Yemen, where he hastily married a young woman from the neighboring village. The girl's parents were considered liberal and allowed him, under close supervision, to see her face before handing over the marriage dowry. He explained, "If I hadn't gone and mar-

ried then, Yemen for me would have been lost." And, though Mohammed would return to Arizona to finish his undergraduate work and then earn his doctorate, the village never left him. Mohammed had not abandoned his conservative views on marriage and dating, nor had he given up his attach-

## VACANCY

An international humanitarian organization has the vacancy of Programme Coordinator based in Sana'a office and work closely with 12 branches in Yemen. Ideal candidate should meet the following requirements:

- University degree (development studies, social sciences, political sciences, or similar)
- A minimum of two years working experience after completing studies, preferably with humanitarian organisation.
- Experience should include writing narrative and financial reports, planning and managing a budget, liaison and networking
- Skills and knowledge including fluent English and Arabic, planning and coordination skills, computer applications, management, and development.

Females willing to travel within Yemen and abroad are preferred. For inquiries call Mohammed Sharif at 481 606 between 8:00-15:00. All applications (cover letter with CV) should be sent to the following address by the deadline 21 December 2004.

**Fax: 01-481 781**  
**Email: ifrcye05@ifrc.org**  
**Sana'a, P.O. Box: 5456**

## Invitation for Prequalification

### Republic of Yemen Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Sadah Construction of Water Supply and Sewerage System, Sadah

Within the framework of the 'Water Supply and Sanitation Project Sadah', jointly financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and the Republic of Yemen through the Ministry of Water and Environment, National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA), it is intended to construct a water supply and sewerage system for the city of Sadah. The scope of these Works under this construction programme are summarized as follows:

#### Water Supply:

- ∞ between seven to nine well pumping stations and one booster pump station; not that the well drilling will have been completed under a previous contract;
- ∞ transmission lines from wells, pump station and reservoir, length approx. 9.6 km;
- ∞ electricity supply for wells and pumpstation;
- ∞ chlorination building and equipment;
- ∞ reinforced concrete reservoir (1530 m<sup>3</sup>) and reinforced concrete tank (200 m<sup>3</sup>);
- ∞ primary and secondary distribution network, length approx. 28.5 km; and
- ∞ tertiary network, length approx. 50 km and approx. 3,500 no. house connections.

#### Sanitation:

- ∞ wastewater collection system: pipelines, manholes etc. length approx. 31.5 km;
- ∞ force main length approximately 0,8 km;
- ∞ one or two sewage lifting stations;
- ∞ approx. 2,000 house connections incl. lateral lines and inspection chambers etc.;
- ∞ sewage treatment plant using non-aerated pond system including: anaerobic, facultative and maturation ponds, operation building and equipment; and
- ∞ pilot schemes for improved traditional decentralized sanitation facilities.

#### Contract Location:

The city of Sadah with a current population of 44,000 inhabitants and a projected population of 75,000 inhabitants in the year 2020, is located in the Sadah province about 240 km north of the capital Sana'a. The average elevation of the city is approximately 1800 m asl and the area has an average annual rainfall of about 120 mm.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA), of the Republic of Yemen intends to pre-qualify contractors and/or firms for the above works. Pre-qualification will be governed by the KfW's 'Guidelines for Procurement of Supply and Work Contracts under Financial Cooperation with Developing Countries'. Payments will be made in Euros and Yemeni Riials, the language of the Contract will be English. It is expected that invitations to bid will be made in May/June 2005.

Applicants will be required to submit the following information: period engaged in construction; average annual turnover; completion of similar projects; evidence of construct in capabilities; experience in Yemen; access to assets/credit; evidence of adequate cash flow; personnel capabilities; equipment capabilities; litigation history and organization structure. All applicants must be able to present evidence that they can provide a performance guarantee of US\$2,000,000 if awarded the Contract. A complete set of pre-qualification documents in English may be purchased on the submission of an application of the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of US\$200.-. The method of payment will be cash or a certified check. The documents will be sent by email to addresses outside of Yemen.

