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Al-Badwi still rants against judge **Court overturns** death sentence

BY MOHAMMED AL-OADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni al-Qaeda member convicted to death for his involvement in the 2000 terrorist attack against the USS Cole, had his sentence reduced to 15 years in jail, while another's death sentence was upheld.

Sana'a Counter-Terrorism Appeals Court overturned the death sentence of Jamal al-Badwi, while it upheld death for Abdu al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who is being held in US custody and who is believed to be the mastermind of the USS Cole attack which killed 17 US sailors and injured 33 others.

Upon hearing his death sentence reduced to 15 years, al-Badwi, the convicts and their families broke into cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest). But Badawi also lashed out



(Yemen Times photo by M. Al-Qadhi)

at the judge, angrily denouncing him as an "agent" of the United States. "This is an un-Islamic and illegal sentence," al-Badawi shouted from

inside the defendant's cage. Also in court, the verdict against Mamoon Amswah was commuted from eight to five years. The other three convicts retained jail sentences ranging from five to 10 years.

Fahd al-Qis'e retained his 10-year sentence. The court earlier said that al-Qis'e had traveled to Afghanistan in 1997 to train at an al Qaeda terrorist camp

Ali Mohamed Murakab and Morad al-Sorori both retained five years in prison for forging identification documents for Hasan al-Khameri under the name of Abdullah Ahmad Khaled al-Misawa, one of the suicide bombers. Continued on page 4

Sanaa, 28 February Yemen Times tomorrow, Al-Saqqaf will be ending

temporarily leaving studies



It is a whole new breed of excitement

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New YT Editor-in-Chief

The Board of Directors of Establishment for Press and Publishing has officially appointed Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as the new Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times starting March 1st 2005. After roughly six years of service as the Editor-in-Chief, Walid

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his term of office and Nadia Al-Saqqaf

Yemen for training and post-graduate

His post will be taken over by his sister Nadia, who has been working for Oxfam Yemen for more than a year, and who has also worked for The Yemen



sional career.

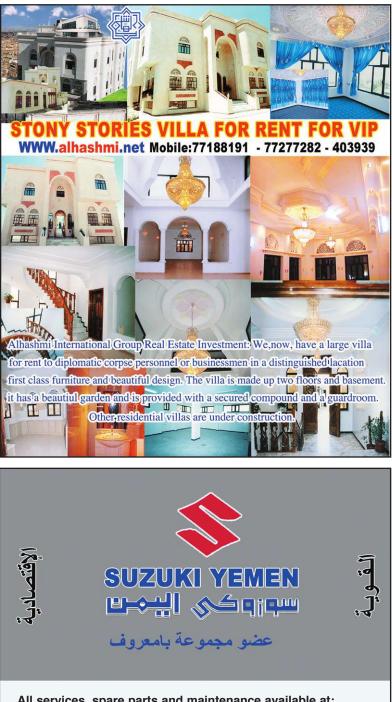
Times during various

periods of her profes-

"I believe that is it

Walid Al-Saqqaf had started working at The Yemen Times since his Bachelor's Degree graduation in 1998 and had to take over the leader-

ship role of the newspaper since June 2nd 1999 when a traffic accident killed his father, the Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times then, and the founder of the leading Yemeni media enterprise. Continued on page 4



Yemen's beleaguered press IFJ requests Schroeder's help

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has appealed to Schroeder, Gerhard Chancellor of Germany,

before his official visit to Yemen during 2-3 March, to interfere and convince the authorities to ease pressure on the besieged Yemeni press.

In a lengthy official letter, the international pro-press freedom organization requested that the chancellor seizes the opportunity to request that President Saleh issue directives to release imprisoned journalists Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani and limit the ongoing attack on Yemen's press.





Gerhard Schroeder, **Chancellor of Germany**

Aidan White, general secretary of the world's largest journalists' group, had

Corruption among topics **Dobriansky** raises big issues

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Paula Dobriansky, US Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs, left Sana'a Thursday evening after an official two-day visit to Yemen. But not before issues, including corruption and human rights violations in Yemen were discussed.

She met with a number of Yemeni officials in the government and civil community organizations, discussing Yemeni-American relationships as well as regional and international issues.

SONY



eradicate corruption from Yemen. Continued on



At press conference, Dobriansky said "I discussed with Yemeni officials how to promote the democratic community, combat crime and





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Local News



Over 5,000 involved University profs on strike

By Peter Willems YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Teachers at state-owned universities in Yemen are on strike demanding an increase in salaries and an improvement of benefits.

The strike, which totals roughly 2,250 full, associate and assistant professors, with another 3,000 lecturers, started at two out of seven universities across the country on February 16 when the next semester was scheduled to begin. The staff at the other five universities joined the strike this week after final exams were completed.

"We have no deadline on when the strike will end," said Iqbal Al-Alas, head of the Syndicate of the Teaching Body in Aden University and the official spokesman for the Union Council which coordinates the syndicates in

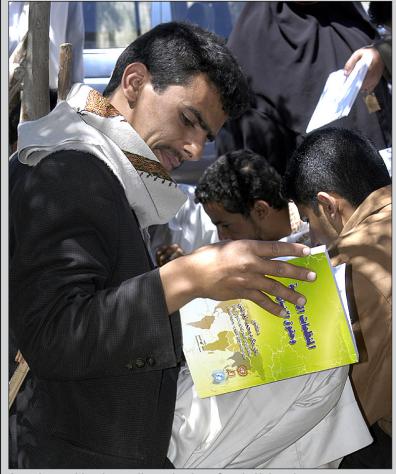
the universities. "It is an open strike and will continue until a conclusion is reached and an agreement is signed with the government."

According to Abdulrahman Ghanem, head of the Supreme Council of university teaching unions, the file dealing with the demands is at the Ministry of Finance. He claims that the process is moving slower than expected.

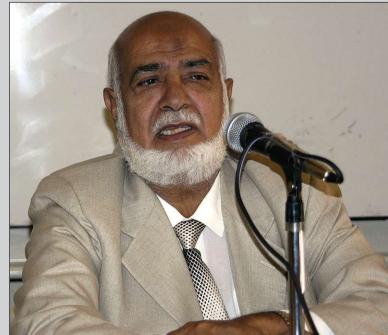
"The ministry is stalling in sending the file to the Prime Minister so that our demands can be discussed," said Ghanem.

The faculty does not want to be included in the national strategy for wages and salaries for government employees to be discussed by the parliament because teachers do not expect it to meet their demands.

In a meeting with teachers at Sana'a



A student waiting for studies to begin at Sana'a University. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



Abdulrahman Ghanem, head of the Supreme Council of university teaching unions, speaking to teachers at Sana'a University last Saturday.

(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

University last Saturday, attended by up to 600 instructors, the Union Council described the national strategy as obscure, that it will not be applied for several years and that salaries may be lower than some professors' current salaries.

Ghanem said that Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bajammal will meet with the Minister of Higher Education, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Civil Service next Monday and discuss the teachers' demands.

"The Ministry of Finance has our proposals and their own proposals, so hopefully this Monday they will be discussed with the Prime Minister," said Ghanem. "If we don't get some results from the meeting, we will continue to stay on strike.'

Last Wednesday the Prime Minister promised the Council to study the case, said Al Alas.

The teaching staff demands include the restructuring of the salary system, health benefits, compensation in different areas and job descriptions based on international standards. The Council claims that the average

salaries for university professors are one of the lowest in the region. A local professor in a Yemeni public university receives \$600 on average, whereas the starting salary in a number of other Arab countries is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The Council estimates that over the last four years at least 80 professors have left Yemeni universities and moved to the United Arab Emirates.

In Yemen, around 250,000 students are enrolled in universities, of which 90% study at public universities.

"We are striving to improve our living standards," said Professor of Political Science Abdullah Al-Faqih. "We are also experiencing a brain drain, losing professors to teach elsewhere which can have an effect on our education standards.'

Students have expressed mixed opinions concerning the strike.

"The strike will hurt us because the lessons will be condensed after losing days or weeks out of the semester," said a student at Sana'a University. "But it could help the professors in getting their demands and improving their conditions."

Spoiled and hazardous material reported



A parliamentary report from the Central Organization for Control and Auditing reveals there are great quantities of expired materials in the storage facilities of the Aden Public Water and Sanitary Disposal Corporation, the Emulsion and Paints Company, and the Oil Products Distribution Company.

The report said the materials can cause damage to public property, besides posing environmental risks, especially from the chemicals, gas cylinders, and oils and greases.

The report also indicates that debt on subscribers to the water service has been accumulating.

Meanwhile, Parliament reviewed the opinion of the Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Cabinet's Decree No. 112 for the year 2004, which ordered the separation of the Aden Container Terminal from the Free Zone. The committee recommended non-separation.

The Parliament also listened to the report of the Defense and Security Committee on amending Act No. 10 for the year 2001 concerning the establishment of the Police Academy.

The Act consists of 98 articles distributed on four chapters, of which Articles 45, 52, 57, and 98 were subject to modification.

Prisoner dies in Taiz prison

The central prison in Taiz witnessed last week the death of Abdull No'man al-Zazi, 60, one of al-Hijaria locals who had been an innate in the prison since May 2004.

Investigations continue to find out the reasons behind his death, whether it was natural or not.

Central prison is heavenly crowded with up to 1600 prisoners, while it was built with a total capacity of 800 prisoners.

Such crowdedness, along with the lack of ventilation facilities are among the factors leading to the death of many prisoners.

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

Do you think that Syria would withdraw its forces from Lebanon in 2005?

- Yes - No

last edition's question:

Do you think that the regime is behind the defamation of Al-Ahmar in Al-Mithaq newspaper?

Yes 80% No, it was personally motivated 20%

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Young man abducts student

TAIZ- A student, aged 22, abducted a 21-year-old university girl and took her to his family's hotel, recently, in Taiz.

The crime took place while the girl was passing by the hotel, which belongs to the father of the kidnapper in the heart of the city of Taiz.

The kidnapper rushed the girl by force to the hotel, and security authorities were informed of the kidnapping and immediately caught the perpetrator inside the hotel.

Afterwards, the abductor was transferred to al-Shammasi Police Station to undergo the investigation, and the girl was taken to the house of one of the chiefs in the district.

The information revealed that the perpetrator has just come back after running away from his father's house to one of the neighboring countries.

The kidnapping took place several days ago.

Abolish Sana'a University rector's resolution: HEC

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A parliamentary report confirmed Faculty.

Education Faculty to Abs Education

ing of Ali Shawqi from the Mahweet said the report.

The report stated that the rector's issuance of the said resolutions contra-

Egypt cancels Middle East reform conference Initiative (GMEI) to encourage reform a heading towards developing a fully-

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

year ago, the reaction from the region fledged democracy. stressed that changes must be carried out inside the Middle East countries instead of influence from elsewhere. Due to opposition, the GMEI was renamed as the Broader Middle East and North Africa initiative and was backed by The Group of Eight industrialized nations (G8) at a meeting in Seal Island, Georgia, last June which included that reforms should come from within.

The Center for Training and Protection of Journalists' Freedom recently reported that there were more than 120 violations against journalists in 2004, including jail sentences and harassment, which is the most in one year since the country was unified in 1990. It said that the verdicts issued in court against journalists jumped 80 per cent. Although it is still ranked above a number of other Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq and Bahrain, Reporters Without Borders dropped Yemen from 103 to 136 between 2002 and 2004 in its press freedom index. "Arresting journalists and closing newspapers is serious harm to democracy," said Majid Al-Fahed, Executive Director of Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation in Yemen. "There is a strong relationship between freedom of expression and democracy."

the illegitimacy of the resolutions of Sana'a University's rector No. 345, 346, and 347 concerning the appointment of some 50 demonstrators, and 12 assistant doctors in Sana'a University.

The report, issued by the Higher Education and Youth and Sports Committee, asked for the abolishment of the resolutions as well as resolution No. 343 concerning the arbitrary mov-

"The resolutions contradict the provisions of the constitution namely articles 24, 25, and 41 and the Public Universities Act No 8 for the year 1995. Resolution No. 343 also goes against the Yemeni Universities Act and the Regulations of the Academic Council No. 865 for the year 2002 amended by the University Rector's resolution No. 43 for the year 2003,"

Two die in gas blast

TAIZ BUREAU

Aneesa Mohammad Ali, 45, was killed along with a girl child named Mariah Abdullah due to an explosion of gas cylinder in one on of the houses located in Shuba't al-Kareema zoon, Taiz.

Security authorities are still conducting investigations to explore the

reasons behind the explosion. A number of locals from the neighborhood stated no smell was detected while gas was leaking inside the house, and this usually leads to the

occurrence of explosions and fires. This is not the first incident of its kind, but it was preceded by a number of gas explosions resulting in other deaths.

dict Act No. 33 for the year 2000 and that he overstepped the university council in the appointments.

They also reported the Rector's refusal to hand over the files of the appointed personnel to be examined by the committee.

The report called for accountability. It also revealed that the university grants privileges to the staff's offspring in a gross violation of the constitution, law and the goals of the Yemeni revolution.

The report mentioned that the restrictions on the part of the university committee for reception of contestant's files is an indication that the committee has no credibility, and that the university giving out monthly salaries to some of the appointees, whom the court invalidated as legal appointments, is a judicial violation needing immediate redress.

Egypt announced last Saturday that it called off the US-backed conference for political reforms in the Middle East originally scheduled to be held on March 3.

Ahmed Abu Al-Gheit, Egyptian Foreign Minister, said that the forum is delayed indefinitely. "The conference is postponed and a new date will be set after consultations with the countries invited," said Al-Gheit in a statement.

Al-Gheit said some Arab countries called on delaying the conference until after the next Arab summit is held in Algeria on March 22 and 23. Gheit did not mention the countries that asked for the delay

Diplomats have said that the cancellation of the conference was the result of tension that has recently emerged between the United States and Egypt.

On January 29, Ayman Nur, head of opposition party Al-Ghad, was arrested while being investigated for fraud and is being detained for 45 days. Nur has denied the allegations.

During Al-Gheit's visit to the US capital, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last Tuesday that there is a "very strong concern" about Nur's arrest. Rice, who was scheduled to attend the conference in March, did not visit Egypt during her first official tour of the Middle East earlier this month.

"Reforms in the Middle East being pushed along by the United States is a very sensitive issue," said a Yemeni political analyst. "Something that causes friction can stop everything."

Soon after the Bush administration released the Greater Middle East

In the final statement of the Forum for the Future held last December in Rabat. Morocco, it said that reform should be developed inside each country with "the sovereign right of each country within its national unity and territorial integrity, to freely develop its own democratic, political and socio-cultural system."

Yemen, along with twenty other countries, was invited to attend the conference in March. Those expected to participate included the Group of Eight industrialized nations and a number of countries from the Middle East. The conference planned to have participants discuss the future of political, economic and social reforms in the region.

Early last month, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution that commended reforms in Yemen, citing efforts made in political, educational and economic improvements. International observers judged the parliamentary elections in 2003 as free and fair, and the Congressional Resolution offered assistance to Yemen to continue to develop democracy and freedom.

Some believe, however, that the treatment of journalists over the last several months will hinder progress in Yemen

Some say that pressure on the press picked up last September when Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani, Editor of the opposition weekly Al-Shoura (The Consultation), was sentenced to one year in prison and the newspaper was suspended for six months.

In December, up to seven journalists were sentenced to jail. Abdul Karim Sabra, Editor of the weekly Al-Hurriya (The Freedom), and one of the newspaper's reporters Abdul Qawi Al-Qabati, were given two-year prison sentences and the weekly newspaper was shut down for one year. Other journalists were handed prison sentences between three and six months.

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Local News / Community

BY ISMAI AL-GHABRI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

nformation technology should have a primary role in achieving Yemen's strategic vision for a more prosperous future, says Minister Yemen's of Telecommunication and Information Technology.

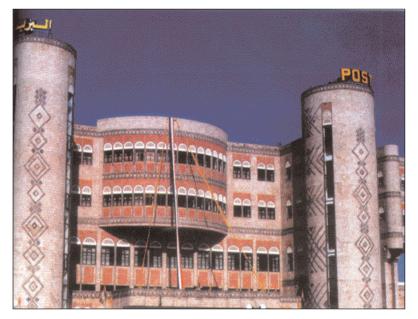
Minister Abdulmalik al-Mu'allimi notes that will help Yemen become a country of job providers, rather than job seekers

"The main and strategic goal of telecommunication and information technology is to contribute to make Yemen a productive country, employing the technological equipment to

accelerate the process of development and achieve the sought goals of 2025." He says that the 2025 strategic vision includes the enhancement of

partnership between the government and the private sector, protecting the investment of the private sector and updating the administrative system of the state.

"Telephone services have to reach all the population settlements in Yemen which number up to 70,000, and it is notable that the average distribution of telephone services could not reach 10 percent," al-Mu'allimi commented, noting that since the population is expected to grow quickly, this needs extensive efforts to be paid in the field of providing telephone



Abdulmalik al-Mu'allimi

services to citizens.

Abdulmalik al-Mu'allimi noted that the lack of IT in places like Yemen is dividing the world into two groups: the first group being strong, depending on the economy of technology; and the second group, the majority of world, unable to overcome the barriers that hinder them from profiting from that technology.

Regarding the strategy of telecommunication and information technology, the long-term visions reflect the ambitions and goals sought by the Yemeni society in the economic, social, cultural and political areas, said alMu'allimi.

The strategic vision aims to push Yemen and its development toward the medium- developed countries in many areas including posting services

to cover all the Yemeni governorates with an average of one post office for every 20,000 people.

The achievements of 2004 in the field of telecommunication and information technology are considers of the prominent factors that helped Yemen move toward the world of telecommunication and technology. Such achievements asserted that Yemen is one of the countries that provide distinctive services in the field of telecommunication and according the modern technology.

The goals come after a year when IT changed in Yemen.

For example, 2004 saw the inauguration of "Yemen Mobile" which put an end to the monopoly practiced by the other mobile-service providers, and offers a better service for citizens and with suitable prices.

Meanwhile, the infrastructure of telecommunication and information technology witnessed a distinctive stride as numerous projects. Projects inaugurated in all Yemeni governorates totaled YR 38.5 billion. The overall capacity of telephone lines reached 362,616 according to figures of last year.

