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JMP call on Yemenis to reject anticipated dose

MOHAMMED BIN SALAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Meeting Parties (JMP) opposition coalition called upon all Yemenis to stand against the anticipated economic dose that would result in a price hike of oil an attempt to force the GPC products. Through pamphlet distributed last Tuesday Dec 21, the JMP strongly urged all 'members of the community' to oppose the government's plan to implement among the public and potential the dose in the beginning of 2005.

The pamphlet said, "leaders and members of JMP should play a significant role in the public domain during the coming period to stand against and stop the plan of the government to lift subsidies of oil products, which will result in the skyrocketing of prices of all commodities and services. This dose has been proposed despite of the people's sufferings from the price hikes of foodstuffs implemented in the past, and which have already caused a lot of damage as a result of the government's wrong policies. Such a dose will expand the scope of poverty in a way that would threaten social peace in Yemen.'

"As part of our duty as opposition parties, the opposition polit-

ical blocs in the parliament are going to stand against this killing dose in the parliament and try to Sana'a, Dec 21 – The Joint stop it by utilizing its efforts to get majority of votes against it. That means this step requires the members of the GPC bloc to take a move," the pamphlet added in members in the parliament to take a move not supporting the dose, because if they do support it, this may result in outrage anti-GPC sentiment.

The eight opposition parties called upon their leaders to unify their attitude to raise awareness among people in all constituencies about the effects of this price dose. They emphasized the need to urge all Yemenis regardless of political background or alliances to sign a petition to be presented to their representatives in the parliament asking them not to vote for any rise in prices of oil derivates.

A young merchant in the grain market of Old City in Sana'a. With government-imposed price hikes, buying such basic goods might be harder for many Yemenis who are trying to keep a grip on their money, as can be clearly noticed in this photo. (Yemen Times photo)

Financial constrains postpone YSP general conference to May

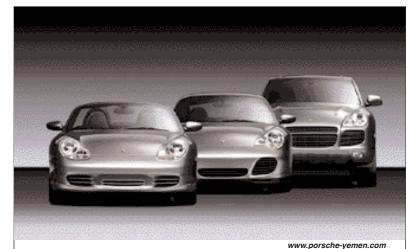
MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Socialist Party's (YSP) Fifth General Conference Preparatory Committee decided to postpone the fifth general conference that was scheduled December 28th to May 2005, a YSP official told Yemen Times.



The YSP has been facing financial difficulties since its defeat in the 1994's civil war upon the confiscations of its offices and properties. The defeat of the party in July 1994 weakened its position as a strong opponent of the PGC in achieving the unification of the country in 1990. The offices and assets of the party were confiscated resulting in financial difficulties for the party to the extent that it was not able from time to time to issue its mouthpiece newspaper al-Thawry. The party received another hit when its assistant General Secretary Jarallah Omar was assassinated by an Islamic extremist Ali Jarallah in December 2002.

Obad will step down, a wish he expressed several times due to his health problems. Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, first Parliament speaker after unification, is the strongest candidate to replace Obad. Noman was living in the UAE since the civil war and was able to come back to Yemen last year after a presidential amnesty was



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Jews from Yemen: We hate Israel

By JACKY HOUGI

"We hate Israel because it is a Zionist state, not a Jewish state. We will not go there and neither will we allow our children to go there", Sliman Jaradi, a Jew from Yemen, said.

Jaradi, who spoke to the "Ilaf" web site, said he and several hundred other Jews still living in Yemen, refused to immigrate to Israel because they believed the state had lost its Jewish character.

"Israel has no religion, Torah or morals. Your daughter is no longer your daughter, your son is no longer your

son, and everyone does as he pleases. This is no way to run a Jewish family", he said.

According to Jaradi, the Jews in Yemen have good relations with the Moslems. "We live adjacent to them and there is no problem. God bless the president, Ali Abdullah Saleh", he noted.

Jaradi added that the number of delegations who arrived in Yemen in an attempt to persuade them to come to Israel has declined in recent years. "They used to come very often, offering us money, but we refused to leave our homes", he concluded. (maarivintl.com)



It is somewhat common to sense an anti-Israel sentiment among Jews still living in Yemen. The reason behind their argument is their belief that Israel

The reason behind the delay is said to mainly be financial constrains. The YSP Central Committee is due to endorse the postponement decision in a meeting next week.

The official said that the preparatory committee of the event presented a comprehensive report on the preparations for the assembly, what has been done since the previous conference and the challenges they were facing and suggested that the event be delayed until May 22. He denied information that the reason behind the delay was

internal fighting within the party. He added: "We do have different views and opinions towards several issues, but this was not the reason behind the delay of the general assembly." He stressed that lack of sufficient funding and unsatisfactory preparations for the event were the main factors behind the delay.

During the event, new leadership will be elected; it is expected that the current General-Secretary Ali Saleh

فارتكر للجارة التري ويترا مجاد تعيل للجارة

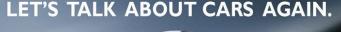
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issued.

nas turned into a zionist not jewish state. Archive picture from (www.ftiyemen.com)







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23 December, 2004

Public Universities plan to go on strike

BY MUHAMMAD BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The council of teaching staff syndicates in seven Yemeni public universities held a meeting last Sunday December 19, and came out with the decision of hanging small red cloths before going on strike to be announced on Saturday December 25. The decision was taken because the government has not taken active procedures to raise salaries of the teaching staff of the universities.

The syndicates council sent last Saturday December 18, a number of letters to the concerned governmental bodies asking for better salaries for the teaching staff. The list of addressees includes the State Presidency and the Parliament.. the council gave the concerned authorities a two-day respite to reach a settlement concerning the

salary rise draft.

In a statement released after the meeting, the council had expressed that it had studied all alternatives and possibilities through which their lawful demands could be answered.

"The government has long withheld our rights," the statement of the council representing university staff said.

The council stated that they would not hesitate to exhaust all legal and constitutional means to get their lawful rights which they should be given to university teachers and their assistants.

"The government should have given these rights to the teachers since 2002," the council added.

The members of the council vowed at the end of their statement to take make the appropriate reaction in case the government responded undesirably intending to prolong or procrastinate the issue.

Local News



Readers'

Voice

Yemen Times features

popular way for our

readers to interact with

opportunity to have a say

on world and local affairs.

This edition's

question:

Do you think that the

expected dose to be

implemented in 2005 will

result in unrest in the country?

last edition's question:

Do you agree that family

and have your

voice heard!

This

Voice"

is

а

your

75%

25%

'Readers'

us.

Yes

- No

<u>Yemen concludes deliberations with IMF team:</u> **Agreement on economic**

and structural reforms

BY MAHYOUB AL- KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and the International Monitory Fund (IMF) have concluded discussions and have reviewed economic developments in Yemen during the current year, and the prospects for 2005 and beyond. Particular attention was given to the state budget, the balance of payments, growth rates, and the need for deep structural reforms.

Discussions were co-shared by

Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Alawi Saleh Al-Salami, and Mr. Saada Al-Shami, Senior Economist at the Fund's Middle East Office.

Mr. Al-Salami articulated interest his in the IMF proposal, while pointing out the country's endeavours to comprehensively reform the fisheries, tourism and sea transportation sectors, in the face of limited resources and tremendous population growth.

Mr. Al-Salami expressed his hope

QSGA destroys foodstuffs

HODEIDA BUREAU

TAIZ BUREAU

of days later.

The Quality and Standards General Authority (QSGA) destroyed about 35982 tons of foodstuffs worth YR10,

Girl sets

herself

on fire

Friday Dec.17- A young girl from

Jabal Habashi has committed sui-

cide by pouring kerosene on her

body and setting herself alight. Her

relatives rushed her immediately to

Al-Thawrah General Hospital in

There was a similar incident a

few months ago in Jabal Habashi

where another girl of roughly at the

same age committed suicide in the

same way. She was transferred to

the same hospital but died a couple

Dr. Salah Abdullah Abdulghani

told the Yemen Times that it is very

difficult to save someone's life after they have been burned by kerosene.

Dr. Abdulghani attributed the

phenomenon of suicide to quarrels

and disputes within the family.

Many young girls also suffer psy-

chologically from parental pressure

and marry people they do not like.

Taiz but she died of her injuries.

384,366, including 372 ton of flour on Dec. 15.

"The Authority refused to permit the wheat cargo of 28701 tons because it is not of the required standards and quality. The authority returned 34, 478 tons of flour, wheat and sugar worth of YR 1, 125,636,120" Hussein al-Wushah, General-Manager of

Devices of Yemen Mobile, the first

and only CDMA service provider in

the Arab World, are now Arabic-

enabled. These devices were used in

many languages throughout the world

except for Arabic over the last four

The Code Division Multiple Access

(CDMA) belongs to the third genera-

tion system of the wireless telecom-

The system offers distinctive serv-

ices with Arabic-enabled devices and

its subscribers increased to around

munication in the world.

years

QSGA, Hodeida Branch, said.

depends on local labour.

that the IMF would continue to support

development in Yemen. He said that

priorities were the preparation of envi-

ronment suitable for local and external

investments, and achieving sustainable

The government has set aside YR

196.046 billion for implement projects

and to provide job opportunities, and

another YR 37.9 billion for investment

programs a social safety net that

growth.

"Ten thousand and seven hundred boxes of foodstuffs worth of YR 7,105,300 were re-exported," Al-Wushah added, and "2109 tons of flour, rice, and 267 boxes of various foodstuffs worth of YR 9, 895,139 were also confiscated until they are re-exported or destroyed."

planning in Yemen helps boost its economy?

Yes No Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll

> Likewise, all the companies currently available in the Yemeni markets committed to make their devices Arabicenabled as soon as possible.

The three companies proved able to compete with the Chinese TCL, the first company to produce the CDMA Arabic-enabled devices all over the world. TCL was able to sell its products since the inauguration of the CDMA service provider Yemen Mobile.

Other companies like NOKIA, MOTOROLA, LG and SASUNG are in the way to update their products and make them Arabic-enabled.

• • • • INFPA



World Food Programme

The WFP/UNFPA offices are establishing a pool of pre-selected candidates for Security Guard posts for their premises in Sana'a.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the WFP Field Security Officer and the UNFPA Security Focal Point, the Security Guard will be responsible for the following duties:

Teebah Surgery Camp launched in Hodeida

HODEIDAH BUREAU

The sixteenth surgery camp that was organized from Dec 20- 31 by Teebah Charitable Establishment in partnership with the Abi Musa al-Asha'ari Charitable Society and the Al-Nebras Medical Society has been launched in Hodeida. Seven Saudi consultant doctors with different specializations, and more than 90 Yemeni doctors are taking part in the camp. This team will carry out 500 operations for removing cataracts, planting

eye lenses, stitching ear drums, and some plastic and burnings surgeries. The camp clinics have received a total of 5069 patients within the past three days.

First family festival

TAIZ BUREAU

The First Family Festival hosting Jasem Al-Muttwe'e, ex-judge of civil affairs in Kuwait, commenced on Dec. 17-18. The festival was organized by the Faculty of Islamic Sciences, the Al-Saeed Establishment for Science and Culture, and the Anda'a Establishment.

The festival included two lectures: the first was titled "the family is the door of heavens." The second was titled "we returned him to his mother, Moses of 21st century."

In a speech to The Yemen Times, Jasem al-Muttwe'e said that, "we talked in the lectures about the values and morals that are expressed either in the Holy Quran or in the Prophetic Sayings 'Al-Sunnah' that deal with how parents and children cooperate to make the family a door to heaven. We explained the virtue of the husband's work and the blessings he receives when feeding his wife."

'The family is a form of power, we hope this idea to be in the mind of every young man or woman,' he added.

British ambassador visits CSSW

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Within the framework of the mutual cooperation between the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)

Mr. Gifford was briefed on CSSW's Dar

Mr. Gifford also inaugurated on Dec. activities and projects through his field 4 the fourth course in psychiatric nursvisit to the President of the Republic's ing at the Psychiatric & Mental Health Orphan Care & Qualifying Center and Hospital, which belongs to CSSW. The Al-Ahmar for Women's course lasts for forty days and financed

Yemen Mobile gets **Arabic-enabled** By Yemen Times Staff

50,000 just two months after it was inaugurated.

This enables the company to sell its CDMA devices, particularly with many Arab countries ready to launch the third generation services of wireless telecommunication.

Meanwhile, ZTE, HUAWIE and PUANTIC provided their products with Arabic-enabled programs and started receiving Yemen Mobile subscribers.

People who subscribed to Yemen Mobile before this date, will have their devices Arabic enabled by the above mentioned companies for free.

Vacancy Announcement

Security

Guard

and the United Kingdom Embassy in Sana'a, Mr. Michael Gifford, British Ambassador to Yemen, paid a visit to CSSW HO on Dec. 11. He was received by CSSW Secretary General, Dr. Hamid Ziyad, and a number of the society's officers.

Rehabilitation. The Ambassador expressed his appreciation of the varieties of programs and activities he had seen in the Orphan Center, including a number of professional and vocational training programs in the electronics, leather, and manual carpet industries.

by the British Embassy in Sana'a.

At the end of his visit, Mr. Gifford praised CSSW for its poverty alleviation activities. He promised for more cooperation for society development, unemployment control, and poverty alleviation.

Porsche in Yemeni Markets

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Natco Company, the agent of Porsche cars in Yemen, celebrated the opening of their new showroom in Sana'a. The showroom was inaugurated by Ahmed al-Kuhlani, Secretary-General of the Capital.

Jamal Abdulwase'e delivered a speech confirming the great efforts that different cities in order to follow the

that the Porsche car brings quality, safety, speed, and excellence together. He emphasized that the Natco Company understood the specifics of the Yemeni environment when it chose to bring Porsche onto the Yemeni market.

Natco prepared showrooms and spare parts and maintenance centers in

resulted in this occasion. He explained customers and solve their problems with a highly qualified and trained staff.

He pointed out that all models of Porsche would be available in the Yemeni Markets since the diversity of selection will simplify making the right decision. He thanked the representative of Porsche in the Middle East who attended the inauguration.

Control entry and ensure security of the organization premises;

- Keep an up-to-date record patrol duties/unusual events and emergency calls;
- Maintain continual surveillance against fire, water leakage and any other action which could damage to the premises or injure personnel;
- Intervene personally to resolve problems or refer them immediately to the Supervisor;
- Use of equipment and operation of the automated alarm and video surveillance systems;
- Maintain updated directives and security personnel lists;
- Respond to personnel and telephone enquiries and provide appropriate information or suggest alternative sources of information;
- Receive personnel documents and issue building passes, when appropriate;
- Receive visitors, directing them, as appropriate;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Education and Experience

Education: Secondary school education.

- Language: Good knowledge of English and Arabic.
- Experience: Four years of security experience; of which two years within a Police Agency, or Security Organization, experience in driving various makes of cars

Qualifications: - Valid driving license.

- High sense of responsibility; alertness; physical fitness on duty;
- Good knowledge of the location of organizational units, functions and key personnel;
- Ability to detect and identify dangerous objects and knowledge of how to deal with such objects;
- Willingness to work shifts; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Willingness to use automation technology.
- Courtesy, tact and the ability to work effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Training in marital Arts; basic computer literacy. **Desirable:**

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. The WFP/UNFPA are a nonsmoking environment.

How to apply

Applicants should submit personally a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) to: World Food Programme / UNFPA Building (The former Romanian Embassy) Nouakchott Street

Deadline for receiving applications is 31 December 2004

N.B. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

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Corus Holei	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	\$ 710	\$ 830	\$ 890	\$ 1170	Calegory ***
JW Marioli	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$ 945	\$ 1295	\$ 1295	\$ 1645	Calegory *****

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Community

Yemen focuses on Somali refugees

ADEN, 20 December (IRIN) - "I tried to get on deck and I was beaten. That's how my arms were broken. It was hot and crowded in the bottom of the boat and I thought I was going to suffocate," Mohammed Noor, a Somali refugee now living in a camp in the Yemeni province of Aden, told IRIN.

TEMEN

He paid US \$100 to smugglers to get him to Yemen, involving a 24-hour journey from the Horn of Africa.

The young man described the gruelling journey in which he travelled to Bosaso on the coast of Somalia and then to Bir Ali in Yemen, 300 km across the Gulf of Aden. "There were 118 people on board that night and three of them died," he explained. But Noor said his journey was worth it.

Having been at the camp for only a month, he said his life was much better now. "I left Somalia because of the war. I could not take it any more. There was tribal fighting in my village," he said.

Without her husband, but carrying three children in her arms, Fatimah Alim made a similar journey across the sea to Yemen. "I want to go to Saudi Arabia. My husband is working there," she told IRIN, adding that she would not go until she could get enough money together for the journey.

