

Yemen condemns Hariri's assassination

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
& REUTERS

A spokesman of the Republic of Yemen denounced on Monday evening, February 14, the criminal act resulting in the death of Mr. Rafik al-Hariri, former Lebanese Prime Minister.

"This crime targets Lebanon's security, stability and national unity," said the spokesman.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs, said, "The Republic of Yemen calls on all Lebanese people including all sects and political forces to be aware enough not to get trapped by the conspiracy."

He added that the crime targets Lebanon's security, stability and national solidarity, and tries to engender mischief, tear the country into shreds and spark differences in their lines."

On the other hand, President Ali Abdullah Saleh had sent a cable of condolences to the Lebanese President expressing his heartfelt consolation over the death of Mr. Rafik al-Hariri, former Lebanese Prime Minister.

"We have sorrowfully received the news of the heart-breaking calamity which befell the brotherly Lebanese people by a criminal cowardly act resulting in the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister and a number of innocent victims," the letter said.

President Saleh strongly expressed his denunciation and condemnation of the atrocious crime describing it as "a terrorist act" targeting Lebanon and its social peace.

Turmoil in Lebanon

Lebanese opposition leaders blamed Syria for the assassination of Rafik al-Hariri and mourners attacked Syrians



The scene of the damaged area, Feb. 15, where a massive car bomb blew up the motorcade of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri on Beirut's seafont yesterday. Inset: former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri. REUTERS

with sticks and stones in the former prime minister's hometown in south Lebanon on Tuesday. The Sunni Muslim billionaire's death in a car bomb blast on Monday has spotlighted Lebanon's troubled ties with its powerful neighbour and revived memories of the 1975-90 civil war.

"This (Lebanese) regime is backed

by the Syrians. This is the regime of terrorists and terrorism that was able yesterday to wipe out Rafik al-Hariri," Druze leader Walid Jumblatt said after presenting his condolences to Hariri's family in Beirut.

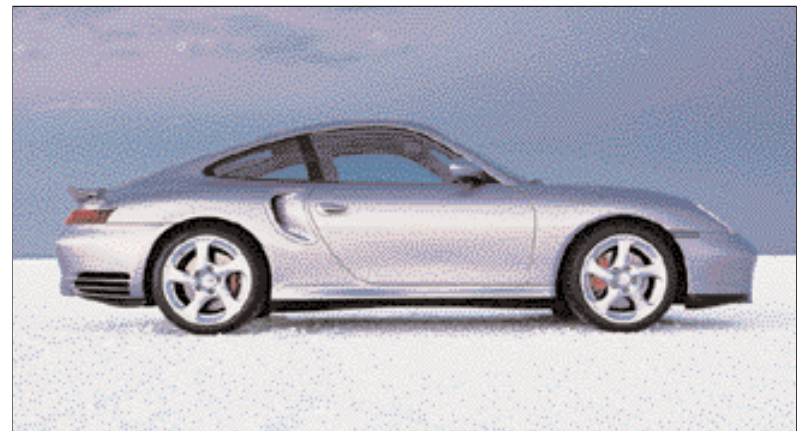
"I charge the Lebanese-Syrian police regime with the responsibility for Hariri's death," he said.

Thousands of protesters took to the streets in the northern

Sunni port city of Tripoli and hundreds demonstrated in Hariri's hometown of Sidon, shouting slogans blaming Syrian President

Bashar al-Assad for his death, witnesses said.

Continued on page 2



www.porsche-yemen.com

911 turbo coupe

natco
Porsche Centre Yemen
Mobile: 00967 71999911
E-mail: info@porsche-yemen.com



Trial of 11 al-Qaeda suspects resumed

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Counter-Terrorism court started Monday, Feb. 14 the trial of 11 al-Qaeda suspects accused of planning to form an armed gang to carry out "criminal acts" in Yemen and abroad as well as trying to join militants battling U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ten of the 11 defendants were present at the hearing. The list includes: Mohammed Saleh al-Kazmi, 35, Abdullah Yahya al-Wadaee, 27, Mansur Nasser al-Bihani, 31, Shafeeq Ahmed Omar, 26, Ibrahim Mohammed al-Mukri, 43, Mohammed Ahmed Hatem, 30 — all of who were born in Saudi Arabia — and Saddam Hussein Ismail, 24, Fares Mohammed Ali, 27, Abdul Raouf Abdullah Naseeb, 30 and Ahmed Mohammed al-Kardai, 27, and Ismail al-Husami.

"The defendants took part in setting up an armed gang and had forged passports and travel documents to enable them to commit criminal acts in Yemen and abroad, which include fighting U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq," the prosecutor said.

The deputy prosecutor claimed the 11 were trained in camps in Afghanistan between 1998 and 2002 and were plotting and raising funds for "criminal acts" inside Yemen and abroad.

The suspects were also charged to have planned traveling to Iraq to fight US-led forces. Some of them claimed they were tried and convicted



Al-Qa'eda suspects during the trial hearing in Sana'a. Photo by Mohammed Al-Qadhi

in Saudi Arabia, which the prosecution said did not know about. The court asked for a letter from the chief of the intelligence to prove this claim. He also said that a letter will be sent to the lawyers syndicate to appoint 6 advocates to defend the defendants.

The prosecutor demanded the maximum punishment for all the accused, who could face up between seven and 10 years in prison

Six of the men were arrested in Saudi Arabia, two in Syria and the rest in Yemen.

The court led by judge Najeeb Qaderi adjourned the trial hearings, which were run amidst heavy security measures, until February 21.

The appeals court sentenced Saturday, February 5th to death two and jailed 13 other al-Qaeda militants accused of bombing the French oil tanker Limburg, plotting to blow up five Western embassies, assassinate US ambassador to Yemen and carry out other terrorist operations in the country.

Dailami & Miftah go on hunger strike

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Clerics Yahya al-Dailami and Mohammed Miftah commenced a

hunger strike on Feb. 13, in protest against violations of their constitutional rights, said a statement circulated publicly on Sunday by their families.

"With the new violations - their being deprived of visitation rights and being put into solitary imprisonment - they have decided to resort to a hunger strike," the statement said. The clerics were also reported to have been insulted by head of the court, Judge Najib Qadiri.

The defense team of the two scholars issued a statement last week, which described the trials as a "theater". They refused the court session because they can not perform their duty and don't want to be "perjurors."

The lawyers said they were not



Yahya Al-Dailami



Mohammed Miftah

denied copying the case file, which prevented them from defending their clients. The court persistently refused to

permit them to give the lawyers access to the files or get a copy of it.

The court, instead, has appointed a lawyer from their side to defend the accused during the trial, the statement mentioned. The pair have stopped following up the trial as they are deprived of their legal rights of being able to defend themselves.

Hundreds of people, men and women, gathered last Sunday at the gate of the Penal Court to show solidarity with Dailami and Miftah. They expressed their indignation through prayers to God to take revenge on the rulers. "They showed their utter objection to the anti-clerics oppressive acts, driven by political motives," the statement said.



University teachers stage strike

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The seven government universities teaching staff announced Tuesday an open strike due to failure of agreement with the government to improve their living their terms.

In a press conference, the supreme council of the university teaching staff syndicates said that the decision was taken after the "government closed all doors of dialogue and understanding," said Dr. Abdulrahman Ghanem, chief of the council. He said that the council already agreed with the government last year that a rise in the salary of the 5250 teaching staffers will be in place this year but nothing happened. "The government kept giving promises. Now, the minister of finance refused to implement the agreement," he said, adding that government officials did not care at all about the threats of the strike. He pointed out that the council was very much care-

ful not to go on strike during the exams. "We have tried several times to avoid going into such a step but the government told us 'go on strike,'" he claimed.

The parliament already recommended that the government should implement the teaching staff cadre. "We do not more that we should treated equally with the expatriate teachers," said Dr. Iqbal al-Alas, spokesman of the syndicates council. He said that working at the university is no longer an attractive job for illuminated students who prefer to go and work for the private sector wherein they get handsome salaries.

He added that tens of Yemeni Ph.D. holders have left Yemen and joined some Arab and international universities, pointing out that around 80 professors are now teaching the UAE universities only. He even said that some of those who are sent on academic scholarships never come back due the very low salary they receive.

LET'S TALK ABOUT CARS AGAIN.



407 PEUGEOT

The Tehama Trading Company

Head Office: Hodeidah - Tel: (03) 200 149/50, Fax: (03) 200146
Showroom: Sana'a - Aljazair St. Tel: (01) 400269, Fax: (01) 208926
Aden - Tel: (02) 248973/ 241974, Fax: (02) 241736, Taiz - Tel: (04) 245623/4, Fax: (04) 245622
Mukalla - Tel: (05) 325902, Telefax: (05) 325901



STONY STORIES VILLA FOR RENT FOR VIP
WWW.alhashmi.net Mobile: 77281244 - 71141296 - 407607



Investment group discussion concluded

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A three-day group discussion was concluded in Sana'a on Feb. 14 on the investment climate in Yemen and the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. Many Yemeni businessmen took part in the event, as did the General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a number of academics, NGOs, and the World Bank.

At the beginning of the discussion, Ahmed Soufan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, explained the private's sector pioneering role in national development and poverty alleviation.

"The government expects the private sector to yet play a greater role in boosting economic growth through expansion of current investments and plunging into new promising areas," said he. He added that the government is always working to achieve an active partnership with the private sector.

Mohammed Abdu Saeed, Chairman of the General Union of the Chambers



A view of some attendants in the discussion

of Industry and Commerce, talked about the concerns and expectations of the private sector, hinting at the significance of holding further discussion to resolve the difficulties.

"These events are hoped to diagnose the practical reality which governs various economic and investment activities, in particular the private sector, so as to achieve national goals."

Some 15 studies were presented at

the discussion, which looked at the investment climate in Yemen and its problems and prospects. The discussions concluded that improving the level of economic growth, increasing the income per capita, raising the standard of living, reducing poverty and unemployment, and ensuring a suitable investment climate are all of critical importance.

Aden hosts 75th AESC workshop

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN BUREAU

Under the auspices of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the economic and commercial capital, Aden hosted the 75th workshop of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC), which is part of the Arab League.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalid Sheikh Minister of Industry and Commerce, and was attended by Mr. Amr Musa the Arab League Secretary General, a number of commerce and industry ministers from different Arab countries, and other officials from OPEC and the GCC.

The Economic and Commercial Council was expected to discuss a num-

ber of economic and social issues that concern Arab countries, particularly the idea of free trade zone areas.

The Yemen Times conducted a questionnaire with a number of participants in the meetings. Dr. Abdulmalik Abdullah, Undersecretary of Oman's Ministry of National Economy said "We expect that the meeting will increase the volume of trade exchange among the Arab countries and enhance the importance of economic cooperation."

Mr. Mustafa al-Samah Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry said "I expect the meetings of the AESC to yield useful results, particularly since Yemen began implementing

the Aden Free Zone, which should accelerate the process of Yemen's joining the AFTO."

Mr. Mohammad Tawfeeq, Syrian Industry Minister Assistant, noted that holding the meetings of the AESC would give the attendees an opportunity to know more about Yemen. He added that it is an opportunity to closely watch the results and achievements of the economic, administrative and financial reforms that are carried out by Yemen.

Mr. Ahmad al-Bar'ee, Undersecretary of the Saudi Finance Ministry said "we expect that there will be a useful discussion to terminate the custom charges and this in turn will help increase the value of trade exchange among the Arab countries."

Forum on democratization, development and human security

Sana'a, 15 February 2005 (United Nations Information Centre): The Government of the Republic of Yemen, the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with 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 February. This event is a follow-up to the discussions of the Inter-Governmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court held in Sana'a on 10-12 January 2004.

The purpose of the Forum 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 with Yemen. It is expected that discussions at the Forum will further contribute to strengthening the environment of openness, modernization and democratization in Yemen.

The Forum will address the following 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, community-based 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 Yemen.

Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Yemen Times Staff
TAIZ BUREAU

The Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in a meeting that brought together, Arab businessmen and experts, the Prime Minister and key officials in authorities of investment, customs and free zone as well as deputy ministries of commerce and industry. The meeting took place in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of Yemen on Wednesday February 16. The meeting focused on investment opportunities and commer-

cial issues in Yemen.

General Manager of Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), Mufeed Abdu Saif, explained the factors hindering and detracting investments. He identified some thirty-five anti-investment factors in Yemen. The TCCI also took part in the meeting of the Arab experts held in Aden University on Thursday February 17, concerning the Arab Free Zone in which it was introduced elaborately numerating its specialties and advantages as well as procedural aspects of implementing it.

Genetic research in Saber project Building on Yemen's agricultural heritage

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Developing agriculture in the region in Saber District was the topic for a workshop held Feb. 11 under the auspices of the French NGO Ideales, along with the Yemeni Center for Genetic Resources at the faculty of Agriculture, Sana'a University.

The project is funded by the Social Fund for Development and the French program for supplying food.

Frederic Pelat, Ideales representative, said this about the French NGO working in agriculture: "We are working with the Yemeni Center for Genetic Resources, Faculty of Agriculture on the project to develop genetic resources and knowledge for farmers.

"In fact, we want to make project to develop and support agriculture, by focusing on local resources and cooperation and exchange between farmers themselves, through local crops and local varieties which are adapted to the local conditions.

"It is a culture and knowledge that has been developed for many centuries and Yemeni farmers have knowledge in that. I think it would be a shame to neglect these knowledge, yet we think that Yemeni farmers are poor because they don't work. That is completely wrong. They have many things, but the problems these regions are isolated and remote and also the communication.

"We should benefit through this project from exchange between farmers and from more cooperation and from more attention given to these people and their knowledge."

Pelat added, "It is a pilot project and we have to focus on a place in a region which is famous for rain agriculture and quite representative. A region which is socially easy for us to work. I don't think there has been such project in Yemen. So if we succeed, we can apply this project in other areas and region in Yemen."

Dr. Al-Hakimi said "It is a pilot project that focuses on developing the genetic plant resources and local experi-

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

This edition's question:

Who do you think was behind the assassination of Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri?

- The religious fanatic group that claimed responsibility on al-Jazeera
- A Lebanese or Syrian official agency
- Israel- Some other group

last edition's question:

Are death penalties for two convicted terrorists justified, as opposed to life in prison?
Do you think the last agreement between Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon will pave the way for permanent peace in the area?

No 62%
Yes 38%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

World Bank meets with Taiz Leadership

BY YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

Dr. Ahmed Owaidhah, head of the World Bank mission, met Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed al-Hejri to discuss the progress of executing the second phase of the project "Protection of the city of Taiz from flood disasters," financed by the World Bank.

The two sides also discussed other matters related to the implementation of contracts concerning the construction of housing zones by the project in Be'arah area and talked about the administrative units of the project, the project's maintenance, the organizational support, and issues related to local councils.

The deliberations also covered other components of the project such as raising environmental awareness, alleviating poverty, and training programs.

ence and knowledge. Farmers, experts, technicians and academics will carry out this project for three years. We meet today to exchange the visions and opinions to implement this project and set the goals, and followed procedures in putting the project into operation. This project is a typical one that should be implemented in a number of areas."

