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# YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Economic warning at Islah conference

### "Potential disaster"

By MOHAMMED AL-OADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, speaker of Parliament and head of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), warned of stormier waters ahead in Yemen's political and economic life.

With an oil price hike still around the corner, in fact, Yemen's economic situation entails a "potential disaster," while addressing the Islah's Third Conference on Feb. 12

He said "the current deteriorating political and economic situation necessitates a responsible stand taken by all political and social forces, working together, not from personal or party interests, to take the country away from the dark impasse it is going through, before it is too late.

"The economic situation entails a serious potential disaster and that adding more burdens on the ordinary citizens will lead to more congestion and increase the level of poverty. All wise men should work to avoid the disaster," he said, while addressing 3.000 conferees, hinting at the upcoming rise in the price of oil derivatives which the government approved of in the 2005 budget.

The Islah party said this conference, which was held amid heavy security measures, is focusing on the freedoms and the living standards of the people.

Yemeni Socialist Party's assistant secretary-general Jarallah Omar was



Some of the 3,000 in attendance at the Islah Party's conference Saturday.

assassinated during the first round of the Islah conference held in December

Al-Ahmar said that his party, despite of the difficulties it has been facing, decided to hold this round in order to "enhance the Shura and Democratic path the party has taken."

He stressed that "the democratic process in Yemen has deteriorated tremendously during the last two years and others who he said "deserve our

which we can not accept." He called the Islah members to work hard "through enhancing the freedoms and exercising their constitutional rights away from extremism."

The Parliamentary speaker did not talk elaborately, as usual, on the Arab and Muslim or world current issues. He glanced at what he said the miseries of the people in Palestine, Iraq, Chechnya

(Yemen Times photo by Mmohammad Al-Qadhi) support and we should help them as

much as we can.

It is expected that the party should have discussed the issue of the next leadership of the party which will be elected during the fourth conference to be held in December 2006.

Al-Ahmar and Mohammed al-Yadumi, Secretary-General are expected to leave office then, as they can not run for these positions again.

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### In case of Sheikh Al-Moayad

### Al-Anssi to testify

By News Services

An FBI informant who set himself on fire in front of the White House last December will be called as a witness for the defense of Yemeni Sheikh Al-Moayad, who was \ accused of aiding Hamas and al-Oaida.

Lawyers for Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hasan Al-Moayad and his assistant said they have subpoenaed Mohamed al-Anssi, who helped go-between for Al-Moayad and another informant playing an

Al-Anssi appeared in headlines of major US newspaper and on TV screens in the US and throughout the world for trying to commit suicide for allegedly not receiving the promised money from the FBI, who he also said did not return him his passports.

He has never appeared at the trial, but has nevertheless been a central figure because he was the prosecution's main informer, helping F.B.I set up a sting to ensnare the Sheikh Al-Moayad.

Al-Anssi is the sole source of some of the government's most dramatic claims about Al-Moayad, including the allegation that the Sheikh said he personally

SONY

ablaze in November 2004 outside a build the FBI's case by posing as the White House, will be testifying in the

case of Sheikh Al-Moyoad. At the time, Al-anssi, who reportedly worked as an American Muslim who wanted help FBI informant, suffered injuries that funneling millions of dollars to ter- weren't life threatening. REUTERS

Mohamed al-Anssi, 52, who set himself

handed \$20 million to Osama bin Laden. Defense lawyers said they would request the unsealing of a bank fraud case filed against Al-Anssi in Brooklyn federal court last year.

If al-Anssi does appear as a witness, that and other information he gave prosecutors could be heard by the jury. But the defense is expected to attack him as an opportunist and a liar who fed the F.B.I. false information in exchange for lucrative payments.

Continued on page 3

### Yemeni editor still can't appeal, but . . .

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Penal Department at the Appeal Court announced in last Tuesday's ses-



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sion that the case of Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani, Editor-in-Chief of Shura Weekly Newspaper, is adjourned again until March 1.

Defense lawyers said that it was obvious that the court did not hasten the case procedures, contrary to the directives of President Saleh stating that case procedures for al-Khaiwani's case should be accelerated since it has been delayed for several times.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Committee to Protect Journalists met with Yemen's ambassador to the United States, Abdulwahab Abdulla al-Hajjri on Saturday to express deep concern about the imprisonment of a Yemeni opposition newspaper editor and a recent spate of criminal convictions handed down against several other journalists.

Following the meeting, CPJ

Executive Director Ann Cooper said, "Those who embrace democratic values do not put journalists in prison for what they publish. If Yemeni officials are serious about democracy and human rights, they will free Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani immediately, allow suspended papers back on newsstands, and cease their harassment of the media."

Continued on page 3

### Follow-up to 2000 Jeddah Treaty

### Yemen gets border posts

eral posts as part of a new border Meady region in northwest Yemen. in Ghizan area. agreement in this country's north, a Yemeni source said Saturday.

According to Sahwa.net, the handover operation started a few days ago

بلمساتنا السح



Saudi Arabia has given Yemen sev- in secrecy and is continuing in the be returned to Yemen in the near future

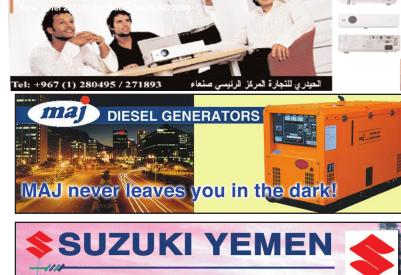
"Yemeni and Saudi military officials held a meeting in a border area between Mawsam in Saudi Arabia and Meady in Yemen, during which border posts in Mawsam, Ras Mawaj and Hathira were handed over to the Yemenis," the unidentified source

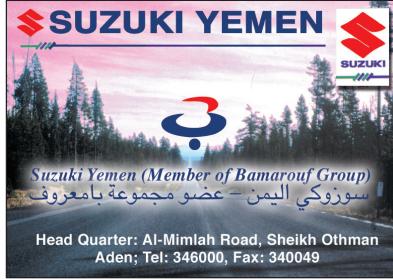
He said more border positions will

Riyadh handed Sanaa several border posts in the southeast last June, notably an area of 25,000 square miles (40,000 square kilometers) in the Badih and Kharakhir regions.

In return, Yemen dropped claims against the border province of Assir, which includes the cities of Najran, Ghizan and Khamis Msheit. (UPI)







### **Conflicting reports**

### Saleh: al-Eriani is a brave figure

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Saleh recently congratulated Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani, his Advisor for Political Affairs and Secretary General of the General People Congress (GPC), for being one of the courageous men and leading Yemeni personalities that hasserved Yemen patriotically, particularly in matters related to the demarcation of borders with neighboring countries.

During his visit to a military campin Hadramout, east of Yemen, the President said: "Dr. al-Eriani contributed much to the national interests of Yemen and his prominent contributions are highly regarded by the leadership and all the



Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani

Media reports over the last weeks said that al-Eraini's resigned from his post as a Secretary General for the GPC, the ruling party, because of disputes among leaders at the party, as well as his suffering from

Last week, Dr. al-Eriani said he is still doing his tasks as Secretary General of the ruling party and he denied he ever showed any resignation.

Al-Eriani added: "what happened was, due to health problems, all the financial and administrative issues at the PGC were left to Assistant Secretary General at the party, Sadiq Amin Abu Ras Minister of Local Asministration, while I was

On his part, Deputy Prime Minister

Ahmad Sufan said that the water shortfall

is considered one of the most challenging

problems that hinders the development

He pointed out that his government is

working hard to bring possible solutions

for such problem through tackling the

phenomenon of population concentration

in hills mountainous areas, as well as

through developing the coastal cities and

the population increase in the urban areas.

ment is on the way of implementing high-

ways network from east to west as well as in the Arab and Red Sea to create more

This comes at a time when the Ministry

of Oil and Minerals is intending to extend

the natural gas pipelines during to all the

Government sources released that the

Ministry of Water and Environment is

exerting intensive efforts to bring solu-

tions to the water crisis, such as the provi-

sion of labs and other facilities for distill-

Doing so, the government takes for

Meanwhile, 30 researchers were

intending to hold a symposium on Feb.14

granted the large cost of such projects and

profits from experiences of Gulf coun-

Sufan also pointed out that the govern-

process in the country.

economic activities.

coastal areas.

### 20 per cent of deficit now in Sana'a

### Growing water shortfall looms

By Ismail Al-Ghabri Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni Minister of Water and Environment Mohammad Lutf Al-Eriani said last week that the annual shortage in water is now estimated at one billion cubic meters

He said 20% of the deficit is in the Sana'a basin.

In a special workshop related to the implementation of the water sector strategy and investment program in the capital, the minister pointed out that water deficit is due to increase during the upcoming period due to the rapid population growth, the increasing demand for water and the deterioration of traditional irrigation

He confirmed that the annual consumption of water is estimated at 3.5 billion cubic meters while the underground nourishment is only 2.5 billion cubic

### **Yemenia gets improvements** for YR 1.8 billion

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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Air Yemenia is in the process of completing the first phase of its plan to improve the ground services for the passengers, airplanes, and cargo services in the airports of Yemen.

The work to be carried out by the company involves international companies and the purchase of modern equipment worth about YR 1.8 billion YR one billion eight hundred million, according to Air Yemenia chairman Abdul Khaleq Saleh al-Qadhi,

It's to improve services rendered in million.

Sana'a and Aden international airports, plus Sey'un, al-Mukalla (Rayyan), Taiz and Hodeidah airports.

Phase I of the plan, worth YR 1.2 billion, is expected to be achieved in June and involves items such as buses, passengers staircases, instruments, luggage loading and carrying carts. power generators, air-starter instruments, supplies wagons, cleaning

Phase II of the same project starting in July will be finished by the end of 2005, at a value reaching to YR 600

equipment.

on the reality of water resources in the city of Taiz. **VACANCY** It is worth mentioning that some of international reports revealed that pure water services does not cover more 37%

### Language class to graduate

of population living in main cities.

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ BUREAU

Preparations in the Languages Center of Taiz University are taking place for the graduation of the first group of Master Degree graduates in both Arabic and English.

Dr. Waheebah Muharram, Dean of Languages Center, said that the preparations include the arrangements for the celebration of the center that started in 2000/2001 for diploma students.

She indicated that there is an ambitious plan submitted by the leadership of Taiz University to the Ministry of Higher Education, aiming to change the center to be "Faculty of Tongues and Translation."

She expressed her enthusiasm in turning the project into fact, due to the importance of providing specialists in languages and translation, to serve different faculties of Taiz University and the community.

She assured that the project is given vast consideration by the political leadership for preparing qualified cadre in translation work.

some health problems

### Republican Guards hold checkpoints around capital

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Republican Guard and Special Forces, under the command of the President's son Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh, have increased the number of checkpoints at the entrances of the capital, particularly to the northeast of Sana'a.

The Special Forces usually inspect vehicles entering the city but have provoked numerous queries on their recent

Sources at Special Forces say that the security authorities have received threats of potential attacks by some of al-Houthi's supporters, who are expected to come from Sa'ada through al-Jawf and then into the capital.

The Special Forces seized a truck loaded with a number of explosives inside including a mortar this week, but sources did not mention who was respon-

The series of negotiations between al-Houthi followers and the Yemeni authorities failed when al-Rizami (al-Houthi's top supporter) returned from the capital at the end of last month without reaching a

### Taiz gets ready for WB chairman

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ BUREAU

A meeting was held in the Taiz Governorate governmental bureau Feb. 9 for bureau general managers, headed by Mr. Shouqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Chairman of Planning, Budgetary and Finance committee in the local council, to talk about a number of projects funded by the World Bank.

Among them are protecting Taiz town from flooding, the infrastructure project, health and educational projects, highways and organizational building for local councils, and also the handicapped sector support.

The meeting has confirmed on the necessity of speeding up the preparation, arranging, and equipping the party location dedicated for receiving Mr. James D Wolfensohn, Chairman of the World Bank, in Taiz - which will be set up in al-Be'rarah Housing Town and in which student celebration and popular bands will show in addition to deaf, dumb, orphans

#### Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to to have a say on world and local affairs

This edition's question:

Do you think the economic "disaster" spoken of most recently by Islah (see p. 1) will come to pass in Yemen due to fuel price hikes.

Yes, price hikes will be a No, price hikes are a reasonable part of World Bank reforms needed in Yemen.

#### last edition's question:

Do you think the last agreement between Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon will pave the way for permanent peace in the area? 62%

Yes

38%

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bands and the marginalized sectors.

The meeting also stressed the necessity of audio-visual media broad attention to the guest visit, to the level of local and foreign newspapers.

It reflected Taiz Governorate leadership and the local council's ambition for showing off Taiz Governorate and the projects funded by the World Bank in it, as it is a typical support by the World Bank to the Yemeni level and the territo-

### Follow-up to 2004 gathering

### Democracy and development forum on the way

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen's government, along with the UN's Department of Political Affairs, the UNDP, and the Commission on Human Security, are organizing a Yemeni Forum on Democratization, Development and Human Security to be held in Sana'a on 21-23 Feb.

This event is a follow-up to the discussions of the Inter-Government Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court held in Sana'a in January, 2004

The purpose is to promote a better understanding of the achievements of Yemen in democratization, economic reform, human development and human security and the challenges it faces in these areas.

This gathering will provide an opportunity to strengthen ties and collaboration between local and international partners and will be useful for enhancing multi-faceted economic cooperation

It is expected that discussions at the forum will further contribute to strengthening the environment of openness, modernization in Yemen.

The forum will also address these three issues: (a) promoting democratic governance, advancing human rights and strengthening security: prospects and challenges; (b) social aspects of human security: meeting basic needs; (c) economic reform and meeting Millennium Development Goals: the way ahead.

This event is envisaged as a round table discussion. Approximately 150 participants are expected.

Among those invited are Yemeni government officials, parliamentarians and other prominent political figures, representatives of civil society, communitybased and religious organizations, diplomatic missions in Sana'a, UN agencies, the World Bank, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the Council of the European Union, and international experts on

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- Maintaining and developing contacts with the Yemeni and regional media
- Preparing written reporting
- Contributing to the development and production of appropriate tools for the dissemination of the mission of the ICRC, the Red Cross - the Crescent Movement, and international humanitarian law

The position is based in Sana'a and involves some traveling to the field. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Persons of suitable qualification are invited to present their application including an up-to-date CV in Arabic and English, and a writing sample in English latest by 20 February 2005 to:

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Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

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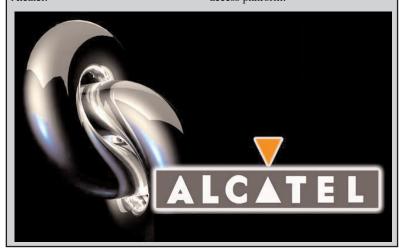
### Yemenis to get low-cost broadband Internet service soon

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen Telecom (Public Telecommunication Corporation -PTC) had announced that broadband subscribers will finally be getting access to high speed internet connection, and to various broadband services within months. More than 3,000 DSL lines will be installed and put into commercial operation this month as part of a first phase in an agreement recently made between the company and

PTC, the official operator for fixed telephone networks and for mobile company 'Yemen Mobile' had granted the tender to supply equipment for a DSL network that delivers high-speed services across the country to Alcatel.

Under the terms of the contract, Alcatel will provide DSL lines over a period of 3 years to support the company's nationwide broadband deployment. Yemen Telecom will reportedly deploy the Alcatel 7301 Advanced Services Access Manager, a broadband access platform.



In Feb. 10 meeting

### Syndicate lists demands, including for teachers

On Feb. 10, the Journalists Syndicate council collectively welcomed the project of the law on positions, wages and salaries, and the national strategic project of the wages and salaries as well as any other steps to increase the salaries and wages of employees, a part of which are teach-

Further to this, the Syndicate pointed out the necessity of preserving what have been secured for the teachers via the Teacher Law No.(37) for the Year 1998, and it has also called the Chairman and the members of Parliament to put this matter before them for consideration, in conformity with the hard tasks teaches are performing and also the vital role that they are playing in developing Yemen.

The Journalist Syndicate also addressed the Minister of Education, demanding his direct interference in granting the privileges of the Teacher Law to the rest of the teachers and educationists who are not yet given the same privileges.

### Salaries also a problem

especially, those who were teaching in educationists

scientific institutes (previously), due to the negligence committed against their files and documents which were put in a neglected place in the ministry. The council, in its statement, denounced the fears attack that the freedom of press and expression have faced in order to restrict and stop it, as it is acquired through the democratic reunification that our Yemeni people have achieved within the civilization development framework. It also called to cease trialing the newspapers and the journalists too, and also asked for releasing the Chief Editor of "Al Shoura" newspaper, Mr. Abdul Karim al-Khaiwani. Further, It also asked to release the prominent Journalist of Al Jazirah channel, Mr. Tyseer Allouny, from the Spanish prisons.

### Price hikes

In the conclusion of its statement, the council of the Syndicate denounced the continuation of the governmental policy making the public liable to starvation and imposing the new dose procedures which will directly affect on the living status of the whole Yemeni community sectors, And also, salaries should be given, ahead of which are the teachers and

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### **Teachers' salaries** delayed in Taiz

By YT TAIZ BUREAU STAFF

Last Tuesday, a number of female teachers on contractual basis teaching in rural areas of Taiz districts gathered before the Taiz Governorate bureau, complaining to the Governor about late payment of their salaries as they have not been paid since September 2004.

They also requested a solution to the phenomenon of late payments and requested the authorities concerned to pass on instructions to release payment of salaries up to February 2005.

According to the teachers, the salaries have been almost six months late causing many financial difficulties, as many teachers were eventually unable to even pay transportation charges to arrive to their schools on time. They also noted the risks they have to go through when

crossing highways where cars move with very high speeds, potentially causing accidents.

Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed Abdullah al-Hijri along with General Director of Education Dr. Mehdi Abdul Salam then issued directives to the concerned authorities at the Education Office in Taiz to pay pending salaries.

However, teachers were still in doubt that the directives would be implemented because they say 'there are some officials who intentionally delay payment of salaries for undisclosed reasons.'