Asked if she was aware that she could be deported from neighbouring countries, she replied: "Yes I know. It has happened to friends and they keep trying to cross the border. Some have managed to get in so there is some hope for us," she explained.

Others were not too keen on staying in the camp "I miss my homeland and I want to go back," a mother of four, Khadija Mohammed, told IRIN.

Originally from the Somali capital, Mogadishu, she had been living in the camp since 1991.

For many Somali refugees fleeing their land, where there has been no central government and sporadic fighting for more than a decade, the journey to a better life is often not what they expected it to be.

"Smugglers just throw some of the refugees off the boats when they see the port is near so they are not caught. Some drown," External Relations Assistant at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Abdul Malik Abboud, told IRIN in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

"It is very difficult for the Yemeni government to control the 2,800 km coastline on its own without being supported by the world community.

Yet, even though the country is poor, it is still accepting new arrivals, compared to other Arab nations who do not accept as many refugees," he added.

Status

Somalis are the largest refugee community in Yemen with some 47,000 coregistered by the government and UNHCR. Some 10,000 are living in camps and the rest are in cities such as Aden and Taiz in the north of the country.

There are also small groups of Ethiopian, Iraqi, Palestinian, Eritreans and Sudanese refugees, but Somalis are in a very favourable position when it comes to granting refugee status as it is given on a prima face basis, as Yemen is signatory to the 1951 Convention on the Rights of Refugees.

The moment Somalis arrive, if they register, they are given an identity card. This entitles them to access health facilities, education and food supplies originally provided by the World Food Programme (WFP).

UNHCR plans to open six permanent registration centres for refugees across the country to avoid any discrimination and to ensure they can be protected until the situation in their countries of origin allows them to voluntarily repatriate.

Camp support

The Kharaz camp, 120 km from the southern city of Aden, is home to some 11,000 mainly Somali and Ethiopian refugees, according to UNHCR.

It is the biggest camp in the country and although it is fairly well resourced, conditions can be harsh. "The weather is worse in the camp and there can be dust storms which cause havoc," UNHCR field assistant Mohammed Tahir al-Jaseem told IRIN in Aden.

"The other camps were closer to the road, so they could travel to get work," he added, referring to previous camp locations as refugees are only able to get irregular daily labour. Refugees living in cities can find work as domestic labourers, on farms or as tailors.

In order to avoid any disputes between the local population and the refugees, food assistance is also offered to some 1,200 people from vulnerable groups of local people immediately outside the camp.

Supported by the UN, two international and two local NGOS, refugees are given different identity cards to the local population so they can collect food aid on a monthly basis, which includes oil, flour and sugar supplied by WFP.

Water and electricity have also been extended to nearby villages. "This reduces any tensions and prevents interference in the camp," al-Jaseem added. With some 800 houses on site, the camp is well served with water points, food distribution and rubbish collection.

There is also a community centre, a workshop to teach carpentry skills, schools and clinics. Some refugees end up staying here and others move on into villages to find work or leave for neighbouring countries such as Oman or Saudi Arabia in search of a more prosperous life, but are often deported, al-Jaseem explained.

UNHCR registers refugees at the Maifa reception centre on the Yemeni coastline where most enter the country and then provides transport to the camp as well as meals. "We have had an additional 150 families this year coming to the camp and we need to build more accommodation for them," he said, citing future needs.

As in other camps worldwide the issue of protection for refugees is of great importance and although sexual violence is not common in this camp, according to aid workers, domestic violence is. "We try and get the adults to reach a solution to end the problem and have been successful in most cases," said one female worker at the camp.

Ultimately what most of the refugees want is resettlement, aid workers say. The UNHCR resettlement programme specifically targets groups looking for family reunification, women at risk, unaccompanied children and those with special needs on medical grounds in conformity with UNHCR resettlement criteria.

"I want to go to Europe. That is where I see my future," Somali refugee Mohammed Qudsi told IRIN at the camp.

GAPDYI receives European Fellowship

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In recognition of the success of the First International Conference on Investment Opportunities in Yemeni Islands, the European Marketing and Promotion Association (EMPA) has awarded the General Authority for Promotion and Development of Yemeni Islands (GAPDYI) the European Fellowship EMPA.

In an exclusive statement to the Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarab said the European Fellowship EMPA is granted to outstanding and successful establishments as well as scientific conferences.

"We have decided to give this certificate of merit in appreciation of the efforts and success achieved by the Conference and its results and recommendations that serve tourism development in the Yemeni islands," added Dr. Al-Tarab.

The conference was held from Nov. 30-Dec.2 in the capital city of Sana'a and was attended by a large number of national, and foreign investors and experts.

gtz Vacancy Announcement

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is recruiting for the Urban Development Project in the Governorate of Hadhramawt, District of Shibam for the position of:

Local Community Development Expert

Qualifications and Skills required are as the following:

- The position is reserved for a female Yemeni expert.
 An academic or professional degree in one of the following fields: social sciences, economics, business administration, and / or development studies,
 A minimum of 5 years professional experience working with development projects,
- Good command of written and oral English and Arabic languages,
- Proven record of preparing professional reports,
- · Computer skills include the use of most MS. Office applications,
- Good team spirit and excellent communication skills
- Be ready to work in a remote area and hot climate.

The main tasks of the post are as the following:

- Work with women's initiatives and NGO's and cooperate with them to implement small projects for income generation, skills promotion and education.
- Enhance planning and organizational skills of women's initiatives and facilitate their participation in the urban management process, with emphasis on issues related to the environment and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Organize training and exchange of information for actors related to women's development.
- Organize and conduct community education programs and awareness campaigns.
- Conduct monitoring procedures to evaluate women's development programs supported by the project.

Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their application and include an up-to-date CV both in Arabic and English latest by 10th January 2005, to

> The Deputy Director GTZ Office Sana'a P.O. Box 692 Fax: (00 967 1) 412 539

Short listed applicants will be invited for interviews as of 28th January 2005 at the above address.





The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS UNICEF-WFP-UNDP-UNFPA-UNDCP-ILO-UNESCO-WHO-World Bank invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the position of

UNAIDS Country Coordinator

Position: UNAIDS Country Coordinator (National) **Level:** National Professional Category – C

the analog system will no longer be operational effective Dec 31, 2004. Customers are urged to take the advantage of having a FREE Yemen Mobile redemption line. There will also be a special offer for clients who exchange their numbers for Yemen Mobile lines before Jan 15, 2005.

153 Customer Service Center

Duty Station: Sana'a

Key responsibilities

The National UNAIDS Country Coordinator operates within the Resident Coordinator system to support the work of the UN Theme Group. The primary role of the National UCC is to support the joint UN response to HIV/AIDS at country level, particularly through facilitating and strengthening the links between the UN system, government, civil society, and people living with HIV/AIDS the mechanism (including the Technical Working Groups and other relevant forums) to Ensure coordination and communication within the UN and between the UN, government and all other development partners. The National UCC will support the UN Resident Coordinator and the Chairperson of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS to provide the following:

- 1) Civil society engagement and partnership development;
- 2) Leadership and Advocacy for effective action on the epidemic;
- 3) Strategic information required to guide the efforts of partners;
- 4) Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and response; and
- 5) Financial, technical and political resource mobilization.

Requirements:

1. Knowledge and experience:

Extensive experience in managing and implementing development cooperation programs, including field experience with demonstrated achievements in developing countries. Experience in working with UN system organizations in technical programs, or in public health is an asset. Knowledge of development issues and of the application of research findings to meet the requirements of developing countries. Thorough understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its implications. Knowledge of the UN system of organizations and their delivery mechanisms is an asset.

2. Professional Competencies:

University degree in development economics, social or physical sciences, public health, public administration, management, or similar academic preparation required and an advanced degree or equivalent is an asset. Excellent knowledge of English, knowledge of other UN System official languages is an asset.

3. Managerial Competencies:

Leadership qualities, interpersonal, facilitation, analysis, presentation and writing skills; excellent interpersonal, negotiating and consultative skills to facilitate the coordination – participation of various collaborators.

Interested Yemeni Nationals who meet the above requirements may submit their applications together with a copy of CV by mail (post or in person or by email (<u>dkaphle@unicef.org</u>) to the Operations Officer, UNICEF, P. O. Box 725, Sana'a

The Deadline for receiving applications is 10 January 2005

Community 23 December, 2004 **Future Forum demands solid plan: Concrete steps towards reform wanted**

BY PETER WILLEMS YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he Forum for the Future held in Rabat, Morocco, earlier this month brought finance and foreign ministers from 20 Arab countries together to discuss reforms across the region. Since the event took place, some have said that many questions still remain concerning where the region is heading for reform in the future

"One thing we discussed in the meet-

ings of civil societies is that we have been hearing the word 'reform' being said by almost every government in the region, but the issue is will the governments be really willing to deliver," said Mohamed Al-Tayeb, Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, Liberties and Civic Organizations in Yemen's Shura Council, who attended the conference of civil society leaders and activists before the official forum of government officials took place. "Are the governments serious or are they just creating cosmetics here and there to avoid the pressure from the international



community?

Steps taken at the forum mostly focused on economic reform. A fund was established to help start-up projects in the private sector and small business ventures with \$60 million coming in from industrialized countries and international finance institutions. Other programs aimed at boosting capital markets and micro-credit to small businesses. On the democratic front, Yemen, Italy and Turkey presented the Democratic Assistance Dialogue designed to promote and consolidate democratic institutions and values.

The final statement of the forum stressed that reform in the region needs to go "hand in hand" with support of a peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians. It also stated that reform should be developed inside each country with "the sovereign right of each country within its national unity and territorial integrity, to freely develop its own democratic, political and socio-cultural system."

The emphasis on reforms developing without outside influence first arose from a reaction to US President George Bush administration's Greater Middle East Initiative which came forward last February. Due to opposition, it was renamed as the Broader Middle East and North Africa initiative and was backed by Group of Eight industrialized nations (G8) at a meeting in Seal Island, Georgia, last June which included that reforms should come from within.

"It looks like Arab nations are gradually coming around to accept reform," said a foreign diplomat based in Yemen. "It needs to be done from within as a homegrown process in which the G8 does not impose any reform but can share experience, give a helping hand and offer guidance.

But some have doubts that concrete steps towards reforms will take place soon since planning has yet to be discussed.

"When it comes to the development of democracy, human rights and other areas of development, there needs to be a solid plan," said Majid Al-Fahed, Executive Director of Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation in Sana'a. "Up to now, I have not seen concrete steps spelled out in the Middle East, and it is not clear

how reforms can be carried out."

There are also questions as to whether leaders in the region will take the initiative for democratic reform and allow people to have a say in decision making.

"The development of democracy in some countries in the region will not be any easy task," said a Yemeni analyst. "It may not be easy for those with power to give it up.'

Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University, claims that from the launch of the Greater Middle East Initiative, it has not been clear who would take the initiative to promote reforms. "By giving in to rulers in the Middle East, America did nothing novel," said Al-Faqih. "It continues an old policy of avoiding political and economic cost of investing in matters of liberty and prosper-

ity of the people of the Middle East. Democracy in the region has become a product that neither Americans are enthusiastic about selling nor Arab leaders are willing to pay the cost for purchasing."

Tayeb pointed out that a positive sign that came from the forum was that representatives from most countries were present. The next forum is scheduled to take place in Bahrain in 2005, followed by a meeting in Jordan in 2006.

"It was successful bringing the governments together. When the G8 were there in Georgia in June, only five Arab countries showed up," said Tayeb. "It was the first real forum on reform and it is a process that is not done overnight."

Tayeb added that the 50 representatives that attended the conference of civil societies agreed that reform in the region is essential and that the general public should become more involved.

"Civil societies concluded that we need more reforms across the board, including more liberties for civil societies. Some countries have made some progress towards reform, like Morocco, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain and Kuwait, but there are other countries that have not yet started," said Tayeb. "Civil societies also think that unless there is a strong, internal civil movement, the governments won't really go ahead with steps. What is needed are full partnerships between interest groups, business groups, and so forth, and the governments. It didn't happen this time, so there still needs to be full representation in decision making. People need to ask for reform. The people are the ones that make the changes.

Course on dress-making & embroidery

Many speeches were delivered in the

celebration in which the activities and

efforts of the society's administration rep-

resented by its director Aneesah al-

Maqtari was praised especially the cours-

of the Local Council in Taiz, appreciated

the role of Azal Society in Taiz pointing out

that there are more than 500 societies in

the governorate but most of them are

"We will cancel the other inactive soci-

Mohammed al-Haj, Secretary-General

tled 'stop violence against woman'.

es in all fields.

inactive

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

training course on dressmaking and embroidery was organized by Azal Social Handicraft Society for Women Developing wrapped up in Taiz Wednesday Dec. 15 2004. The event took place at the headquarters of the governorate.

The course that was supported by the German organization (EPSP) aimed to train some women how to sew and embroider wedding dresses. During the celebration, several activi-

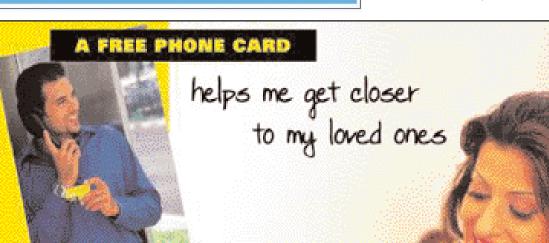
ties were staged including a sketch enti-



most active ones like Azal Society that made a successful and encouraging step in all fields considering them partners in development, fighting unemployment and poverty," Al-Haj said.

Participants in the course and the prominent people effectively contributing to the society's success were honored.





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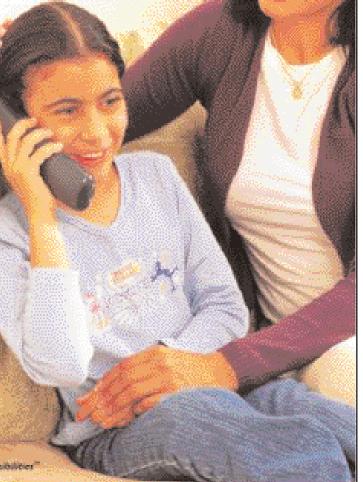
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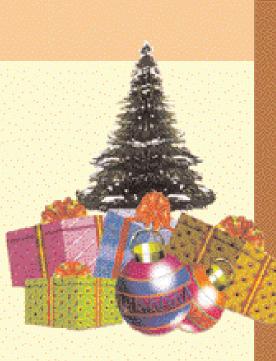
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Arab/Middle East

Attack on U.S. base New mood in Mideast as in Iraq kills 22

MOSUL, Iraq, Dec 21 (Reuters) - A mortar and rocket attack on a U.S. military dining hall killed 22 people and wounded more than 50 in Iraq's northern city of Mosul on Tuesday in one of the deadliest attacks on U.S. forces since the war began

The attack came as British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a surprise visit to Baghdad, where he vowed the war against insurgents would be won and elections would go ahead on Jan. 30. As he left Baghdad, mortars fell on the Green Zone compound, as they do almost daily. There was no word on any casualties.

The Mosul strike came at noon (0900 GMT) when many soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez, a huge camp built around the northern city's airfield, would have been eating lunch. The tented dining hall can seat hundreds of soldiers at a time, Reuters correspondents who have stayed at the base said.

A defence official in Washington said it was not clear how many of the Mosul casualties were Americans. Iraqi National Guards and civilian contractors working in construction and security also operate from Camp Marez, in the south of Mosul.

"There were an unknown number of rounds in a rocket and mortar attack," the official said. "We don't know the breakdown (of dead). We don't know if it's U.S., Iraqi, a combination."

In the bloodiest previous single incident for U.S. troops in Iraq, two Black Hawk helicopters crashed in Mosul in November last year, killing 17 soldiers. At the start of the war in March last year, 29 soldiers were killed in a fierce day of fighting.

Iraqi militant group Ansar al-Sunna, a known Sunni Muslim faction that has been at the heart of the 18-month insurgency against U.S. forces, said it was behind the attack.

Responding to the attack, the White House vowed that the "enemies of freedom" would be defeated. On Monday, President George W. Bush warned that Iraqi bombers were having an impact.

Mosul has seen a surge in violence over the past six weeks, since U.S. forces



An Iraqi civilian vehicle drives past a burning oil pipeline after it came under attack near Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, Dece 21. REUTERS

launched an offensive against insurgents holed up in Falluja, an assault designed to break the back of the guerrilla movement operating in the country.

Problems first resurfaced in mid-November when groups of militants overran more than a dozen police stations in the city, Iraq's third largest, looting them of weapons and other equipment and then setting them on fire or blowing them up.