About choosing Saber for implementing this project AL-Hakimi said, "We have visited Saber many times and through our study for Saber, we realized that Saber has a great variable environment in which various agriculture crops can grow as well as different agricultural activities.

"Besides, we have been greatly welcomed in Saber and we have found all the people cooperative and understanding. We want this project to develop these activities and keep such heritage, and we don't want this agricultural land to be destroyed. We would like to protect our agricultural heritage and plant these concepts in the next generations," Al Hamimi concluded.

Workshop on EPSP third component

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

The workshop for the third component in the Employment of Private Sector Program (EPSP) was held during Feb. 12-13. The workshop aimed to create job opportunities in the private sector.

The workshop was held in cooperation with the Industries and Small Enterprises Fund, and with the participation of 25 male and female trainees representing the Local Council, Industry and Commerce Office, the Social Development Fund and many other government institutions.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mrs. Bushra Mohammad Nassre,

EPSP advisor, said that the goal behind holding the workshop is to make joint functions available during the third component of the program. She added that the third component aims to ease the process of getting small funds as well as to connect between the funding establishments and the beneficiaries.

The workshop produced a special guide for those who want to take loans and for raising awareness about funds, insurances and loans.

The workshop was attended by Mohammad Othman, Director General of the Taiz Office of Industry and Commerce, Mrs. Susan al-Adimi EPSP Advisor and was run by Dr. Abdulkarim Thabit.

Pakistani envoy visits Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

H.E. Mr. Nujmuddin A. Sheikh, Special Envoy of the President of Pakistan arrived in Sana'a in the fall of the week. Celebrating the envoy's arrival the Embassy of Pakistan held on Sunday Feb.13 an official dinner reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The dinner party was attended by Yemeni and foreign diplomats, media personnel and representatives from different non-governmental organizations.

Afterwards, H.E. Mr. Nawah Amir Abdul Rehman Ambassador of Pakistan delivered a speech in which he thanked all the attendants who had come to warmly hail the visiting envoy.

The Ambassador noted that there are historic ties between Yemen and his country that are materialized in the mutual cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various areas.

On his part, Mr. Sheikh expressed pleasure over being warmly received in the country of belief and wisdom and said that Yemen and Pakistan share relatively identical traditions and customs, particularly in such receptions.

GTZ delegation meets Taiz Governor

TAIZ BUREAU
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed Abdullah al-Hejri met last week a delegation of German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Taiz. Judge Al-Hajri informed the visiting agency representatives the province's local council experience and the development of the local authority over the recent period.

The GTZ delegation members expressed their appreciation to the authorities for carrying out several urban developmental projects in Taiz.

The delegation visited al-Qahirah district where they discussed with the authorities the role of local council with Ahmed Jamil, Director of the district. During their visit to al-Makha district, the delegation discussed the possibility of supporting technical and vocational education projects in the district.

Kuala Lumpur & Jakarta package special offer

Hotel Names	City	07nights 08days	Single room	14nights 15days	Single room	Accommodation bed & breakfast
Istana hotel	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	\$ 760	\$ 970	\$ 990	\$ 1340	Category *****
Corus Hotel	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	\$ 710	\$ 830	\$ 890	\$ 1170	Category ****
JW Marriott	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$ 945	\$ 1295	\$ 1295	\$ 1645	Category *****

Conditions:
Price per person on twin sharing (min 2 person per departure)
Child under 12 years of age sharing parent room at 50% of the package fair
Infant 10% of the package fair
Round trip ticket Sanaa Kuala Lumpur Sanaa - Sanaa Jakarta Sanaa
Accommodation at the hotel mentioned above on bed & breakfast.
Transfer airport hotel or V.V. \$ 30 sedan car. (2adult + 01child)

Bazara Travel & Tourism
AlZubeiry Street
Sanaa
Phone: 286364 - 265865
279235 - 295699
Fax: 289568
email: bazara@y.net.ye

Continued from page 1

Yemen condemns Hariri's assassination

A crowd of mourners assaulted Syrian workers near Hariri's brother's house in Sidon, injuring five of them. A Syrian lorry was set on fire in north Lebanon.

Exiled former general Michel Aoun, a Maronite Christian and long-time foe of Syria, said Damascus was indirectly, if not directly, responsible for the Hariri's killing.

"There are many Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services working in Beirut and they control everything in the country. I don't think that if they were taking care of Hariri he would be attacked so easily," Aoun told Reuters by telephone.

Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam was among those who fled into Hariri's palatial home to pay condolences.

"This crime targeted the Lebanese dream, Lebanese security and Lebanese peace," said Khaddam, a personal friend of Hariri.

Mosque minarets across Beirut blared out readings from the

Koran. Streets were deserted as schools, shops and offices shut for three days of official mourning. The Lebanese army went on alert ahead of Hariri's funeral, planned for Wednesday.

Hariri, 60, who masterminded post-war reconstruction, was killed along with 14 other people when a car bomb ripped through his motorcade in Beirut's seafloor luxury hotel district. About 135 people were wounded in the biggest explosion since the war.

Suicide bombing
Interior Minister Suleiman Franjeh said a suicide car bomber might have carried out the attack, which gouged a crater in the middle of the road as Hariri's convoy drove by.

"It could have been that someone was driving the car and it might have been a suicide (attacker) who blew himself up," he told a news conference, citing initial investigations.

A previously unknown Islamist group said on Monday it had carried out a sui-

cide attack against Hariri, who also holds Saudi citizenship, because he supported the Saudi royal family.

Hours later Lebanese security forces said they had raided the Beirut home of a man they identified as a Palestinian who had read the videotaped claim of responsibility. A security source said Ahmed Tayseer Abu Adas was not in the house.

Hariri resigned as prime minister in October after falling out with Syria over its role in extending the term of his political rival, President Emile Lahoud.

He then joined opposition leaders in calling for Syria to withdraw its 14,000 troops and stop interfering in Lebanese affairs, as demanded by a U.N. Security Council resolution.

Political tension had already been building up in Lebanon as campaigning got under way for parliamentary elections in May, which were widely seen as a test of Syria's influence.

Franjeh said Hariri's death would not derail the poll, saying, "Certainly, the elections will take place on schedule."

Syrian state media said Syria had embraced Hariri "as one of its own sons" and condemned his killing.

"Matters should be put on the right track - the real target of the assassination of Hariri is Lebanon and its national unity and civil peace," al-Thawra newspaper said.

The United States, which has tightened pressure on Syria in recent months, said it would consult U.N. Security Council members about punitive measures. The council was due to meet formally later on Tuesday to discuss Hariri's killing.

Since it helped broker the end of the war, Syria has maintained a pervasive grip on Lebanon through its intelligence services, political allies and economic interests.

Lebanese papers voiced fears the killing could destabilize the country and open the door to international intervention.

"The pressing concern of the moment is how to prevent Lebanon from tottering over the brink of the abyss," said the English-language Daily Star.

More beds and facilities: Center for homeless children expands

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Safe Childhood Center is moving into a new building in Sana'a this week to help the institute assist more homeless children.

The new center, which received funding from the Social Fund for Development, will allow the institute to expand on its daily activities for children and let more of the homeless stay overnight: The number of beds will increase from 30 to 150.

"The new building will be four times bigger than the one we have been using which will give us many more advantages to helping homeless children," said Wadah Shugaa Al-Deen, Deputy Director and Financial Manager at Safe Childhood Center. "Our beds are now always full. It will be much better having 150 beds, and there will be room to have more in the future."

According to a study carried out by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Social Affairs, approximately 28,000 children in Yemen are homeless, with 4,000 in the capital. There are as many as two million working children in Yemen today. Most of them are able to go home at night, but the homeless have to live on the streets.

The Safe Childhood Center offers homeless children basic education, vocational training, healthcare and social and psychological care if they are affected by unstable homes or by living on the street. It also has a policy to allow homeless children to come and be fed, have a safe place to sleep and leave when they want to. Once a week the center sends out a team late at night and offers a number of homeless children to stay at the center.

The goal of the center is to try and get the children to return to their families, but if living with their families is not possible, the institute will let them stay permanently.

"Our goal is to return them to their families and reintegrate them into society," said Aisha Moharem, Director of Safe Childhood Center. "If they cannot live with their families, we keep them here. If it is not safe to be at home, they would end up on the street again."

Moharem said that the larger building will let the center divide the homeless children who are staying temporarily and permanently, which will allow the staff to focus more on the children's needs. There will also be a designated area for homeless girls.

One cause of children living on the street in Yemen is the large number of families living in poverty. A recent

United Nations report said that more than 45% of the 19 million Yemenis live on less than \$2 a day. Some of the children go to cities to try and help support their families. The Safe Childhood Center has also found that some of the homeless children have left home because of violence and abuse in the families.

The Safe Childhood Center was established in Sana'a two and a half years ago. Last July, the Saleh Social Foundation for Development took over running the center.

"We feel that we are stronger than before," said Shugaa Al-Deen. "We know we will continue under the Saleh Foundation. They are good to work with, and they are supporting us positively."

Last month, the European Commission offered to provide Yemen with \$2.53 million (\$3.3 million) to assist Yemeni groups seen in need of humanitarian aid. Along with developing projects to help people in rural areas, shanty towns in Sana'a and Taiz and a camp on the southern coast housing refugees from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia, the European Commission will support building centers in Sana'a where 650 homeless children will be allowed to stay and receive basic education.



A homeless child sleeping on a street in Sana'a

(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Scientific symposium on Taiz's water

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

A scientific symposium on water in the province of Taiz was held on Feb. 13-14, 2005. Titled "Water: between reality and ambition," the symposium was organized by the Center for Environmental Studies and Community Service at Taiz University in collaboration with Al-Saeed Establishment for Culture and Sciences and Local Water and Sanitary Disposal Authority as well as the Ministry of Waters and Environment.

The symposium aimed at shedding light on the problem of water in Taiz through the presentation of different work papers on the area's geology and hydrology.

The symposium was attended by Minister of Water and Environment, Dr. Mohammed Lutf al-Eryani, Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed al-Hajri, representative of Shawqi Hail Saeed, Faisal Fare' Mathhaji, the head of preparatory committee, Prof. Dr. Mohammed al-Soufi, Rector of Taiz University, Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the board of Al-Saeed Establishment, Dr.



The panel of the symposium

Mohammed al-Qadasi, Secretary General of the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, as well as a number of local officials and academics.

Discussions at the symposium indicated that world water has become a factor of tension in various regions around the world, and that approximately one third of the world's population are deprived of drinkable water.

Participants pointed out that the water issue must take priority over other strategic issues, "yet, it has not received an

amount of attention parallel to the risks expected in the short-term."

The city of Taiz is one of the areas that suffer from "chronic" shortage in water resources. It faces tremendous challenges as demand for water is far more than water supply. Further complicating matters is the fact that the limited amount of available water is becoming polluted. Water also is wasted through indiscriminate well drilling and irrigation of qat plantations.

Researcher Badr Abdullah Naji from

the Geology and Ecology Department at Sana'a University, presented a study on the tank in the basin of Wadi Warazan, in Taiz Province. Dr. Ahmed Fadhil al-Junaid, head of the Dams and Water Barriers Department at Dhamar University, reviewed his paper on the significance of dams in mitigating the need for water in Taiz. Samir Saeed from the Faculty of Science at the Taiz University presented an evaluation of groundwater quality in al-Hawjalah area, Taiz. Ghaith Company for Water and Environment

Technology, in collaboration with the Pakistani ACE presented a study on rain harvesting in Taiz. Hawash Abdu Mohammed and Abdu Ali Saeed presented a summary of a paper on administrative difficulties and water distribution services in the city of Taiz.

Another study was introduced by al-Khateeb al-Kebisi from the Department of Earth and Environment Sciences at Sana'a University, entitled "a quasi-3D finite difference model to simulate freshwater and saltwater flow into a coastal

aquifer, Wadi Surdud, Yemen Republic."

Badr Abdullah presented a study on the hydro-chemical influences on replenishing underground waters of Taiz basin. Geologists Sameer Mohammed Jazim, Anis al-Nahari, Fadhil Abdul-Jabar, and Mujeeb al-Khulaidi, from the Ministry of Oil and Minerals presented a preliminary geo-ecological study to assess the environmental impact of the waste disposal site in Taiz. researcher Mohammed Abdul-Rahman presented a study on pollution of public drinking water with lead.




FLY & WIN

AED 180,000

* 16 unlimited one year travel passes!

Suzuki central workshop commences

By YASSER AL MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The central workshop for Suzuki car maintenance, part of Sabaha Trading Company, commenced on Feb. 8. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Ahmad al-Kuhlani, Minister of State and Secretary General of the Capital, H.E. the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen and a Representative of the Suzuki Company.

Mr. Fuad Ahmad Sabaha, General Manager of Sabaha Trading, said that the workshop will help them to offer excellent services for their customers, maintaining their cars according to the international standards at competitive prices. The workshop will provide all the neces-



Capital's mayor and Japanese ambassador inaugurate the workshop

sary parts for Suzuki-manufactured cars.

The Japanese Ambassador to Yemen expressed his pleasure over the size of

Japanese investments in Yemen and the developing relations between the two countries.



from Sana'a to Sharjah

from only USD

85

Your ticket to even higher value!

You could be a winner every time you book and fly on Air Arabia between 18th February and 18th April 2005. With cash prize draws of AED 180,000 and 16 unlimited 1-year travel passes to be won, plus great value low fares you're sure to be a winner every time!

- 25 prizes to be won:
- Weekly prize draw of two 1-year unlimited travel passes.
- A weekly prize draw of AED 10,000.
- A Grand Prize draw of AED 100,000.

Book your flight now, before this offer flies away!

Convenient Coach links connecting Sharjah International Airport to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain are also available.

For information and bookings call Sana'a (01) 440001, our appointed agents, or visit our website: www.airarabia.com

Simply fly on Air Arabia between 18th February and 18th April 2005 and you will have the opportunity to win spectacular prizes. There will be 3 lucky winners per week, for the 1st 8 weeks. 2 winners will get 1 unlimited travel pass each valid for travel for one year on the Air Arabia network and the 3rd winner will get AED 100,000. All those who travel during the period of this promotion will have the opportunity to win the mega prize of AED 100,000.

All raffle draws will be conducted at the Air Arabia Head office in Sharjah. Fares are valid for travel until the 18th of April 2005. The prices indicated are base prices for one-way trip and are exclusive of tax and surcharges. Similar fares are available for return trips. Standard terms and conditions apply.

"Qaeda" says jihadists didn't kill Hariri

DUBAI, Feb 15 (Reuters) - A statement attributed to al Qaeda and posted on the Internet on Tuesday denied Islamists had killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, saying Lebanese, Syrian or Israeli intelligence were behind the attack.

The statement, signed by a hitherto unknown group calling itself the Al Qaeda Organisation in the Levant, was posted on an Islamist Web site often used by al Qaeda a day after another unknown Islamist group said it was behind the huge Beirut blast that killed Hariri.