**Dorsch Consult,**  
**GITEC - Dorsch Office,**  
**Haddah Street, Haddah,**  
**P.O. Box 8900**  
**Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**  
**Tel./Fax. 967 1 410247/424613**

**Attn: Keith Roberts**  
**Mobile: 71134022**  
**E-mail: Keith\_Roberts@dorsch.com.jo**  
**Project Management Unit**  
**Attn: Eng. Ahmed Kaid Sarhan**  
**Mobile: 73711174**  
**E-mail: sarhan@y.net.ye**

Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the above address before 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and be clearly marked as follows: "Application to Prequalify for Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Sadah". Two copies of the completed prequalification documents should be submitted.

## 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.

She 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.

And 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 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 population 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.



Continued from page 1

## Official launch of JMDP

Furthermore, the roundtable discussion will be an opportunity to answer the different questions about the selection criteria of the working groups, the future stakes, and the different roles to be played by stakeholders during the various stages of the JMDP.

The event will be attended by government representatives, the media, international organizations, donor representatives from different embassies and organizations, and a host of others concerned with the development of media in Yemen.

**Yemeni government welcomes initiative**  
The Yemeni government, represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mr. Ahmed Sufan welcomed this initiative and expressed his gratitude to the government of Denmark for taking this bold step in helping Yemen develop its

media to be more active and professional. In a meeting held last Friday with members of the Danish mission along with journalists from Sweden and Norway, Mr. Sufan said that he was happy that the Danish government resumed its aid to Yemen and hoped that Sweden and Norway would follow suit by helping the country implement its democratic and economic reforms.

**High expectations from Donors**  
With its plan and anticipated activities, the JMDP is expected to receive support and contributions from the donor community to help it

achieve its maximum potential and assist in the democratic transformation of the country.

The JMDP is a result of extensive hard work for more than six months by the Danish team along with Yemenis involved in the media sector.

The team, which is composed of highly qualified trainers and strategic analysts and professionals in the field of development, has been following up previous missions that have been visiting Yemen regularly since June 2004.

The mission came up with the set-up of seven working groups that constitute the main pillars of the JMDP:

- Access to information;
- Freedom of the media;
- Strengthening the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS);

- Professional training in the media sector;
- Upgrading of schools of journalism;
- Supporting private publishers;
- Gender (as a cross cutting issue)

In cooperation with the working groups and other relevant stakeholders, in Sanaa and in other provinces, the current mission in the context of the JMDP is to develop a strategic framework that would highlight priorities for the different components and a 6-month start-up phase with an action plan for specific pilot or short-term projects and activities.

**An office to be established for the JMDP**  
As a concrete step to facilitate the implementation of the JMDP, the Danish mission will

establish an office in Yemen to be headed by mission member Ms. Stefania Bork, who was formerly working with the International Federation of Journalists.

Stefania will officially be the media advisor of the JMDP in Yemen for the next two years. She is expected to start her work in Yemen early next year and has expressed enthusiasm and optimism about the program and its future.

"I believe there is great potential in developing the media sector in Yemen. With hard work, collaboration with and among stakeholders, contributions from the donor community, and support from the Yemeni authority, I believe the program could indeed constitute a milestone in Yemen's media." Stefania told Yemen Times.

## Seven more in Al-Khaiwani's queue

### Al-Khaiwani's case delayed again

This took place as the Appeals Court - as expected - put the legal proceedings of the case in stake by further delaying the trial of Editor-in-Chief of Opposition Al-Shoura newspaper, Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani once again on Saturday December 4.

Human rights activists and the local press were disappointed in this delay, which some think is intentional and serves only to kill his case once and for all and diminish hopes in his release.

### Visits to Al-Khaiwani still prevented

Meanwhile, the Central Prison authority continued to prevent journalists from visiting their colleague Al-Khaiwani who is now spending his fourth month in prison. Not only is Al-Khaiwani prevented from reading and writing while in jail, he cannot even hold or use a pen or paper under any circumstances.

An officer at the prison said that the Minister of Interior issued orders not to allow any journalists to visit Al-Khaiwani after the minister paid a visit to the prison more than a month ago along with a legal committee upon ordered by President Saleh.

The authority of the central prison in Sana'a refused to refer the case of assaults committed against Al-Khaiwani to the prison prosecution to carry out the legal procedures.

A source from the legal defense team said the prison authority gave the excuse that the proceedings it carried out are sufficient and there is no need to refer the case to the prosecution.

The lawyers of Al-Khaiwani claimed that carelessness of the prison authority resulted in frequent assaults on Al-Khaiwani and the concerned parties did not proceed against the attackers and show the motives behind such violent behavior.