It is to be noted that not long ago, Governor al-Hejri and Dr. Abdul Salam uncovered embezzlement operations and corruption in offices of public education in Taiz, and as a result, they referred some of the staff involved to

### Continued from page 1

### **Al-Anssi to testify**

Al-Anssi , who has been subpoenaed by the defense, could testify next week, lawyers said.

Since the start of the trial, the defense lawyers have been working to cast him as untrustworthy, despite Judge Johnson's ruling limiting their attacks. Their effort was evident yesterday, as they crossexamined the F.B.I. agent who ran the investigation, Brian Murphy.

One of the lawyers, Mr. Jacobs, asked Mr. Murphy, a square-jawed agent and a skillful witness, how much he had paid Mr. Al-Anssi to be an informer. A ruling from the judge kept Mr. Murphy from answer-

ing.

Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Murphy how much Mr. Al-Anssi had shaped the recorded conversations by trying to steer the Sheikh toward damaging statements.

"I told Mr. Al-Anssi to keep the conversation on task," the agent acknowledged. In the end, the skirmish showed that the defense could make little headway in

attacking Al-Anssi as long as he was still missing from the courtroom. For instance, when Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Murphy if he thought Al-Anssi was honest, Judge Johnson ruled that he did not have to

Mr. Murphy deflected many of the defense attacks and at times used them as opportunities to bolster the case.

Mr. Jacobs asked whether, after investigating the Sheikh and Mr. Zayed for more than two years, Mr. Murphy's career might benefit if the jury convicted them.

Mr. Murphy insisted he would not personally benefit from a conviction. However, he volunteered, a conviction "would help all of us because they're ter-

Later, after complaints from the defense, the judge told the jury to disregard the remark. But Mr. Murphy had had

(Source: New York Times and

### Al-Khaiwani case stirs CPJ action

Cooper attended today's meeting along with CPJ board members Clarence Page and Gene Roberts, CPJ Middle East Program Coordinator Joel Campagna, and CPJ Washington, D.C., Representative Frank Smyth.

Al-Hajjri agreed to pass on CPJ's concerns to his government. The al-Khaiwani case will be looked at with a lot of care, he said. Hopefully, we'll see good results soon.

In response to a question from The Yemen Times about the apparent injustice the editor has been facing in the last months, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abubakr Al-Qirbi said that there should be no absolute freedom of the press.

He said if there are any shortcomings in the Yemeni press law, everyone has to take action to push for the necessary amendments.

But he also appreciated the concern of pro-press freedom organizations. "Yemen values the interests of the international organizations concerned about press freedom with democracy and freedoms.'

In response to the meeting held on Tuesday Feb.8 between the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Yemeni Ambassador to the United States, Foreign Minister Dr. al-Qirbi said, "there should a balance between the freedom of press and what violates the social principles and the national solidarity. Laws related to press and publications have to be reinforced and abided by every one.

The Public Forces Union Party released on, Feb. 10 a statement which reads: "the Yemeni authorities have the intention to impose torture to prevent subjects similar to what was

published by Al-Shura in a pretext that such subjects harm the governmentrelated affairs.'

Numerous observers believe that freedom of Yemeni press is dying because of the ongoing oppression on press and media personnel in order not to reveal facts about the policies of plunder and corruption practiced in the

Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani, Chief Editor of the opposition weekly Al-Shura, was sentenced to one year in prison in September 2004 for incitement, "insulting" Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, publishing false news, and causing tribal and sectarian dis-

The charges against al-Khaiwani stem from opinion pieces published in the weekly last summer harshly criticizing the Yemeni government's fight against rebel cleric Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, who led a three-month uprising against authorities in the northern Yemeni region of Sa'ada before the army killed him in September.

One of the opinion pieces that led to al-Khaiwani's conviction called President Saleh's military against al-Houhi a "crime" and alleged that Saleh had obtained a "green light" from the United States before launching the attack. A second article condemned the government's actions as "state terrorism" and warned "terrorism begets terrorism." A third piece criticized the army for the "ferocity" of its attack and authorities' failure to resolve the problem through "dia-

The court suspended Al-Shura for six months, and al-Khaiwani remains

Since al-Khaiwani's jailing, at least seven other journalists have been handed criminal convictions, including Abdulkarim Sabra and Abdulqawi al-Qabati, editor and reporter, respectively, of the private weekly Al-Hurriya. The men were each sentenced to two years in prison on December 29, 2004, for allegedly "insulting" Saleh in an article in the newspaper. The court also banned the newspaper for a year. Sabra and al-Qabati have not been jailed yet, according to local journal-

ists, but could be at any moment. Criminal convictions against journalists in Yemen have continued despite Saleh's pledge in 2004 to work toward eliminating prison sentences for press offenses. Just last month, Saleh acknowledged during a speech that, "Democracy is the choice of the modern age for all peoples of the world and the rescue ship for political regimes, particularly in our third world." He added, "Human rights are tightly connected to democracy and the state of law and order" and "we should remove anything that contradicts them and stand against all forms of discrimination, oppression, and exploitation for the human being and his rights."

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### **URGENT**

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### IWA's 2nd annual art show

## Picturing the needs of women

BY PETER WILLEMS YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he International Women's Association (IWA), a charity organization based in Yemen, held its second annual art show last Thursday at Taj Sheba Hotel.

On display were paintings from a number of prominent Yemeni artists which drew over 200 people, both expatriates and Yemenis, to attend the

IWA, an independent organization which was established 20 years ago, carried out the art show to collect funding that can be used to support groups in Yemen that are in need of humanitarian assistance. It also aimed at providing an opportunity for local artists to show their work to a larger audience.

"We wanted our art show to benefit in two ways," said Lisa Lavergne, cochairwoman of IWA. "One is for people, especially those from the expat community, to become acquainted with Yemeni artists and their paintings, which can help support them. The sec-



Mazhar Nizhar, a well-known artist in Yemen, displays his paintings at the IWA Charity Art Show. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

ond is to raise money for charities that IWA supports. The art show is our biggest fundraising activity."

IWA has 80 members, including a 10-member committee made up of Yemeni and foreign women. The organization's aim is to seek out and assist those in Yemen that are receiving limited support from other organizations or institutions.

"Most of our activities are for charity, and we support a number of groups in Yemen," said Trish Gifford, cochairwoman of IWA. "Our focus is to help groups that are receiving little funding from elsewhere, mostly women and children. We are always looking for organizations and institutions that need help. It is an ongoing process, and we will continue to find those that are in need of more support.'

Up to now, IWA has worked in a number of areas, such as at the Beggars and Relief Organization which helps to support children from poor families so that they can go to school. The organization has also been involved in Al-Sada Society which teaches sewing skills and literacy for women. At the Central Prison in Sana'a, IWA has provided medication and clothes for women and children and school material for men.

IWA is now looking into offering aid to Yemen's most marginalized group, commonly called "Akhdam" in Yemen's society, planning primarily to help children go to school since a large percentage of them are working to support their families.

According to Mazhar Nizhar, one of Yemen's most famous artists and whose paintings were displayed at the art show, the charity event was a good chance for upcoming artists to become better known among those interested in Yemeni art.

"Yemen's young artists had a very

good opportunity for a large number of people to come and become familiar with their work," said Nizhar. "It is always good for many of us to display our work in one place and at the same time."

The number of artists that contributed their paintings to the exhibition increased from IWA's first art show last year, including several that came from Aden. Along with being able to sell their work, each artist donated a painting for a raffle and the profits went to charity.

including Several sponsors, Canadian Nexen, Yemen Catering & Services, Rainbow Graphics and Taj Sheba Hotel, helped put on the exhibition, and entrance tickets and raffles brought in substantial funding for char-

Many of the people who attended the art show were impressed in seeing Yemeni paintings, especially expatriates who saw them for the first time.

Carolyn Han, author of From the Land of Sheba: Yemen Folktales, said, "I think Yemeni art carries the essence and spirit of the people. It is so diverse, and the cultural heritage that makes up the art is displayed in the images that we see at the exhibition."

### Raha Taxi becoming big player

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

aha Transport Co. Ltd. inaugurated its transportation services Feb. 9. Since the company started with more than 200 taxis, it now has plans 1,000.

During the inauguration party, Muhammad Ahmed al-Basha confirmed that such

steps include opening branches in Aden and the rest of the governorates, and striving to develop and modernize means of = transportation to be with more safety and comfort.

"The high quality of service is the main target of the company. The new taxi will reflect the real picture of the

capital Sana'a," al-Basha said.

Ziad Mohammed A. Majid, one of the company's founding members, confirmed that the company has provided 22 job opportunities during this

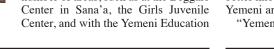
It will provide more work chances for the youths, as it is a first Yemeni

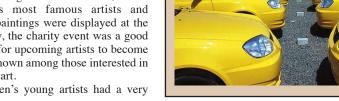
company specialized in rendering transportation services to all the community sectors, the visitors and tourists too.

Further, the company offers several specialized services, such as family service, kid's service, school service, airport service and VIP services

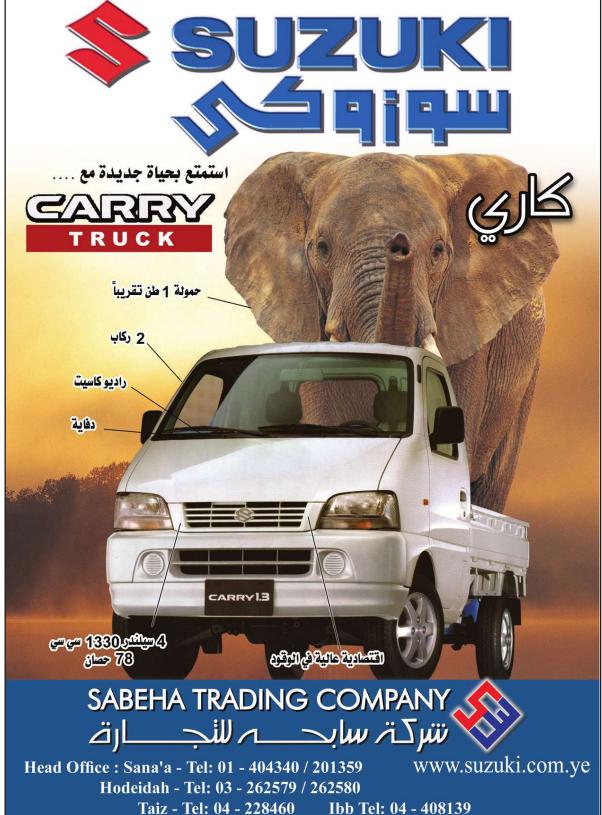


People taking a look at paintings from Yemeni artists at the IWA Charity Art Show. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)









### Suicide bomb kills 18 in Iraq; Zarqawi hunted

near a hospital south of Baghdad on Saturday amid a surge of violence by Iraq's mostly Sunni Muslim insurgents ahead of Ashura, the holiest festival on the Shi'ite religious calendar.

The bomber drove his vehicle towards local government offices and a hospital in the town of Musayyib, southwest of Baghdad, but detonated it outside blast walls protecting the buildings, police said.

Most of the dead were civilians.

Around 25 people were also wounded in the attack, the second suicide car bombing in as many days.

Violence, which calmed briefly after Iraq's Jan. 30 elections, has increased in the past week in the build-up to Ashura, which reaches its climax next weekend.

Attacks on Shi'ite targets on Friday seemed designed to fuel sectarian ten-

A suicide bomber killed 13 people at a mosque north of the capital and gunmen killed nine at a Baghdad bakery. Sunni militants have exploited reli-

suicide car bomber killed 18 people Iraq and destabilise the U.S.-backed government.

> Insurgents also struck in the southern city of Basra on Saturday, killing a senior judge, Taha al-Amiri, as he drove to work. It was the city's second assassination in a week.

In Kirkuk, police sources said they were hot on the trail of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant who has claimed responsibility for many of the worst attacks in Iraq, including the beheading of several foreign hostages.

"He came to Kirkuk from Mosul," a source in the Kirkuk police department said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"There's a possibility that he might be captured at any moment."

There was no immediate comment from U.S. or Iraqi officials on the report. Iraqi officials recently claimed to be close to capturing the elusive militant, who is allied to al Qaeda. U.S. authorities are offering a \$25 million bounty for his capture.

In Baiji, west of Kirkuk, a roadside blast killed two Iraqi policemen and a

car bomb killed a woman and wounded six people in eastern Baghdad.

In Baquba, north of the capital, a police lieutenant was shot dead whilst sitting in a shop.

#### Ashura fears

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned during a visit to Iraq on Friday that it would take some time for Iraqi security forces to crush the insurgency.

Concerned to prevent a wave of bloodshed coinciding with Ashura, the interim government has said it will seal all borders between Feb. 17 and Feb. 22 to stop pilgrims flooding into Iraq.

Many pilgrims come from neighbouring Iran and from Pakistan.

Last year during Ashura, which honours the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed, in 680 A.D., suicide bombers blew themselves up among crowds of Shi'ite pilgrims in Baghdad and Kerbala, killing 171 people.

The resumption of near-daily suicide attacks is a blow to hopes among some

millions of Iraqis go to the polls in defiance of insurgent threats, might mark a turning point after two years of

Attacks slowed after the vote, but suicide bombs in Baghdad, Baquba and Mosul since then have killed more than 60 police, soldiers and would-be recruits to the security forces.

Counting of ballots in the vote is still going on. Final results are expected in the next few days, although electoral officials say more time will be required to certify them.

A religious-based coalition blessed by Iraq's foremost Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has a commanding lead, with around half the 4.6 million votes so far tallied.

A coalition of Kurdish parties is in second place and a bloc led by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi is third.

If the Shi'ite coalition wins, as widely expected, it would put Iraq's 60 percent Shi'ite majority in power for the first time, after decades of oppression under Saddam, a Sunni.

Horse-trading to determine who will

next government is already in full swing.

Allawi travelled to northern Iraq on Saturday to meet Jalal Talabani, leader the hope of striking a deal with the powerful Kurdish bloc.

It was Allawi's second meeting with a Kurdish leader in three days.



Musayyib, south of Baghdad Feb. 12. The bomber drove his vehicle toward local government offices and the hospital but detonated it outside blast walls protecting the buildings, killing 18 people and wounding at least 25 civilians,

### **Minister says Sudan's** Turabi to be free soon

CAIRO, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Jailed Sudanese Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi will be released soon once the government ends a state of emergency, Sudan's foreign minister said in remarks published on Saturday.

Sudan has been under a state of emergency since 1999, a measure which allows the government to detain people without charge. The government promised to end emergency law following a peace deal signed in January to end a civil war in the south.

Turabi, a former ally of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, was jailed last September after the government accused his party of attempting a coup and of involvement in a separate rebellion in Sudan's western Darfur region, which started two years ago.

Foreign Relations Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told the pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat that Sudan would release Turabi and all political prisoners as emergency laws were lifted.

"Now we are moving to a stage in which we will lift the state of emergency and not use any exceptional laws. When we reach this stage then Dr Turabi, certainly, and all those remaining will be released," he said.

Rights activists say there are hundreds of political prisoners, though they do not have exact figures.

Asked when he expected Turabi would be released, Ismail said: "Soon, in my view. It will not be a long time before you see Dr Turabi released and free to practice his political life.

"We are moving towards emptying the prisons completely of any political detainees."

Several members of Turabi's Popular Congress party, which was suspended in April last year, were released in January. Since his split with Bashir's government, Turabi has spent much of his time in jail or under house

Despite the government's commitment under the southern peace deal to end emergency laws, some analysts say Khartoum could keep them in place in certain areas of the country, such as Darfur and in the east, where the military wing of the opposition Beja Congress has carried out minor operations.

In February, the group called for more power and resources for the impoverished region, a common rebel demand in the vast country.

"We are ready for dialogue with the rebels of the east. The vision of the government is very clear, it is that the government seeks eventually a comprehensive peace in all areas of Sudan without excluding anyone," Ismail

### **Gunmen kill senior judge in southern Iraq** A correspondent from al-Hurra tele-Masked gunmen assassinated a senior vision, a U.S.-funded Iraqi TV network, was shot dead by gunmen as he

judge in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Saturday, a Reuters witness also killed. and doctors said. Video footage showed the body of

the judge, Taha al-Amiri, lying in a hospital mortuary following the attack. Witnesses said his vehicle was stopped by four masked gunmen as he drove through the centre of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, in the far south of the country.

Two of the gunmen got out and opened fire, killing the judge instantly. His driver was wounded in the attack.

It is the second assassination in

left his house with his son, who was

Gunmen have repeatedly targeted justice officials in Iraq over the past year, with several judges and employees of the justice ministry killed or wounded in drive-by shootings and assassinations.

Iraq's criminal justice system is struggling to get back on its feet following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Many judges who served during his rule have returned to their posts, while new judges have also been appointed.



The coffin of the assassinated Iraqi chief judge of Basra, Taha al-Amiri, is carried by mourners during his funeral in Basra Feb. 12. Witnesses said Amiri's vehicle was stopped by four masked gunmen as he drove through Basra, and he was then shot dead. His driver was wounded in the attack.

### Iran starts making torpedoes as atomic threats fly

TEHRAN, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Iran on Saturday started churning out a production line of torpedoes as pressure mounts against the Islamic Republic, which Washington accuses of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, state media reported.

Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani, in naval uniform, was shown on state television inspecting some 20 torpedoes, mainly painted red with black

"Even if a radar spots it, there is no escape from the inevitable fate," he said, watching the propeller of one of the weapons being tested in a water

Defence officials told the official IRNA new agency the weapons could be installed on helicopters, submarines and surface ships.

Iran's navy is known to have at east two Russian-made submarines but military analysts say the rickety vessels are unlikely to be suitable for nuch apart from laying mines.

The navy said recently that it also had a domestically produced midget submarine.