The authenticity of the statement could not be immediately verified.

"Blaming the Jihadist and Salafist groups for what happened in Beirut is a complete fabrication," the statement said.

"The priorities of the jihadist groups in the Levant are supporting our brethren in Iraq and Palestine, not blowing up cars."

"This is clearly an operation that was planned by a state intelligence agency ... and we blame either the Mossad, the Syrian regime or the Lebanese regime."

The Levant is the historical name for the region including today's Syria,

Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories.

Hariri, a billionaire who masterminded the rebuilding of Lebanon after a 1975-90 civil war, was killed on Monday, four months after he resigned as prime minister after disputes with Lebanon's main powerbroker Syria.

Hours after the attack, Al Jazeera television aired a video tape from an

unknown Islamist group calling itself the Group for Advocacy and Holy War in the Levant which said it had killed Hariri because of his ties to Saudi Arabia.

Hariri had close ties to the kingdom, Osama bin Laden's birthplace, which has been battling al Qaeda for more than two years.



A Lebanese policeman inspects the damage to a car where a massive car bomb blew up the motorcade of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri on Beirut's seafront yesterday, Feb. 15. REUTERS

UN Secretary General speaks on assassination of Hariri

The Secretary-General has learned with great sadness and shock of the brutal murder in the heart of Beirut today of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of Lebanon and a number of others.

Mr. Hariri's death is an immense loss to Lebanon, the region and the international community.

He will always be remembered for his dedication to the people of Lebanon, for his success as a statesman and a businessman, for his great achievements in the reconstruction of Lebanon after a long and ugly conflict, and for his courage and directness in public and in private.

The Secretary-General sends his deepest condolences to Mr. Hariri's wife and family, as well as to all the other bereaved families.

The Secretary-General condemns in the strongest terms those who instigated, planned and executed this callous political assassination. Such acts are a reversion to a chapter in Lebanon's history that he had hoped was long past.

US soldier killed, three hurt in Iraq bomb blast

BAGHDAD, Feb 15 (Reuters) - One U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded by a bomb planted by guerrillas near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said on Tuesday.

The soldiers were on patrol when

the bomb exploded on Monday, the military said in a statement.

The death brought to 1,113 the number of U.S. troops killed in combat in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.



Iraqi National Guard (ING) soldiers inspect the scene after a suicide car bomber attempted to assassinate the Diyala province deputy governor near Baquba, 70 kms (43 miles) north of Baghdad Feb. 15. ING officials said both the deputy governor and the driver of the suicide car bomb survived the attack. REUTERS

Syria jails 15 Kurds for separatism

DAMASCUS, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Syria's state security court jailed 15 Syrian Kurds for up to three years on Tuesday on charges of seeking a breakaway state, lawyers said.

Four were sentenced to three years in jail for "seeking to instigate civil war" in addition to charges of belonging to separatist factions, attempting to split territory off from Syria, and fomenting ethnic strife, lawyer Faisal Bader said.

The rest were jailed for two years.

The 15 were initially sentenced to five years in prison but the court reduced the punishment, lawyers said.

"This ruling is illegal because it's issued by an unconstitutional court ... I demand the release of the defendants," Bader said.

He charged that the trial was based on statements obtained through torture.

The state security court was created under a four-decade-old emergency law that activists say should be ended. They want the court to be abolished and its rulings overturned.

The 15 were arrested last March during a riot in Damascus when Syrian Kurds clashed with police.

The riot was triggered by a soccer match brawl in the town of Kameshli.

Most of the hundreds of Kurds detained across the country after riots in which about 30 people were killed, were later freed.

Like neighbouring Turkey and Iran, Syria worries Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq could spark separatism within its borders.

In August the state security court sentenced two Kurdish activists to three years in jail on charges of belonging to a separatist group.

Several banned Kurdish political groupings in Syria, whose Kurdish community is estimated at about 2 million

people, demand the right to teach their language.

They also demand citizenship which is required for state education and employment for about 200,000 Kurds classified as stateless based on a 1962 survey.

Iran's fire survivors say help came too slow

TEHRAN, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Survivors of a mosque fire that killed 59 people accused authorities in the Iranian capital Tehran of responding too slowly to save many of the victims.

At least 230 people remained hospitalised on Tuesday, one day after a faulty kerosene heater ignited a massive blaze at Tehran's Arg mosque, which was packed with worshippers for a major Shi'ite Muslim festival.

Men, women and children were killed trying to escape.

"I saw people running.

It was like a horror movie," said 14-year-old Zahra, whose leg was broken after being trampled by terrified worshippers. "I was scared and could not breathe."

Tehran police chief Morteza Talai told state television on Monday: "The basic safety rules, including installation of a kerosene heater very close to a curtain, was ignored."

Tehran's fire chief, Ahmad Ziai, defended the rescue effort.

"The fire workers and other rescuers immediately attended at the scene and prevented spread of fire," he told state television.

"The worshippers were panicked. Many of them were wounded while fleeing."

Some survivors and family, however, blamed authorities for not responding fast enough.

"Rescue teams did not arrive timely. There were few ambulances to take the injured ones to nearby hospitals,"

said Mohsen, a 47-year-old shopkeeper who lost his wife and daughter in the mosque ablaze.

"My daughter could be alive now, if the rescue operation was faster," Mohsen said, bursting into tears at Tehran's Sina hospital.

High-ranking officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, offered their condolences.

"I emphasize the need of accelerated help to those who survived the bitter incident," state television quoted Khamenei as saying.

The Arg mosque, near Tehran's sprawling bazaar, remained surrounded by police.

It was being repaired for the religious ceremonies of the holy month of Moharram, when Shi'ite Muslims pour into mosques to commemorate the death of the seventh century Shi'ite martyr Hossein, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed.

"The mosque will be ready to serve worshippers tonight," the official IRNA news agency quoted an official of Tehran fire department, as saying.



A victim of the fire at the Arg mosque lies in the Sina hospital near the Bazar in central Tehran Feb. 15. Thirty eight people died and 200 were injured on Monday when a faulty electrical heater started a blaze in a Tehran mosque crowded with worshippers for a major Shi'ite Muslim festival, Iranian state media reported. REUTERS

Want Best Enjoyment Of Food In Town?
Then Go To **Beijing Cuisine!!**

WELCOME

Outside Catering, Take Away, Dining-In Services Available

Tel: 01-440302, 77448825 Fax: 01-440303
http://www.pinyad.com Email: pinyad@163.com

A FREE PHONE CARD

helps me get closer to my loved ones

Send money to your loved ones and get a **FREE PHONE CARD** with every transaction!

uniting people with possibilitiesSM

WESTERN UNION MONEY TRANSFER

No bank account required. The Receiver does not pay any fee.
Over 190,000 agent locations across 195 countries and territories worldwide.
Offer valid until 10th February 2005 or until stocks last.
For terms and conditions, call 01 3 407 160 in Yemen, or visit your nearest Western Union agent today.
* Value of free phone card \$15.00

Authorized Agent
مركز المصارف الدولية
International Bank of Commerce

Indian foreign minister in 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 cleared.

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 officials.

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 slow-

moving peace process launched a year ago.

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 Afghanistan since then.

Zimbabwe opposition says govt sponsoring divisions

HARARE, Feb 15 (Reuters) - 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 for Democratic Change (MDC) 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 elections.

"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 weaken us," he said when asked about 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 pathetic.

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 media.

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 blacks.

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 imperialists.

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

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

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 periodically



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 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 islands.

Tuesday's protesters said in a statement 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 Reuters.

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 civil liberties.

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 democracy.

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 Shahi 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



Nepali policemen rest after patrolling the streets of Kathmandu Feb. 15. REUTERS

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.

Blasts expose lingering issues dogging Philippines

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 Islamiyah, a regional network of militants associated with al Qaeda that is suspected of guiding and funding previous attacks by Abu Sayyaf and other Philippine groups.

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 recover."

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 highs.

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 ideological lines.

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 meets crime.

The military has been scoring a few successes, particularly against Abu Sayyaf," Wilford said.

"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 years.

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 the south.

"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.



Vacancy Announcement

The project "Institutional Capacity Development of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation" of GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH) would like to announce the following vacant position to be filled:

Local Expert on Regional Development / Regional Planning

Qualification and requirements to meet:

- Yemeni nationality
- University degree in economic or social studies (diploma) with special qualification in regional planning (including participatory methods) and budgeting, regional economic and social development, poverty reduction strategies and policies of the Yemeni Government, local authority law and local government system in Yemen
- Minimum of 5 years practical experience in job related fields
- Preferably, the candidate should have basic knowledge of international development cooperation principles in general and GTZ cooperation in particular
- Readiness to frequently travel in Yemen
- Team spirit, excellent communication, mediation and organization skills
- Fluent in English language (or at least working level knowledge).

Candidates of suitable qualification are invited to send their application and an up-to-date CV in Arabic and English latest by 28 February 2005 to

By mail: **GTZ Office Sana'a Deputy Director**
"Vacancy Announcement: Local Expert on Regional Development / Regional Planning"
P.O. Box 692

By fax: (00967-1) 412 539

Short listed applicants will be invited for interviews as of 5.3.05 at the GTZ Office Sana'a premises.

Words of Wisdom

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

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

OUR
OPINIONAl-Hariri's murder
a wake up call:The war
against
terrorism
must continue

The brutal, cruel, and ugly attack that killed Rafeeq Al-Hariri and 15 other people has caused devastation, outrage, and disbelief all over the world. Lebanon has been shaken by this horrific act that was intended to kill one person.

Other countries have faced similar terrorist incidents, but at a time that Lebanon was reviving its image as a business center in the region, this incident has several possible long-term implications.

While it is not yet known who was responsible for al-Hariri's death, it is very clear is the victim is not just Al-Hariri himself, but the stability and security of Lebanon.

Lebanon needs to be supported at this time. The country is facing a challenge against forces that want to hinder the progress that the country is making. Arab countries are united against such terrorism, which targets everyone working for stability and progress.

In a common voice, Yemenis need to condemn this action. It is quite clear that terrorists are willing to hit hard in our countries. The recent conference in Saudi Arabia on combating terrorism is a move in the right direction.

We have people brainwashed with ideas that make them think that the homicides that they commit are done for God's sake. Those people are being exploited and raised by evil minds that work for individual interests and have nothing to do with religion or faith.

Islam is a just religion and not only does it prohibit killing Muslims, but the killing of any human - regardless of their faith - is a grave crime. The threat of terrorism and fundamentalism should not be underestimated. If Muslim youths continue to be naive and listen to voices that kill others, then terrorism will flourish. It is about time that governments work together to build a coherent network that works collaboratively to fight this phenomenon.

Let us realize that the attack against Al-Hariri is a wake up call to all Arab governments to follow up with their war against terrorism and act against any group or entity that sympathizes with their action. Let us hope that Al-Hariri's life will not be forgotten.

Lebanon needs us now more than ever, and by fighting terrorism and assisting it to recover from this shock, we can help greatly.

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-1661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

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

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

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



Regional Distributors

KSA:
Saudi Distribution Co.
Jeddah, Tel: 6530909
Tlx: 605350
P.O. Box: 13195

Qatar (Doha):
Dar Al-Sharq Printing,
Publishing &
Distribution
Tel: 4661265
Fax: 4661865
P.O. Box: 3488

Dubai:
Dar Al-Hikma
Tel: 00971 506589158
P.O. Box 2007

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

A response to James Shockley
America isn't that great

By ALAWI ABDULLA ABU BAKIR
webmaster@onedarkangel.com

Amazing how people write and draw you into the bias and fictional story on how the USA built and saved the world. And on top of that, say, 'we need to talk.' Seems more like, 'let me shove my blind patriotism down your throat.'

Let's look at some of what James A. Shockley wrote.

"Regarding your editorial, 'Misrepresenting Islam, again,' I must say, I am impressed. I have not recently gone into the pages of the Yemen Times to read your opinions. It is always more of the same, i.e., US equals bad, everyone else (except the Jews) is good. As an American this unending rhetoric always seems so ridiculous. Why is there never any room for debate?"

James, have you watched CNN lately and how they portray Islam and Muslims all over world? So, if your country, the USA, has the right to be critics then so do any other country or newspaper from Yemen. It's not debate James wants but "let everyone agree with what I am saying."
"US taxpayer money at the end of WWII, to the tune of billions of dollars. The same is true of the Philippines, Indonesia, many of the smaller Island nations as well as Japan herself, like Germany, a defeated enemy, rebuilt with U.S. taxpayer money."

James, looking at the above, you forgot to mention the Hiroshima Bomb. You forgot to mention how USA trapped these countries, and they are still trapped with debts and obligation to pay such debts. You forgot to mention how these small countries were carved up, with not just colonialism but also corporate colonialism.

"Now, all of Europe is free."
James, are you sure? Look at the world today. It's not free but still lives in terror that they have to do exactly what USA tells them to do. You need to listen to the speech Bush said when sworn in for another four years, and how he will do this and that. What we call Third World Order. Then we hear you words

about Muslims and how USA helped them, by saying:

"The US intervened when Muslims were being massacred in Yugoslavia, and stopped the killing."

James, maybe you have also forgotten who gave these very weapons to the ones who Massacred Muslims, and the fact of many a sanctions so that these Muslims cannot fight back, while the USA pumped in the many war weapons to the enemies of these defenseless Muslims. And here we go again, below, in where you tell Yemenis, how USA freed the world:

"Kuwait, another Muslim nation, freed from Saddam troops in 1991."

Kuwait is still paying the billions for this. Secondly, USA didn't give a damn for Muslims but for the oil. Let's not get into the pathetic debate that USA cared a damn for Muslims. It was also revealed that when this part of the world stopped oil to go to USA, and it caused havoc, USA was willing to wage war on the Muslims. So much for 'Helping because of humanity reasons.'

Give me a break. We've heard this talk for a very long. And your books, who are they written by? By the very people who enslaved millions of black people and then rewrite history in these books. Do you still believe that Columbus discovered America when it was discovered 180 years earlier by Abu Bakari, a man of great empire and wealth.

No, we don't want to count on the very books, much of it, not all, but much of it based on nothing more than patriotic lies! This is one Yemeni that knows his history and the history of your country and other countries. Most of us don't want to live life blindly and call out as Black man in those days who slaved for the white to say, "Yes Sa! You are always right Sa!"

"The stories we hear in the US from our soldiers are heart rending."

Yes, it is heart wrenching from both sides. One because the war was started by a lie, nothing but a lie. Secondly, Iraq has been hit with bombs and sanctions by USA long before USA invaded Iraq. Thirdly, USA has no choice but to help many countries now.

Bush's image counts on it, more than ever before and much of war is funded by USA because USA has a lot of interests in other countries.

Looking at the Tsunami disaster, where USA stalled while the world dug in. And only later USA went to help. I wonder why they stalled?

In the Second World War, why didn't the USA come in until later, after many sacrificed their lives from all over world. And when victory was won, USA had the arrogance to say they won the war.