Al-Khaiwani attributed the responsibility of his assault and the recurrent attempts to attack him in the last days of Ramadan to the prison authority. The authorities said that Al-Khaiwani forgave the attackers but he denies that.

A delegation from Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) failed to know the legal justifications behind preventing pressmen from visiting Al-Khaiwani to know about his mental and physical conditions upon hearing about the assaults. So far, only his relatives and defense

lawyers were allowed.

### Unbelievably harsh treatment

Elements from the prison guards had confidentially told the press that they were amazed to the degree of harshness that the prison authority practiced against Al-Khaiwani and wondered what in earth did this person do to deserve a treatment that is not even done to 'terrorists'.

Al-Khaiwani colleagues said that an explanation of this behavior could be the intention to prevent Al-Khaiwani to write for any newspaper in the region and the world from his prison. They fear that any piece of paper and pen that could reach him from his colleagues could result in an article that could be publicized and published in regional and international media describing his plight and the assaults he may be exposed to. This could very well tarnish Yemen's image a country moving towards democracy.

In Ramadan, it was reported that Al-Khaiwani was severely beaten up to the level of having his jaws broken. His mental conditions deteriorated ever since.

The Western Capital Court issued the verdict of imprisonment of Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani and closure of Al-Shoura Newspaper last September over writings of other journalists who are currently interrogated by the authorities and could be convicted of slandering the president and inciting ethnic conflicts and divide.

The YJS considered this as a press massacre committed by the authorities against free opinion and freedom of the press.


### Pressure still not enough

International and local pressure apparently had no effect on the regime, which continues to hold Al-Khaiwani in prison and with legal action, threatens to send more journalists to jail.

A source at Al-Shoura claims that the list of journalists summoned so far could get longer in time, and they see this as an attempt to terrorize journalists working for the independent and opposition press.

The source thinks that these are scandalous violations that are already causing a lot of damage to the already 'shrinking' margin of democracy, which has been adopted since the unification of Yemen in 1990.

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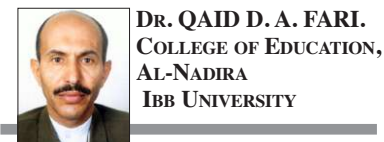
- A Draw will be electronically conducted for the used cards during the period of 4th December 2004 to 31st December 2004.
- Announcing the cards serial numbers for the winners will be 8th January 2004 in: Al-Thera newspaper, Al-Ayam Yemen Times, 26th September, Yemen observer, TeleYemen Website, TeleYemen Offices, and Resellers' Offices.
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# The evolving scenario of education colleges in Yemen



**DR. QAID D. A. FARI,**  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,  
AL-NADIRA  
IBB UNIVERSITY

We are at the beginning of the 21st century. In the fitness of things serious thoughts and discussions are being devoted to the role of colleges of education in preparing skillful teachers who will cope with the challenges of the 21st century and equip the learners with necessary skills and information so that they can compete with others in the work market. Since education is a process of strengthening human resource, its quality assumes special significance within the larger framework of personal and social development. Yemen has to commit itself to improve the quality of education in the new millennium. Education on which human progress is based to such a large extent is naturally being given the main thrust. In the dynamic modern world, characterized by rapid transformation in all aspects of society this is a must.

In any society education has a direct impact on the social, economic, and political systems. The twenty first century is a century of technocracy. It will not be the resources alone but the development of newer efficient technologies which will transform the nations. This is equally applicable to the teaching technology including teacher training. Therefore, the teacher training programs have to be under continuous scrutiny to bring out a program which can respond to the demands of the 21st century. Today's program planners should study conditions and trends in the contemporary society and sensitize themselves about the requirements of life in the 21st century.

It is a truism that the quality of school education is the direct consequence or outcome of the quality of teachers. Education for the future is useless unless it equips students to meet new challenges that neither they nor anyone else ever faced before. Hence, professionals in education need the vision of tomorrow when programs are planned. In encountering the future, we have to discover appropriate teaching methods to teach our student community strategies of innovation, problem solving, a love for learning, creativity and human values. Students have to acquire the techniques of scientific analysis, expression, and understanding as well. We must prepare students for the kind of work that constitutes a new paradigm. In order to do so, students' admission in colleges of education in Yemen, should be based on strictly scientific criteria, which have to be designed by specialists.

the colleges of education without any relevant consideration pertinent to the teaching profession. Hence, the graduates of these colleges cannot prepare the future generations of students who will live a life full of conflicts and challenges. The students enter the colleges of education because they:

- i. get low percentage of marks at General Secondary Examination;
- ii. find it easy to get admission into these colleges;
- iii. realize that they cannot find jobs in other fields except taking up teaching as a career.