A war of words between Tehran and Washington has escalated in recent days, with Iran warning the United States against a possible attack on its nuclear facilities, which it says are for peaceful power produc-

### Abbas braces for truce talks with Gaza militants struggle, Abbas is striving to fulfil a

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met his political faction chiefs on Saturday to draw strength for talks aimed at bringing Islamic militants into line with a ceasefire he declared with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Abbas convened the Fatah Central Committee ahead of evening meetings with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, two days after the militant groups punctured the truce with a barrage of mortar bombs and rockets against Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

After pledging to end more than four years of violence at a Tuesday summit with Sharon in Egypt, Abbas fired nine security chiefs and deputies for failing to prevent the salvoes. Aides predicted a similar resolve in his talks with the militants

"Abu Mazen will ask Hamas and Islamic Jihad to respect the (truce) agreement," a Palestinian official said. "We should all realise that this is a collective responsibility."

Elected on Jan. 9 to succeed Yasser Arafat on a platform of non-violent

condition of calm to begin talks on a Palestinian state under a U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan that has been stalled by bloodshed.

Israel demands he round up militants, but Abbas has said he prefers to co-opt them rather than confront them.

Armed groups seized de facto power on the Palestinian streets during a four-year revolt against Israel.

They began observing a general calm last month at Abbas's behest but have rejected any formal truce and said they are not bound by his summit

ABBAS TO TELL MILITANTS THEIR DEMANDS LARGELY MET

Hamas said the mortar and rocket attacks on Thursday were revenge for the killing of a Palestinian which militants blamed on Israel.

Israel did not retaliate, and officials said they would give Abbas a chance to rein in the gunmen.

General calm prevailed across Gaza again on Friday.

"He (Abbas) will inform the fac-

tions of the positive results that were achieved in the successful summit in Sharm El-Sheikh," said Abbas aide Tayeb Abdel-Rahim.

"I believe most of the results they demanded have been achieved in that successful summit."

Militant groups have demanded Israel stop its attacks in the West Bank and Gaza, including what it calls "targeted killings" and Palestinians describe as assassinations.

They also want Israel to release all 8,000 Palestinian prisoners in its jails. Israel plans to free 500 next week, with another 400 to follow, as a goodwill gesture to Abbas.

In what appeared to be another gesture, Palestinian officials said Israel had agreed to hand remains of 15 militants killed during attacks in Gaza to their families for burial. Israeli officials were not immediately available for comment.

A spokesman for one militant group, the Popular Resistance Committees, said it would show restraint for now "to give a chance for the political leadership to reach a conditional truce".

### Algerian Islamic party says it may support amnesty

ALGIERS, Feb 12 (Reuters) -Algeria's leading opposition Islamic party will back a general amnesty aimed at ending more than a decade of rebel violence if an emergency law restricting political activity is lifted, media reported on Saturday.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has called for an amnesty to end the conflict, which has killed an estimated 150,000 people and almost destroyed Algeria in the 1990s.

The amnesty, which is expected to be put to a referendum later this year, is expected to include rebels and security forces but no details have yet been

"The general amnesty will not have an effect if the state of emergency is not lifted," said Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the main legal Islamic party El Islah. He said the long-running conflict would not end unless democracy was strengthened.

In 1992 militants declared a holy war on the authorities after the army cancelled legislative elections a now banned Islamic party was set to win, plunging the North African nation into near-civil war.

Djaballah's support for an amnesty is important as he is seen as the voice for the moderate Islamic movement and is expected to be influential on undecided rebels on whether or not they lay down their arms, analysts say.

The authorities say there are between 300 and 500 rebels still active, most belonging to the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC).

Violence has sharply fallen in recent years, bringing back much needed foreign investment.

The government has repeatedly rejected lifting the 13-year-old emergency law, arguing it needs it to fight

### **Emergency limits democracy**

Opposition parties and human rights groups say it limits political freedoms in the oil-rich country because under the law, demonstrations are banned and many activities of political parties are

controlled by the interior ministry. They say the law has been used to stop certain parties from gaining authorisation to operate, including the

Djaballah said for an amnesty to bring Algeria out of its crisis its socalled "dark dossiers" needed to be addressed.

"It would have no value if it does not take into question the disappeared ... and if the state does not judge elements of the security forces implicated in this crisis," he said.

A government-appointed human rights official recently told Reuters he expected security forces members believed responsible for the deaths of 5,200 civilians who disappeared during the conflict to be granted amnesty.

Most parties are expected to back a

new amnesty after the first one in 1999 led to the surrender of thousands of rebels.

"Three major parties present in the government coalition are already campaigning for Bouteflika's project," said Abdelwahab Jakoun, editor of daily La Nouvelle Republique.

### Saudi Arabia executes Afghan drug smuggler

RIYADH, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia executed an Afghan man on Saturday who was convicted of smuggling heroin into the conservative Muslim country, the Interior Ministry

A ministry statement carried on the official Saudi Press Agency said Abdullah bin Mohammad Abdul-Hakim was put to death in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

Saudi Arabia, which implements strict Islamic sharia law, executes convicted murderers, rapists and drug raffickers, usually by beheading in

Saturday's execution brought to at east 13 the number of people executed in the Gulf Arab state this year.

At least 35 people were executed ast year and 53 in 2003.

### Indian foreign minister in Zimbabwe sopposition Kabul after skies clear

KABUL, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh arrived in Afghanistan on Tuesday for a brief visit before he was to head on for a fresh round of peace talks with nuclear-armed rival and neighbour Pakistan.

An Indian Foreign Ministry official said earlier that Singh had called off his Kabul stop due to bad weather in the Afghan capital, but an Indian diplomat said his plane was given clearance to land after heavy cloud above the city

Kabul airport has only limited aids to help pilots to land in poor weather and on Feb. 3 an airliner operated by a private Afghan airline due to land in the capital crashed on a nearby mountain, killing all 104 people aboard.

In Kabul, Singh was to call on President Hamid Karzai at his heavily fortified presidential palace and to meet Foreign Minister Abdullah, Defence Minister Rahim Wardak and other offi-

India was a key supporter of Afghan opposition forces that overthrew the Taliban with U.S. backing in late 2001 and has been one of the main regional



Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) meets Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh in Kabul Feb. 15. **REUTERS** 

backers of Karzai's government.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry official said Singh would announce a donation of vehicles to the new Afghan National Army and support for Kabul's Indira Gandhi children's hospital.

Singh was due to fly to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, later on Tuesday for talks aimed at nudging forward a slowmoving peace process launched a year

Pakistan, previously the Taliban's main backer, sided with the U.S.-led forces that overthrew the fundamentalists after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, but has been uneasy about India's increased influence in

## says govt sponsoring divi-

Zimbabwe's main opposition movement on Tuesday accused President Robert Mugabe's ruling party of trying to weaken it by sponsoring divisions in its ranks ahead of next month's parliamentary elections.

Critics say Mugabe has failed to deliver on international demands for wide-ranging democratic electoral reforms and has compounded Zimbabwe's long political crisis with a set of cosmetic measures designed to entrench his ZANU-PF party's rule.

Opposition Movement Change (MDC) Democratic spokesman Paul Themba-Nyathi said on Tuesday ZANU-PF could not beat the MDC in a free and fair poll and was employing dirty tricks, including fomenting divisions within the opposition, in a bid to win the March 31 elec-

"There are state agents, ZANU-PF people who have been assigned to foment quarrels and divisions in our ranks but we are aware of these efforts and we will resist these efforts to

the causes of some recent factional clashes in the MDC.

"All those slogans about burying the MDC at the elections means burying us with dirty tricks and unfair practices ... but, as we have said, we are determined to win despite the obstacles put

in our way," he told Reuters. ZANU-PF administration secretary Didymus Mutasa rejected the MDC charges, saying they demonstrated the opposition's pathetic state.

"Those are pure lies, and they are so

They are a dead party and we are going to bury them," he said.

#### **External pressure**

The MDC lifted a threat to boycott the March 31 polls two weeks ago, saying it would take part but doubted the contest would be free or fair.

The five-year-old MDC has emerged as the biggest threat to Mugabe's rule amid a severe economic crisis blamed on government mismanagement, but analysts say it would be

hard for it to win power as ZANU-PF has hobbled its operations with violence and undemocratic practices.

Although Mugabe appointed a nominally independent electoral body early this year to supervise the March vote, critics say the MDC cannot hold rallies without police permission, and has no access to Zimbabwe's dominant state

Mugabe, who turns 81 next week and has been in power since independence from Britain in 1980, launched his ZANU-PF party's campaign last Friday, saying he would "bury" the MDC and blasting U.S. and British leaders critical of his rule.

The veteran Zimbabwe leader says the West wants to punish him for seizing white-owned farms for landless

Britain and other Western countries have backed MDC claims that ZANU-PF rigged 2000 parliamentary polls and a presidential vote two years later in which Mugabe won another six years in office.

ZANU-PF insists it won fairly.

### Chinese protest against Japan move on islands

BEIJING, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Dozens of Chinese demonstrated outside Japan's embassy in Beijing on Tuesday, protesting against Tokyo's moves to take over a lighthouse on a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea.

The lighthouse was built by Japanese right-wing activists years ago on the islands, which are small and uninhabited but provide access to rich fishing ground and possible oil deposits.

"I am here because I am Chinese," said 22-year-old Jiao Wei, one of the approximately 50 protesters who turned out in the heavy snow.

"We are here to tell Japan that the Diaoyu Islands belong to China forever. Japan's behaviour has no justification under international law," he said.

The group, which called itself the China Federation of Defending Diaoyutai Islands, wore T-shirts with "Defend Diaoyutai" written on them and shouted "Down with the Japanese impe-

"They carried banners with the single character, "Shame!".

The Chinese know the islands as Diaoyu while Japan calls them the

Despite economic interdependence, relations between the two Asian powers have never fully recovered from Japan's wartime aggression, a legacy exacerbated by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's periodic visits to a Tokyo shrine honouring its war dead.

China and Japan also bicker periodi-



A Chinese demonstrator holds up protest leaflets, which read "Defend our Diaoyu islands" (L) and "Boycott Japanese products" (R), outside the Japanese embassy in Beijing Feb. 15. Dozens of Chinese demonstrated against Tokyo's moves to take over a lighthouse on a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea. REUTERS

cally over natural gas exploration in a disputed area of the East China Sea, and China was forced to apologise after one of its nuclear submarines intruded into Japanese waters in November.

Koizumi said the move by the Japan Coast Guard to take over maintenance islands. of the lighthouse was simply because private citizens had given up their claim and were no longer maintaining it.

But China's Foreign Ministry has called the action "illegal and invalid" and a "severe provocation and infringement on China's territorial sovereignty".

Last March China and Japan clashed over the island, which lies between the southern Japanese region of Okinawa and Taiwan, when Japanese police arrested and deported seven Chinese activists who had landed on one of the

Tuesday's protesters said in a ment Japan's moves on the lighthouse were a "naked invasion of Chinese territory".

"Today also opens a new chapter in the Chinese people resisting the Japanese invaders," the statement said.

### Nepal bristles at criticism, says fights terrorism

KATHMANDU, Feb 15 (Reuters) -Nepal rejected on Tuesday international criticism of King Gyanendra's decision to assume full power, saying the step was crucial to fight Maoist rebels.

Tulsi Giri, a former royalist premier who Gyanendra named on Monday as one of his deputies on a ruling council, said it was unfortunate that India and the United States had criticised the king for trying to stop Nepal's slide into chaos.

"There is a compulsion. There is a chaotic law and order situation in the country because of terrorism," said Giri, who was brought out of decades of political obscurity by the king.

"What are we expected to do? Will you allow killings to go on?" he asked

King Gyanendra sacked the government on Feb 1, blaming it for failing to tackle the Maoists. He assumed direct charge, setting aside multi-party democracy that was introduced in 1990 and suspended civil liberties including press freedom.

Giri described the Maoist rebels as terrorists and said in fighting terrorism, Nepal was just trying to do what other countries around the world were doing.

More than 11,000 have been killed in the nine-year-old revolt by the rebels, who are battling to replace what they see as a feudalistic, autocratic monarchy with one-party communist rule in one of the world's poorest countries.

Giri's comments came a day after the United States, Britain and France recalled their ambassadors and

Washington demanded the restoration of

Giant neighbour India also summoned its envoy back to New Delhi for consultations and urged Kathmandu to release political leaders, journalists and activists, who were detained after the king seized power, and restore multi-party democra-

Political wrangling and the insurgency in landlocked Nepal, wedged between India and China, have raised concern about its stability and fears that foreign militants could take advantage of the chaos and set up hideouts there.

### Not fair

"What did America do after 9/11? What is India doing in Kashmir," Giri said, referring to the U.S.-led war on terrorism and India's battle against Muslim separatist rebels in its Jammu and Kashmir state.

"Every country has a problem which it is trying to solve, but then it's not justice that you make comments on how Nepal is dealing with it.'

Giri said the government would have no choice but to go after the guerrillas if they kept rejecting peace talks.

"If they cooperate, it's OK. Otherwise, what's the alternative?" he asked, apparently alluding to tougher military action. Interior minister Dan Bahadur Shah said last week the king's takeover offered an opportunity for direct talks with the Maoists who rejected dialogue with previous governments saying they were puppets of the king.

But the rebels, who hold sway over

large parts of the countryside, have rejected talks with the king and have instead launched a nationwide transport strike, crippling domestic trade.

Giri said the state of emergency imposed by the king was temporary and political leaders would be freed soon.

"There are a few arrests here and there. detentions are not in massive numbers. Some have been released and more will be freed soon."

The leaders of main parties are either under house arrest or in detention which analysts say is to prevent them from organising protests against the monarch.



policemen rest patrolling the streets of Kathmandu

### asts expose issues a

MANILA, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Just when some things seemed to be looking up for the Philippines, three explosions delivered a deadly reminder of the many problems that continue to drag down the underdeveloped Southeast Asian nation.

The blasts, all within an hour on Monday in Manila and two cities in the troubled south, were claimed by the Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf in retaliation for a heavy army offensive against its strongholds on the remote island of Jolo.

Security officials said they were also looking at a role by Jemaah Islamiah, a regional network of militants associated with al Qaeda that is suspected of guiding and funding previous attacks by Abu Sayyaf and other Philippine

The explosions, which killed at least 11 people, did not shock seasoned analysts and investors accustomed to regular rebel violence and periodic eruptions of political instability.

The peso currency was slightly weaker against the dollar but the main stock index rose 0.27 percent.

"I don't think it will have too much of a long-term impact," said Nicholas Bibby, strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore.

"We've learned from time, when we've seen bombs in the south appear in the headlines and then also with things like the Bali bombing (in Indonesia), that things do quickly

The violence comes as the country enjoys some rare good news on the economic front. Financial markets are beginning to respond to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's economic reform agenda with stocks at five-year

A Supreme Court ruling recently allowed 100 percent foreign ownership of mining projects, encouraging government efforts to tap an estimated \$1 trillion in unexplored mineral wealth.

This week, the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force took the Philippines off its blacklist of countries deemed to be uncooperative in the fight against money-laundering.

But the blasts underlined the challenges of bringing peace to the south of

the mainly Roman Catholic country, the resource-rich but underdeveloped Mindanao region that is home to rebels, pirates and kidnap gangs splintered along ethnic, tribal and ideologi-

### Flexing muscles

Stephen Wilford, Southeast Asia analyst at Control Risks Group in Singapore, said Abu Sayyaf, a small but well-armed rebel group, was flexing its muscles for the second time in a year.

The rebels sank a ferry with a bomb near Manila Bay in February 2004, killing more than 100 people.

But Wilford said Monday's attacks and the fighting on Jolo posed little risk to peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country's largest Muslim rebel group which has a strong presence on Mindanao.

"We're in this grey area again where terrorism meets Moro nationalism

The military has been scoring a few Sayyaf," Wilford said.

successes, particulary against Abu

"We're going to see more of this the

more squeezed Abu Sayyaf becomes,' he added.

"The only slight danger I see is if the government decides to go after Abu Sayyaf people in MILF strongholds such as south and central Mindanao."

Despite Manila's close ties with Washington and anti-terror training by U.S. military advisers, poorly equipped Philippine soldiers have made only limited headway against Muslim militants and communist guerrillas over the

Nearly 5.000 troops are now on Jolo, fighting about 800 Abu Sayyaf rebels and rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which signed a peace deal in 1996.

The rebels tend to enjoy support from Muslim residents in areas they control, a factor the government is trying to address in peace talks with the MILF that hinge on ancestral land, rights to resources and rejuvenation of

"It's not a Muslim problem, it's a terrorist problem," said Solita Monsod, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines and a former government official.

"There is no government that can ensure security.

Can the United States government ensure security? Let's not put on the government this kind of burden — they are trying their best."

The Abu Sayyaf has called on the MILF to rejoin the war for an Islamic state in the southern Philippines but a truce has been holding for 18 months on Mindanao, despite several tests, as the peace talks look set to resume in Malaysia in March.



Members of the Philippine police's Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) team patrol a main street in Manila Feb. 15. Philippine security forces began hunting suspects on Tuesday and investigating claims by Muslim rebels after explosions in Manila and two southern cities killed at least 11 people on

### Castro says U.S. to blame if Chavez assassinated

HAVANA, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Cuban President Fidel Castro warned the United States on Saturday against plotting to kill his most important ally, Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez.

"I say to world public opinion: if they assassinate Chavez, the responsibility will fall squarely on the president of the United States, George W. Bush," Castro

The Cuban leader, who was the target of CIA assassination plots after his 1959 revolution steered Cuba toward Soviet Communism, gave no evidence that Chavez's life was in danger.

But he said the United States would be responsible for killing Chavez even if the Venezuelan military was to carry out the

He added: "If they can eliminate him,

Populist Chavez has led oil-rich Venezuela into a close alliance with Cuba, raising fears in Washington of Cuban-style communism taking hold in the South American country, a major supplier of oil to the United States.

Castro, 78, boasted that he had survived at least 100 attempts on his life. CIA plots against him included such capers as poisoned cigars, an exploding conch shell and toxin to make his beard

"This comes from a survivor. I have survived," he said in a nearly six-hour speech that lasted into the early hours of

#### A decisive stage

Closing a five-day conference of economists on the evils of globalization and free-market policies, Castro said the United States would be wasting its time trying to bump him off because socialism was well established and irreversible in



Cuban President Fidel Castro (L) walks with Adam Chavez, Venezuelan Ambassador to Cuba, prior to the closing of a conference of economists in Havana, Feb. 12. Castro warned the U.S. government against plotting to assassinate leftist President Hugo Chavez, his most important ally.REUTERS

Bolivarian revolution was at a decisive

Castro said the U.S. government was furious with Chavez and agreements the two leaders signed in December that allow cash-strapped Cuba to pay for vital imports of Venezuelan oil with medical and educational services.