U.S. military commanders have said Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is allied to al Qaeda, probably fled Falluja ahead of the U.S. offensive there and may have shifted his base of operations to Mosul.

Blair visit

Britain's Blair, who has visited Iraq twice but never Baghdad, flew to meet Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in the city's Green Zone compound, which houses the Iraqi government and U.S. military, arriving under tight security.

Hailing Iraq's election workers as "heroes", Blair, who is expected to call an election next year, launched a passionate defence of the war as vital for Britain's security and Iraqis' freedom.

"Here are people who are risking their lives every day in order to make sure that the people of Iraq get a chance to decide their own destiny," Blair told a news conference after meeting Election Commission chiefs running Iraq's Jan. 30

poll Three people working for the Commission were killed by gunmen in Baghdad two days ago.

Blair, who will also travel to Jordan and Israel, was clearly aware of the threats in Iraq's capital, where there are daily shootings, bombings and mortar attacks, not least on the Green Zone, a former palace of Saddam Hussein.

"You can feel the sense of danger people live in ... I feel a sense of humility," he said, turning to Allawi. "It's a very tough challenge you face. You feel the sense of the challenge

But Blair said he had no doubt Britain was right to have helped oust Saddam and described the fight against Iraq's insurgents as a war between right and wrong.

"Whatever people felt about the original conflict, we the British aren't a nation of quitters," he said. "What's very obvious to me is that the Iraqi people here, they're not going to quit on this task either. They're going to see it through."

Both Blair and Allawi were at pains to portray the fight against insurgents in Iraq, most of whom are loyalists to the former regime or Sunni Muslim militants, as part of the U.S. administration's war on terrorism launched after Sept. 11, 2001.

"We stand on the side of the democrats against the terrorists," the British prime minister said.

Arafat passes into history

GAZA, Dec 21 (Reuters) - The sombre official end to mourning for Yasser Arafat on Tuesday contrasted with a new sense of optimism in the Middle East after his death.

Bloodshed has continued and there are no clear ideas how to get Israelis and Palestinians to agree, but Arafat's departure has brought at least a feeling on both sides that it might be possible to revive talks.

The new hope has also triggered a diplomatic scramble to conjure progress from the changed atmosphere.

"There is a moment and we cannot afford to miss it," said Dennis Ross, a former U.S. peace negotiator who blames Arafat for rejecting a deal in 2000 before an uprising broke out.

Israelis long reviled Arafat as a "terrorist mastermind" and called him an obstacle to peace.

While Palestinians still revere him as the icon of their struggle and the man who gave them the foothold of a state, polls show that more than half of Palestinians think his deat him proves the prospects for peace talks.

"We hope that there will be talks and negotiations with the Israelis and these talks will yield results," said Amal Hijazi,a 40-year-old mother of five in Ramallah.

Signs of movement

Dire predictions of a turbulent succession to Arafat have sofar proved wrong. In fact, internal strife has diminished.

After the withdrawal of a firebrand uprising leader from the race to succeed Arafat on Jan 9., the only candidate with a chance of winning election - Mahmoud Abbas - is a moderate who opposes armed struggle and is expected to restart talks.

There are also signs of movement on the Israeli side.

The change in the landscape is a factor that may have helped Prime Minister Ariel Sharon push through a planned "unity government" with centre-left opponents to allow withdrawals from some land where Palestinians want a state.

Sharon has also said he is ready to coor-



A Palestinian homeless sit inside a tent after their house was demolished by Israeli troops during a raid, at the Khan Younis refugee camp southern Gaza Strip Dece. 20. Violence flared in Gaza as Israeli troops pulled back from a two-day raid on a Palestinian refugee camp that killed 11 people. Palestinian fighters launched barrages of rockets into Israel in response to the raid and the Israeli army answered with missile strikes. REUTERS

dinate the pull out with the Palestinians that score after the election.

"The most important yardstick for success in the peace process is not the number of foreign ministers visiting but Palestinian action against terrorism. That's what Israelis will be looking for," said Israeli spokesman Dore Gold.

Even if the gunmen disarm, positions are far apart on the same sticking points as when Arafat was alive - whether Israel would return to its boundaries before it captured Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967 and whether refugees who fled Israel's founding would have a right to return.

New Palestinian leaders made a point of reiterating their firm stand on those issues at the memorial for Arafat.

While Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza and a little of the West Bank in 2005 may offer a temporary sign of movement, welcomed by Western countries as a sign of progress, any thing beyond that is more doubtful.

Sharon has made clear that after the withdrawal he still sees Israel keeping hold of large Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank, completely unacceptable for Palestinians who claim all the land and say that would deny them a viable state.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) **Credit Administration Unit (CAU)**

Request for Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Services to Evaluate the MOPHP National Health Management Information System

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

The World Bank financed HRSP (Credit 3625) now invites eligible consultants to provide consultancy services to the The World Bank financed HRSP (Credit 3625) now invites eligible consultants to provide short-term consultancy HRSP, who will be function as a professional health management information system (HMIS) consultant. The HMIS services towards the health management information systems (HMIS) subcomponent of the project who will be consultant will report and be accountable to the DG responsible for the HMIS subcomponent and CAU. responsible for performing an evaluation of the existing national HMIS of the MOPHP. The consultant who will evaluate the national HMIS of the MOPHP will report and be accountable to the DG responsible for the HMIS The activities/responsibilities of this consultant will include (but will not be limited to) assisting the HMIS subcomponent and CAU subcomponent of the project in: The Selected consultant will be expected to perform the following: 1. Preparing TOR, scope of work, qualifications, technical specifications, RFP, procurement documents, and Review, assess, and evaluate existing National Statistical Guidelines within the MOPHP. other related documents for consultancy services, as well as technical assistance to the HMIS subcomponent Review and assess MOPHP tools and methods of statistical data collection and validation at different levels. of the project. Review and assess data flow and information availability, and how this statistical information is utilized and Develop plans (quarterly and annual and implement activities. 2. influences decision-making processes and policy formulation. Follow-up on progress of all activities of this subcomponent, take measures to ensure that activities are 3. Review the existing organizational structure of the NHIS, and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the achieved in an efficient and timely basis, as well as preparing monthly progress reports showing deviations existing structure (managerial, technical capacity, staff skills and qualifications), and provide and providing recommendations. recommendations to improve performance including a job description for key staff and develop a reporting Assessing needs for goods, training, civil works and consultancy services. 4. system. Strengthening coordination between donors and government bodies supporting or financing the HMIS general Evaluate the quality of data collected at all levels from health facility up to the national level and provide a 5. directorate within the MOPHP. description of the existing methods and recommendations to improve. Review reporting responsibilities as well as skills and qualifications of NHIS appointed staff from health Prepare evaluations, analysis, recommendations, and discuss these with MOPHP. 6. facility level to district, governorate and central levels. Participate in consultant's evaluation and selection, as well as supervising their activities during 7. Review and evaluate data collection methods, data quality, report generating and data flow at private health implementation and reporting to the HMIS on progress and outcomes. facilities and their accordance with MOPHP Statistical Guidelines. Prepare technical advice and provide written feedback on all improving health systems management 8. Carryout a training needs assessment of staff of the MOPHP general directorate of statistics centrally and subcomponent activities under the same component and outputs. peripherally. 9. Provide on-job training for HMIS staff. Make recommendations for improvement of the national HMIS and the scope of work specified above. Prepare key performance indicators to monitor and evaluate the HMIS subcomponent and develop a **Qualifications:** monitoring and evaluation tool to measure performance. A minimum of a Bachelors degree in information technology or a relevant field. A minimum of five years of experience in health information systems, information technology management, **Qualifications:** A minimum of a masters degree in statistics, information systems, or a relevant field. and on similar assignments as specified in the scope of work. A minimum of five years of experience in statistics, health data management, and health information systems, Good experience in statistical programmes. Proficiency in both Arabic and English. and on similar assignments as specified in the scope of work. A minimum of three years experience in developing countries. Proficiency in both Arabic and English. Interested consultants must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the required services and have the relevant experience. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Interested consultants must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the required services and have guidelines. Selection and Employment of Consultants be World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, the relevant experience. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank January 1999, and May 2000) guidelines; Selection and Employment of Consultants be World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999, and May 2000). Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by the 5th January 2005. Interested consultants may Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by the 5th January 2005. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 am to 3.00 pm. obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. **Credit Administration Unit Credit Administration Unit** Health Reform Support Project Health Reform Support Project 4th Floor – Ministry of Public Health and Population 4th Floor - Ministry of Public health and Population P. O. Box 1330 Al-Hasabah - Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) **Credit Administration Unit (CAU)**

Request for Expressions of Interest Professional health management Information System Consultant

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

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flew in to talk money. Food for pessimists But there is still plenty of food for pessimists. Violence has surged again in the Gaza

Strip. Militants carried out their deadliest attack on the Israeli army for seven months, killing five soldiers. An Israeli raid soon after left11 Palestinians dead. Factions have defied a call from Abbas to down their guns, signalling problems on

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and assist the elections.

Israeli analyst Yossi Alpher.

Diplomatic pressure is strong.

- the highest level visitor so far.

"Among the Israeli public there's a

sense that Arafat's death improves the

prospect for ending violence and for get-

ting into some kind of process," said

Washington was quick to send U.S.

Secretary of State Colin Powell on his first

visit to the region for 18 months. British

Prime Minister Tony Blair, pushing for a

Middle East conference, is due this week

role in the peace push, a bevy of European

ministers have passed through to show

support and the head of the World Bank

Egypt is taking on a greater regional

Asia/Africa



Hundreds march for peace in India's northeast

GUWAHATI, India, Dec 21 (Reuters) - Hundreds of people marched through the streets of India's restive northeastern state of Assam on Tuesday, urging rebels to shun violence and resolve their problems through peace talks with the government.

Musicians on trucks singing local songs of love and peace led rows of school children, women, government workers and academics as they snaked through the state's main city, Guwahati, with placards reading: "We want peace" and "Say no to terrorism".

"The task before us is to mobilise public opinion against the militants, because no rebel outfit can stand up against a united and strong public

opinion," said B.K. Gohain, Assam's home (interior) commissioner.

Assam one of India's seven states in the troubled northeast that have been plagued by insurgencies for decades, was hit by a spate of rebel violence earlier this month leading to a growing sense of insecurity in the region.

Police blamed the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which has been fighting for independence for the past 25 years, for the serial grenade attacks in Assam that killed four people and left 85 wounded.

The latest spurt in violence came after rebels killed about 30 people in shootings and grenade attacks in October across Assam, the worst attacks in the state since the revolt began 25 years ago.

The rallies organised by authorities across the tea and oil-rich state came as business in the state has been hadly hit by the violence with most markets, cinema halls and restaurants deserted after dark.

But officials said Assam's tea and oil businesses were unaffected by the series of explosions and operations in four refineries were on despite rebel attempts to disrupt oil and gas supplies.

"Very few people come to cinema halls out of fear. We are running our shows at a loss," said Phani Sharma, owner of a cinema hall in Guwahati. "We want the rebels to succumb to public pressure to give up their armed struggle and come forward to a negotiated settlement," said Assam Chief

Minister Tarun Gogoi.

Formed in 1979, ULFA accuses New Delhi of exploiting the state's mineral and forest resources, and neglecting the local economy.

ULFA and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) are among two dozen insurgent groups in India's northeast, a remote mountainous region plagued by separatist violence that has claimed about 30,000 lives so far. About 10,000 people have been killed in Assam alone.

While the NDFB has agreed to hold peace talks with the government, the ULFA earlier this month turned down Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's offer for a dialogue, seen as a strategy to pressure the government to hold talks on its terms.



An Indian policeman checks a commuters bag as other policeman keep guard in Guwahati, the main city of India's northeastern state of Assam Dec. 20. The volatile northeastern state of Assam is seized by a growing sense of insecurity, with authorities apparently unable to stop the latest wave of rebel violence, officials and residents said. REUTERS

Court told Indonesia's Bashir was Jemaah chief

JAKARTA, Dec 21 (Reuters) - A key witness in the trial of Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir told a court on Tuesday that the ageing firebrand preacher was head of Jemaah Islamiah, a militant group seen as the Southeast Asian arm of al Qaeda.

The 66-year old cleric dismissed the testimony, saying the group did not exist and he had never met the witness, Nasir Abbas, a Malaysian who claims to have been a Jemaah Islamiah instructor at a camp in the southern Philippines.

Abbas said Bashir had given him funds for the "Udaibiyah" training camp and visited the facility in April 2000, when he spoke at a graduation ceremony for militant recruits.

"We wanted this achievement, the first graduates, to be seen by Jemaah Islamiah's Emir (spiritual leader)...Bashir stayed for two or three days," said Abbas.

"He reminded us that it was all for Jihad (holy struggle) and what we do on earth will be rewarded."

Bashir dismissed Abbas' statement. "Regarding his statement that I was an Emir, I was never one. I never attended the ceremony, nor was I



Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir waves to supporters while entering a makeshift courtroom in the Ministry of Agriculture in south Jakarta, Dec. 21. A Jakarta court on Tuesday summoned witnesses to testify in the trial of terrorism charges REUTERS against Bashir, who is accused of leading a regional terror network linked to al Qaeda

Bashir had replied: "Even the blood is Hotel in Jakarta last year that killed 12. halal (permitted), and so are their belongings.'

Responding in court, Bashir said: "That's like telling people to steal. In

The cleric has consistently denied wrongdoing, saying the charges against him are a result of Western pressure.

said in letters read to the court they had testified in previous trails and had nothing more to say.

The court was adjourned until Dec. 28

UN sending peacekeepers to Congo frontline-sources

GOMA, Congo, Dec 21 (Reuters) -The United Nations will send peacekeepers to the frontline between rival army factions in eastern Congo on Tuesday after more than a week of fighting there, U.N. and diplomatic sources said.

"We are sending a company into Kanyabayonga. Another company will move south into Lubero from Ituri (district)," a senior U.N. official told Reuters, referring to two towns in the area.

The fighting erupted earlier this month between Congolese army reinforcements sent to the east and RCD-Goma, a faction backed by Rwanda during Congo's five-year war but now meant to be part of the national army.

Each company was expected to number at least 100 soldiers.

Soldiers loyal to the Congolese government clashed with dissident units around the farming town of Kanyabayonga on Sunday, ending days of relative calm.

The head of the U.N. mission in Congo, William Swing, ordered the deployment to stop renegade fighters advancing further north towards the town of Beni, a diplomat in the central African country said.

"Swing has ordered a mission to take place to stop Beni falling to rebel forces," the diplomat said.

"They have definitely been told to do it to stop troops advancing."

Cambodia charges Vietnamese with people smuggling

PHNOM PENH, Dec 21 (Reuters) - human trafficking police chief Meng A Cambodia court charged two Say said. Vietnamese and a Cambodian on Tuesday over the smuggling of a threemonth-old baby and two young women to Malaysia, court officials said.

They said police had arrested Lam Thi Mai, a 40-year-old Vietnamese, and Cambodian Ros Mayan, 33 and accused them of trying to smuggle the baby to Kuala Lumpur.

The officials said the pair were to

All three denied involvement in human trafficking. If found guilty each faces between 10 and 20 years in jail. Meng Say alleged that the three

belonged to a group run by Vietnamese in Kuala Lumpur, believed to be involved in smuggling people from impoverished Cambodia to Malaysia through Thailand.

"They have their ringleaders, run by

appointed as the Emir. I will not accept that statement as correct," Bashir said, reading out a written statement.

Abbas said that in response to a question from one recruit about whether it was permitted to rob bank ATMs if they belonged to "infidels",

the name of Allah, I never made such statement."

Prosecutors have accused Bashir, 66, of using his "religious charisma" to incite bomb attacks on Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people and also a suicide blast outside the JW Marriott

Dozens of Bashir supporters attending the session jeered at Abbas, yelling that he was lying. Two other witnesses had been due to testify on Tuesday but did not turn up.

Ali Imron and Mubarok, two of the convicted Bali bombers now in jail,

A previous effort after the Bali bombings to convict Bashir of leading Jemaah Islamiah failed. The cleric did, however, serve 18 months for immigration violations and was re-arrested using anti-terror statutes in April.

His new trial began in October.

have been paid 1,000 baht (\$25) for Vietnamese nationals in Kuala their role in the operation. The baby was rescued.

Another Vietnamese man, Nguyen their 20s to the Malaysian capital, anti-said.

Lumpur," he said. "This is not the first time they did this."

"We are poor and smugglers can buy Taing, 44, was charged with trying to a baby cheaply from poor families, smuggle two Vietnamese women in such as the one we rescued," Meng Say

Bhutto's husband re-arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 21 (Reuters) -Pakistani police re-arrested the husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday, less than a month after his release from jail raised hopes for reconciliation with military ruler President Pervez Musharraf.