Thus, most students who study in colleges of education select their specialization without any specific purpose. As there are no criteria followed in selecting candidates for colleges in Yemen, after graduation the teachers join the bandwagon of teaching without any serious commitment. This leads to frustration in them, and this frustration affects achievement of students. Willy and Maddison (1971) make a pertinent observation in this context: 'Sending into schools unsuitable persons, badly trained can be as harmful to school children as shortage of teachers.' This means, graduates from these colleges are not suitable to prepare new generations who can cope up with the demands of the 21st century, dominated by globalization. This implies adapting education to the rapid changes that will affect local environment and international domains, resulting in inevitable tensions between tradition and modernity, competition and equality of opportunity, aspirations and reality, the unlimited expansion of knowledge and the limited capacity of human beings to assimilate it, local needs and interests and global considerations.

But when we see the graduates of Yemeni colleges of education, we find they do not provide opportunities for development of the learners. So the admission procedures in colleges of education, as well as the teacher preparation programs should undergo drastic revision incorporating those human and intellectual qualities that will necessitate a fresh approach to teaching' because our aim should be preparing the teachers who can achieve excellence.

An excellent teacher constitutes a major spring-board in the teaching process. He can make the learning process very smooth and effective for the students, if the facilities are available and the environment is conducive. If teaching is to be effective and meaningful, if it is to prepare young generation for the next century, if it is to prepare good citizens and nation of progress, it is inevitable that students who wish to join teaching profession must have quality, positive attitude and proper aptitude.

**Characteristics of an excellent teacher**  
Any profession demands certain

**Admission of students**

At present, students are admitted in

qualities from those who choose the profession. It makes the professional effective and respectable. An excellent teacher has to:

1. have a relentless effort to improve oneself so as to become a useful member of the community;
2. study and identify the needs of the community;
3. participate in construction of the school curriculum.
4. develop specific abilities - skills and understanding in order to be able to contribute effectively to the most pressing problems of society, such as educational advancement, economic development and environment pollution and so on;
5. heartily accept of teaching not as a profession but as a mission;
6. demonstrate devotion to his profession;
7. cultivate self-learning and studious habits;
8. develop effective communication skills and clarity in expression;
9. choose appropriate words to make explanation attractive, impressive and easy to understand;
10. select and use appropriate teaching methods;
11. select and use suitable teaching audio-visual aids;
12. manage the classroom and make it activity oriented;
13. generate self-confidence;
14. build up of a self image as a successful teacher;
15. develop a healthy body and mind;
16. promote qualities of tolerance and open-mindedness;
17. reflect creativity in teaching;
18. adopt latest teaching methods, teaching aids and information technology etc.;
19. make his students feel that he is their father, friend, guide, and a good model of behavior.

A teacher must make self introspection and evaluate his / her performance in the light of the above.

**Need of the hour: Excellent teacher training program modules**

It has been mentioned earlier that teacher training program should be revised to cope with the 21st century changes and challenges. The teacher training programs should be re-constructed and re-designed taking into account the students' needs, interests, country's demands, the changes that are taking place in the technology and the major specialization fields including the current political scenario, state of the economy, management situation, and such other emerging fields like marketing, bio-technology and so on.

The process of globalization requires sound programs that provide trainees with various skills and information about the latest advances in the teaching technology. The learning situation becomes difficult when there are learners of all ages, with different backgrounds and experiences as one finds in

Yemen's schools and colleges. So, the program should shift from a college centered model to a learner-centered model based on learner initiative and access to learning resources.

With the fast changing developments in communication technology, distance education has emerged as an effective instrument for imparting knowledge. These and such developments have to be kept in view while formulating programs for colleges of education in Yemen. Developed programs have to evolve on the basis of continual evaluation and revamping till it keeps pace with emerging trends in educational situation and social requirements. The program should strengthen the knowledge base and required skills of the trainees. The boundaries of the program framework should be defined in the light of general objectives of teacher training, concerns and issues of school education and teacher preparation and perceived profile of teachers.