Cuba has 20,000 doctors, dentists, teachers and sports trainers in Venezuela, mainly working in pro-Chavez slums. Castro said the number would rise to 30,000 by the end of the year.

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Castro has repeatedly accused the Bush adminis-

But in Venezuela, Chavez's so-called his government, a charge vehemently denied by U.S. officials.

> U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice added to Cuban fears of American intervention by dubbing the one-party island state an "outpost of tyranny" during her Senate confirmation hearing last

> Castro said Cubans were well prepared to defend themselves with guerrilla tactics down to the last man and woman.

> "I will fight until death. I will die with all the rest," he said.

Rice also reinforced a barrage of U.S. criticism of Chavez, citing what she called his autocratic measures at home tration of wanting to attack Cuba to oust and his negative influence in the region.

### **UK's Brown woos voters** with economic promises

(Reuters) - Finance Minister Gordon Brown vowed on Saturday to build on Britain's economic stability to improve schools and hospitals and sharpen its competitive edge if Labour wins a vote expected in May.

Polls show the Labour Party is on track to win a historic third term at the election, but public disillusionment with the eight-year-old government may cut its majority and hinder Prime Minister Tony Blair's legislative plans.

The centre-left ruling party, holding its last conference before the expected election, hopes to draw a line under the Iraq war, which angered many voters, and is campaigning on its economic track record and stewardship of public

"In the face of global economic challenges we will never rest upon our progress but build upon it," Brown told

"By making any necessary reforms, implementing the fresh incentives and new legislation required I want Labour ... to become the modern party of enterprise, flexibility and business."

Brown, viewed by many experts as Blair's most likely successor, boasted of his track record of sustained growth and low unemployment and inflation, and said stability for the world's fourth largest economy was paramount.

But in a nod to party modernisers he stressed the need for further reforms to eradicate child and pensioner poverty and improve schools and hospitals.

"To those who say no change without security I tell you straight there can be no security without change."

**Competitive boost** 

GATESHEAD, England, Feb 12 competitive challenge from fast growing Asian economies that will soon produce half of the world's manufactured goods, he said.

He pledged to work towards removing trade barriers to poor nations and repeated the goal of boosting aid spending.

The opposition Conservatives accuse Labour of letting borrowing run out of control and say taxes will have to rise if Labour wins.

Brown has said he will make a pledge on tax after delivering this year's budget, expected in mid-March, and Blair said last week that Labour would not lift the top rate of income

Brown attacked the Conservatives' economic record and said their pledges to lower taxes by slashing government bureaucracy would jeopardise stability.

"This will be the central dividing line at the election between a Conservative Party ... planning deep cuts in our services and a Labour government ... which on a platform of stability will reform and renew our hospitals, schools and public services," said the finance minister.

Brown, a political heavyweight, has strong grassroots Labour support and he won a standing ovation.

Some see him as a rival to Blair and tensions periodically flare between the two architects of the transformation of the party that helped carry it to victory

But as Labour seeks to pull together after divisions over Iraq, there were no signs of an ideological rift with Blair.

Amid fears that a low turnout might hurt Labour's chances, Brown urged supporters not to stay at home on polling day.

### Police guard Belgian politicians after threats

Antwerp police are guarding a farright politician, the city's mayor and an animal rights group after they were sent death threats and bullets, Belgian media reported on Saturday.

Newspapers suggested they were sent letters — each containing two bullets — because of their opposition to Muslims ritually slaughtering animals at home.

Antwerp's post office last week intercepted the threats, intended for Filip De Winter, leader of the far-right Vlaams Belang, Antwerp's socialist mayor Patrick Janssens, and animal rights activist Michel Vandenbosch.

"I suspect the letters are a reaction to our recent actions against domestic ritual slaughters," Vandenbosch, chairman of Belgian animal rights group Gaia, told Flemish paper De Morgen.

The three have police protection and the public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation, newspapers

Vlaams Belang leader Filip De Winter told De Morgen: "If someone sends you a bullet, the message is quite clear."

Several Belgian politicians have received death threats in recent months — stoking fears that religious tension would spill-over from the Netherlands, where the murder of a film-maker critical of radical Islam triggered a wave of attacks on schools, mosques and churches.

In November Belgian police arrested a Belgian Muslim convert who they said had confessed to making death threats against a senator critical of radical Islam.

### Russians take to streets to protest, applaud reforms

Hundreds of thousands of rival demonstrators massed in 70 Russian towns on Saturday to condemn or applaud social benefit reforms by President Vladimir Putin's government, Russian media reported.

In the biggest protest, thousands of pro-Putin demonstrators marched through the centre of the capital, chaperoned by hundreds of armed police.

It was the first major turnout in favour of the president since the protests began last month in his home town of St Petersburg, when thousands of pensioners turned out to denounce a new law reforming social benefits.

"There's no reason to be dissatisfied with Putin. We're here to show our support and love for him," said Anatoly, a former navy officer in his 80s, who declined to give his last name.

Police at the scene said the crowd, mainly pensioners, numbered 5,000 to 6,000 people. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency quoted an Interior Ministry spokesman as saying 250,000 had demonstrated across Russia.

It was not immediately clear how

than half of French workers are against

government plans to relax the

country's 35-hour working week, according to a poll published on

A poll by CSA Opinion published in

the L'Humanite Hebdo weekly

newspaper showed 56 percent of

French workers and 43 percent of

French people were against the

reforms, which would let people to

increase overtime and work up to 48

The French lower house of

parliament on Wednesday approved

the conservative government's plans to

reform the 35-hour working week,

created by a 1998 law, despite fierce

Saturday.

hours a week.

"Maintain stability, support the president," read the wide banner carried by the front rank of Moscow's pro-Putin

Ekho Moskvy radio station reported

Police cordoned off much of central Moscow while the march passed, forcing residents to wait on the icy streets until the protesters, with their mass-produced banners declaring "Putin, we're with you!" and "Communists, get serious!",

The new law strips millions of the poorest Russians - pensioners, lowincome families and disabled people of rights such as free bus travel and free healthcare, replacing them with miserly cash payments instead.

Over half French workers

oppose 35-hour reform-poll

PARIS, Feb 12 (Reuters) - More opposition from labour unions and the

threat of street protests.

without additional pay.

reduce high employment.

newspaper said.

many were for Putin and how many against the reform, but Interfax news agency said 10,000 people marched for Putin in four other towns besides

some of the protesters complaining that they had been dragooned into taking part, with workers promised bonuses and students awarded extra study credits for showing up, and soldiers ordered to do

The government claims the move would make French businesses more

competitive but unions say workers

would be forced to work longer hours

The then ruling Socialists cut the

The CSA telephone poll of 805

people aged 18 and over, conducted on

Wednesday, also showed 36 percent of

workers and 46 percent of French

people were in favour of the proposed

changes, L'Humanite Hebdo reported.

notably backed the reforms, the

French pensioners and bosses

working week in 1998 in an effort to

out by the government of President Vladimir Putin, Russian media reported.

The issue has caused the biggest dent in Putin's popularity since he breezed through his re-election a year ago and gave communist and nationalist deputies ammunition for a parliamentary vote of no-confidence in the government this

An Interior troops serviceman clashes with demonstrators during a picket in the centre of Moscow, Feb. 12. Hundreds of thousands of rival demonstrators

massed in around 70 Russian towns to condemn or applaud reforms carried

The government survived that vote, but parliament forced an embarrassing apology from Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and secured a 30 percent hike in

### Spanish police arrest two **ETA** suspects

MADRID, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Spanish police arrested two men for suspected links to armed Basque separatists ETA, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

The arrests brought to 17 the number of ETA suspects detained this week as part of a crackdown on the armed group's recruitment network.

The suspects were detained in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa on Spain's north coast and in the Mediterranean region of Alicante.

Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said in a statement he hoped the opera-

tion would serve to considerably reduce ETA's operating capacity and prevent future attacks.

ETA, classed as a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union, detonated a car bomb in Madrid on Wednesday that wounded 43 people during a visit by Mexican President Vicente Fox.

It has killed more than 830 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state carved from northern Spain and

### German U.S. policy coordinator denies spy charge

MUNICH, Germany, Feb 12 government's coordinator for relations with the United States denied on Saturday a report he may have supplied the former East German government with sensitive NATO documents.

"I never passed on classified material," Karsten Voigt told Reuters on the margins of the annual Munich Security Conference.

Focus magazine reported on Saturday that German prosecutors had passed on details of the spying Ministry last December.

It was based on documents discovered by Germany's BND spy agency in the archives of East Germany's ruling Communist (SED) party that suggested Voigt may have passed on NATO reports before they had been adopted by NATO's military committee.

Focus magazine quoted a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office saying: "We received a private tip-off which is now being examined.'

Voigt confirmed he had passed on reports reviewing NATO policies to an SED official but said these were drawn up by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, of which he had been a member, and not the Alliance's powerful military committee.

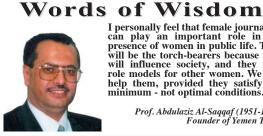
NATO's Parliamentary Assembly has no formal ties with the allegation to the country's Justice Alliance's command and control

> "These reports were intended for publication and I made them public," Voigt said.

> "There has been a mix up between the confidential NATO military committee and the military committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly," he added.



A protester holds a placard against U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a demonstration in Munich Feb. 12. Some thousand demonstrators protested against the 41st Conference on Security Policy, a meeting of politicians and military experts. Rumsfeld attended the conference after German prosecutors rejected a war crimes complaint filed against him. REUTERS



I personally feel that female journalists resonary teer that relate four hands can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal conditions.

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



### **OUR OPINION**

### **India and China** can teach us

esterday, I was watching a business program talking about the two fastest growing economies in the world, China and India. The report was in-depth and tackled the various elements of the two countries and tried to pinpoint the factors behind the success of the two nations in achieving a growth rate between 7 to 10 per cent. That is impressive.

In the analysis, the issue of 'good governance' was highlighted. The two countries have very well set laws that are enforced smoothly. Citizens of the two countries believe that it is compulsory to go by the law. The bureaucracy in both governments is quite strong and efficient and this has contributed to the level of security of investments and businesses.

Furthermore, there is the issue of forward-thinking and planning ahead. China for example has already planned for the upcoming 50 years. Government officials have already drawn the lines and are following up with those plans to achieve the highest expecta-

Meanwhile, the issue of leading by example was also quite fascinating in both countries. Officials at the top of the pyramid in the two countries look like employees who are working harder than average and setting an example for others to follow.

We in the Arab world tend to have this belief that the ones at the lowest rank of office are the ones working the hardest. In many cases, this is true. Hence, this drives many to frustration, as low-paying jobs require extraordinary work, while those at the top do almost nothing.

In China and India, it is the other way around. Lowranking officials have to work hard because they see their bosses working hard as well. They conclude easily that if their employers are so dedicated and hardworking, being lazy would drive them out of work

But when it came to the real question of 'why do those nations succeed in developing their countries so rapidly?' the ultimate answer is 'human resource development'. The two countries were able to create highly qualified and skilled people. Those people are the ones who build, who govern, who teach, and who make miracles possible.

With such high emphasis on education, and public services offered to the people, no one can prevent a nation from growing and prospering. Those nations that value their people and ensure that they get all they deserve, are the ones who give humanity the top priority and hence are the nations that succeed in their mission in life.

I believe we can learn a lot from those two nations, which will no doubt one day grow and have a leading role in world politics.

If we can only learn from them, their love to their citizens, and care they provide to each and every individual, we can start applying those methods and end the ongoing stagnancy in our countries' development.

Will it ever happen? Let's wait and see.

The Editor



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### A new year

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

e may ask ourselves, and we should, at the point separating two years, an old one and a new one, about what we, as Arabs, achieved. We may ponder on the events of the last year in the Middle East: Iraq has been occupied, the US has brandished at Syria, Lebanon, and Iran and is still continuing its bullying act vowing to make their future blackened. Behaving thus, the US is acting as an attorney for Zionism and its incarnation in Israel. Palestine has been reoccupied namely the West Bank and Gaza Strip where the Palestinian statehood is supposed to be achieved with al-Quds as a capital. The issues of refugees and al-Quds are conditioned by Israel's agreement to the Road Map. The Road Map, which is approved by the International Committee, states that the fate of al-Quds as well as the issue of refugees depend on Israel's agreement, which does not appear to be ready to

At the same time, al-Ribat, Morocco, saw the event of Muntada al-Mustaqbal (the Future Forum) on December 10-11, 2004, and the UAE hosted the Cultural Days in the Strategic Meeting. There were also the 15<sup>th</sup> Gulf Summit held in Doha, and before it, there was Sharm al-Sheikh International Conference in November to study the

were not conducive to results resolving the crises in Iraq and Palestine. In both cases a full-fledged occupational situation is manifested in front of which the whole Arab and Islamic nation loses the initiative. Unlike the past, we are not ready to turn this submissive state into a national liberation through various support means as we knew from the people who never succumbed to oppression or tyranny. They kept always standing by the occupation resistance. But now, the enemy has been able to dry up the springs of finance under the pretext that they "support terrorism".

If Iraq and Palestine are showing two models of occupation, 2004 witnessed the Arab World being trimmed at its limbs: Sudan developed into an international problem and it its west and south the Islamic and pagan civilizations collided. Actually, the bulk of Africa is suffering from different plagues: poverty, illness, illiteracy, etc.

The Arab regime could withstand the change attempt planned for the area and the new "Road Map." This resistance was expressed by the Arab Summit in Tunisia in the wake of the Sea Island Summit in the US, which hosted the great industrial countries. The Arab stance was based on the conviction that reforms should come from the inside and not imposed from outside as Sea Island's statement suggested. The Arab regimes rejected that because such an imposition that issue of Iraq. All these conferences disregards strategic and historic dimensions of the situation would be disastrous. Add to that the US bias towards Israel. Thus, the year 2005 is considered a reform-expecting year. The reform to the nationalist institution is in its infancy. It is natural for the nationalist regimes to be cautious of their adversaries at home especially after some countries' amendment of the mutual defense agreement.

As the first days of 2005 have shown the symptoms of a transformation in the region (Middle East), hope lies in the efforts of the Palestinian and Iraqi people who fight against occupation. We should not wait for the American or the Israeli peoples because the former have reelected George W. Bush for a second term despite the fact that his forces still occupy Iraq and he obstinately supports the occupation. The Israelis on the other hand have been backing up their PM and urge him to reoccupy and re-colonize Palestinian territories. They did not recognize the Palestinian people with al-Quds as their capital and did not accept repatriating the refugees.

Sharon's Cabinet wishes that the US administration would resolve the problem of the smallness of Israel's land at the expense of the Arab people. Israel is waiting for that on the hope that patience will give it what it hankers for. However, the US may not hazard angering Arabs to please her pampered "changeling".

With 2005, I am as desperate as the people inflicted by the tsunami n

### Marib events reflect crisis between state and tribe

By Hassan Al-Zaidi YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he events in Marib last week between the Obeida tribe and the authorities reflect the crisis in the relationship between the tribes and the state and highlights that the potential for ongoing conflict between

In the 1980s, some observers attributed the crisis between the central government and Marib tribes to difficulties in the relationships between Yemen and some of its neighbors, particularly the monthly financial support received by

some tribal figures from the government of Saudi Arabia.

After the 1994 civil war and the demarcation of the borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, however, relations between tribes and the state remain tense, indicating that state views the tribes as a threat to national security and stability.

The tribes believe that the government aims to oppress them and is not looking for real solutions to the problems. The tribes accuse the authorities of deliberately turning a blind eye to revenge disputes and tribal wars. They blame the government for trying to enforce laws to disarm the tribes while simultaneously allowing the military to do whatever they want.

The relations between the authorities and tribes are getting worse, resulting in bloodshed on both sides. Many harmful mistakes are the result of the government's inability to deal with the tribes as an integral part of Yemeni society.

The state must integrate tribes into the government structures, and give them their rights according to the law, instead of tribal arbitration.

The relations between the state and the tribes need attention from government decision-makers to establish better relations based equality and on the

### Letters to the Editor

motive for the threat be to

weaken the Iran-backed

Hezbollah in Southern

Lebanon? Who in the US

Zionists and Israelis? So the

US adopts an Israeli world-

view, again. One possible

miscalculation, as Israel

directs US foreign policy, is

that both the US and Israel

have no powerful friends in

The US is not taken seri-

ously beyond its weapons.

The world is reconfiguring

the balance of power such

that the giant with clay feet-

the US- is going to be left

out. Israel is rotting from the

inside. The average size of

the Palestinian family com-

pared to Israel's is changing

the balance of power non-

violently. Israel can continue

to kill little Palestinian girls,

but the Palestinians will mul-

tiply faster than the Israelis.

The meek shall inherit the

the world.

About 'Censorship is back'

Regarding your article, "Censorship is Back" you end it by faulting Western" countries. It is very common for you and other Arab persons to blame the U.S. and other Western countries for everything that goes wrong in and with the Arab/Muslim world. The reality of the numerous problems lies somewhere else and close to home.

Many Muslims are disillusioned with the reality of their controlled Arab/Muslim teachings and propaganda they were raised on. Within your world it is not acceptable to criticize internally certain elements of your society. However, it is permissible and encouraged to criticize and fight with the West. Non Arab/Muslim countries are not the real problem for Yemen, and despite your Western directed anger and resentment, you

Roger F. rogerfike14@hotmail.com Interference is not

the solution read with interest your article regarding 'freedom of the press'. Having spent most of my adult life in various countries of the Middle East, upon moving to Yemen from Saudi Arabia, it was most refreshing to read articles published in the local newspapers, which 'told it like it was'. It is indeed a sad day for the press to be censored and will promote a state of uncertainty. However, any involvement

by European or Western sources would generally be considered interference. David Biggs

davidbiggs@hotmail.com

Press freedom should be supported

hank you for your edito-I rial piece on press freedom in Yemen. What courage you show, in expressing your outrage and despair - under the circumstances you describe! Hopefully, President Bush will act according to his statements in support of freedom, and make a strong stand, with diplomatic efforts, to support press freedom in Yemen.