Asif Ali Zardari, freed on bail on Nov. 22 after spending eight years in jail on charges of corruption, murder and drug smuggling, was detained by police at Islamabad airport on his arrival from Karachi.

Hours earlier, an anti-terrorism court in Karachi ordered his re-arrest for failing to appear at a bail hearing in a murder case.

"We have arrested him and are taking him to Adiala jail in Rawalpindi," senior superintendent of police Marvat Ali Shah told reporters at Islamabad airport, where hundreds of Bhutto supporters earlier clashed with police.

The arrest appeared to dim hopes of reconciliation between Bhutto's opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S.led war on terror.

"We will go by the decision of the court," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told Reuters.

Farooq A. Naik, a lawyer for Zardari, said his client had sought exemption from Tuesday's court appearance in the case of the murder of a high court judge and his son in Karachi in 1996.

Naik said the court rejected the application and ordered his re-arrest. "We are going to challenge this decision," he said.

Zardari, investment minister in Bhutto's government that ruled until 1996, holds no formal position in the PPP but had planned his trip to Islamabad to rally support for the party.

He told Reuters by telephone from his Pakistan International Airlines flight it would be "a cowardly act" if he were to be rearrested. He maintained that there had been no hearing in the murder case for the past five years, implying that it might have been scheduled to interfere with his planned trip.

"Ready to face the music"

"I see the hand of government behind this," he said. "Everybody should have the freedom of expression and movement.'

He called on supporters to remain united. "We are ready to face the music. We have faced such ploys and tactics by the government in the past and are ready to face them in future."

Large numbers of police were deployed at Islamabad airport, which is in the city of Rawalpindi adjoining Islamabad.

They used batons and lobbed tear gas to break up a crowd of about 500 of Bhutto's supporters who tried to enter the airport before Zardari's flight landed, chanting slogans and scuffling with police.

Several windows were broken and at least 10 protesters were detained. Police erected barricades on the roads to the airport to prevent more of Zardari's supporters joining the protest.

Zardari was freed last month after the Supreme Court granted him bail in a case involving the importation of a

BMW car, the only one of eight cases against him in which he had been denied bail.

Zardari's re-arrest comes after Musharraf's announced on Friday he would stay on as army chief after Dec. 31, going back on a promise to give up his dual role by the end of the year.

Bhutto, living in self-imposed exile since early 1999 to avoid arrest herself in corruption cases, had campaigned to insist Musharraf stick to his vow, but he said it would hurt his efforts as a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department voiced no objections to Musharraf's decision to retain his military post.

A U.S. official said Washington wanted democracy in Pakistan but was reluctant to do anything to destabilise Musharraf or undermine his support for the war on terrorism.

Critics of Musharraf believe Zardari's release was a short-term ploy by the president to mute opposition criticism of his plan to stay on as army chief.



Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto, addresses supporters during a rally in Sukkur, 480 km (300 miles) from Karachi in this file photo taken on Dec. 6. A Pakistani court on December 21, 2004 ordered the re-arrest of the husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after he failed to appear at a bail hearing in a murder case against him, his lawyers said. Picture taken Dec. 6. REUTERS

World

TIMES Romania's Nastase quits, interim PM to be appointed

BUCHAREST, Dec 21 (Reuters) Romania's outgoing Prime Minister Adrian Nastase resigned on Tuesday after he was elected parliament speaker and an interim premier must be appointed until a new government is formed, a government official said.

Nastase's ex-communist PSD and the centrist alliance of Liberals and Democrats are locked in a battle to woo smaller parties to form a government after inconclusive Nov. 28 elections in the European Union candidate country.

"The prime minister decided to terminate his mandate to focus on his new post as head of the lower parliament house," government spokeswoman Despina Neagoe told Reuters.

Under the constitution, president Traian Basescu must appoint another member of the outgoing cabinet as acting premier until political parties manage to forge majority in parliament.

The kingmaker ethnic Hungarian party switched sides to the centrist alliance this weekend. PSD's ally, the small Humanist PUR party said it was considering its options, but the centrists would also need 18 independent deputies to form a majority.

say Romania, which Analysts



Adrian Nastase, head of Social Democrat Party, reacts after being elected Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania's Parliament in Bucharest late Dec. 20. Nastase quit as Romania's Prime Minister and the new President Traian Basescu will appoint an interim premier until a new government is REUTERS formed. Picture taken Dec. 20.

recently wrapped up EU negotiations, the next two years if it is to join the needs a strong government to lead it through difficult reforms required in

wealthy bloc with Bulgaria in 2007 as planned.

Incoming EU president eyes budget compromise

BRUSSELS. Dec 21 (Reuters) -Luxembourg vowed on Tuesday to et negotiations on Jan. 31 at a meeting work to secure a compromise deal over the European Union's contested long-term budget during the country's presidency of the 25-nation bloc in the first half of 2005.

Delaying the deal could throw EU financial planning into disarray, threatening timely allocation of billions of euros (dollars) in regional and farm aid, the executive European Commission warned.

But Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said he expected agreement could be reached to set the EU's 2007-2013 spending somewhere between the level proposed by the Commission and the ceiling which the bloc's six net payers want to impose.

Austria, Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden want spending capped at 1.0 percent of gross national income in 2007-2013, or 815 billion euros, while the Commission has proposed 1.14 percent of GNI, or 930 billion euros.

"I believe that the compromise which needs to be looked for will be found between the position of ... the six net contributing countries and the Commission's proposal. We have six months," Juncker told a news conference.

Luxembourg plans to launch budgof EU foreign ministers, Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said.

He said talks would be complicated by Britain's political calendar, with a general election widely expected next spring.

Diplomats expect no budget deal before that vote because of the highly sensitive issue of the annual British rebate from EU coffers, set to feature high in negotiations, which the Commission proposes replacing with a generalised refund system for big net payers.

"I hope the UK elections will take place earlier in the year, perhaps March is not ruled out. If it's May, that does not leave much time," Asselborn told reporters.

Eu project under threat?

A Commission source told Reuters this month a compromise could set EU expenditure at 1.05-1.07 percent of GNI, adding that a lower level would make it impossible for the Union to achieve its objectives.

European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso urged EU members on Tuesday to clinch a deal over the budget during Luxembourg's sixmonth presidency, saying a delay could undermine key Union policies.

"Political agreement by June next year is crucial for the European project," Barroso said in the European Parliament, briefing deputies on last week's EU summit in Brussels.

But he warned against curbing spending too tightly, saying it was not possible "to have more Europe with less money".

Leaders were split at last week's summit over the budget as net payers clashed with net beneficiaries hungry for cash, and "old" and "new" EU regional aid recipients quarrelled among themselves over how much they should receive.

"Without a deal on time, fulfilment of the political priorities that the 25 member states have agreed upon will be delayed, and Europe cannot afford that to happen," he said.

He reaffirmed his support for the 2007-2013 budget proposal drafted by his predecessor, Romano Prodi, which envisages higher spending to help finance the EU's eastern enlargement last May to 25 from 15 member states.

Spain, Greece and Portugal, which have so far received the bulk of EU aid, are afraid that a smaller budget would deprive them of funds because the paymasters would like Union assistance to focus on poorer, ex-Communist member states

N.Irish store gutted in suspected firebomb attack

shop on the edge of Belfast was destroyed in a suspected firebomb attack early on Tuesday, the latest incident in an arson campaign possibly linked to Irish Republican Army dissidents in Northern Ireland.

Police said the cause of the blaze at a general store in Newtownabbey, on the outskirts of north Belfast, was still under investigation, but warned neighbouring businesses to check their premises for incendiary devices.

On Sunday night, a firebomb caused major damage at a DIY store in Lisburn, southwest of Belfast, and on Monday a partially detonated incendiary device was found by staff at anoth-

BELFAST, Dec 21 (Reuters) - A er DIY store in the province's second city Londonderry.

"All right-thinking people should be appalled by these attacks," said Assistant Chief Constables Duncan McCausland and Peter Sheridan in a joint statement.

"As the season of goodwill approaches, some elements of society are intent on causing destruction and putting lives at risk. These attacks also threaten the jobs of ordinary people in communities across Northern Ireland."

Police have so far not commented on who they suspect might be behind the attacks, but last month officers in Belfast warned a republican splinter group could be planning a pre- tinue to mount sporadic attacks.

Christmas firebomb campaign after five devices were defused at city shops.

Targeting retail businesses with homemade firebombs was a tactic developed by the mainstream IRA in the 1980s. The crude but effective devices,

typically the size of video cassette cases, are hidden on shop shelves or within stacks of clothes with a timer set to detonate after the store closes.

The IRA called a ceasefire in its campaign against British rule in 1997. paving the way for the Good Friday peace agreement the following year, but small, breakaway factions such as the Real IRA and Continuity IRA con-

Putin defends sale of YUKOS

(Reuters) - An auction of YUKOS's main oil production unit on Sunday to \$27.5 billion back-tax bill. Analysts an obscure firm registered in the Russian provincial city of Tver conformed with Russian law, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

"As far as I have been informed the auction conformed completely with current Russian law and I expect that all other activities in this area in the future will also take place according to law," Putin said at a news conference after meeting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Schleswig.

The sale of the oil production unit,

SCHLESWIG, Germany, Dec 21 to Baikal Finance Group, was ordered to raise funds to help pay YUKOS's have said Russia's No. 4 oil firm Surgutneftegaz may be behind Baikal. Putin said that as far as he knew the

shareholders of the group that bought the unit were individuals who had been involved in the energy business for many years.

"As far as we are concerned the one thing that is important is that all these business deals conform with Russian law," he added.

Asked at the news conference whether there was Chinese involvement in the auction, Putin said:

"With regard to cooperation with our Chinese partners, I can say that they really had nothing to do with this auction, although between our largest energy company Gazprom and the large Chinese energy companies there is an accord in the area of energy."

There had been some discussion that the Chinese might try to buy the YUKOS unit, but no bidder from the Asian nation emerged.

"I cannot rule out that Chinese companies will take part in any future auction of energy assets," Putin said. "On what scale should be decided by the partners but that is certainly possible."

Serb pension law

Probe finds Blunkett linked to nanny visa

BELGRADE, Dec 21 (Reuters) Serbia's parliament approved a law on Tuesday offering pension rights to former members of the World War Two Chetnik guerrilla army, which many in former Yugoslavia remember as backing the ruthless Nazi occupation.

The original Chetniks were Serb guerrillas who fought in the Balkan Wars and the First World War. Charismatic commander Draza

Mihailovic revived the units, wearing trademark full beards, to fight the Nazis in World War Two — but later changed sides

"Serbia must not enter 2005, when the world marks the 60th anniversary of the victory against Fascism ... with unpatriotic lies about General Mihailovic," said the draft bill.

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"The greater part of Serbia was with Mihailovic and supported him. A slur on the Serbia of 60 years ago is also a slur on the Serbia of today," it added.

Mihailovic, an ardent royalist, initially fought the Nazis alongside the partisan troops of Marshall (Josep Broz) Tito. But when the Allies switched their support to Tito, his Chetniks joined Axis forces to battle against their communist rivals.

The partisans emerged victorious and executed Mihailovic as a traitor. consigning the Chetnik movement to history as bloodthirsty Nazi collaborators. For almost 50 years, the word was synonymous in the Balkans with brutality and fanaticism.

The current bill was promoted by groups which say Mihailovic was a hero, demonised by communist propaganda.

The Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), the successor to Tito's communist party, opposed granting the pensions.

"One cannot deny that a significant part of the Chetnik movement collaborated with fascist Germany. To do so would be

to rewrite history," argued Zoran Andjelkovic of the SPS.

Some histories say Mihailovic's execution was part of Tito's drive to

eliminate opponents before becoming leader of the People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

But the dispute is also about raw memories of recent wars.

In the 1990s, when Yugoslavia broke up in bloody conflict, Serb paramilitary units in Bosnia and Croatia hijacked the Chetnik name and some of their insignia as symbols of Serb pride. They committed some of the war's worst atrocities.

The shock of history repeating itself has kept 60-year-old fears alive. Last month a Serb basketball player was barred from Croatia because of a tattoo of Mihailovic's face on his arm. Croatia, facing a similar dilemma after it won independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, also revised the communistsanctioned version of history.

Croatia broke with Yugoslavia in 1941 and allied itself with the Third Reich, a fact never forgotten by Serbs who suffered at the hands of ruthless pro-fascist Croat fighters.

Modern Croatia gives pensions to conscripts of the old pro-Nazi state. Observers believe some former members of the hated Ustasha paramilitary army get the pensions - giving them the same status as Tito's partisans, and now Serbia's Chetniks.

LONDON, Dec 21 (Reuters) - A special inquiry found on Tuesday that former British Home Secretary David Blunkett was linked to the fast-tracking of a visa for his ex-lover's nanny, but did not establish the reason for his involvement.

The finding left an opening for one of the country's most popular politicians to recover after resigning last week in the scandal.

Sir Alan Budd found that while Blunkett had intervened to help Kimberly Quinn's Filipina nanny Leoncia Casalme get a UK residence visa more quickly, it was not clear whether he had intended to help his lover or use the case as an example to speed up procedures in general.

"I believe that I have been able to establish a chain of events linking Mr Blunkett to the change in the decision on Ms Casalme's application for ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain)," Budd said.

"I believe there are two broad possibilities: Mr Blunkett was seeking special help for Mrs Quinn's nanny or he

was raising the case as an example of the poor performance of the IND (Immigration and Naturalisation Directorate).

"I do not have direct evidence that allows me to chose between the two possibilties," he added. His finding could allow Blunkett, 57, Britain's highest-profile blind person and a key ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair, to return to front line politics after elections expected in May, despite the scandal

Blunkett had denied abusing his office by giving special help to the nanny to get a visa more quickly, as a favour for his married ex-lover.

A separate inquiry by a parliamentary standards committee earlier found he had broken the rules by giving Quinn train tickets that are supposed only to be used by the spouses of parliamentarians for travel between London and their constituencies.

Blunkett has already apologised for that breach and has promised to repay the money.



23 December, 2004

Words of Wisdom



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

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



Yemen's warriors

very country has its warriors and defenders, they are the ones who would devote their lives to help their country develop and progress. They are the ones who are strong and courageous enough to sacrifice and give more every day to see their country one day become a wealthy and prosperous nation.

Some may thing those worriers are soldiers in the army.

Others may think they are the officers and decisionmakers.

There may be many other candidates, but in my opinion the true warriors are the elite and most qualified who continue to stay and live in their country.

I mean by this qualified people, decent businessman, and other professionals who are eligible to immigrate to the developed world.

Those people know the stake in staying in a country that is suffering from a backward educational system, a poor healthcare system, a hesitant democracy that is not moving forward, a country with a serious water shortage and potential drain of natural sources.

When I met with representatives of the Yemeni community in New York City, I felt they were relaxed, more comfortable, and enjoying a decent standard of living. They on the other hand feel pity for the Yemenis unable to live in a standard that is even close to what they have.

'We just want to know how they could survive in Yemen under such difficult circumstances?' was one of the questions raised by an expatriate who asked about his fellow Yemenis in Yemen.

There is a struggle going on in Yemen. The educated segment of Yemenis and those who are resisting pressure in the country are holding on to hope that things will improve. They are trying to enhance the quality education, the standard of living, and the overall conditions in the country.

They are the true warriors because if they leave the country, then there would no one else to bring it out of its current miseries.

They are the true challengers because they resisted temptations and willingly stayed to protect their country from the ongoing brain drain that is causing tremendous damage and putting the whole country's future at stake.

And finally, they are the true fighters for democracy because they are fighting the corrupt decision-makers who want to stay longer in power to eat away the remainder of the country's wealth. They are resisting their pressure, blackmail, harassments, and humiliation to stick by their ideals and help drive the country to safety through the hazards of this unjust era.

'I have been offered a post in a Gulf country for a salary 20 times as much as I earn now, but my conscience made me decide to stay because whenever I look into the eyes of my students who are hungry for knowledge, I feel my responsibility toward them' a prominent professor at Sana'a University told me the other day. There are still some noble people living among us. Those people may be you and I. Let's strive for a better future and never lose hope to pressure around us. Yemen can be a better place, if those warriors continue the battle... until the last survivor.