The General Post Authority also achieved growth in services, which was reflected in the completion of technical equipment which enabled the authority to provide distinctive services such as money transfers between Yemen and other countries. This helped lessen the effort and time needed to sign the partnership contract between the General Post Authority and the Yemeni Company for International Telecommunications.



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In Sana'a: Russians at **Tomb of Unknown Soldier**

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ozens of Yemen's Russian community members in Sana'a gathered on Feb. 23 in front of the Tomb of the Russian Unknown Soldier.

The tomb in Sana'a is located at the edge of al-Rawdhah, on the northern outskirts of Sana'a.

They set flowers at the tomb on the occasion of the 87th anniversary of the defense of the Russian homeland. The event was attended by General

Musharaf Mohammed Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Staff for Supply Affairs along with Alexander

Zasypkin, Russian Ambassador to Sana'a, the Russian Military Attaché and a number of Arab and foreign military attachés to Yemen.

Tomb of the The Unknown Soldier was built after the Sab'een Siege War, in the late 1960s, between Yemen's revolutionary and royalist forces.

Russian airmen participated in the resistance and defended Sana'a. Some were killed and buried in the same place where the tomb stands today.

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Haburchak delivers lecture in Taiz

YT Taiz Bureau

David R. Haburchak, an American Professor of internal diseases and a lecturer at Georgia University USA, delivered a lecture on stomach diseases and aches at the hall of al-Jumhouri Hospital.

The lecture was organized by the Faculty of Medicine and Healthy Sciences, Taiz University and was attended by a number of physicians working at al-Jomhouri and al-Thawra Hospitals in Taiz.

The event came in the framework a series of visits paid by a US med-



ical team to a number of Taiz hospitals. The team visited the patients who suffered from chronic diseases and instructed the Yemeni physicians on how to deal with such cases.

The visit achieved a number of goals including benefits and experiences gained by the Yemeni physicians who attended the lecture.

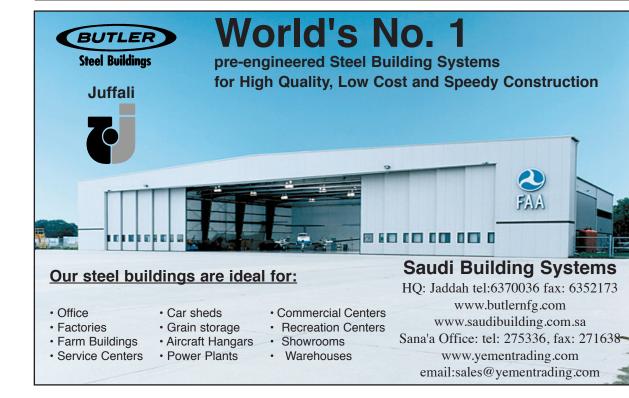
An agreement was reached with the visiting team on ways to enhance medical cooperation and exchanging visits to Yemen in the future for the purpose of exchanging experiences with the Yemeni physicians.

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Managing water resources

BY AZIZ ALHADI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he Water and Environment Centre (WEC) of Sana'a University organized a special workshop this week at the Ramada Western Hotel entitled "Needs Assessment for Graduates from WEC's Integrated Water Resource Management MSc and Diploma Program.'

According to WEC Director, Prof. Abdullah Babaqi, the centre seeks to link its curricula and programming to the defined technical and administrative skill needs of the water sector in Yemen, to ensure an adequate supply of graduates in this most crucial sector.

In attendance was the Minister of Water and Environment, Prof. Mohamed Lutf Al-Eryani, who stressed both the necessity and complexity of developing a comprehensive and effective program to

integrate the management of water resources. He explained the "strategic impor-

tance" for managers to understand the fact that such a program needs to consider that the management of water resources is directly related to the development of all sectors including education, agriculture, health and other areas.

Integrated management of this resource, then, considers the development impact related to water, according to the minister.

The minister also explained that integrated management of the water resource involves essentially six areas, from scarcity of supply to efficient use of water and services.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy's First Secretary in the Water and Environment Sectors, Dr. Ton Negenman, an expert with past program experience in Yemen also attended the workshop, with his counterpart, Engineer Mohamed Al-

Aroosi.

Together, they help direct the substantial amount of Dutch-government funding allocated to help Yemen in the best use of the country's limited water resources.

Also in attendance, on behalf of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Raweh, was Deputy Minster Dr. Ali Qassem Al-Baseer.

He spoke very highly of the Royal Netherlands Government's assistance in the area of Higher Education, citing that Dutch funding had reached a total of Euros 12.6 million involving a total of eight projects at Yemeni universities around the country.

He also underlined the importance of WEC's focus of designing training for defined needs, as opposed to the general training found in the discipline. Dr. Al-Baseer also noted that the Ministry hopes to see WEC's programs become regional in scope.

Continued from page 1

Court overturns death sentence

The six men were all charged with belonging to al Qaeda and playing various roles in the attack on the Cole, which was carried out by suicide bombers Ibrahim al-Thawr, Hasan al-Khamiri, and a third unnamed person who rammed an explosives-laden boat into the destrover.

Al-Thawr and al-Khameri traveled to Bangkok and received \$36,000 from al-Nasheri for the terrorist operation. The court judge said it was clear to him that the convicted six militants were found guilty, setting up an armed gang to carry out terrorist acts, including the attack on the USS Cole.

During the final hearings last month, the court judge Saeed al-Kattaa listened to the argument made by the defendants advocate Abdulkaziz al-Samawi as well as the arguments of the prosecution, demanding intensifi-cation of some of the sentences.

Al-Samawi argued that the trial of the six defendants was not performed in accordance with the law. "I confirm that the trial was not carried out according to the law. These defendants were arrested for four years without any legal warrant or investigation, only two weeks before the trial started. The law says that imprisoning people for over 24 hours without interrogation is something illegal," he argued.

He demanded that his clients should

be acquitted and compensated for the material, moral and psychological damage caused to them, and that they should not be convicted "just to please the US.

He said the defendants were presented as a "scapegoat."

He reiterated that his clients were subject to physical torture and psychological pressure." The preliminary court verdict was based on confessions made by the defendants under threat and pressure; they were even interrogated without any advocacy," he claimed during the last hearing.

He refuted the preliminary court verdicts which he claimed and were passed to "please the US." On his part, the second prime suspect Jamal al-Badwi claimed that he and his fellow people will be acquitted if "the verdict is issued in accordance with the law, but we will be convicted if the verdict is passed to satisfy the Americans."

The prosecutor reiterated that the appeal made by the defendants advocate should be rejected and that the defendant Fahd al-Qis'e should be sentenced to death as well as intensifving the jail sentence against Morad al-Sorori and Mamoon Amswah, while the death penalty sentence against al-Nashiri and al-Badwi should be endorsed.

Before Saturday's overturning of al-

Badwi's death sentence, the court had sentenced, on September 28th, al-Nashiri, the suspect held in US custody and al-Badawi, to death for orchestrating, plotting, preparing and involvement in the bombing of the US warship.

The appeals court also sentenced to death, on Feb. 5th, two al-Qaeda, and jailed 13 more, accused of bombing the French oil tanker Limburg , plotting to blow up five Western embassies and plotting to assassinate the US ambassador and planning other attacks ter-rorist operations in the country.

By these verdicts, the Yemeni government has tried to close one of the most challenging terrorist cases on file, though political observers believe that as long as al-Nashiri remains in the US custody without tribunal, the USS Cole file remains open.

Sources say that the Sana'a Counter-Terrorism court will start this week trying 13 people suspected of links to Al Qaeda and accused of plotting terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile the same court will continue on Monday the tribunal of 11 of others: 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

IFJ requests Schroeder's help

He said that by any standards this is a deplorable campaign of intimidation against journalists and independent opinion in a country where media are making efforts to contribute to democratic reform and development.

He continued to Schroeder, "Your upcoming visit to the Gulf region and the Yemen provides a significant opportunity for dialogue and for discussion with Yemeni leaders about a range of issues - one of which should be the country's commitment to democracy and defence of human rights.

"Your role as Chancellor and as leader of one of the European Union's dynamic and leading democracies gives you the possibility to intervene with President Ali Abdullah Saleh to raise these concerns and to seek the early release of our colleague."

The IFJ's General Secretary stressed that discussions with the Yemeni authorities will, we hope, deepen bilateral political, economic and cultural ties with Germany and Europe.

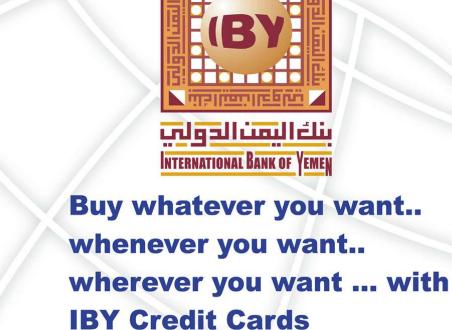
He added, "We hope too they will provide an opportunity to seek assurances that Mr Al- Khaiwani is released from jail as soon as possible and that prison sentences handed down to other journalists are immediately set aside

"We should point out that President

Saleh has already promised to abolish jail sentences for press offences leading to optimism among the country's community of journalists that changes of policy over press freedom and independent journalism are indeed possi-

The statement concluded by mentioning the growing links between Yemeni and European journalists.

"There is a new spirit of solidarity between journalists in Yemen and their European colleagues, including journalists in Germany, so I hope that you will be able to nourish and support this process of co-operation by raising our concerns with the government of Yemen."



Dobriansky raises big issues

She also disclosed that the issue of Abdul-Karim al-Khaiwani was discussed with all the officials she met with. "They promised to give priority to this subject." she said.

Concerning human rights condition in Yemen, the American official commented: "We in the US are concerned with human rights in every corner of the world. There are experts in the US embassy monitoring all violations against political activists in Yemen."

Mohammed Naji Allaw spoke have served more than four years before the guest, briefing her on the reality of human rights and liberties in Yemen during 2004

"They were the worst of all. Arrests increased and the ruling party monopolized governance and broke its pledges in relation to human riahts.

He continued, "The security authorities captured thousands of Yemenis without legal reasons, some of whom the Parliament follows him directly."

before trial, having no advocates and no visitation right. They suffered corporal and psychological torture in solitary cells as well.

He cried: "People here are tried before non-constitutional courts and therefore get unfair trials. The President himself is the chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council as well as the Executive Authority, and

New YT Editor-in-Chief

"I will always remember those who supported me and the newspaper through the good and difficult times, and will be keeping in touch with all of our staff members. I believe that now is the best time to pursue higher studies and enhance my professional and academic qualifications, to better serve Yemen once I return.'

New leadership, new vision On her part, Mrs. al-Saqqaf expresses her excitement and enthusiasm in taking the new position, hoping that she will raise the newspaper's standards and main-



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tain its number one position as the leading English-language newspaper in the country.

"It is not an easy task. It is, in fact, a challenge. But I know that the newspaper's strong institutional organization and respectable position in the country will help me manage the newspaper in the most appropriate manner. I also feel greatly humbled by the trust of members of the board and readers, and feel that with the help of our staff members, clients, readers, and friends I could do a lot to improve the statues of the newspaper and rise to the level of expectations."

Mrs. al-Saqqaf is a graduate of Sterling University in the United Kingdom with a Masters degree Information Systems Management. She graduated with Upper Grade with Distinction and had also enrolled in a number of training programs and courses including a month-long course on Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

During her work at The Yemen Times, she said she would be focusing on supporting human rights, gender issues and womens' rights.

A formal reception

A special, formal reception and farewell party for Walid Al-Saggaf will be held at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a on March 9th. The event will also coincide with The Yemen Times' 14th anniversary. The occasion will be an opportunity to introduce the new leader of the newspaper and welcome her to her new post.



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Arab/Middle East

TEMEN Egypt seeks multi-candidate presidential race

Iranian earthquake

death toll rises to 612

TEHRAN, Feb 26 (Reuters) - A are 612 people killed and 1,411

powerful earthquake which struck injured," Mohammad Javad Fadaee,

people, an official said on Saturday, province, told Reuters by telephone.

CAIRO, Feb 26 (Reuters) - President Hosni Mubarak said on Saturday he had proposed an amendment to the Egyptian constitution to allow more than one candidate to stand in presidential elections, a key demand of opposition parties.

Mubarak said in a televised speech he had proposed to parliament changing the constitution "to give the opportunity to political parties to enter the presidential elections and provide guarantees that allow more than one candidate to be put forward to the presidency for people to choose among them freely.'

Under the existing system, parliament, which is dominated by Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), has to approve the sole candidate for a presidential referendum that was due to go ahead in September.

The United States has repeatedly called for political reform in Egypt, which is a key U.S. ally in the region and major recipient of U.S. aid.

The U.S. campaign for reform in the Middle East, although widely derided within the region as meddling in their

southeast Iran this week killed 612

Tuesday's tremor, centred on the

town of Zarand about 700 km (440

miles) southeast of Tehran, revived

painful memories of the devastating

quake just 14 months ago in the

nearby desert citadel city of Bam

"The latest figures we now have

lifting the toll from 602.

that killed 31,000 people.

internal affairs, has made it easier for people to talk about their leaders' flaws, analysts say.

Mubarak, who has been in office since 1981, said the proposal to change article 76 of the constition, which outlines the presidential referendum procedures, had been presented to the lower and upper houses of parliament on Saturday.

The 76-year-old president said the issue would then go to a public referendum "before the coming presidential race".

Opposition parties have long called for a multi-candidate presidential poll. A campaign to change the constitution to allow more than one candidate to stand for elections had recently gathered momentum.

On Monday, Egyptians staged the largest protest in Cairo since the launch of the campaign against the continued rule of Mubarak.

Three activists had earlier announced their intention to seek the nomination to run in the presidential referendum, in what was seen as a largely symbolic gesture.

deputy governor of Kerman

The 6.4 magnitude earthquake

levelled several remote mountain

villages where fragile one-storey

homes crumbled and collapsed into

piles of mud and broken tiles,

leaving thousands Reformist

President Mohammad Khatami was

visiting the earthquake-struck area

Troops hunt insurgents in Iraqi river valley

HADITHA, Iraq, Feb 26 (Reuters) U.S. and Iraqi troops swept into towns along the Euphrates river valley on Saturday in a push to flush out insurgents, and the government said it was closing in on al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

As politicians haggled in Baghdad over who will get which posts in the new government, U.S. Marines and Iraqi soldiers fought militants in the towns of Haditha and Ramadi, capital of the vast and often lawless western province of Anbar.

Some intelligence reports have suggested Jordanian militant Zarqawi, who has claimed responsibility for many of the deadliest attacks in the country who has a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head, has been hiding in the Haditha area.

The Iraqi government said on Friday it had captured one of his senior aides, Abu Qutaybah, close to the border with Syria, and has vowed to get Zarqawi himself.

"We are at the closest point to Zarqawi," Iraq's minister of state for national security, Kassim Daoud, said on Saturday.

The Iraqi government had said several times in the past that it was close to capturing Zarqawi.

Troops in tanks and armoured cars stormed Haditha in the middle of the night, blowing up a weapons cache and exchanging small arms fire with guerrillas. But if militants were holed up there, they appeared to have fled and resistance was light.

In Ramadi, witnesses reported fierce gun battles between U.S. troops and insurgents.

One said a U.S. armoured Humvee was destroyed, although this could not be confirmed.

A hospital official said at least two people were killed and 17 injured.

Anbar, which accounts for nearly a third of Iraq's area and stretches from Baghdad to the western borders with Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, has long been a thorn in the side of troops

trying to stamp out the insurgency. Militants have effective control of

security situation in the province had deteriorated too far.

"River blitz"

Since they launched the River Blitz offensive six days ago, U.S. and Iraqi troops have arrested around 150 suspected insurgents and seized bombmaking equipment and weapons including machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

At least four Marines have died, pushing the number of U.S. troops killed in combat in Iraq since the start of the war in March 2003 to over 1.130.

The extent to which Anbar lies beyond the pale of Iraqi authority was illustrated in last month's election, when only two percent of the province's Sunni Muslim population voted.

Others said the threat of the insurgency made voting simply too dangerous.

A U.S. soldier looks out from his tank's hatch as debris from a suicide car bomb litters his armoured vehicle on

As a result, Sunnis fared badly in the polls and Iraq's Shi'ite majority, oppressed for years under Saddam Hussein, prospered at their expense. The main Shi'ite coalition won 48

percent of the vote and will have a slim majority in the new 275-seat national assembly.

They have insisted they should get the prime minister's job and nominated Shi'ite politician, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, for the post.

The other candidate is Iyad Allawi, who has been prime minister for the past eight months and whose list won 14 percent of the vote, giving them 40 seats in the assembly.

Neither group has the two-thirds majority needed in the assembly to form a government and will have to cut deals to get what they want. The beneficiaries could be the Kurds, whose main coalition won 25 percent of the vote and will have 75 seats.

REUTERS insurgent attacks in Iraq has fallen, although the country is still plagued by violence.

A car bomb exploded in western Baghdad on Saturday, killing two civilians and injuring three. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack, saying one of its suicide bombers had attacked two U.S. tanks.

Another car bomb went off in the restive northern city of Mosul, close to a U.S. convoy, witnesses said. The U.S. military had no immediate word on casualties.

Relatives of an Iraqi female television presenter kidnapped last weekend said her body had been found and held a funeral service for her in Mosul, neighbours of the family told Reuters. Her death could not be independently confirmed.

Near Kirkuk, also in the north of the country, police and oil company officials said insurgents killed a Turkish truck driver and sabotaged a fuel pipeline, sending a plume of fire and



RAMALLAH, West Bank, Feb 26 (Reuters) - Palestinian forces, under pressure for tough action after a suicide bombing killed four Israelis, arrested at least three Palestinians on Saturday but suggested Lebanon's Hizbollah group was behind the attack.

Friday's bombing at a Tel Aviv nightclub dealt a blow to growing peace hopes since President Mahmoud Abbas agreed a ceasefire with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a groundbreaking Feb. 8 summit.

raid on the West Bank village, including two brothers of the suspected bomber.

Bloody scene

on Saturday.