Richard Geissal Saint Louis USA ricksahm@yahoo.com

The real beneficiary of the Iraq war

appreciate your depiction appreciate your car-of US foreign policy as being directed and dictated by Israel's national interest. Who is the great beneficiary of the shedding of Iraqi and American blood? How many atrocities were and are being committed against the Palestinians while the US attacks and occupies Iraq? The US-Iraqi conflict hardens the average American to Israel's violence in Gaza because now the US empathizes with Israel concerning the Arab "terrorists". The spread of racism in the US against Arabs and Muslims has been increased with the US purposeless presence in Iraq.

Chris Molling cpmolling@yahoo.com

An example from India nce upon a time, we in India experienced something similar, I am afraid more fiendish, with regard to press freedom. Somebody said there was an internal emergency. Bold papers reacted by leaving their leader columns blank. But democracy prevailed, yeah, somewhat. You say you are pes-

simistic. That is irrational. If the fire is still there in the Now the US threatens journalist and the word can force against Iran. Can the denote its meaning, the

reporter will not fail. I just can't understand your plea to the international community and the West. Are countries really cares about the that strangulate the press in Hezbollah except US places like Iraq going to help

The key to survival is in survival itself.

V R Jayaraj Kerala, India jayarajvr@yahoo.co.in

Don't lose hope!

wish to Al-Khaiwani a lot Lof courage, and to the editor don't lose your dream of a better world, everybody all over the world has this dream, and you should never give up and perhaps you may see one day your dreams become reality. It is important to describe the ideas of a better world and so it is a challenge to all journalists and people to express themselves to obtain justice, fairness, righteousness and awareness beyond their neighbors, friends, enemies and last and not least from their governments.

> Barbara D desvoignes@bluewin.de

Where's Iraq's oil?

ince the American insurgencies and occupation of Iraq, what percentage of Iraqi oil is in the hands of Iraqi oil ministries and how much of oil revenues is being held in the motherland country for its naturalized citizens. What contrast between now and when Saddam Hussein regime was in

William Mikels mikels1@earthlink.net



COMMONSENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

### **Fighting** terrorism with sex?

ne is not sure how the Pentagon finds it plausible that it can win the hearts and minds of its captured prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and the other prisons where hundreds of prisoners are being held indefinitely it seems through the adoption of "sensual coercion" as part of their interrogation methods. One is also dumbstruck by the profanity of some of the tactics used to "get the prisoners to talk", not to mention the disgusting nadir methods of humiliation and intimidation such as simulating drenching the prisoners with "menstrual" blood. Whatever one may say about terrorists of the Al-Qaida genre, but the revelation by the Washington Post on Thursday February 10, 2005, of the sexual tactics used by the Pentagon to intimidate Guantanamo prisoners through the use of provocative or gross sexual methods of "interrogation" was, at the least, an insult to all decent human beings as well as the Moslems of the world. According to its own inquiry findings, the Pentagon has conceded the use of such tactics to try to "humiliate and pry information from devout Moslem men held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba", said the Post article. The inquiry did not confirm that such tactics are sanctioned by the Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld in his "dos and don'ts" guidelines on prisoner torture.

Certainly the War on Terror has produced a cavalcade of highly questionable behavior on the part of the American forces in both Afghanistan and Iraq (the latter, only thanks to the War on Terror, only recently became a messy terrorist playground). But it is truly unacceptable that human dignity and moral convictions should be subject to disgusting insult to, by no other than the superpower that claims to represent the hopes and aspirations of all "freedom loving people of the world".

Mind you, the insulting nature of such open use of sexual intimidation and provocation is not only insulting to the victims, but one would think degrading to the soldiers and "interrogators" themselves, although they do not show that much reluctance in undertaking these horrific tactics. How could they allow themselves to be used as tools of sexual provocation or disgusting tactics, as if their flesh has been declared US Government property, which can be used in any way deemed "useful" for advancing the cause it has set out to unilaterally bear its banner? Without its own moral code, there is no way that the War on Terror could be convincingly bought by most decent and civilized people of the world and certainly Moslems throughout the world have a right to be furious that the American Government should insult their moral convictions, even if they are the staunchest of opponents to the extreme rendition that terrorists have projected Islam in.

Yet there it is laid out by actual prisoners who have had to face such brazen tactics, while they have yet to be found in any way associated with terrorist acts, as they told their lawyers candidly about the kind of intimidation they were subjected to as American women displayed their sexual talents or carried out filthy displays of degradation. That American sexual mores have become fluid by a sexploitation culture that is prevalent throughout the United States is obvious in much of the artistry that comes out of the United States, but to use that fluidity against devout worshippers of God, certainly indicates the weak moral backbone of the American sole expedi tion against terror. It is more likely to give strength to further animosity against the United States, because there is absolutely no justification for the humiliation of any person through insulting their religious convictions.

The alibi for the Pentagon is rather weak as the article states: "...report found that interrogators used sexually oriented tactics and harassment to shock or offend Muslim prisoners, the senior Pentagon official said. The official said that the military would not condone "sexual activity" during interrogation, but that good interrogators "take initiative and are a little creative."

For sure the United States Department of Defense will treat this as it did the Abu Ghreib torture scandal revealed mid last year and maybe one or two low level interrogators will be reprimanded here and there. However, unless the United States Government implicitly apologizes to all Moslems for this derogatory insult to their religious mores and values, and ceases such tactics. it would be foolish to believe that the US War on Terror can make any advances among Moslem constituencies everywhere in the world. The underestimation of Moslem feelings about such behavior is another indication of the apparently ingrained contempt for Moslem religious values that the Pentagon and other US agencies have shown all along this ugly war that is neither making the world any safer from terror nor displaying the existence of any genuine moral convictions on the part of the US. Just because the US has become so fluid in moral convictions should not mean that it has a right to view those with strong moral convictions with utter contempt

It is unbelievable that as time goes on the United States becomes more and more portrayed as a promoter of so much evil under supposedly declared high values and one is rather surprised that the many people who have written emails to insist that mainstream Americans see genuine cause in their government's pursuits would not find it appropriate to see the genuine pathetic displays of moral degradation by the vanguards of this gen-

This kind of behavior can only come from the one experienced source of such tactics as many a Palestinian prisoner of Israel will be ready to report if they had the

### <u>US trade deficit</u>

### Greenspan play politics

BY MELVYN KRAUSS

n the eve of the last G-7 meeting in London, US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan did a Greenspan startling about-face by soft-pedaling America's trade deficit. "Market pressures ...appear poised to stabilize and over the longer run possibly to decrease the US current-account deficit and its attendant financing requirements," he said. But just two months earlier, in Frankfurt, Mr. Greenspan had cautioned that the US deficit could not go on forever without the dollar depreciating. What is going on here?

To be sure, the US trade figures have improved somewhat. The expected December trade deficit is \$57 billion—an improvement on the record \$60.3 billion gap in November. And the November figure will be adjusted downward because of a recently discovered statistical error by Canadian authorities.

But politics, not economics, explains why the Fed chairman changed his tune about America's weak external position. Mr. Greenspan's statement in Frankfurt in November alarmed senior European Central Bank (ECB) officials, who considered it a "provocation" - one that promptly sent the dollar into an unwanted tailspin.

The last thing the Fed Maestro needed was a repeat performance on the eve of the G-7 – a meeting that is supposed to exemplify international co-operation. So Mr. Greenspan decided to extend a peace offering to the Europeans.

Politics also explains Mr. Greenspan's pre-G-7 comment that "the voice of fiscal restraint, barely audible a year ago, has at least partially regained volume."

The Fed chairman is "hearing voices" because he is a team player who wants to encourage US budget cutting. How would it look if he had openly expressed misgivings about Bush's plan to cut the budget deficit in half by 2009 just days before it was made public? What Mr. Greenspan chose to overlook, however, is that most experts are extremely - and rightly - skeptical of the Bush plan, which leaves out big-ticket items such as the cost of the Iraq War, and uses an unrealistic benchmark from which to measure the alleged 50%

Timing the budget's release for just after the G-7 made for a harmonious London meeting in which both Americans and Europeans could claim that the US was taking care of business—that is, its twin fiscal and current-account deficits.

The Europeans gladly went along with this charade because they now fear dollar depreciation more than

global imbalance. So far, Europe's fragile economic recovery has been based largely on exports. The euro's rapid appreciation against the dollar threatens to undermine this foundation.

But internal European Union studies indicate that European exports are more closely linked to changes in external demand than the euro-dollar exchange rate. So long as external demand holds up - and recent growth numbers from China and the US are positive in this regard – Europe's exports should continue to perform well.

In any case, protecting exports by resisting euro appreciation - or, more precisely, dollar depreciation – is a poor way to promote economic growth. A strong currency keeps both inflation and ECB interest hikes at bay. This helps boost private consumption and investment.

Moreover, because crude oil is priced in US dollars, a rise in the euro means a fall in energy costs. This, too, helps European growth. Over the longer term, a strong currency promotes efficiency in export industries, further insulating competitiveness from exchange-rate effects. Dollar depreciation improves Europe's terms of trade and real income.

America's fiscal and external deficits will not disappear just because the chief magician at the

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Federal Reserve waves his wand and says abracadabra. On the contrary, the longer Greenspan plays down America's dangerous macroeconomic imbalances with happy talk, the more damage they will ultimately inflict on the global economy.

What the world needs now is the realist Greenspan of Frankfurt, not the cheerleader Greenspan of London. Simply put, there must be dollar depreciation to keep global imbalances in check. Instead of catering to European fears and prejudices about exchange rates, the Fed chairman should put politics aside and stick to sound economics.

Melvyn Krauss is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

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## Reflections By Yahya Al-Olfi

### Too much TV The Arab anesthetization

resumes as MBC "1" has launched its fourth free channel "4" with its series of news from America's CBS and ABC broadcasting corporations throughout the day resuming till midnight with drama, reality TV, comedy and celebrity news for many to enjoy.

Well, the good news is that it's working just as it did two years ago with their 2 channel which is now a movie channel with its nonstop films- Keep on rolling folks! But the bad news is "What's

For the MBC (Middle Eastern Broadcasting Corporation) it is truthfully felt that they really did succeed with the "2" channel, two years ago. But was it wise and necessary to launch a third channel "3" for kids in most cases diverting them from their homework? And a fourth one which was absolutely unnecessary as all the drama, comedy and celebrity news were broadcasted on "2"?

For most of us it's like deleting dessert off a menu as all the latter blended with the films on "2" making it quite appetizing and

desirable. But now we're going to be torn apart between the two of them: Which, why, and when.

Apart from the wise decision to air America's news broadcast it is just too much, too many and although we can never forget the undeniable success of MBC1 in its past it is only too fair to admit that it has lost its significance between the three channels making it the least watched channel making "2" and "4" the most watched and no doubt the kids would love MBC 3 as it has proved a real challenge to Bahrain's "Space Toon".

Is it "War of the Channels" within the Arab Nation?

Unfortunately, it is a thing most of us are aware of, but can't stop, because of the addiction, and there is no denying that we all love TV and if we can't watch it we still need it, a necessity a part of our bondage as a community and a nation and some do go along by the proverb "Know thy enemy" and learn the way of the west to their own interest.

As we are forced to watch TV, it is only wise to take the good and leave the bad not forgetting we have lives to lead and we should all learn so as not to make further mistakes in the future.

### Mainstream American opinion

## **US** responding to terror

BY MIKE ZOLOTAS mike\_zolotas@hotmail.com

ecently, as apart of a course provided by my university, I have been studying history related to the current political state of countries in the Middle East. Included in this study, I have been reading various local newspapers to gain a cultural perspective.

Having read Yemen Times, granted that it has only been a brief amount of time, it seems that their have been incredible exaggerations given in its editorials section as to why US foreign policy is on its current course, and what actual American opinion is. While I can speak only definitively for myself, I would like to give a few brief points about what it is like domestically in the United States.

For the most part, US citizens do

not 'hate' Islam. The policies of conflict. From my perspective, undertaken in the past few years, such as the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, have been responses to a growing trend of terrorism both foreign and abroad (the 9/11 attack, that is a tough dilemma: Israeli numerous US embassy bombings, settlers promote Palestinian the USS Cole etc.) against the United States.

American foreign policy of the past is not concurrent with policies of today. By this, I mean that the United States does not attempt to and the horrible effects they had.

These policies were driven by Cold War fears of Communist ideology, which stated that eventual armed conflict with the west would occur. These fears do not exist today; America has no intention, nor desire of becoming an 'empire'. this is Zionist Conspiracy so Israel

overthrow democratically-elected governments (Such as what happened in Iran). America has realized the error of such policies, cause of the conflict. Americans are

U.S citizens don't give a 'blank check' to all Israeli action, nor do Americans hold Palestinians as the sole cause of the conflict. It seems reaction in the form of suicide bombers.

The suicide bombers (whom I consider outright murders) then kill innocent civilians. Because of these bombings Israel is then forced to respond militarily. It's a never ending cycle, and one cannot label one side or the other as the sole also aware of how WWII forcefully reshaped the area Israel now occupies and how this contributed to a great amount of anger.

US policy on Iraq is widely misinterpreted, and I was somewhat troubled to find some writing that Israel always seems to be a topic has a buffer zone (Which is a utter

fallacy. Israel can more than defend itself militarily). Iraq was invaded for a few reasons:

1) Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator, who had no qualms about killing/torturing his own citizens.

2) Saddam Hussein openly stated his intent to attack America

3) He stated his intent to develop weapons of Mass Destruction

4) He had no qualms about using WMD's, which is clearly shown in his attacks on Iranians in the Iran-

5) We supported him in the Iran-Iraq War and he turned out to be a brutal dictator. This can, in a small way, be viewed as a righting of a wrong. Clearly, Saddam was not only a threat to the United States, but also to the stability of the surrounding region.

I hope that my own views on this situation, which I consider relatively mainstream. somewhat interesting to read.

### **Democracy over?**

## The return of the king in Nepal

BY KUNDA DIXIT

very time we in Nepal think things can't get worse, they do.

In 2001, as our Maoist insurgency intensified and casualties soared, almost the entire royal family including King Birendra - were massacred by one of Nepal's princes.

The next year, parliament was dissolved and local elected bodies were disbanded. As political parties bickered, King Gyanendra, who succeeded his murdered brother, sacked the prime minister in 2002 and ruled through an appointed cabinet.

Last week, King Gyanendra sacked his prime minister again, declared a state of emergency, and suspended civil liberties. Nepal's 15-year

experiment with democracy now seems over. Since February 1, the Nepali media have been subjected to absolute censorship. Nothing that goes against the "letter and spirit" of the king's dismissal of his government is allowed to be printed and broadcast, and "action will be taken against anyone violating the notice."

Armed soldiers now sit in newsrooms, vetting the galleys before they go off to press. Sometimes, they change headlines that they think are critical of the royal move. Nepal's vibrant FM radio stations - once models for decentralized publicservice broadcasting and community radio - have been prohibited from broadcasting current affairs. Some FM stations have been locked down and

The BBC's Nepalese service, which used to be relayed through a network of

12 FM stations all over the country, has been stopped. All Indian news channels have been dropped from cable networks. On Saturday, two senior journalists were detained for issuing statements critical of the crackdowns.

Newspapers and magazines are reproducing blandly official pronouncements and reports from the state-run news agency. Some have taken the risk of resorting to metaphors and allegory, while others poke fun at the whole thing by writing editorials on ballet or bee-keeping. At least one newspaper came out with its news pages completely blank.

Most young journalists, especially those in radio, have been shocked by the censorship. The freedoms that they were so accustomed to, and maybe even took for granted, have now been snatched away. But, for older journalists like me, there is a strong

sense of déjà vu-the controls hark back to the times of the partyless absolute monarchy that existed here before 1990, when self-censorship was the order of the day.

Back then, irrational news decisions, sycophancy, and propaganda were passed off as journalism. In those days, editors, reporters, and columnists played a cat-and-mouse game with the authorities, resorting to satire, humor, or metaphor.

But punishment could be harsh. Many journalists spent time behind bars, and there was a price to be paid when the morning newspapers contained even accidental typos, such as occurred when a headline concerning a royal birthday read "suspicious" instead of "auspicious."

Old jokes from the pre-1990 days have returned, like this one: a man was walking down a Kathmandu street,

shouting, "Down with dictatorship in Pakistan." A policeman grabbed him and took him in. At the police station, he asked the protestor, "Why are you denouncing dictatorship in Pakistan when it exists here?"

To be sure, many Nepalis have welcomed King Gyanendra's move this week. Much of the public is disenchanted by the instability caused by fractious and corrupt parliamentary leaders and by the Maoist insurgency, which has cost 12,000 lives in nine years. If this is what the king had to do to restore peace, they say, so be it.

After all, the king has staked all and gambled his own throne by taking over

They have a point. Many expect the king to pull a rabbit out of his hat, to restore peace and start raising the living standards of Nepal's 25 million people, most of whom live below the

poverty line. In his speech on February 1, King Gyanendra said the Nepali people would have to temporarily give up democracy in order to save democracy, and many Nepalese will go along with that, at least for a while. The king has a window of opportunity to deliver on his promises.

Perhaps King Gyanendra does have something up his sleeves. In the long run, however, the answer to Maoist totalitarianism is greater and more inclusive democracy, a vibrant free press, and civil liberties. Curtailing freedom merely polarizes society. Indeed, even as a short-term strategy against the Maoists, it may well prove counterproductive.

Kunda Dixit is the Editor of the Nepali Times.

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## Business

### Industry meetings

## Yemen and Jordan enhance ties

By Ismail Al-Ghabri **Yemen Times Staff** 

of Industry and Commerce both Yemen and Jordan signed on Feb.7 a report on how to enhance economic and trade ties between the two countries.

It's also geared to increase cooperation in the areas of health, medicine, electricity, industry, transportation and education.

Recent discussion has also included social development, media, tourism, social insurance and many other sectors of relevance.