Opinion Domestic forces must unite:

Reform the only option

BY PROF. DR. ABDULAZIZ AL-TARB FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

here is a new movement towards reform undertaken by a host of intellectuals, encouraging the bashful opposition parties, which have been calling for democratic reform. The fact is that many people, whatever their thoughts are, react to every statement or call for reform. Yet, the unanswered question is when and how will this reform be achieved, and will it be

during our lifetime? After the president's speeches on the misconduct of corrupt people, one can see a great deal of candid talk in tackling issues which used to be prohibited, especially those relating to the government and public sector offices needing to reinforce the law to bring democracy, a decent life, and stable prices. The harassment, trial and detention of

journalists further complicate the dilemma of the country.

The hope to achieve reform has been fading since the 1990 Reunification. Reform represents a true approach to authority because it is managed without the participation of the opposition. Had reform been adopted, it would have saved the authority from the existing and impending predicaments. The authority and the people will pay the price as long as no action is taken towards reform.

Current conditions should be treated far from the political exaggerations of opposition parties. We should prepare ourselves for democratic unbiased elections competing with the ruling party and explaining our platforms.

Limiting unnecessary expenses such as purchasing and changing automobiles and furniture will save some money for stabilizing prices. The government should make use of increased oil prices to bring down foreign debt.

With lax controls, price rises, unemployment, and a lack of job opportunities for young graduates, the country looks fearfully at the future and many people believe that the democratic reforms have been futile.

The call for the president to resign his post as president of the ruling party, General People's Congress (GPC), and to be the president of the whole country and parties until the next elections is an indication of the desire to have free democratic elections based on the peaceful transfer of power, the separation between authorities, and ceasing transactions with the World Bank and World Monetary Fund, if they would bring sufferance, hunger and loss onto the people.

I don't claim that parties, and intellectuals will lead the democratic change movement. I am only sure that intellectuals have a significant role in such movement. Democratic forces in the form of parties or civil society organizations should expose shortcomings, violations, and corruption.

In my view, reform is an internal task to be undertaken by the citizens, and it cannot be a response to an external request, nor can it be the result of political, economic, or potentially military threats posed by the US under its Greater Middle East Initiative, the new formula of old colonialism. Domestic calls for reform can entice the ruling

mind from oppression and tyranny, and can direct the state towards holding corrupt officials accountable and purge the civil, military, and security systems.

The problems with reform in the Arab world are twofold: the current tyrannical authorities or their theorists, claim that any abrupt change would plunge the country into state like the former USSR during Gorebatcheov's Perestroika. They conclude that they should remain in their positions to guarantee the security and development of the country and counteract any external attack. Reform movements are thus quashed under the pretext that they damage stability. These authorities actually want to negotiate with foreign forces to stay in power through giving some limited concessions instead of listening to the reform movement. Reformists do not want abrupt revolutionary change.

The second issue is that reform forces are not united or stable. They are unclear about their goals for reform and appropriate strategies. There are steps in the right direction, but there are also forces with unrealistic demands.

In this situation there are two possibilities for the region, either an internal revolution or an external intervention such as that seen in Iraq. This is why it is important that reform activists generate a real movement with different programs and ideas. If internal reform is quelled, it will be necessary for foreign, even military intervention. Does anybody heed this? Do people take lessons from what is happening?

Why do not parties and NGOs change their programs and leaders before asking governments to change?



The evil of it all

hen any sovereign power decides that it is going to act on its own initiative and dictate its premonitions on any part of the world it chooses, especially without any moral or legitimate jus-

tification, then it surely should be held accountable for the consequences of its actions. The bloody mayhem in Iraq is a consequence of irrational great power belligerency based on such kind of irresponsible premonitions and is certainly not pointing to any sensible well defined objectives of any foreseeable tenor. On the contrary, Iraq is no more than a human slaughterhouse, where human life seemed to have lost any of the value that any civilized human being would place on it. How did all this happen? It is now inescapable to assume that had Iraq been spared the irrational dogmatism of irresponsible right wing American Likudniks and the irresponsible economic interests that thrive on war which backed them, it goes without saying that Iraq would not be witnessing the almost daily bloodletting of scores of innocent lives. Whether by American military might and firepower or by the barbaric gangs that have found a relatively free atmosphere in which to unleash their ever thirsty appetite for spilt blood, the senseless killing of scores of Iraqis has become an unbearable sight to any human being with any moral fabric. Nevertheless, one is bound to point all blame in the end on a misguided or even evil agenda adopted by an American Administration that has no moral suasion or conscience to convince the baffled observer that all this madness being witnessed for Iraq is good for anyone, invader or vanquished alike.

All this senseless bloodletting has no excuse whatsoever, and it is clear that the American foolish adventure in Iraq is the root cause of the death of all these innocent folks. Of course, there is no justification for any insurgency to pursue the death of the people it proposes to liberate and there is no argument that if the insurgents are indeed behind such atrocities, such as the bloody Sunday in both Najaf and Karbala, then they are simply fighting the wrong enemy. However liogic would dictate that it is indeed highly questionable that any resistance movement would take pride in killing the people it is supposedly seeking to free. Thus, can the American occupiers tell us, how such atrocities are allowed to happen so easily, without the slightest clue as to who really is behind these massacres? Can the American occupiers tell us how they can expect to be considered free from the creation of an atmosphere in which any gang can find its thirst for spilt blood quenched without any difficulty? Everyday, we are told by the occupier that the situation in Iraq is progressing and that Iraq is on the way to becoming a democratic model for the rest of the region to follow. But, the facts on the ground depict a horrible picture in Iraq beyond what words can describe and beyond what tender hearts can accommodate. There is indeed an evil force that has found comfort in Iraq, thanks to the misguided and dogmatic aspirations of a few demagogues and their backers in the military industrial complex in the United States. Iraq is today a slaughterhouse without any end in sight to the ugly letting of blood, for the advancement of the most irrational of causes that any proponents of evil would choose to follow. Yet, it is the evil premonitions of the occupier that stands to bear the most responsibility for pursuing a policy of revenge for 9/11 without clear objectives and on the wrong target. Since there was no real moral force to convince any rational human being of the logic or legitimacy of this demagogic clique that introduced the venue for any proponents of evil and madness to operate freely in Iraq, it goes without saying that the Bush Administration carries primary blame for every drop of innocent life spilled in Iraq. In fact, it is becoming ever so difficult to be convinced that indeed these demagogues in Washington actually want the situation in Iraq to be just that a slaughterhouse, because no matter what efforts are exerted by the occupier to supposedly quell the forces behind the insurrections, they are no more than a continuation of the tragic death of so many innocent lives. When will it all end? The Americans say the elections will solve all of Iraq's problems, but this is not a political fight for power in Iraq, because all power lies with the evil forces that are unleashing their material of death on the thousands of Iraqis that have no political ambition whatsoever except for a chance to live in peace. These evil forces are manifested by the occupier himself and all the incompetent military planners and administrators that are running the occupation and who have no regrets for the thousands of "collateral damage" that arises as they carry out their sloppy military work. These evil forces are also manifested by the clandestine forces that have been allowed entry by the occupier to supposedly help with the achievement of the occupier's goals. The death of sixty four innocent lives in the space of a couple of hours cannot be simply blamed on "terrorists", who are supposedly tied to a resistance movement, because there is nothing that would make such attacks commensurate with achieving the goals of a genuine quest for liberation. Even the so called "terrorists" have always rushed to announce their responsibility for the acts that they have perpetrated. However in the massacres, such as those carried out in Karbala and Najaf, one does not hear of any group taking pride in their bloody accomplishments. There is some other evil at work in Iraq that is pursuing even more discreet ambitions and probably serving the interest of other evil forces. One wonders if the occupier is fully ignorant of these forces. Whatever the case, it was the occupier who opened the door for all forms of evil to enter Iraq and in the end those poor lost souls who are victims of such madness will point their fingers at the occupier, no matter who pulled the trigger.

Ukraine crisis leads to analysis **Europe means fair play**

By Bernard Bot

Ukraine's agonizing struggle for democracy continues, Europeans wonder if the politics of princi-

L ple can ever eclipse the politics of power. Is it naive to believe that the world amounts to more than zero-sum thinking? Can Europe promote fair play in international affairs, or must it accept a new game of great power rivalry as inevitable and throw itself into the fray?

Many Europeans see themselves as champions of global fair play. But Europe's opinion of its integrity is not always shared.

One example is Russia, which is skeptical about the EU's intentions, most recently over Ukraine. That should not surprise us. The EU has expanded from six members to 25, with Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and Turkey waiting in the wings. Russia wants to know where the Union will stop. Does it plan to swallow Ukraine, Belarus, and the Caucasus? Most EU members view these as open questions, unlikely to be resolved soon. The Kremlin, however, seems to see in such vagueness a smokescreen hiding the Union's true intentions, though the recent EU-Russia summit provided an opportunity to clear the air. In a sense, critics of the EU are right: the Union may be on a quest to reshape the world in its image. Nowadays, when the EU concludes agreements with non-EU countries, it includes all sorts of stiff requirements in areas like human rights, non-proliferation, readmission of migrants, and terrorism. To countries on the receiving end, these conditions can seem like a subtle form of power politics, with Europe trying to impose its values on the world.

share with the world. These issues include democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and the environment, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the campaign against terrorism. Countries cannot expect economic and other benefits from the Union unless they meet its political standards.

But are those standards really an imposition? It looks as if the principles of fair play are increasingly embraced outside of Europe. Consider Africa, where the African Union is taking a leading role in resolving conflicts on the continent and is increasingly determined to intervene to halt aggression and assure fair play for African minorities.

Even if the results on the ground in Africa don't yet look spectacular to outsiders, the change in attitude is real. Instead of playing the Great Power Game in Africa, the EU can support Africans' own efforts and allow them to benefit from the Union's experience.

Europe's belief in fair play for all reflects its self-interest, at least in some ways, because the world's balance of power is changing. Consider the rise of China and India. The investment bank Goldman Sachs predicts that the dollar size of the Chinese economy will overtake that of Britain and Germany by 2007. India will pull ahead of France by 2020 and surpass Germany by 2023. As Asia's economies race forward, so do its political ambitions. Asians want to assume greater responsibility in the world, and it is in Europe's interest that they do, as long as they, too, respect the rules of fair play. A sense of fair play also matters within the Union. The larger the EU gets, the greater its need for coordinated and coherent policies, and the harder it becomes to rally all members around a common position. Call this the paradox of enlargement.

Britain, France, and Germany have tended to respond to this paradox by pursuing closer trilateral cooperation. Of course, there's nothing wrong with vanguard groups of members forging ahead the recent diplomatic initiative concerning Iran's nuclear program is a case in point. Indeed, every member state can be expected to cling to its right to pursue an independent foreign policy for the foreseeable future.

However, to ensure that the European whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and to guarantee fairness to all Union members, all EU states must work within the parameters of EU policy, as they have in the case of Ukraine. When they do, their efforts strengthen the legitimacy and authority of both the member states and the Union.

In a world of fair play, the flip side of rule making is compliance, and compliance may require enforcement, through economic sanctions and other non-military measures. As a last resort, the EU must even be prepared to rise to the mili-

tary defense of the values and principles it

believes are worth protecting. If Europe is

not prepared to take up arms when it

must, then its appeals for fair play will

sound to the rest of the world like mere

But if fair play is to be made global,

European initiatives should be part of

broader international efforts, involving

both like-minded partners such as the

United States and multilateral institutions.

A divisive transatlantic rivalry offers no

ethical or political basis for an enlight-

ened European approach. On the contrary,

fair play requires American power to back

Bernard Bot is Foreign Minister of

the Netherlands, which currently holds

the EU Presidency. Copyright: Project

Syndicate, December 2004.

posturing.

it up.

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Indeed, for the EU some issues are non-negotiable, because they are pillars of the European model that we seek to

The three largest member states

Letters to the Editor

Dr. Hamdani: Harmonizing ambition & intellect would like to convey L through the Yemen Times

my sincere gratitude to Dr. Ahmed Hamdani, Chairman of Al-Wattani Bank, whose ambition and intellect have

helped make tremendous progress at the bank.

Respectful treatments of clients, trustworthiness, and punctuality are just a few of

the bank on of the most reputable in Yemen and abroad. His intellect and clear his qualities that have made directives have helped the

smooth running of the bank and the introduction of the cards system increased customers' ease of use.

While I have highlighted the performance the ingenious chairman, banking is not a single-man job. The chairman with his cooperative staff, particularly the diligent banker Dr Thaer, have succeeded in making this progress possible.

He has shown wise and kind treatment to alleviate

the problems of debtors. Unfortunately not all the bank's staff are this amiable, and I would like to remind

the chairman to keep an eye on people who may somewhat hinder some of his fine efforts to enhance the reputation of the bank and that may obstruct the pace of progress and modernization. I wish him and the bank the best of luck in the future. Farouk Al-Dorafi Sana'a. Yemen



Press

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26

Main Headlines

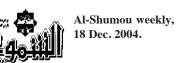
- American directive for expanding "intelligence" diplomatic presence in Yemen
- Amidst possibilities of their involvement in offering condemning evidence of al-Mouayad, Security bodies intensify their intelligence activity in banks corridors
- Yemeni in American prisons, Accused with terror because he donated money for orphans in Yemen, ignored his donations for "Bush"
- **Opposition** instigates people against the dose. Yemeni government faces acute crisis due drop in quantities of produced oil
- Following secret negotiations, -Djibouti releases Yemeni boats retained last week under accusation of smuggling
- Gang involved in Saudi Arabia explosions arrested
- Iraq resistance escalates its operations military against occupation forces
- Political empowerment of women,



Main headlines

- U.S. ambassador to Yemen makes an official visit to Amran governorate - Chief of a police station in Sanaía
- beats a citizen, - Recommendations bv the democratic forum say amendment of elections law, a necessity for the
- woman participation Teachers union demands minister of education to tackle the situation of inspectors

any kind of resistance, excluding the rebellious Muqtada al-Sadr who has been weakened lately after the battle of Karbala. Many of leaders of the Arab and Islamic world have expressed their concern over stabilization of sectarianism in Iraq in a way affecting the neighborly countries.



Main headlines

Parties Committee studies the democratic experiment, sifts partisan

Al-Sahwa weekly, 16 Dec.2004.

Main headlines

step towards comprehensive

- Appeals to sheikh Al-Ahmar for

Rare amphibian wealth in Socotra

Political parties requested to

present their suggestions on

amending election law in thirty

To be hosted by Sana'a next

measures

consulates and five-star hotels in

Italian ambassador to Yemen to

al-Tareq: Waiting for a conference

President Saleh confirms Yemen's

keenness on development of its

president

September: Yemen and Eritrea do

not need mediation, external

Al-Hittar: A fresh round of

dialogue with 499 of al-Houthi

followers and al-Qaeda affiliates

parties tried to expand schism

of Italian businessmen

relations with Malaysia

March, Arab conference

the release of al-Khaiwani

exposed to smuggling

political reform

curbing poverty

days

Security

Eritrean

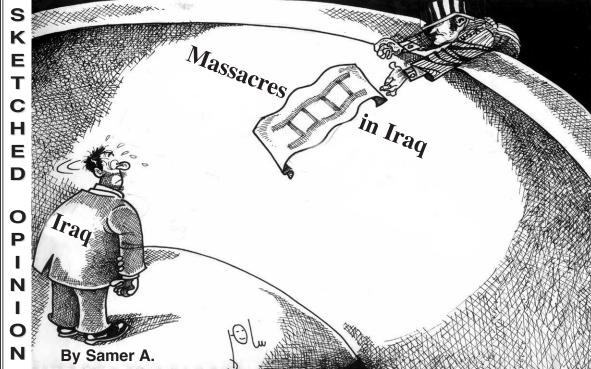
Aden

- While the committee of development and oil denied, The president gives directives to investigate into issues of oil corruption

The coming dose, a disaster against the citizen

Jaheef oil trade union threatens with strike

One million rivals worth electric



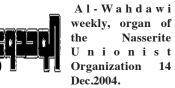
implementation of projects. All those do double their cost and sometimes we may repeat the project more than once without accountability of the one who was the cause. When the government began with the idea of effecting doses it had promised that it would be for a certain period through which economic failures would be dealt with and good health would be back to the country. It had affirmed that the citizen would entertain prosperity and development and the economy would flourish. It promised that the services would be better and job opportunities would be available as well as the rise in income. After ten years, we have returned to the starting point and now the government is starting from the beginning of the experiment. It has never tried even to rectify the mistakes and study the past experiment. The effect of successive doses is clear and means more corruption and ill implementation of projects, escalation of loans as well as their interests.



Main headlines

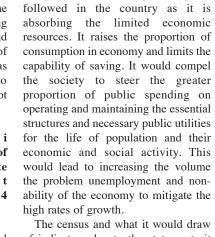
- Organizational and financial behind

However, what happened was that what is happening on the ground have nothing to do with those promises. The Zionist aggressive policy is still going on and killing the Palestinians and assassination of the leaders of resistance are in full swing as well as the invasions by the Zionist troops into the Palestinian and village have not stopped.