And this is the problem James. You like to have USA up there and not take its good. USA, if you are honest have carved, ruined many countries due to their foreign policy. Many not just Muslims but many all over world see Bush and his administration to blame for the Occupation of Palestine.

The USA is the prime example of supporters of Zionists, funded as much as it can from billions of taxpayers' dollars.

USA says one thing and when a wall is built in Occupied Palestine, Bush stays silent and has the arrogance, to award Ariel Sharon, terrorists - "a man of peace." What kind of moron would say, Ariel Sharon a man of peace?

You would have done USA a favour to acknowledge the many mistakes it's done because I do about Muslims today. Not one country is perfect and no nation today can say they are innocent. But you do see USA as a country that is perfect and holy. And this is where Muslims, and many countries differ with USA.

May there be peace in this world, and may we talk with humility and recognise our mistakes, speak with truth and not patriotic blindness. USA has a lot to answer for but so my fellow Muslims, Yemenis to get active politically and speak out. Especially when Yemeni reporters and editors are being imprisoned and beaten.

Both should talk but be truthful or its just nothing more than - "we are better than you and we save the world." At least have the decency to be truthful why USA does what it does. This is not Hollywood where USA are always the heroes and UFO's are only sited in USA. This James is the real world.

Letters to the Editor

Freedom fighters will win

Thank you very much for this brave article you recently published on violations of press freedom in Yemen. Now I could say: Like a father like a son.

In addition to what you mentioned in your article I, as a journalist who strongly believe in freedom of the press, also believe that journalists and editors should not be more afraid than ever. It is their duty to make the authorities angry if these authorities are not telling the truth. They do not have to worry about closure of newspapers, and the subsequent problems of that, because they are fighting a fair war and with each war there would be a price to pay. But at the end, believe me, freedom fighters will win.

Naji Alharazi
naji@journalist.com

Don't rely on the West

I read your article about journalism in Yemen, and how bad the situation is now for journalists these days. Let me say this, first I am not a journalist (I am a pharmacist), but I can read the facts. Have we ever enjoyed a real freedom in Yemen as citizens of that country, have we ever lived a decent life in that country. I am one of millions of Yemenis living abroad outside my home land, we are all suffering being away from our families and friends, simply because we have such a tremendous energy as youth and we could not utilize it in our home land, so we fled away to other countries to utilize our energy, knowledge and experience (each in his/her field).

What do you expect from a system that work hard to give the people of the land a very hard time instead of working hard to make life easy for them. I do not want to say anything more than that because

you know better that I do..

You also mentioned the "western" countries, and that they are not doing their share in protecting journalism in Yemen. I have never believed that the west (including America) are a democratic countries, never, never...and what is happening these days all over the world proves that.

All what matters to these "Western countries" is their interest, and only their interest. Now America is adapting a new law "...with me or against me", block or white, my way or the high way as the Americans say. So brother, do not rely or put so much hope on the western countries. Let's do it ourselves.

Nabeel Albadany
nalbadany@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for 'Yemenis abroad' service

I would like to thank Yemen Times for this great website and in particular for the Yemenis abroad page, on which I was able to find an old friend of mine with whom I've been to school about 15 years ago.

It's so nice to have such platform; it's hard enough for Yemenis abroad to take on contact with other Yemenis.

You are great, and I wish you all the best.

Sally B.
Germany
brosolino@web.de

A legitimate question

I am a Yemen reader from Rada'a in Beidha governorate. I have been living in the USA since ten years ago, and have a legitimate question that I want to ask in this section of your opinion page.

My question is: why don't Yemenis obey the law in the city, e.g., traffic regulations? I have noticed that there had been a lot of accidents in Sana'a because of this. Is it because there is no govern-

ment enforcement or control? Or is it because of corruption? It is just a question that I hope one could give an answer for.

Mahmood A
bigmoz85@yahoo.com

Thanks for setting an example

I really respect you for writing these articles (A turbulent year in Yemen's recent history), and that is why I am a subscriber. Thank you for promoting truth and fact in the face of political pressure. God knows the deeds of every man's heart and will bring to justice those who have no morals (I am a Christian). But until that time comes... Thank you for setting a good example.

Charley Coleman
charleycoleman@hotmail.com

Bridges to peace can easily be built

I wish I could agree with you. History and current events appear to argue the other conclusion that this world will never know peace. Theologically, this world will never know peace because then man would claim the power to make peace. This claim would take from God His greatest offering, and that is peace to man. Socially, this world will never know peace because nations act in their own self interest as children. Nations have never and will never possess enough maturity to live in peace with each other. Religiously, the world will never know peace because the religious always believe they hold the standard of truth and other religions are deluded and in need of conversion.

Politically, the world will never know peace because power corrupts. Power is an addiction in people and nations. In families and nations, power is a commodity to seek, to maintain, and to

expand. Psychologically, the world will never know peace because human beings live in great fear of death, of embarrassment and of inferiority so that peace becomes a threat. God alone provides peace through the world, in the world and in spite of us. We, humans, possess the rhetoric of peace but not acting for peace. Were peace a human attribute, we would not be having this discussion.

Chris Molling
cpmolling@yahoo.com

A question to the Yemeni government

Coming to the issue of tourism, I would like to ask the government one question: why is the Yemen government so reluctant to grasp what could be its main source of foreign income? Having just taken a party of 24 for three weeks around the Yemen in November, they were universally agreed that their fears and doubts were quite unfounded, and that the British Travel Advice is dreadfully wrong.

Unfortunately it is that to which travelers from Europe do turn, and the Yemen government does nothing to rebut the insinuations that it contains.

If the Egyptians could recover their status, within a year of the slaughter in Luxor, by heavy publicity, why can't Yemen do the same with its much less difficult history, and which the British Travel Advice will not leave alone.

Let us Brits show some support and stop this continued, depressing, and false representation of the security position in the Yemen. However this must be matched by some enthusiasm on the Yemeni part, otherwise the Year of the Tourist is a non-starter.

Alan D'Arcy
alan.darcy@btinternet.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Zionist
itch for bombs

Surely, Scott McClellan, the White House Press Spokesmen finger pointing at Syria for the tragic bomb attack that did away with one of the most influential personalities of Lebanon, politically and economically, is somewhat hasty and even suspicious. The fires of the burning cars and edifices has not even been put out, and there is Scott McClellan telling the world that it was Damascus. Of course, as is usual with the Bush Administration, McClellan was unable to give any substantive reasoning for this outright accusation. McClellan said there was no evidence to substantiate his condemnation of Syria. The Bush Administration seems to think that its finger pointing is sufficient to be accepted as sound judgment, just like the random imprisonment of hundreds of people without having to revert to any due process of any kind or even a plausible argument to substantiate any links with "terrorism". Ironically, most of these prisoners are no more than small fry, if they indeed do have links with "Al-Qaeda", while the big fry are still enjoying their liberty and arms length distance from any American enforcement or military authority. Maybe, as one American friend suggested, Bin Laden's or Zerkawi's continued presence is actually essential to the Bush and friends agenda, even if they might not be even living anymore!

Whatever the case, it is just impossible that Washington has the magic crystal ball that allows it to incriminate anyone it wants to without even having to produce any shred of evidence. The observer is inclined to believe that, notwithstanding the position of Rafiq Al-Hariri, vis a vis the Syrian influence in Lebanon (and not necessarily the presence of Syrian troops), there is no plausible logic to suggest that Syria would undertake the killing of a prominent personality like Hariri, because the sensitivity of Syria's presence in Lebanon would dictate that Syria would not seek to raise any possible further Lebanese discontent with Syria's presence in Lebanon, which is already ignited by Israeli and American prodding. Furthermore, Hariri's position would not have really become so much of an influence in Syrian involvement in Lebanon, because Hariri never outright called for Syrian total withdrawal from Lebanon, which would mean a mean a retraction to the days when right wing Lebanese Christians sought to satisfy the Israeli agenda for Lebanon in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In fact, it was thanks to the Syrian presence in Lebanon that Hariri could find the peaceful climate to advance his business interests. Furthermore, Syria would not find favor in antagonizing the Saudis, with whom Hariri has a long established business and congenial relationship, Riyadh still maintain generally strong relations with Damascus and it was the Saudis who helped to create the venue for the Syrian presence by the Taif Agreement that stipulated for the Syrian deployment in Lebanon.

The messy explosions of the likes that hit Hariri are not far from the capabilities of the Israeli Mossad or supra-intelligence organ, whose activities in Lebanon have ample resources and an ugly record of explosions and abductions and outright murder like the Sabra and Shatilla massacre and the brutal death of even its own Lebanese allies, who have maybe turned sour in Tel Aviv's view. Starting with the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, in which the Israeli "terrorists", as they were called in the days of the British Mandate over Palestine, did away with a number of British officers, in gratitude for the Balfour Declaration and all the facilities the British gave for Jewish immigration to Palestine, the Israeli state has undertaken several assassinations of prominent personalities including Secretary Generals of the United Nations. Why does not Washington first study a little history and ask what happened to Trigvele and Dag Hammarskjöld? If Washington will continue to look at the Israeli state as the bastion of angelic behavior in the region, then we cannot expect the US to substantiate any hopes for orchestrating a truly genuine peace for the region. Israel would love nothing more than to unleash "ethnic" feuding again in Lebanon, because it wants to take advantage of its cozy relationship with the White House to settle scores with the Lebanese, for kicking them out of their turf so humiliatedly. They figure the death of Hariri would entice factional feud again in Lebanon and thus call for American or Israeli intervention under one pretext or another to "secure" Israel's northern border or whatever excuse. In fact, they would not even bother trying to make any plausible justification, since as one Israeli reporter for Haaretz said, Sharon and Bush see eye to eye on just about everything, especially the fight against Islamic terrorism. What about Israeli terrorism? That is not in the White House vernacular and will never be so, because the Americans have had to rely on several doses of Israeli intelligence in their misguided Iraqi adventure. The idea is that the Israelis are more versed in dealing with the Arabs and have an inkling of how to control Islamic terrorism, at least that is how George W. Bush sees it.

On another note, there has always been a strange pattern that has developed in the region. Whenever the situation is cooled down in the West Bank and Gaza, the heat is turned on in Lebanon. We have seen this quite often, especially when Sharon is at the helms.

The Loss of a Great Yemeni Educator

The death last week of Professor Sa'eed Qaid Al-Maktari, who headed the Al-Ahliya School for Basic and Secondary Education ever since its establishment in the early Seventies was a great loss to the education sector in Yemen. Any one who ever got to know Sa'eed would never forget his affection for children and his knack at nurturing children to be studious and disciplined. This observer once noted in this column that if Sa'eed Qaid was appointed Minister of Education, the state of our educational system would be far more closer to the way it should be than the nightmare it is now.

Church agonises over women bishops

LONDON (Reuters) - The Church of England, already split over the ordination of gay bishops, is now agonising over taking another leap of faith — appointing women bishops.

The issue sparked impassioned debate on Wednesday at the General Synod, the church's parliament, which has to decide whether women should join the upper echelons of the clerical hierarchy.

The Anglican Church is already facing schism over the bitterly disputed ordination of openly gay American Bishop Gene Robinson in New Hampshire.

The thorny issue of women bishops could prove equally divisive as the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams fights to keep all the faithful in the Anglican fold.

The Bishop of Rochester, in Kent, Michael Nazir-Ali, author of a report on women bishops published last November, spelt out to the Synod the arguments for and against the historic move.

He said there are those who believe "the Church is facing a number of serious issues which threaten to divide it. Is this really the time to introduce another

cause of division?"

Others, he said, argue that ordaining women bishops would improve relations with Methodists but could harm ties with Roman Catholics.

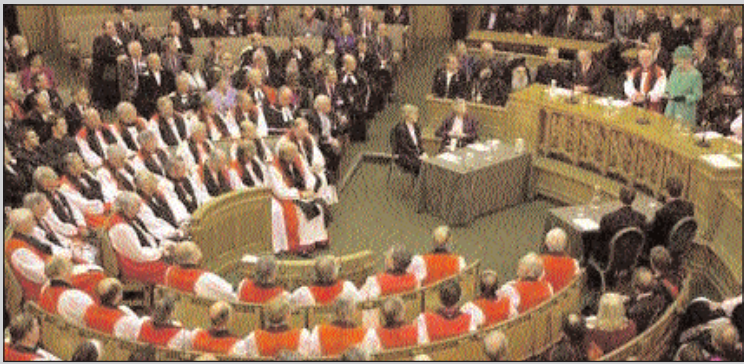
The Rochester report, eager to explore every avenue in a church ruled by consensus, has even suggested adopting a "men only" branch of the church to accommodate implacable foes of change.

As Jesus Christ's apostles were all men, traditionalist opponents believe there is no precedent in the Bible for women bishops.

But a decade after the Church of England ordained its first women priests, Liberal clerics say it is insulting not to let them hold positions of power. One in six of England's parish priests is a woman.

Now the Church of England has to decide whether it is time to let women through the stained-glass ceiling. The legislative process could be set in motion at the next Synod in July even though it could take up to four years for the first woman bishop to be ordained.

Women bishops have already been ordained in the United States, Canada and New Zealand.



Queen Elizabeth stands to make a speech during the inauguration of the Synod of the Church of England at Church House in Westminster Nov. 14, 2000. REUTERS

Blair urges Livingstone to apologize

LONDON (Reuters) - Tony Blair has urged London's mayor to apologise for "Nazi" jibes which could threaten the city's bid to host the Olympic Games.

Blair said on Wednesday Ken Livingstone should say sorry for asking a Jewish reporter from London's Evening Standard newspaper if he was a "German war criminal" during a confrontation last week.

The row threatens to overshadow an Olympic commission visit to London this week to evaluate the British capital's bid for the 2012 Games.

Asked on Channel Five's "The Wright Stuff" whether Livingstone should apologise, Blair said: "Yes. That's the simple answer."

"I know a lot of us in politics get angry with journalists from time to time but in the circumstances, and to the journalist because he was a Jewish journalist, he should apologise. Apologise and move on."

Blair's comments echo angry calls for an apology from the country's Jewish community and Holocaust survivors.

The outspoken mayor, who was once thrown out of the Labour Party, now faces an official probe which ultimately could decide to suspend or ban him from holding public office.

However Livingstone, who will be accompanying the 13-man Olympic team until they finish their inspection on Saturday, has steadfastly refused to say sorry.

He insists the remarks were not racist and instead accuses the Standard and its sister paper the Daily Mail of mounting a hate campaign against him.

"I could apologise but why should I say words I do not believe in my heart?" he said on Monday.

The furore erupted after reporter Oliver Finegold accosted Livingstone as he left an official engagement. A row ensued in which the mayor asked him if he was a "German war criminal".

When the reporter replied he was Jewish, Livingstone responded that he was acting like a "concentration camp guard".

"Red Ken"

Known as "Red Ken" for his left-wing views, Livingstone is no stranger to controversy.

His ejection from Labour came in 2000 when he stood against the party's official candidate for London mayor. Blair said at the time he would have been a "disaster".

However he won that election and was eventually readmitted to Labour in January 2004. Last year he stirred up further controversy by inviting to London a Muslim cleric who endorses Palestinian suicide bombers.

