

France signs pact with Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and France have signed a military cooperation agreement providing for joint exercises, an exchange of intelligence and the supply of French military equipment to Yemen, the French Defence Minister said on Sunday.

The agreement Michele Alliot-Marie inked with General Abdallah Ali Alaiwa specifies that the six gunboats France had earlier supplied to the Yemeni coastguard will be equipped.

The French minister who visited Yemen upon an invitation by president Ali Abdullah Saleh pointed out that under the accord, joint exercises would take place between the two countries naval forces and special

Michele Alliot-Marie

forces.

The agreement also provides for setting up radars and other military equipment on the island of Meon in Bab al-Mandab strait in the Red Sea.

The equipment will enable Yemeni and French forces based in nearby Djibouti to cooperate in fighting drug and arms smuggling, and terrorism.

She said in a press conference that Yemen and France's views towards several strategic world affairs were similar. "We have got today a similar will to fight terrorism and weapons of mass destruction as well as trade of weapons and drugs," she said.

She also said that their military presence in the region is not competitive to the US existence but rather complementary.

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Yemen HR record remained poor in 2004, US report says

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The US government report on Yemen confirmed that the Government's human rights record remained poor in 2004.

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2004 released by the US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on February 28, 2005 said, "The Government continued to commit numerous abuses. There were limitations on citizens' ability to change their government. Security forces arbitrarily continued to arrest, detain, and torture people. In many cases, the Government failed to hold members of the security forces accountable for abuses, although the number of officials in the PSO and MOI police forces tried for abuses increased for a second consecutive year. Prison conditions remained poor, although the Government took some steps to alleviate the situation. Despite constitutional constraints, PSO and MOI police officers routinely monitored citizens activities, searched their homes,

detained citizens for questioning, and mistreated detainees. Prolonged pretrial detention, judicial corruption, and executive interference undermined due process. During the year, there was a marked increase in limits on freedom of speech and of the press. The Government increased its harassment of journalists. The Government imposed some limits on freedom of movement".

It said that the Yemeni government did not respect the freedom of speech and of the press which the Constitution provides. "The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press "within the limits of the law"; however, the Government did not respect these rights in practice. The country's security apparatus, including the newly formed NSB, often threatened and harassed journalists to influence press coverage. Although most citizens were uninhibited in their private discussions of domestic and foreign policies, they generally were cautious in public, fearing harassment for criticism of the Government. The 1990 Press and Publication Law criminalize "the criticism of the person of the head of state... [that] does not necessarily apply to constructive criticism," the publication of "false information" that may spread "chaos and confusion in the country," and "false stories intended to damage Arab and friendly countries or their relations" with the country," the report said.

"The Ministry of Information influenced the media through its control of printing presses, subsidies to certain newspapers, and its ownership of the country's sole television and radio outlets. Few newspapers own their own presses. There are 6 government-controlled, 19 independent, and 14 party affiliated newspapers. There are approximately 80 magazines of which 50 percent are private, 30 percent are government-controlled, and 20 percent are party affiliated. The Government selected the items to be

covered in news broadcasts, and it often did not permit broadcasts critical of the Government. The Government televised parliamentary debates, but edited them selectively to remove criticism," it added.

It also said that "violence and discrimination against women remained a problem. There was some discrimination against persons with disabilities and against religious, racial, and ethnic minorities. Child labor remained a common problem. The Government imposed restrictions on labor unions."

Concerning torture and other inhuman treatment the report said, "There were reports that members of the PSO and MOI police forces tortured and abused persons in detention. There were also reports that authorities used force during interrogations, especially against those arrested for violent crimes," despite that, the Constitution prohibits such practices.

"The Government acknowledged publicly that torture occurred; however, it claimed that torture was not an official policy. Most observers reported that both the instances and severity of torture in PSO and of the Ministry of Interior prisons have declined; however, there were reports the PSO increased its use of non-physical indicator abuse such as sleep deprivation, cold water, and threats of sexual assaults. There were reports that the CID routinely used torture in order to obtain confessions," it pointed out.

The report, which is issued, on a regular basis every years gave some reasons for this practice.

"Illiteracy, lack of training among police, PSO and MOI forces, corruption,

and pressure from superiors to produce convictions also played a role in the undue use of force. The immunity of all public employees from prosecution for crimes allegedly committed while on duty hindered accountability. The Government has taken some effective steps to end torture and to punish those who commit such abuses. In 1998, the use of leg irons and shackles in confinement was outlawed. This was adhered to in most MOI-run prisons in the past year," it said.

However, the report stressed that some measures have started to be taken against perpetrators of such practices.

"During the year, approximately 54 police officials were disciplined or tried for abuses. All received sentences ranging from 20 days to more than 10 years imprisonment for physical attacks during investigations, shootings, accidental and intentional killings, fraud, and extortion. Seven members of the police force in Taiz were undergoing trial for the severe torture of a juvenile murder suspect in 2002. The case was suspended in October after the defendants failed to appear for court. At year's end, the defendants remained at large, and there was further action in the case," it said. It confirmed that there were no reports of amputations or floggings during the year despite the fact that the "Constitution may be interpreted as permitting amputations, in accordance with Shari'a (Islamic law), and physical punishment such as flogging for some crimes."

The report described the prison conditions in Yemen prisons as poor. "The

prison conditions were poor and did not meet internationally recognized standards, and the Government permitted limited visits by independent human rights observers. The Government allowed limited access to detention facilities by parliamentarians and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs)," it pointed out.

"Prisons were extremely overcrowded, sanitary conditions were poor, and food and health care were inadequate to non-existent. Prison authorities often exacted bribes from prisoners to obtain privileges, or refused to release prisoners who completed their sentences until family members paid a bribe. In some cases, authorities arrested without charge and held refugees, persons with mental disabilities, and illegal immigrants in prisons with common criminals," it added.

The same thing was reported in women prisons. "Women were held separately from men, and conditions were equally poor in women's prisons. By custom, young children and babies born in prison were likely to be incarcerated along with their mothers. At times, male police and prison officials subjected female prisoners to sexual harassment and violent interrogation. Local tradition requires male relatives of female prisoners to arrange their release; however, female prisoners regularly were held in jail past the expiration of their sentences because their male relatives refused to authorize their release due to the shame associated with their alleged behavior. Security and political prisoners generally were also held in separate facilities oper-

ated by the PSO," the report illustrated.

The report said that unauthorized private prisons do still exist. "Unauthorized "private" prisons, in rural areas controlled by tribes, remained a problem. Tribal leaders misused the prison system by placing "problem" tribesmen in "private" jails, either to punish them for noncriminal indiscretions or to protect them from retaliation. At times, such prisons were simply rooms in a tribal sheikh's house. Persons detained in such prisons often were held for strictly personal or tribal reasons, and without trial or sentencing. Although senior officials did not sanction these prisons, there were credible reports of the existence of private prisons in government installations. During the year, modest efforts by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Human Rights continued to implement directives intended to align the country's arrest, interrogation, and detention procedures more closely with international standards," it said.

With respect to arbitrary arrest the report said "the law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention; however, the Government generally did not observe these prohibitions. Enforcement of the law was irregular and in some cases non-existent, particularly in cases involving security offenses. The CID reports to the Ministry of Interior and conducts most criminal investigations and arrests. The CSO, also a part of the Ministry of Interior, maintains a paramilitary force. Corruption was a problem. There was no official government response to or investigations of police corruption during the year." *Continued on page 2*

Violation of human rights at Sana'a Court of Appeal

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM

Lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw, Coordinator of Hood Organization for Rights and Freedoms was heavily cudgelled and smacked with gun breeches March 1st inside the hall of the Sana'a Court of Appeal by armed personnel of the army and the security guarding Judge Hamoud al-Hirdi, Head of the court. Allaw was bruised all over his body and was transferred to the doctor outside the court for medical treatment. Other lawyers, writers, journalists and representatives of political parties and NGOs were beaten amidst their attempt to save Allaw's life from the guards.

The incident happened in the mean of the courtroom before looking into the case of prisoner Abdul-Karim al-Khaiwani, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Shura Weekly which was awaiting a settlement on that day. The harassment was a response to Mr. Allaw's objection to the derogatory and humiliating labels the Judge used to describe the attendants for

not standing up when the Judge entered the courtroom. In spite of the fact that many Yemenis find standing up as a gesture of respect and paying homage to the judge as grotesque is not common in Yemen.

This incident enraged lawyers and legalists in the Capital Secretariat several of whom gathered at the Lawyers Syndicate in the city center, denouncing the physical, psychological and moral harm against one of their prominent figures and many others along with him by the army and security elements in the precinct of the specialized court supposed to protect the law and safeguard people's rights and liberties.

The Yemen Times attended the sit-in for a while, and managed a few comments from the extremely incensed and angered lawyers:

"Assaults against journalists have recently increased in number both at police stations or at some courts especially the Court of Appeal, headed by Judge Hamoud al-Hirdi," said Mohammed al-

Lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw

Kabouli, Speaker of the Yemen Lawyers Syndicate, Deputy President of the YLS. He added: "I and my colleagues believe that if lawyers respect their profession, they will boycott this court (Capital Secretariat Court of Appeal) right from tomorrow."

On the other hand, Mohammed Naji Allaw said: "We were really astonished to see many security and army elements, guarding the Judge, attacking us with cudgels and gun breeches while we were inside the courtroom, inside the building and inside the session hall. They attacked us indiscriminately and I was particularly targeted. In addition to the Judge's guards, the manager of the Judge's office participated in attacking me."

He further mentioned: "all lawyers complain about this judge because he is insolent towards everybody. At every session, he utters words unexpected of a court's judge. He also circles himself with many guards, whom are actually from the army and not the security, which is unconventional of Yemeni judges. He exaggerates his motorcade. He has security cars driving in front and behind his car and there is a scout car further ahead scanning the way and paving the way for him as though he were the head of the state and not a judge." *Continued on page 2*

WFRT discusses gender trade and child trafficking

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) recently held its eighth forum, which discussed research findings on gender trade and child trafficking in Yemen.

Commencing the forum, WFRT manager Mrs. Su'ad al-Qadasi, said that despite the "figures released by the research, they are thought of as less in number compared to the real-life ones... The phenomenon of gender trade should be strongly opposed and fought".

D. Salahaddin Haddash presented an analysis of the way that Yemeni laws comply with the international conventions with respect to penalties for child trafficking, and personal status laws.

Abdurrahman Abdulwahab discussed the obstacles to collecting data from the government on sensitive issues. He argued that the child trade contradicts the teachings of Islam. In his research, Abdurrahman Abdulwaha dealt with some 20 children (males and females) who were subjected to exploitation.

Yemen and Eritrea to sign cooperative agreements

By MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni foreign minister and his Eritrean counterpart are due to sign an agreement in the field of economic cooperation on the coming Tuesday 8th of March in the coastal city of Mussawa'e.

In a statement to al-Thawrah daily, Eng. Hisham Sharaf, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Head of the Technical Committee for the Yemeni side, clarified that the Yemeni-Eritrean discussions will concentrate on the issues of activating the economic cooperation and enhancing trade exchange

between both countries.

He pointed out that the two sides are interested in developing cooperative ties in the field of investment and in establishing projects in different areas.

He indicated that a number of agreements in the field of investment, tax cut, and tourist and cultural cooperation are to be signed between the two brotherly countries. Other fields including gas and minerals, chambers of commerce of industry, media and security are expected to be discussed in the upcoming meeting.

Sharaf also mentioned that the economic and trade agreements signed between the two countries in April 2001 will be activated.

Media leaders meting wrapped up

By RIDHWAN AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES ADEN BUREAU

The two-day annual meeting of the media leaders and General Television and Radio staffs was concluded Feb. 28 in Aden.

To conclude the meeting, the Minister of Information Hussein al-Awadhi, delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of such annual meetings that focus coordination between the local radio and space channels.

The minister pointed that Aden Radio already possesses well-qualified and experienced staffs by virtue of

its long history in broadcasting work.

Al-Awadhi emphasized the importance of expending efforts to provide media coverage for the 15th anniversary of unification.

The meeting came out with a list of recommendations accentuating the role of the media in fighting extremism, terrorism and fanaticism and protecting the achievements of the Yemeni revolutions.

Participants recommended that the media should play an important role in raising awareness among people about patriotism and democratic values and turn their attention away from partisanship and racism.

Electronic e-card project inaugurated

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Mu'atamar net inaugurated the issuance of electronic e-cards Sunday Feb.27 at the Authority of Civil Affairs and Civil Record (ACACR), and the issuance of the electronic e-card has become available at four districts in the capital.

Presenter Mattash Mohammad, General Manager of Public Relations at the ACACR pointed out that the inauguration was held with the participation of officials from the Ministry of Interior, the ACACR and the Capital Secretariat and the project comes in the framework of generalizing the electronic e-card that

Status of Education in Aden reviewed by American Team

YEMEN TIMES
ADEN BUREAU

Coordinator of the American embassy in Yemen visited Governorate of Aden Tuesday last week in order to explore the educational system and what interventions and support the American embassy could provide in this context.

In his reception was Dr. Abdullah Ahmed al-Nihari director of Ministry of Education's office in Aden, who explained the on going educational projects and the importance given to this sector especially with the continuous increase in population.

The visit included reviewing the construction of al-Areesh school and other projects that are likely to be supported by the American Embassy in Yemen such as adding new classrooms to a number of schools and three projects in the health sector including restoration of a health center and expansion of two health centers. Mr.Ali Saeed head of planning department in the health office at the governorate and engineer Khaled Abdulwahab Ahmed head of the projects department at the education office at the governorate were among the people discussing the forthcoming projects.

First phase of girl's education program begins

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

In cooperation with the Taiz Education Office, the Education Unit at the Social Fund for Development implemented the first phase of its Girl's Education Program.

Meanwhile a special workshop was held at Zaid Al-Mawshiki School in Taiz with the aim to establish a voluntary team to support the program, which is implemented by the Social Fund for Development.

The team members belong to different governmental sides and private associations to enable a large part of society to contribute to the success the program's first phase.

The workshop, which included 16 participants, organized by-law and general strategies to upgrading girl's education.

In the field of upgrading the rural girl's education, the Social Fund for Development implemented the first phase of the program in five Yemeni governorates including Taiz.

includes the uniformed national number.

Minister of Interior, Rashad al-Alimi said in a statement to the Yemen Times that his ministry would officially announce the cancellation of the old e-card and will prevent using it in any dealings as it is replaced by the electronic one.

He added that civilians will be given 6 months to have electronic e-cards instead of the old ones.