Main headlines Military Commander of Naqeel Yasluh kills a citizen inside his land Campaign tightening the grip against partisan and private sector newspapers

Columnist Sameer Mohammed Abdulhaq wrote an article saying the great rise of the rate population growth in Yemen amounting to 3.5% a year



of indicators due to the statements it would bear, is a great target for development. Thus, all mass media tools, political parties, organizations, and civil society organizations have to take part in the great national operation that would render into a scientific encyclopedia from which researchers would derive all information.



represents a number one impedance of comprehensive development plans

- Hood demands security for the release of a Tunisian detainee
- Due to a dispute over a piece of land, armed clashes in Ibb

Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie says in his article many observers see that the political situation in Iraq has begun to head for strongly towards stabilization of sectarianism especially during the last six months. This development began to make many Arab countries express their concern, not officially, through newspapers they sponsor and through article published in those papers. Reality has begun to crystallize and there are features of a sectarian rule suppressing the Sunnis.

The premiership of the government there supports that direction, leads this scheme through getting support from occupation armies, and supported secretly, as some observers believe, by Iraqís neighbour Iran. Some newspapers have leaked information, quoting intelligence sources, that there are a million Iranians the coalition forces permitted to enter Iraq to strengthen Iraqís Shiites in the sham elections intended to be held on January 30, despite the boycotting of the Sunnis who represent the majority of the population (around 50%) against the 40% Shiites and despite that the Shiite minority wants to control the rule in Iraq through elections.

The Shiites in Iraq try to delude the world that they represent the majority and that it is in interest of that current and that of the American occupier to support the party that supports their stay in Iraq and does not cause them

reality by expelling any of those violated national constants and the constitution

Head of customs authority exploits the minister absence to join conflict in finance ministry

In its editorial al-Shumou weekly says democracy and political pluralism remain a choice not to be squandered, as it is an inseparable part of the national unity. The spirit of democracy must remain effective and interactive in all political life structures in the Yemeni society.

This choice and achievement is a civilized means for peaceful transfer of power and the belief in othersí right to assume power. If this is also an embodiment of democracy, the attaining of power does not indicate its only meaning of assuming power but rather a complete and integrated system that should be respected by those believing init and interacted with it. We still hear every now and then from some political parties calls for taking decisions of postponement of elections and conferences of those parties. Holding those conferences and elections are a confirmation of those parties leaderships of themselves and their bases. Other than that, the postponement policy is a stress of the countdown of the legitimacy of those leaderships.

Out of our belief that any back down from the principle of democracy and embodiment of the spirit of the peaceful transfer of power, in all Yemeni political structures, is considered a violation of freedom aspired for by all Yemeni citizens.

equipment lost

Teachers union in Lahj condemns aggression on its members - In a lecture at the Yemeni center for

strategic studies, China opposed to the tendency of the use of force in international relations

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article the reasonable do plan for the future of their life and exert big efforts for the realization of their goals, but the stupid would only stop at their dreams and hopes. They hope for the improvement of their conditions but would not consider the causes and the factors or the differences among advanced states and the backward ones

Each country and each people have their crises and problems and impediments they endeavour to come out from. Those who have farsightedness would succeed even if they possess limited potentialities and hard circumstances and shortage in resources. They overcome all that by good planning and accuracy in implementation and doubling of efforts.

We in Yemen are among the developing countries and have our multilateral problems. Our conditions get sometimes worse and sometimes get better. The great crises, however, are as they are deterioration in services, limitedness in job opportunities, mismanagement, spread of corruption, increase in the area of poverty, weakness of infrastructures, industrial backwardness, food non-self sufficiency and inaccuracy in

postponement of the YSP conference Parliament asks the ministry of waters to pinpoint the responsible for environmental pollution in Sanaía

Advisor of ministry of planning: We concentrate on directing assistance of donors towards government priorities

The Italian team begins excavation for antiquities in Baraqesh

Minister of justice calls on courts to speed up consideration of cases of vengeance

- In Sanaía and Aden, Two seminars on press and free market
- Retreat in export and production of fish in the western coast

Speech ceremony on the occasion of the world day of the handicapped Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in an article that it has been said that late dent Yasser Arafat was the tumbling stone on the road of settlements and peace between the Zionist entity and the Palestinian people and that the opportunity has become convenient for the return of the two parties to the negotiating table. Moreover, some media organs have exaggerated in optimism and that a kind of understanding has lately been reached between the two parties. All those calculations proved to be unrealistic. The Jewish government that promised to provide calm and suitable atmospheres for the Palestinian elections, as some European ministers affirmed. They said they had received such promises from the Zionist government.

بمناسبة الزفاف الميمون الف مبروك مع التمنيات بحياة زوجية سعيدة كما نزف تهانينا الحارة للأخوين عمد محمد اللدم احمد محمد الليم بمناسبة عقد قرانيهما، الف مبروك وعقبي للفرحة الكبري Ilasiiou: إسماعيل حمود الشمسي، بسام أحمد السقاف جمال السويدي، إسماعيل حميد الدين. نبيل السري، عبدالله ياسر

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Business & Economy



FBusiness

<u>Farmers complain about revenues:</u> Cotton plantation in Abyan

BY ALI AL-NAQEEB YEMEN TIMES STAFF

t first glance cotton farmers in Abyan governorate seem like pearl hunters who dedicate half of their lives looking for an oyster and once they find one they surrender it to the ship owner in return for accommodation and food.

Farmers in Abyan stand between two fires: Abyan Committee on one hand and Al-Maz Company on the other one, these two parties provide the farmers with seeds and loans but when these are harvested, they claim their money leaving hardly anything for the farmers.

This is due to the monopoly in the market, which has lowered cotton's productivity and value. In other countries like Sudan, more than two million hectares are planted in just one project while in Yemen the cotton planting area is around 27 thousand hectares using ad-hoc irrigation techniques, and the Ministry of Irrigation stands helpless in the face of water scarcity and soil erosion.

Abyan Cotton has an international reputation for its good quality, flexibility and strength in comparison to other Egyptian-Sudanese hybrid cotton. However, this reputation is not sufficient for the farmer who used to receive free grants and technical support from the British government during the occupation, not for the benefit of the farmers as much as for the sake of covering the British need for cotton especially after India refused to support Britain with cotton.

Ali al-Naqeeb, Yemen Times correspondent in Abyan investigated this issue and interviewed a number of people concerned, such as head of the Agriculture Office in the province, farmers and specialists.

Several employees of the Agriculture Office refused to talk to the Yemen Times about the issue. The executive director of the Al-Maz Company also refused to answer YT questions about the role of the company in supporting the farmers, increasing the planted areas, fighting pests, and the impact of cotton winders on the inhabitants in the surrounding areas

Humami member of the employing manpower through administration board of Abyan

that date the administration board of the Committee issued a number of articles such as reforming price line and preparing for elections of the new board composed of the farmers themselves. In 2002 the new board was elected of 15 members and a number of issues were stressed regarding the Committee's nature and work such as:

- Abyan Agricultural Cooperation Committee is financially and administratively independent
- To enhance the relation with the partners and regain their trust with the Committee as a social and economic society that works for the farmers
- Increasing the cotton prices
- Distributing 50% of agricultural surplus on the farmers according to their production
- administrative Enhancing performance and using computers and internet in internal and external communication
- Searching for financial funding to buy the cotton

Regarding the relationship of the Committee with the farmers he explained that after the elections of the current administration and its initiating a number of activities the relation improved and the farmers felt the positive influence of the Committee on them. Especially that a number of achievements had been witnessed in the cotton plantation out of which:

- increasing cotton sales to 35 Yemeni Riyals per pound
- distributing 50% of the surplus cotton on the farmers according to production
- reorganising of membership granting white loans
- facilitating payment of cotton purchase to the farmers enhancing the relations with the
- farmers in the field

What are the future horizons for cotton plantation?

Cotton harvest is an ancient agricultural activity in the area. It is the only yielding harvest that grows with just one watering in up to seven months. It is important in brining in hard currency and activating local However, Mr. Saeed Awadh al- transformation industries and permanent and part-time employment. And of course it is one of the most important incomes for the farmers in the area.



administrations that would encourage long staple cotton plantation and growth and with greater benefit.

There are a number of requirements to achieve this of which are:

- Strengthening personal skills of the committee through:
- annual financial loan from the agriculture and fish fund
- establishing a modern gin instead of the outdated manual ones
- improving the administrative and planning performance and organizing the relation with the farmers democratically
- Clarifying the states agricultural strategic policies and objectives in the cotton related issues and to facilitate plantation especially in regards to Abyan Cooperative Committee
- Developing research and studies in 3cotton plantation and to professionally supervise the whole plantation process
- 4-Enhancing marketing and commercial activities in order to improve financial process
- Re-establishing the irrigation network and to construct dams and water reservoirs in cooperation with the farmers
- Improving the prevention and instruction services and to enhance the farmers awareness through the ministry of agriculture and the agricultural union and related organizations
- Providing

and the associations is a membership relation through which a lot of cooperation takes place.

What are the standards of the cotton rates and pricing and the types of seeds?

When fixing the cotton prices we take into account the cost of planting and harvesting and transportation to the weighing station which we ensured to be near and accessible to the farms. The current rate is 35 Yemeni Riyals per one pound of unprocessed cotton, in addition to an increase at end of season between 3-5 Riyals.

The types of seeds are the al-Mualim Seeds 2000 which was induced by the Yemeni Cotton scientist Dr. Abu Bakr Ahmed al-Mualim. These seeds are of good quality and we started using them in 2000, which means they are still young.

What are the social and environmental impacts of cotton as a national product?

Socially, many people benefit from the cotton plantation process starting from the seeds and ending by the marketing of product. Many families depend on this industry for a living and hence it is a tool in eradicating poverty. Environment wise, the life cycle of this plant is very beneficial for the soil as it is remains planted for more than 8 months and also the burning of the cotton trees after extracting them from the land and the

achieve a high revenue per Faddan and hence reflects on the financial status of the farmers themselves. I would like to also direct my word to the relevant authorities to implement the agricultural guidance and which is the missing link in the agricultural process in Abyan. And thanks to the Yemen Times for taking interest in the agricultural field and especially in cotton plantation.

Then we met with Mr. Omar Abdullah al-Sayari Agriculture General Director of Abyan

Why do you think the cotton fields have reduced in size?

The farmers are not able to carry out the plantation process on their own and the more they are provided with facilities from the Delta and the Bank the more they are encouraged to invest in this field. The cotton plantation depends on the water and the floods go to the sea. There is a need for a diversion mechanism to maintain the

What about the lands near Yaramis Dam which was one of the pioneer areas in this regard?

This is because the floodwaters go to waste and are not utilized properly, the establishment of Hassan Dam will allow the area to regain its activities and produce more

What measure did you take regarding the drought problem?

Our work is limited to instructing and guidance to the well owners as to how to use their water in an optimum way and how to improve their farming with the least costs.

Which authority decides the path line of floods and how they run?

Currently there is no controlling authority and we are working on establishing an irrigation instruction administration that would make decisions and prevent the wasting of water to the sea.

Is there a defined or limited area for cotton plantation?

No, the farmer decides what he wants to grow and the market decides the prices and rates.

Do you provide support to cotton plantation?

the Yemeni Rial Currency Buying Selling

Exchange Rate for

US Dollar	185.3500	185.5500				
Sterling Pound	356.8800	357.2700				
Euro	247.3800	247.6400				
Saudi Rial	49.4200	49.4800				
Kuwaiti Dinar	628.9200	629.6000				
UAE Dirhem	50.4700	50.5200				
Egyptian Pound	29.8700	29.9000				
Bahraini Dinar	491.6400	492.1700				
Qatari Rial	50.9100	50.9700				
Jordanian Dinar	261.4200	261.7100				
Omani Rial	481.4200	481.9400				
Swiss Franc	161.3900	161.5700				
Swedish Crown	27.5300	27.5600				
Japanese Yen	1.7835	1.7854				
Source: Central Bank of Yemen						

What is the role of research in improving cotton plantation?

After the revolution, the state took interest in developing and improving agricultural industries as the field crops department started its first program for production of long staple cotton through creating pure lines with high production and good quality. Through this program Caiple 138 line and other production lines such as 266, 227 and others.

Currently we substituted Caiple 138 with al-Mualim 2000 line which was generalized in the time of its inventors death Dr. al-Mualim and is now planted instead of the long staple type Code 4 and which was in production until 1999-2000.

The crops section carries out researches on both medium and long staple cotton in planting and growing stages and this is done through various environments in the country. Currently we are working on improving the quality of the medium and long staple cotton through using Gama rays and creating a new line that is higher in production and better in quality and yields in a shorter time while is more resistant to the pests. The department is also supervising a program for increasing seeds of both medium and long staple in order to produce pure seeds and not genetically mixed and through this the state would no longer need to import seeds from abroad and lose hard currency. The ministry is taking great interest in this program.

How does this program operate?

We have four waves: the bread, breading seeds, basic seeds and approved seeds) the field crops department in close cooperation with the technical team of breading association -Abyan Branch are working on finalizing the waves for the basic and approved seeds.

What are the difficulties in cotton plantation?

There are many, such as pests and infecting weeds, weak irrigation and soil erosion and also the lack of equipments in addition to financial barriers such as the high costs of

Committee who talked about the Committee and its relation with cotton plantation as he said:

"It started with the retreat of British influence in India and Egypt and they transferring attention to Aden which was made a British Middle East Base. In 1943 the Abyan project in al-Koud Area was established and was developed later to become al-Koud Agricultural Research Center. In 1946 long staple cotton was introduced and Abyan Committee and the Research Center were seen then as attached establishments. Between 1948 and 1949 cotton plantation took a commercial dimension in order to compensate for the loss of Sudan, Egypt and India cotton production. In that time, the Abyan Committee presented the Abyan's Delta farmers' interests being a public establishment. British expertise and directors supervised the Committee in addition to an administration board composed of members of the two Sultanates then: al-Fadhiliya and Costal Yafi'e. The Abyan Committee's Law issued in 1961 organized the administrative, agricultural and legal affairs of the Committee. After independence from the British occupation the Committee continued its work and was transformed into a public institution by the Minister's cabinet decree in April 2000 and which was concerned with returning the ownership of the Committee to the local farmers in Abyan.

This was welcomes with high spirits from the farmers who considered the return of the Committee to their ownership a victory and an achievement of the government. Since

There are managerial, technical, financial and natural obstacles such as:

- weak organized managerial, technical and marketing planning of cotton plantation
- the agricultural operations do not follow the best standards in selection of land, irrigation, fertilization, thinning, gap-filling, weeding and protection.
- Absence of effective instructions and agricultural guidance and their link with research
- High price of inputs to the agricultural operation such as labor, fertilizers...etc
- Absences of facilities and incentives for the farmers
- Deterioration of the irrigation network especially in the lower part of the Delta
- Difficulty in availing financial funding for buying cotton from farmers
- High price of cotton gin
- Mishandling of committee's property and distributing it to other official institutions

The only means to overcome these obstacles will be through the enabling of the Abyan Committee especially financially through the integrated work of various stakeholders such as the government, private and public institutions and cooperations. The idea to establish institutional is organizations with successful managerial, marketing and technical

requirements in reasonable prices and facilitating the access to these requirements

8- Returning the properties and lands of the committee to the people in charge or to the state or to compensate them

What is the relation between the committee and the agricultural societies? And what is the impact of the committee on the agricultural services?

Mr. Nasir Jubran head of Abyan Committee responded that Abyan's committee was the administrative and organizational framework for agriculture. It was a complete system for the agricultural processes such as irrigation, land engineering, and research. And since the farmers are considered the pillar of the agricultural communities then the Abyan's Committee after its return according to the cabinet of ministers decree number 96 for the year 2000, hence the basic system of the committee was established and the board of directors as well as the monitoring unit. Therefore the committee is considered the overall framework under which the various agricultural societies and associations. Also the relationship between the committee and the various associations is organized every year through agreements contracted with the farmers in the beginning of every cotton season. And accordingly the committee presents facilities and white loans with no interest, as well as seeds and participates in supervising the plantation and the protection of plants from pests. Therefore you can say the relation between the committee

two months resting period given to this land (which is known as the closed season) is an important factor in reviving the soil. Moreover efficient planting and growing helps the land and increases the production.

Are there studies or projects that aim at improving cotton plantation? Cotton is a strategic plant as it yields the state's treasury with hard currency. The government set a national strategy to improve plantation and gin of cotton between 2002-2012 and defined the roles and responsibilities of relevant authorities. We in the Abyan Committee agreed with the general establishment for textile and fabrication to establish a new gin that depends on advanced technologies. If this is achieved it would be one of our foundation infrastructure in cotton plantation and an achievement in the national strategy of this product.