The joint committee emphasized the necessity of trade exchange through boosting joint investment projects from both countries. The committee also discussed the means of cooperation through the establish-

ment of joint projects and organizing several trade exhibitions for produces from both countries.

During meetings of the supreme committee, ten agreements and memorandums of understanding on tourism, social insurance and culture were signed between both sides.

The Jordanian side delivered to the Yemeni delegation various projects, memorandums of understanding and executive projects in the areas of civil as the protection of plant and folk-

Dr. Khaled Rajeh, Yemeni Minister of Industry and Commerce confirmed the necessity of enhancing trade and economic ties between the countries, increasing investment opportunities and taking an advantage from sectors in both countries like agriculture, medicine and fisheries.

The Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce stated that his country will exempt Yemeni products it imports from customs.

He also pointed out the importance of efforts exerted by Yemen in jointhe International Trade Organization and reinforcing the role

### **Exchange Rate for** the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling				
US Dollar	186.7900	187.0300				
Sterling Pound	346.5600	347.0100				
Euro	238.4200	238.7300				
Saudi Rial	49.8100	49.8700				
Kuwaiti Dinar	639.6700	640.4900				
UAE Dirhem	50.8600	50.9300				
Egyptian Pound	32.0900	32.1400				
Bahraini Dinar	495.4400	496.0800				
Qatari Rial	51.3200	51.3900				
Jordanian Dinar	263.4300	263.7700				
Omani Rial	485.1600	485.7900				
Swiss Franc	152.8900	153.0900				
Swedish Crown	26.2400	26.2700				
Japanese Yen	1.7697	1.7720				
Source: Central Bank of Yemen						

of the public sector in both countries through the establishment of a joint work council.

It is worth noting that the amount of trade exchange between the two countries reached over the first ten months of the last year around 20 million Jordanian diners, 17.2 million diners of which are exports.

Chemical products, dispensary drugs, papers and electrical equipment account for the bulk of the exports while fisheries, diaries and tea counted for the bulk of imports.

### Legislative and financial steps taken

## Fighting money laundering crimes

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

long with the rest of the Arab world, Yemen is continuing to fight money laundering.

But the battle is ongoing, according to specialists like legal expert Dr Akram Abdulrazzak al-Mashadani, who notes that money laundering is a crime resulting from other criminal activities.

Thus, money laundering is considered a crime used for finding an outlet for the criminals and to overcome the difficulty of dealing with outputs of their crimes like the drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, slave trading, financial corruption outputs and embezzlement.

International laws about money laundering are based on rules and terms of the UN agreement pertaining to fighting drugs. The justification of that is that drug activities are the source for dirty money due to their financial revenues.

Now studies indicate that activities of financial and administrative corruption in developing countries, especially by the influential persons and those in control, result in the creation of huge illegitimate wealth

The modern development of technology, computer and internet, reveals that illegal money from those crimes is huge.

The republic of Yemen has taken important steps towards prevention of the crimes of money laundering. In 2003 it passed a law fighting money launder-

A unit was formed in the Central Bank to specialize in combating money laun-

In compliance of that law all banks working in Yemen have to commit themselves to not open accounts or preserving accounts for people of unknown identities or through correspondence.

The banks are also to verify identities of clients by depending on official docu-

### Social Fund goes to 1,037 projects

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he Social Fund for Development says their 2005 work plan will entail 1,037 projects at a cost of US \$80 million, and will target the social safety network, and small enterprises.

The projects are comprised of 174 organizational training and support programs, costing US \$2.8 million, and 33 small enterprise projects, costing US \$3.2 million.

There will be 454 education projects costing US \$41.6 million,

149 water and environment projects at US\$12.472 million.

The plan also allocated US\$11.2 million for executing projects in the social protection unit - the entire intervention, the health, and those of special needs also.

The cultural heritage unit the rural highways includes the execution of 76 projects with value of US \$ 8.8 million split up into 41 highways sector projects with value of US \$ 5.2 million, and 31 projects in cultural heritage at a value of US\$3.5 million.

The fund in the last year worked on 1118 projects at a value of US \$79.3 million, 969 of which were executed.

### **SIEMENS**

### **Job Vacancies**

SIEMENS AG, Communications - Mobile Networks, Yemen Branch is seeking highly qualified local personnel for the following positions:

#### **One IN Engineer One Accountant** One Storekeeper

Candidates must have the following basic requirements:

- Hardworking and highly motivated person Fluent in English and Arabic languages
- Must be computer literate

Additional requirements for IN Engineer

- Computer engineering graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in UNIX system administration CISCO certified engineer (CCNA) with one year field experience
- Minimum one year experience in the IT, TCP/IP protocol, computer LAN field and IP sub-netting
- Additional requirements for Accountant
  - Bachelor of accountancy graduate with minimum rate very good
  - Minimum two years experience in bookkeeping or related field Knowledge of peachtree accounting software is an advantage

### Additional requirements for Storekeeper

- University graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in warehouse keeping or related field Knowledge of any logistics software is an advantage
- If you fulfill the above requirements, please send your CV and application letter to the

Fax: 412314 P.O. Box 18611

following address:

## Agricultural exports reach YR 22 billion

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

emen's agricultural exports have reached around YR 22 billion, an increase of YR 8 billion from 2003, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh has equipped a vessel owned by the Yemeni Economic Corporation to ship the products to foreign markets.

Sources have advised The Yemen Times that the vessel is currently the only means of transporting Yemeni agricultural products by

The vessel is to be equipped with cold storage containers to preserve the products during the trip.

Agricultural sources anticipating improvements in Yemeni agricultural exports into neighboring markets by building a number of new exporting centers.

Negotiations with international companies are currently taking place to assemble agricultural tractors and plants with a value of approximately \$US 5 million.

Sources said that the concerned

irrigation network project for pipes, at a lower cost that help and push up the exports ceiling.

authorities are about to achive the producing and distributing water farmers increase agricultural crops,



Yemeni produce

### بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى الأستاذ منم ورسعبد عبدالإله لوفاة المغفور لها -بإدن الله تعالى - الفاضلة والسدته سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته

وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنها فسيح جناته «إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون» الأسيفون:

عماد السقاف، عارف الزريقي وموظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز ومجلة الأسرة والتنمية

## to be qualified

BY ABDULWAHAB ABDULQAWI AL their teacher in everything. ABDULWAHAB\_ALSOFI@YAHOO.COM

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

odeidah -Teaching is an art before it is a mere job. It is the greatest profession on the globe. It also the most dignified occupation.

The learning process depends on four main elements. These elements are serious students, qualified and prepared teachers, curriculums and the school administration. Unless these pillars of the process coexist and are available, the teaching process will never be successful.

The students and the school curriculums need coordination ad cooperation between the educational management and the society from which students come.

And it's the teacher who is the main corner stone of the process.

He or she is like the main artery that provides blood to all parts of the body. Teachers do activate the teaching process essentially.

This is aside from qualified teachers improving the learning process and leading it to success. They can promote it to the peak of success.

Teachers who are careless and unqualified can weaken the process to the its worst case through students as well. Students are really like a clean paper on which teacher can write whatever he or she wants.

All teachers' behaviors, their conducts — either bad or good — are stuck in students' mind. Therefore, teachers who carry bad qualities compose bad words and impressions in students' minds.

They are so strongly associated with their teachers that they imitate

Moreover, the influence of teachers on students often surpasses even parental influence. Teachers convey moralities politeness and ethics to students easily.

Unfortunately, there are some teachers performing their duty in schools without any good manners. Some of them smoke cigarettes in schoolrooms during teaching.

This disaster, some teachers have inflicted with in our school in front of our kids does inflate to students' desire because these bad habits will be stuck in students' minds. In addition to that, we find many teachers have high abilities and morality but they don't feel the prick of conscience and its torture.

Others are academically weak with bad morality. Their tongues are very vulgar to use bad words in the school classes. I have heard and seen that some teachers are using filthy words to their students.

It is shame to be mentioned. These kinds of teachers defame the good teachers reputation. Teacher must cultivate ethics during teaching, before teaching students their

The main role of a teacher is to change darkness to light, not the opposite. That's why; teachers have a high dignity and prestige in his society when they replace illiterate and ignorant persons by moral and educated and cultural students.

It is said that a teacher is a burning candle for illuminating to others, but teachers with bad qualities are like candles burning students.

Finally, I call the educational management and all concerns to check teachers' ability and morality well before sending them to schools. They have to qualify academically and morally, before going to schools.

## Teachers need Qataban and Tamane

By ABDUL MAJID SHER\* FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he Austrian traveler-scientist Glazer was the first to identify the location of ancient Tamane', the capital city of the ancient Yemeni Kingdom Qataban. He stated that it was situated along Beihan Valley. The came in his book "The Abyssenians in the Arabian Peninsula and Africa", which was published in Muneich in the year 1895. Today, the site is known to be Hajr Khahlan city lying towards the left side of the bank of Wadi Beihan, where it comes almost close to flowing its water to the desert

The first explorer to visit the site was the English traveler Berry in the year 1900. Khadi M. Al-Akwa made a search on a book entitled "The language and descendants". The word Qataban had been written in that book as reference to one of the rulers known by the name Qutaban bin Ramada. As for the word Tamane' comprising four Arabic alphabets, it was seen on some of the ancient money coins discovered lately (in 1892 and 1894) in Yemen. However, the mystery of both names

was solved later in 1924 by the scientist Rhodo Canaces who discovered the first ancient inscriptions telling about this Kingdom. These were discovered on some ancient walls he found in Hajr Khahlan. Thus it became clear that it was the real site of Tamane' city of ancient Qataban state. It was regarded the second biggest city of ancient Yemen after Mareb. Belieny, another foreign explorer, stated that there used to be 65 temples built all around

Most history records stated that ancient nation of Qataban believed in worshiping the stars in general, and the three main gods and goddess in particular i.e. the sun, moon and Venus. The last was ranked the first, while the sun had the last rank of worship. This was indicated through interpretation of their words of repeating calls to their gods. For Venus, Ashtar was the mediating god, and was highly valued for any affairs dealing with their ordinary life, such as irrigation.

However the main official god of Qataban State was the moon, as it was known by the name "Amm". In fact the city itself had the lable of "Am tribes". The citizens of Qataban were called the "Sons of Amm", while their King was " The head of Sons of Amm".



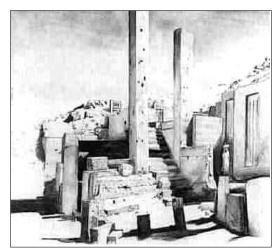
A carving of a woman's face for the tomb made in Qataban in the 1st

Moreover, kings of Qataban were known not to practise the autocratic ruling of the State. They had around them several local representatives assigned to the regions, together with, chiefs of the tribes. These had participated and advised the kings on all matters related to the issuance of decrees and laws, as well as, the usual running affairs of the throne. This meant there were some sort of a parliamentary system exercised by the State of Qataban.

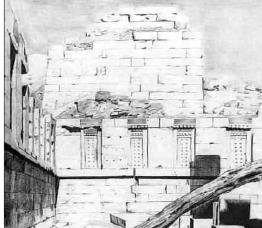
In religious matters, the King used to be the head of all temples, and was referred by the term Al-Mukareb i.e. the religious "pope" for all semi-unions of Qataban's tribes.

Some sources also indicated the actual residences of Qataban tribes were to exist on the high plateau of Beihan Valley i.e. between Beihan and Hajr bin Hameed. One archeological site was discovered lately in Hajr bin Hameed by digging through twenty underground layers of soil, and a depth of 15 meters. The date of the site relates back to the eleventh century B.C. Thus, Wadi Beihan is considered one of the most ancient inhabited areas in Yemen.

\* Mr. AbdulMajid Sher is a staff writer at the Ministry of Information in Sana'a, Yemen. He compiled the story from a history book entitled "Papers in the history and archeology







Sketches trying to describe how Tamane may have looked. (Source: British-Yemeni Society)

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

### "Shipping Assistant"

The position is located in the General Service Office, American Embassy, Sana'a. Incumbent supervises the Shipping Section, arranges and facilitates the incoming and outgoing shipment and customs clearances of household and personal effects.

### **Required Qualifications:**

**Education:** College education is required.

**Prior Work Experience:** Three years' of progressively responsible experience in customs work or a closely related field. Some supervisory experience is required.

**Language Proficiency:** Level III (good level) English ability is required; fluent Arabic reading and writing is essential.

Ability: Must have good interpersonal skills relating to protocol with Republic of Yemen Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and Custom officials of Airport custom, packing and transfer companies, and with U.S. Citizen personnel.

Grade/Salary: \* EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-06 (to be confirmed by Washington)

\*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-08

**How to apply:** All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sana'a. Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than February 26, 2005.

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

Ministry of Finance **Civil Service Modernization Project** Implementation Project Unit

#### Accounting & Financial Management Information System (AFMIS) Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor for the AFMIS Conceptual Design

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting management Information system, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry of Finance, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, and the Government of Yemen

AFMIS is designed to address three major parts of public finance management reform; those are budget preparation, budget execution and accounting. AFMIS is a main component of the whole modernization project, and will accommodate certain agreeable sets of reform steps in the public expenditure process, of Yemen, both at the Central and Local Authority Levels. The system in its first stage will be rolled out the three large spending units, and ultimately to all other governmental spending units. At this stage of implementation it has been agreed between the GOY and World Bank that technical assistance (TA) is needed to mitigate potential project implementation risks in the areas of Project management, conceptual design and third-party testing. To address these needs and help ensure that the target milestones of the AFMIS component are met, the Bank has proposed deploying the above-mentioned three advisors, and this TOR is the subject of the international technical assistance advisor needed to help in producing a conceptual

### Responsibilities

- The International Advisor for AFMIS Conceptual Design, Will help the MOF develop a conceptual design document that sets out a coherent model for the budget management framework on a whole and shows how the proposed AFMIS would fit into this overall framework
- Mainly, the International Advisor should produce a model that provides clarity about the new framework to concerned officials, the project implementation team and the contractors.
- The International Advisor must be a ware of the great deal of the necessary details work that has been done in developing AFMIS technical and functional specifications by building on this work and towards a coherent and internally consist framework incorporating revision to these specification in particular the conceptual design should produce a conceptual
  - Clarify the deliverables, modules and sub-modules to be provided as part of an integrated system and specify the central role of the general ledger.
  - Specify the accounting basis to be followed for initial AFMIS implementation and describe a transition path for any move in the long term to full accrual accounting:
  - Specify the GFS 2001 compliant budget classification to be implemented as part of the AFMIS emphasizing that this can be done while remaining on a cash basis of accounting
  - Develop and obtain approval of the chart of accounts to be implemented as part of the AFMIS Clarify the accounting process relating to receipts and payments and the manner in which are to be reconciled with
  - CBY data: Describe the budget execution functions currently undertaken by the CBY that are to be taken over by the MOF; and
  - Clarify whether the system is to be based on centralized or distributed database architecture
  - Show the inter-relation among the various or sub-modules
  - Provide business process description for each modules and sub-modules including input, process, and output, for each module.
- The international consultant will directly report to the Head of the Steering Committee, and the Manager of the AFMIS PIU, Copies of all documents should be sent in parallel to the project PIU, the project advisor on project management and the

### Qualification and experience

- M.S/PHD in public finance with extensive knowledge in IT for AFMIS implementation
- Perfect English Language
- At least 10 years proved knowledge and experience in AFMIS Conceptual Design for Public Sector. **Deliverables**

#### AFMIS Conceptual Design Document submitted to the Minister/Vice Prime Minister and the World Bank Conceptual design finalized and approved by the World Bank and the Government of Yemen

### Scope of the Mission

6 months period of short term assignments. The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and May 2004.

### Males and Females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address

Ministry of Finance, AFMIS Project Coordinator's Office Alsafia-Sana'a-Yemen Tel: 504164, 504161 or by email: afmisyemen1@yahoo.com

## We can do greater good Kyoto has wrong priorities

hen the Kyoto treaty enters into force on February 16, the global warming community will undoubtedly congratulate itself: to do good they have secured the most expensive worldwide treaty ever. They have succeeded in making global warming a central moral test of our time. They were wrong to do so.

Global warming is real and is caused by emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2). But existing climate models show we can do little about it. Even if everyone (including the United States) applied the Kyoto rules and stuck to them throughout the century, the change would be almost immeasurable, postponing warming for a mere six years in 2100 while costing at least \$150 billion a year.

Global warming will mainly harm developing countries, because they are poorer and therefore less able to handle climate changes. However, by 2100, even the most pessimistic forecasts from the UN expect the average person in the developing countries to be richer than now, and thus better able to cope.

So Kyoto is basically a costly way of doing little for much richer people far in the future. We need to ask ourselves if this should be our first priority.

Of course, in the best of all worlds, we would not need to choose our priorities. We could do all good things. We could win the war against hunger, end conflicts, stop communicable diseases, provide clean drinking water, improve education and halt climate change. But we can't do everything. So we must ask the hard question: what should we do first?

Some of the world's top economists – including three Nobel Laureates answered this question at the Copenhagen Consensus last May. They found that dealing with HIV/AIDS, hunger, free trade, and malaria were the world's top priorities, where we could do the most good for our money. Moreover, they put urgent responses to climate change at the bottom of the list.



Factory fumes contribute much to global warming.

In fact, the panel called these ventures including Kyoto - "bad projects," because they cost more than the good

As the economics of climate change has become ever clearer, warnings from the global warming community have become shriller. For example, the head of the UN Climate Panel says, "We are risking the ability of the human race to

Such statements make headlines, but they are nonsense. For example:

At a recent meeting at Exeter in the UK, some participants warned of a 50-50 chance that the Gulf Stream winds could collapse within a century. Such a scenario looks great in the movie "The Day After Tomorrow," but it is unsubstantiated. As one presenter at the conference summarized: "No models have shown a complete shutdown, or a net cooling over land areas. Hence a

shutdown during the twenty-first century is regarded as unlikely."