"At the very moment London is seeking to impress Olympic officials, attention is focused on Mr Livingstone's boorish conduct towards the Jewish community," the Daily Mail said in an editorial on Wednesday.



London Mayor Ken Livingstone speaks at a news conference in central London to announce plans for a velodrome in east London, Feb. 15. REUTERS/

The London bid team said however the issue was irrelevant to the capital's chances and that Livingstone had impressed the commission.

"The mayor gave a very good speech about his commitment and London's commitment to 2012 and he received a very warm response," bid spokesman Mike Lee told reporters.

Last year, Spanish soccer fans tarnished Madrid's Olympic credentials after chanting racist abuse at English players during a match in the Spanish capital.

The evaluation team, which started in Madrid, will next travel to New York, then Paris before finishing in Moscow mid-March, with the winning city announced in Singapore in July.

Kyoto treaty enters into force

OSLO (Reuters) - A world plan to fight global warming has gone into force, feted by its backers as a lifeline for the planet but rejected as an economic straitjacket by the United States, the world's top polluter.

After years of delays, the Kyoto Protocol on curbing human emissions of heat-trapping gases by 2012 took effect at 5 a.m. on Wednesday British time amid muted celebrations including a ceremony in the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto where the pact was signed in 1997.

"Climate change is a global problem. It requires a concerted global response," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in pre-recorded remarks to be aired in Kyoto.

"I call on the world community to be bold, to adhere to the Kyoto Protocol, and to act quickly in taking the next steps. There is no time to lose," he said.

Environmental group Greenpeace flew a hot air balloon over Kyoto, emblazoned with the message: "New dawn for the climate". It said it held other celebrations from Bonn to Bangalore.

Supporters of the 141-nation pact say it is a first step to slow global warming. Climate experts fear temperature increases could lead to rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns and wipe out thousands of animal and plant species by 2100.

But the United States pulled out in 2001, saying Kyoto was too costly, based on unreliable science and unfairly excluded big developing nations India, China and Brazil, which account for a third of the world's population.

Among major developed nations, only Australia has joined the United States in

refusing to cap emissions of gases like carbon dioxide emitted mainly by burning fossil fuels in cars, factories and power plants.

"Climate change is happening already...but we know Kyoto is only a first step," European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said.

He called Kyoto a cause for "sober celebration", noting that the World Health Organisation believed climate change was already killing 150,000 people a year.

Kangaroos, koalas

In Sydney, ice sculptures of kangaroos and koalas melted during a protest by green groups over Australia's refusal to ratify the pact.

In China, home to 1.3 billion people and one of the world's fastest-growing economies, a man dressed as a gloomy looking polar bear took to Beijing's streets as part of Greenpeace China's campaign to explain the impact of climate change.

And a U.S. conservation group, the Center for Biological Diversity, urged Washington to list the polar bear as an endangered species, saying the Arctic icecap was likely to melt in summertime by 2100.

The Kyoto pact is the first legally binding plan to tackle climate change. It requires developed nations to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, by 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-12.

Its fate beyond 2012 is unclear because of Washington's decision to stay out of the plan U.S. President George W. Bush has called fatally flawed. His administration once denounced it as "an unrealistic and ever-tightening regulatory straitjacket".

The United States accounts for almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions.

Kyoto backers say rich nations are probably the main cause of a 0.6C (1F)



Greenpeace protesters hold a banner as they stand next to ice sculptures placed outside Sydney's parliament to protest at Australia's increasing greenhouse emissions Feb. 16. The 141-nation Kyoto Protocol formally took effect at 5 a.m. on Wednesday and a ceremony in the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto, where the pact was signed in 1997, is set for later in the day. REUTERS

rise in world temperatures since the Industrial Revolution and should take the lead by cutting use of fossil fuels and shifting to cleaner energy such as wind and solar.

"Useless"

But Australia's Prime Minister John Howard says Kyoto unfairly exempts India and China.

"Until such time as the major polluters of the world, including the United States and China, are made part of the Kyoto regime it is next to useless and indeed harmful for a country such as Australia to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol," he told parliament on Wednesday.

In Russia, whose ratification last November gave Kyoto enough weight to enter into force, the government expressed hopes of selling spare carbon dioxide quotas abroad after the collapse of Soviet-era smokestack industries.

A new EU market enables polluters overshooting their targets to buy emission allocations from those falling below.

Carbon dioxide trades at about 7.33 euros per tonne.

"The ratification of Kyoto, in my belief, will help Russia receive a series of benefits," presidential adviser Igor Shuvalov told the Vedomosti business daily.

Even if fully implemented, Kyoto would cut a projected temperature rise by just 0.1C by 2100, according to U.N. figures, tiny compared to forecasts by a U.N. climate panel of an overall rise of 1.4-5.8C by 2100.

For some, any reduction would be better than nothing. Remote South Pacific islands fear they are already seeing the future of global warming, as extreme high tides crash over crumbling sea-walls and flood their homes.

In Fiji, protesters with placards gathered on Wednesday outside the U.S. embassy in Suva. A photo on www.fijilive.com showed one placard reading: "Bush: Do you have a spare room at the White House — mine got taken away by the sea!!"

الشركة اليمنية الاردنية للاستثمار الزراعي

تهنئ

الاخ / العميد الدكتور احمد علي المقدشي

مدير ادارة امن لواء صنعاء بمناسبة حصوله على درجة الدكتوراه باحسان من جامعة مسيسيبي الامريكية

راجين له مزيداً من التقدم والنجاح المستمر



أنت الرابع في عيد سبأفون الرابع

أجهزة منزلية

رحلات سياحية

سيارات

مبروك للفائزين لليوم الأول:

- صالح صالح قائد المقشي — (رحلة إلى ماليزيا لشخصين)
- سالم أحمد أحمد باكريت — (أجهزة منزلية متكاملة)

مبروك للفائزين لليوم الثاني:

- محمد علي أحمد الضحية — (رحلة إلى ماليزيا لشخصين)
- عدنان علي محمد صالح — (أجهزة منزلية متكاملة)

بمناسبة عيدنا السنوي الرابع يسرنا أن نقدم هذا العرض المتميز لعملائنا الكرام: سيتم سحب غير الكمبيوتر على رحلة سياحية إلى ماليزيا وأجهزة منزلية لشخصين يومياً. كما سيتم السحب على سيارتين عند نهاية فترة العرض. هذا العرض ساري ابتداءً من 15 فبراير وحتى 15 مارس ويشمل مشركي نظام الفوترة ونظام الدفع المسبق على أن لا يكون الخدم منسولين أثناء فترة السحب.

www.sabafon.com

Rafiq Al-Hariri

A biography of a nation unifier

Rafiq Al-Hariri was a renowned businessman, whose career began in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he founded one of the country's biggest companies (Saudi Oger). He was the owner and director of several world-wide companies.

He was born Rafik Bahaa El Din Hariri in Sidon, Lebanon, in 1944 and was married to Mrs. Nazik Hariri.

In 1979, the former prime minister established the Hariri Foundation, a non-profit organisation that helped more than 30,000 students pursue their university studies in Lebanon, Europe and America, and promoted education and culture in Lebanon. The Hariri foundation also provides health, social and cultural services to those who need it in Lebanon. The Foundation maintains offices in Beirut, Paris and Washington.

In 1984, Mr. Hariri participated in

the Geneva and Lausanne conferences and helped broker initiatives which sought to put an end to the civil war. Mr. Hariri started his mediation among the different factions in Lebanon to find a way out of the abyss of war in 1983.

The Lebanese remember Mr. Hariri most as the philanthropist who put his means at the disposal of the Lebanese government to clean Beirut and deal with the effects of the Israeli siege of Beirut, in 1982.

Former Prime Minister Hariri's political activities in Lebanon and his rise on the Lebanese political scene preceded his assuming the premiership of his country. In 1989, Mr. Hariri endorsed the Taef Agreement which put an end to the civil war and laid down the principles of national reconciliation.

He paid special attention to the social, educational and health problems that Lebanon was facing as a

result of the war. In April 1993, Mr. Hariri established the Ministry for Displaced People to help the thousands displaced by the war to go back to their homes, towns and villages.

In May 1994, the project to rebuild the Central District of Beirut was launched, thus initiating the biggest reconstruction site in the Middle East. Of all the reconstruction projects that his government undertook, the reconstruction of Central Beirut was closest to the former prime minister's heart and the one he worked on long before he became premier. Mr. Hariri believes that rebuilding the heart of Beirut will breathe life into the whole of Lebanon.

In May 1995, Mr. Hariri formed his second government. After the 1996 Israeli "Grapes of Wrath" aggression against Lebanon, which resulted in the killing of more than 100 Lebanese civilians at Qana in South Lebanon, former Prime Minister Hariri launched a diplomatic campaign to stop the

HONORS

Mr. Hariri has been awarded numerous medals and citations including:

- Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy (1983), Commander of the Order of the Cedars of Lebanon (1983);
- St. Peter and Paul Medal (1983);
- King Faisal Medal (1983);
- French Medal of Distinction in Literature and the Arts (1985);
- Officer of the Legion of Honor of France (1986);

- Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Boston and the University of Nice;
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Beirut Arab University (1994);
- Order of San Martin, Argentina (1995);
- "Louis-Michel" Award, France (1995);
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Georgetown University (1996);
- Grand Croix dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur, France (1996); and
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Universite de Montreal (1997).

Israeli attack and reach a ceasefire. His efforts succeeded in bringing world attention to the occupation of the South and helped in reaching a ceasefire, the April Understanding and the establishment of the Monitoring Group, and a framework to assist in the reconstruction of Lebanon.

On September 1, 1996, Mr. Hariri was elected a Member of Parliament along with 13 candidates on his elec-

toral list. Former Prime Minister Hariri still holds his parliamentary seat and heads his parliamentary bloc. On November 25, 1996, Mr. Hariri was asked to form his third consecutive government.

In December, 1996, the first serious international conference to help Lebanon was held in Washington under the sponsorship of the United States, with former Prime Minister

Hariri as co-president.

More than 30 countries and representatives of businesses and international organizations and financial institutions attended the conference. Many of these countries pledged to help Lebanon, either financially or through technical assistance.

(Source: Morocco Times)

Lebanon loses a nation builder

BY JOHN DANISZEWSKI AND MEGAN STACK
FOR THE STANDARD, SING TAO
NEWSPAPER

When Rafik Hariri returned home to Lebanon as prime minister after decades of serving as building contractor to the Saudi royal family, and getting fabulously rich in the process, he found a country broken spiritually and materially by 15 years of war.

In 1992, this bearish man with bushy eyebrows set about reconstructing Beirut, strengthening a fragile peace between sects, and resuscitating Lebanon into something approaching its former reputation as a Mediterranean sanctuary for business, vacations and high living.

After he left office last year, he remained, as people liked to call him, "Mr Lebanon." Although he was criticized for using public contracts to boost his vast fortune, few would argue that he transformed his country.

A Time magazine profile in 1993 said of Hariri: "Everything about Hariri is big - his houses, his fortune ... his Rabelaisian appetites for food, real estate, banks, radio and TV stations, newspapers and power. And now he is playing a central role in his country's comeback ... helped by a tenacity commensurate with his prodigious size."

His was a story of rinds to riches. Born in 1945 to a family of lemon farmers near the southern port of Sidon, he became one of the world's wealthiest men, gadding about in his private Boeings and enjoying a lifestyle that exceeded many of the Arab princes with whom he hobnobbed. He counted French President Jacques Chirac as a close friend.

Hariri, who was killed by a massive car bomb in Beirut Monday, maintained homes around the world, and a business empire in Saudi Arabia. He recently considered building what would have been one of America's largest and most expensive private residences on his 6.5 hectares outside Washington.

His staff referred to him as "the Sheik," a title he picked up in Saudi Arabia, but in personal encounters, he was modest, sometimes padding down to newspaper interviews in a bathrobe, his hair rumpled from an afternoon nap.

A Sunni Muslim in a country then controlled by Christians, he studied at a commercial college in Beirut and left, at age 21, for a job as a teacher and part-time accountant. He could not afford to graduate. Later, he would personally found schools and pay to educate 30,000 Lebanese students through his Hariri Foundation.

Hariri arrived in Saudi Arabia in time to take advantage of the oil boom of the late 1960s and 70s, and early enough to avoid the catastrophic civil war brewing in his own country. Restive Muslims were rising up against the established Maronite order, the country's delicate internal balance among Christians, Sunnis and Shiites having been undone by the arrival of Yasser Arafat and thousands of Palestinian fighters in the early 1970s.

Ambitious, brash and energetic, Hariri founded a contracting company, and began getting work. According to some published accounts, he won his place with the Saudi royals by building a complete palace for then King Khalid within the six-month deadline, after others had said it would be impossible. More contracts followed as the Saudi family, awash in oil wealth, remade their kingdom with palaces, highways, apartment blocks, schools and hospitals.

Favored by his patrons, Hariri was allowed to become a Saudi citizen, an honor rarely given to outsiders. By the early 1980s, he had won friendship and trust of then Crown Prince - and later King Fahd - who sent Hariri to Lebanon to mediate the fighting between militias. Hariri became the moving force behind the Saudi-hosted Taif Conference of 1989 that helped to end the civil war that had claimed some 100,000 Lebanese lives.

Under the agreement, Lebanon was left a virtual fiefdom of Syrian President Hafez Assad, who was allowed to keep his army there in exchange for guaranteeing internal stability. Lebanon had lost much of its independence, but gained an uneasy peace and a chance to recover.

By 1992, most of the bombings had ceased, but Lebanon was still mired in stagnation, depression and uncertainty. That's when Hariri was promoted by Syria and Saudi Arabia as prime minister. Although a novice at government, he was seen as a dynamic billionaire who could send a message that Lebanon had reopened for business.

Hariri served five terms as prime

minister, from 1992-98 and from 2000-2004. During that time he campaigned for international assistance and debt relief, sought to bring back tourism and investment, and, most notably, oversaw the reconstruction of Lebanon's historic city center.

Until Hariri's assassination Monday, Beirut's revived city center had become the symbol of Lebanon's rebirth. Bombed out structures have been replaced by attractive office buildings, pedestrian malls, and a marina, while new luxury hotels stretch to the south along the famous Corniche.

The urban development was overseen by Solidere, a real estate corporation in which Hariri bought large amounts of shares and encouraged the rest of the country to invest.

His years as politician were less remarkable than his business career. Vying with politicians who had commanded militias, or had armies of party loyalists behind them, he fell back on his money, his media savvy - among other things, he owned newspapers and a popular TV channel - and his Saudi and international connections to get things done.

But he had to walk a fine line of publicly asserting Lebanon's independence while continuing to respect the Taif understandings with Syria.

His government also went through several confrontations with Israel, whose peace overtures he repeatedly rejected in keeping with longstanding Syrian policies. Whatever his failings as a politician and statesman, "he left a legacy. He was the man most responsible for rebuilding Lebanon after the war. Nobody is going to take that away from him," said Michael Young, a political analyst based in Beirut.