In short, we are inescapably exposed to the global changes. The changes are not only fast but also frequent. So, this requires a radical change in the teaching-learning process. Education is becoming a lifelong process and will be linked with living and working styles more than in the previous era. In the recent UNESCO report, four significant components of education are identified such as: i) Learning to know; ii) Learning to do; iii) Learning to live together; and iv) Learning to be. Also, the future networked system will need various courses with more flexibility and modularity, each module catering to the various competencies and skills needed by the learner. The teacher will have to respond to such demands, in the near future. These requirements need excellent teachers who can play a wide spectrum of roles in the educational scenario. They should be able to provide the learners with various information, skills and excellent role models according to the target objectives and Islamic Instructions. They should not be blindly affected by globalization. Rather they should scrutinize any information coming in the name of globalization and absorb the modern technology and the most advanced information which would help in the all round development of the country.

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## A letter to English teachers: 69 How to develop listening skills in your students (2)



**DR. M.N.K. BOSE**  
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Dear Fellow teachers,

Did you read my last letter? Did you look at the activities in the Workbooks? If you have, you could have found that they differ in the level of difficulty, as they are meant for different levels of learners; but one thing common in all of them is that they present some information and set a task for the learners to use that information and do something, either they have to answer some questions or fill up the blanks with the information or draw something etc. So the listening activities can be as simple as 'listen and repeat' or as difficult as 'listen and do or draw' or 'listen and answer the questions given'. You could also have seen that there is a gradual increase of difficulty in the activities in the Workbooks.

In addition to such activities, in the beginning class (Level 1), the lessons are put on the cassette for the learners to listen to (marked by the picture of a cassette) on the pages. What is the purpose of this? This is to give an opportunity to the learners (as well the teachers) to listen to native pronunciation; teachers whose pronunciation is tolerable need not use these cassettes, they can read the lessons themselves instead. But the information for the listening activities recorded in the cassette must be played to the class; in case your learners find it difficult to follow the native pronunciation on the cassette, you can read the information to the class. What is important is that they should listen to the information and not read it themselves. After reading the information you can get them to do the task given in the book.

How do we teach listening? These are the steps involved in each of the listening activity: first of all, introduce the listening activity to the class in simple English (use Arabic, if necessary) telling them what they are supposed to do after listening to the information from the cassette or you. Make sure that all the learners are aware of the task. Secondly, play the cassette or read the information once or twice or three times, if necessary. Make sure that all learners listen to the information well. Then, ask them to do the task based on what they have listened to. No listening is complete if it is not followed by the task, as your learner's listening and understanding is made sure by their successful performance of the task.

In addition to the activities in the textbooks, in higher classes you can devise a few more listening activities which are authentic. For example, you can tape record an announcement in the airport (if there is an airport in your city) and play it to the class and ask a few questions based on it. You can tape record the English news bulletin from the TV (Yemen satellite, for example) and play it to the class and ask a few questions to check their listening comprehension. You can tape record a conversation in English (natural or arranged for the purpose) between two educated Yemeni speakers and use it for the listening activity. You should see that all these activities are challenging enough to your learners. These and similar activities will definitely create interest in your learners and they will look forward to your English classes, instead of jumping out of the windows from the classrooms (which I noticed with pain in one of the schools I visited in Hodeidah for my practice teaching work!). You can invent more activities, if you seriously think of helping your learners. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,  
Dr.M.N.K.Bose.

**Beware\***

<i>He who knows not</i>	<i>not:</i>	<i>Wake him.</i>
<i>And knows not he</i>	<i>Is simple;</i>	<i>He who knows</i>
<i>knows not:</i>	<i>Teach him</i>	<i>And knows he knows:</i>
<i>Is a fool;</i>		<i>Is wise;</i>
<i>Shun him</i>	<i>He he knows</i>	<i>Follow him.</i>
	<i>And knows not he</i>	
<i>He who knows not</i>	<i>knows:</i>	
<i>And knows he knows</i>	<i>Is asleep;</i>	<i>By Lady Burton</i>

Republished due to some inadvertent errors in the text published last week

**YOUTH FORUM**

**Human beings at crossroad**

If we reflect on the creation, we find that a human being is actually the crown of the creatures in the world. Allah, the Creator has created everything in the world for the sake of the human being.