The images of ambulances rushing to the popular karaoke club and the bloodstained pavement shook many Israelis, who had begun to believe they had put such scenes behind them. The last such bombing killed three people in Tel Aviv on Nov. 1.

Israeli officials demanded Palestinian

Iran says nuclear deal with Russia delayed

TEHRAN, Feb 26 (Reuters) - Iran said on Saturday that a key deal for Russia to supply it with nuclear fuel had been delayed by 24 hours and was expected to be signed on Sunday.

Ali Aghamohammadi, a senior security official, said the signing of the ccord had been delayed as talks



some towns and villages, and the U.S. military acknowledged this week the

Baghdad's airport road Feb. 26.

Israel said the bombing showed Abbas was wrong if he thought he could coax militants into a formal ceasefire from their current de facto truce and demanded vigorous action. But officials said the Jewish state would show restraint for now

"We will not tolerate this act," Abbas told reporters as he met security chiefs to talks strategy.

"We will not allow anyone to sabotage the goals and ambitions of our people ... We will bring them to justice.'

Abbas blamed an unnamed "third party" for involvement in the attack.

A senior Palestinian security official involved in the investigation said inquiries indicated Hizbollah's hand.

"All the information that we have until now from interrogations shows that Hizbollah is involved in the operation," the official said.

In Beirut, Hizbollah denied any role and called the accusations a provocation by "the Zionist entity" (Israel).

Both Israel and the Palestinians have recently accused the Iranian-backed group of trying to sabotage peace efforts, though political commentators say the Palestinians could benefit from shifting the blame away from home.

A cell of the militant Islamic Jihad group in the West Bank claimed the attack, but the faction's leadership in the Gaza Strip denied any knowledge and said it would continue to maintain calm. Other mainstream groups also denied any role.

Security officials gave the names of three men arrested at the presumed bomber's village of Deir al-Ghoson the first suspected militants held since Abbas succeeded late President Yasser Arafat in January.

action instead of more talks to woo armed groups.

"Words are not enough. We must see action," said Gideon Meir of Israel's Foreign Ministry.

"We must see arrests, collecting illegal weapons from those terrorist organisations ... The only language they understand is force."

A 25-nation conference in London this week is due to look at ways to help Palestinians improve security forces and build Israeli confidence in their ability to prevent attacks.

The family in Deir al-Ghoson announced through loudspeakers that Abdullah Shelbayeh "had carried out a martyrdom operation". But there was little sign of the celebration that has often followed bombings.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice demanded that Palestinian leaders find those responsible and "send a clear message that terror will not be tolerated".

Washington has stepped up efforts to revive the peace process after Abbas was elected to succeed late President Yasser Arafat, whom Israel and the United States saw as an obstacle.

Palestinian militant factions have said they are still not satisfied with Israeli gestures meant to build confidence - such as the release of 500 out of 8,000 prisoners and an end to army raids and assassinations.

They also want a more sweeping Israeli pullback from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, which is slated to begin on July 20.

Hizbollah attacks helped force an end to Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000 and its fighters, still dominant in the border zone, are seen as heroes by many Palestinians.

continued between Russia's nuclear energy chief Alexander Rumyantsev and Iranian officials.

"We hope to reach an agreement on the time of fuel delivery to Iran by Saturday night," Aghamohammadi, head of Supreme National Security Council's Propaganda Office, told Reuters by telephone.

"We hope to sign the deal on Sunday."

The deal to supply fuel for Iran's 1,000-megawatt Russian-built Bushehr nuclear plant would mean the country's only reactor would be set to go on line later this year and reach full capacity in 2006.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, said talks with Russian officials were progressing.

"We have reached agreements in different fields," Aghazadeh told the official IRNA news agency.

The United States, strongly opposing the deal, says it fears the Bushehr reactor could be used as a cover by Tehran to build atomic weapons. Iran denies this, saying it needs nuclear power to generate electricity.

A key part of the agreement due to be signed is aimed at addressing U.S concerns, obliging Tehran to repatriate all spent nuclear fuel to Russia.

Moscow hopes this will allay U.S. worries that Tehran may use the spent fuel, which contains potentially weapons-grade uranium, to develop arms.

Under the deal, Russia could start fuel shipments to Iran as early as in the next two months.

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Asia/Africa

We're ready to talk about anything, North Korea to

SEOUL, Feb 26 (Reuters) - South Korean, Japanese and U.S. negotiators agreed on Saturday they can discuss all issues of concern to Pyongyang in a bid to lure North Korea back to six-party talks on its nuclear ambitions.

But they stopped short of offering concessions.

The three countries met for the first time since North Korea hinted last week that it might be ready to return to negotiations under the right conditions.

On Feb. 10, the reclusive state declared it had nuclear weapons and was also pulling out of the six-party process.

Discussions to coordinate positions among the three allies had preceded previous rounds of the six-country talks, which also include North Korea, China and Russia.

"We urge the North to return to the talks without delay, and stressed that the talks are a forum to discuss all issues including North Korea's concerns," South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon told reporters after the meeting.

Also attending were U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and Japanese Foreign

KATHMANDU, Feb 26 (Reuters) -

Nepali soldiers killed dozens of Maoist

rebels in a series of clashes, the army said

on Saturday, in the latest battles since

At least three soldiers and a policeman

were also killed in the clashes on

Thursday and Friday in Kailali district, a

Maoist stronghold 650 km (410 miles)

An army officer told Reuters four rebel bodies were recovered, but more

than three dozen guerrillas were believed to have been killed in those battles.

"Stains of blood were seen in nearby

The Maoists normally carry away

The army estimates of rebel losses are

based on the version of villagers who

most of their dead and bury them in the

jungle or in river beds to hide their loss-

jungles. Dead rebels might have been

carried away after the clashes," he said.

west of Kathmandu.

King Gyanendra's Feb. 1 power grab.

Ministry Director-General Kenichiro Sasae.

"We made it clear that the six-party process is a forum for a wide range of discussions and we can earnestly discuss all issues of interest," said Song.

He declined to say whether the three allies were prepared to offer concessions to the North for returning to the talks.

"You cannot interpret the position taken by the three countries as response to the (North's) demand for sincerity."

Saturday's meeting follows a senior Chinese envoy's visit to the communist North last week as Beijing tried to restart a process it had helped lead.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il told the envoy, Wang Jiarui, that Pyongyang would return to the talks if the conditions were right and the United States showed "trustworthy sincerity".

Excellent meeting

Nepal says kills dozens

of rebels in clashes

comrades.

Hill characterised the meeting as valuable but declined to answer further questions

"This is a very good opportunity to discuss the way forward, especially how we can maximise the possibility that the six-

saw the guerrillas carrying their fallen

independent verification of the army

claims is not possible because the clash-

The latest fighting took place as soldiers went to clear road blocks set up by

the rebels to enforce a transport blockade

in protest at the king's move, which has

also triggered worldwide condemnation

and a halt in military aid from Britain and India. The two-week-old blockade has

More than 11,000 people have died in

the nine-year Maoist revolt which has crippled the aid and tourism dependent

economy and forced thousands to flee.

King Gyanendra has justified his

power grab saying it was required to

crush the Maoists, who want to topple

monarchy and set up a communist repub-

es occurred in remote areas.

disrupted supplies and travel.

lic in the nation.

The Maoists have not commented and

party process will be successful, so I think this is an excellent opportunity to get together and exchange some views on that," Hill said at the start of the meeting. At the third round of six-way talks in June, the United States and South Korea each presented a blueprint for the North to first freeze and then completely dismantle

all its nuclear projects in return for "corresponding measures". North Korea countered by demanding

compensation first.

Song declined to say whether the three lead negotiators were working on modified proposals to be presented to the North should talks resume. "There are issues that are of particular

interest to the

North," he said. "We can talk about them seriously once the talks are open." North Korea wants economic, fuel and agricultural aid, among other things. Pyongyang has also said it is seeking security assurances and a less hostile stance by the United States, which has described the North as an outpost of tyranny.

The consultations came amid a report

that China had asked Japan to help convince the United States to soften its stance over North Korea to help bring Pyongyang back to the talks.

Beijing made the request to Japan following a visit to Pyongyang by Wang, Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted diplomatic sources as saying on Friday. **Russia optimistic**

A South Korean expert on the North said it was not impossible for the United States to soften its position with the aim of moving the six-party process forward.

"Remember, the U.S. had put forward a

proposal at the third round which North Korea called 'constructive'," said Koh Yu-hwan, professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul.

"The issue will be how North Korea and the rest of the countries can save the others' face and move forward," he said.

Russia is optimistic North Korea will return to negotiations, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saving on Friday.

"The chances of a return to the negotiating table are real," Lavrov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.



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Germany's Fischer admits mistakes in visa affair

BERLIN, Feb 26 (Reuters) - German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, facing down opposition claims his policies allowed illegal workers into Germany, admitted on Saturday he made mistakes in tackling visa abuse in eastern Europe.

Fischer accepted he had made errors and said in a fiery speech in North Rhine-Westphalia he would not run away from tackling the issue in a parliamentary committee of inquiry.

The outcry over the lax visa policies has put pressure on Fischer's Greens party, partners at the national level to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD), and has been blamed partly for losses in a state election last week.

The speech coincided with a report Christian Democrat (CDU) opposition leader Angela Merkel hoped to capitalise on the government's woes by winning backing to challenge Schroeder in the 2006 general election at a party conclave on June 19.

It also came a day after an opinion poll showing an end to Fischer's three-year run as Germany's most popular politician.

The visa policy - ended in 2003 proved open to abuse, Fischer told the rally of his Greens party, adding he had made two mistakes.

"First, in my time as minister in autumn 1999 there were two decrees that made these instruments ... even more liable for abuse.

Secondly, between 2000 and 2002 ... I did not act quickly, decisively and thoroughly enough as the minister responsible.'

Fischer previously took responsibility for "possible mistakes" made by his ministry, but had not acknowledged any failings, drawing criticism from all sides.

Fischer drew applause from his party faithful by saying the visa practices had their origins in policies of the former CDU-led government and accused the opposition of damaging relations with newly-democratic Ukraine "by stigmatising its people as criminals".

But his speech cast no new light on whether he would testify to the committee before a key regional election in North Rhine-Westphalia on May 22.

The SPD in North Rhine-Westphalia hopes he will, fearing its ruling coalition with the Greens in the state could be under threat unless the issue falls from the headlines.

Electoral backlash feared

Opposition accusations that the visa policies opened the floodgates to abuse at Germany's embassy in Kiev, Ukraine, have forced the Greens onto the defensive over their traditionally liberal policies towards immigration.

North Rhine-Westphalia SPD leader Harald Schartau said on Friday his party could not afford the impression that the government had, at a time of mass unemployment, let foreigners into Germany to take people's jobs by working illegally.

February data due on Tuesday could show a million jobless in North Rhine-Westphalia for the first time. The state's unemployment rate is already above the national average.

Fischer said events of 2000 to 2002, when most of the visa abuse took place, had nothing to do with current jobless data.

He said government reforms had reduced the level of illegal employment in Germany last year and had shed light on the real jobless level so that people could be encouraged into work, but admitted the message was hard to sell.

"I appeal to you in North Rhine-Westphalia and our coalition partner: we have to get through this," Fischer said.

28 February, 2005 7 **Spain's Garzon calls for** Franco "truth commission"

MADRID, Feb 26 (Reuters) Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, famous for bringing criminal cases against Latin American military regimes and al Qaeda, now says the spotlight should be turned on Spain's own dictatorial past.

In an interview with Reuters, Garzon called for a "truth commission" to investigate crimes against humanity committed during the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, who ruled Spain from the end of civil war in 1939 to his death in 1975.

He also warned that law enforcement must keep close watch on Islamist militant groups in Europe that are linked to Ansar al Islam, one of the main groups attacking U.S. occupation forces in Iraq.

Garzon said Franco-era victims were free to seek criminal charges against survivors of the dictatorship whether in Spain or abroad.

"It is obvious there were excesses and real crimes against humanity in the first years of this dictatorship and it is necessary at some time to establish a truth commission, at least, to establish what happened and uncover this part of Spanish history," Garzon said in the interview late on Friday.

Garzon, who shot to international fame while attempting to try former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and has charged Osama bin Laden with mass murder, said victims needed to come forward before any prosecutions could be established.

"There is no problem (with prosecuting a case) just as there is no problem if these events were investigated outside of Spain," said Garzon, who spoke to Reuters shortly before taking a 9-month leave to teach at New York University.

Garzon burst onto the scene in Spain shortly after becoming a High Court judge 17 years ago by investigating a secret, paramilitary unit known as GAL that killed 26 people and kidnapped several others in the 1980s to fight the outlawed Basque separatist group ETA.

ETA is reviled in Spain for killing more than 800 people since 1968 in pursuit of Basque independence, but Garzon was applauded for taking on the anti-ETA death squads, resulting in the conviction of a former interior minister and 11 other officials.

He has been at the centre of Spain's top criminal cases ever since, helping to dismantle support groups for ETA and ordering the arrest of a suspected al Qaeda cell that he has since linked to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Employing the principle of universal criminal justice - that the most heinous crimes can be prosecuted anywhere in the world - Garzon ordered Pinochet's arrest in Britain in 1998, but London freed Pinochet for health reasons in 2000.

Islamist militant threat

Garzon, who has been investigating armed Islamist militants in Spain since



Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, famous for bringing criminal cases against Latin American military regimes and al Qaeda, answers a question during an interview with Reuters in Madrid Feb. 25. REUTERS

1991, said groups that are now active might also attack, and the trial of some in Europe have ties to the insurgency in Iraq.

He identified the Algeria-based Salafist movement and the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group as two organisations that were particularly dangerous.

"They are groups that have membership inside and outside Europe and in any case we have to keep close watch on the relationship these groups have with others like Ansar al Islam," Garzon said.

Garzon had been following a suspected al Qaeda cell at the time of Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. He then ordered the arrest of the suspects for fear they two dozen suspects is due to begin within months.

But he is not investigating the March 11 train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people and wounded 1,900 three days before a general election. That fell to another High Court judge -Juan del Olmo – who was the judge on duty at the time.

Garzon said it was impossible to measure how serious the Islamist militant threat was at present.

"It's obvious that these type of terror groups are perfectly operative The threat from this type of terrorism is real, it's constant, it's current and it will continue to be," he said.

Aide will have to bless crowd for ailing Pope

VATICAN CITY, Feb 26 (Reuters) - Pope John Paul will remain shut in his hospital room on Sunday while an aide reads his traditional Angelus address and blesses crowds on his behalf miles away in St Peter's Square, the Vatican said on Saturday.

It was believed to be the first time the 84-year-old Pope, left temporarily voiceless by throat

Berlusconi upbeat on Italy's economic future

ROME, Feb 26 (Reuters) - Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi defended his government's stewardship of the economy on Saturday and renewed vows for tax relief at the centre of his budding reelection campaign.

Speaking at an export conference in Rome, he shrugged off worries that Italy had lost its competitive edge and asked executives to look at emerging markets, particularly in Eastern Europe.

"We will not abandon ourselves to the idea of decline that many newspapers subscribe to, because that's absolutely not where we're headed," Berlusconi said.

Man arrested over Belfast stabbing; IRA pressured

DUBLIN, Feb 26 (Reuters) - Police in Northern Ireland arrested a man on Saturday in connection with the stabbing of a popular Belfast man – less than 24 hours after Irish Republican Army guerrillas said they expelled three members over the death.

The IRA issued an unprecedented statement on Friday night saying it had ejected the men from the outlawed organisation and urged them to take responsibility for their actions.

"A man has been arrested in connection with the murder of Robert McCartney," a police spokeswoman said. She declined to give further details, but a police source said the man was arrested after going to a police station with his lawyer. Robert McCartney's murder last month has prompted rare criticism of the IRA, and its political ally Sinn Fein, from one of their core Catholic support bases in Belfast. In a clear sign of the mounting pressure on the IRA, which declared a ceasefire in 1997, its announcement on Friday was its fifth in almost as many weeks — an IRA statement used to be a rare event, pored over by governments for a sign of a shift in its violent campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.



surgery to ease a breathing crisis, would not be able to deliver the Sunday blessing himself.

Even on May 17, 1981, four days after he was nearly killed in an assassination attempt, the Pope managed to whisper a blessing via radio from his hospital bed.

A Vatican statement said the Pope. who already suffers from advanced Parkinson's Disease, would "join" the Angelus prayer from his hospital room. He was expected to watch on television.

By saying the Pope would remain in his room while the entire ceremony would take place at the Vatican, some four kilometres away, the statement indicated he would not appear at his window.

When he was in hospital earlier this month, the Pope was strong enough to sit at his window and deliver the blessing.

It was not clear whether there would be a video link between the hospital room and St Peter's Square on Sunday at noon (1100 GMT) so the crowds could see the Roman Catholic leader.

Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, the Vatican's deputy Secretary of State, would preside for the Pope and deliver a blessing from the steps of St Peter's Basilica on his behalf.

The Holy Father will join in the reading of the Angelus prayer from his room in the Gemelli Hospital," the Vatican said.

The leader of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics was rushed back to hospital for the second time this month on Thursday, making the world wonder if one of history's

operation, to have a breakfast of milk, coffee, biscuits and yoghurt and said he was breathing without any mechanical help.

most significant papacies was

The Pope was said to have spent a

second restful night in hospital on

Friday as the Vatican tried hard to

calm frayed nerves about his health.

The Vatican said he was well

enough on Friday morning, about 12

hours after the tracheotomy

drawing to a close.

World worried

Medical experts on Parkinson's Disease and throat ailments said it could be weeks before he would be able to speak at all.

The Pope, who is also racked with arthritis, has bounced back from numerous health scares as well as the near-miss assassination attempt but because of his age and other ailments, the back-to-back hospitalisations are considered his most serious health setback.

In the past he has been able to brush off doomsayers who predicted he was close to death.

But as he gets older, the Pope will take longer to recover and faces more potential complications.

Medical experts said there was a significant likelihood a posttracheotomy patient of his age and frailty could get pneumonia.

News agency Ansa said the Pope was on strong antibiotics as a precautionary measure.

But the Pope feels deeply he should continue to "look after the flock".

Modern technology and modern science spread John Paul's papacy further around the world than any other and lengthened it beyond what might have been medically possible decades ago.