Jamil Mroue, a newspaper publisher from a prominent Lebanese family who has criticized Hariri in the past, said that if it weren't for his money, Hariri would have been only "second-rate" as a politician, but it may not matter to history.

"Very few men have built cities. As the details of his human frailties recede, there will remain the edifice that he left, and that edifice is the city of Beirut. Because the city is more or less the nation here, he is a quasi nation builder," Mroue said.

"All the maneuverings, the business, the beady-eyed and under-the-table dealings he'd have done may end up in a biography. But he'll be remembered as a city builder."

Rafik Hariri, from rags to riches to a symbol of Lebanon's rebirth

BY LINDA DAHDAH
FOR THE DAILY STAR - BEIRUT

Rafik Hariri, Lebanon's former prime minister, killed in Monday's massive car bombing had a vision when he took power in 1992 of building a prosperous country from the ruins of civil war.

As the symbol of both Lebanon's political and economic rebirth his untimely death leaves a huge vacuum in the country's political process.

Born on Nov. 1, 1944, Rafik Hariri was the son of poor farm workers from the southern city of Sidon, and was brother to Shafiq and to Bahiya - also an MP in the Lebanese Parliament.

His is a true story of rags to riches and Hariri was reported to have gone into politics because he believed he had made so much money, that he wished to give some of it back to his country.

Hariri attended elementary and secondary school in Sidon, and pursued his university studies at the Arab University of Beirut, majoring in commerce.

After training as a teacher, he went to Saudi Arabia in 1965 to seek his fortune, following a path well-trodden by many of his fellow countrymen.

He then spent some 20 years in Saudi Arabia, where construction deals made him a fortune that Forbes estimated at \$3.8 billion on its 2003 World's Richest People list.

After years of working various jobs in the kingdom - first as a school teacher and then as an accountant before starting his business as an entrepreneur - Hariri founded his first construction company in the early 1970s.

He struck gold in 1977 when he took up the challenge of building, in just six months, a palace for the late Saudi King Khaled in the resort of Taif before an Islamic summit, as a subcontractor for Oger, an affiliate of a French group.

He won the confidence of then-

Crown Prince Fahd, now Saudi Arabia's king, and was awarded the rare privilege of Saudi nationality.

Hariri then went on to become Saudi Arabia's leading entrepreneur, acquiring Oger in 1979 and founding Oger International, based in Paris.

His interests extended across banking, real estate, oil, industry and telecommunications.

In 1979, he founded the Hariri Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational, health, social and cultural services to the needy in Lebanon.

Hariri also founded a television station, Future TV, in Beirut and purchased stakes in several Lebanese newspapers. He founded his own newspaper, al-Mustaqbal five years ago.

The former Prime Minister was also the biggest shareholder in Solidere, the joint-stock company that almost single handedly transformed and revived central Beirut following Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

In 1982, he donated \$12 million to Lebanese victims of Israel's devastating invasion and helped clean up Beirut streets with his own money.

He also used his personal wealth to finance the Taif Accord in 1989, which put an end to the civil war.

Hariri returned from Saudi Arabia in 1992 as prime minister, seen as a breath of fresh air in a country dominated by former militia leaders.

The Lebanese pinned their hopes on the dynamic tycoon to restore Beirut's pre-war reputation as a leading financial center.

Hariri put the country back on the financial map through the issuing of Eurobonds and won plaudits from the World Bank for his plan to borrow reconstruction money.

But his economic record was mixed: his ambitious borrow-and-build schemes left massive public debt and budget deficit, which pushed up interest rates and slowed growth.

The former premier was also

accused of ignoring the poor, despite his long record of funding charitable causes.

Citizens began to judge him by the same standards of cynicism applied to other politicians, many of whom had made their fortunes in civil war activities.

When Hariri left power in 1998, it came about partly because he was reluctant to play second fiddle to President Emile Lahoud, a former army chief.

Hariri's legacy was further tainted by accusations that his government had sucked the country dry; a number of his government ministers were investigated for corruption.

But it would only be two years until a return to power. Hariri was back in October 2000, taking his old job back off the political veteran Salim Hoss.

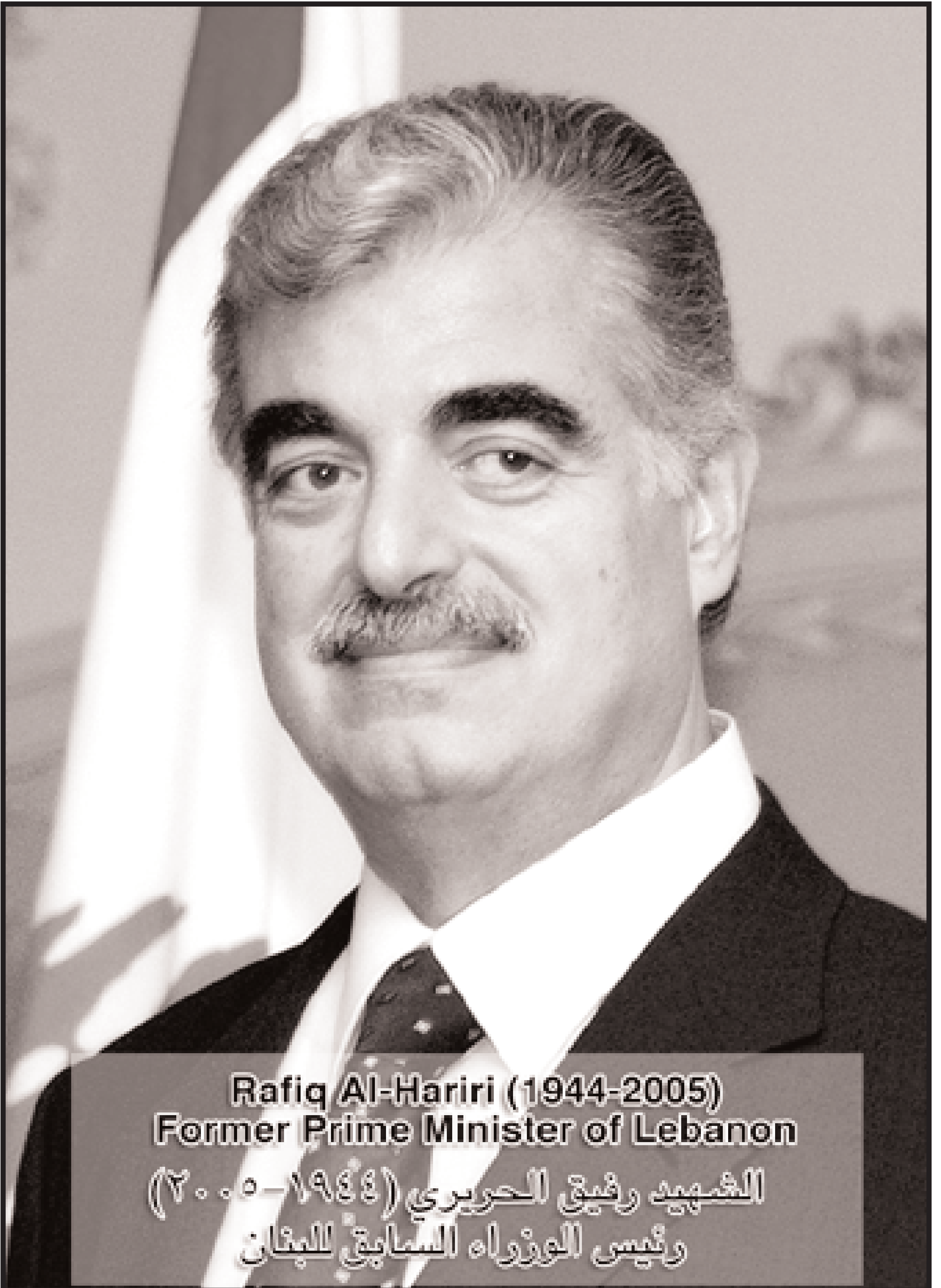
He presided over a revival in Lebanon's tourism industry, largely thanks to hundreds of thousands of visiting Gulf Arabs, but he again fell out with his pro-Syrian government colleagues during the crisis over the extension of Lahoud's term in office.

Hariri never spoke out publicly against Syria in the dispute, but his resignation in September 2004 was taken as a clear protest against the Syrian pressure to keep Lahoud in office and the country's interference in Lebanon's political affairs.

Hariri was well regarded among international leaders, counting French President Jacques Chirac as a close friend, enjoying the envied record of being the political figure most often received by the French President.

Even after he left the premiership and joined the opposition, Hariri continued to receive high-powered international guests.

His marriage to Nazek Audi Hariri was his second and he is succeeded by seven children. The late minister was no stranger to tragedy in his life, as his eldest son, Houssam al-Dine Hariri, died in a car accident in the early 90s. - With agencies.



Rafiq Al-Hariri (1944-2005)
Former Prime Minister of Lebanon

الشهيد رفيق الحريري (١٩٤٤-٢٠٠٥)
رئيس الوزراء السابق للبنان

الآن

في المكتبات والأكشاك

عدد فريد .. في ثوب جديد

مجلة

التنمية



Family & Development

كافة قضايا الأسرة والتنمية .. برؤية معاصرة

يمنيات يبحث عن شريك العمر على الإنترنت

www.com. أريد زوجاً

وأخريات يقتحمن مجالات عمل صعبة !

• مستشفيات تبيع الموت !

• ومليونيرات يتسولون !

الخبير .. يتناقض اتجاهه محلياً ..

ونستورده فاسداً .

المرأة المتكلمة بالزنا .. من يعيد لها اعتبارها ؟!

بالإضافة إلى أبواب وزوايا ثابتة استحدثت لتناسب أذواق الجميع

متعة القراءة .. في كل بيت



تقرأون

في هنا

العدد

13

مكتاب العائلة :

الجمهورية اليمنية - صنعاء

تلفون : 01/217151

فاكس : 01/217152

صنعا ،

تلفون : 01/217111

فاكس : 01/217112

family@yementimes.com



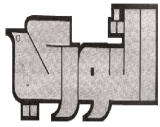
عزز ثقافتك

بمحجز نسختك

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



Al-Thawri weekly,
organ of the YSP, 10
Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Jihad organisation in Yemen recruits youth to fight Americans and the British
 - Tens of Hitat Mujahideen takes part in fighting American forces in Iraq
 - From behind the bars, al-Khawi: The trial is political, judiciary not independent
 - Physicians and pharmacists begin gradual strike
 - Prosecution summons al-Thawri newspaper editor in chief and a number of writers
 - Educational professions union re-forms its branches in the governorates
- Columnist Abdeh Farie Nouman says in his article the trade unions, especially those of education and civil society organizations, or the façade of democracy of any political system placing itself on the list of democratic regimes. Looking at reality of trade unions and their general federation in our country, we find out they are dwindling and dying gradually because the random privatization has played a negative role in cancelling many of unionist organizations the privatization was not was not intended to bring forth organized and planned economic alternatives aimed at improving our economic and living situations, but were meant in favour of persons whose only concern is robbing the people's accomplishments and their rights and properties.

The writer affirms that trade unions and civil society organisations in Yemen do not entertain any kind of freedom and independence or an amount of democracy or the freedom of peaceful expression through protest demonstrations.



Al-Wassat weekly, 9
Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Millions of diesel and benzene liters stolen
- While the director of coast guard arrested, main smugglers are still at large
- Dispute inside the GPC on the law of carrying weapons
- Qirbi to al-Wassat: The Saudis themselves suffer from unemployment
- In an attempt to prolong al-Khawi's imprisonment, Appeals court judge refuses to consider request of suspending implementation
- Criminal investigation officers in Thamar torture a juvenile prisoner;

prison administration prevents visits to prisoners

- Robbery attempt against a public sector establishment

Columnist Mohammed al-Ghubari says in a front page article the praise by the American congress to the steps taken in Yemen with regard to political and economic reform forms a shock to the political; circles and organisations working in the field of democracy development and human rights. This praise, says the writer, came a short time after a hoist of criticisms from local and international organisations against the authorities and last year described as the worst in the history of the country since the approval of political and party pluralism. Because we are aware of the nature of the American policy in the world, what has been issued does not go beyond being a mere step of public relations contradicting reports of the American department of state itself. Those reports are still describing Yemen as one of the democratic countries and facing many obstacles. The American National institute report confirmed that the parliamentary elections were not upright enough.

As some have considered the American praise a reflection of the level at which the intelligence cooperation relations between Sana'a and Washington have reached, others considered it as a step for more concessions to be offered by Yemen in favour of the American administration. Opposite to that, some political activists deemed the congress report as of no value as it does not depend on any real criteria of evaluation.



Al-Sahwa weekly,
10 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Islah party holds its second session of the third general conference
- Shoura al-Islah concludes its ordinary session
- Teachers union renews its rejection of financial deductions
- In an exchange of fire, a member of al-Naqeeb tribe wounded
- Oil unionist coordination council accuses parliament members of attempts to stop presidential directives
- In the case of Limburg, the court of appeals sentences to death Majali and Rabeeie and intensifies verdicts on others
- Yemen hands over the kidnapped Saudi citizen to the kingdom's authorities

Columnist Faisal Hassan al-Mikhlaifi says in an article he does not accuse the Yemeni opposition as that of statements

and condemnations similar to those of Arab summit conferences that did not achieve anything on the ground. It is also not right to make the citizen lose trust in the opposition as he has lost it regarding the authority because that means making him lose confidence in means of democratic change and then he would search for other ways to express his demands.

The opposition has many accomplishments, some are clearly seen and the other some needs from the opposition leadership to clarify so that the people would leave the circle of frustration. The most important gain achieved by the opposition is the making of awareness. It has managed to achieve a reasonable proportion of awakening at various levels.

The citizen does not longer believe that the cause his starvation is the drought in Europe or the bad navigation conditions and other similar illusionary causes the official media try to deceive him with. He has become aware that the corruption of the authority is the main cause of that. True the citizen blames the opposition, not because it is partner in impoverishing him but because he wants from it stands more resolute to support him. The opposition is the side that discloses falsity of the ruling party media and endeavours to protect the citizen against the deceit. The authority in the past years was considering the talk about corruption a kind of lies resulting from sick mentalities, but nowadays the corruption has become a real fact talked about by the highest ranks in the authority but this stance comes under the attempt to absorb anger no more. This is the result of the opposition media in this regard.



Al-Balagh weekly, 8
Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- large-scale arrests against tens of people despite of not celebrating al-Ghadeer Day
 - Head of the political office of the Islah: We have contacts with the American embassy and the democratic institute
 - Hood demands head of the political security to release detainees taken outside the law
 - Endowments ministry undersecretary: 4000 religious schools are not under official supervision and the Islah society and al-Haramain establishment supervise most of them
- Columnist Hamdi Doubalah says I am almost sure that in our planet there are no children as miserable as those in our country are. Those children, almost the majority of them could hardly find 1% of what their counterparts in the world of playing and innocent entertainment or the means of entertainment. Worse than that, they are forced into the whirlwind of life and its burdens while they are still too young.