On his part, Director General at the ACACR pointed out that the authority is ready issue the electronic e-card including a variety of data relevant to the cardholder, and the project was implemented in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum. The cardholder will be able to vote in the coming elections using the electronic card.

He added that the procedures associated with the issuance of the electronic e-

card include the fingerprint, photo and other biological signals that affirm the personality identification of the citizen and it is impossible to forge it.

The new system aims at decreasing the heavy burden upon the government as it issues electoral cards for citizens in every electoral term and the civil and electoral systems will be integrated into one.

Currently the authority receives between 70-80 people who get e-card in not more than one day.

The total number of people who currently have electronic e-cards reached 48,139, 36,129 males and 12,010 females in all the bureaus of the ten governorates.

It is worth mentioning that Yemen started issuing the electronic e-cards more than two years ago at the ACACR in the capital and other bureaus in ten other governorates.

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Continued from page 1

Yemen HR record remained poor in 2004, US report says

"There were reports that some police stations maintained an "Internal Affairs" section commissioned to investigate abuses, and that any citizen has the right to raise an abuse case with the Prosecutor's office commissioned to investigate cases. Enforcement of the law and effective investigations were irregular due to weak government power in tribal areas and lack of resources. Fifty-four police officials were prosecuted for abuses," it further elaborated.

It also said that most judicial reform has been made, describing the trials of the al-Qaeda militants on charges of the USS Cole and Limburg bombings as "fair".

"The Government continued modest judicial reform efforts. During the year, the Ministry of Justice conducted conferences around the country to strengthen the reform process. Some improvements included an LQFUHDVHLQMSHULI, an increase in the Ministry's budget, participation of judges in

workshops, and study tours conducted by foreign judicial officials," it said, adding, "There were no reports of prosecutors being dismissed for violating the law. The security services continued to arrest, charge, and submit cases to the prosecutor's office to try persons alleged to be linked to various shootings, explosions, and other acts of violence. Citizens and human rights groups alleged that the security forces and judiciary did not observe due process in most cases."

Violation of human rights at Sana'a Court of Appeal

Concerning the issue that should have been discussed at the court, of Abdul-Karim al-Khaiwani, Allaw said: "It is known that al-KDLQQL case is a local and international concern. There is a visit by the German Chancellor to Yemen and the West is interested in such issues – arrests of journalists and persons of opinion. The Yemeni judiciary should have displayed more political sophistication. They should have taken the 1-day opportunity before Schroeder's visit to look into and settle the case and consequently release al-Khaiwani. This could have resolved the problem that gnawed at the Yemeni people and disreputed Yemen in the international

community. What was performed by the court was political stupidity incarnate."

On his part, Hafidh al-Bakari, Secretary General of the Yemen Journalist Syndicate expressed his condemnation at the attack against his fellow journalists and lawyers in the courtroom.

"What happened on March 1st, 2005 is unjustifiable. I wonder at security's vehement aggressiveness against journalists and lawyers. Right from the beginning, the guards who were present at every corner of the court prevented a large number of journalists from attending the session under the pretext of their having no IDs. The session was held in a small

hall that could not accommodate 10% of the attendants. I also was surprised at the JH's rigidity and tension as though he was still unsatisfied with the judicial violations against DO.KDLQQL's constitutional rights. All were attacked without any respect for human rights in general and lawyers and journalists in particular."

"We cherished a glimpse of hope that the Judiciary would rectify past mistakes against al-Khaiwani who appeared in chains before the court. The recent sorrowful developments however have killed the grain of hope that the Yemeni corrupt judicial system will ever be righted."

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Interview with Thorsten Karg:

German media trainers in Yemen

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABERI
BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A German press delegation has visited Yemen recently from the Deutsche Welle in Bonn who conducted a training course on current affairs news in Sana'a. The Yemen Times met with Thorsten Karg who shed light on the objectives of this workshop and different issues in the following interview.

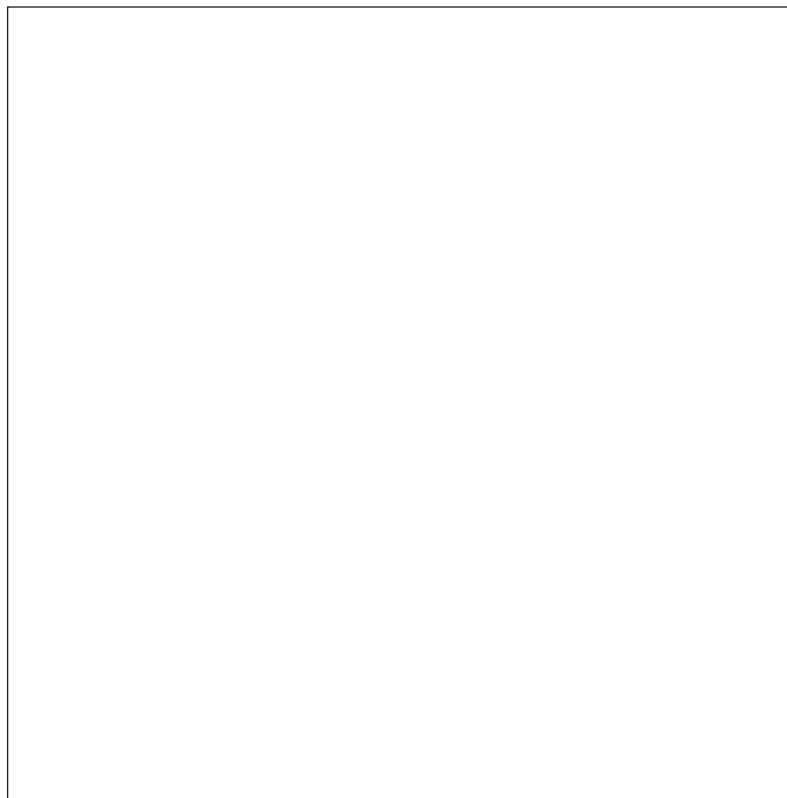
Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: My two colleagues and I are in Yemen for two weeks conducting a workshop for Yemeni radio journalists. This workshop was jointly organized by MCTQI and the Deutsche Welle Radio Training Center (DW-RTC). It is the first time that the two organizations have cooperated in organizing a journalistic workshop in Yemen. But depending on the outcome, it will hopefully not be the last.

In the past numerous Yemeni journalists have already taken part in DW-RTC workshops. But these workshops usually took place in other Arab countries or in Germany. Some of these workshops were on radio management, others were on radio technology, and others dealt with journalistic aspects. But this workshop-taking place now in Sana'a is the first one exclusively for Yemeni radio journalists.

Q: What is the objective of the workshop?

A: The title of this workshop is "News



Thorsten Karg

journalists to present unbiased and objective information to their listeners. That way, the listeners can build their own opinions about what is going on around them and in the world.

As you can see, this is an ethical question of what journalism is or what it should be. And such ethical questions are also an integral part of this workshop. We

are training the 13 participants on how to use these gadgets, which will surely also be used by Yemeni radio stations before long. And what I hear from our participants, they enjoy this technical training very much.

There's one more thing that is important to me concerning this workshop: we are not lecturing the participants, but most of the workshop is based on discussions. All of the participants already work as radio journalists – so they all have a wealth of experience that they can share amongst each other and with us. So you see: they are also learning from each other and we are also learning from them.

Q: How do you assess the participants?

A: My two colleagues and I very much enjoy working with the participants. We find them extremely active, eager to learn and to discuss. Sometimes the discussions get so heated that it is difficult for us to follow what is being said. But that is good. It shows that everyone is in it with their hearts.

If you ask me whether they need more training, I can only say that everyone always needs to keep on learning – including you and me. No one should ever say he or she does not need any additional training. As I said: the participants in this workshop are very eager to learn more – so that makes me happy as a media trainer.

I think most of the participants in our workshop enjoyed the interview training that we did very much. Not all of them had done interviews before. It seems to me that it is not that common in Yemen's radio stations for journalists to go out and do interviews. Asking tough but fair questions that address the issues that the listeners are interested in, seemed to be new for some of our participants.

Q: How do you find the landscape of Yemen?

A: Since we have been working most of the time that we've been in Yemen, we

haven't really had a chance to see much of the country. The only thing we've seen is the old city of Sana'a, which we found spectacular. It reminded us of the tales of 1001 nights. For us, who come from Europe, Yemen is very exotic: all the sights and smells, the food, which is foreign to us and the different customs and traditions.

What we've really enjoyed so far is the warmth and the hospitality of the Yemeni people. It's really amazing how warmly we are greeted everywhere. People on the street always ask us "where are you from?" and when we say "from Germany", they always smile and give us the thumbs up sign.

After our workshop ends, we're planning to go to Hadramout for three days and I am very much looking forward to that.

Q: What is effect of the global media on poorer countries?

A: In these days of globalization, the world seems to be getting smaller every day. A few decades or centuries ago, people didn't have to worry or care about what was happening outside their village, their country, their region. But today, everything and everyone is inter-connected. Our economies are intertwined. Ecological disasters don't stop at countries borders, they affect us all. So we can no longer sit back in our little villages and say: I don't want to know what is happening in the rest of the world.

This is where the media come in: it is the job of journalists and of the media to explain what's going on in the world to their audiences. People have to know – because it affects them. For example, if a wide-ranging decision is taken in Washington, it can have immediate effects on Arab countries. And if oil – producing Arab countries decide to reduce the amount of oil they sell on the world market, this in turn will have an immediate effect on the economies of Europe, America and Asia. So you see, there is a lot that the media have to report and explain to their publics. And this means the "global players" among the

media, like the BBC in Britain, Deutsche Welle in Germany and CNN in the US, as well as the media in countries like Yemen. And I am hoping that in the future, there will be more cooperation among these media so that we can all learn how to live together peacefully in this world.

Q: Any last comments?

A: We would like to thank the people at MCTQI for being so patient with us and for doing such a good job with regard to co-organizing this workshop. And we'd like to express our thanks to the Yemeni people for welcoming us with open arms. We will go home with very fond memories of this country and its people.

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Trainees during the workshop.

and Current Affairs". During the two weeks of the workshop, we've been discussing numerous journalistic formats with the 13 participants. For instance, we discussed how to write news so that the listeners can easily understand them. We practiced doing interviews that will be interesting and informative for the audience. And we dealt with writing commentaries on controversial issues, which can confront the audience with new lines of thinking and show pluralism in society.

All of these formats contribute to creating an informed public – something that is vital in any democratic society. In our philosophy, it is the main task of radio

come back to them in every discussion that we have with our participants. We keep dealing with questions like: How can we serve our audience? How can we increase knowledge? How can we create understanding? And: what is the difference between propaganda and information?

Aside from improving journalistic skills and discussing ethical questions related to journalism, there is a third aspect of this workshop that is very important: radio technology. We have brought some of the latest audio editing software, recording devices and computers from Germany for this workshop. We

Yemeni-German ties have long history

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen-German ties are some of the strongest in the Middle East, and date back to the beginning of last century.

The starting point of establishing the Yemeni-German ties was the voyage of sailor Christen Neobur, who made an exploratory voyage to the Arabian Peninsula in the 18th century.

The voyage, which paved the way to the establishment of the official relationships between the Yemeni and German governments, aimed to study the history of Arabia.

In the 20th century, the first diplomatic relationship between Sana'a and Bonn (the capital of the former West Germany) was established in the fifties and was crowned with signing an agreement of cultural cooperation between both countries.

Germany made an official recognition of the September 26 Revolution and the declaration of the republican regime, and

the German Consulate was opened in Taiz to further deepen the diplomatic and economic ties between both countries. Such ties were broken when Germany acknowledged the State of Israel and Yemen was among the countries that broke their relations with Germany.

Later on, Yemen resumed its ties with Germany in 1969, and Germany in turn funded numerous projects in the areas of education, agriculture and basic services. The bilateral relationships between both countries flourished after the two Yemeni countries unified in 1990.

The political ties strongly developed in 1992, with an exchange of visits by high-ranking officials from both countries. The economic ties were reinforced in the nineties and that was followed by a series of trade and economic agreements that contributed to the influx of German commodities to Yemen. The German private sector contributed companies and investment establishments to Yemen that played a crucial role in reviving the Yemeni economy.

The cultural ties that began in 1998 were reflected in the bilateral agreement

between Germany and Yemen that helped consolidate the cultural and scientific cooperation. The agreement gave more priority to the field of antiquities and Yemeni popular heritage. So, a number of German organizations interested in culture and heritage arrived in Yemen, such as Friedrich and Erbert, which are considered the most prominent foundations in terms of strengthening the ties between Yemen and Germany.

In addition, there are other several German organizations that carried out various activities in Yemen contributing to improving the development process in Yemen in the economic, cultural, and sanitary areas.

Germany is a close partner to Yemen and the German support focuses on the primary education, health care, combating poverty and creating job opportunities for the unemployed. The Yemeni-German economic cooperation gives more priority to the establishment of urban development, and there are many German volunteers who devote their efforts to training Yemeni citizens in different areas.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

RECRUITMENT

JOCV Yemen Office, at its establishment, wishes to recruit three Yemeni staffs.

Job titles, required essential capabilities and skills:

- **Clerk (male)**
 - Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic.
 - Minimum five years of relevant working experience, preferably with international agency.
 - Excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
 - Enough computer aptitude and proficiency in making official documents and getting information through internet.
 - University degree or equivalent.
 - Physical toughness for long field trip.
- **Driver (male)**
 - Excellent oral communication skills in English and Arabic.
 - Minimum five years of driving experience as a professional driver.
 - Excellent skills in safe driving.
 - Enough knowledge and skills in maintenance of TOYOTA Land Cruiser.
 - Physical toughness for long time driving.
- **Receptionist (female)**
 - Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Arabic.
 - Working experience as a receptionist.
 - Computer proficiency in making documents in English and Arabic.

Applicants for one of these posts are requested to submit Curriculum Vitae (CV) with an own photo on it on 9 & 10 (Wed. & Thu.) March from 09:00 – 15:00 with lunch break 12:00 – 13:30 at House No. 10, Street No. 27, Off Amman St., Sana'a.

Brief interview will be held at the submission of CV on the spot.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Yemen Office

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VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, 6DQDD is looking to fill the following posts:

1. NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER

Under the supervision of the Country Office Representative or Deputy Representative, the NPO substantively contributes to the effective management of UNFPA activities in the area of population and development, reproductive health and gender. He/She analyzes and assesses relevant political, social, and economic trends and provides substantive inputs to programme/projects formulation management, and evaluation, joint programming initiatives and national development frameworks.