His recurrent illnesses have raised the question of whether the Pope should resign but Churchmen say he is still very much in charge and is taking all the Vatican's big decisions.

"I continue to be optimistic and have faith in the future."

Berlusconi's upbeat outlook followed a warning on Friday by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi that the Italian economy was suffering stunted productivity growth hurting competitiveness.

Italy registered its first global trade deficit for 12 years in 2004 and the government has largely blamed export trouble on the high value of the euro against the dollar.

The damage has been compounded by a listless economy with weak internal demand.

Berlusconi estimated Italian economic growth of 1.4 percent last year, at the high end of the 1.3-1.4 percent forecast by Economy Minister Domenico Siniscalco. The official 2004 figure will be published by statistics agency ISTAT on Tuesday.

Berlusconi railed against the European Central Bank, which has left rates unchanged at 2 percent since June 2003, and again called for more flexibility in the European Union's strict deficit ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product.

"In a period of economic stagnation it (the 3 percent) is a limit, we are choking ourselves with our own hands and therefore it does not permit us to compete with (economies) outside Europe," he said.

"They must be worried that they feel the need to tell the public of Northern Ireland that they took action against these people," said Paul Dixon, politics lecturer at the University of Ulster.

The IRA, already under fire over its alleged involvement in a 26.5 million pound (\$50.6 million) Belfast bank robbery in December, said it was not involved in McCartney's killing, but admitted for the first time that a number of republicans were.

"They're trying to show their supporters that they are not a criminal organisation and that they will discipline anyone who steps out of line," Dixon said.

Horrific ordeal

The IRA said it would not tolerate any intimidation or threats against anyone who wished to help the McCartney family.

death, Robert Since his McCartney's family have openly criti-

Donna, Catherine, Paula and Claire (L-R) McCartney, sisters of murdered Northern Ireland man Robert McCartney listen to the media outside their Short Strand home in east Belfast, Northern Ireland, Feb. 26. REUTERS

cised the IRA - almost unheard of in the working-class Catholic neighbourhood where they live - accusing local IRA men of intimidating witnesses to stop them going to the police.

The family welcomed news of the expulsion and called for all those involved to hand themselves in.

"It is only when all those involved ... regardless of how small a part they played in the murder and the subsequent clean and cover-up operation have handed themselves in and are charged, tried and convicted ... will we as a family be able to bring closure to this horrific ordeal and begin to grieve for Robert," they said in a statement.

Although the armed conflict in Northern Ireland, which claimed some 3,600 over three decades, has largely ended, violent crime still persists in the form of paramilitary "punishment" beatings, stabbings and robberies in the British-ruled province.

Since the December heist, the IRA and Sinn Fein have faced growing criticism from the Irish and British governments, political opponents, and their own voters, over their alleged criminal links and face ostracism from the political mainstream.

London and Dublin say IRA crime is blocking progress towards restoring local government in the province.



MOSCOW, Feb 26 (Reuters) Hundreds of demonstrators rallied outside Russia's government headquarters in Moscow on Saturday to protest at a benefits reform that has dented many Russians' faith in President Vladimir Putin.

The protesters, people involved in the clean-up operation after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion, said they had lost many of their benefits including access to cheap medicine to treat Chernobyl-related illnesses.

Russian news agencies said there were about 600 protesters.

Since Jan. 1, hundreds of thousands of people have protested over the reform, which converted dozens of Soviet-era benefits in kind enjoyed by groups including pensioners, war veterans and the disabled into modest cash payments.

The demonstrations have tailed off in recent weeks as the government released extra funds to soften the impact.

Words of Wisdom



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

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



The mission will go on

s you have read in the front page of this edition of Yemen Times, I am leaving my post as Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times starting tomorrow, March 1.

Just like in any profession, change is inevitable and that is true for The Yemen Times, which from tomorrow onwards will be led by a young female journalist, Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

I believe this would signal a new beginning for the newspaper, particularly in supporting females in journalism. This will be one of the few instances where a private Yemeni newspaper is led by a female Editor-in-Chief. It may, in fact, be one of the Arab world's few pioneering steps, and should certainly be encouraged.

During my work as Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times since June 2nd 1999, many things have changed internally with the newspaper locally in Yemen, and globally throughout the world. I feel blessed for having encountered many wonderful people and so many interesting experiences

I am grateful to all those readers who sent emails and messages to me during this time. Many of the letters had harsh criticism, some were encouraging, and others were constructive comments and suggestions. Those readers have contributed tremendously to the status of The Yemen Times as an arena of different opinions from Yemen and the world.

There are many memories that I will dearly hold on to. But I also have ambitions to develop my own intellectual, academic, and professional capabilities. I believe that life is a learning process and no one can ever get enough, no matter how he tries.

For me, it has been an ongoing learning experience: writing, editing, interviewing, managing, and performing other duties to have added significantly to my professional skills and enabled me to broad en my horizon and understanding of the world we live in. It was my destiny to be a journalist, and it was my fate to lead this newspaper ir particular. It is also destined that I leave the newspaper with issue No (820), just like the issue number is destined to correspond to my birth date (August 20).

I also cannot forget the assistance that I received both on a professional and personal level from the clients and advertisers of the newspaper who spared no effort to ensure that the newspaper remains independent and truthful in its reporting.

They realized that if the newspaper maintains the path that its founder had drawn, it will continue to grow and flourish and reach the masses, but if it is bought by a government agency or depends on others for financing, it will collapse, at least from the viewpoint of the general public.

Finally, I also take this opportunity to express to the newspaper staffers my utmost gratitude for standing strong with me throughou both difficult and good times. The moment I took office in 1999 following the horrific car accident that killed the newspaper's founder, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, I realized that it is the staff who would do most of the work. It is these members of the team who were able to make the newspaper stand on its feet and continue against al odds.

I will be miss both my work and the staff. I will miss the excite ment when getting a scoop for the front page, and the delight I see when Yemen Times' sales increase and its credibility is enhanced. I will miss the discussions, and even arguments that I used to have with my journalists on where we need to define the line, and why we should cross it.

I will always miss the adrenalin-driven adventures when covering major events such as the USS Cole bombing, kidnappings, and other incidents. And I will definitely miss staying late ensuring that everything is set to be printed on time, and going back tired, just to feel overwhelmingly satisfied that another issue was sent to press.

It's difficult to find oneself, even temporarily, taken away from the job you loved and lived with for more than six years. But this is life. We need to go on. And The Yemen Times will go on. It continued after the death of its founder and idol, and now it will continue with-

Opinion

The Superpower and the ... Worlds of disruption, stillness and disunity

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

f Arabs stop for a while to scrutinize their situation, we will find that a few countries are looking forward to the future, and are moving slowly but steadily. The rest of the Arab countries can be

grouped into ones living in the world of disruption, others dwelling in the world of stillness, while the rest enjoy spending their lives in the world of disunity.

A quick reading of Arab contemporary history indicate obviously that each of the above mentioned worlds has its own characteristics that make it distinctive among others. Thus, each of them has to bear the consequences of being affiliated to any of those worlds either currently or in the future.

It is funny that the collective performance of all these words has affected directly and negatively on the vital interests of the Arab World on the personal and social levels. Arabs have lost their status in the regional and international arenas. Besides prostration, Arabs have also become the laughing stock and the notorious example of the whole world.

The World of Disruption in many countries including Iraq, Palestine, Somalia and Sudan witness a great deal of shedding of national blood and proliferation of internal conflicts among sects and groups. Such conflicts are endless and have no solutions.

These countries continue to pay the price of fanaticism and extremism and the loss of identity and the sense of national belonging as though lack of stability and the minimum level of security is the only and most ideal solution to the problem of disagreement among society's balances. instead of national reconciliation.

Despite the fact that the greatest country has become the judge and the executioner, and committed itself to the security and the suffering of these countries, it has ironically become the major and main reason for the continued anarchy in these countries because of the following factors:

• The Superpower lacks a realistic strategy to treat the ongoing situation, that takes into account the ethnic and sectarian composition and their interests and orientations.

• The Superpower does not understand the political reality and the cultural and historical background behind conflicts inflicting these countries.

• The Superpower has excluded the international and regional role from participation or intervention in the national reconciliation. It is persisting unchecked in order to dominate these countries. • The Superpower draws solely on its military might to achieve stability and security without a real participation on the part of the national forces in shouldering the responsibility towards their homelands.

• All parties to the political and social system in these countries are claiming their own interests without considering the joint national interest. This fact has allowed the Superpower to make alliances with some groups at the expense of others.

Therefore, disturbance has become the general characteristic of the internal situation in these countries. Everyone wants to impose his own desire on others, and those who cannot get their likes try to prevent others from getting theirs. Those who fail to achieve their personal interests have nothing to do but to hamper the other party from getting his. Thus, vengeance, feuds and vowing allegiance to get at selfish interests characterize this world.

However, the World of Stillness colors many an Arab country in terms of their dealing with external and internal challenges. These countries think mistakenly that everything is perfect or at least nothing can be bettered. They insist to remain still fearing that any change might result in unpleasant outcomes which they can not face. At the same time, the policy of taking no stance on issues saves them from involving themselves in anything that may anger regional or international parties

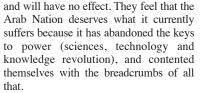
They excuse themselves with the pretext that current conditions necessitate adoption of the policy of prostration. Inclination is necessary for the storm (of the Super Empire) to pass without damage amidst its pursuing to refurbish its old image and take revenge for its wounded dignity indiscriminately on friends and foes.

Some countries' persist to eternally hibernate in the world of stillness and inaction so that the world will forget them and will not hold them accountable for anything. These countries, however, have reneged on their national and Arabic responsibility preferring cheap safety.

Despite the relative success of the Stillness World's countries up until now and their adherence to the slogan "He who fears is safe," they do not know that the flood of challenges and threats, once inundating the region, will not discriminate between the Stillness World and others. A number of countries dwell in this world despite their will because of the simple reason of their having no opinion or stance.

The rest of the Arab countries are pleased with disunity and cherish the it-isno-business-of-mine principle. They let things go spontaneously because they are aware that their stances are of no value

I etters to the Editor



According to them, the nation has tried to forget its past, detached from its present and be uninterested in its future. When it comes to give up weapons, these countries will react positively and give up very quickly without taking into account the national and Arabic interests or even getting a price for that.

And when it comes to shaking hands with Zionists or the allies of the Superpower, they do that wholeheartedly, clutching at the principle of "surrender" as a substitute for the culture of prostration.

What is surprising that the Disunity World are still lifting the banner of Arab nationalism and unity against challenges. They give vent to hollow and resounding slogans against the Super Empire and its maltreatment of Arabs and Islam. This does not mean that these regimes suffer political schizophrenia, but it is only a technique to remain in the chair as long as possible.

It is regrettable that the Disunity World does not feel how much backwardness. weakness and disunity they cause to the national, vital issues. They do not know that they are the source of the current spirit of apathy in the Arab public opinion as well as the present helpless situation of the Arab World before what is happening in the World of Disruption.

It is certain that this division in the Arab World making most of its states dwell in their own cocoons (Disruption, Stillness or Disunity) puts the Arab countries who want to get past the bottleneck at a crossroad. Not only that, it also makes them unsupported in front of challenges, threats, and persistent dangers posed at the Arab World.

They are already burdened with the task of stopping anarchy, motioning the still and stagnant waters, and reconnecting the disunited. Though all of us have the premonition that the Arab Boat is sinking, yet nobody has offered the life boat or even try to escape the inevitable fate.

What has been mentioned emphasizes the concern about the future of the very few Arab countries who are unbounded by the mentioned three worlds because they may be affected by their negative influences or may contract any of their diseases. The price might be their detachment of the Arab body and joining some Asian or Mediterranean groupings where they can save their ambitions from the worlds of Disruption, Stillness and Disunity



Will Egypt really show the way?

ven as a monarchy Egypt was considered quite advanced in its understanding of political democracy and many Egyptian intellectuals led the fight

for the democratization of Egypt from way back to the 1920s. In 1952, the Egyptian Revolution overthrew the monarchy, in a relatively bloodless coup led by some young officers in the military, including the late Gamal Abdul Nasser, who eventually took over the helms a couple of years later. The "Free Officers Movement" had decided to remove the first leader in post revolutionary Egypt, the late General Mohammed Naguib, and take over the leadership of Egypt, because it was claimed that the well disciplined and patriotic senior officer was too slow in establishing the modern government of Egypt and carrying out the Revolution's aim. Actually, Naguib was pushed out after frustratingly trying to get the young officer's not to get too carried away with the new positions of power that the Revolution placed them in. Naguib was subjected to an unjust confinement in his house until the end of his life some two and a half decades later. With this second mini coup within a coup the military industrial complex reigned supreme in Egypt and many of the hopes and aspirations that were ignited by the overthrow of the monarchy never saw the light. In fact, the military established a complex totalitarian structure that became in some ways even more repressive than the monarchy was. Yet the ability of Nasser as a charismatic mover of the masses and some of the reforms instituted by the regime he built up, in a very poor country, where a very small segment of the population held all the wealth, managed to assure the regime continuity, even after some serious tragic errors, such as the failure to get a unified Arab framework into operation, with the difficulties faced by the formation of the United Arab Republic of Egypt in 1958, with Syria, which culminated in the secession of Syria just three years later. This was then followed by the attempt to spread Nasserite Arab nationalism in the Arabian Peninsula which couldn't get farther than Jabal Nuqum overlooking Sana'a, because the political power of oil was able to trap the movement in the south of the Peninsula. Then came the biggest tragedy of all when some of Nasser's spontaneous and ill studied tactical moves against Israel in the late Spring of 1967, unleashed an Israeli blitzkrieg that shattered all that remained of Egypt's military prowess (It is worth noting that the best third to half of Egyptian military power at the time was bogged down in a relentless guerilla war in the mountains of Yemen in an effort to bolster the Yemeni Republic, which later showed that it could survive on its own better than with the help of over 50,000 Egyptian troops. In addition, with the economic setbacks faced by an over-bloated, poorly managed state economic machinery, Nasser had hoped to divert attention to the Holy Land without any real intentions of a military confrontation with Israel, which in actuality Egypt was ill prepared for. The Israelis saw a golden opportunity and Israel's leverage in the region grow by over 5 times geographically and militarily). With Nasser's death, the ascent of Mohammed Anwar Sadat to the leadership of Egypt saw some signs of Egypt possibly coming out of its dismal position after the 1967 War. Egypt proceeded with Nasser's efforts to regain some face on the battlefield and supported by the former "reactionary" adversaries of the Arabian Peninsula became poised for a counter attack. The October War of 1973 did indeed destroy a lot of the mythical superiority that the international Zionist movement have always disseminated about Israel, but nevertheless could not restore all the losses of the 1967 War. Thus, we are still living the tragic consequences of whimsical decisions of a supposedly revolutionary regime that has turned Egypt into a bureaucratic and stagnant order of intertwining and overlapping power centers, which is still sluggishly trying to come out of its rut. With the tragic death of President Anwar Sadat