When we look at the other creatures like animals we find them created from lust or passion. On the other hand, the angels are created from spirits.

Between the animals and angels we find "the human being" who is endowed with a power of conscience, a power of judgment. He is free to choose the right path. However, he has to exercise his discretion unlike the lower form of animals.

The purpose of creating the human being is to build the world as paradise and worship God.

Thus a human being can rise up to be as angels by practicing virtues, or stoop to be as animals by indulging in vices.

Does the human being today know the right way to choose?

**"No man is an island"**

It is impossible for man to live alone without the help of others, because life is difficult and varied. So no man gets his ambitions fulfilled, success and satisfaction achieved in this life without the help of others. Even if he has got a lot of money, he will feel bored when he lives alone. Money buys food but it can't buy happiness. On the other hand, loneliness is the outcome when one stays without other people's help. So it is necessary for one to avoid loneliness, and in order to achieve this he must cooperate with his friends and the society.

Everyone has the freedom to choose his way of life, but this should not mean that a person has to choose his way of life aimlessly. Everyone differs in terms of his feelings and ways of thinking from all other people.

For example, one can find people who love goodness and others who love wickedness. We have to take into consideration the difference in people's opinions. If life goes according to what people want, it will become harder and unbearable.

It is an admitted fact that life depends on cooperation. Cooperation makes life easier.

It is undeniably one of the main elements for the progress of people.

If we look at the origin of man, we find that God created Adam and taught him all the names of creatures. He made him His successor "caliph" on earth. Although everything was available for Adam, Adam wasn't able to live alone, so God created Eve to be Adam's companion. After that God created a pair of every species of animals and plants such as dog and bitch, donkey and ass, deer and yearn... etc. Basically, the wisdom of this creation lies in the sustainability of life on this planet earth.

Generally life is a dynamic process. We must be aware of the basic unit of life.

Family has been regarded as the basic unit and has had an important role in man's life.

Parents are responsible for their children's upbringing. As such, they discharge a crucial function for their society by nurturing the next generation. As the child grows up, surrounded by brothers, sisters and his parents, he gradually learns things about the society in which he lives. He learns its language, its basic concepts, what is right and what is wrong and so on. The child learns the culture of his society through his contact with it.

Although the family performs numerous functions for the child, this doesn't necessarily preclude other things. There are many institutions through which man acquires his culture. Such as schools, neighborhood, surroundings, friends, colleagues, mates and clubs.

Imagine yourself a hermit. Can you live alone without any help from other people? Who will give you food? There is an Arabic proverb that says:

"One hand can't clap."

Loneliness can even cause psychological disorders such as schizophrenia and many kinds of phobia...etc.

**WONDERWORD** by DAVID QUELLET

THE COLOR BLUE

Scoutize: 10 letters

CLUES

Apple	Good	Lips	Politeness	Saga
Anticlimax	Open	Litmus	Play	Six
Atmosphere	Deep	Fifty	Free	Silver
Acorn	Eyes	Monday	Open	Skies
Art	Flare	Moon	Person	Spirit
Army	History	Movie	Prince	Stair
Art	Cross	Movie	Print	Tea
Excuse!	Crown	Musical	Prayer	Text
Business	Heaven	Mary	Five	Telephone
Confidence	Bridge	Queen	Quintessential	Teach
Change	Joy	October	Fluffy	Telephone
Chip	Love	Flute	Feeling	Unhappiness
Card	James	Project	Penmanship	Wair
Casual	Just	Management	System	White
Cover	Lace	People	Sister	White
Conservative	Lake	Particulate	Supplier	Winter hat

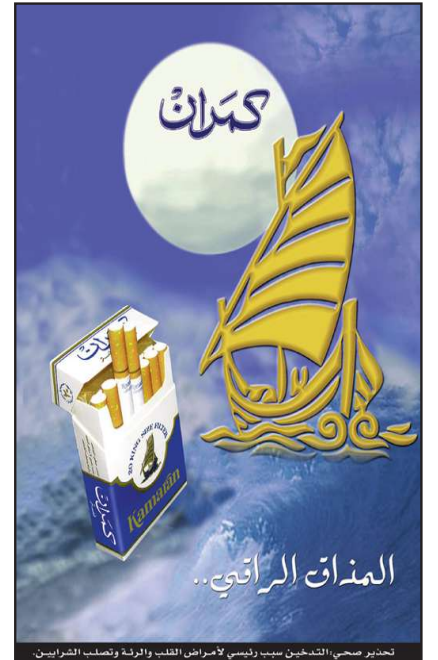
ANSWERS NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: CHOCOLATES



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## 2004 Aga Khan Awards

# Architecture recognized

On 28 November 2004, at a ceremony to be held in India at the historical Agra Fort, His Highness the Aga Khan will announce the seven recipients of the 2004 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. 2004 marks the completion of the ninth cycle of

the programme, which has a triennial prize fund of US\$ 500,000, the world's largest architectural award.