What is the reason behind the decrease in the cotton plantation areas?

Cotton is one of those plants that are irrigated by rainfalls and floods. The scarcity of the water influences the cotton plantation negatively just like it does with most of the other crops. Digging underground tube wells and providing facilities to the farmers in this fields would lead to improving the scene and we hang many hopes on the building of Hassan Dam which will lead to increasing the farms and the underground water percentage.

Finally I would like to direct these words to the farmers that they must take good care in the planting process and prepare the land well so as to

There is an unlimited support from the ministry and evidence to that is our campaigns to cotton protection from pests and agricultural insects.

What are your future plans to improving cotton plantation?

We have great ambitions and with the human power and cooperation of efforts we will cause a distinguished leap.

Meeting Masood Saleh a farmer from the area said:

I regret planting cotton and I feel I should have grown chilies or almonds instead.

Why so?

Because cotton planting is expensive and we do not receive any support and when we take it for weighing and selling in the harvest season they take most of its worth because of the loans and we return with almost nothing.

Was it like this in the past?

In the British days things were much better, and even during the revolution but today it's really hard.

So what do you want to convey to the concerned authorities?

I want them to deal with us as was during Britain's days. It was them who introduced the crop and if the authorities today don't do anything about it we will leave this plant and seek more beneficial crops.

We also met with Dr. Ahmed Nasr Saleh specialist in plant and seeds production in the field crops and a general supervisor in the production and multiplying of seeds program.

inputs such as the fertilizers and seeds and chemicals and in many times even if available they are not effective.

What are the types of cotton planted in Abyan?

Abyan is distinguished for its long staple cotton which has a high reputation internationally for its flexibility, softness, length and strength, it comes at par with the Sudanese and Egyptian cottons although it is a hybrid line from them.

Farmer Mabad Jabr talked about the support and subsidizing for cotton plantation:

We used to received loans from Braitain and after the revolution we used to get white loans but now the loans break our backs

Are you enthusiastic about planting cotton ? Not currently

Why not?

Because we don't receive support and we live out of the land's income and we can not afford to plant a crop that would not yield much

What do you ask for from the concerned authorities?

We want to be supported like in the past because the loans today are not enough and we can't pay them

concluding Finally, this investigative report, we take this report as an eye opener and hope that cotton does not extinct from our lands and that the authorities would do something to revive the old glory of Abyan Cotton.

Culture

Zabeed outside the international heritage register



e danger threatening Zabid Town has taken the interest of researchers, academics and experts, leading to arguments at a national symposium on preserving historical Yemeni towns.

The three-day symposium that was concluded at Hodeidah University on Dec. 16, contributed by 35 scientific personalities, academicians, researchers, and those interested who seem to be semi desperate in the eyes of some of those interested ; the purpose of which is nullifying the must or the quittance from taking any surprising severe decision towards a town with no guilt except that it has suffered negligence for longer time, as a result of which, has fallen under the International Heritage by 1993 and enrolled as under risk, after it was as an enlightening center for the Peninsula and its surroundings by its holders of science and knowledge cressets. Meanwhile, some others look at it as a step that deserves attention and appreciation, which disclose the true intentions attempting to rescue the town from danger of random practices threatening by architectural, cultural and original historical features extinction, although it has come up later than it is supposed to be.

But the resolutions and the recommendations that the participants had come out with were the final leading to conclude the argument by the decisions which have been taken, most important of which is the decision and the implementation of the architectural preservation plan for the town, the hastening in issuing preservation law for the historical towns, and to establish a

technical specializing unit to implement participants have agreed to describe it as a preservation plan called Culture Home, critic. support and develop Preservation Fund in Zabid, and re-practicing the support of

maintenance projects and the supported housing project specimen, taking into historical Zabid town as being the most important and sacred original Islamic architecture signs, as the Historians say. In the homes and traditional crafts. addition, there is a call for conducting a study on all types of building violations and a budget to facilitate its implementation, entrusting local councils with this task. It is recommended to benefit from an experiment carried out in old Sana'a regarding the removal of smaller and less serious violations.

The recommendations did not brush aside the necessity of beginning the project on revival of the city's old market, in accordance with previous studies in addition to continued support for renovation projects of historical buildings and houses with distinguishable styles, operation of all traditional local bricks (yajoor) industry and to support projects reviving traditional professions. Recommendations also called for building a textile industry factory and activation of non-governmental organisations in this regard

Decisions and Recommendations were the product of over three days discussions (14, 15, and 16/12/2004). Discussions reviewed a number of important working papers tackling five premises on value and importance of the city's heritage, preserving that heritage, local and international strategies and efforts for preservation. However, those papers had surpassed topics of the symposium to talking about meetings of and subjects dealt with by the symposium organised by the GOPHCY, in association with the World Heritage Center of UNESCO.

the current status of the town which the



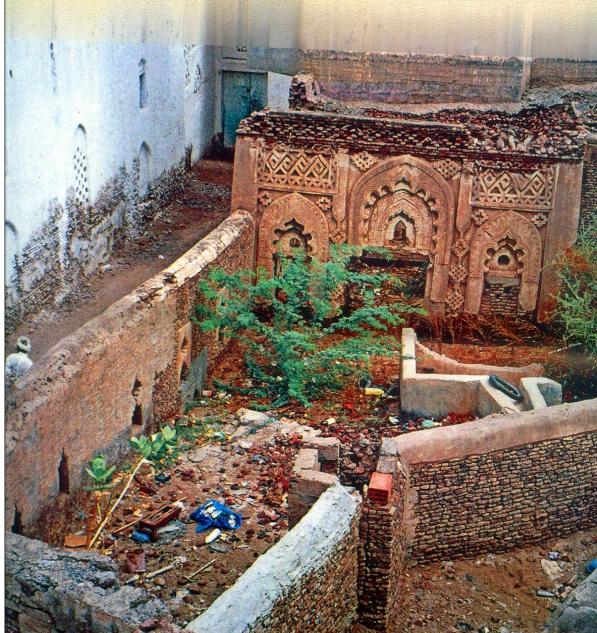
The most prominent of such points is its economic and social status and the extent of its connection to the development plans and the mechanism of preserving the consideration the characteristic of the historical town in addition to detailed matters related to the heritage, the architecture, the antiquities, the transcripts,

> The papers, which were presented during the five symposium works sessions, split it by each other in presenting analytical visions and other evaluating processes could succeed in becoming aware of many sides, which enlightened the path before the means and methods of possible

Preservation and stopping the available possibilities

The people of the area contribution, the local councils, and the social and economical events in the symposium works disclose the social and economical fact and the means of its treatment in a way serving the preservation of the town. Expressing words were uttered during the sittings, on the truth of serious intentions in rescuing Zabid town by the government side whereto the Minister of Culture & Tourism has ascertained the Ministry's intention and preparedness in participating side by side with those who like Zabid, by presenting material and moral support as per planned and prepared studies to be done and participated by the whole events and concerned authorities taking into consideration that the visit to Zabid is an important chapter of the town rescue history.

From his point, Mr. Francisco Bandrin, the Director of World Heritage Center at UNESCO, has determined the basic axis that the organization depends on in preserving the historical towns further to Essential and delicate matters related to the world campaigns calling for preserving the landmarks, and the world conferences, the pacts and agreements with the member countries in this direction, pointing out in this respect that Yemen has become fully prepared to sign the oral and cultural heritage pact, meanwhile, the nation official in preserving the historical towns has provided three main axis must be adopted to achieve the balancing among each other e.g. the availability of the political, economical and cultural management, whereas the rest of the words uttered by the Chairman of (GOPHCY), Doctor Abdullah Zaid Eissa, and the Governor for the efforts paid by the Governorate and the Authority for preserving the historical towns and its original architectural heritage. Doctor Abdullah Zaid has determined the goals of the symposium i.e. the taking of effective practical decisions for preserving the town announcing some of the procedures taken by the Authority, most important of which is the review of the law on historical towns, and the issuance of Zabid town general plan, beginning of next week, and to agree with the Minister of Public Works and the Highway to maintain the task of removing the concrete poles in it (Zabid).



The remains of a wonderfully built piece of art juxtaposed be side garbage in its yard. This should prompt the concerned people to act.

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

"Federal Benefit Claims Representative"

The position is located in the Consular Section, American Embassy, Sana'a. This is the expert level for Federal Benefits Claims Representative. The incumbent will be responsible for developing and processing the full range of the most difficult, complex, federal benefits claims work which frequently requires comprehensive investigations to determine initial and continuing benefit eligibility.

The incumbent prepares and submits complete and authoritative final adjudication packages to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for final action. Although the most exten-

A historic baked-brick gate, one of the evidences of the great past of the city

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Health

12 23 December, 2004 Mobile phone radiation harms DNA

The so-called Reflex study, conducted by 12 research groups in seven European countries, did not prove that mobile phones are a risk to health but concluded that more research is needed to see if effects can also be found outside a lab.

The \$100 billion (51 billion pound) a year mobile phone industry asserts that there is no conclusive evidence of harmful effects as a result of electromagnetic radiation.

About 650 million mobile phones are expected to be sold to consumers this year, and over 1.5 billion people around the world use one.

The research project, which took four years and which was coordinated by the German research group Verum, studied the effect of radiation on human and animal cells in a laboratory.

After being exposed to electromagnetic fields that are typical for mobile phones, the cells showed a significant increase in single and double-strand DNA breaks. The damage could not always be repaired by the cell. DNA carries the genetic material of an organism and its different cells.

"There was remaining damage for future generation of cells," said project leader Franz Adlkofer.

This means the change had procreated. Mutated cells are seen as a possible cause of cancer.

The radiation used in the study was at levels between a Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of between 0.3 and 2 watts per kilogramme. Most phones emit radio signals at SAR levels of between 0.5 and 1 W/kg.

SAR is a measure of the rate of radio energy absorption in body tissue, and the SAR limit recommended by the International Commission of Non-Ionising Radiation Protection is 2 W/kg. The study also measured other harmful effects on cells.

Because of the lab set-up, the researchers said the study did not prove any health risks. But they added, "The genotoxic and phenotypic effects clearly require further studies ... on animals and human volunteers."

Adlkofer advised against the use of a mobile phone when an alternative fixed line phone was available, and recommended the use of a headset connected to a cell phone whenever possible.

"We don't want to create a panic, but it is good to take precautions," he said, adding that additional research could take another four or five years.

Previous independent studies into the health effects of mobile phone radiation have found it may have some effect on the human body, such as heating up body tissue and causing headaches and nausea, but no study that could be independently repeated has proved that radi-



Radio waves from mobile phones harm body cells and damage DNA in laboratory conditions, according to a new study majority-funded by the European Union, researchers say. REUTERS

ation had permanent harmful effects. None of the world's top six mobile phone vendors could immediately respond to the results of the study.

In a separate announcement in Hong Kong, where consumers tend to spend

more time talking on a mobile phone than in Europe, a German company called G-Hanz introduced a new type of mobile phone which it claimed had no harmful radiation, as a result of shorter bursts of the radio signal.

Acupuncture Improves Osteoarthritis, **Trial Shows**

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) -Acupuncture added to conventional therapy for osteoarthritis of the knee improves function and reduces pain, according to a clinical trial conducted at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

"We now have a result that suggests, in the largest, longest and most rigorously conducted study of acupuncture ever, that we have a new (add-on) therapy for millions of patients with degenerative arthritis," Dr. Stephen E. Straus, director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, said at a press conference.

The study, led by Dr. Brian M. Berman and reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine, involved 570 patients with moderate to severe osteoarthritis, all of whom continued with their prescription treatments.

They were also assigned to 23 sessions of traditional Chinese acupuncture or sham non-piercing acupuncture over the course of 26 weeks, or to a control group that received 6 twohour education sessions over 12 treatment related."

After eight weeks, participants in the true acupuncture group had a 10.77-point improvement in a standard osteoarthritis function score, significantly greater than those in sham acupuncture group (7.84-point improvement) or the education-only group (5.30 points).

After 26 weeks, both pain and function scores were significantly more improved in the true acupuncture group than in the sham group.

At the press conference, researcher Dr. Marc C. Hochberg said that "the maximum improvement in the sham group was about 30 percent in terms of calculated pain score and also the calculated score on functional impairment." In the true acupuncture group, the improvement was "between 40 percent and 45 percent in both pain and function scores."

Moreover, added Dr. Berman particularly in light of recent news about arthritis drugs - "there were very few adverse events reported, none on which was thought to be

A leading oil services sector company is seeking to recruit for its office in Sana'a a Supply Chain Officer whose responsibilities will include the following:

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 - Demonstrated skills negotiating with suppliers, writing contracts and interacting with senior management.

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) -People gearing up for an indulgent holiday feast may want to make time for some pre-meal exercise. A small study out Monday suggests that a long walk before a fatty meal can lessen the effects of high fat intake on blood vessel function.

Eating high-fat foods is known to transiently elevate levels of blood fats such as triglycerides, and recent research has shown that a rich meal can also temporarily impair the functioning of the lining of blood vessels-called the endothelium.

The new study, published in the December 21st issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, suggests that moderate exercise can blunt these effects in both thin and obese middle-aged men.

chocolate and a whopping 80 grams of fat — under two conditions on separate days. In one condition, the men spent 90 minutes walking on a treadmill the day before the meal; in the other, they had their meal after an exercise-free day.

The researchers found that the men's post-meal triglyceride levels rose to a lesser degree when they exercised before the meal. Moreover, their blood vessel function - specifically, the dilation of small vessels in the forearm in response to increased blood flow was better when compared with the noexercise condition.

"Our results do suggest that exercise can help to lessen the potential adverse effects of fatty meals on blood vessel

University of Glasgow in the UK. There was a general decrease in blood vessel function after the fatty meal, whether the men exercised or not, Gill and his colleagues found. The impairment was less pronounced, however, when the meal came after a long walk.

Past research has shown that high-fat meals, but not low-fat ones, can temporarily dampen normal blood vessel dilation. The concern, according to Gill's team, is that if these post-meal effects are repeated daily over time, there will be consequences for a person's long-term cardiovascular health.

Gill said the average person downs

potential damage to blood vessel function – and offer another possible reason for why exercise improves heart health.

It's not clear exactly how pre-meal exercise countered the effects of the fatty meal. According to Gill, activity may help by lowering blood fat levels and giving fat particles less opportunity for "interacting" with the vessel walls, or by giving a boost to blood flow that can last for hours afterward.

The study, funded by the British Heart Foundation, included 10 normalweight men and 10 obese men. For the exercise condition, they walked at a moderate pace for 90 minutes. According to Gill, shorter exercise sessions may also be helpful for blood vessel function, since the researchers previously found that 30 minutes of activity can lower post-meal blood fat levels.

function," Dr. Jason Gill, the study's lead author, told Reuters Health.

about 70 to 100 grams of fat per day, which indicates that their blood fats are But that's not to say that people who elevated for the majority of the day, The 20 men in the study ate a rich exercise regularly have a license to every day. The new findings suggest meal - featuring whipped cream, indulge, according to Gill, of the that regular exercise can curb the

Experience: Minimum of 2 years of experience in strategic sourcing and purchasing/procurement functions, particularly at large organizations.

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Executive Bureau of Medical Doctors & Pharmacists Syndicate

Exercise before fatty meal

may curb bad effects

BY HASSON AL-ZAYDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he executive bureau of the Medical Doctors and Pharmacists Sydnicate held a press conference at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate centre in Sana'a, last Monday. The General Secretary, Dr. Yehia al-Huraiby, has disclosed the status and suffering the Yemeni doctors and the official attempts aiming at marginalizing the Syndicate. He says that the Syndicate had not conducted any elections between unification and August 2004, but that this conference was attended by 82 per cent of the doctors.

A member of the Executive Bureau, Dr. Muhammad al-Shamiry disclosed the situation that the Syndicate faces, saying "we are existing by the law force represented by the legal results. If there is any other theorem asking for some body else, we are fully prepared

comes up through a royal order passed towards this sector, we strongly revoke it, as we are the highest peak in the community and are not followers of a Shiekh or a military commander. We are not royal furniture transferable from a person to another."

He added, "the Authorities have to cease improper attempts which are trying to absorb and marginalize the civil society organizations. As well, we demand the implementation of the Law No. (26) para (4) issued in 2002, concerning the doctors cadres."

Mr. al-Shamiry says that Yemen's health status is 150th in the world, and that meanwhile, what is spent on healthcare is not less than seven per cent of the national budget, despite that the health is most significant sector in the community.

He says that there is also significant immigration of Yemeni doctors to Gulf countries and that there are only 3953 doctors currently in the country. These

to quit from the Syndicate. But, if that doctors receive approximately four per their being sufficient numbers of cent of the state's income whereas the medical services revenue approximately YR27 billion per annum. He added too that the state is spending approximately YR1.2 billion per annum on oreign doctors despite same period.

capable local doctors. Furthermore, a Yemeni doctor receives about \$U\$100 per month, while lowest ranking doctor in Sudan, a poorer country, makes between \$U\$300 - 350 in the

شكر وعرفان

أتقدم بالشكر الجزيل للأستاذ/ أحمد قاسم العنسى مدير عام هيئة مستشفى الثورة العام وأخص مركز الكلى بجميع منتسبيه من أطباء وصحيين لما قاموا به من جهد وحسن رعاية وإهتمام أثناء رقود إبنى جمال لغرض الغسيل، كونه يعانى من فشل كلوي مزمن.

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Sports

Spanish FA fined for racist abuse

(Reuters) - The Spanish Football Federation was fined 100,000 Swiss francs (45,050 pounds) for the racist chanting of its fans at the friendly match against England in Madrid in November.

World ruling body FIFA announced the punishment on Tuesday following a meeting of its disciplinary committee.

Several black England players were subjected to monkey noises and other abusive chants from the crowd during their 1-0 defeat at the Bernabeu stadium on November 17.

The punishment also took into

account racist abuse at the under-21 match the previous evening.

FIFA, which has adopted a strong anti-racism stance, warned in a statement that any repeat of the racist behavior could result in them playing behind closed doors or expulsion from one or several FIFA competitions.

The Spanish Football Federation is also investigating the behaviour of national team coach Luis Aragones after his controversial comments about Arsenal's black French player Thierry Henry and England's colonial past before the match.



The Spanish Football Federation was fined 100,000 Swiss francs (45,050 pounds) for the racist chanting of its fans at the friendly match against England in Madrid in November. England player Ashley Cole (R) looks at Spanish player Miguel Angel Angulo (L) during the friendly international match at the Bernabeu Stadium. REUTERS

Zajec takes Portsmouth manager's job

Zajec, 48, joined the south-coast Premier League club last month as an executive director, a move that prompted Redknapp to quit on November 24. Redknapp has since been appointed manager of Portsmouth's local rivals Southampton.

Zajec will be manager "for the foreseeable future", Portsmouth's Serbianborn chairman Milan Mandaric said on Tuesday. The Croat signed a 3-1/2year contract when he joined the club

"That is one step which is very important for us.

"In the long term ... I hope one day we will play in Europe." Tactical organizer

Portsmouth lie 12th in the league having won promotion to the top flight two seasons ago.

Zajec and Jordan have been in charge of the team since Redknapp's acrimonious departure and Mandaric said: "The combination has worked very well and both men are happy with the situation so that makes me happy. "To be honest even after the first couple of weeks Velimir was my first choice because he proved in that time there is no better tactical organiser and motivator. "The only problem I thought we might have was persuading him to take on the role since we originally bought him in to oversee all of the playing side from top to bottom." At the weekend former Southampton manager Gordon Strachan ruled himself out of the running for the Fratton Park job.



A percentage of the profits from Album sales will go to support Yemenis.

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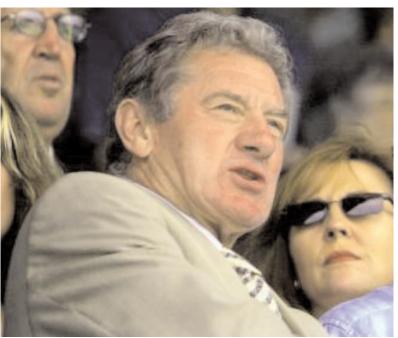
in November.

The ex-Yugoslavia captain and Dinamo Zagreb player is a former director of football at Greek club Panathinaikos, for whom he also played.

Former Scotland striker Joe Jordan will remain in his present role as assistant coach.

Zajec said his immediate priority would be to ensure Portsmouth remained in the top flight.

"We need to be sure that we do not drop out of the Premier League," he told a news conference at the club's training ground.



Portsmouth have named Croat Velimir Zajec as their manager, filling the post made vacant by Harry Rednapp. Club chairman Milan Mandaric is shown in a file photograph.

యైరి దారిట్లినో కొస్తిన అత్పిక్ర కట్నుకొ గిహారామైకొ •Y/T•TVY7_•T/0•T•TT

Sport / Fun Page



Yemen, a one-point team

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the 16th Gulf Championship held last year in Kuwait, Yemen drew with Oman in the Opener to grasp a single point. But the following games with Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE, the Yemeni national football team suffered four successive defeats . During that competition, Yemen scored only a single goal that is the equalizer against Oman.

The history repeats itself. In this year's Gulf Championship Yemen scored only one goal that is the equalizer with Bahrain in the opener. To resume its original identity, the team reaped one point and returned home. After that Yemen met Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and lost 0-2 to the former and 0-3 to the latter.

At a press conference staged after the play with Kuwait, Algerian coach Rabeh Sa'adan , explained to the media that the primary goal behind our participation in Doha is conveying a positive picture about the Yemeni football with the minimum loss. He added that the technical staff wanted the team to offer a more convincing performance than it did in the 16 the Gulf Championship under



Yemen's national sport team.

the coach Milan.

Sa'adan's answer is logical and this is what distinguished him from other coaches in the Gulf Championship. He pointed out that the team appeared better than its Kuwaiti counterpart, particularly in the first half. However the lack of experience and discipline among Yemeni footballers helped change the result of the encounter in favor of

the Kuwaiti team. Kuwait's soccer team exploited the mistakes committed by the Yemeni defense to score three goals and guarantee qualification for the

semifinals. Concerning the unconvincing performance of the Yemeni players while playing against Saudi Arabia, Sa'adan told pressmen that certain technical policies were adopted by

move to the final Monday Dec.20- Oman defeated the game time through a corner kick, Bahrain 3-2 and Qatar won 2-0 over Kuwait in the semifinals to advance

In the 17-th Arabian Gulf's Semifinals

Oman & Qatar

to the final encounter. In the first half of the game, Oman proved control and possession of the ball better than Bahrain. The Omani players waged several recurrent offensives, which yielded a goal in minute 42 of the game time through skilled striker Emad Al-Hawsari.

The second half opened with a second goal for Oman through Badr Al-Maimani after exploiting a mistake of a Bahraini player, but only one minute after, Mohammad Jalal scored the first goal for Bahrain. Bahrain equalized in minute 77 of

the staff and every play has its own conditions. When determining the plan, the importance of the opponent should be taken for granted.

Regarding the future of the national football team, Sa'adan said "when the football season starts and adequate stability is provided we will be able to create harmonious and strong

but in minute 81, Emad Al-Hawsari scored for Oman to end the encounter with Oman 3-2 ahead.

In the meeting combining Qatar and Kuwait, the former went ahead in minute 41 of the first half through its striker Sayyed Basheer. The first half witnessed numerous yellow cards due to obstructions committed by both sides.

The game concluded with a penalty shot through which forward player Nasser Kalil added the second for Qatar to increase his side's advantage to two goals.

Through its 2-0 win, Qatar deserves to play the final game with the Omani giant.

team. My declaration prior to the championship that the team will rank last was not a kind of optimism. rather it stemmed from my adequate knowledge of the players' abilities."

The Kuwaiti Coach acknowledged that his side suffered from the continued pressure exerted by Yemen over his defense players.





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Ronaldinho, world player of the year

Dec 20 (Reuters) - Following is a fact box on Ronaldinho, named FIFA World Player of the Year 2004 on Monday:

1980 - Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, March 21. Full name Ronaldo Assis de Moreira. Brother Roberto Assis is a former Brazilian international.

1997 - Top scorer at the under-17 world championship in Egypt.

1998 - Makes professional debut with local team Gremio, playing five games.

1999 - Plays first game for Brazil against Latvia on June 26. Wins Copa America with Brazil, scoring his first international goal against Paraguay. Has won 34 cups for Brazil, scoring 13 goals to date.

2000 - Top scorer in the Confederations Cup with six goals.

2001 - Signs for Paris St German on a five-year contract. Moves to Paris in March but starts playing only at the beginning of the 2001-2002 season in August after a pro-

f you decide you want to

get out and have some fun

tracted legal battle between PSG and Gremio over the transfer fee. Gremio receive \$4.5 million for the player.

2002 - Wins the World Cup with Brazil. One of the best players in the tournament, scores a spectacular 35metre lob against England in the quarterfinals.

2002-2003 - Resumes playing with PSG late after recovering from the World Cup. His relationship with coach Luis Fernandez deteriorates despite occasional brilliant performances and his tally of eight goals.

2003 - Makes it clear he hopes to leave PSG after they fail to qualify for European competition. His brother and now agent Roberto Assis starts negotiations with Manchester United. Barcelona enters the fray with an offer for the Brazilian.

July 19 - Ronaldinho signs a five-

53

(Jun 21 - Jul 22) You may be questioning your future and what you've been doing in the



Barcelona's Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho has been named FIFA World Player of the Year. Ronaldinho gestures after scoring against Valencia during their Spanish first division match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona.

REUTERS

October 15 - Scores a brilliant hat

trick as Barcelona crush Slovak side Puchov 8-0 in the UEFA Cup.

Taiz, the forgotten city

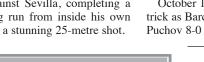
BY AHMED ZAID TAIZ BUREAU

Taiz is the dreaming city and it will be so. It is true that Taiz is the city with larger population and it is

Daily by Nashwan Dahan suggesting the dismissal of all youth of the city and involving them in the teams of the other cities as what happened in the latest champi-

draw against Sevilla, completing a year contract with Barcelona. September 2 - Scores his first slaloming run from inside his own league goal for Barcelona in the 1-1 half with a stunning 25-metre shot. THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY **BY Eugenia**

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You will take everyone by storm if you present your ideas for the future. You



(Dec 22 - Jan 19) Don't leave anything to chance. You may be

about you

chance.

confused

Ends his first season with Barca with 14 league goals, inspiring the team to a 17-game unbeaten run that lifts them to second place in the

Primera Liga. July 2004 - Like Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos is rested for the Copa America and misses Brazil's title triumph.

Scores a hat trick in Brazil's 6-0 friendly international win over Haiti in August. Struggles early in Spanish season

Nov 2004 - Scores a stunning last-

gasp winner in Barcelona's 2-1 vic-

tory over AC Milan at the Nou

Inspires Barcelona to a 3-0 win

alongside Andriy

over archrivals Real Madrid at the

Shevchenko and Thierry Henry on

the three-man shortlist for the 2004

December 20 - Named World

I read an article in Al-Jumhuriah

Camp in Champions League.

World Player of the Year.

Player of the Year.

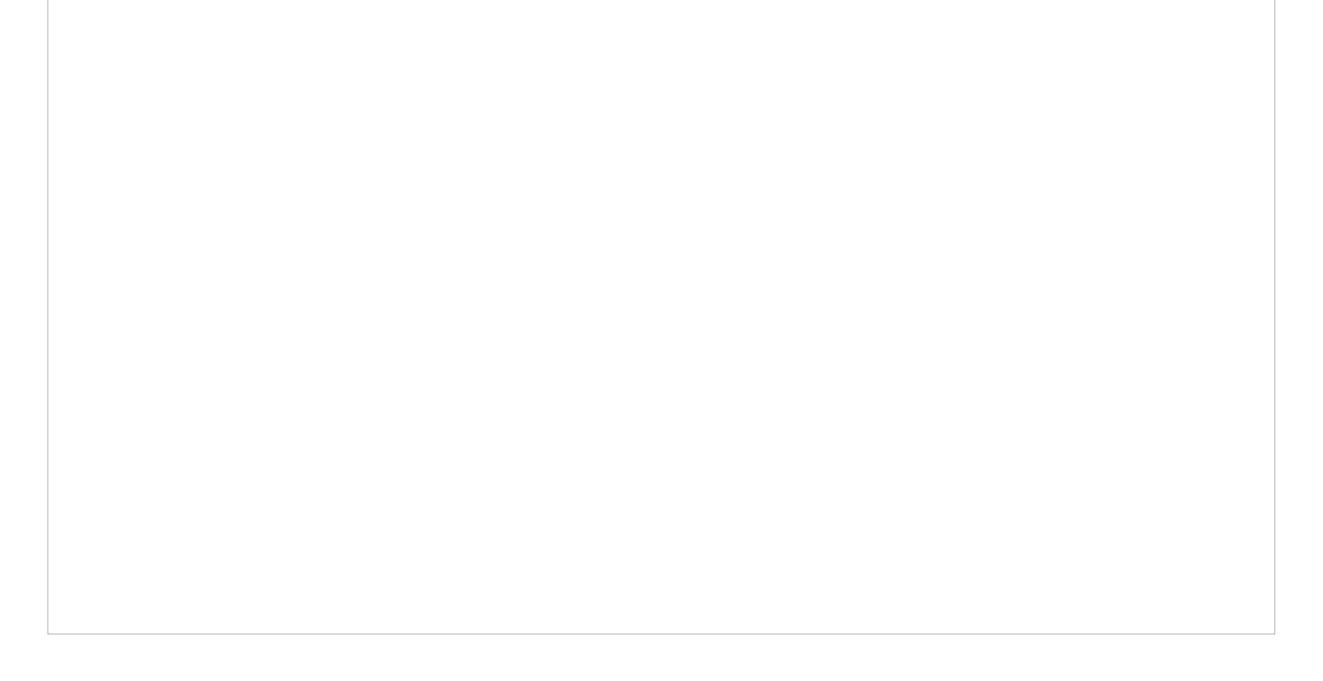
with an ankle injury.

Nou Camp.

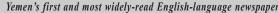
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS PAGE









Poll shows majority of Americans think Iraq war mistake



An archive photo showing demonstrators dressed as U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (L) and U.S. President George W. Bush for the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Poll numbers indicate that an increasing number of Americans think the war on Iraq was a mistake. Rumsfeld is in particular suffering from the worse reputation and percentage of endorsement by the American public since he took office as the Secretary of Defence more than four years ago. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (Xinhuanet) - A solid majority of Americans believe, for the first time, that the war in Iraq was a mistake and most people believe Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld should lose his job, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll published Tuesday.

While a slight majority believe the Iraq war contributed to the long-term security of the United States, 70 percent of Americans think these gains have come at an "unacceptable" cost in military casualties, the poll shows.

This led 56 percent to conclude that, given the cost, the conflict in Iraq was "not worth fighting, " an eight-point increase from this summer, and the first time a decisive majority of people have reached this conclusion.

The poll was published hours before 22 people were killed and 51 wounded in a blast near a joint US-Iraqi military base near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday.

The poll shows that 53 percent of Americans disapproved the work performance of Rumsfeld and 52 percent said he should not stay on during Bush's second-term.

Rumsfeld has been under intensified criticism for his handling of the war in Iraq as security situation deteriorated there and US troops complained that they did not have enough resources to protect themselves.

Bush offered his support for the

embattled defense secretary on Monday, saying Rumsfeld had "done a fine job."

The poll also shows that 58 percent of Americans support keeping military forces in Iraq until "civil order is restored," even in the face of continued US causalities. On the question of whether Iraq is prepared for elections next month, 58 percent of respondents believed the violenceplagued country is not ready. Nonetheless, 60 percent want elections to go forward as scheduled.

The poll was conducted on base of interviews with a total of 1,004 randomly selected Americans on Dec. 16 to 19. The margin of sampling error for the results is plus or minus three percentage points.

Women's voluntary association opens in Yemen

Amran, Yemen , 21 Dec 2004--To mark International Volunteer Day, Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recently inaugurated AI-Amel Women Voluntary Association and gave recognition to the work of UN Volunteers (UNV) programme in Amran, Yemen.

During his visit, Mr. Malloch Brown praised UNV for helping the country progress. "I was particularly impressed by UNV's successful efforts in mobilizing the creativity of the people of Amran to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and for promoting women's empowerment," he said.

The women's association was established under UNV's Intra-City Volunteerism Project. The group was aimed at improving women's economic and social conditions by providing livelihood skills, e.g., sewing and handicraft making, to women from poor backgrounds. The association also gives health services such as family planning lectures and prenatal care.

Taha Hajer, the Governor of Amran commended UN volunteers' initiative as the first of its kind in his district. He noted that the association was able to mobilize over 200 women volunteers and raised awareness of the importance of volunteerism in the province.

The UN's Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen Ambassador Abdullah Al-Said, and Flavia Pansieri, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen also attended the event. (UNDP)



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