after the death of its founder and idol, and now it will continue with- out myself.			Letters to	in the early Eighties - a byproduct of the political repression		
	One other thing is for sure. Every issue that comes out after I leave	Challenge in the Red Sea	self-determination, as does	Iran? No!	So, it's a hell of a lot of fun	against a once tame Islamic Brotherhood and other political
	will remind me of the times that I used to be the Editor-in-Chief who	8	the UN Charter in Article	America has learned a terri-	to shoot them.	persuasions in the country, it was hoped that President
	once led this magnificent enterprise and helped it become what it is	Somaliland withdrew				Husni Mubarak, would guide Egypt out of its pathetic condi-
	today.		8,	ble lesson from Iraq and does	I think that the General's	tions, politically and economically. While some of the
	So I would like to say, 'Good bye' for now to all of you. And please	from the rest of Somalia and	enough, Somaliland's Self-	not want to repeat it.	enjoyment of killing fairly	excesses of the regime under Nasser and Sadat were not as
	remember that The Yemen Times is destined to continue. So it will.	remained a peaceful and sta-	determination is more con-	Neil Rogers	well describes Bush's war	much apparent under Mubarak and more freedom given to
	Editors come and go. But the spirit of the founder remains.	ble democratic State, it is	ductive to regional peace and	amercoline1@aol.com	policies based on his Christian	private economic initiative, Egypt did see some positive
	So does the mission. The Editor	shameful and regretful for the	stability as Somaliland has		oil "crusade" into the Middle	developments, but the machinery of the military industrial
		International Community to	strong capability of solving	Bush should be tried	East. As your readers will	complex was far from toppled. On the other hand, Mubarak managed to hold on to full executive powers for a quarter
		neglect the wishes of the peo-	longstanding regional dis-	et us hope that the	recall, Bush described his	century and it seemed like Egypt was a candidate state for
YENEN C		ple of Somaliland for self-	putes with Ethiopia, Kenya,	Belgium King will follow	wars in the Middle East as "a	its first Presidential Dynasty. Thanks to some stubborn
		determination and also expect	Somalia, and Djbouti due to	up and declare George Bush	crusade" and his delight in	efforts of relentless opposition groups in Egypt, who maxi-
		to join willingly with their	its acceptance of the colonial	the war criminal he is. Mr.	spreading his religion to that	mized whatever marginal freedoms Mubarak allowed for and
		brothers in the south to reform	boundaries.	Bush has murdered over	region by force so that the oil	the changing regional and international environ unleashed
	Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly	a "Greater Somalia".	Ali Mohamed Nour	150,000 Moslems and crip-	can safely be stolen. There	by the launching of a New World Order in the early 1990s,
	First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991	Definitely, political analyst	toosane@lycos.com	pled over 200,000 Moslems	can be no doubt that Bush is	Egypt was indeed ripe for a substantive change in the politi-
	by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf	can't over look that the Union		in the past three years, has	one of the most dangerous	cal process.
	Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:	can be only endorsed by the	About Iraqi elections	gutted Iraq for the benefit of	leaders to come along in the	The latest proposal of President Husni Mubarak for a con-
	Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf	will of the two populations as	ith reference to the edi-	his friends in the oil business,	last 100 years.	stitutional amendment to allow for pluralistic participation in
		in the case of former two	VV tor's comments in a	and has no intention of stop-	Can anyone blame the Iraqi	the election of the President of Egypt, rather than a single
	Head office:	Yemenis and Germanys. It is	recent editorial concerning	ping. On Bush's next trip to	resistance for deploying sui-	candidate referendum is indeed welcome news that could
	Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276	clear that Somalilanders were	the recent elections in Iraq.	Europe, it would be appropri-	cide bombers? What other	indeed give Mr. Mubarak a meritorious place in history. The
	Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a	the founders of the Union into	I agree with everything he	ate upon his arrival to slap	choice does Bush leave them	hope is that the initiative made by President Mubarak to this
		which they had voluntarily	says and I applaud him for his	him in irons and haul him off	when they are faced with an	effect in his state of the union message will go beyond some
		entered as an independent and	clear thinking and intuitive	to court. Mr. Bush's poodle	enemy that enjoys killing?	of the similar proposals instituted in some of the other
	Email: yementimes@yementimes.com	sovereign State on July 1,	reasoning.	dog Blair deserves no less.	Robert Lindh	democratization efforts in the Arab World, which never went
	Website: http://www.yementimes.com	1960, with the former Italian	Personally I believe that the	Only by jailing Bush will this	Lindh@swnebr.net	beyond the superficial. We pray to God that in Egypt, which
	Branches: Taiz Bureau Chief: Hodeidah Bureau Chief:	Somaliland.	people of Iraq should be	mid-east nightmare come to		has a strong intellectual base and a significant size of the
	Aden Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Imad Ahmed Abdullah	Today it is vise-verse, as	awarded the Nobel peace	an end.	An irony about	public that has more political awareness to bank on, maybe
	Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (4) 217-156 Telefax: +967 (3) 206-886 Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596; Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157	they are willingly neither for	prize for their determination	Furthermore, on Feb 3,	Arab elections	Mr. Mubarak has truly decided that it should rightfully be
	Fax: +967 (2) 347-056 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz	federalism nor reunion. They	to vote in the face of terrible	2005, CNN reported that	Tt is indeed quite ironic that	Egypt that will lead and guide this region to greater political
	Email: ytaden@y.net.ye Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye	also like to see a peaceful, sta-	threats.	when it comes to shooting	the only true elections in	enlightenment. Without a doubt, real democracy in Egypt is
	Regional Distributors	ble, Somalia in order to act as	The Americans should be	Moslems in Iraq, Lt. Gen.	the Arab world were in	a blessing, if it materializes with the serious intentions of
	KSA: Qatar (Doha): Dubai:	a two brotherly States living	awarded a prize for their arro-	James Mattis, one of Bush's	Palestine and Iraq, who are	removing all the obstacles that have kept so much potential
	Saudi Distribution Co. Dar Al-Sharq Printing, Dar Al-Hikma Jeddah, Tel: 6530909 Publishing & Tel: 00971506589158	side by side in a peaceful way.	gance and total stupidity.	top storm troopers said in a	both under occupation! You	for Egypt under lock, with the regime relying on an endless
	Tlx: 605350 Distribution P. O. Box 2007 P. O. Box: 13195 Tel: 4654265,	Then why the International	They succeeded in removing	panel discussion in San	will also notice that these two	state of emergency and martial law and a large and complex
	Fax: 4661865	Community neglects the peo-	Saddam Hussein from power	Diego, California -	peoples have freedom of	security apparatus. We hope that the National Assembly of
		ple of Somaliland for Self-	then allowed Iraq to fall into	"Actually it's quite fun to	speech that is not equal in any	Egypt will forget for once that it is there to serve the regime
	- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the	determination? Is it fair to do	chaos and anarchy, the result	fight, you know. It's a hell of		and start looking at the interests of not only the Egyptian
Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence VT 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		that? Does it deserve the	of which has cost the lives of		It is a sad fact, and the usual	
		International Bill of Rights?	thousands of innocent Iraqis,	from U.S. Military members	angry talk and sermons by	Egypt on the right path to modern governance and govern-
		I don't think so. Article one	1	5	nationalists and Islamists	ment for the people, by the people and with the people. The
	contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer	of the International Bill of	tors and military personnel.	up there with you. I like	among us will never hide!	Egyptian people have waited so long for this and the eyes of
	under any circumstances. - To advertise in the paper contact the advertising department in any of the	Rights refers to the right to	Will the Americans invade	brawling.	Saleh A.	
	Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.	ple of Somaliland for Self- determination? Is it fair to do that? Does it deserve the	then allowed Iraq to fall into chaos and anarchy, the result of which has cost the lives of	"Actually it's quite fun to fight, you know. It's a hell of a hoot," prompting laughter	speech that is not equal in any "independent" Arab country! It is a sad fact, and the usual	and start looking at the interests of not only the Egyptian people in coming out with the amendments that will set
reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal			aid workers, civilian contrac-	in the audience. "I'll be right		
						the rest of the Arabs are all focused on what transpires out
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Op-Ed

East and West





BY JAMIL ABDUL KARIM

Palestine a legitimate issue Is there any reason in global conspiracy theories?

s someone who has spent considerable time in the west, I treat most things said in the Arab world about Jews with at least some skepticism. The latest piece of suspect journalism came from a Yemeni journalist ranting, in an unpublished column, about the socalled Jewish conspiracy. He cited the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, purportedly Jewish texts from the late 1800s, describing Jewish plans to enslave the world.

The Protocols were debunked as early as 1921 as anti-Semite fabrications plagiarized in Paris with help from Russia's secret police. Of course, the truth didn't stop fascists like Hitler from using them. And today they're still dredged up. Egyptian TV promoted the Protocols as fact as late as 2003. Unfortunately, such are the fallacies of many Arabs who don't have access to the best information. Nonetheless, living in this region does help one see the age-old, Arab-Jewish conflict through a more-accurate, lens. That's the nature of geographical proximity.

Take Palestine. Among the first Palestinian I personally broke bread with was Ahmed, a gentle spirit, and a pharmacist exiled in Jordan since 1973. When modern Israel was birthed in 1948, his family was forced from their home by the newcomers, in this case Jews from Iraq. It's not hard to see a problem with this.

Beautiful bride

In fact, modern Jews wanting a homeland recognized this dilemma as early as 1898, when two rabbis were sent from Vienna went to Palestine on a fact-finding mission. Their cablemessage back? "The bride is beautiful, but she's married to another man." Still, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians, like Ahmed's parents, eventually left their homes to make



A Palestinian boy raises a Palestinian flag as others run away during clashes with Israeli soldiers near the Karni commercial crossing to the east of Gaza Strip in Oct. 2000 Reuters

room for incoming Jews. How did this happen?

Before the Holocaust, and subsequent world sympathies for Jews, two forces were working against the Palestinians. One was political. The British supported the dream of a Zionist homeland in Palestine because they wanted an ally protecting their empire's trade routes through the Suez Canal, particularly to their jewel, India.

At the same time, one view of Judeo-Christian eschatology, called pre-millennial dispensationalism, was roaring to life via British theologians like John Darby. This interpretation of ancient Biblical prophecies linked the birth of modern Israel to the end times and the imminent second coming of Christ

Which is where things get interesting. On one hand, it's nonsense to believe that this means there's an organized global Christian-Zionist

conspiracy, as so often reported in Arab media. Still, it's clear that dispensationalism has influenced modern politics. Consider experts like Colin Chapman, author of Whose Promised Land?, who say at the turn of the 20th century there were actually more Christian Zionists than Jewish Zionists wanting a Jewish state.

Dispensationalism popular Dispensationalism has since become hugely popular. I personally recall reading Hal Lindsey's blockbuster The Late Great Planet Earth in the 1970s. More recently, dispensationalist authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins have sold 50 million of their end-time Left Behind novels, mostly in the United States.

The problem is that the theory is just that: theory. It's one interpretation of mysterious prophecies, and it may or may not be proven the best. But by taking theory as fact, proponents

(including powerful policy-makers in Washington) see Arab-Jewish issues through certain blinders.

So while I cringe at the wonky theories so many Arabs believe about a Jewish-Christian world conspiracy, it also behooves westerners to understand the historical genesis of such thinking, and why, Palestinians, for one, haven't had a fair shake from neither their fellow Arabs nor the west.

Thankfully, Christians in the west are not homogenous in their views. Chapman, who is a Christian and former lecturer in Islamic studies at Near East School of Theology in Beirut, uses Whose Promised Land? to support another view called covenant theology. Recently visiting Sana'a, he told me, "I felt I had to offer an alternative." His book is recently updated and now available in Arabic. I appreciate his blend of history and theology, using justice as a starting point for understanding.

Balance and reason

Chapman is not unlike Palestinian-Christian scholar Elias Chacour, who has also written about various injustices in Palestine. In his home of Galilee, he's responded by building peace centers inaugurated with the drama The Diary of Anne Frank, showing Anne could easily be a modern Palestinian girl. It's helped bring Jews and Palestinians together. And restore dignity.

We can only hope that such voices are not left like lone calls in the wilderness. Certainly now, with new hope for the peace process, it's time for Christians, Muslims and Jews to all carefully consider what they have to say, with balance and reason.

Jamil Abdul Karim is an editor at The Yemen Times. Email jamil@yementimes.com

By Yahya Al-Olfi alolfi@hotmail.con

Some Yemeni expats abuse the system

a good cause of development. Yes, money might be needed to construct buildings, seaports, highways, airports. telecommunication networks, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure. But in order to have an advanced industry and fruitful services, any contending state needs more than the money. It needs real political stability, attentive, an organized and disciplined workforce, a location that's close to active markets, and most importantly, it needs law and order.

Failure comes due to the mismanagement of human resources, when trained people instead of being utilized, are ignored or employed where they do not belong. Failure happens when public administration depends on family connections, sectarian considerations, tribalism and many other social illnesses.

Therefore, in order to take the right course, people should be judged according to their qualifications, not their connections. I still remember vividly when I submitted my application during the early 1990s for position of a translator at Yemen Hunt Oil Company in Hadda. I was told by the examiners that I had won and that it remains for me to merely meet the administrative manager, which I did.

The Yemeni administrative manager who despite being a graduate from the USA, asked me stupidly if I was the one sent with a recommendation from Dr. so-and-so. If only I said yes, I would have been employed but I told him the truth, that I was the winner of the exam held for the position, and that I had not been sent via his friend the doctor.

Symptoms

One of many corruption symptoms

t is said that money alone is not in Yemen is the rise in Yemeni expatriates abroad. This is due to the difficult economic situation Yemen is undergoing. The unfortunate Yemeni expatriates endeavor to gain as much money as they can, so that they can invest it back in their home country.

On the other hand, other detrimental expatriates are represented by many of our irresponsible men who happen to working in the different be governmental institutions and are imagining themselves being expatriates within their own country. They are trying their best to rob as much as they can for eventual transfer of the amounts to their private bank accounts abroad, which sometimes can be under the names of their different mothered kids, people who often have arranged the acquisition of citizenships in Switzerland, U.K, USA, France and other foreign countries.

Most of these men and Sheiks invest some of their wealth in projects or purchase shares in companies etc. Such people tend to also have foreign citizenships for themselves, either by making their wives give birth to their kids in the USA, or through obtaining Canadian citizenships. Deep within they truly know that they are wrong and are being criminals, so this is why they have prearranged the escape route in advance, in the prospect of any mishaps that may come.

Indeed, one of such men is now a millionaire and is still occupying a very profitable position. He has a house abroad, multiple bank accounts and is still fishing on the collapsing ship until its prospective sinking.

While we're on the subject, this man used to live in a single room with his whole family because of their difficult living circumstances, prior to his becoming rich, due to his daily pilferage of the poor and unprotected public money.

<u>A message from the Secretary General</u> espite attacks matters

BY KOFI A. ANNAN

n the past year I have read many attacks on the United Nations. That pains me, because I have served the UN all my life. I have done, and am still doing, everything I can to correct its imperfections, and to improve and strengthen it. And I believe profoundly in the importance of that task, because a strong UN is of vital importance to humanity.

When the appalling disaster of the tsunami struck in the Indian Ocean, killing at least 150,000 people and destroying the livelihood of millions, President Bush acted quickly to form a core group of nations with available military forces in the region. That was the right thing to do. It got the relief efforts off to a flying start, which was essential.

But a week later, when all involved came together in Jakarta to plan and coordinate the multinational effort, everyone, including the US, agreed that the UN should take the lead.

Why? For two reasons.

First, the UN had the necessary skills. Its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which I formed in 1997 soon after I took office, is designed exactly for the role that was required -alight structure, not getting in anyone's way or doing their job for them, but able quickly to locate needed supplies and contact whatever organization can deliver them.

But second, and even more important, everyone was willing to work with the UN: the governments and people of the affected countries, the donors, and the non-profit organizations whose role is so essential in all emergencies, great and small. All of them recognize that the UN is the right body to lead, because it is in no one's pocket. It belongs to the world. Another example of the UN's importance - a more difficult one, because of its sharply divisive political context -- is Iraq. Indisputably, the war in Iraq two years ago caused many people on all sides to lose faith in the UN. Those who favoured military action against Saddam Hussein were disappointed that the Security Council did not – as they saw it - have the courage to enforce its own resolutions. And those who opposed it were frustrated at the UN's inability to prevent a war they thought unnecessary or premature.

And yet, when the US and its allies wanted an Iraqi body with broad national and international support to help them run the country, they turned to the UN and my special representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello, for help and advice. He persuaded Paul Bremer that it should be a Governing Council, not a mere advisory body, and he persuaded key Iraqi leaders such as Ayatollah Sistani to let their followers join it. Sergio and 21 of his colleagues paid with their lives for their courage and determination to help the Iraqi people - as, alas, do too many brave servants of the UN whom the world hears little about.

Last year, when the Coalition wanted to transfer power to an interim Iraqi government, they turned again to the UN for help. They knew that only if the UN

were involved in choosing it would the new government be accepted as legitimate and sovereign.

Both Iragis and Americans turned to the UN for help in organizing last month's elections. The UN helped to draft the electoral law and the law on political parties, to choose and train the members of the independent electoral commission and hundreds of election organizers (who in turn trained thousands of others), and to draw up the voters' lists. It was also there to give advice on the actual conduct of the elections, the vote count, and the announcement of the results. Again, we had the necessary expertise - we have organized or helped organize elections in 92 countries, including most recently Afghanistan and Palestine. But even more important was the legitimacy that our involvement brought. The results of an election organized by the coalition powers, or by Iraqis that they had chosen, would have been far less widely accepted in the outside world, and probably in Iraq as well.

Now Iraqis have their own elected Transitional National Assembly, and will soon have an elected government answerable to it. The assembly has to draft a constitution acceptable to all Iraqis, and the government has to isolate its most violent opponents by winning the trust of groups who did not vote in the elections - mainly Sunni Arabs - and bringing them into the political process. Here too, the UN can help - and it

will. We can give expert advice, if asked, on the drafting of the constitution. We can reach out to those groups – mainly Sunni Arabs – who stayed away from the elections, for whatever reason, but are willing to pursue their goals through peaceful negotiation and dialogue. And we can bring together the world community in a joint effort to help Iraq rebuild itself and heal the wounds of dictatorship and war.

Even the scars left by past differences can be turned into today's opportunities. Precisely because the United Nations did not agree on some earlier actions in Iraq, today it has much needed credibility with, and access to, Iraqi groups who must agree to join in the new political process if peace is to prevail. The UN can be useful because it is seen as independent and impartial. If it ever came to be seen as a mere instrument or prolongation of US foreign policy, it would be worthless to everyone.

I could go on. I could speak also about the 18 peace operations we have in wartorn countries around the world, and the tens of millions of homeless and hungry people, over and above those affected by the tsunami, to whom we are bringing relief. Indeed, when ill-informed critics try to cut the UN off at the knees, the people they hurt most are not diplomats or bureaucrats, but innocent people caught in war or poverty, in desperate need of the world's help.

Some decry what they see as a lack of principle in UN decision-making, pointing to the compromises that inevitably emerge from a body of 191 member states. Anyone who attacks the UN for failing to serve the global interest should, as part of that exercise, critically examine the decisions of each nation within the body. They will find that there is plenty of criticism to go round. But they should also remember that the UN, like the US and other great democracies, is a work in progress - always struggling to lessen the gap between reality and the ideals which gave it birth. That such a gap exists is all the more reason why those who value freedom and peace should work to build the UN up, not tear it down.

Of course the UN is far from perfect even if some of the recent allegations made about it have been overblown. The interim report of Mr. Paul Volcker's independent inquiry has helped put the oil-for-food programme in perspective. Some of the more hyperbolic assertions about it have been proven untrue.

Yet I am the first to admit that real and troubling failures - ethical lapses and lax management - have been brought to light. I am determined, with the help of member states, to carry through the management reforms which are clearly called for by Mr. Volcker's findings.

Even more shocking are widespread cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of minors by peacekeepers and UN officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other African countries. Both the UN Secretariat and the member states have been too slow to realize the extent of this problem, take effective measures to end it, and punish the culprits. But we are now doing so, and I am determined to see it through.

In my eight years as Secretary-General, I had already done a lot - with the support of member states - to make the UN more coherent and efficient. Now we need to make it more transparent and accountable - not only to diplomats representing member governments, but also directly to the public.

The UN cannot expect to survive into the 21st century unless ordinary people throughout the world feel that it does something for them - helping to protect them against conflict (both civil and international), but also against poverty, hunger, disease and the erosion of their natural environment. And in recent years, bitter experience has taught us that a world in which whole countries are left prey to misgovernment and destitution is not safe for anyone. We must turn the tide against disease and hunger, as well as against terrorism, proliferating deadly weapons, and crime -- starting, urgently, with decisions from the Security Council to end the abominable crimes in Darfur and bring war criminals to international justice

This September, we have a real opportunity to make the UN more useful to all its members. Leaders from all over the world are coming to a UN summit in New York. I shall put before them an agenda of bold but achievable proposals for making the UN work better, and the world fairer and safer.

I believe Americans want to do that as much as any people on earth. More than any other people, they have the power to do it - if they listen to and work with others, and take the lead in a concerted effort. In the hope that they will give us that lead, I look forward to September with great excitement.