Recently, a coalition of prominent environmental and development organizations claimed that malaria would increase in a warmer world. This has some theoretical validity, but ignores malaria's dependence on poor infrastructure and health care. Indeed, throughout the cold 1500-1800's, malaria was a major disease in Europe, the US, and far into the Arctic Circle. Malaria infections didn't end because it got colder (it actually got warmer), but because Europe and the US got rich and dealt with the problem. With developing countries getting richer over the century, malaria is similarly likely to decrease rather than increase.

We are told that sea levels will rise by roughly 50 centimeters by 2100 in some scenarios. This is correct, and it will clearly cause problems in lowlying countries like Bangladesh. But the alarmists neglect to mention that sea levels rose through the twentieth century by 10-25 centimeters. Did anyone notice? The rise in the twenty-first century will be worse and should not be trivialized, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that the total cost of adaptation will be around 0.1% of

The "end-of-civilization" argument is counterproductive to serious public debate. It makes us believe that we only have one choice. Yet the reality is that we can choose to make climate change our first priority, or we can choose to do a lot more good first.

To say this is not to suggest laissez faire. Far from it. Thousands died in Haiti during recent hurricanes, but not in Florida, because Haitians are poor and cannot take preventive measures. Breaking the circle of poverty by addressing the most pressing issues of disease, hunger, and polluted water will not only do obvious good; it will also make people less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

We live in a world with limited resources, so caring more about some issues means caring less about others. If we have a moral obligation, it is to spend each dollar doing the most good that we possibly can. With Kyoto, the world will spend \$150 billion a year on doing little good a century from now. In comparison, the UN estimates that half that amount could buy clean drinking water, sanitation, basic health care, and education for every single person in the world. Which is better?

Global warming really is the moral test of our time, but not in the way its proponents imagine. We need to stop our obsession with global warming and start dealing with more pressing and tractable problems first.

Bjørn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, editor of Global Crises, Global Solutions, and The Skeptical **Environmentalist.** 

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### Sam Yemen International School مدارس سام اليمن الدولية

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATION CENTRE NO. (YEO02) AQA EXAMINATION CENTRE NO. (82588)

Sam Yemen International School is seeking to employ highly qualified and experienced teachers in the following specializations:

1- MATHEMATICS TEACHER (Higher secondary level, I.G.C.S.E system, required for extra classes)

Qualifications: (M.S c). Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years.

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years.

PHYSICS TEACHER (Higher secondary level, I.G.C.S. E system, required for extra classes). Qualifications: (M.S c).

3- SCIENCE TEACHER (Higher secondary level, I.G.C.S. E system, required for extra classes).

Qualifications: (M.S c). Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years.

4- ART TEACHER (Female) Qualifications: Graduate.

**Experience:** Previous teaching experience required.

Experience: Previous teaching experience required.

5- MUSIC TEACHER (Female)

Qualifications: Graduate and should be able to teach with notes. Experience: Previous teaching experience required.

6- OFFICE SECRETARY (Female).

Qualification: B.A (required professional typist in Arabic and English and photoshop designing with 3 years experience).

Applicants should be fluent in English and preferably with American or British

accent. Interested candidates are requested to contact the following phone

Tel. No.: 440353, 4 extension 2. Mobile: 77206705.

لفتح أقسام جديدة مطلوب مدرسين أكفاء ويجيدون التكلم بالغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة في المواد التالية:

١- مدرس أو مدرسة فيزياء (مؤهل لتدريس الفصول الثانوية، حاصل على الماجستير في تخصصه، وخبرة من ٣-٥ سنوات).

٢- مدرس أو مدرّسة رياضيات (مؤهل لتدريس الفصول الثانوية، حاصل على الماجستير في تخصصه، وخبرة من ٥-٣ سنوات)

٣- مدرس أو مدرسة علوم (مؤهل لتدريس الفصول الثانوية، حاصل على الماجستير في تخصصه، وخبرةمن٣-٥ سنوات)

٤- مدرسة موسيقًى (على أن تكون خريجة وتحمل خبرة في مجال التدريس لمدة

٥- مدرسة رسم (على أن تكون خريجة وتحمل خبرة في مجال تدريس الرسم لمدة

٦- سكرتيرة مكتب (على أن تكون خريجة ومتمكنة من الطباعة العربي و الإنجليزي وتستخدم برنامج التصاميم (الفوتوشوب) بطلاقة، وخبرة لا تقل عن ٣

هاتف: ٤٤٠٣٥٣/٤ تحويلة ٢، محمول: ٧٧٢٠٦٧٠٥

**Civil Service Modernization Project** Implementation Project Unit

Ministry of Finance

#### **Accounting & Financial Management Information System (AFMIS)** Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor/An AFMIS Component Test Third Party Consultant

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting management Information System, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, of the World Bank, WB and the Government of Yemen.

AFMIS is designed to address three major parts of public finance management reform; those are budget preparation, budget execution and accounting. AFMIS is a main component of the whole modernization project, and will accommodate certain agreeable sets of reform steps in the public expenditure process, of Yemen, both at the Central and Local Authority Levels. The system in its first stage will be rolled out the three large spending units, and ultimately to all other governmental spending units. At this stage of implementation it has been agreed between the GOY and World Bank that technical assistance (TA) is needed to mitigate potential project implementation risks in the areas of Project management, treasury design and third-party testing. To address these needs and help ensure that the target milestones of the AFMIS component are met, the Bank has proposed deploying the above-mentioned pree advisors, and this TR is the subject of the third party tester for AFMIS application Software to be produced by the project contractor.

### Responsibilities

In general, the Contractor selected to do the testing should be familiar with the following aspects while doing the testing of AFMIS. The contractor is expected to perform, inter alia, five main testing activities. These five activities collectively ensure that the AFMIS software that has been written and produced by Yemen soft is error and bug free. The major testing activities are:

∞Creating a Test Plan ∞Designing Tests

∞Implementing the Test cases ∞Executing Tests

∞Evaluating Test results Each of these activities has inputs and output test assets associated with each; each activity will require certain assets as inputs produce other test assets as outputs and may use these assets interchangeably. Ensuring that all Software component comply with the approved conceptual design documents, the following tasks should

Performing application Software test process in accordance with all General Condition clauses and special condition clauses stated on the project contract signed between AFMIS and the contractors (Yemen Soft and CEW) on 31/5/2003:

The deliverable, modules, and sub-modules must be provided as part of an integrated system with clear specification for the central role of the general ledger. A transition path for an AFMIS move to full accrual base accounting is well defined, implemented, and produced

While remaining on a cash basis of accounting, a GFS2001 compliant budget classification is to be implemented

as a main part of AFMIS A confirmed chart of accounts is developed and implemented

A budget execution function currently undertaken by the CBY is taken over by MOF through AFMIS application

Business process description for each modules and sub-modules is reflected in AFMIS deliverables through input process and outputs. Qualification

MS/PHD in computing with extensive knowledge of governmental public expenditure computerized system. Perfect English Language.

Experience in AFMIS Conceptual Design, Networking and Implementation. **Deliverables** 

For each module and sub-modules of AFMIS in accordance with the responsibilities mentioned above a testing procedures document includes the following:

- Test indicators - Test processes - Test data - Test indicators and measurements

- Test results

### Scope of the Mission

Short term visit to Yemen each two months for a period of one year.

The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and may 2004)

### Males and females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address:

Ministry of Finance AFMIS Project coordinator's Office Alsafia-Sana'a, Yemen Tel: 504164, 504161 Or by email: afmisyemen1@yahoo.com

#### **Ministry of Finance Civil Service Modernization Project Implementation Project Unit**

#### **Accounting & Financial Management Information System, AFMIS** Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor for the AFMIS Project Management, IAPM

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil service modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting Management Information System, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, and the Government of Yemen.

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### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all involved to ensure that the Project management Advisor has the ability to independently with all parties concerned within the ministry of Finance. He should be present when possible as an active participant in the work of the steering

The International consultant/Project management Advisor will report to the PIU Manager. He/she is to advise and evaluate the coordination of technical, management and user requirements; advise the MOF on international best practices and develop a strategic action plan for the next 12 months on the major milestones and specific deliverables/He will undertake two-week supervision mission to Sana'a each month for the next six months to review, advise and assist the GOY in implementing the AFMIS component.

International consultant will work closely with the AFMIS Ministerial Committee comprising of senior MOF officials and key user groups/he would also work with relevant line ministries and the AFMIS vendor. S/he will have equal reporting responsibility to the

The project management advisor will, inter alia, carry out the following tasks: Ensure progress of AFMIS implementation in relating to timing and recourses

Advise and review and revise the project plan in accordance with the conceptual design to be produced by the International Advisor for AFMIS conceptual Design and the project vendor have it submitted to the AFMIS Ministerial Committee and Adopted by the Minister of Finance/vice prime Minister by the end of June 2005

Supervise and support the work of the International consultant for the conceptual design and of the AFMIS vendor Ensure coordination between AFMIS development and GFS adoption for budget classification (action plan to be adopted

by may 31, 2005 for GFS), and help ascertain which GFS measures may be adopted by AFMIS depending on technical resources and capacity Report to the AFMIS Ministerial Committee on a bi-monthly basis on AFMIS progress, raise issues needing to be solved

before the next step, ensure that support and help are provided to the relevant units of the Ministry of Finance as needed. Ensure Ministry-wide information and dissemination on AFMIS progress.

Ensure timely information of the Minister of Finance/Vice Prime Minister

Build capacity and transfer knowledge

### Qualification and experience

- MS. In business administration Information systems, Public finance, or related subject. A minimum 11 years experience in project
- Demonstrated experience in the management of comparable projects in developing countries, particularly in the Middle East
- Superior proficiency in the English language; knowledge of Arabic would be asset (otherwise a translator will be provided by the IDA credit)

Deliverables Regular/Periodic Report at the end of each visit

Scope of the Mission

Two weeks visit per month for a period of six months. The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment

of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and May 2004.)

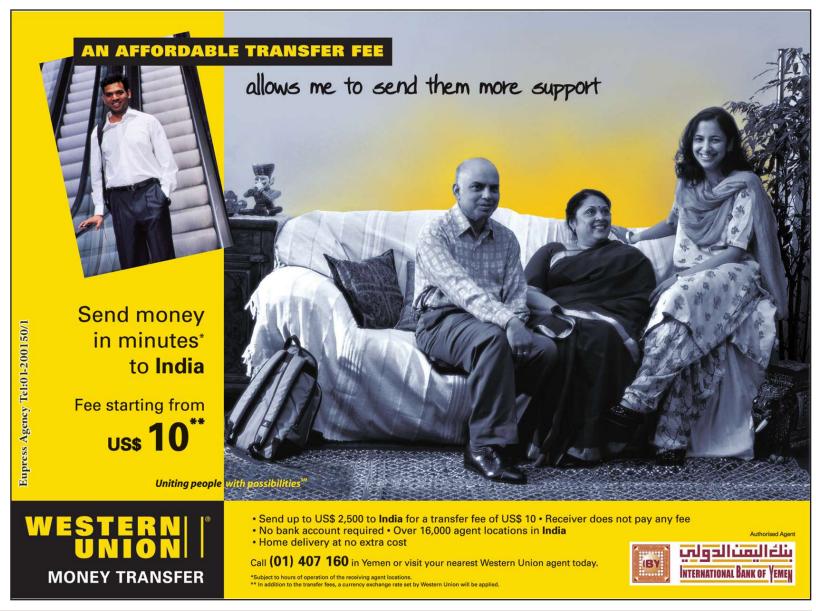
### Males and females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address:

Ministry of finance AFMIS Project Coordinator's Office Alsafia-Sana'a, Yemen Tel: 504164, 504161 Or by email: afmisyemen1@yahoo.com

### اول مجلة يمنية تقدم الاسرة بين ي والتنهية 📆 عبل مؤسس، مهنبة عالبة، طباعة فاخرة، وإنتشار واسع.. معها تحقق أهدافك التسويقية - SELVIVER





### **YR 2,500,000** In Prizes TeleYemen Hands Over Checks to Two Lucky Winners

In a surprison held at the his Shaba Head here in Sana's Polessary 8, 2005, Stickleness handed over its preparal confo awarentakes. The grand price of YR 2,000,000 was handed over us the factor witness Mile Milemont Alk from Men and the second mine of TROMARD was given to the lighty witner None Melamord M-Orsen Son Selver district in

The ducks were handed over to the winners by Mr. Ndu-Nabab Abdu Ghasen, ditel financial officer of the company and No. Sour-Michel Ranchou Commercial. & Marketing Disease. Eleliones, organized a exequiates on its propoid code of international-calls. facts any telephone outsides, land or stubile, that was used during the period #14 st; of Dysamber, 2004.

### LEADING -EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Khalid M Dakbani, Indows Sales Manager, explained that the company organized the exemptakes to swood people who are using the service and to make others excer of the cose of using TaleStream's proposit. cents service. He added that the compare is needing. hard to be the forefront to provide leading-odge pleasurerication facilities and other variety services. He industrial that there is a number of marketing plans. to present continuen legally, which will be offered to them to boost the computer's interaction with its allient

Telefones prepaid ands-entile outomers to make direct international talkphose calls from any land at mobile phone without the need for subscription. or expetily billings. This service may a system which deducts payments disordy from the ruke of the card. which comes in different denominations. The cools are national to the public through reviews charactered or avalidie in process, telecommunications centers and many post offices. It can be really used to make an international call their the time. Some or from a Terrior.

Tildionan provides state-of-the-art





THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.

THE RESIDENCE TO PROBE

Al-Dahbani: The new year will offer new services to all customers? Ranchon: "In TeleYemen we take care of all the needs of our customers"

regiment of the Nomest community. It also aims (advance, for the high-such world of relecommendation, ) forwards of market, longers once have been reduced of industrial progras, and to entitle a good above the world at incompatible prior and services. | 2-2005 repotation that guarantees the continuation of its socres in the sorbil of telecomessication.

Harristo Balko, Maragani

### WHY PREPAID CARDS?

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at scheding resemble profes to enable local to stage to output place for protocolous scretce and observates. The services provided on a following continue updating to influencement to keep about I rescould early, highway has built distinctions I it become design landings.

### TeleYemen INTERNET

The company has been a provider of the Internet services rince 1996. It has expended and enhanced the sentie to suit the technological progress and the



Photo-op of winners & TeleSemen Staff

- 3-Propsid Interact cords "Eury Apone".
- t-Lored lines (special up to 2 Miga byte per round) 5. Website hosting and domain matter opinisation.
- 4-First person fourthers.
- Extract how for every domain mate;

There are many sources why curtomers porfer Dishlemes interest service such axdestant activation of the service Japan. registrations).

- Higher spect company to other ISFs.
- Serveral up time in excellent,
- doublity of using the service through any talighose line to the country.
- chapt-virus filtering of a-read structurerrs. «Efficient system for blacking paenographic such Access and reliable e-mail.

The new year will offer new agreeing to all customers that will respond to all the customers scode and with round to its Innexet, those will also be distinguished sension that will serve the fold of business is particular. All these services wellby characterized by the highest speed and belowing considerated softwares and hardware," new Khalid. Musi Distribusi, bulkero; Sales Manager, Tolefornon. icalways updating of the technology that is being end in order to loop pace with new high substrong at presenting quality service." He added. Sildforces in also detropolished in their after sale:

Mr. Syn-Middel Stancton, Commontal is Marketing Director "we are working not only in the technical vide, we are also working on the intelligent network platform and we are also. presenting services and our distribution channels. Dr. abbid. To Siletimen we take one of all the tands of our customers and we address specific offers based as what our assessmen are looking for Take for exemple, the Peopold Casts service which: can be send to analog phone cells to any where in the world unity land lines or Tested Mahila (Sharke) (hillingon propoid)." He added that there are many ways to make interactional phone calls, but to inum dut the customer is being hilled at the right tacify, then are only two ween IDD subscription or Nichten popul carlo.









Dr. Ramakanta Sahu Associate Professor College of Education, Mahweet ramakantasahu@yahoo.com Tel: (01) 465396 Mobile: 73889013 P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a

I. What to Say Situations and expressions (76):

Job advertisement (II)

anguage of ad is bound to be captivating in order to capture the consumers' attention and win their hearts. Especially when an organizer looks for the potential work force of the right ability, aptitude and attitude ,the ads need to be extremely apt and appropriate.

- Do you wish to make your dream come true while your friends sleep?
- Touch the future of Telecom with --
- If you are looking for an environment with endless learning opportunities and best recompense, then be part of one of the finest institutes. Be part of the
- "My perks include developing self-confidence, self-esteem and discipline. I work for ---
- Are you sure you are 'you'? If this be so, a leading group committed to aesthetics and modernity is looking for you or your clones who can make an impression of individuality.
- Want to kick start your career in banking? We are looking for graduates to aggressively promote competitive financial products of the bank

#### **II.** How to Say it Correctly Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- 1. He had hardly recovered from his illness than he
- had another heart attack. Supposing if I give you a cheque how will you
- deposit it?
- As he is generous, so he spends lavishly.
- They had hardly gone a few yards that they met
- 5. Unless you do not give up bad habits you will have

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions He parted with his friend due to ideological

- An honorable person prefers death to dishonor.
- I introduced my friend to my neighbors. 4. She must be compensated **for** the loss suffered by
- 5. The milk was **too** hot to drink.

#### **III. Increase Your Word Power** (A) How to express it in one word

- 1. To work on or talk about silly things.
- Of a liquid to flow or fall out in drops little by little.
- A short private road leading from the street to a
- To rain in very small drops or very lightly.
- Ready to fall asleep.

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions Written order for payment of money by a bank:

- draft (n) 2. To cause (someone) to feel weak after illness: **drag**
- A network of actions and methods for catching
- criminals: **dragnet** (n) A very attractive person of the opposite sex:
- dream-boat (n) A person fond of looking smart in fine clothes:
- **dressy** (adj)

Given below are some words followed by four

answers. Mark the answer which is nearest to the

### (B) Synonyms and Antonyms

meaning of the given word 1. chide

a. to make fun of c. to cheat

2. riddle

a. to entangle c. to explain

3. stringent

Cranging

 $C_{X,H,SYSG(H)}$ 

Librari

Óbice:

Figure

Pigerbuster

for-Special

Garna

b. to rebuke d. to flatter

> b. to question d. to fill with holes

a. shrinking b. long drawn-out c. sarcastic d. severe

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word Synonym banish deport alleviate 3. chauvinism blind patriotism

(ii) Antonyms

Given below are some words followed by four answers. Tick the answer which gives the opposite meaning of the given word.