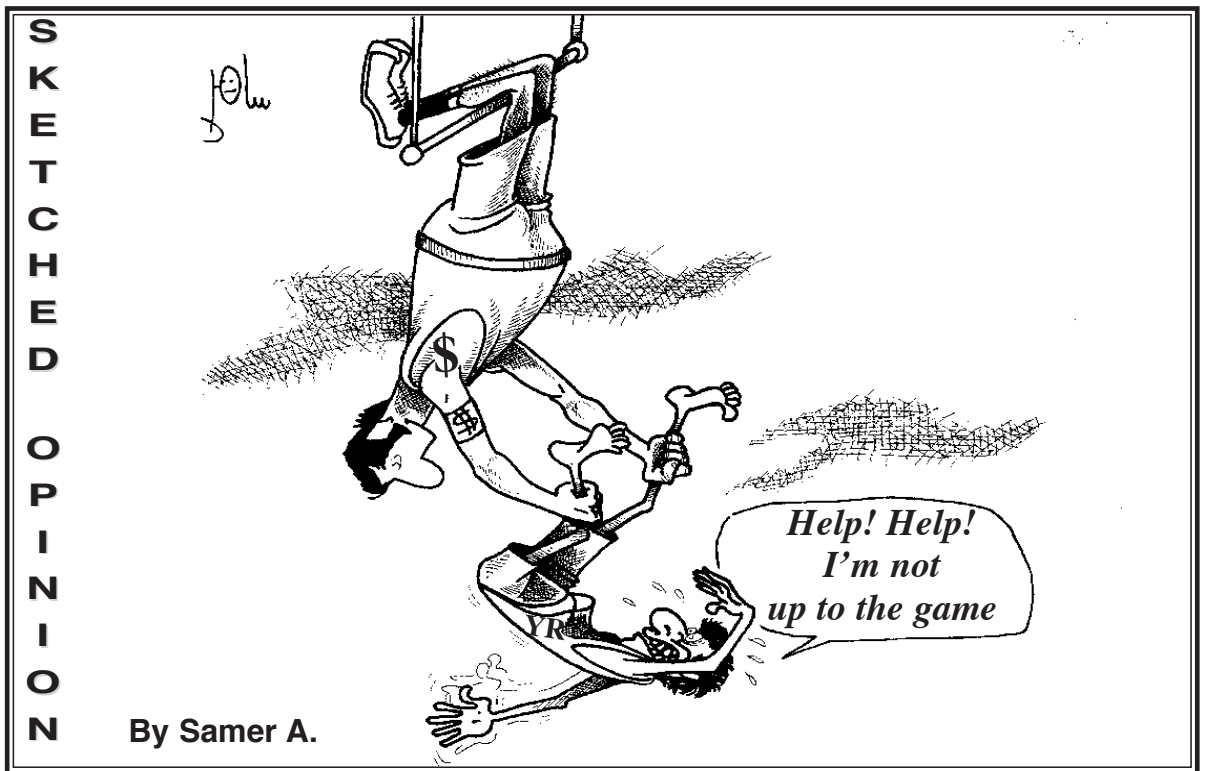
Recently a dangerous issue has come to the surface and it is not familiar in our society with regard to the children. Media instruments have strongly aroused the phenomenon of child smuggling to neighbouring countries and exploitation of people misery and their poverty in order to subject them to the fiercest types of exploitation by trading with their children to practice indecent practices at the hands of human beasts. The issue is submitted before the government to work hard and immediately against this phenomenon and to take the necessary measures and treatments to curb this phenomenon and end it completely.



Al-Isbou weekly, 10
Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Yemen would try al-Zindani if it found evidence
- The government asks the parliament to endorse the weapons law
- Organized network for smuggling Yemeni antiquities revealed
- Islah party holds its 3rd general conference
- 14 thousand mosques included in the endowments supervision
- Yemen International Bank inaugurat-



- ed the Visa card
- Electronic education project inaugurated
 - Completion of building the national institute for hotel management and tourism
 - Aden hosts Arab Economic Council
 - International tender oil investment in Yemen
 - New cement factories in Hadramout
 - \$ 2.2 billion, Yemen's share of oil
- Yemen has recently taken part in Riyadh international conference on terror where around 50 Arab and foreign countries have participated. Yemen has presented the conference with a working paper confirming in it the importance of the role in which Yemen is regionally situated with regard to the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula on the one hand and

the Horn of Africa and south of the Red Sea on the other hand. He paper pointed out that it was not of wisdom to ignore Yemen's role in any security strategy for the Gulf and the region under the justification of the difficult economic situation or the quantities of weapons that Yemen possesses.

The working paper has affirmed that Yemen possesses a uniquely successful experience in dealing with the youth who returned from Afghanistan. The Yemeni government was not spared from effect of terror and was in the past keen on approving two draft laws organizing possession of weapons and the law of money laundering and for that, it had endorsed a number of international agreements and pacts pertaining to face terror worldwide. Yemen has imple-

mented that when it had practiced field chasing of the suspects and sending them to justice and implementation of sentences issued against those proved guilty. The latest of which was the approval of the appeals court of a preliminary verdict on the execution of the accused Hizam Saleh al-Majaland changing an imprisonment verdict against Fawaz al-Rabeeie to death sentence. In addition to that is taking more precautionary security measures in general. More important in the Yemeni endeavour to fight terror in Yemen is clearly expressed in reconsidering the nature of the media, cultural and religious address that includes guidance pulpits religious guidance as well as educational establishment, intending by this the policy of drying springs of terror.

JOB VACANCIES

Position title: Literacy and Numeracy Advisor/Specialist

Education Development Center (EDC), Inc. is looking for candidates for the position of **Literacy and Numeracy Advisor/Specialist** for the Yemen Accelerated learning Activity (YALA). YALA is a three-year USAID-funded project to increase children's access to primary education, improve the quality of instruction, and reduce gender inequality in the education system. The start date is tentatively February 2005.

Main Responsibilities

- To ensure full integration of all aspects of the YALA pedagogical/literacy intervention by designing and managing a teacher/facilitator training;
- Develop a plan to implement the Ministry of Education's Literacy curriculum program and monitor the quality of the program
- To ensure the program is aligned with literacy standards of the MOE
- Compile existing materials into a training guide for literacy facilitators in conjunction with, MOE's Office of Adult Literacy.
- To ensure quality control in the development of an easy-to-use guide for literacy trainers with the collaboration of the MOE's Office of Adult Literacy;
- To design and manage a face-to-face teacher/facilitator training program;

Qualifications

- Applicant should have at least a Bachelor's degree in education or a related field, a Master's degree is preferred;
- At least 3 years of experience in developing literacy programs and/or providing teacher training
- Skills in designing, implementing, and evaluating pedagogical components of education programs;
- Knowledge of literacy and numeracy acquisition issues and techniques;
- Experience in managing teams and delivering training;
- English language is preferable
- Comfortable with teamwork;

Interested candidates are requested to send their resumes and a letter of intent to Mr.Ameen Al Kaderi at this email: aalkaderi@edc.org

Job Opportunity

Sales and Marketing Manager

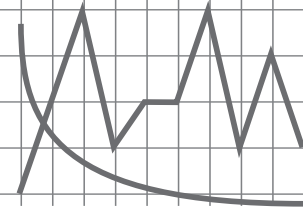
As part of its expansion strategy, a Yemeni software company is seeking a Sales and marketing Manager for their operations in Sana'a, Yemen. The Sales and marketing Manager will be responsible for devising and implementing the company's marketing strategies and achieving the company's sales targets.

The ideal candidate:

- Has 3-5 years of experience in Sales and marketing (preferably in a software company), but we are flexible to interview candidates with 2-3 years of experience.
- Has strong leadership, people management skills, and communication skills.
- Is a university graduate preferably with a Business Administration, Marketing or related degree.
- Is fluent in Arabic and English languages, written and spoken.
- Has computer skills (i.e., PCs, spreadsheets, and word processing).

If you are the right candidate, please fax your CV to +967-1-422823 or e-mail it to: Labibzx@yahoo.com

YT Business

Exchange Rate for
the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	186.9900	187.2300
Sterling Pound	351.4700	351.9200
Euro	242.4100	242.7200
Saudi Rial	49.8600	49.9300
Kuwaiti Dinar	640.2800	641.1000
UAE Dirhem	50.9100	50.9700
Egyptian Pound	32.1800	32.2200
Bahraini Dinar	495.9700	496.6100
Qatari Rial	51.3800	51.4400
Jordanian Dinar	263.7400	264.0800
Omani Rial	485.7100	486.3300
Swiss Franc	155.9700	156.1700
Swedish Crown	26.6100	26.6400
Japanese Yen	1.7840	1.7863

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

WB economic reform
angers the poor in YemenBy MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The lack of social security in Yemen has created criticism of World Bank economic reform. Much of the public believes that through its policies, the WB has further hurt the poor in the country. Yemen has embarked on implementation of economic reforms despite that it is among the least developed countries. In this regard, Yemen occupied the 149th place among countries, according to the report on the human development issued by the United Nations Development Program issued in 2004.

The poor in Yemen's rural areas are estimated at 45% of the total population and those live on less than two dollars per day.

Information reveals that the social safety net, due to weakness of its capabilities, has not succeeded, up to now, in putting an end to poverty and it is impossible for it to help meet all the people needs and requirements.

The dissimilarity between the inhabitants of the cities and countryside with regard to demanding assistance from social security funds leads towards the increase in number of the poor every year.

Field studies affirm that the phenomenon of child labour is growing in Yemen. The volume of child labour in 1999 is estimated at around 350,000 children. More than half of them perform agricultural works. However, this contributes to the increase in proportion of the poor in Yemen.

Systems of social safety net in Yemen, supported by the World Bank, are various and here is a short account on each of them.

The Social Fund for Development:

The World Bank (WB) and the Yemeni government with the aim of improving living circumstances and creation of income-yielding job opportunities through securing basic services for the poor established the Fund under support. This would be realised through supporting small and smaller projects and development projects in areas of education, health and providing of waters.

Appropriation of the Fund in its working plan for the year 2005 amounted to around \$80 million. Those appropriations include the implementation of 1037 projects aimed at developing more than 1.2 million citizens have benefited from programs and plans of this fund and there has been availability of many thousands of job opportunities for the unemployed.

Securities, salaries and programs of social care

According to studies conducted by the International Labour Organisation, the programs of securities and salaries accredited in Yemen arouse concern. That is ascribed to intermingling of responsibilities of administrative bodies and the existence of gaps in legal texts. For instance the terms of the law of social security No. 26 for the year 1991 stipulate that the employees in the private sector of institutions employing 5 workers the proportion of subscription for workers is 6% and 9% for employers while the state does not contribute to this proportion and also there is the absence of pension salaries of low rank jobs. That has led to the remaining of a large number of salaries paid to pensioners 25% below the line of poverty and this doubles the poor cases.

State Establishment for Social Security

This establishment undertakes the running of the fund of salaries and the fund of the handicapped that cover affairs of around 45 thousand persons and a proportion of 1.5% of the workforce. It has been merged with the state authority for salaries in 1996 under recommendation of the International Monetary Fund the it

separated from it in 1999 according to recommendation by the WB and that made it face big challenges due to transfer of the public sector workers to the private sector in the privatised establishments.

Preliminary statistics studies confirm that contribution of this establishment is not enough in raising the number of beneficiaries from those who are dead, those pensioned, and this contributes to increasing the proportion of the poor.

The state authority for securities

This is specialised in files of insured employees affiliated to the public sector and covers about 480 thousand employees, 180 thousand of whom are in education. The state authority is however suffering from its non-possession of electronic information systems and depends on files of the civil service. In addition, that has led to rise in the proportion of the shadowy contributors to records of employees of double jobs at the expense of those insured ones.

Social Welfare Fund

Among the social safety net is the Social Welfare Fund established in 1996 to alleviate the negative impact of the program of economic reforms and it is considered one of the more important elements of social protection. It has managed to offer

financial assistance to half a million persons in 2000 and in 2002 it allocations amounted to YR 11 billion. It has been planned to increase the number of beneficiaries from it by a rate of 200 thousand persons each year and to allocate an amount of 2000 to 4000 riyals to a family comprising of five members and not enough for its living for five days.

Although the authorities efforts for controlling the assistance and conveying it to those deserving it of the poor segments, the field reports indicate that there is an interference by certain influential persons registering individuals who are listed under the well-to-do at the expense of the poor who deserve it. This also creates resentment against the net of social safety supported by the WB.

Professional health and safety

The ministry of social affairs and labour undertakes organisation of professional health and safety in case of incidents taking place during work but indicators point out that it is a low standard service in non-governmental sector and that leads to rise in cases of poverty due to absence of health insurance for the workers.

Project for building capacity

In completion of the social

protection, there has been an adoption of a project concerned with building capacities in the field of equality between the two sexes in the establishments through the application of strategies tackling the question of the social gender and to upgrade the women participation in development. However, the project is still at the beginning for improving living circumstances of the woman and her family and the work for reducing the rate of poverty.

According to opinions of citizens, all the efforts that have been exerted for alleviating impact of the economic reforms, under support of the WB, have not succeeded until now in achieving the goals aspired for from them along with the increase of poverty rates in Yemen by doubled percentages.

Establishments of social security include the Social Fund for Development, the securities and salaries, programs for social welfare, the state establishment of social security, the state authority of insurance and the social care fund.

Nevertheless, despite of the efforts those funds exert, the shortage in financial appropriations does not help them achieve the aspired for success for reducing the number of the poor in the country.

Yemen sets
up third
five-year planBy MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The concerned authorities are currently preparing the third five-year plan for the years 2006-2010 to cope with the most eminent challenges in the development and service sectors. The main parts of the plan aim at achieving the Millennium Goals and integrating the poverty combat strategy into the economic development plan unlike the former plan, which separated them.

Perhaps the most prominent challenges before the national economy, which are to be addressed by this plan towards achievement of sustainable development, are:

First: high rate of population growth in contrast to limited economic resources.

Second: the problem of unemployment has exacerbated reaching 37% of workforce as a result of the growth of workforce by 4.3% annually.

Third: lack of quality training of human resources. Yemen has a high rate of illiteracy while there is decrease in number of students enrolled in basic and technical education institutions. Moreover, educational curricula and training programs do not go in parallel with scientific advancement and market's needs.

Fourth: a notable rise in poverty percentage reaching between 27% and 34%.

Fifth: frailness of basic skeletons of infrastructure and service projects including roads, electricity, water, sanitary disposal, communication, educational establishments and health facilities.

Sixth: a shortage in high education input in scientific and technological areas and a feeble research movement as well as fragility in IT infrastructure.

Yemen is expected to be needing during the coming period of the third five-year plan (2006-2010) to develop the agricultural sector increasing its contribution to the gross domestic production and raising amount of agricultural exports.

Therefore, the Plan is attempting at pushing up the percentage of cash and strategic crops related to food security especially wheat. It also tries to support small farmers and activate the role of the private and collaborative sectors to expand the size of cultivated lands.