The author is Secretary-General of the United Nations.



Business & Economy



Business **Evidence-based economics** creation,

BY EDMUND S. PHELPS

here is a movement in medicine to require that applications for licenses to sell a new drug be "evidence-based." By contrast, trained economists view their discipline as having already achieved this scientific standard. After all, they express their ideas with mathematics and arrive at quantitative estimates of implied relationships from empirical data.

But economics is not evidencebased in selecting its theoretical paradigms. Economic policy initiatives are often taken without all the empirical pre-testing that could have been done.

A notorious example is postwar macroeconomic policymaking under the radical Keynesians. The radicals relied on Keynes's untested theory that unemployment depended on "effective demand" in relation to the "money wage," but their policy ignored the part about wages and sought to stabilize demand at a high enough level to ensure "full" employment.

Cecil Pigou and Franco Modigliani objected that if demand were successfully increased, the money wage level would rise, catch up to demand, and thus push employment back down to its previous level. Employment cannot be sustained above its equilibrium path by inflating effective demand.

Nevertheless, the radicals prevailed through what the economist Harry Johnson called "scorn and derision." Postwar macroeconomic policies were dedicated to "full" employment, without any evidence that money

wages would not get in the way.

In the late 1950's, neo-Keynesians finally conceded the point raised by Pigou and Modigliani. Will Phillips's work on wages gave them no choice. But they still insisted that steady increases of demand at a fast enough rate would keep demand one step ahead of the money wage level, so that employment could be kept as high as desired, albeit at the cost of steady inflation.

In different ways, Milton Friedman and I objected, arguing that such a policy would require an ever-rising inflation rate. Money wages will lag behind demand, I argued, only as long as the representative firm is deterred from raising wages by the misperception that wages at other firms are already lower than its own – a disequilibrium that cannot last.

Like the radicals, the neo-Keynesians did not engage their challengers with empirical testing. The efficacy of high demand was a matter of faith. Yet events in the 1970's put that faith to a cruel test. When supply shocks hit the US economy, the neo-Keynesians' response was to pour on more demand, believing it would revive employment. There was little recovery - only faster inflation.

The current era offers a parallel. Although policy has since shifted to reflect supply-side economics and real business-cycle theory, the new reigning paradigm's builders and promoters display the same antipathy to checking data for serious error.

An earlier classroom lesson was well-founded: temporarily belownormal tax rates on labor this year, when merged with the prospect of reversion to normal rates next year, will encourage households to

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

squeeze more work into this year and to work less in future years. This proposition was recently tested anew on Icelandic data and performed well.

But the supply-siders jumped to the daring conclusion that a permanent cut in tax rates on labor would encourage more work permanently – with no diminution of effectiveness. Larry Summers and I both doubted that this could be generally true. If every increase in the after-tax wage rate gave a permanent boost to the amount of labor supplied, we reasoned, steeply rising after-tax wages since the midnineteenth century would have brought an extraordinary increase in the length of the workweek and in retirement ages. But both have fallen, and in continental Europe unemployment is higher.

In my view, this core tenet of supply-side economics rests on a simple blunder. What matters for the amount of labor supplied is the aftertax wage rate relative to income from wealth. While after-tax wage rates soared for more than a century, wealth and the income it brought grew just as fast.

To be sure, if tax rates were decreased permanently this year, there would initially be a strongly positive effect on labor supplied. But there would also be a positive effect on saving and thus on wealth next year and beyond. In the long run, wealth could tend to increase in the same proportion as after-tax wages. The effect on work would vanish.

We must proceed cautiously, however. In standard analyses, the tax cut brings a reduction in government purchases of goods and services, like defense. But a tax cut

could instead contract the welfare state – social assistance and social insurance, which constitute social wealth. In that case, the tax cut, while gradually increasing private wealth, would decrease social wealth. The issue is an empirical one.

Research I did with Gylfi Zoega a decade ago confirmed that cuts in taxes on labor boost employment in the short run. But what about the long run? Do large long-run effects of tax rates show up in international differences in employment?

In 1998 we examined OECD data for a correlation between national unemployment rates in the mid-1990's and current tax rates on labor. We found none. In 2004, we looked at labor-force participation rates and again at unemployment. Still no correlation. High-unemployment countries include high-tax Germany, France, and Italy, but also low-tax Japan and Spain. Lowunemployment nations include lowtax Britain and the US, but also very high-tax Denmark and Sweden.

Neoliberals are now telling continental Europe that tax cuts on labor can dissolve high unemployment. But the effectiveness of such tax cuts would be largely, if not wholly, transitory - especially if the welfare state was spared. In two decades' time, high unemployment would creep back. The false hopes raised by cutting taxes would have diverted policy makers away from fundamental reforms that are necessary if the Continent is to achieve the dynamism on which high rates of innovation, abundant job

and productivity depend.

Edmund S. Phelps is Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Center on Capitalism and Society at Columbia University.

world-class

Currency | Buying | Selling US Dollar 187.2800 187.5800 Sterling Pound 357.5800 358,1600 247.9700 Euro 247.5700 Saudi Rial 49.9400 50.0200 Kuwaiti Dinar 641.2200 642.2400 UAE Dirhem 50.9900 51.0700 Egyptian Pound 32.2100 32.2600 Bahraini Dinar 496.7600 497.5600 Qatari Rial 51.4600 51.5400 Jordanian Dina 264.1300 264.5500 Omani Rial 486.4500 487.2300 161.1900 Swiss Franc 160.9300 Swedish Crown 27.2100 27.2600 1.7882 1.7911 Japanese Yen

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Postal activities up in 2004

By Ismail Al-Ghabri YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he General Corporation for Post and Postal Savings (GCPPS) in Sana'a approved of the final statement of the Postal Saving Fund, which paves the way of distributing interest from 2004 to clients, who number up to 178,755 with a total credit of YR 5.3 billion. In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mohammad Murghem, General Manager of the GCPPS, pointed out that postal services and income increased in the last year. He said the rate of deposit grew

by 23 per cent in 2004, while the amount of exchange of deposited money rose by 42 per cent, reaching YR1.3 billion, compared to YR 1.1 billion in 2003.

A report drafted by the GCPPS indicated that the credits of clients who deposit for interest came at 81 per cent of the total credits of clients, while 19 per cent is the rate of the credits of those depositing for interest-free.

The report also pointed out that 2004 was characterized by relative stability in the postal activities in many postal areas, particularly as the capital's post office had the highest rate in the exchange of deposited money.

Panasonic ideas for life



Cities and ports project begins

ork is underway on the first phase of the project for

developing Yemeni sea cities

East and North Africa.

"This phase of the project covers the cities of Hodeidah, Mukalla, and the province of Sana'a," said he in a statement to the September 26 Newspaper.

The World Bank will contribute and ports at a cost of \$US23 million, some \$US96 million while the said Steven Karam, a senior urban Yemeni government will provides ten development economist at the World per cent of the total cost of the Bank's Group for Financing, Private project, which consists of four phases



Sector and Infrastructure, Middle to be conducted over 12 years.

50,000 women to take sewing courses

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he National Program for Improving Productive Families is planning to train some 50,000 women from different areas of the country in sewing and embroidery as

well as household affairs. Mohammed Saleh al-Namir, General Manager of the Program said the 2005 training plan will commence as soon as the provision of training equipment is completed in all the 62 centers under the program.

He added that the program will open conditions of their families.

during the current year some six new centers at the cost of YR50 million in the provinces of Raimah, Baydha, and Sa'adah as well as the Capital Secretariat in order to ensure space for more women who are in need for training in order to improve the living



A presentation of sewing products in Yemen.

أنظمة العرض الرقمية

جهاز عرض صغير بشاشة من

الكريستال السائل قابل للحمل، يمنح راحا

تامة وسمهولة عند تقديم العروض النقالة. سلسلة أجهزة عرض PT-LB من باناسونيك. الأداء هو أساس النجاح، وهو يعتمد على الجمع بين الأسلوب بين الأسلوب والمادة. فالدقة المتناهية هي ما توفره أنظمة العرض السهلة الإستخدام، وتؤكد فعاليتها بدقة وتعكس شخصية باناسونيك. وعندما تراجع مزايا جهاز العرض المتعددة لا شك أنك ستوافقنا الرأي على أنه حليفك في النجاح.

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oأداء عال، هيكل مدمج ٥ إعدادات بسيطة، واجهة سهلة الإستخدام ٥ حفيف الوزن ٥ بداية التشغيل لا تزيد عن خمس ثوان ٥ إعداد ذأتي يعمل بلمسة واحدة مع نظام تصحيح رقمي ٥ وظائف متطورة ٥ جهاز عرض AL ٥ نافذة تعليمات ٥ مزايا آمنة مضادة للسرقة، إغلاق ذاتي.

شبركة ألقا المعدودة سان کاری از بین این سار از زندان می بین ۲۰۱۶ دانشونه ۲۰۱٬۵۳۰ د اینی را ۲۰۱۳ داری بین سال اینون ۲۰۰۰ دار ۲۰۱۰ دانشونه ۲۰۰ دانشی ۲۰۱٬۵۳۰ دار در معهدین دانشگاه کاریش را تینهایی ۲۰۱۳ دار ۱۰۰ دانشی ۲۰۰٬۱۰۰ دارد.

والمستجرب والمركب الترقيقي والمتراكب والمتركب والمتركب

Culture

Momentum in movement to fight female genital mutilation

BY EMAD AL-SAQQAF CHEIF OF YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU YTEMAD@YAHOO.COM

growing push against female genital mutilation (FGM, or female circumcision) has been building in various parts of the world, including the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

The only country where the genital mutilation is noticeably decreasing is the Central African Republic, where the practice was not widespread.

A conference on female genital mutilation was held in Djibouti recently, supported by the UNDP, UNICEF and several other organizations. The conference was attended by Mrs. Khadhra'a Mahmoud Heed, wife of Djibouti's president, and head of the Djibouti Women's National Union. At the beginning of the conference, Djibouti's first lady delivered a speech reviewing national plans and programs in this respect and urging to uproot this tradition.

"Djibouti's hosting of the conference is an inspiration for all Djibouti women who display their commitment towards the social effort to eradicate this habit and raise Djibouti women to the status they deserve," she said, adding that genital mutilation threatens the lives of Diibouti girls.

She reminded the audience of the teachings of our great religion, which



Delegates of a recent conference on female genital mutilation. grants women their rights fully, opening for them the doors to knowledge. She also pointed out that Muslim women have been allowed to participate in different aspects of public and social life, to raise their status. The first lady spoke out against social conditions that prevent the furthering of women's rights.

Djibouti's Minister of Health, Mohammed Ali Kamel requested participants at the conference to suggest recommendations and solutions to the problem.

The UNDP Coordinator mentioned that many governmental and international bodies have been fighting this practice and its effects on females since the 1950s. "The Women Committee in the Economic Council has focused on this aspect by means of many conferences, and symposia. Moreover, the UN Women's Committee signed many

agreements with a number of countries to take necessary procedures to remove this violation of women's health."

Many African countries ratified the Maputo Protocol banning FGM, and Libya, Rwanda, Guinea, Sanghal, and Nigeria recently became signatories. At the conclusion of the conference, Djibouti Prime Minister signed Maputo Protocol.

Djibouti's Minister of Endowments announced a summary of scholars' statements on genital mutilation, which state that female genital mutilation is not permitted by the Islamic Shari'a. He added that the mutilation deprives women from enjoying sex within marriage. The book pointed out that women have the same right to be sexually satisfied as men do, and that mutilation defaces the creation of God.

Sana'a Trading **Center's** annual big sales At Tsunami's magnitude

Feeling a little blue? Get married, be healthy: researchers

BY ABU AYMAN FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ome physicians confirm that a great percentages of diseases such as madness, ulcer and headaches are the result loneliness.

Their studies show that marriage can protect the individual from things like chronic headaches and stomach ulcers. Statistics recently released in Britain confirmed that only 15 per cent of the alveolar cancer victims is experienced among the married people while 85 per cent among the unmarried ones.

Health benefits associated with marriage:

Protection from diseases

Dr. Ahmad Hishaish, an internal diseases consultant, notes, "I am one of those who support the theory that marriage protects the spouse from disease.'

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced that loneliness has the primarily harmful effect on public health and this equals the effects associated with smoking, because loneliness causes madness and mental disorder that may led to suicide.

The bilateral relations

Dr. Ahmad Zayed, professor of sociology at Cairo University, ascertains that harmonious marriage helps protect the pair from mental disorder since the protection from such problems arises from the bilateral relation.

Regardless of the gratification of one's lust, the bilateral relationship that is based on love and mutual respect leads both the spouses to feel more secure. If one of the pair was infected with some psychological pressure, he/ she would receive the other's help to get rid of the suffering.

the other partner prevents the infection of hallucination and escapism from reality and makes the individual happier and kinder in treating those around him.

Staying unmarried for a long time makes one a victim of hallucination and feelings of loneliness and the result will be an entire surrender to escapism from reality.

Dr. Ali Shawsha, a specialist in psychical diseases emphasizes the significance of marriage as a medicine for psychological diseases. He says that the human spirit suffers for self-shortcomings as it circulates around itself and an external force becomes a must to take it from its circle. The external force can be reflected in making oneself engaged with his wife and children.

Concerning the Islamic point of view, Dr. Ahmad Omar Salem, Rector of Al-Azhar University, says that religion already solved such issues hundreds years ago through numerous Quranic

The event is with the

He pointed out that the scientific facts on the health benefits associated with marriage deny some of the rumors that there are many harms associated with marriage.

Dr. Hishaish conducted a study on a sample of hepatitis sufferers (500 patients) and the results released that 50 cases of them are married, i.e., that only 10 percent of the married people suffer from hepatitis.

The actual reason behind that is that negative viruses causing the disease invade the body via having dirty meals, which are not taken by the married people who care a lot to have their meals at home.

Marriage also protects the spouses from stomach ulcers and high blood pressure, and it has been recently released that only 35 per cent of sufferers from stomach ulcer and hypertension are married, and the single people constitute the remaining percentage that is 65 per cent.

Insanity

Dr. Fikri Abdulaziz, professor of psychiatric diseases at Cairo University, claims that the unmarried have negative effects, the most important of which is feeling alone and gratifying ones lust illicitly. Dr. Fikri emphasizes that marriage protects individuals from turning insane upon the condition that the spouses lead a happy life.

Dr. Adel al-Madani, professor of psychical diseases at Al-Azhar University and expert in the marital affairs comments: "The psychological pressure from which many people suffer due to the lack of a marriage partner is increasingly prevailing the environment of people who are not married.

Celibacy has its own risks

There are many married people who have some psychological problems since they were born but he/she can be helped by the other marriage partner to overcome the problems facing him.

In the same context, Dr. Mahasen Ali, consultant of neuromental diseases at Cairo University clarifies that marriage is an effective medicine for many diseases like chronic headache, as the relationship between both the spouses helps lessen the severe nerves in the body and the secretion of hormones as well.

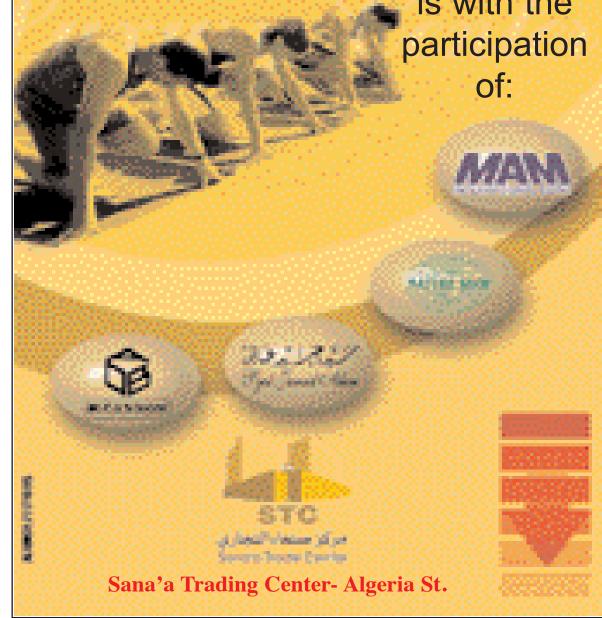
He adds that marriage protects the human from some mental disorders and establishing a proper relationship with

verses and Hadiths that strongly recommend people to get married as soon as possible.

The Quranic verses and Hadiths discuss the importance of marriage for the individual and the society as well and Islam dealt with all marriage matters starting by the selection of the husband and the wife, the relationship between both, the way of raising children and the divorce-related matters.

Islam gave more priority to marriagerelated issues as it recommends the reconciliation between the spouses unless the dispute occurring between them necessitates the end of marital life between the pair.

اجمل التهاني واطيب التبريكات ايمن عبلي المسبني بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوده البكر والذي اسماه الحمسل جعله الله قرة عين والديه وأنبته نباتأ حسنأ وبارك فيه لمهنئون: طاقم يمن تايمز وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء



Health

Conflicting reports about dengue fever in Yemen

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he Ministry of Public Health and Population and the World Health Organization have denied reports by different media outlets that 30 people have died in Hodeida as a result of dengue fever.

Deputy Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Majed al-Junaid says that priority should be given to health care particularly after seven people were reported dead since the emergence of the epidemic.

Al-Junaid pointed out that 90 cases were reported in Zabeed District between December15, 2004 and January 15, 2005, adding that medical tests conducted at the Sana'a Central Laboratory for many samples and reconfirmed at laboratories in Cairo revealed the proliferation of a thirdkind dengue fever in the district of Zabeed

The Ministry of Public Health issued a circulation to all Yemeni governorates to be alert.

Ministry of Health are closely monitoring the possible spread of the so called dengue fever, which was discovered in Dec. 2004 in a number of coastal areas including Tahama and Shabwa, Dr. Majed Al-Junaid Deputy Minister of Health said to the Yemen Times a few days ago.

Dr. al-Junaid added that such fever is a virus disease causing partial fever and then a fatal bleeding, and its symptoms are similar to that of malaria. This disease is new to Yemen.

During the previous period, the Ministry of Health registered the dengue infected cases and dealt with them immediately. The ministry was informed of the existence of the disease in last December as well as some death cases were reported particularly in Zabid.