The National Programme Officer:

- In collaboration with Government counterparts, UNFPA/CST technical advisors, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme and its component projects in advocacy cases in line with Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures. Ensures quality of programme/project design incorporating lessons learned, newly developed policies and best practices and establishing appropriate execution and monitoring mechanisms and systems.
- Analyzes and interprets the political, social and economic environment relevant to population and development, reproductive health and gender and identifies opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keeps abreast of new policy developments and strategies analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks and prepares briefs and inputs for policy dialogue, technical assistance coordination and development frameworks.
- Analyzes and reports on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools and introducing new mechanisms and systems; identifies constraints and resource deficiencies and recommends corrective action. Monitors project expenditures and disbursements to ensure delivery is in line with project budgets and to realize targeted delivery levels.
- Expedites and coordinates project implementation establishing collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies facilitating timely and efficient delivery of project inputs and addressing training needs of project personnel.
- Helps create and document knowledge about current and emerging population development and RH and gender issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with management for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.
- Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Country Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, speeches, donors profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Leads the preparation and conduct of the events serving as an

advocacy tools for promoting ICPD and MDG Agencies.

We are looking for candidates who have:

- The ability for advocacy and advancing a policy oriented agenda.
- A track record in innovation and marketing of new approaches.
- Integrity, commitment, and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.
- Willingness for in country travel

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a master's degree in public health and/or other health related or social science field. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years, preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

2. ADMIN ASSISTANT

Under the supervision of the Operations Manager, the Admin Assistant substantively contributes to the effective management of UNFPA activities in the area of Administration:

The Admin Assistant:

- Reviews incoming electronic communications as well as mail and directs them as necessary ensuring smooth and effective communicating facilities in the office. Establishes an internal reference unit classifying and coding material related to a number of subject matters and maintains closed office files;
- Prepares correspondence, special reports, evaluations, statistics and justifications as required on general administrative or specialized tasks which may be of a confidential nature within assigned area of responsibility;
- Responsible for opening and closing pouches and receiving/forwarding other UN Agencies pouches. Ensures timely delivery and dispatch of UN weekly pouches;
- Plans day-to-day work of the unit, assigns duties to the support staff, monitors flow of work, reviews individual workloads and makes adjustments as required in order to provide efficient service and achieve objectives;
- Prepares the work plan and ensures that PADs and mid year review for support staff are completed on time and follow-ups on the implementation of the PAD recommendations;
- Keeps abreast of changes in administrative rules, regulations and procedures and advises senior officials and staff on these changes;
- Participates in discussions of new or revised procedures and practices, interprets and assures the impact of changes and makes recommendations for follow-up action;
- Proposes and implements cost savings and cost recovery measures for support services to partners and clients;
- Monitor the leave record/report of all staff;
- Arranges logistics for conducting internal workshops/training

and arranges for hotel reservations, airport pick-ups and other logistic arrangements for incoming and outgoing missions.

We are looking for candidates who have:

- A track record in innovation and marketing of new approaches.
- Integrity, commitment, and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.
- Willingness for in country travel
- fluent in both English and Arabic Languages with computer skills

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a degree in business administration or other administration related. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years, responsible clerical and administrative experience, and proficiency in automated systems preferably in administrative management in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

3. FREE-LANCE TRANSLATOR / INTERPRETER

Tasks

- Check original texts or confer with authors to ensure that translations retain the content, meaning, and feeling of the original material.
- Check translations of technical terms and terminology to ensure that they are accurate and remain consistent throughout translation revisions.
- Compile terminology and information to be used in translations, including technical terms such as those for legal or medical material.
- Discuss translation requirements with clients, and determine any fees to be charged for services provided.
- Prepare translations in order to determine meanings and to prepare translations, using electronic listening systems as necessary.
- Proofread, edit, and revise translated materials.
- Read written materials such as legal documents, scientific works, or news reports, and rewrite material into specified languages.
- Refer to reference materials such as dictionaries, lexicons, encyclopedias, and computerized terminology banks as needed to ensure translation accuracy.
- Translate messages simultaneously or consecutively into specified languages, orally or by using hand signs, maintaining message content, context, and style as much as possible.
- Adapt translations to cognitive and grade levels, collaborating with educational team members as necessary.

Knowledge

Arabic Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of an Arabic language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules

of composition and grammar, and pronunciation.

English Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a university degree in public health and/or other health related or social science field, or English literature. Previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required for these occupations. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications

4. FREE-LANCE DRIVER

Under the direct supervision of the Operations Manager, the immediate duties and responsibilities of the incumbent will be, but not limited to, the following:

Duties & Responsibilities

- Drives for UNFPA personnel and mission and carries out all assignments requested by him;
- Responsible for the day to day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs when necessary and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean;
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil change, greasing, etc.;
- Collects and delivers mail or documents when required;
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident;
- Performs any other duties as required.

Minimum Qualification/Competencies

- Primary education, driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and chauffeur courtesies, skills in minor vehicle repair;
- Seven years work experiences as a driver; safe driving record;
- Knowledge of Arabic and English language;
- Strive for quality client-centered services (internal/external);
- Participates effectively in a team-based environment, collaborating and cooperating with others;
- Plans, prioritizes and produces quality results on time;
- Responds flexibly and positively to change through active involvement;
- Is motivated and demonstrates a capacity to pursue personal development and learn.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience
Please send your application to:

UNFPA, 6DQDD P.O. Box 7272

Deadline for application: 16h of March 2005

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.

New German jobless rise heaps pressure on Schroeder

NUREMBERG, Germany, March 1 (Reuters) - The number of Germans out of work hit a post-war record of 5.22 million in February, piling pressure on Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to unveil new job creation measures before a key state poll in May.

Germany's Federal Labour Office released figures on Tuesday showing unadjusted unemployment stood above the politically sensitive 5 million mark for a second straight month.

The 5.22 million total, up from 5.04 million in January, was boosted by cold weather and the swelling effect of new welfare reforms.

It is the highest level since the 1930s and puts the unadjusted jobless rate at 12.6 percent.

The poor numbers come at a delicate time for Schroeder, who has tied his campaign for a third term to his government's ability to drive down unemployment in Europe's largest economy.

His controversial "Hartz IV" welfare reforms, which went into effect in January, were designed to remove the structural impediments to job growth that have plagued Germany for years.

But they could take a year or more to show their effects — too long for a government that is already feeling the scorn of voters and coming under pressure

from opposition conservatives.

"The government is under extreme pressure," said Bernhard Wessels, a political scientist at Berlin's Free University.

Key state election

A surprisingly weak showing by Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) in an election in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein earlier this month has sparked a heated debate within the party over whether new reforms are needed.

Some SPD leaders are worried that if the party doesn't take additional steps now, it could suffer a similar defeat in a crucial state election in North Rhine-Westphalia on May 22.

"We say to our friends in Berlin, you have to persevere and create more impulse for growth despite the difficult budgetary situation," Harald Schartau, the SPD leader in North Rhine-Westphalia, told German ZDF television.

The election in Germany's most populous state is expected to set the tone for federal elections in 2006.

Labour Office data released on Tuesday showed the jobless total in North Rhine-Westphalia had risen above the 1 million mark for the first

German Economic and Labour Minister Wolfgang Clement of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) arrives for a news conference in Berlin March 1. REUTERS

time since World War Two.

Even if the government does decide to take new steps, weak economic growth and a lack of fiscal flexibility — due to EU budget deficit restrictions — leave its options limited.

The head of the German government's panel of economic advisers said

on Tuesday he expected Europe's largest economy to grow by only 1 percent this year — probably not strong enough to encourage wary firms to hire.

"We need growth of at least 1.5 percent to create full-time jobs," said Labour Office Deputy Chief Heinrich Alt. "We need that before there is an

improvement."

According to figures from the International Labour Organisation, Germany has a labour pool of 42.5 million.

Silver lining

Still, some economists saw reasons for optimism in the data.

They pointed to an increase in the number of seasonally adjusted job vacancies to 21,000 in February — the fourth consecutive monthly rise and a tentative sign that new positions are being created.

"It is difficult to say whether the underlying trend in the German labour market is still deteriorating or has already stabilised," said Lorenzo Codogno, co-head of European economics at Bank of America.

"Our feeling is that it has already started to stabilise as suggested by an encouraging rise in vacancies.

However, no significant improvement is yet in sight."

Economists expect the "Hartz IV" reforms to eventually push more Germans back into the labour force.

But for now, they are artificially boosting the unemployment figures, because German social welfare recipients who in the past were not counted among the jobless are now included.

Hand grenade blast kills man in Croatia

ZAGREB, March 1 (Reuters) - A Croatian man was killed as he fiddled with a live hand grenade at his home in the southern Adriatic city of Split, state radio reported on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Nino Curic told the station that Marko Svalina, 43, appeared to have inadvertently detonated the bomb in the kitchen of his apartment, situated inside the remnants of a sprawling fourth century Roman palace.

Three other people were seriously injured.

"He probably activated the grenade thinking it was unarmed and safe.

Unfortunately, it wasn't," Curic said. He gave no more details.

The three other people, including Svalina's wife, were in intensive care with life-threatening injuries, the radio added.

Croatia declared independence from socialist Yugoslavia in 1991 but waged a war against its rebel Serb minority until 1995.

A large quantity of weapons were left in private hands after the conflict despite repeated police appeals to return them.

Romania president wants snap election by September

BUCHAREST, March 1 (Reuters) - Romanian President Traian Basescu said on Tuesday snap elections by September would grant the new centrist government a stronger mandate to fight graft and bring the country into the European Union in 2007.

The outspoken former sea captain, whose election victory on a strong anti-corruption ticket in December gave his centrists the push to form a government, said he would discuss this with Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu but would not force his view.

"I think immediately after we sign the accession treaty, in May, June, no later than September, we must organise early elections," Basescu told

Reuters in an interview.

Tariceanu has said he wants early polls after Romania joins the EU on Jan. 1, 2007. His ruling coalition has a slim majority in parliament and the country needs a strong government to lead it through a labyrinth of reforms in the next two years.

Basescu said he believed the alliance, which enjoys over 56 percent of popularity in the latest polls, would win by a landslide if elections were held before applying unpopular, EU-prescribed reforms.

"Politically, now is the right moment to do it," he said.

But no matter when the election took place, he said Romania would

join the EU on time along with neighbouring Bulgaria despite the huge amount of work still needed to be done.

"We must admit that our institutions have many problems and that we must pay the price for the lack of reform in the past 15 years," he said.

Must uproot corruption

He said Romania's main task was to clear chronic corruption, deeply rooted after the 1989 collapse of communism, and that the new government was making determined steps to convince the EU that it was effective in its fight.

The ex-communist PSD government had rescued the economy from the

brink of collapse but was criticised by Brussels for failing to tackle corruption and dragging its feet in real reforms.

Basescu said it was no longer fair to brand Romania a corrupt country.

"I will no longer accept this label for my country.

Romania has some corrupt politicians, some corrupt institutions we are fighting against but Romania is not a corrupt country," he said.

But he admitted that the fight against "historic" graft will take all weapons available — reforming public administration and justice, investigating and prosecuting high profile cases.

He said corruption came in two

forms — one was corrupt politicians giving state contracts to their business friends, the other was allowing company debts to the state to mount.

"This is the most frequent way of draining public money into their own pockets," he said.

"In this respect it was very easy for us. In 45 days we succeeded to disconnect all these companies from the public budget."

Although the Romanian president's mandate is limited, Basescu said corruption was termed a threat to national security to bring it under his jurisdiction as head of the Supreme Defence Council, grouping all defence, intelligence and top government posts.

Prequalification Invitation Announcement (PIA) (For Consultancy Offices/Firms)

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Yemen wants to conduct a scientific study concerning establishment of University in ADPUDQ Governorate with 10,000 (Ten Thousand) students capacity in the preliminary stage and the study include the following:

1. Preparation of the strategic vision of the project within the framework of the market and developmental needs, benefiting from the Information Technology (IT).
2. Preparation of the Articles of Association for the University in the light of the Strategic Vision, which should include: Name and Goals of the University, its Organizational Structure, the Educational Program and its Needs (Fundamental and Supported), general and supported services required and administrative scope in both academic and administrative aspects.
3. Preparation of institutional efficiency system (quality assurance system).

The Consultancy Offices/Firms which are interested in conducting the study should send their complete profile vita include the following:

1. Scope of consultancies in similar fields, enclosing certified true Copies of Testimonials/Certificates by Rectors of Universities pertaining to similar implemented work and copies of Work Contracts implemented by the Office/Firm for the last five years.
2. The Consultancy Office/Firm should provide a list of Specialized Technical Team of Academic Cadres who will be assigned to implement the items of the study, HDFKLQKLVUHVSHFWLYHILHOGRIVSHFLDOLDWLRQSSRWDWHG enclosed).
3. The Legal Status of the Office/Firm or the Consortium.
4. The Financial Position of the Office/Firm or Consortium should be enclosed.

Applications should be sent during the Official Working Hours (Saturdays through Wednesdays) 09:00 to 14:00 Hours, to the following address:

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Department of Finance, Third Floor. Building B2, Haddah Complex, Haddah Street. 6DQDDI Republic of Yemen

Telephones: +967 1 510542 Telefax: +967 1 510538 Email: alikasim56@hotmail.com

Last Day for Receiving the Prequalification profile vita is on 25 March 2005

Pope "great patient", condition improves, Vatican

ROME, March 1 (Reuters) - Pope John Paul, recovering after surgery on his throat, is an excellent patient who is working to regain his voice, the Vatican spokesman said on Tuesday.

"He is a great patient. He is preparing to celebrate Mass, and he's continuing exercises with his voice," Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters at Rome's Gemelli hospital.

The 84-year-old Pope was rushed to the Gemelli last Thursday for the second time this month with breathing problems. Doctors cut a hole in his throat to make it easier for him to breathe, at least temporarily depriving him of speech.

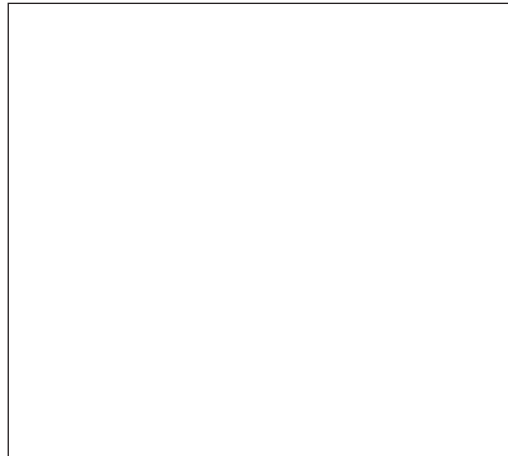
Navarro-Valls did not say when the Pope would be able to resume speaking, but told reporters that the Pontiff was well and that his condition was improving.