During the current cycle of the Award, 378 projects were presented for consideration, and twenty-three were reviewed on site by outside experts. An independent Master

Jury selected seven Award recipients that were notable for having attained the highest international standards of architectural excellence, while reflecting the values of the primarily Muslim societies the projects are intended to serve.

### The seven projects selected by the 2004 Award Master Jury are:

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt
- Primary School, Gando, Burkina Faso
- Sandbag Shelter Prototypes, various locations
- Restoration of Al-Abbas Mosque, Asnaf, Yemen
- Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme, Jerusalem
- B2 House, Aiyvacyk, Turkey
- Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

the plurality of Muslim traditions; and how power and authority in the global domains of technology, culture and economics might be addressed through architecture. Throughout their two week-long meetings at the Award headquarters in Geneva, the Jury gave foremost importance to projects that raise the standards of excellence.

### The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established by the

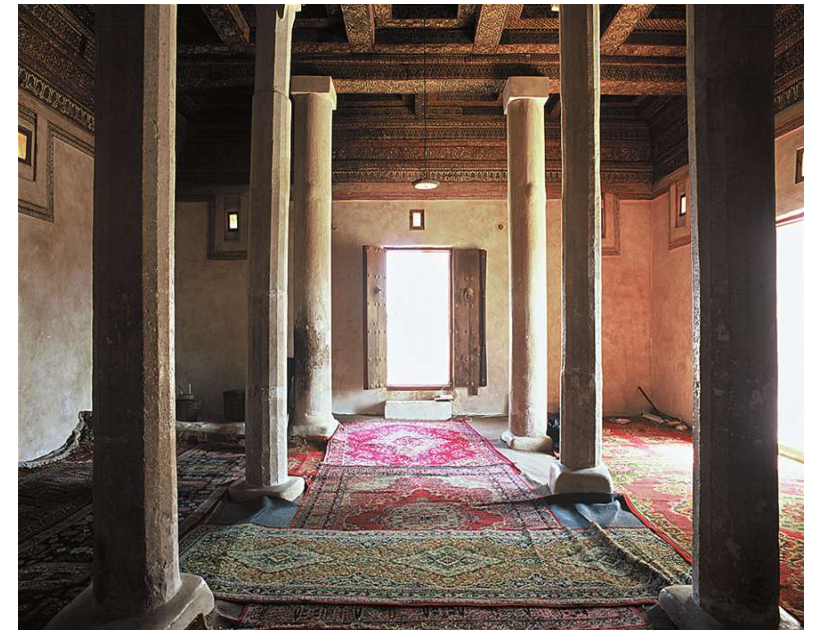
Aga Khan in 1977 to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of Islamic societies. The Award recognizes examples of architectural excellence throughout the Islamic world in the fields of contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, reuse and area conservation, as well as landscape design and improvement of the environment.



A plain stretches before the mosque giving view of a series of mountains. The mosque is believed to have been built in a spot where there used to stand a pre-Islamic temple.

The Restoration of Al-Abbas Mosque in Yemen represents attainment of the highest standards of restoration and conservation while, at the same time, investigating the nature and contemporary importance of a sacred site.

Reinforcing the architectural excellence of the seven winning projects is the written statement of the Master Jury, which reveals the comprehensive approach adopted to discover, understand and explain the challenges of architecture in the Muslim world as it confronts modernity in all its diversity. The Jury identified four areas of social meaning to illustrate the winning projects: how the complexity of history and of historical memory can be expressed in architecture; how private initiatives are integrated into the emerging public sphere; how to express individuality within complex social settings and in the context of



Two rows of multifaceted columns appear in the picture upholding the elaborate coffered ceiling that is in complete contrast to the building's modest exterior

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