In return, the Ministry of Health took a quick action and formed teams to observe the epidemic -infected cases in cooperation with the Hodeida Health Office and the local security. A thorough surveillance was carried out by the Ministry of Health all over the

The concerned authorities at the Hodeida Governorate and found out certain places where the infection exists, and we are still following up the surveillance in other governorates, the minister said.

> It is known that the main carrier of the disease is the mosquito which also carries the infection of malaria. The spray processes have been implemented so far in order to fight the spread of the mosquito and the infected cases have been transferred to hospitals, according to sources at the Ministry of Health.

"We requested technical support from World Health Organization's Representative and he is now on the way to Hodeida," Dr. al-Junaid noted. "The situation seemed to be stable enough as we controlled the places where the infection is terribly proliferating. The death cases have not exceeded five since the epidemic was first discovered in December, 2004."

Asked whether the disease has been existing in Yemen for a long time without any action taken by the concerned authorities, Dr. al-Junaid replied: "the epidemic was existing in Yemen and procedures were taken several years ago, and Hodeida along with Shabwa were found to be the severely infected areas. Not even a single case was reported to the concerned authorities".

We are closely making a survey of the suffering cases to spot the places where the infection spreads in order to take preventive measures and explore the actual reasons behind the epidemic, Dr. al-Junaid added.

Dengue [DEN-ghee] is a flu-like viral disease spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Dengue hemorrhagic fever is a severe, often fatal, complication of dengue. Dengue occurs in most tropical areas of the world. Most U.S. cases occur in travelers returning from abroad, but the dengue risk is increasing for persons living along the Texas-Mexico border and in other parts of the southern United States. There is no specific treatment for dengue. Prevention centers on avoiding mosquito bites in areas where dengue occurs or might occur and eliminating breeding sites. Dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever are caused by any of the dengue family of viruses. Infection with one virus does not protect a person against infection with another.Dengue is spread by the bite of an Aedes mosquito. The mosquito transmits the disease by biting an infected person and then biting someone else.Dengue viruses occur in most tropical areas of the world. Dengue is common in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Australia, and the Americas. It is widespread in the Caribbean basin. Dengue is most common in cities but can be found in rural areas. It is rarely found in mountainous areas above 4,000 feet.The mosquitoes that transmit dengue live among humans and breed in discarded tires, flower pots, old oil drums, and water storage containers close to human dwellings. Unlike the mosquitoes that cause malaria, dengue mosquitoes bite during the day.

Dengue fever usually starts suddenly with a high fever, rash, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, and muscle and joint pain. The severity of the joint pain has given dengue the name "breakbone fever." Nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite



The main carrier of dengue fever infection are mosquitoes.

are common. A rash usually appears 3 to 4 days after the start of the fever. The illness can last up to 10 days, but complete recovery can take as long as a month. Older children and adults are usually sicker than young children.

Most dengue infections result in relatively mild illness, but some can progress to dengue hemorrhagic fever. With dengue hemorrhagic fever, the blood vessels start to leak and cause bleeding from the nose, mouth, and gums. Bruising can be a sign of bleeding inside the body. Without prompt treatment, the blood vessels can collapse, causing shock (dengue shock syndrome). Dengue hemorrhagic fever is fatal in about 5 percent of cases, mostly among children and young adults.

The time between the bite of a mosquito carrying dengue virus and the start of symptoms averages 4 to 6 days, with a range of 3 to 14 days. An infected person cannot spread the infection to other persons but can be a source of dengue virus for mosquitoes for about 6 days.

Anyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito can get dengue fever. Risk factors for dengue hemorrhagic fever include a person's age and immune status, as well as the type of infecting

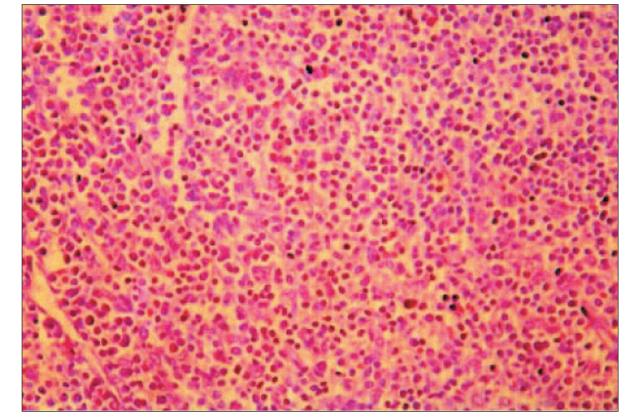
virus. Persons who were previously infected with one or more types of dengue virus are thought to be at greater risk for developing dengue hemorrhagic fever if infected again.

There is no specific treatment for dengue. Persons with dengue fever should rest and drink plenty of fluids. They should be kept away from mosquitoes for the protection of others. Dengue hemorrhagic fever is treated by replacing lost fluids. Some patients need transfusions to control bleeding.

In tropical countries around the world, dengue is one of the most common viral diseases spread to humans by mosquitoes.

Tens of millions of cases of dengue fever and up to hundreds of thousands of cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever occur each year.All types of dengue virus are re-emerging worldwide and causing larger and more frequent epidemics, especially in cities in the tropics.

The emergence of dengue as a major public health problem has been most dramatic in the western hemisphere. Dengue fever has reached epidemic levels in Central America and is threatening the United States.



Dengue fever cells

Accord expires in 2012 So what happens after Kyoto?

By IAN JOHNSON

he Kyoto Protocol treaty has now entered into force for the 126 nations who have joined it so far. Now is the time to start thinking about how to engage all nations, including large emitters, in conversations about what to do after the treaty's expiration in 2012. This is exactly what the European Commission did recently by providing its first strategy for a post-Kyoto era, which will be discussed by the European Council next March.

While the Kyoto Protocol represents only a modest reduction carbon emissions in of industrialized countries - 5.2% between 2008-2012 relative to 1990 levels, with varying targets for individual countries - real progress can be made in sustaining development efforts and preserving our planet.

integrate climate concerns into policy planning, and improve their governance in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and transport. In other words, we must act in accordance with the recognition that climate change and its effects on people in both rich and poor countries remains a threat to global security.

At the end of the day, the longterm approach is likely to include a rules-based system, an incentives system, and investments in technology change. Increasingly, adaptation at the national level will be recognized as a major issue that will require appropriate funding. Dealing with the impacts of climate change and with emission reductions should not be mutually exclusive, but complementary.

Looking ahead to the post-Kyoto world offers us the chance to start a new dialogue and to look at new options on climate change. Nations

But first, all countries must could set the more ambitious goal of limiting the long-term change in the earth's temperature, and then assign emissions rights among countries in such a way that will eventually limit temperature increases to an acceptable level. This would require increasing investments in energy research and development for new and improved technologies - a process that needs to be supported stronger public-private by partnerships.

> Up to now, with only 15% of the world's population, rich countries have been responsible for more than 75% of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, and thus most of the environmental damage. However, it is the developing countries - and thus the world's poor – who are most vulnerable. It is unrealistic to ask poor countries, where more than 1.6 billion people do not have access to clean energy and technologies, to bear the costs associated with the much

needed technological change.

Strategies

Working with partners, the World Bank is supporting financial strategies to assist developing countries in meeting the costs caused by climate change. To date, over \$1 billion dollars in Global Environment Facility (GEF) grants. together with about \$8 billion in cofinancing, have been committed to programs related to climate change.

While the regulatory mechanisms of both Kyoto and the European Trading Scheme have contributed to the establishment of an emerging market for carbon trading, interested parties are now concerned about the immediate future. Without a regulatory framework beyond 2012, the window of opportunity for initiating project-based transactions will close by 2006/2007.

Given the long lead time between project preparation and the first

benefits of emissions reductions, project developers have only a few years to act before carbon payments cease to make a meaningful contribution to project finance in the current context. Developing infrastructure projects is a long process that requires 3-7 years from identification, through licensing, financing, and construction, and finally to the first certification of carbon emission reductions.

Projects

Therefore, projects need to be operational at the latest by 2007. The World Bank has been instrumental in advancing carbon finance as a viable development tool, and in facilitating privatesector participation in the market. The Bank is focused on representing the interests of its borrowing countries, helping them to develop assets for carbon trading according to their own priorities. But, without a commitment by

governments to limit greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2012, the carbon market will remain uncertain, and the private sector vital to the market's success - is unlikely to expand its participation in a meaningful and sustained way. According to a recent World Banksupported survey of companies interested in carbon finance, only one in five respondents declared that they were interested in buying post-2012 emissions reductions.

Now is the chance to look forward and enlist the global community - with no exclusions, although with differentiated responsibilities - in the pursuit of a more secure world, one that avoids the dire risks of environmental degradation and social conflict implied by inaction.

Ian Johnson is Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank.

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A wrap: Pacers get fifth straight wi

ORONTO (Reuters) Stephen Jackson scored 28 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to their season-high fifth straight victory, a 106-82 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Indianapolis Friday. Jermaine O'Neal had 20 points, eight rebounds and five assists for the Pacers while Jackson reeled off 11 successive points in the

fourth quarter

Indiana shot 52 percent to win for the eighth time in 10 games. The Pacers grabbed a 17-point lead at the half and never allowed the Cavs to get within 13 in the second.

Anthony Johnson and Austin Croshere each added 10 points for the Pacers.

LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 21 points while Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 20 points, 15

rebounds and four blocks. Cleveland has lost 10 of its last 11 meetings with the Pacers. In East Rutherford, Vince Carter notched 28 points as the New Jersey Nets beat the Charlotte Bobcats 93-86. Rookie Nenad

Krstic had a careerhigh 25 points for New Jersey while Jason Kidd added 11 points, nine assists and eight rebounds. Gerald Wallace had 23 points for the Bobcats.

In Memphis, Earl Boykins picked up 19 points to help the Denver Nuggets rally



to defeat the Grizzlies 97-94 in overtime. Marcus Camby added 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Nuggets, who held the Grizzlies to three points in overtime. Brian Cardinal registered 28 points for Memphis.

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich contributed 26 points as the Bulls beat the Washington Wizards 97-90.

Ben Gordon added 20 points for the Bulls, winners of five of their last six games.

Gilbert Arenas amassed 36 points and

Antawn Jamison had 19 points and 10 rebounds but the Wizards still lost their fifth straight road game.

In Milwaukee, Chris Bosh posted 27 points and eight rebounds to push the Toronto Raptors past the Bucks 106-102. Jalen Rose added 16 points, including

two free throws with 11 seconds left, as the Raptors won their second consecutive road game. Maurice Williams scored 21 points for

the Bucks while Joe Smith had 20 points and 14 rebounds.

In Salt Lake City, Antoine Walker recorded 24 points and 10 rebounds on his return to his former team as the Boston Celtics edged the Utah Jazz 109-102.

Ricky Davis scored 17 points and Delonte West 16 for the Celtics. Andrei Kirilenko led Utah with 29 points.

In Portland, Zach Randolph had 31 points and 12 rebounds to steer the Trail Blazers to a 102-101 win over the Atlanta Hawks.

Al Harrington claimed 25 points for

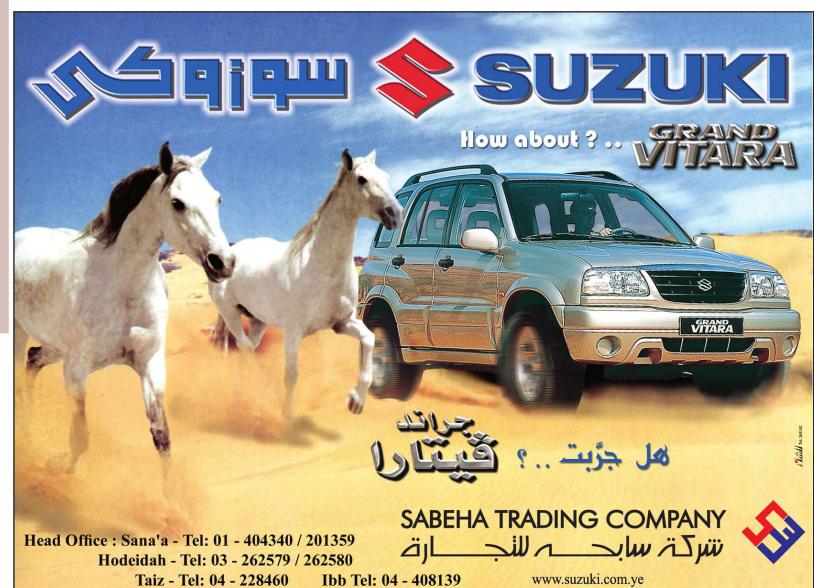
the Hawks, who lost on the road for the 18th straight game.

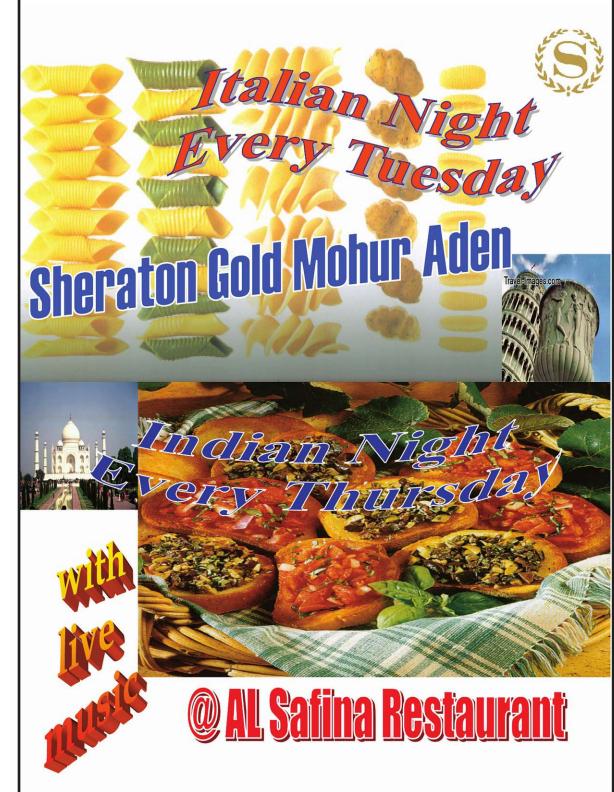
In Los Angeles, Tayshaun Prince grabbed 26 points to guide the Detroit Pistons to a 111-90 mauling of the Lakers.

Kobe Bryant led Los Angeles with 20 points and 11 assists.

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 32 points as the SuperSonics beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 98-88.

Kevin Garnett was Minnesota's spearhead with 31 points and 14 rebounds.









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Education Presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu





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

ne of the striking features of the language of job advertisements is its sharpness, focus and lack of ambiguity. In addition, the suppleness and grace of the language of ads lure the potential candidate to feel strongly motivated to offer his candidature.Let's look at some of the following ads:

- Opportunities to get your adrenaline going. Do a reality - check on your current position. Does it offer you the adreline rush that comes with the thrill of achievement? Take a look at your functions. Do they help you fulfill your potential? , an IT major that's surging up the growth chart and uses cutting-edge technology to provide comprehensive, end-to-end software solutions across the globe. If you have the experience and expertise in building the market and leading a Delivery organization, e-mail to -. We are committed to quality, innovation, initiatives and alliances with global majors.
- Where do you want to be? Inside the frame or in the audience?
- 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.' Keep walking.
- Creativity... ambition... knowledge... passion. If you've got the fire, we know how to fan it.
- There's one place on earth where you're trained for the skies. Calling aspiring cabin crew. (Airways)
- Wounded Tigers with killer instinct. (Ad for Medical Representatives)
- Leading change is not every one's forte. But, then, we are not talking to everybody. Being different is normal
- Take your career on a long, pleasant drive. Extend your intellectual capital with -
- knowledge service. Wake the world to your dreams. Rise and shine and
- open your eyes to a dream opportunity with ...
- Improve the Health of your career.
- Your gateway to an exciting career. Success is about making the right moves.
- Life begins at -
- Look beyond boundaries. Success will garland you. (career in travel and tourism)
- Does your job make you so happy that you have stopped thinking big? If you are happy at the job you are doing, then it's time to wake up. Take 2 minutes off to put in your resume and relax after that.
- To enjoy your second childhood, invest young. (Lifelong pension)
- Wrap yourself in books this winter. (World Book Fair, Delhi)
- If you're driven by challenges, this is a great opportunity to work in a learning environment with its culture of mentorship and empowerment. Your creativity will get fully nurtured, leading to amazing career growth. It is also a place where individual competence gets due recognition. We are looking for talented, passionate and motivated team members who are inspired to achieve fundamental breakthroughs in the areas of ...
- I'm fired by complexity. I envision the next generation. I architect landmarks. The challenge of working on cutting-edge system software at



4. To rain in very small drops or very lightly: drizzle

Given below are some words followed by four

answers. Mark the answer which is nearest to the

d. to lag behind

b. to impose or result in

b. to enlarge

d. to block

b. bitterly

5. Ready to fall asleep: drowsy (adj)

(B) Synonyms and Antonyms

meaning of the given word

a. to strike vigorously

(i) Synonyms

a. to win

c. to weaken

c. to injure

assiduously

a. persistently

1. entail

2. thwart

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2.

3.

5.

8.

8.

- burn the midnight oil
- hit the nail on the head
- 4. twist (someone's arm)
- have a stab at (something)

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions in the long run (eventually; in the end; after a long

- period of time): If you invest efforts now, you will reap the benefits in the long run.
- 2. play it safe (to act with care and caution, not to take risks). I will play it safe and reserve my comments on the subject
- make (someone's) blood run cold (to make 3. someone feel extremely frightened or horrified): My blood ran cold as I heard knocks on my door at midnight
- 4. take the bull by horns (to deal with something boldly and without delay): He decided to take the bull by horns and demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed employees before the management.
- 5. take one's life in one's hands (to take great risks): He took his life in his hands when he confronted the dacoits single handed.

IV. Grammar and Composition (A) Grammar

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of one of the following phrasal verbs or verbs with prepositions.