Vatican sources told Reuters that the Pope was scheduled to have a

"working meeting" with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the guardian of Roman Catholic doctrine, later in the day.

For the first time in his 26-year Pontificate, the Pope failed on Sunday to deliver the weekly Angelus prayer, but he did make a surprise appearance at his hospital window, waving weakly and making a sign of the cross.

The Vatican has not said when the Pope might leave hospital. Medical experts have said his rehabilitation could take weeks, raising the possibility that for the first time in his papacy he might miss Easter services at the end of the month.



A Polish pilgrim weeps as she prays outside 5RPHG Gemelli hospital, March 1. Pope John Paul missed his weekly blessing for the first time in his 26-year pontificate on Sunday, but speaking through an aide, thanked the world for its concern over his health and asked the faithful to pray for him. REUTERS

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a notice or advertisement, containing various symbols and numbers.

Bangladesh mourns slain U.N. peacekeepers

DHAKA, March 1 (Reuters) - Bangladesh paid tribute on Tuesday to nine soldiers killed last week while on United Nations peacekeeping duty in Congo.

Hundreds of army officers, troops and grieving family members paid their respects and army bugles played the last post as the coffins, draped in Bangladesh and U.N. flags, lay at a military stadium.

The bodies of the slain soldiers were brought home by a chartered U.N. plane late on Monday.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, also the defence minister, was present at the ceremony.

Militiamen killed the Bangladeshi peacekeepers in an ambush in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Friday in one of the worst attacks against U.N. troops in Africa.

"Allah please rest them in the heaven for their supreme sacrifice for peace, Amen, Amen," said a religious leader conducting the final prayer at the funeral.

After the prayer, the coffins were put into vehicles that would take them to their respective homes where they will be buried with full military honours.

As Bangladesh observed a day of mourning for the dead soldiers on Tuesday, national flags flew at half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous and private buildings in

Bangladeshi military officers stand before the coffins of U.N. peacekeeping soldiers, as a show of respect, in Dhaka March 1. Bangladesh will observe a day of mourning on Tuesday for its nine U.N. peacekeeping soldiers killed in Congo last week, the government said.

REUTERS

Dhaka and also rest of the country.

Special prayers will be held on Friday across the country.

More than 8,000 Bangladeshi soldiers are now engaged in U.N. peace missions in 12 countries, including about 1,300 in Congo.

Since joining the U.N. peacekeeping club in 1988, more than 50,000

Bangladeshi troops have participated in over 30 U.N. missions.

More than 60 have died in accidents or violence while on duty, defence sources said.

Friday's was the second biggest loss of Bangladeshi troops in U.N. missions after 15 peacekeepers died in an air crash in Benin in December 2003.

S.Korea's Roh urges Japan to heal bitter history

SEOUL, March 1 (Reuters) - South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun urged Japan on Tuesday to take steps to overcome the legacy of its 1910-45 colonisation of the Korean Peninsula.

While avoiding direct criticism, Roh called on Japan to make "sincere efforts" to improve ties between the two countries.

"(Japan) needs to examine the truth from the past, offer a sincere apology, make compensation if necessary, and heal the feud," Roh said, citing the example of Germany, in a speech on the country's Independence Movement Day.

Despite lingering sensitivities related to the bitter history, the two nations have made progress in overcoming the past, notably in cultural exchanges.

South Korea and Japan are also working together to dismantle North Korea's nuclear arms programme, along with the United States, Russia, China.

But South Koreans still deeply resent Japan for forcing Koreans to abandon their language and heritage during the colonial period.

Japan also forced many Koreans into slave labour during World War Two.

A renewed territorial dispute threatened to mar the improving South Korea-Japan relationship last week when the Japanese ambassador asserted that Japan

was the rightful owner of several largely uninhabited islands claimed by both Seoul and Tokyo.

South Korea said the comments over the islands — known as Takeshima in

Japan and Tokto in South Korea — were "unacceptable."

The two countries mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties this year.

South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun (L) and his wife Kwon Yang-Sook cheer at the 86th anniversary celebrations of the March 1 Independence Movement against the 1919 Japanese colonial rule, in Seoul Mar.1. REUTERS

Congo defence minister to reassure volatile east

BUNIA, Congo, March 1 (Reuters) - Congo's defence minister headed to remote parts of the country's northeastern Ituri region on Tuesday, aiming to reassure residents terrified by the latest bloodletting by rival militias.

Many in Ituri feel neglected by the government based on the other side of the vast country in Kinshasa, fearing for their lives in attacks from gunmen like those who killed nine Bangladeshi U.N. peacekeepers in Ituri last week.

"We are going to see the area where the events took place and to see the condition of the people," Defence Minister Adolphe Onusumba told reporters in Ituri's main town of Bunia.

"We want to assure the people that the government is present. We are going to visit them to ensure that everything possible is being done to provide for the displaced and the dispossessed," he said, before boarding a U.N. helicopter to visit people uprooted by fighting around the Ituri towns of Mahagi and Tche.

Fighting this year between militia foes struggling for power and control of resources in a region rich in gold, dia-

monds and timber has forced some 70,000 people to flee their homes, fearing killings, mass rape and mutilations.

Militias divided along ethnic lines have killed at least 50,000 people since 1999 and forced the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo to deploy nearly a third of its 16,000 peacekeepers in Ituri.

Much of the fighting has involved rival militias from the Hema and Lendu tribes, which U.N. officials say have attempted to carve out zones populated exclusively by their ethnic kin, especially by Lake Albert on the border with Uganda.

The United Nations and foreign governments have called on Congolese authorities to do more to establish law and order in Ituri and immediately bring to justice the gunmen who ambushed and executed the peacekeepers.

But apart from increased traffic by Congolese military vehicles bumping over Bunia's rutted streets, there was scant sign that the government has the capacity to provide the kind of security presence residents want.

The poll.

The results showed that out of 1,679,375 votes counted, 1,523,913 voters said "Yes" to the new constitution and 157,556 said "No". Turnout was put at around 88 percent.

If approved, the constitution would enshrine power-sharing between the Hutu majority, and the Tutsi minority which has dominated politics and the military in the tiny central African nation since independence from Belgium in 1962.

Protests break out in Indonesia over fuel hikes

JAKARTA, March 1 (Reuters) - Students hit the streets in at least 10 Indonesian cities on Tuesday to protest against sharp fuel price hikes in what could be one of the biggest political tests for President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono since he took power.

One of Yudhoyono's major political allies in the country's fractured parliament, the Prosperous Justice Party, also criticised the price increases, saying the government had yet to work out a detailed plan to compensate the poor.

News radio station El Shinta and the official Antara news agency reported student protests and strikes by public transport drivers in at least 10 cities across the country.

Hundreds of students blocked roads in the city of Makassar in the country's east, El Shinta said.

In Jakarta, they burnt tyres near a key intersection and shouted slogans accusing Yudhoyono of failing to defend the poor, witnesses said.

Authorities have placed security forces on alert, with protests expected to escalate during the day.

The largest demonstrations so far have involved several hundred students.

Seeking to cut budget-crippling fuel subsidies, officials late on Monday announced domestic fuel prices would rise an average 29 percent.

The hikes cover items such as gasoline and diesel and took effect in the early hours of Tuesday.

Cheapest petrol in Asia

Petrol prices are now 2,400 rupiah (25 cents) a litre, up from almost 1,800 rupiah before — still by far the cheapest in Asia. In Asia's other big oil exporter,

Malaysia, which also moved on Monday to cut fuel subsidies, unleaded petrol costs 1.42 ringgit a litre or about 37 cents a litre.

Phased cuts of subsidies in the past have sparked violence and forced previous presidents to roll back some price hikes.

Yudhoyono, Indonesia's first directly elected president, said last week he was ready to become unpopular by sticking to the plan, but with a small support base in parliament, he could feel the political heat if protests get out of control.

Under pressure from foreign donors, former autocrat Suharto sharply raised fuel prices in 1998, sparking huge street protests that contributed to his downfall that year.

Yudhoyono, who took power in October, told Indonesians on Monday the measures were a bitter but necessary step.

Economists have welcomed the decision, saying Indonesia needs to free up funds for infrastructure and development spending.

The subsidies last year cost the state 59 trillion rupiah (\$7 billion). Officials said the cuts would mean a fuel subsidy bill for the state this year of 39.8 trillion — still 10 percent of budget expenditure.

Indonesia is Asia's only member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries but was a net crude oil importer in certain months in 2004 due to production problems and low investment.

Cooking oil unchanged

Under the hikes, gasoline prices have increased by 32.6 percent and automo-

tive diesel fuel by 27.3 percent.

Household kerosene, vital to impoverished Indonesians, was left unchanged.

Anticipating the cuts to subsidies that have allowed Indonesians to buy some of the cheapest gasoline in Asia, motorists queued at petrol stations late into Monday night.

Some officials have said a fund would be created from part of the saved subsidies to help those worst hit by the rises.

But Rama Pratama, a member of parliament's budget commission from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), said

those details were unclear.

"PKS rejects the fuel price increases because the government has not prepared details of the compensation programme, to show they can reach the right target."

"The government also has no clear scheme to deal with the inflation that will be triggered by simultaneous increases in the prices of staple goods."

The central bank said the impact on inflation would be limited, allowing the bank to retain its inflation forecast at six percent, plus or minus one percentage point.

Indonesian student protesters hold a sign in front of burning tires during a protest to reject the hike in fuel prices, in Jakarta March 1, 2005. Students hit the streets across Indonesia on Tuesday to protest the sharp hikes in fuel prices in what could be one of the biggest political tests for President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono since he took power.

REUTERS

Malaysia hunts down illegal migrants at work sites

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Reuters) - Malaysian officials began a nationwide roundup of illegal immigrants on Tuesday, with volunteer squads launching night-time raids on building sites, plantations and restaurants.

In one early-morning raid witnessed by Reuters, immigration officials armed with pistols stormed workers' huts at a muddy construction site outside the capital, rousing 243 labourers from their sleep and finding 19 without proper papers.

"We will detain them for 14 days and check out their documents," said Mahadi Arshad, the chief of a volunteer force that is spearheading the campaign to drive out illegal migrants, most of whom come from poorer neighbour, Indonesia.

"Then immigration authorities will decide whether to deport or to detain them."

An immigration official told Reuters that have been detained so far following some 28 raids carried out nationwide.

Similar scenes played out across the country in the first hours of Malaysia's biggest crackdown on illegal immigrants since 2002.

The question of illegal labour is a controversial one in Malaysia, where a successful government drive to improve education and modernise the economy means fewer people willing to do some of the gruelling manual work upon which the country's prosperity has been built.

The round-up follows a four-month amnesty, which ended at midnight on Monday, under which about 400,000

illegal workers have left the country without punishment, authorities say.

The government says they will be allowed to return under a "revolving door" policy once their paperwork is in order.

But an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 remain, willing to run the risk of a fine and jail or caning for men younger than 50.

Authorities have said migrants detained after the deadline will be barred from ever returning to Malaysia while those who left voluntarily under the amnesty have been offered the chance to return, provided they re-enter through legal channels.

Malaysia suffers a chronic shortage of labour and relies heavily on cheap workers from Indonesia, just a ferry-boat ride away, to take up unskilled or

semi-skilled work at construction sites, factories, plantations and restaurants.

But the government is concerned these workers do not pay tax and put a heavy burden on the state, which runs a budget deficit.

The volunteer Rela force — a neighbourhood watch organisation — says the illegals are also responsible for crime and other social ills.

Mahadi said about 25,000 of the 300,000 members of his force had been trained and deployed to flush out illegal workers.

Led by six armed officers, about 400 volunteers marched into the construction site at Cheras, 8 km (5 miles) from the centre of Kuala Lumpur, and trudged through mud to reach the workers' huts, woke up the labourers, and lined them up in rows.

"This is the life of a worker on a construction site — I'm used to being woken up late at night and told to show my papers," said Purnipuna, who carried a baby on her hip and whom authorities had allowed to go.

The Indonesian said she had worked in Malaysia since 1984, and had four children studying in Malaysian schools.

"I don't like to be woken up this early in the morning," said Ubey Mahmood, 27, an Indonesian worker from central Java who maintained his papers were in order.

He, and others like him, are unlikely to get much respite.

"These operations will continue until the government is satisfied," said Mahadi, the chief of the volunteer force, when asked how long the nightly raids would run.

Raids to hunt illegal migrants were also being carried out in Malaysia's eastern states of Sabah and Sarawak, he added, but he had no results of those operations yet.

The round-up promises to be Malaysia's largest such operation since 2002, when human rights groups criticised it for holding people in overcrowded detention centres and deporting them en masse, including some likely to be genuine asylum-seekers.

At times, Malaysia's illegal immigrants problem has been almost comic.

Thousands of Indonesians voluntarily surrender themselves for deportation each year ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid. Given a free passage home, they enjoy a break with their families before sneaking back across the border to resume work.

Words of Wisdom

As long as there is a ministry of information, which sees its main role as "guiding" the press and "reigning in" those who don't see things the way it does, there will always be a danger to our freedom of the press.

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

OUR
OPINION

Thank you
Yemen Times
friends, thank
you Yemen
Times staff and
especially...
thank you Walid!

A new era for the Yemen Times starts today. Guided by the previous management we have taken giant leaps throughout the history of our paper we were able to conquer the difficulties that we face every now and then.

The distribution of the paper has increased tremendously in the past six years and we have a wide readership locally and internationally. The Yemen Times website is one of the most popular sites relating to Yemeni issues in the world. Today the Yemen Times is biweekly and covers a wider range of issues in the various fields nationally, regionally and international-ly.

The Yemen Times has its own printing press which is one of the most modern and advanced in the country. Our services to our clients are not only limited to news, featuring and advertisements anymore. Today it is in our capacity to launch media campaigns, produce a wide range of publications in excellent quality and provide distribution services, and to hold conferences and workshops in our own premises.

In short, today the Yemen Times is one of the strongest publishing houses in the region and as we are proud of this we pray that founder late Dr. al-Sakkaf would be proud of these achievements too.

However, while we are patting ourselves on the back we must not forget the true heroes behind the scene. The men and women who stood behind this project and saw it through. And so, I take this opportunity, being my first editorial as chief editor of the Yemen Times, to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this institution. Thanks extended all to the readers, friends and clients of the Yemen Times everywhere. Thanks dedicated to the hard working and professional staff of the Yemen Times, and especially thanks to the man who was the driving engine of all this, Engineer Walid al-Sakkaf.