1. adornment

a. blemish b. perfect c. sincere d. approve 2. refinement

a. spotless b. courage c. vulgarity d. poverty 3. optimism

a. dread b. despair c. abandon d. forward

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions Antonym

Word aggravate pacify

exhilaration despondery

iubilant pensive

#### (C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- as, like
- alibi, excuse elapse, lapse
- fruit, fruits
- 5. enough, sufficient

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. **authentic** (adi) (known to be true :an authentic book or document is one in which things stated are as they really happened): The certificate produced by the candidate was authentic.
- genuine (adj) (true; really what it is said to be. A genuine book or document is one that is written or made out by the person whose name it bears. It is opposite of 'fake'): It is uncertain whether the book
- attempt (vt) (to make an effort to do something with some hope of success): He attempted to
  - try (vt) (to test by use and experience, but with greater uncertainty of result): I'm not sure of the outcome, but shall certainly try once. cavalcade (n) (company or procession of persons
- on horseback or in carriages): The cavalcade in the ceremonial parade presented an interesting procession (n) (number of persons, vehicles, etc.,
- moving forward in an orderly way): The marriage procession forced the traffic to come to a grinding forceful (adj) (full of force): The speaker presented
- a forceful argument. forcible (adj) (involving the use of force): The police made a forcible entry into the building.
- limit (n) (the farthest edge or point): You must observe the limits of decorum in your words and

limitations (n) (disability or inability): I'm aware of my limitations.

### (D) Idioms and phrases

- Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences
- in the long run
- play it safe
- make (someone's) blood run cold
- take the bull by horns
- take one's life in one's hands

BY DAVID OUTSLET

Yourse

Working.

Walter

WANT

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. go in one ear and out the other (to make no impression): You have no mind to learn. That's why the lesson goes in one ear and out the other.
- 2. like a lamb to the slaughter (meeting danger or difficulty quietly and without resistance): The murder accused went to the execution ground like a lamb to the slaughter.
- 3. **bring home the bacon** (earn enough money to

#### support one's family): He went abroad for five years and brought home the bacon.

- **get lost** (a rude way to telling someone to go away): 'I don't want to see your face. Get lost,' shouted the angry husband at the wife.
- be behind bars (be in prison): The culprit was apprehended and is presently behind bars.

### IV. Grammar and Composition

Match what the speaker is doing in sentences 1-10 with the ways of talking below

suggesting, repeating, threatening, denying, claiming, warning, replying, admitting, promising, advising

- 1. I'm fine, thank you.
- If you don't shut up, I'm going to hit you very hard.
- Don't go too close to the dog sometimes he bites.
- I stole the money from the desk. I had absolutely nothing to do with the robbery. I
- wasn't even in the country.
- I won't ever forget you, and I'll write every day.
- Why don't you go to the cinema this evening?
- As I said before, I think you're making a mistake. There's definitely a ghost here - I've seen it with my own eyes.
- 10. I think that if I were in your position, I would talk to her and tell her exactly how you feel.

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions I'm afraid my salary leaves me little money to

- spend on entertainment.
- Fortunately I have made very few/a few good friends since I came to live here.
- I find **little** time for reading.
- There are a few/very few jobs available in this
- 5. Few people came to the meeting.
- There was a very little turn out of supporters at the
- football tournament 7. You've been eating biscuits again. There are very few biscuits in the tin!

#### (B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the maxim 89: ONE SPARROW DOES NOT MAKE A WINTER

#### The previous week's topic 88: ONE IS AS YOUNG AS ONE FEELS

Youth is not a mere phase in the course of one's physical growth and development. More so, it is a mental condition characterized by interest, enthusiasm, verve, vivacity, energy, dash and drive. It symbolizes a spirit of flamboyant intoxication and of triumphant stride.,It signals a time to go flashing from one end of the world to the other both in mind and body. Imbued by an unconquerable will, energized by an indomitable power and an irrepressible urge, youth is ,indeed,a metaphor for relentless exploration and expansion. As such, it has little to do with chronological or physical age because it is concerned with the typical mindset or mental make up. A person may be old in age but still young in mind or spirit if he is capable of displaying youthful exuberance and vigor, that is, if his inner springs of hope, aspirations and joy are alive. So there is no one -to- one correspondence between physical and mental age. Youth is a matter of attitude, perception or feelings, and is not dependent on chronological age.

### V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Your (real) friends are (not less than) Allah, His Messenger, and the Believers, - those who establish regular prayers and pay Zakat and bow down humbly (in worship)." S5:A55

### VI. Food for Thought

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"We are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other." -Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Sobition: 5 letters

### A letter to the teachers of English: 75

### Teaching a poem in the Secondary class (5)



Dr..M.N.K.Bose (BOSE@y.net.ye) **Associate Professor of** English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

### Dear Fellow teachers,

n the last four letters I discussed the teaching of poems and presented my vies about what poems are, how they are different from other writings, how they should be taught in order to bring about the messages they convey without destroying the beauty of the writings and how the poem "Leisure" prescribed in the secondary three can be taught for the benefits of the

In this last letter in the series I intend to share my views about how to test the poems, if we have to test them at all. I personally feel that poems are not for testing in the examination, but we have no choice, do we, in this matter. If we have to test poems, as the system demands, these are my views in this regard:

First of all, why am I against testing poems? Poems, as I stated in my early letters, are for reading and enjoying and how can we measure the degree of enjoyment with questions in the examination? Most of us destroy our learners' interest in reading more and more poems in the name of tests, and make poems a subject for scrutiny and examination; there cannot be a worse way to kill our learners' love for poetry.

As we have to test poems how do we do it? One of the ways of testing a poem is to test the learners' understanding of it by asking simple but challenging questions. Watch my adjectives: simple, challenging. The language of the question should be simple but the message you are testing should be challenging. For exam-

ple, a few sample questions for the poem Leisure' can be,

What is full of care? Why?

Why do people not have time to stand

Why does the poet want us to stand and stare at several things?

Where does the smile begin? What can it enrich?

These are in addition to those given in Workbook 6 page no.93; I am sure you can think of better questions, if you spend sometime for it. These and similar questions test the understanding as well enable the learners to appreciate the poem. You can also ask about the poetic features employed in the poem, but keep them to the minimum, because these will lead to analyzing the poem into pieces and destroying it.

Some of us, especially those teaching at the higher level, are fond of asking students questions that are more difficult than the poem itself. In a study of the question papers used in a university for literature courses, one of the researchers has found that most of them focus on the technical aspects of texts, asking the students to 'explain' or 'discuss' or 'elucidate'; much of what is asked for requires simple recall of materials that has been analyzed in the classes, 'insulting their intelligence'. It is time we wake up and do justice to our profession in the universities, treating students as matured individuals and test their critical thinking and creative abilities.

To sum up, test poems without killing the interest of the learners; let them appreciate poems in English and attempt to write a few in English. Don't allot too many marks for testing poems. Find out a better way to test poems. Good luck.

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

### Love, a double-edged weapon

BY SAEED OMER AL-BATATI FACULTY OF EDUCATION - SEIUN

So10000@hotmail.com ust imagine for a moment that you lived in a universe alone. Then

you would not find anyone who shares with you your happiness and sadness or listen to your pent up feelings. In such a case, what would life be like?

Of course, life would be a veritable hell because you are deprived of the expression of warmth and affection and you may die without it. That is why a poet says: Society, friendship, and love\ Divinely ordained on man.

It is a bliss to find a person who, like a doctor, heals your wounds and helps you tackle vour issues. Yes, life is a reciprocal relationship.

Cooperation among people is as important as life itself. So it is absolutely impossible for anyone to live alone. Moreover, people need to communicate with one another for obtaining certain information, gaining sympathy as well as establishing good rapport with neighbors and others. The most common forms of communication are speech, writing and electronic communication. However, the oldest of these forms is speech, which has been used for thousands of years. As the process of communication goes on, something comes to the surface which strengthens ties and enhances feelings of warmth, trust and affection among people. This is called

Love embellishes life and gives it a unique shape. It is also the nerve center of life without which baser, savage instincts would dominate over human relations.

In addition, by love people can overcome loneliness. However love has another side. It is invisible like air, but it causes disastrous results, as a hurricane does. It devastates life. In the same way, love which is ruthless ruins hearts. It leaves the lovers in a state of death-in-life. So it is potentially as fatal as poison.

It is no exaggeration to say that love kills like the poison. Love grows to reach the peak, and this can be the most dangerous stage which is called adoration.

In this case love permeates the total being of the lovers and it intoxicates them so that they consider their beloved everything in life. So a lover is overjoyed to receive the beloved's charismatic smile or a letter of love. And he is overwhelmed with grief as she drifts far from him. And if she died or gave him a cold shoulder, he feels so desperate that he might commit suicide or become seriously sick.

I think no one can write precisely about love until he falls deeply in it and undergoes its agony, otherwise he would consider all what is said about love as hot air.

#### Love is blind As love dominates the mind, it makes

beloved's white side only. As a result, he condones and overlooks her wrongdoings. Even if his beloved made a serious mistake, he vindicates this behavior what ever

the lover look through one eye feeling his

### Love in the past

Love has always affected its victims down the ages. The pre and early Islamic areas abound with many examples.

Perhaps no one has undergone love like Qais and Layla, his beloved, Antara and Abla, and Jameel and Bothina. Those lovers were poets, so they wrote the most deeply moving and interesting love poems in Arab culture which depict the ocean of love they have sunk into...

### Love in the age of technology

Nowadays, love is just like what it was in the past as far as its impact is concerned. However, a clear difference is that in the present age technology is used as a powerful medium for conveying the cadences of love. Moreover, in the past love was purer than it is today. In the modern age love is marred by falsehood and deception.

Deceptive love is discernible now, most notably among university students. Some students spend their time looking for a girl as a pastime, not seeking pure love.

Unfortunately some girls fall an easy prey to the cunning machinations of those wolves. They are tricked by their sweet talk. I earnestly hope simple and innocent ladies would realize the dangers of falling in false love and shun it by all means.

### Common fallacy

Often one comes across dodgy people who are wolves in sheep's clothing. Outward appearance can sometimes deceive. Some people are outwardly pious but their inner characters are as devilish I'm trying here to refute the theory of a "love at first sight." Your first meeting with any person cannot give you a sound judgment about him/her. It only starts takes you to the brink of a fragile love as the proverb says "easy come, easy go".

### **Everlasting love**

It is your right to love, but you have to know to whom you give your heart. To create a steadfast and everlasting love, you need to know enough about your beloved, their personalities interests, needs and motivations, in order to get them willing to listen to you. This love cannot be easily shaken by the wind of change.

You can trust that person completely and safely divulge your secrets to him/her. Mind you, better look before you leap.

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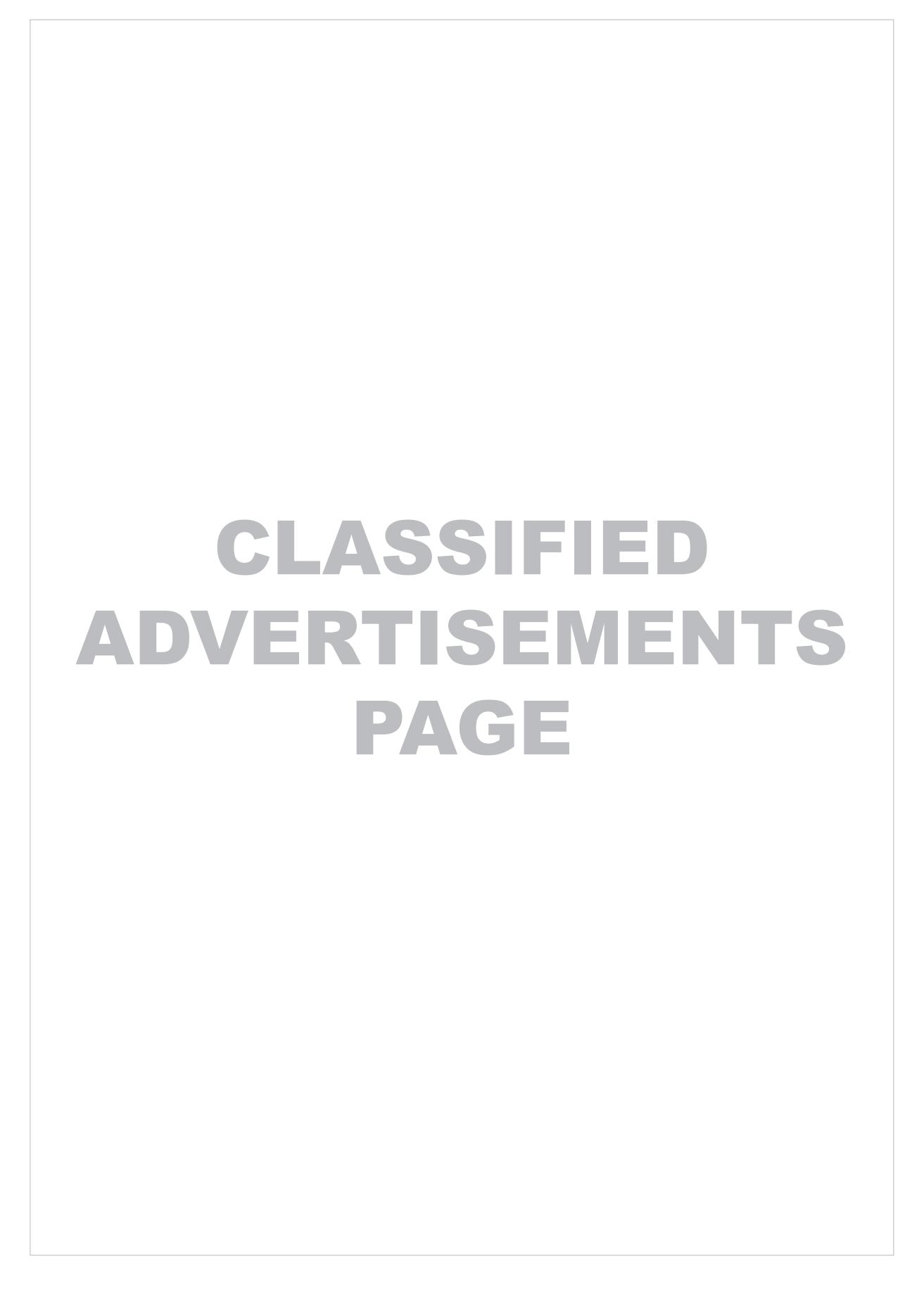
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# Aceh's mentally ill suffering after tsunami

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Feared by their relatives and locked away for hours every day, life was never easy for patients at the only mental hospital in Indonesia's tsunami-devastated Aceh province.

But the giant waves that tore through the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, the day after Christmas swamped the dilapidated collection of low-rise hospital buildings several

MEKIA

kilometres from the sea

The tsunami that killed tens of thousands in the city filled the 300-bed facility with thick black mud that is only now being shovelled out by Australian soldiers.

The lives of those who inhabit the concrete cells and wards will take much longer to rebuild.

Some traumatised patients climbed trees to escape the water, while the rest fled into Banda Aceh, doctors told



A resident of Banda Aceh's mental hospital, the only mental facility in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province, is seen on Feb. 10. Located a few kilometers from the sea, patients climbed trees or fled into the city when the Dec. 26 tsunami destroyed parts of its perimeter wall and filled wards with mud.

REUTERS

Reuters

Of 350 hospital patients, only about 140 have returned after the earthquake and tsunami. Many are filthy and wild-eyed.

They have been joined by about a dozen people suffering trauma from the tsunami, the first of many health officials expect to need help after a disaster that left more than 230,000 Indonesians dead or missing.

"The shock caused by extreme life events such as disasters can express itself as mental disorders, depression and sleeplessness," said Dr Kris, chief of medical services at Banda Aceh Mental Hospital.

The Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami struck more than a dozen nations around the Indian Ocean rim, leaving nearly 300,000 dead or missing from Thailand to Somalia.

### Help on way

As many as 90 percent of survivors may have suffered psychological trauma. Children are most at risk, mental health experts said at a meeting in Thailand this month.

Tens of thousands would need either medication or counselling by doctors, relatives and religious

### Correction

We apologize to the German Embassy for not mentioning the currency name (Euro) & also for the mistake of date in the issue No. 815 in which was mentioned Feb. 3, whereas it should have been Feb. 7. Our apologies are to all those concerned.

leaders, they said.

Help may be on the way.

The Turkish Red Crescent Society, already working with the World Food Programme to provide emergency relief to the hospital's patients, said it was in talks with the government about building a new facility.

"There is a proposal for the construction of a new hospital building, but in the first three months they need emergency things like food," said Bulent Ozturk, an official from the Turkish

group working at the hospital.

He said plans included a new trauma centre to cope with an influx of tsunamirelated patients, but said it could be more than a year before the new building ready.

Kris said the number of patients at his hospital was set to rocket as dozens of aid groups and foreign armies wound down medical operations at

makeshift

refugee camps.

نكهة الأصالة والمعاصرة

A 2002 survey showed many Acehnese already suffered trauma after nearly 30 years of rebellion in the province, he said.

"I think it will rise three or four times from the tsunami," Kris said, but he added the stigma of mental illness may keep some needy people away.

"We already had a trauma centre, but nobody came, because they thought if they come here it means they are mad," Kris said.



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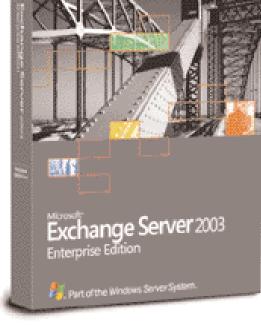
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Residents of Banda Aceh's mental hospital, the only mental facility in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province, are seen on Feb. 10. Located a few kilometers from the sea, patients climbed trees or fled into the city when the December 26 tsunami destroyed parts of its perimeter wall and filled wards with mud. To accompany feature Quake Indonesia Mental. Picture taken Feb. 10.

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