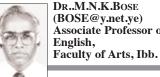
- go on, go up, look up, look into, come down
- 1. Dr. Adel's upstairs are getting changed, but he will - in a moment.
- 2. When they heard the sound of the helicopter, they - and waved.
- 3. The enquiry team are -- exactly why the accident happened. 4.
 - I can't remember her number — could you it — — in the phonebook for me?
- 5. At the end of the concert, the audience clapping until the singer came back and did an encore.
- 6. When they -- the nest, they saw three baby birds
- 7. When I last visited the Eiffel Tower, the lift wasn't working so I — – the stairs.
- Although unemployment is high, the government savs it will — soon.
- 9. When he went to the fair, Ali wanted to -- the big wheel
- 10. He was pleased to hear that the value of his house had —— since he had bought it.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions I'm fine, thank you. **Replying**

- If you don't shut up, I'm going to hit you very hard. 2. Threatening
- Don't go too close to the dog sometimes he bites. 3. Warning
- 4. I stole the money from the desk. Admitting
- I had absolutely nothing to do with the robbery. I 5.
- wasn't even in the country. Denying I won't ever forget you, and I'll write every day. 6.
- Promising Why don't you go to the cinema this evening?
- Suggesting As I said before, I think you're making a mistake.
- Repeating 9. There's definitely a ghost here - I've seen it with
 - my own eyes. Claiming

A letter to the teachers of English: 76

Recap 2: Letters 37 to 70



Associate Professor of

Dear Fellow teachers, his is a platinum jubilee plus letter; it looks as if I

started writing letters to you only yesterday and 75 letters have been published. Thanks again to the Editor of Yemen Times and his crew, Dr Ramakanta Sahu and the fellow teachers who read and react to my letters in person and through letters.

This is the second recap. I think this is a bit late; I should have done it early, shouldn't I? Before I start my recap, let me apologize for a slip in the publication of the letters. One of my friends pointed out that letter no.71 has been published twice; this happened with letters 56 and 60 earlier. My apologies to you, readers, whoever was responsible for it.

My 37th letter highlighted the importance of understanding and not just memorizing, and how to ensure understanding in our classroom teaching; then, I wrote about how our graduates are unemployable, not just unemployed, as the courses we offer in the universities, some of them at least, do not prepare them for any employment, neither in an agency nor self employment. The following two letters concentrated on how translation can be used as a strategy in the English classes. The next letter requested that you use funny examples that come to your mind for the benefit of your learners' learning. Then came the suggestions for using newspapers in English classes, followed by a request to you to enable your learners to infer the meaning of words from the context, as a reading strategy. In order to help you to use a dictionary better, I wrote about how to use the dictionary in my next two letters. Then came a suggestion to

use stories in your English classes.

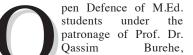
Before that, I discussed with you how to teach vocabulary in different classes, taking examples from the English course for Yemen. Asking you to contextualize the language you teach in classes was the theme of the next letter. Following that I made a few suggestions as to how to deal with the slow learners in your classes; this was a response to a request made by some of my teacher friends. As a preparation for your summer vacation, I gave you some tips to keep yourselves academically busy during the vacation. Then I discussed the weaknesses of human memory to show you why you should not spend all your time in developing your students' memory. The letter discussing how to ask useful questions in the classes appeared twice (by mistake).

In the next two letters, I suggested that you integrate all the four language skills while you teach for the benefit of your students with examples from your textbooks. After that, to improve your own proficiency, I suggested to you how you could refresh your language periodically. The next letter insisted that you should increase the learning opportunities in your English classes. As the old saying goes, 'you can take the horse to the water but cannot make it drink', and the useful learning opportunities are like good drinking water, and it is our responsibility to provide 'good drinking water' to our learners, isn't it? Discussing how to develop the writing skills of your learners occupied the next six letters - the discussion was thorough and useful, a bit long though. Then there was a letter about dictation as a device for developing their listening skills. I sincerely hope that you found them useful. Do write to me your views about my letters. Your letters will ensure me of my right direction and encourage me to write more.

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

Open defence of M.Ed students at Hodeidah University

BY DR. M. KUNDU **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,** FACULTY OF EDUCATION HUDEIDAH UNIVERSITY



ed with a presentation of the candidate followed by questions by the external who acted as the chairperson of the session. This was followed by questions from the internal examiner and finally the supervisor concluded the session. The examiners then disappeared from the scene for a moment to sit and decide the result and grade con-

c. hopefully d. enthusiastically Suggested answers to the previous week's questions Word Synonym chide to rebuke to fill with holes 2. riddle 3. stringent severe

(ii) Antonyms Given below are some words followed by four answers. Tick the answer which gives the opposite meaning of the given word 1. laud

a. to censure b. to respect d. to descend c. to connive

2. reverence b. disdain a. rejection c. dislike d. honor 3.

sycophant a. psychic b. elegant c. slanderer d. arrangement

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions Word Antonym

- adorn blemish
- refinement vulgarity
- 3. optimism despair

(C) Words commonly confused

- Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words
- partiality, bias, prejudice
- locate, find
- jealous, zealous, envious
- hoard, horde
- excursion, incursion

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions 1. as and like

- Like can be used as a verb, an adjective, a preposition, a noun, an adverb, and a conjunction. For example, verb: I like cultivating relationship.
- adj: Like thinking produces like ideas. prep: You are like my son.
 - noun: I've never seen or heard its like. adv: She can't cook like her mother does.
- conj: Do it like I tell you as: can be used as an adverb, a conjunction, a pronoun,
- and a preposition. For example: adv: She can sing sweetly. Her sister can sing as sweetly.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- 1. Until you do not speak the truth you will be dismissed.
- 2. One ought to perform his duty to the best of his ability.
- 3. You must work hardly if you want to achieve success
- 4. The police was successful to capture the culprit.
- The political leaders should refrain to tell lies in their speeches.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. He had hardly recovered from his illness when he had another heart attack.
- 2. Supposing I give you a cheque, how will you 2. deposit it?

Note: 'if' is unnecessary after 'supposing'.

- As he is generous, he spends lavishly. (omit 'so')
- 4. They had hardly gone a few yards than they met Rashid
- 5. Unless you give up bad habits you will have to repent.

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

- 1. Make another sound track for a cinema film in a different language.
- 2. To lower one's head or body so as to avoid being hit.
- 3. A person or behavior that is easily influenced or 5. controlled.
- 4. Goods on which customs duties must be paid
- Goods that are allowed to come into the country without tax.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. To work or talk about to silly lengths: **belabor** (vt)
- Of a liquid to flow or fall out in drops little by little: 2. dribble (vt)
- 3. A short private road leading from the street to a house: drive away (n)

conj: She sings as sweetly as her sister (does). pron: Ramzy, as you know, is an excellent computer programmer.

prep: He is famous as a humanist. Difference between the used of 'like' and 'as'

(1) As is used especially before adjectives and participles. If a verb follows or is understood then 'as' should be used. If only a noun or pronoun follows then 'like' should be used. - You will soon be able to read *like* I can - You will soon be able to read as I can. Or

- You will soon be able to read like me.

(2) Let me speak to you as a teacher (= I am your teacher and I am speaking in that capacity) Let me speak to you like a teacher (= I am not your teacher but I am speaking in the way a teacher would)

alibi (n) (plea that one was in another place at the time of an alleged act): The accused tried to give an alibi

excuse (n) (reason given to explain one's conduct): I am not prepared to believe your lame excuses. elapse (vi) (time to pass or slip away): Three

months have elapsed since I left India. lapse (n) (interval): The two friends met after a lapse of twenty years.

4. fruit (n) (usually singular as a collective, uncountable noun): I eat a lot of fruit. Do you want some fruit?

fruits (n) (different items): Many fruits are grown in an orchard like mangoes, guava, peaches, apples. Etc

enough (adj) (relates to quantity or number): As an adj: 'enough' may either precede or follow a noun. It is used with 'of' and 'for' and with to and infinitive): There are enough students in the class. sufficient (adj) (enough. It is used when degree is

implied): He doesn't have sufficient sense of proportion to behave. Is YR1000 sufficient for your expenses for a week? There is sufficient food for ten people.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences 1. be tied up

10. I think that if I were in your position, I would talk to her and tell her exactly how you feel. Advising

(B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the proverb 91. PROSPERITY GAINS FRIENDS. **BUT ADVERSITY TRIES THEM**

The previous week's topic 90. ONE SPARROW DOES NOT MAKE A WINTER

It is unfair to jump to a conclusion from a single instance. Such sweeping generalizations are likely to be grossly misleading. On the other hand, one should be keenly observant of incidents with patience and critical awareness. The inference one deduces on the basis of recurring phenomena is likely to be sound and flawless. There is another aspect to this maxim. If by some chance or mischance, one is victim of a sad set of circumstances, one should not be discouraged or disheartened. Rather one should wait for happier or better times when the table would be turned and the person at the receiving end may be at the helm. The maxim alerts us to one valuable principle: It pays to have tremendous patience.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"Wisdom is your perspective on life, your lens of balance, your understanding of how the various parts and principles apply and relate to each other. It embraces judgment, discernment, comprehension. It is a gestalt or oneness, and integrated wholeness."

-Stephan R. Covey

President, Hodeidah University, took place in the conference Hall of the university recently. It was one of the important annual events of the department of English, Faculty of Education. Seven students who faced the Open Defence were admitted to the M.Ed. Degree. The external examiners who conducted the Open Defence included great stalwarts of academics like Prof. D.Thakur and Dr. A.K. Sharma of Sana'a University, Dr. A. Prasad of Ibb University and the internals were Dr. A.K Sinha, Dr. Krishnamurlhy, Dr. V.S. Dubey, Dr. I.B. Sharma, Dr. Abbas Nama and Dr. M. Kurdu.

The Open Defence started at 8.30 am and lasted till 5pm ,with a short lunch break ,in the presence of a large audience which included special invitees, educational administrators, professors and students of all the faculties. Open Defence for each candidate start-

fidentially and then came back to announce the results.

The event was a great experience for all those who were present. The Externals' comments on the topics of research, particularly from great academic stalwarts like Prof. Dr. Thakur were very educative and entertaining for everyone, specifically for the 1st year M.Ed. students who were looking forward to the next year 's event ,may be with a little apprehension.

Prof. D. Thakur praised the high quality of all the researches done. The event was hosted by Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari, Vice-President, Graduate studies, Dr. Abbas Abbas, Vice - Dean ,Students's Afairs and Dr. Ali Khairat, Vice-Dean Academic Affairs, Hodeidah University

Prof. Dr. A.K. Sinha, Head of the Department of English, Faculty of Education functioned as the master of the ceremony.

Poetry Corner

I uphold and the piuious esteem

changing the present for the best.

Or if I swim against he current

BY FATIMA AL-SHAHDY

TEACHER. AL-RUJUM

And don't blame me

If I became anorv

Don't scold me,

Because, my sir,

You are my anchor

I'm still at the beginning

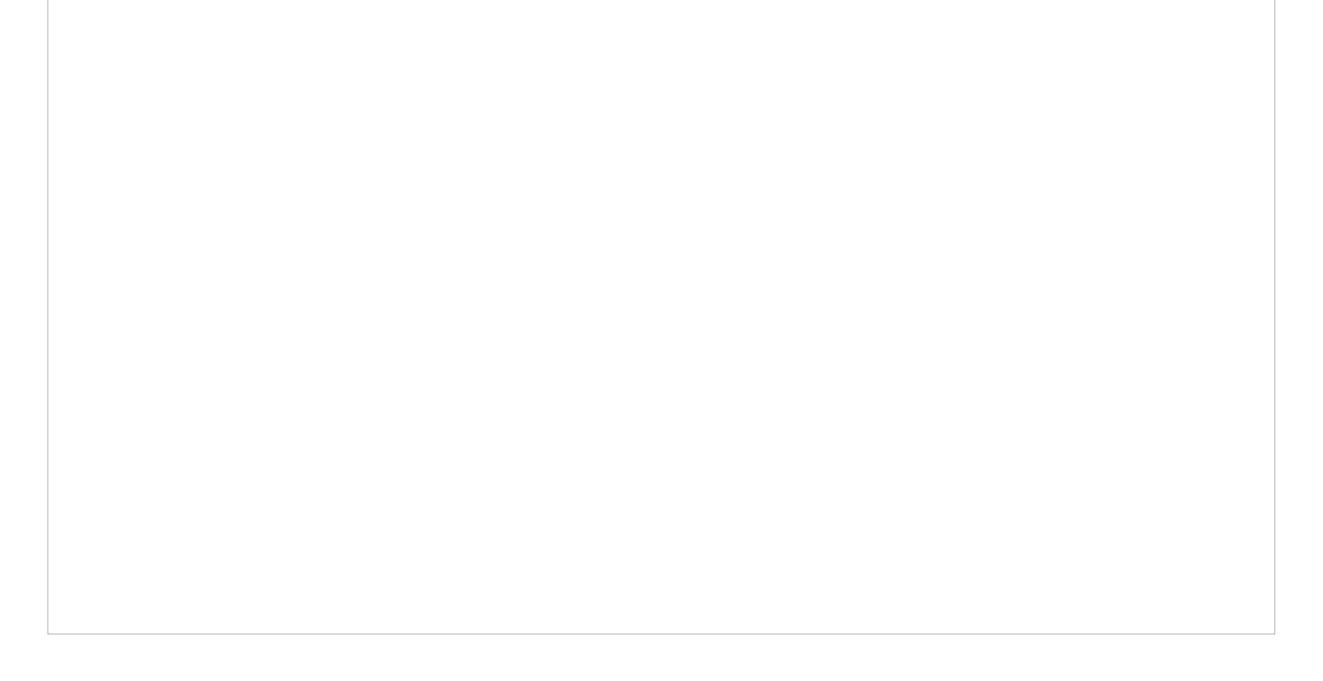
And the fright is to my left

writing

AL-MAHWEET

The real love So, how can I cross the desert, my love? Love me as I am Without any make-up or paint Love me, the plain, simple and the outspoken Love me. Love the values I cherish, the ideas girl Love me like your love for the stars in the sky Love the encouraging women who dream of Love is not a theatre to show the new fashion, Love me despite all my mistakes in love It is the sun which lights our souls It is the nobility and the generosity So look for the sun which you hide in myself. If you really know to read a woman's heart Love me, love my happy face as much as my If I make mistakes in nouns, verbs while sad face. In the quiet moment or in the pensive moment In my anxiety, in my jealousy. In my anger for you, in my missing you. Love me, for the love itself.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS PAGE







نكهة الأصالة والمعاصرة

Book promotes the Queen of Sheba Austrian author looks at "Favoured daughters of Eve"

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

n November 24 of last year, both the Yemeni and Ethiopian embassies in Vienna, Austria hosted a special presentation for the recently published book entitled "The Queen of Sheba's Round Table:



Annelies Glander

A study of the most favoured daughters of Eve."

The book was written by prominent linguist and term inologist Annelies Glander.

In a recent visit to Yemen, Ms. Glander expressed to The Yemen Times her delight for the generous and welcoming gesture by the Yemeni public and government for the book, which provided hints of the life of the Queen of Sheba and a number of other prominent female idols.

"I personally thank Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi and my Yemeni friends who expressed appreciation for the role the book is playing in presenting a truthful and positive image of Yemen's most famous queen," she said.

The book, which was released on October 2004 and is available on most global and online bookstores throughout the world, is in no way intended as an imitation or gender sensitive counterpart of King Arthur's famous colloquium, but is a virtual meeting of spiritually noble ladies presenting their illustrious life stories.

Peter Lang Publishing Group Inc. published the 238-page study in affiliation with the European University.

The purpose of the study is to present women from real life in the most natural and comprehensible way possible, nevertheless relying on documented texts. The activities and ideologies of the heroines participating in this unique albeit imaginary meeting are analyzed for particular features that would explain their outstanding achievements,

Annelies Glander The Queen of Sheba's Round Table

A study of the most favoured daughters of Eve

Peter Lang • Europäischer Verlag für Wissenschaften Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2004. 238 pp. European University Studies. Series 22, Sociology. Vol. 398 ISBN 3-631-52939-2 US-ISBN 0-8204-7350-2 pb, 62 SFR, 42.50 €, 27.80 £, 47.95 US\$

believed to be in some way or other inheritable and thus transferable to further eligible candidates

The accounts are interspersed with questions raised by the listening participants, intended to reflect the opinion of the author

About the author

Born in 1939 Annelies Glander studied languages and, simultaneously started to explore other civilizations. She obtained a master degree in Social Anthropology and a doctorate in Sociology.

Still working as a linguist and terminologist she continues

The Queen of Sheba's lound Table A study of the most favoured

devoting all her free time to study

trips and field research, and the

subsequent elaboration of books.

(Inheritance in Islam, 1998, The

Annelies Glander has always

been a good friend of Yemen and

a frequent visitor. She is planning

to write a book on 'The Child'

focusing on children in a global

Her interest in the Arab World,

and particularly in Yemen has

made her attached to the country

in many ways. "They sometimes

call me 'Austrian Aneesa' for they

know that Yemen is my second

Oriental Child, 2001).

sense.



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مرئية



Taiwan high-rise fire kills three, nine rescued

TAIPEI, Feb 26 (Reuters) -Taiwan rescue helicopters plucked nine people to safety from a revolving restaurant on top of a blazing building on Saturday after fire and thick smoke killed three people in the 23-storey

block Television footage showed

police winching the nine one-byone from the roof of the restaurant as flames and smoke poured from the upper floors of the building in Taichung City in

central Taiwan.

The fire department received a call about the blaze in the city centre building at 4:18 p.m. (0818 GMT), Lin Te-chang said by phone, adding that the fire had been extinguished in about 1-1/2 hours.

Other people in the building, which includes







A police rescue helicopter arrives at the scene of a blaze in central Taiwan on Feb. 26. Taiwan rescue helicopters plucked nine people to safety from a revolving restaurant on top of a blazing building on Saturday after fire and thick smoke killed three people in the 23-storey block. REUTERS

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snops, restaurants and after-hour schools, were evacuated by foot after the fire broke out, Lin said. Three people were slightly hurt, suffering cuts and abrasions, Lin said.

Officials believe the fire started in a restaurant on the 18th floor. where two of the dead were found, but the cause of the blaze was still unknown, Lin said.

One of the dead was identified as a building security guard and another as a building management official. The third had not yet been identified, Lin said



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