In this new phase for the Yemen Times, we will focus on our achievements and learn from our mistakes. With a positive attitude, professional skills, a lot of hard work and continuous support from our friends we can move mountains. Keep an eye on the Yemen Times and soon you will see what I am talking about. Thank you again and looking forward to working with you all.

The Editor



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

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- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

Combating terrorism
in the Arab world

BARKATULLAH MARWAT
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The wave of terrorism, in which virtually our own citizens are found involved, has spread across the globe. This is fact that it's the very armed forces combating the terrorists, as a result of which casualties are reported on both sides. Let me make here a little difference between Pakistan and for example Kuwait. In Pakistan our soldiers have been fighting in Wana (South Waziristan Agency) against the terrorist groups led by mostly our own people specially Abdullah Masud and his co. What I mean to say is, did our Interior or Defense Ministers have ever bothered to visit the hospitals to see the injured soldiers?

While on the contrary, during the last few deadly incidents, one even occurred Sunday morning, between the anti-state elements and Kuwaiti police backed by military, claiming around 3 lives. Those security men who were killed were consoled and deeply sympathised with by the ruling family and the government, and those got hospitalised were properly enquired after by the Interior Minister. I feel that is what infuses a young soldier with new life and spirit to keep fighting off the anti-state elements till his lost drop of blood.

Thus I have a question for the concerned ministry of Pakistan. Did they ever bother to spare a few moments out of their busy schedules in order to visit

the hospitalized soldiers or policemen? In my view their such a apathetic attitude creates nothing but a sense of deprivation making them [hospitalized soldiers] feel as if they were orphans.

When we could not rectify these old and ancient customs and traditions prevailed since British rule, then what to say about Pakistan which is officially known as Islamic Republic of Pakistan but ironically, internally it is the host of the ancient rules, traditions and customs inherited from our political forefathers [British].

In fact, British entered the Sub-Continent on the pretext of expanding business relationships under the so-called company [East India Company] while America came to South Asia in the name of uprooting terrorism.

On another subject, The US widely circulated magazine 'Times' in its latest issue ran some stories on Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's renowned Scientist, declaring him as 'The Merchant of Menace'. Through your esteemed newspaper, let me make it clear to the editorial board of the magazine that sorry we cannot be fooled anymore by such kind of distorted and highly exaggerated stories, articles, columns and editorials. I sure as hell ask as to why the magazine failed to pose Ariel Sharon as 'The Butcher of Menace' who killed and still killing brazenly thousands of innocent Palestinians, who have been fighting off against the aggression of Jewish forces and why it failed again to expose the worst inefficiency of CIA over the failure of not finding of Iraqi WMDs? Who the hell says that Western press is

free? At least, I don't see the so-called liberty and freedom in their press nor in much talked democracy.

We are Muslim and we have a firm faith and belief in Almighty Allah's saying 'Wa toghizzo mann tashaa wa tozillo mann tashaa' that it's only Allah Almighty Who grants distinction and humiliation to a man. Neither American government nor its Jewish lobby press can ever harm Khan's reputation, no matter, they publish as many stuff as they can. All I would say is that He was/is/will always be our national hero, no matter, what he did.

It is Uncle Sam's old habit that he always does totally contrary to what he usually says. For instance, he says he won't attack Iran, it doesn't mean he won't but he will. Let me give a reference to the recent remarks made by the US Foreign Secretary of State, Rice, who says, "Iran is not on US agenda" clearly implies US is set to strike Iran sooner or later. On the other hand, Iran has once again expressed its consent to allow the so-called watchdog IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) to inspect the existence of controversial and suspected nuclear arsenals.

None of us is certain whether or not the second round of the inspection will satisfy Uncle Sam; but to be frank, my sixth sense tells me that something is wrong with what the newly appointed foreign secretary of States has remarked during her recent visit to Berlin. Meanwhile, Pakistan is said to have emphasised Iran to strike some deal through backdoor channel. But what if Iran questions Pakistan for possession of the same arms.

Letters to the Editor

Remembering
Nadia Mushen

I am a French reader and I want to convey my opinion about Nadia Muhsen. I don't ignore your religion and your politic but I remember you that Nadia is a Britain citizen, and if she said she "likes Yemen, my husband and my children", she loves Great Britain. Nadia is very important for her British family and for his mother. Please do something to help her and his Yemen family to discover another life in the country of Nadia and the entire world will be recognized.

Estelle Fleuret
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About tolerance in Islam

Thank you for your fine article on Islamic tolerance. It was very enlightening. In the West, we are taught that the time of Islamic control of Spain was a period of intolerance, and that the Moors forced many Spaniards to convert to Islam against their will. I hope you could in the future write about the Islamic view of this period.

Richard Geissal
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Thank you Al-Olofi

I read the article by Yahya al-Olofi about weddings in Qabatah Taiz. It saddened me as a Yemeni to learn about the racism against Yemenis of African origin. Such racist rituals in weddings and in general should be eliminated. The government and the media should educate our people that such practices and prejudice against our Yemeni brothers and sisters of African origin is not only uncivilized but inhuman and un-Islamic also.

Another interesting point although not new to me that al-Olofi raised was the discriminatory treatment Yemenis encounter at the airports of the Gulf states. I have lived for a short period in the UAE and believe me discrimination and prejudice against Yemenis was a common occurrence in governmental as well as private institutions for the simple fact that we are Yemenis.

So when I hear our president and other governmental representative spoke about the brotherly relations with the gulf states, I burst into laughter, there is nothing brotherly about being treated in discriminatory and contempt manner. Yemenis in general are not welcomed in the Gulf States. I thank God that I have relocated to the united states of America. I feel like a human again, I belong here. Even after the tragic events of Sep. 11 everybody is treated equally in airports, old, young citizen and none citizens.

Of course travelers get searched in airports more thoroughly now, however in general everybody is treated equally whether you are an Arab or none Arab, citizen or none citizen. Simply the American law does not allow for discrimination of any kind, and if any institution whether public or private engages in discrimination they can be held liable in the court of law, and the person who was discriminated against will be compensated as long as he or she can prove that he was maltreated or discriminated against.

In conclusion, with the Gulf states there is brotherly relations just in words but not in deeds. In Arab states and in the petroleum-rich states in particular, discrimination and racism is institutionalized while in America discrimination based on skin color, religion, ethnicity or discrimination of any kind it is forbidden. Once again, thank you Yahya al-Olofi for raising this important issue.

A. Baatheeb
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Attracting investors
to Yemen

I read your recent editorial about investing in Yemen and your question of whether invitations of investors to Yemen are not enough. I agree what you wrote and the matter is not low of investment but the problem is the authorities people dealing with low to be on the way of action.

They are not smart to deal

with the new type economy standard of this century. So we have to choose the right person on the right place. Look what is going in Dubai most of them are educated and technologist younger people of UAE moving and giving for Dubai this type of condition of economy.

We all believe there are a lot of educated younger Yemeni people around the world can involved to make our country potential and great country. So first of all we have to look new minded and techno younger who they can do on new system according new world economy system.

This technology century need to remove all old minded and obstacles people to have by great economy system for our country. Otherwise can not improve the situation of economy development just saying we have a nice low of investment. Also we have to see our representative in each embassy office and in each government office who is perfect to make action according the new idea of economy standard. So on this behave I hope if there is desire nothing impossible to have and doing it so inshaallah we will see our country having a great future.

Mohamed Haidar
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Homelessness

To have a home is something natural. Man by his very nature wishes to have a refuge to go to and there is nothing more beautiful and enjoyable than a nice home.

Nowadays, however, we find a social phenomenon of homelessness for large numbers of people who cannot afford to buy a home or to rent one. These people resort to streets or buildings entrances or cardboard boxes to sleep in.

Some of these people pick their food out of garbage or begging in the streets. Besides some of them think that stealing is an easy way to satisfy their needs.

There is another kind of homelessness, which can be ascribed to social reasons.

Such homeless people leave home looking for happiness somewhere else, family life is not harmonious with their wishes. Discontent drives them to head for distant places where they can see something exciting, new and fresh.

Another kind of homelessness can attributed to the psychological reasons. There are people who cannot put up with the community in which they live.

They are always rebelling against traditions and customs and in most cases against laws and regulations. Such people find an outlet in homelessness. They cannot get along with common people thinking that these are narrow-minded.

Besides, the majority of people, in the eyes of these homeless, have a passion of indulgence in material life.

Therefore, these people resort to nature-seeking freedom, perhaps these people will go back home where they feel the need to do so.

It is not doubted that homeless is a phenomenon not confined to a particular community. However, many governorates are trying to fight it.

By Yousef AL-Khteb
Faculty of Arts, Taiz

Enough Somaliland
propaganda

I was indeed disappointed to know that Yemen Times, one my favourite Newspapers, since created by the late journalist hero Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Saqaf, has been utilised as propaganda springboard by fans of the clan-based fiefdom of Hargaisa and Berbera (Somaliland).

Though I appreciate the response and clarification submitted by sister Yasmin, I would recommend that Yemen times should take all precautionary measures to avoid becoming mouthpiece for the dividers and myopic personals who sold their national entity and sovereignty for the sake of narrow clan interests.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Good leadership

In the management of an important institution like the Yemen Times, it is paramount that one must find the essences of good managerial techniques applied in all facets of its operations. It goes without saying that an institution like the YT is not merely a private sector enterprise that is out to make all the money it can and ensure that its owners are living in the highest standards of wealth and affluence. If that were the case than the YT owners would not have any reason to find themselves employed elsewhere or seeking to further their educational attainments even after they have already established families, etc. I am glad to say that the owners of the YT in general understand the YT not to be their own enterprise, but really belongs to its readers, its staff and its worldwide followers, who regard the YT as a shining beacon of truth and a forum for self expression, no matter what views are expressed.

Since the tragic and premature death of the late Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf many people thought, "well that is it folks, there goes the Yemen Times". This observer recalls calling the family to convey my sincere sympathies on this terrible loss, not only to the Saqqaf family, but to journalism in Yemen and the fight for freedom and civil liberties, which Dr. Al-Saqqaf strongly stood for. But immediately after that I told Walid: "No matter what has happened and notwithstanding the aura of grief that has not only overcome your family, but all those who loved the good doctor and the YT, the presses must roll and the YT must be in the newsstands this coming Thursday (the YT was only published once a week then)". Without hesitation, and with very little practical experience, Walid Abdul-Aziz told me: "You bet your life it will be there! My father will not have it any other way!" I was indeed very delighted to hear that and all of a sudden I felt reassured that the YT spirit was indeed inherited by the elder son of Dr. Abdul-Aziz, and the YT would carry on delivering the mission that Dr. Abdul-Aziz has dedicated his life for.

Needless to say, Walid took over the helms, with very little writing experience and perhaps no management experience whatsoever. Yet, from the outset, Walid was under no illusions that he was merely managing a business and his task was to ensure that its profits kept himself and his brothers up to par with the Yemeni social elite. In fact, the last thing in his mind was the financial situation (of course it was not the least!). Ever since that fateful moment in the history of the YT, Walid not only set out to carry forward the enterprise that his father kept at the forefront of Arab journalism, but actually set in his own initiatives to keep the paper a shining example the pioneering journalism that his father had made the paper so famous for. So, he set out to improve the quality of its copy and the variety of its output, dedicating a significant portion of the YT print to important issues of the day and to social issues that truly mattered. Whereas his father was more politically involved, Walid saw it wise to maintain a low profile politically and contend with making sure that the YT is alert to the significant challenges it faced, especially as press freedom in Yemen retracted significantly and the depressive economic situation was bound to have an effect on the YT's ad revenue, which to this day continue to represent the YT's main source of revenues. Thanks to the understanding and support of our advertisers, Walid was able to keep the YT free from having to go to anyone to seek support or some sort of subsidization. Even when that was generously offered to the YT (and I am witness to this), Walid was quick to reject such offers and demanded to know what the YT has done to serve such unexpected generosity. He took off for Aden for a couple of days not to be continuously bothered by those who were trying to provide this support. I remember that day well, and I was very proud to see Walid rush to pack his bags for Aden.

With the YT managing to stay afloat, Walid then set out to increase the number of issues per week, hoping to reach his father's dream of an eventual English daily. There were many who saw this as pure suicide and regarded the idea as disastrous. But Walid again proved that he had a knack for feeling the market and knowing what the readers wanted. The second edition (Monday) became even more successful in terms of ad sales and circulation than the Thursday edition.

With the Monday edition in full swing, the pioneering Chief Editor, in the meantime improved the design of the YT website and made it attractive to some 200,000 visitors a month. Most of the feedback to this observer's column was in fact coming from our overseas readers, who would rush to yementimes.com website almost seconds after the paper has been put at the site. I was now comfortable with not having to keep hundreds of papers on stack to keep a record of my column. In fact, it was relatively easy to find all of my past articles ever since the paper got on the web.

Even more important than that, was the human side of management that Walid manifested during his six years of stewardship of the paper. His brother and two charming sisters were clearly able to see that their elder brother was the right man to be given this formidable task and had no doubt about his sincerity and integrity. Their assumptions were absolutely correct. To underscore this, Walid made sure that he was always the last to receive his salary from all the staff and made sure of this each and every month. Any dues that he also had are still sitting in the ledgers of the YT, because Walid was simply not interested in his own financial rewards. Even in his travels, he took with him the least amount of petty cash and never used the credit card for his own personal purchases, which he listed and deducted, every time he traveled, from the YT expenses. I am aware of this because I also had oversight over the finances of the YT. With the printing press now in operation and the mission of the YT fully engrained in the staff of the YT, Walid thought it was time to further his academic attainments to increase the YT's resources in professional acumen and to give the other's a chance in carrying on the legacy of Dr. Abdul-Aziz. What better way to do this than to have a woman, personified by his charming and diligent sister Nadia take over the formidable challenge. Life must go on and the YT will stand to prove that it is indeed a Yemeni legacy of the greatest dimensions. We are with you Nadia, as we were with Walid, so have no fear.

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Al-Umma weekly, 24 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- AL-Ghadeer detainees in Hajjah released
- Al-Haq party secretary general sends condolences to president Khatami of Iran on victims of Karman quake
- At the Nasserite Organisation 10th conference, Al-Mikhlafla calls for taking the nation and Yemen out of the dark tunnel
- In protest to suppressive measures. Al-Dailami and Muftah strike enters its second week
- JMP denounces the campaign against Sheik al-Ahmar and calls for policies reconsideration
- \$2550, Saudi grant to Female Media Forum
- Teachers chairman demands for just criteria in honouring the teacher

Columnist Ali Saif Hassan says in an article this is an invitation to all those interested in the national affair in general. The invitation includes personalities, civil society organisations, and political parties. The call is based on the following determinants:

The aim behind the call is the participation in dialogue and discussion with possible and available means in order to complete building a complete national vision for a program for political reform. The time extent expected for accomplishment of completing the democratic change according to the program extends to the end of the remaining period of the present presidential term in September 2006.

The basic elements of the political reform program are still in their primary formula and are no more than a frame and do not include any of the social, cultural, economic and administrative content of reform because these issues are subjects of plurality and program diversity representing various components of the political system.

Al-Shumou weekly, 26 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Brooklyn court judge objects describing al-Mouayad as a terrorist
- Sheik al-Ahmar: The American ambassador going to villages and meeting sheiks impinges on Yemen's sovereignty
- Dobriansky affirms Washington's unlimited support for women in Yemen

The newspaper's political editor of the newspaper says in his article the unit of security and stability is the demand of the Yemeni homeland for a flourishing development and creative giving. Unity of security is the condition that worries much the forces that concoct machinations against the homeland and try to drag it to violence and troubles.

This makes it very important to realize the significance of awareness vis-à-vis this situation. If our country has witnessed the events of Mran sedition and its consequences of exhausting the country's capabilities and the attempt to extend them to include the whole country, the ending of that intrigue has inflicted a deadly blow on the forces of conspiring.

The same thing could be said on what has lately happened of misunderstanding between the GPC and the Islah party and gave those forces a chance to expand the dispute

through displaying their sympathy with sheik Abdulla Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, a sympathy hat is not going along with the moral direction as much as that meant to agitate the conflict to reach an extent making them able to run the sedition anew or to create it.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 21 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- GPC permanent committee concludes meetings of its fourth session, confirming refusal of attempts to take rob power away from voters will
- Wages, salaries strategy referred to special committee to study
- Specialized Court listens to prosecution evidence in accusation of 11 persons
- Documents prove Muftah and Dailami involvement in al-Houthi rebellion
- Interior ministry official source affirms Yemen' receiving of 199 wanted persons from Saudi Arabia, six of them accused in terrorist cases
- German ambassador to Yemen affirms the German chancellor visit to Yemen a confirmation of its weight in the region and successes in fighting terror

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh writes I his article since the first moment I heard the news about the assassination of the Lebanese former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, a question is still repeated in my mind, that is why Lebanon? The other important question is how interest in Lebanon has suddenly come to the surface by the big powers especially the United States most of America.

The question is really bewildering but does not need much of analysis and thinking to reach the knowing of the reasons behind the interest in Lebanon's independence, taking into account that Israel remained for twenty years occupying the south of Lebanon and the west and east had not moved.

Hence it could not look at the criminal incident of which al-Hariri was the victim as far from what is going on in Iraq and Palestine and away from the pressures practiced against Syria. Looking at the incidence through this angle the source of the crime would be clear and defined.

It would be impossible to an Arab source however strong the disputes were. Accurate calculations from the Arab point of view would prevent the occurrence of a crime of this type. Looking for the real beneficiary is in reshuffling the cards and distracting the people attention from what is happening of in Iraq and Palestine and to concentrate attention on more pressures on Syria.

All this makes the image clear and this is what calls on the Lebanese, government and opposition to reconsider the stands with an amount of awareness and not to concede to emotions or respond to instigations of the real killers.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 24 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- A successful Yemeni-Senegalese summit, two countries viewpoint identical
- The president expresses keenness on enhancement relations

with Senegal

- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen considers Germany essential partner in development, the Chancellor's visit to Yemen, turning-point in developmental relations
- Parliament reviews the explanatory memorandum on the two drafts of national strategy on wages and salaries
- French defense minister in Sana'a
- Efforts for restoration of economic relations between Yemen and Iraq
- General prosecution conducts investigations with 13 persons accused of planning for sabotage acts

In its editorial, the newspaper says successes and dynamism of Yemen's foreign policy is well expressed in the many visits by senior officials and leaders from sisterly and friendly countries from Africa to Europe, Asia and the two Americas. This also can be seen in Yemen's hosting of numerous political, economic and democratic activities as well as cultural and developmental meetings, regionally, Arab and international.

The Senegalese president visit to Yemen and his talks conducted with President Ali Abdullah Saleh represents a qualitative transfer in the relations of the two countries and bears indications on the Arab-African relations. The visit contributes to developing the common Islamic action. It also clarifies success of Yemen's diplomacy and importance of the status of Yemen.

The other example of Yemen's successful foreign policy is the visit paid by the US Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky. This visit is deemed an indicator of Yemen's role in international developments pertaining to the region, particularly that her talks are related to follow-up of result of the G-8 states held in Iceland last year.

Thus, achievements of the Yemen policy are many particularly in its balanced diplomacy in its orientations and to reach its apex successes in the Yemeni-European relations, at both bilateral level and that with the European Union.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 24 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- GPC apologizes openly to sheik Abdulla al-Ahmar
- The government intends to implement it starting from next July, The general federation of chambers of commerce renews rejection of the sale tax law
- Physicians and pharmacists continue their protest and start the comprehensive strike
- MPs describe official media instruments as still behind the democratic pursuit
- Yemeni students in India lift their sit-in after presidential directives
- Amran disastrous disease affects chicken, official report
- University teachers continue their strike, government ready for dialogue
- In a statement, JMP parties and political forces praise Islah conference and its recommendations

Columnist Zaid al-Shami discusses in his article this week the final statement of the meetings of the fourth session of the GPC permanent committee and congratulating the GPC members. He maintains by saying that the closing statement came as expressing the priorities of

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By Samer A.

the GPC in its organizational aspects and that its visions regarding foreign issues are almost not different from those of the opposition parties in supporting rights of tyrannized peoples in the world especially the cause of the Palestinian people and the situation in Iraq.

However, the GPC's vision towards many of the national issues is subject to difference. We cherished and hoped that those issues could have some kind of reconsideration. Believing that everything is going properly means consolidation of the mistakes.

Among those mistakes is the belief that the majority in the parliament gives the right to the GPC to confiscate private and public rights of the citizens and means the absolute possession of all the country's potentials while deriving others in order to join the ruling party. This is a matter in need for reconsideration.

The GPC's permanent committee statement also expressed satisfaction of the GPC's continual communication and coordination with political parties and organisations, although this is almost non-existing unless what is meant is merely meeting or attending some occasions. This is not the requested communication with the political parties and forces.

The strange thing was the high evaluation of the development of press freedoms, which is contradicted by the reality. Journalists are at present chased and fought and are found in courts, prosecutions and prisons. The statement has also affirmed encouragement of the government to implement the price dose while it was hoped to be stopped.

Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist party, Yemen leadership, 22 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- Saudi troops kill 13 Yemenis; seek to install centers inside Yemeni territories
- Secret negotiations between Iraqi resistance and American intelligence
- In Taiz, a senior official behind kidnapping of girls
- Internationalization of al-Hariri assassination incident, Syria does not refuse pulling its troops out of Lebanon
- Workers in a plastic factory complain mistreatment of their administration

Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in an

article that the Zionist-American pressures on both Syria and Lebanon are still escalating under flimsy pretexts aimed at the two countries national stands refusing occupation and sticking to just and balanced peace. It is also because of their stances rejecting the American agenda in the region as it is contravening the logic of history and reason in addition to pushing the region to the brink of explosion and conflict.

The abutment of the American project in the region depends on power it is in possession in order to spread its control on the world riches under the absence of international balance and absence of the matching rival. This makes wagering on time is a matter extremely important under the movement of the reality and its developments.

Al-Wahda weekly, 23 Feb. 2005.

Main headlines

- German Chancellor visits Yemen beginning of this month
- Political and economic sources: Continuation of reforms and fighting corruption, alternatives

- to dependence on oil
- Planning ministry deputy: The World Bank showed readiness to support reforms in Yemen
- Radical changes in the ministry of finance soon
- Yemeni-Eritrean company for commercial fishing

Columnist Abdullah Abdullillah writes an article on the al-Hariri assassination incident saying Lebanon the Arab country reminds us with democracy, culture and freedom of media and publication and political parties. The country reminds us with the Palestinian resistance, the refugees and the steadfastness of the south.

The late Lebanese former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri is an exceptional personality in the Arab world. He has loved his country before his possession of property and prestige and invested all for reconstruction of the country. Martyr Rafik al-Hariri was devoting himself to all the Lebanese and the tent that restore to Lebanon its national unity since the Taif agreement in 1989.

The crime of his assassination came to open wounds and dossiers and a future no one can predict to where it may lead Lebanon, and the sort of plans for Syria and Iran.

Vacancy

A new international organization implementing an agricultural sector development project seeks the following senior staff;

1) Horticulture Expert

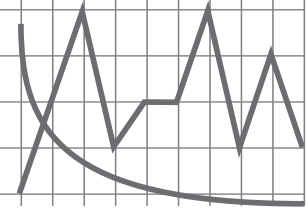
- Ten years work experience in commercial horticultural development
- Degree in production agriculture, preferably horticulture
- Good written and spoken English
- Self motivated and hard working
- Ability to work effectively with national and local government entities
- Strong interest in helping to increase rural incomes
- Comfortable functioning in a western style work environment
- Prior experience working with donor and/or multilateral projects highly desirable

2) Government Liaison Officer

- Extensive experience working with both national and local government entities involved in agriculture
- A very good understanding of agriculture sector development in Yemen
- Good personal contacts at the MAI and in the Governorates
- Experience managing a small staff
- Good written and spoken English
- Experience working with international development contractors or development agencies
- Self motivated and hard working
- Comfortable functioning in a western style work environment
- College degree preferred

Interested candidates please send your resume with a cover letter in english outlining your qualification using the above criteria to PO Box 22522. A very competitive salary plus fringe benefits will be offered to the selected candidates. The application deadline is 19 March 2005.

YT Business



Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	187.4500	187.7500
Sterling Pound	360.8000	361.3800
Euro	248.5900	248.9800
Saudi Rial	49.9800	50.0600
Kuwaiti Dinar	642.3500	643.3800
UAE Dirhem	51.0300	51.1200
Egyptian Pound	32.2500	32.3000
Bahraini Dinar	497.2300	498.0300
Qatari Rial	51.5200	51.6000
Jordanian Dinar	264.3900	264.8100
Omani Rial	486.8800	487.6600
Swiss Franc	161.5100	161.7700
Swedish Crown	27.4800	27.5200
Japanese Yen	1.7956	1.7985

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Corruption fighting goes progressing

Bahamas: We liberated subsidized goods in service of the consumer & fight smuggling

By MAHOUT AL-KAMALA
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In his economic lecture delivered recently the Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal considered the state of improvement the national economy has been witnessing the past years is attributed to the economic and financial policies followed within the frame of the program for reforms. He has affirmed that order and law are the only elements capable of putting an end to administrative corruption. The reform in this regard depends mainly on the extent of understanding shown

by all of the importance of collaboration and common support for the choice of efficient elements who are capable of effecting development to the administrative system.

While Bajammal's talk seemed to be as a reply to accusations of the government machinery as being corrupt and pursuing a policy of impoverishment against those of limited income, the prime minister of Yemen said the various programs that were implemented within the frame of safety net were aimed at fighting poverty and alleviating its burden, whether through the social care fund or the social fund for development or the project of public works.

Mr Bjammal strongly attacked authorities confirming that centralization was the starter of corruption and harming the state security and safety. He had also broached, in his lecture, the tracks of economic, financial and administrative reforms that had been implemented in Yemen throughout more than one decade. He said in a comparison between the year 1996 and 2004 that projects of roads had risen from 4000 km to 8000 km, and from 250 thousand telephone lines to more than one million lines and thus the whole country had become covered with wireless and cable communications. He added that the number of universities increased from two universi-

ties to eight. Concerning the social security more than 650 thousand persons benefited from it.

As for sectors of education, health, airports, industry, agriculture and electricity, they have witnessed big growth in appropriations and achievements most of their financing were from allotments for subsidizing commodities so that the rate of growth reached 5.2 and inflation dropped from 77% to 3.5%, while the budget deficit dropped to 3.5% instead of 22%, the prime minister added. He said the central bank reserves rose to 5.2 billion dollars compared to 90 million dollars in the past. Capacity of the electric power expanded to 70% and presently

there has been an agreement signed forth increase of power to 350 kilowatts would be added and 240 kilowatt of high-tension lines between Mareb and Sana'a, will also be added. The prime minister affirmed that the government was ready to implement big projects for cement industry and rehabilitation of the existing cement plants.

Liberation of some commodities prices has led to fighting smuggling of goods that were subsidized by the government; part of those goods was used for feeding cattle. In addition to that, the base of small distributors and beneficiaries and also owners of small

enterprises has been enlarged. Mr Bajammal affirmed that Yemen was in need of maintaining the reforms so that to help the economy restore its prosperity by saving additional funds for the development in order that we are able evolve the developmental process and improve the living conditions of citizens as well as combating the long column of smugglers an the corrupt. This is because the price difference could not be tackled but through price reforms and fighting corruption.

Justifications for launching a new employment strategy

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has presented an explanatory memorandum on a project of a national strategy of wages and salaries and a draft law on employment and salaries system. The minister of civil service and securities Hamoud Khalid al-Soufi told the council of ministers that the studies on which the national strategy for modernizing the civil service and the national strategy of wages and salaries is attributed to many reasons, the more important of which is the low actual value of wages and salaries of the

employee and high total value of those wages as seen by the state. The other main reason is the multi systems and structures of wages and that has created an unjustifiable sharp variance in levels of employees wages at various administrative sectors and units.

Among other reasons, he said, is the non-existence of jobs classification and consequently the lack of an indispensable reference, not only for determining wages and salaries in a fair manner through objective criteria and bases, but also because of the decisive role that it may play in improving administration of human resources due to what it contains of detailed information on jobs and their

contents. The wage is not connected to the performance, incentives, and bonuses, which are not subject, in determining and granting, to logical criteria, but sometimes they change into source of frustration. All that and also because of the great variance in wages and salaries in various institutions even of the same scientific and specialty level. Sometimes this variance reaches at four-fold, in addition to the difference in the annual increments amounts.

According to the government explanatory memorandum that has led to that the government machinery is being lacking in qualified and well-trained cadres and accumulation of

employees at city centers, while the countryside has remained without enough employees and thus there has been an imbalance in the labor market between the supply and demand. This imbalance is a result of education orientation towards theoretical colleges instead of scientific ones. The total proportion of employees holding university degrees is estimated at 15% of the general totality of workforce.

Mir al-Soufi has considered the problems resulted from the present situation of the system and policies of jobs and wages would hamper the government apparatuses from implementation of programs of development and raising

the efficiency of performance of public function as well as evaluation of that performance and fighting corruption.

The minister of civil service has clarified that the situation has led to the necessity of preparing a national strategy for wages and salaries and unified description. In implementation of presidential directives and those by the parliament, the government has designed the project of the national strategy for wages and salaries. In doing this, the government has sought assistance and participation of Arab and international expertise. The strategy works for the achievement of connection between three essential principles:

- Sufficiency: It is the realization of balance between the actual value of the employee wages and the relationship with the convenient degree of basic requirements of his life.
- Justice: There must be a connection between the salary and the position in a way that those wages and salaries differ or be equal according to the difference or similarity of the jobs the employees are doing.
- Efficiency: It is the act of activating the role of wages and salaries as an incentive means for the development and improvement of its results and also to raise the efficiency of running the human resources in general.

Fiscal follies in America and beyond

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

Those of us who know that long-run fiscal imbalances are likely to end in disaster - high inflation, deep recession, financial crisis, or all three - scratch our heads in bemusement at the priorities of George W. Bush and his administration. The Social Security "crisis" that he wants to spend his political capital on "resolving" ranks no higher than third among America's fiscal problems in urgency and seriousness - and at a time when these problems have grown into a profound threat to global economic stability.

America's gravest fiscal problem is the short- and medium-run deficit between tax revenues and spending. This deficit is entirely of Bush's own creation, having enacted - and now seeking to extend - tax cuts that are not cuts at all, because they merely shift the burden of fiscal consolidation onto future generations.

The second most serious problem is the looming long-term explosion in the costs of America's health care programs. This is also partly Bush's doing, or, rather, *not* doing, as his first-term policy on health spending was to do virtually nothing to encourage efficiency and cost containment. Instead, he enacted a Medicare drug benefit that promises to spend enormous amounts of money for surprisingly little in the way of better health care.

Surely a more competent administration would be worried about addressing these more severe and urgent fiscal problems. Let's pretend that the United States had such a government. What would it do?

Dealing with the short- and medium-run deficit would be fairly straightforward: decide how large a

share of GDP the federal government should take up, set spending at that level, and set taxes so that the budget is balanced (or so that the debt-to-GDP ratio is not growing) over the business cycle. Determine whether, overall, you would rather have in the medium term a federal government that spends, say, 16%, 20%, or 24% of GDP - and on what.

What is not straightforward is how to address the imminent explosion of health-care costs. In fact, projections of rapidly rising Medicare and Medicaid spending in the US - and similarly rapidly-rising governmental health care expenditures elsewhere in the developed world - are not so such a problem to be solved as the side effects of an opportunity to be grasped.

The opportunity stems from the fact that our doctors and nurses, our pharmacists and drug researchers, our biologists and biochemists are learning to do wonderful things. Many of these things are, and will be, expensive. Many of them will also be desirable: longer, healthier, and higher quality lives as we learn more about the details of human biology. Federal health-care spending will grow very rapidly over the next two generations because the things that health care money will be spent on will be increasingly wonderful, and increasingly valued.

But it will be difficult to grasp fully this opportunity. It is highly likely that desired health expenditures will be enormous for some things and trivial for others. This calls for insurance. The problem is that private insurance markets do not work well when the buyer knows much more about what is being insured than the seller. Obviously, one's health is an area in which private information can be very private indeed.

This is, of course, why state-run health-care systems came into being. But replacing private insurance with public insurance has its own problems: consider the parlous circumstances in which Britain's National Health System finds itself, the result of generations of politically driven underinvestment in health care.

Moreover, the overall level of spending is likely to be large. That means that without (and even with) state-run health-care systems, the rich will be able to afford more and better care than the poor.

To what extent do we accept a world where the non-rich die in situations in which the rich would live? To what extent do we hold on to our belief that when it comes to saving lives, medical care should be distributed on the basis of patients' needs, not their wealth? Where and how would we tax the resources to put real weight behind egalitarian principles?

Sharply rising health-care costs will probably confront governments throughout the developed world with the biggest economic policy issues they will face over the next two generations. The Bush administration has yet to realize this, but other governments are not thinking hard enough, either.

At best, they are seeking ways to keep health-care spending from rising, as though the genie of medical progress can be forced back into the bottle. Instead, governments should embrace the promise of wonderful innovations in health care, and ask how fast spending should rise, and how that rise should be financed.

J. Bradford DeLong is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and was Assistant US Treasury Secretary during the Clinton Presidency.

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The rise and fall of great cities

Zabid studied by Canadians

By EDWARD KEALL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Canadian Archaeological Mission in Yemen began its program of activity in 1982 after receiving a favourable response from Qadi Isma'il al-Akwa' who was then the director of the Organization for Antiquities, Manuscripts, and Libraries.

Our request was for permission to study the archaeology of Zabid and its surrounding territories between Bayt al-Faqih to the north, Hays to the surrounding territories between the sea and the mountain foothills.

The reason for choosing Zabid was because of the city's reputation that attracted students from many parts of the Islamic world for study. We wanted to see what evidence there was for other kinds of contact within Yemen, as well as abroad, to take a real measure of Zabid's importance.

My interest in choosing Zabid for a study project was based on the fact that in Canada I teach a class covering the subject of great Islamic cities, places like Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo and Istanbul. I explain to students how these cities developed, who was responsible for development sponsorship, why the cities were successful, and why they sometimes fell into decline.

Zabid was an important place, but it was much smaller than these other famous cities. It was theoretically possible to understand enough about Zabid in a few years so that I could make a significant contribution in my own lifetime.

Adding to the advantage of working in Zabid as an archaeologist was the fact that various writers have described the history at different times, people like Umarah al-Yamani, ak-Khazaji, Ibn al-Mujawir and Ibn al-Dayba. We have to bear in mind, though, that there

is often a discrepancy between what writers record and what archaeologists find.

This is because writers may have a personal bias in what they choose to record. We too may have our own bias because of our cultural background and training. So we must try to combine the two disciplines in the final synthesis.

As an example of the kind of information historical texts give us, from Ibn al-Mujawir we learn the fact that the city walls of Zabid were circular in shape. This helps explain why the mosque of Mustafa Pasha al-Nashshar now lies outside of the city. In fact, the patterns of the agricultural fields in this area seem to suggest that the circular walls of the city encompassed the mosque when it was built. We know the date of the structure because the governor was buried in a tomb next to the mosque when he died in 1555.

With this information about the date of the structures we can also learn something about architectural practices at the time. For the dome of the tomb was built using a slightly different constructional technique than that employed in the mosque.

We may judge that this change occurred around 1550, and we can attribute dates before or after 1550 to other buildings using either of these two different techniques. For instance, the picturesque mosque at al-Fazzah on the coast was built using the second technique, so it was built more recently than 1550.

The same principle holds true in evaluating the small domes in the qibla aisle of the Grand Mosque in Zabid. An inscription in the aisle of the mihrab declares the qibla construction to be the work of Sultan 'Amr, the last of the Tahirid sultans, in 1492. The shapes of the domes confirm that they were built before 1550.

From our examination of the al-Iskandariyyah building we have determined that its architectural form and decoration allow us to place it in the

13th -14th century, much earlier than the times of Iskandar whose name it takes. In fact, Iskandar adopted the mosque in 1543 when building was in need of repair.

He assigned irrigated farmland in the Wadi Zabid to support a madrasa (religious college) in the mosque, and built the grand minaret that is dramatically visible from the main highway today. Iskandar's dedication of land to the college is recorded in a waqfiyya (Foundation Trust) text carved in stone and added to either side of the mihrab.

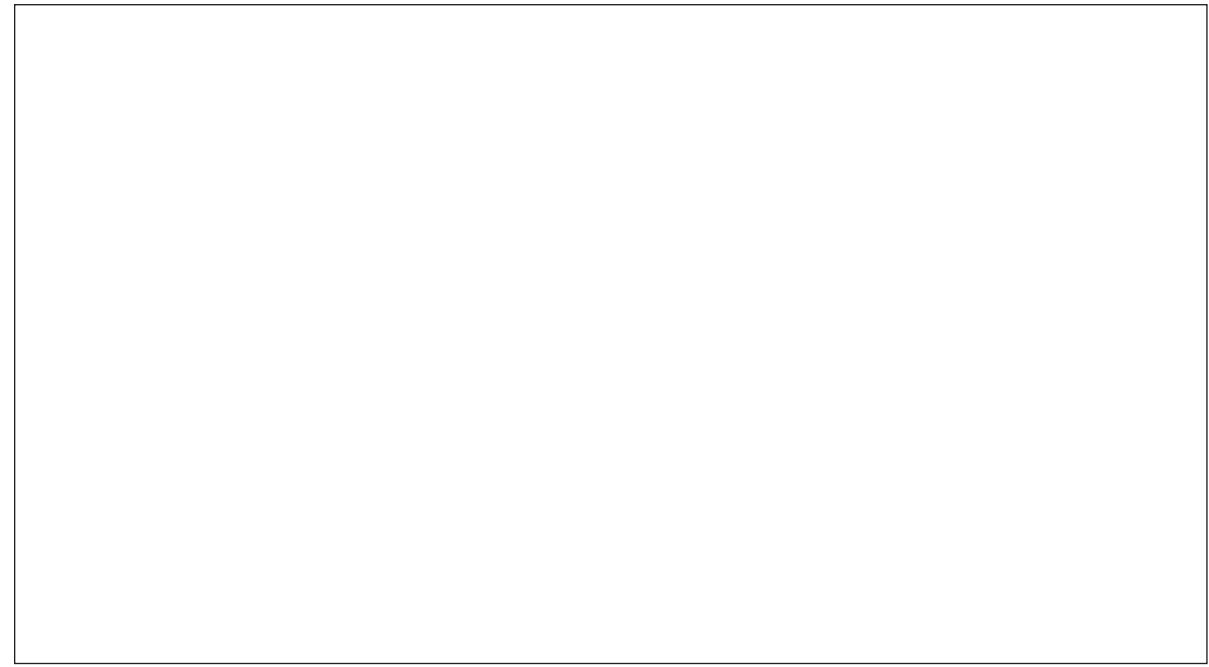
The announcement in the text of the amounts of harvest that were to go towards support of the college each year underlines the extent to which irrigation agriculture was the backbone of the Zabid economy. The al-Iskandariyyah madrasa did not have dormitory accommodation for the students in the way these religious colleges do in countries like Egypt, Syria or Iran. Rather, in Zabid, the students were housed in separate residences called ribats.

The al-Iskandariyyah mosque/madrasa was originally an integral part of the city. Today it stands with two of its incorporated within the defences of the Zabid Citadel. The Citadel was formerly used by the army as its regional barracks and was occupied permanently under the Imam.

The Canadian Archaeological Mission was a mosque would be made part of the military defences. The explanation became clear following archaeological excavations.

In the 16th century when the Ottoman Turks came to occupy Yemen, their fort in Zabid was quite small. We can identify the remains of this fort as Ottoman because of the cannon balls found in it. The Ottomans were the first to introduce the cannon to Yemen.

But in spite of their superior weaponry, the Ottoman had difficulty in controlling the country, and They



were already forced by 1638 through uprisings to abandon their hold on Yemen. The Zabid fort was the last of their strongholds. But as mentioned above, the fort was really quite small. The al-Iskandariyyah building lay well outside of the fort.

Incorporation of the al-Iskandariyyah in a military citadel came two hundred years later when Zabid was once again threatened by outside forces. Numerous hostilities preceded the building of the defensive walls.

There were threats from various sides - including from the Wahhabis, the Abu Arish, the British and the Ottomans. In all likelihood it was the Ottomans who made the decision to construct a wall to connect various buildings that already existed and conveniently to join them together by a linking perimeter defensive wall.

The walls were provisioned with gun slots, and one of these was cut through from the inside of the minaret, barbari-

cally defacing part of Iskandar's inscription. Battlements were built on top of the north and east walls of the mosque.

The action speaks of the need to take immediate action. The result was a large open space as we see it already. The defences were not very strong but were dependent upon the superior firepower that the military forces had over the residents.

In 1940 when the American Ambassador in Aden was making a diplomatic visit to see the Imam he wrote a letter to Washington describing his visit to Zabid while on his way to Sana'a. He wrote of being received by a delegation at the Bab al-Qurtub (the south gate of Zabid) where trumpets sounded. During his visit he went inside the Citadel and saw a garden of rich vegetation irrigated by water drawn up by a draught animal walking down a ramp in a standard Yemeni tradition of that time.

Today, some of the functions of the

old citadel are no longer valid in this time of economic and social change in Yemen. In collaboration with Yemen's General Organization for Antiquities and Manuscripts, together with financial support from the Fund for Social Development, the Canadian Archaeological Mission has made good progress in conserving the old structures and finding a modern purpose for their use. We are currently in the final stages of completing the archaeological land ethnographic museums, with financial support given by the Japanese Embassy.

Our current target is to restore some of the remaining derelict buildings and install an information center so that all can learn what we have found out from our research.

** Edward Keall, Director of the Canadian Archaeological Mission of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Canada. He has been here in Yemen on an expedition to study Zabid's archeology and history.*

Feeling a little blue?

Get married, be healthy: researchers

By ABU AYMAN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Some 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 Hishaih, an internal diseases consultant, notes, "I am one of those who support the theory that marriage protects the spouse from disease."

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. Hishaih 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.

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.

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 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 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 marriage-related issues as it recommends the reconciliation between the spouses unless the dispute occurring between them necessitates the end of marital life between the pair.

Ayoub's sweet melody

By AL-HADI KAFOTH MOHAMOUD
KAFOTN-3@HOTMAIL.COM

Before I came to Yemen I thought that the only popular and nationwide singers in this country are Abu Baker Salim Belfagee and Ahmed Fathi.

But after I have arrived in Yemen and lived with people here, especially the youth, I found that there is a man who is not known as the two mentioned above.

Ayoub Tarsh has a melody and sensitive sound that is unique and his cassettes have songs that contain meanings about Yemen unity as an important event.

In each country we can find a lot of singers in different ages.

In Egypt we find Omm Kalthoum

and Abdo Alhalim Hafiz.

But singers today are quit different from them because of lack of words and songs which relate to the poem and poetry, not those who have said good poetry like Nazer Gabani and others.

In Sudan we find singers who have done good and unique songs like Alkashif, Abedelkarim Elkalali and Mohammed Alamin. Who has a position in Sudan like Ayoub in Yemen?

Finally what I want to say Ayoub has a good throat which is not easy to be found in most people.

Even scientists who specialize in sounds say that sound with mixes the harsh and acute is good one.

I want to tell the reader of his excellent songs to the country, and as a proverb says, the singer or the poet should be a tongue for his nation, not only singing for money or entertainment.

AFSC holds poetry recital

By Yemen Times Staff
Taiz Bureau

A poetry recital was held Feb.24 at the Hall of Al-Sa'eed Cultural Forum with the participation of a number of young poets.

The event was organized by Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture (AFSC) within the framework of its annual functions of its scientific

and cultural program.

To open the recital, Faisal Madhaji, Director General of AFSC delivered a speech in which he emphasized the necessity of staging such activities and encouraging youths to enhance their cultural talents.

The recital starred a group of youthful poets, both boys and girls, and was colored by a variety of activities.

The recital was attended by numerous writers, poets, artists as well as a number of students.

Diagnosis as public policy

By JOHN Z. SADLER

When we think about medical diagnosis, we usually think in terms of science. The conventional (and accurate) wisdom is that diseases are named and classified on the basis of scientific research. For example, the roughly decennial revisions of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) partly reflect advances in scientific understanding of diseases and injuries.

The cataloging and naming of diseases is a condition of scientific research, as well as its product. Indeed, how are doctors to explain and control disease without a common language for the phenomena that they observe? The ICD comprehends the entire spectrum of human disease and injury, and its updates reflect the best new knowledge as well as set the stage for the next wave of medical advances.

But the formal classification of diseases has another aspect, one that concerns a variety of important social functions. It provides a set of disease names and numeric codes for assigning and tracking health-care expenditures and services. Governments, insurance companies, and patients use these names and codes in accounting and budgeting.

The ICD code also frames eligibility for related social goods like hospital care, medical retirement, claims for disability compensation, hospice care, and home health care, to name a few. From the doctor's perspective, diagnostic classifications like the ICD provide the official language to be used in medical records, discussions with patients and their families, and in billing for services. For patients, diagnostic classifications provide the framework for understanding their own and others' disease processes. Finally, diagnostic classification provides politicians the language for building or dismantling health programs.

Clearly, the public and social character of diagnostic classifications of disease extends to private organizations. Consider organizations that regulate medical licenses or administer medical emergency relief funds. (In the non-medical area, think of business organizations that regulate trade or educational commissions that accredit schools). Government is hardly alone in creating the formal rules, principles, and guidelines that structure and regulate public life. Public policy is defined by the public's interest in the policy, not who made it.

At least in democratic societies, such

policies should be accountable to the public, and the classification of diseases, since it serves many of the functions of public policy should be no different.

It turns out that psychiatry, in particular, has exhibited leadership and innovation in recognizing the public-policy aspects of diagnostic classification. Both the ICD classification of mental disorders, and its American counterpart, the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) efforts have taken pains to make diagnostic classification accountable as examples of public policy. Both organizations have included diverse representation on their working committees, invited input from outsiders to the professions and collaborated with related institutions and organizations in preparing their classification revisions.

In my view, the classification of mental disorders, as a form of public policy making, poses exceptional challenges. A primary challenge is posed by the nature of mental illness itself.

Mental illness invades the mind and the self, the same domains where political beliefs and social interests reside. The history of world psychiatry is peppered with diagnoses of mental illness based on political dissent. Public policy concerning mental illness must, therefore, consider carefully the potential for imposing unjustified social and political values on people in the guise of the classification of disease.

On the other hand, psychiatric public policy must also take into consideration the feeble social and political status of the severely mentally ill. Public policy concerning the mentally ill should empower, not marginalize.

The latter point, however, is where the current puzzles reside for psychiatric diagnosis as public policy. As the WHO

begins to plan the ICD eleventh edition and the American Psychiatric Association begins to plan the fifth edition of the DSM, one wonders how to ensure additional moral, social, and political accountability in what traditionally have been viewed as the instruments and products of science.

Should patients and their families be directly involved in the development of classifications? If so, how? If not, how can the needs of scientific credibility and public accountability be met?

While psychiatry may be leading the debate about these problems, other medical specialties cannot be far behind. As scientific progress broadens the range of options regarding health, the trappings of social, political, and moral choice will increasingly infiltrate medical diagnoses.

Debates about reproductive freedom and cosmetic enhancements – such as the use of growth hormone to treat short stature – already occupy the news. How will the associated conditions be classified? By whose authority and with what accountability? What social values will be advanced?

Classifying disease should reflect the best collaborations between science and politics. With thoughtfulness and perseverance, psychiatry's current deliberations about diagnosis as public policy will provide a road map for the broader medical debates lurking ahead.

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Industry fury as UK watchdog curbs Alzheimer drugs

LONDON, March 1 (Reuters) - Britain's cost-effectiveness health watchdog said on Tuesday it wants to limit access to the four main drugs used to treat patients with Alzheimer's disease, to the fury of pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommended that doctors stop giving the drugs to new patients amid concerns over their cost and effectiveness.

NICE said three of the drugs were not recommended to treat mild to moderate dementia:

- Aricept, co-marketed by Pfizer Inc. and Japan's Eisai Co.
- Exelon, made by Swiss-based Novartis AG.
- Reminyl, made by Johnson & Johnson and distributed in Britain by Shire Pharmaceuticals Group Plc.

"(They) are not recommended for use in the treatment of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease," NICE said in a statement on its Web site (<http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=245908>).

The watchdog said a fourth drug, Ebixa, made by Danish group Lundbeck, was not recommended for moderately severe to severe Alzheimer's outside clinical trials.

Currently some 52,500 patients are taking the drugs. Although they will be allowed to continue on treatment, the draft guidance recommends the medicines will not be offered to new patients.

Pfizer, the world's biggest drugmaker, and its partner Eisai condemned the decision.

"It is astounding that having substantially contributed to improving the plight of Alzheimer's sufferers with their first guidance, NICE can seriously consider sending dementia treatment back 10 years with this perverse appraisal document," said Eisai managing director Paul Hooper.

NICE said its findings were provisional and subject to consultations with the manufacturers, patient groups and public health bodies.

The watchdog's report raised questions about the drugs' effectiveness in a series of trials and their cost compared to improvements in patient's quality of life.

The medicines cost around 1,000 pounds (\$1,922) per patient a year.

Although not a cure, clinical trials have shown that they can slow the progress of symptoms of the illness.

In January, Shire's shares fell on reports of deaths among patients taking Reminyl. Shire has a co-development and licensing agreement with J&J for the product and also distributes it in Britain.

The market for drugs to treat patients with Alzheimer's disease is growing.

A study for the U.S. Alzheimer's Association last July forecast federal spending on the disease could triple to \$189 billion by 2015 as the population ages.

Alzheimer's is the leading cause of dementia in the elderly and affects an estimated 12 million people around the globe.

There is no cure for the progressive illness that robs people of their memory and mental ability.

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The new SONY Showroom and Al-Haidary Trading Center of Al-Haidary establishment in Sana'a was opened Feb. 23.

Sana'a mayor Ahmed Al-Kuhlani inaugurated the center along with Yuichi Ishii, Japanese Ambassador, Masaru Tamagama, Chairman of SONY Middle East's board, Shigeru Kumekawa, General Manager of Consumer Sales and Marketing Group, as well as a number of ambassadors, government officials, and businessmen.

The inauguration of the new center of Sony is part of the expansion of SONY sales services in Yemen and to mark the 20th anniversary of partnership between Al-Haidary and the Japanese company of SONY.

The new center has been shaped stylishly, offering all SONY products in one place and providing easy access to them.

The Japanese Ambassador expressed his happiness at the strong partnership between Yemen and Japan.

"It shows the deep-rooted friendship and partnership between both countries over decades," he said.

He emphasized that Yemeni-Japanese commercial exchange and cooperation increases substantially every year, and that the opening of the Al-Haidary's Center will further strengthen the relationship. He wished the company the best of success in Yemen.

Mohammed Al-Haidary also expressed his joy and gratitude to

the attendants who came to partake in opening the important commercial center.

"The main aim of the center is to add more sales channels and provide products and services to our customers. This center will also contribute to the achievement of other goals such as continuous availability of goods, offer all new products of the giant SONY and keep up with the developments in its products in a manner that satisfies customers'

varied tastes all over the country.

"Quality is our slogan when it comes to providing our customers with services especially in maintenance and after-sale services. We are very sure that the Yemeni customer knows well how to pick up high quality products," he said.

He added, "Although the Yemeni market is flooded by products particularly the electronics of unknown origins, it's witnessing an increase in sales in SONY products. Yemenis trust the Japanese goods more than they do other products.

"This current expansion is a result of the increase in SONY sales in Yemen. Every Yemeni family knows the various products of SONY, and almost no home in Yemen does not contain a SONY item."

Al-Haidary thanked all the attendants especially Masaru Tamagama of SONY Middle East's board, and Shigeru Kumekawa, General Manager, Consumer Sales & Marketing Group

Masaru Tamagam said that the occasion celebrates two things: opening Al-Haidary's SONY

The al-Haidary Trading Center, is a new multi-storied building with a spacious showroom with a whole range of the giant SONY products.

Sales Center, and marking the 20th anniversary of friendship between Japanese SONY and its agent in Yemen, Al-Haidary Trading.

"This important SONY showroom is a landmark in the Yemen-Japan relationship," he said.

"In recent years, many trademarks have been introduced into

the Middle East including the Yemeni markets. However, SONY has been growing steadily at 30 per cent annually amidst fierce commercial competition in the Middle East Market.

"We are making success for many reasons the most important of which is the fact that our strength lies in the quality of our manifold products, and our mar-

keting power and activities which target the customer service.

"With the inauguration of the center, consumers will be able to get all SONY's product from one place. People in SONY bless such an achievement in Yemen which will further promote our products. We wish Al-Haidary Group more success in the future."

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All-American TV show 'The Simpsons' made in Korea

By JON HERSKOVITZ

SEOUL, March 1 (Reuters) - Homer Simpson, his dysfunctional family and his friends from the middle-of-the-road American town Springfield were sent to Seoul long before exporting job overseas became a hot-button political issue in the United States.

A VWRQH throw away from a highway that tears through Seoul and upstairs from a convenience store called "Buy the Way", Homer, Marge, and the rest of "The Simpsons" have been brought to life for about 15 years at South .RUHDE AKOM Production Co.

The company has been animating "The Simpsons" at its studio in western Seoul since it premiered as a TV series in 1989.

Behind every blunder by police chief Wiggum, beer downed by Barney and wisecrack by Bart is a team of about 120 Korean animators and technicians who create the 22-minute episodes based on an elaborate storyboard and animation instructions from the VKRZs creators, Film Roman, in the United States.

AKOM gets the storyboard, camera and colouring instructions, as well as the voice tracks. It then turns out the episode about three months later. Music and other finishing touches are added back in the United States.

South Korea is one of the leaders in what is known as original equipment manufacturing (OEM) animation where a cartoon is drawn according to a storyboard provided by a client.

Nelson Shin, chief executive officer of AKOM, said "The Simpsons" ended up in Seoul because of the high quality of work.

Analysts say cheap labour also helped and industry estimates show that South Korean animators are paid about one-third of what their U.S.

Animation producer and chairman of South .RUHDE AKOM Production Co., Nelson Shin shows Christmas seals given to him by Film Roman, a U.S. animated programme maker, at his studio in Seoul in this photo taken Feb. 23. The South Korean company has been animating "The Simpsons" at its studio in western Seoul since it premiered as a television series in 1989. Picture taken Feb. 23.

REUTERS

counterparts make.

"HEY MAN!"

When Shin first took a look at the yellow characters with bulging eyes and four fingers he thought it would be easy to animate the Simpsons. But now he thinks otherwise.

"When it comes to %DUBspiky hair, if you make one mistake in drawing or pencil thickness, the animation looks funny," Shin said. The elaborate stories and the range of emotion shown by each character, it turns out, make "The Simpsons" an exceedingly difficult show to draw, he said.

"The characters are really delicate and subtle," Shin said.

For example, a typical cartoon has about six different mouths that can be attached to a stock face figure for talking. On "The Simpsons" the main characters have about 27 different mouths, Shin said.

If AKOM has trouble finding the correct way to show something, such as .UXW's scar from heart surgery, another take of the scene will be produced after a phone call with the United States.

After several hundred episodes, production runs smoothly. On one floor, a staff of mostly young women sit at computers as they scan animation cells, add colours and put the final technical touches on the show.

They work with storyboards that show pictures drawn in the United States.

But dialogue can pose a problem.

At first, the Korean staff had difficulty understanding the VKRZs humour and the cultural references, Shin said.

"There was so much slang in the show. I looked up those phrases in my dictionary and I FRDQGVD the meaning," Shin said. "Bart speaks to his father and says

PDQ This is so disrespectful for us with our Confucian culture."

DREAMS OF DUFF BEER

Shin sits in an office, decorated with cartoon figures, where his dogs bark for attention and an Emmy Award for his VW&L work on "The Simpsons" sits on a shelf.

Two floors below him is a room with dilapidated furniture and out-of-date audio visual equipment. Attached to the desk of animation director Kim Jun-bok is a hand-drawn picture of a six pack of Duff Beer, the preferred brand of 6SULQJILH. Kim's dog licks his face.

Over one of .LP's shoulders is a drawing that includes almost all the VKRZs characters and on a shelf above his desk is a book in which each character is drawn at various angles, as if standing in a police line-up.

"I cannot really say there is one character I like more than others. They are all just one family to me," Kim said.

"The Simpsons" is one of several U.S. animated TV shows made in South Korea, and in recent years other Korean animation studios have also been animating "The Simpsons" along with AKOM.

Shin, who teaches animation at a university, is one of the pioneers of the craft in Korea. He went to the United States in the 1970s and worked on shows such as

"Scooby Doo" and was also responsible for animating the light sabres in the first "Star Wars" movie.

He started AKOM in 1985 and one of his biggest projects — a full-length animated film based on a Korean tale called "Empress Chung" — will hit cinemas in South Korea later this year.

There are worries in South

Korea that OEM work is filtering out to other parts of Asia such as China and the Philippines where labour is cheaper.

But for now, fans of "The Simpsons" should know that each time they see Homer choking Bart and Lisa belting out the blues on her saxophone, there is an animator in Seoul who brought that image to life.

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An employee at South .RUHDE AKOM Production Co. shows an illustration of the "The Simpsons" at its studio in Seoul in this picture taken Feb. 23. The South Korean company has been animating "The Simpsons" at its studio in western Seoul since it premiered as a television series in 1989. Picture taken Feb. 23.

REUTERS