According to sources at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the organizational change intended by the Plan is to boost the contribution of non-oil sectors and better make use of the available resources such as fishery and animal wealth.

The next period requires the achievement of the Millennium Goals in the fields of education, health and social services as well as adopting precautionary monetary and financial policies to control inflation rates and increase the volume of non-oil exports.

Hadhramout:923 projects to be
launched this yearBy MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Hadhramout province will witness amidst the festivals of the 15th Anniversary of the Yemen Reunification, the launch of about 923 projects at the cost of YR 131 billion, said Abdullah Abdu Rabbuh, General Manager of the General Investment Authority, Hadhramout branch.

"Eleven projects will be in the areas of fishery, construction materials, industry and tourism. There is also the project of the Central Ready Concrete Mixer and rock-shaping machines," added he.

Two of the projects will be in tourism and fisheries, which will enhance the infrastructure in the province. He indicated that the next period would witness the laying down of many foundation stones and the inauguration of many strategic projects such as Hadhramout Cement Factory and Hadhramout Refinery whose study is being prepared.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has issued directives to hold 22 May's festivals in Al-Mukalla, the metropolis of Hadhramout in order to recognize the role of this province in the process of construction and development and in appreciation of the ongoing achievement of giant projects especially those whose financiers are immigrants Hadhramis. The President praised the role of the immigrants saying that they

"have turned the province into a great workshop."

President Saleh reviewed the progress of work in the Investment Housing City Durrat Al-Mukalla (The Pearl of Mukalla) in which some 120 heavy machines are flattening the ground preparing for construction. This project is financed by the private sector resembled in the Yemeni Development Group. It will be constructed on 4 mil-

lion square meters and will contain 10,000 housing units to be constructed over three stages at an estimated cost of YR 60 billion. The first phase, which is being currently undertaken, costs some YR 10 billion. This project covers the construction of several service facilities including a modern commercial center, a park, tourist center, cinema house, cultural center, mosque and a marina in the seawater. The city will be equipped

with all basic amenities and service facilities which it will need making it attractive to tourists.

President Saleh welcomes such investments and pledged to give support and care for investors.

Statistics point out that some 420 investment, service and development projects were achieved last year in different areas in Hadhramout at a cost of YR 76 billion.



City of Mukalla

Tourism in the Indian Ocean region

The Princess Bora Lodge Madagascar

By Irena Knehtl*
For The Yemen Times
iren_knehtl@yahoo.com

An idyllic island off the east coast of Madagascar is becoming one of the most sought after tourist destinations of the Indian Ocean region. Surrounded by the sea and a lagoon, there is a white sandy beach in front of the resort, and several small islands, creeks, and mangroves. Princess Bora Lodge offers a past charged with history and poetry amidst the calm waters of a lagoon.

Owned by a Frenchman, whose family has lived there for generations, the exclusive Princess Bora Lodge consists of 15 villas, all in harmony with their natural surroundings. The Lodge is a luxury



A resort in Madagascar

retreat on one of the tropical islands Sainte Marie, a few miles off the east coast of Madagascar. Offering a unique atmosphere, the luxury villas are charming, elegant and simple. Constructed only with local materials, they are situated in a vast

garden. Each villa has its own private veranda offering Creole, Madagascan and French cuisine.

The island offers a variety of activities, such as whale watching, scuba diving, swimming, snorkeling, sport-fishing. You can discover the neighboring islands by boat, car, or by a plane owned by the Bora Lodge.

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island after Greenland, New Guinea, and Borneo. Because of its isolation, most of its mammals, and half of its plant and birdlife do not exist anywhere else in the world. It is particularly famous for the lemurs. Located 250 miles off the south-east coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean, the island is around 1,000 miles in length and 360 miles in width.

The island can be divided into three main parts: the east coast, which has a narrow coastal strip adjoining the steep slopes of the

north-south mountain ranges and rain forests; the central highlands, ranging from between 2500 to 9430 feet in altitude, and decorated with immense rice fields; and the West Coast, home of the baobabs and the thorny forest.

Seventeen million Malagasy people inhabit Madagascar. Exactly how and when the early Malagasy discovered and settled the island is not known. They have a dual Indonesian and African origin, attested to by their physical features, language, agricultural practices, and customs. Despite their diversity, they are united by a common language, rooted in the ancient Malayo-Polynesian, ancestor of the tongues spoken in the vast area bounded by Hawaii, the Tuamotu and Madagascar. The modern language has been enriched by words imported from Bantu, Swahili, Arabic, English and French.

The oldest road there is not yet 100 years old and tourism in Madagascar is a very young industry. But if you are looking for the unexpected and want to meet an extraordinary people, then go and discover this fascinating island! You will become attached to the country, understanding the Malagasy proverb: "They who drink the water



Madagascar map

from the Manangareza, will always return.

Special thanks go to Princess Bora lodge in Madagascar for forwarding extensive information about the resort.

* Irena Knehtl is a specialized economist and a regular contributor to Yemen Times. She writes about economic, social, and cultural issues on Yemen, and many countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe.



Beautiful scene of one of Madagascar's untamed beaches

Continued form back page

Old Yemeni coin record issued

Yarim Ayman:

Dirham (silver). Weight: 2.2 gms. Diameter: 16 mms.

Face: The king's head is in the middle with conspicuous characteristics with a bloated face exuding vitality, clean-shaven chin and moustache and a fine nose facing the right-hand direction. The hair is drawn backward and plaits dwindle in the form of arranged dots to the back of the neck covering the ear. Lines of the hair head form the name of the king (Yarim Ayman).

On the back of the head, there is the symbol of the spear and in the middle a line biased upwards. In front of the face, there is a vertical line curved in the middle like a bow. The symbol of the moon and the crescent are seen over the head.

Back: an image of a two-horned ox image appears in the center. Resembling those of an ibex, the horns meet below the images of the crescent and the moon. On the right-hand side of the head, the letters "meem" and "ha" are seen, while on the left-hand side, there is a religious symbol resembling a tilted ladder, and the same dot-and-line pattern is found on this coin at the edge.

Metal coins:

Ancient people of Maean, like other peoples in the world, dealt in bartering. They paid the state and the temple in kind and so were paid officers, employees, peasants, and laborers. This habit was practiced until the days when money came into currency. Governments started to mint money. Yet the state was not able to produce enough quantities due to insufficient raw materials.

Maeani people knew money and minted it. A dirham was found bearing the image of the king sitting on the throne with clean-shaven chin, and his hair goes down in plaits. His right hand holds a flower or a bird while his left hand grasps a long stick. To the back of his head, his name is written in clear letters (Ab Yathu'a), and in front of him, the first letter of his name is written (alif) in Musnad. This indicates that he was the one who gave orders to cast the coin. Such coins have great importance in the study of commercial relations between the Arabic Peninsula and the external world.

The coin named "Ab Yathu'a" must have been inspired by a Greek coin that had reached the Arab Land because it was minted very accurately and with vivid letters suggesting the presence of experience on the part of the mint work-

ers which enabled them to skillfully depict names of kings on coins.

Coins from Hadhrami State:

It is known that Hadhramout State's coins were minted from bronze and an alloy of other metals. They have cracks and holes on them. Usually one face of the coin reflects the head of a person (male/female) with the hair spreading like sunrays forming Musnad letters. The other face bears the image of a standing ox with three letters (sheen, qaf, ra'), the name of palace in Shabwa (capital of Ancient Hadhramout at the time) above it. This coin also contains many inscriptions, and natural images of people, animals and birds. They date back to unknown periods. They are purely Yemeni and have no foreign element.

Coins from Qataban:

Shahr Hilal: found in Hareeb. Dirham (silver). Weight: 1.1 gm. Diameter: 11 mm.

Face: the king's head faces the left-hand direction with a turban on his head and hair drawn backward covering the ear. Facial features are clear.

Back: small-size king's image in the center with Musnad letters surrounding it. At the bottom, there are the words "hareeb" and "shahr" written in Musnad.

This coin was minted under the reign of Qatabani king Shahr Hilal. It is a size smaller than the coin with the same name. Positions of the head and the style of writing are similar to those of Himiari coins such as the coins of king Amdan Bain, King of Saba and Thi Raidan.

Advertisement

The Diplomatic Institute of MOFA is seeking to contract with qualified English language teachers for different levels with 5 years and more teaching experience at institutes or universities.

All applicants should send their CVs to the General Director of Planning and Research.

Fax Number 243942, Sana'a

Deadline for applications is Wednesday 23/02/2005



بنك اليمن الدولي
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

Visa ... Wherever you want to be ...

IBY Visa Card



Granting you the World's Trust

International Bank of Yemen
The Principal Member in Yemen of Visa
Tel. : 01 40 70 35



**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**

Old Yemeni coin record issued

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A book has been issued by the Central Bank of Yemen, headed by Ahmed Abdul-Rahman al-Samawi, on Yemeni coins through the ages.

Metal coins provide evidence of Yemen's history and civilization, giving an indication about key aspects of the nation's pre-Islamic economy. Many of the coins remain intact, some made of cast silver, bronze, copper or gold.

Trade relationships with other civilizations such as Egypt and Greece are reflected in the images are sometimes apparent from the images on the coins.

It is believed that Yemenis sometimes used shells and gemstones in bartering for other products in pre-historic times. People continued to deal in the same materials until the discovery of metals (copper, bronze, silver) at the beginning of the third millennium B.C. and the commencement of dealing in silver.

Shells, as a type of currency, had been used in earlier times in the history of Yemen. This is probably because shells have similar shapes but with different sizes. Shells also were used by other nations for the same purpose. Some sources claim that the yellow shell was the most widespread and famous ornamental coin.

It was used as a type of payment in India, the Middle East and China for many thousands of years.

The oldest of the coins dates back to around 400 B.C. The mention of some of these coins was linked to Sabai and Qatabani kings in agricultural contracts or tax instruments to specify the kind of payment required.

They are proof that Yemenis took up trade and many of them depended on it for their livelihood. They bought and sold, imported and exported, and set up seasonal markets.

There are many silver coins of

this type of which is a collection of different types distinguished by an image of a man or woman turning to the left. The face has prominent features with the hair bound with a circular band. The head has no neck. On the other face, there is the owl perching on a horizontal twig.

The body faces the left while the head faces the front, with wide circular eyes, and pointed peak. The owl has its head and body prominent while the wings are lowered with discernable outline. In some coins, the body appears to be erased and three letters (sh, ain, ra) are written on the left side of the owl between the leg and the head.

Other letters are written right behind the owl in an empty space such as (ya) juxtaposed with a small image of a crescent. This kind of coins feature manifold images and scripts.

Woman head and owl:

Dirham (made of silver). Diameter: 15 cm. Thickness: 5 cm.

Face:

A woman's head with prominent physical characteristics. The coin is square in shape which caused the exclusion of the lower part of the face including the mouth and part of the forehead.

The head seems to be wrapped with a band that holds hair locks together at the middle. Two locks swing over the brow. They are circular and each of them contains three circles. And three small locks appear above the ear. The head hair ends from behind in spiral locks. Concerning the face, eyes are in the form of small spots over which eyebrows are seen diverging upward and downward forming something like a gaping snake. The nose bridge meets with the eyebrow and on the right-hand cheek, two letters are discernable in Musnad script: the letter "ya" the higher part of which touches the ear and in inverted "noon" in the center of the cheek. The hair locks on the forehead resemble



A collection of old & new Yemeni coins and banknotes

the letter "noon".

Back:

It bears the image of an owl posing while facing the left and its head to the front. The square shape of the coin also has made a loss in the head and the ground on which the owl stands. In front of the owl there are three letters: a portion of the letter "sheen", and two other letters "ain" and "ra" making up the word equivalent for "poetry".

Head of a woman and an owl:

Dirham (silver), circular in shape with a rugged edge. Weight: 5.1 ounce. Diameter: 15 mm.

The face: the head and the face has a smooth face and features like the previous one. However, in this one, the position of the eye is lower and the nose is snubbed. There appear also the mouth and the lips and the cheeks bear the letters "ya" and "noon". The coin reflects different faces when held at different angles and shows different Musnad letters.

The back: the owl whose characteristics seem to have been eroded has lost its tail. The letters "ain" and "ra" remain but the letter "sheen" is lost.

A woman's head and an owl:

Half dirham (silver), weight: 2.4 gm. Diameter: 12 mm.

The head and face features have smooth surface and the hairstyle is similar to the previous coins. The position of the eye is lowered and the nose is pointed. The letter "ya" stands besides an unrecognizable letter. When the coin is held and moved from left downwards, an animal with a lion head is seen on the left side of which a fox stands on a head facing the front. Around the image several Musnad letters can be read.

On the back there is an owl in the same position and with the same letters. There is a small shape of a crescent behind the owl.

gm. Diameter: 2.6 mm.

Face: the King's head is facing the left-hand direction with visible characteristics. A turban is set on the head and head hair is drawn to the back in plaits behind the ear and back onto the neck. The hair on the brow, and the plaits as well as the facial features form the name of the King in Musnad reading "Shahr Hilal Thi Yathu"

Back:

An owl stands on what appears to be a dagger. A row of

letters is seen beside the owl on the left side starting at the bottom upwards: It seems to represent the three first letters of the King's name. Over them, there are yet other three letters (sha, ain, ra'a) which always occur next to the owl. Another phrase can also be read with the letters arranged from up to down which says "habar bilail"(he attacked at night), may be alluding to the night activity of the owl. A pattern is repeated along the coin's edge consisting of a line and a dot.

Continued on page 13.

OGEC

ORIENTAL GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING COMPANY

- ★ Water well drilling & testing
- ★ Water supply system design & construction
- ★ Groundwater investigation
- ★ Geological exploration
- ★ Fuel & water storage tanks
- ★ Water treatment, reservoirs & distribution system
- ★ Geotechnical investigation
- ★ Soil and rock tests
- ★ Soil improvement & pile foundation
- ★ Groundwater dewatering
- ★ Applied surveying & mapping
- ★ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks
- ★ Geophysical surveying & well logging

Aden Fax: 02-232313 Sana'a Fax: 01-263603
E-mail: zwx001@sohu.com



Coins from ancient Yemeni civilizations

NOKIA 9300

MAXIMUM TELECOM

- معيّنات صوت متطورة، مكبر صوت للتكلم الحر
- اتصال جماعي
- لوحة مفاتيح كاملة وشاشتان مع 65,536 لون
- خيارات الرسائل، بريد إلكتروني مع ملحقات SMS, MMS
- تطبيقات مكتبية، مستندات، جدول أعمال، عروض مرئية
- وسائل تنظيم، روزنامة، عناوين اتصالات، مهمات مع مزمنة الكمبيوتر الشخصي عبر برنامج Nokia PC Suite
- تخزين واسع في الذاكرة، ذاكرة مدمجة MB80 بالإضافة إلى بطاقة إعلامية متعددة MMC
- ربط بيانات عالي السرعة مع EGPRS (EDGE)
- ربط بالإنترنت المتحركة

73 11 33 55
اتصل على هذا الرقم لمعرفة سعر أي هاتف نوكيا

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE