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Monday, 28 March 2005 • Issue No. 828 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Yemen's human rights

Report card rejected

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is drafting a formal response to a recent US report on human rights violations in Yemen.

But if early discussion is any indication, it might say something like "mind your business."

The US Embassy recently hosted discussion on the annual report that is given to Congress to discuss the practices of human rights in the countries that have relations with the US.

It has stirred a lot of controversy, protests and comments by some Yemeni officials as they believe attacked President Abdullah Ali Saleh and his government several times.

The Yemeni government says the



US deputy ambassador to Yemen Al-Khori (second from left) addressing the press conference.

report is filled with contradictions. The US stance toward Yemen has a double-standard policy. Tension of the Yemeni government toward the report has led to forming a committee to respond to it.

Deputy US Ambassador Nabeel Al-Khori to Yemen denied that the report issued by the US ministry of foreign affairs is directed against specific countries, but rather that it includes legal facts that measures the improvement or deterioration of human rights in any country.

The report is to be forwarded to the US Congress for the sake of assessing aid extended to any country. It touches

on areas such as torture, and regarding women, as well as how their role has been enhanced in different areas.

Deteriorating human rights situation was represented in repression of the freedom of press as well as the detention, interrogation and imprisonment of some journalists over their writings.

Al-Khori asserted, however, that the report is comparatively good.

Faris Asa'ad, the Political Official at the US Embassy pointed out that the report is usually issued depending on information from the government, the civil community organizations, members of parliament, as well as lawyers,

judges and foreign embassies based in Sana'a.

Data are mostly collected through articles published about Yemen in many domestic and external newspapers and news agencies. The report also contains data from the international organizations and the ministry of human rights, and covers a list of points on the status quo of human rights in the country.

Mrs. Amataleem al-Soswah, who is taking part in the committee, confirmed that the committee would work on the responses of institutions and concerned ministries in order to agree upon the official response to the US report.

Yemen facing economic tests amid falling output

BY YEMEN TIMES NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON, 26 Mar. — Yemen's economy could survive without policy adjustments in the short term but falling oil production means the government would have to make economic corrections further down the road, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

"The long-term fiscal and external position are clearly unsustainable," the fund said in an annual review of Yemen's economy.

Already, there are signs that the economy has shifted into lower gear amid aging large oil fields and no new significant oil explorations.

The IMF said gross domestic product growth was expected to have fallen to 2.7 per cent in 2004, versus 3.1 per cent in 2003. Non-oil GDP growth should have reached 4.1 per cent last year, due to stronger activity in the construction, transportation and trade sectors, it said.

Analysis

Algeria Summit not a total bust

Let's not lose hope

BY PROF. ABDULAZIZ AL-TARBI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Arab public did not expect much from the Algeria Summit because they believed it was meant to counteract blame. Arab people know well that their leaders always need some sort of cover up or resolution to justify a policy or renege on a commitment.

I don't want to say that the Algeria Summit had lost opportunities or realized the minimum level of formality. It is known that we minimize meetings

even at the level of a summit.

The absence of Arab leaders is a fracture in the Arab solidarity. This is why hot and difficult issues were not discussed. Arab leaders are not used to collective thinking and their visions are still blurred.

The expected minimum would have humbly included elimination of inter-Arab differences, setting up a mechanism for implementing the economic integration resolutions, finding out solutions to sticking points, cooperation in all areas that serve Arab interests, and opening new horizons of



Algiers Arab Summit proposes Mideast Peace Plan

opportunities and optimism for the Arab people.

These following issues were not addressed effectively:

Continued on page 2

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US supports wastewater project

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The US has given a \$492,000 grant to fund a feasibility study on wastewater collection, disposal, and treatment project for the Taiz Water and Sanitation Local Corporation.

An agreement confirming the grant was signed at Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on March 16.

Thomas C. Krajieski, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Mohammed Lutf al-Iryani, Minister of Water and Environment, signed the agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Yemeni govern-

ments.

Taiz is the third largest city in Yemen and is experiencing rapid growth.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) grant will fund a feasibility study to analyze the proposed installation of a new wastewater modernization system including the preliminary detailed design of the system, recommendations on effluent reuse, sludge treatment and wastewater use and odor control; and the preparation of tender documents for the project.

In addition, the study will analyze current water supply and sanitation conditions in Taiz, while taking into account expected future requirements.

IBY wins award

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The International Bank of Yemen has shown itself to be among the best Western Union agents in the Middle East, Pakistan & Afghanistan Region by winning the "Best Agent Award for Promoting the Brand for 2004."

At the Africa/MEPA Agent Conference held in Morocco from March 8-10, which was attended by

over 300 agents from all over the world, I.B.Y. was presented with the award.

It beat two other nominees for this award from Pakistan and U.A.E.

Representing I.B.Y. were Mr. Karama Saleh, Manager Financial Institutions and Mr. Fuad Sultan, AGM- Retail Banking Group.

By winning this award, I.B.Y. has once again proven itself to be leader in banking services.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions within its project "Strengthening National Capacity in Human Rights".

Position: **Human Rights Information Technology Specialist - SSA Level 6/Grade**

Duration: **6 months**

Specific Tasks: Provide IT support for the Information Centre including management of the IT aspects of the center, assistance of Virtual library's users, troubleshooting and procurement of appropriate hard and software necessary for the well-functioning of the Centre. Redesign and update the Ministry of Human Rights Webpage, and

For detailed terms of reference of the position, interested candidates are requested to visit our website at:

http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm_for_detailed_term_of_reference_of_the_position_and_may_submit_their_applications_indicating_the_title_of_the_post_applied_for_by_mail_to_Human_Resources_Unit_and_response_will_only_be_made_to_short_listed_candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

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The deadline for receiving applications is **Sunday, 10th April 2005**

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Two TV journalism Workshops Concluded in Sana'a

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The US Embassy Public Diplomacy Section, in cooperation with the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), organized two workshops, simultaneously, on TV Journalism and Production For Yemen Satellite TV, March 19-23, and the Yemen Female Media Forum, March 20-22, 2005.

Both workshops were attended by a total of 45 participants from Sana'a TV and the Yemen Female Media Forum and were conducted by Dr. Norman Swan of the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Swan has a 30-year-broadcasting, broadcast management, broadcast education and research.

He has conducted over 100 workshops on radio and TV in 40 countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Closing ceremonies for both workshops were attended by senior Yemeni officials and civil society representa-

tives including Minister of Human Rights Amat al-Alim al-Soswa, Deputy Minister of Information Ahmed al-Hamati, Chairman of the Kan'an Association for Palestine Yahya Mohammed Saleh, and Director of HOOD Human Rights Organization, Lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw.

The workshops addressed various topics including responsibilities of news departments, news research techniques, reporting identifying topics, developing TV plans, news production and editing, ethics, and writing, interviewing and presenting skills.

The workshops were conducted as part of the US Embassy Public Diplomacy Section's efforts to improve the professional level and journalism skills of the participants, promote the standards of journalism in Yemen and empower women role in media.

Dialogue committee expects to release al-Houthi followers

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A committee was formed Wednesday March 23 including jurists, judges and other members from the intellectual dialogue committee to evaluate and discuss the situation of al-Houthi followers detained at the backdrop of Mran events, Saadah of last year.

Those who prove to not be involved in the support for the rebellious movement would be released. The release would also include those with whom the ideological dialogue has proved to be positive and have committed themselves to its results.

Judge Hamoud al-Hitar Chairman of the Ideological Dialogue Committee asserted that his committee met with President Saleh and came out with positive results, the most prominent of which is the release of Journalist Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani.

The committee also discussed the reasons behind upholding the trial of Yahya al-Dailami, Preacher of the Grand Qubab al-Mahdi Mosque in the old city of Sana'a and Mohammad Miftah Preacher of the Grand Mosque in al-Raudha to the north of the capital.

These two suspects were charged by prosecution with the formation of clandestine organization to support cleric Hussein al-Houthi who was killed by government troops a few months ago.

Military commander exposed to ambush in Sa'ada

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Security sources in Sa'ada emphasized that an armed group on Wednesday set up an ambush for a high-ranking army commander who was heading for the governorate provincial capital.

The ambush resulted in the killing of three of his bodyguards but no confirmation was available on whether the commander was seriously injured. Analysts believed that the ambush which was erected at Khouqaa area was the concoct of followers of al-Houthi insurgent who had been killed by government troops last September.

Opposition: 'No' to state-run media

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Opposition parties held a meeting on March 21, expressing their surprise at the irresponsible acts by the state against opposition parties, particularly the media campaign against them and the unlawful arrests.

They pointed their finger at the Ministry of Interior in particular.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) also emphasized that the state should not own media outlets.

"A democratic system requires that the state not own public media."

In a statement, a copy of which was sent to The Yemen Times, accused the government of exploiting the media to serve its own ends and promote its oppressive policies.

"They mislead public opinion with lies, to terrorize the opposition and proliferate a culture of hatred and incitement against the opposition," the statement said.

The statement confirmed opposition's commitment to use every constitutional and legal means to have its rights to freedom of expression, peaceful demonstrations, sit-ins, and marches to reject unacceptable laws.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think Israel and the US administration would respond positively to the Arab Mideast Peace Plan adopted by Algiers Arab Summit held this month?
Yes
No
Have no idea

last edition's question:

Do you think the pardon of al-Khaiwani is meant to beautify the political regime's image?
Yes 92%
No 8%

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

24 suspects handed over to Saudi Arabia

YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An official source at the ministry of interior confirmed that interior ministries in Yemen and Saudi Arabia had conducted high-level contacts for handing over 24 Saudi nationals to Saudi authorities. The Saudi nationals

are wanted by the government of Saudi Arabia for being involved in different security issues.

The source said the Yemeni Interior Ministry sent a letter to Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Saudi Interior Minister with respect to the arrangement of the extradition of the suspects to the government of Saudi Arabia in the follow-

ing days.

The Yemeni Ministry of Interior had captured those suspects inside Yemeni territories. Handing over of those persons is arranged as part of the security agreement signed by the two countries, particularly regarding the extradition of the wanted and criminals of the two countries.

In brief

- Omar Mohammad al-Shuja'a, an 8-year-old boy from al-Huban in Taiz was killed last Thursday due to mishandling a machine gun. After a bullet penetrated his neck, he was transferred to Al-Thawrah Hospital in Taiz where he died.
- A newborn infant was found recently near a wastebin in al-Mostawaf Zone, Taiz. The authorities found that the victim was illegitimately born and those involved in the crime have been caught.
- The Human Rights Information and Training Center's Team will issue a special manual for police officers trained in the field of human rights. A statement issued by the HRITC said that the special work team has already finalized the first draft of the manual, which it has worked on in conjunction with the United Nations Development Program.
- Yemen will participate in a conference for businesspeople in Beijing, China. The Yemeni team will be led by Dr. Khalid Sheikh, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of the Arab Group.

- The Parliament formed a specialist committee on March 21 to investigate the motives behind the massive demonstrations staged simultaneously against price hikes and the sales tax law due to be implemented in July. The committee included members of the ruling People's General Congress, Yemeni Congregation Party (Islah) and the Yemeni Socialist Party.
- The second phase of a survey organized by the National Documents Center to locate important documents commenced in Sana'a on March 22 in 42 governmental institutions.
- The Media and Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy in Sana'a will hold a session today on the enhancement of the US foreign affairs for human rights in Yemen.
- The session is organized by the Attaché in cooperation with the National Center for Human Rights and Democracy Development.
- Yemen, represented by the Consumer Protection Society, celebrated World Consumer Day on March 20.
- On Wednesday the Yemeni

- Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) held a session on the situation of Yemeni journalism and ways of developing the performance of journalists.
- A Saudi Medical Team that arrived in Yemen March 21 is performing pediatric, cardiological and neurological surgeries at Al-Thawrah Hospital in Sana'a.
- A press conference was held by Mr. Ahmad Sufan, Minister of Planning, and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Census at the Central Organization for Statistics on March 23.
- The conference discussed the economic and social changes between the 1994 census and that of 2004.
- The Second International Book Fair was inaugurated on March 22 in Aden with the participation of over 100 publishers from different Arab countries. The fair covers over 70 thousand titles.
- The Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate held Wednesday March 22 a press conference on the cases concerning the attack of lawyers Mohammad Naji Allaw and Jamal al-Ja'abi.

Continued from page 1

Let's not lose hope

- The Palestinian Cause, after Sharm al-Sheikh, and helping the new Palestinian Authority get out of the critical stage, binding the Palestinian factions, giving no excuses to Israel to execute its expansive, aggressive plans and disengage itself from peace commitments.
- Building up pressure on foreign countries particularly the United States to attempt at reaching a fair settlement for the Middle East Crisis according to the international legitimacy and activating the Arab peace initiative in reintroducing it to the World after amending its terms. The implementation policy should then be submitted to the summit's decision-makers.
- Assisting the Iraqi people to restore their sovereignty, free will, stopping current bloodshed, fostering the democratic approach to draft a permanent constitution in the country and forming a permanent national government entitled to ask foreign forces to leave, regain sovereignty over all the Iraqi land, thwarting schemes of disintegration, terrorism proliferation and stationing permanent foreign bases.
- Assisting Syria and Lebanon to solve the current crisis; finding out wise plausible solutions that can scare away the specter of foreign intervention and restore robust links between the two twin countries; siding with the voice of mind and joint interest rather than sensitivities and past feuds.
- Reforming the Arab League entirely and comprehensively. This should not be limited to the voting system or other "plastic surgeries" and formalities such as the initiative of forming and Arab Parliament etc.; caring not about who will take the Secretary General's chair at the Arab league or other affiliated organizations and what their nationalities

- are; forming the Arab Court.
- Setting up an Arab-made plan for comprehensive reform, modernization, and improvement so that we let no chance for other initiatives to be imposed from outside such as that promoted by the US. Reform is a national necessity and not an American or foreign need.
- No reform, no development, and not advancement unless the plague of terrorism is eradicated. Hence, Arabs should cooperate and coordinate with each other to cope with this destructive danger.
- The above points are the ones that could have been covered had the Arab leaders wanted the Summit to be a success. It could have at least saved what remains.
- As I mentioned, the Summit did not tackle the thorny issues. It was just a routine one held just by reason of the annual formality.
- Disadvantages:**
They are manifested in the absence of some influential Arab leaders such as from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, Bahrain, and Lebanon, the last of whom may be excused.
Another disadvantage is evading to ask for a US pullout from Iraq and Israel's withdrawal from Golan simultaneously with the Syrian pullback from Lebanon.
- Advantages:**
First: The holding of the summit. Some predicted it would not be held at all.
Second: Agreement to apply the Arab Peace Initiative and urging the American and the Europeans as an approach to realize peace, democracy, and development in the area and limit the propagation of violence and terrorism.
Third: Approval of Arab Foreign Minister's recommendations and drafts.

- Fourth: Supporting the system of the Arab League, remitting payments in default, and paying the dues.
- After the last 60 years, the Age of the Arab league, I do not expect much from an Arab Parliament to be formed by feeble Arab countries. It would be absolutely unsatisfactory. Yet, I have not lost hope. Despite the fact that the Arab countries are not those of institutions and that the people are controlled by the rulers, the governors are aware of the ongoing developments and difficult conditions as well as the besetting crises and internal and external pressures. Hammers are now knocking at the Arab doors and will break into the Arab homes with no permission. They think they have the right to participate and even blatantly intervene. Will such conditions ever beget new policies and creative establishments?
Man does not live on hope only. Nevertheless, let us hope against all odds.
We should introduce ourselves and our claims at the meetings of the UN General Assembly in this September when international resolutions are to be produced regarding reform. Let us deliberate with and consult each other envisaging the next summit in Khartoum.
Otherwise, the Arab countries will not mind to embrace externally-imposed reforms to get out of the vicious circle of authoritarianism, monopoly, and guardianship. The people will do this because they want to live, like other peoples around the world, with freedom, dignity, welfare, and peace.
The coming summits would come after changes unless we fulfill our duty of providing a decent life for our people. Many a hazard lurks and, so, we must adopt the alternatives of reform.

Safer than Kansas City

Yemen is victim of media ignorance

By BRYAN K. MANNING
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The ancient history of Yemen and the greater Arabian peninsula remains enigmatic to the world's archaeological community. Time, like a sandstorm, has shrouded the archaic truth of this vast area, leaving us to stare blankly backwards at a lost, antiquated era.

But what of the contemporary history of Yemen? How qualitative is the state of foreign media reporting that plies its trade in Yemen today? For what are reporters if not privately appointed "up to the minute" history chroniclers.

Fleeting sages that decide, document and ultimately interpret what the world digests as newsworthy imperatives. To often in Yemen the news takes the form of hair-raising headlines that read like warning labels on caches of TNT: Threat Level Rises For Westerners in Yemen, Warns Embassy.

One would swear the very air in Yemen is laced with mustard gas; it is enough to make you gag alright, but not from the effects of any noxious gas. Can a place be so incorrigible in its supposed barbarism towards outsiders? Embarrassed as I am to readily admit it, I more than entertained or should I say swallowed this preposterous media myth.

It is hard not to succumb to Yemen's constructed perception (tainted and skewed as it is) we Westerners receive. For the source - foreign media and government alarmism/opportunism make for clever and convincing bedfellows. In the voracious jaws of this dynamic duo where else are passive recipients of the news to turn? There is

no credible source or viable alternative, barring uprooting oneself and making contact with actual Yemeni people... in Yemen.

Not an option for most I would think. And so the less fantastical truth of life in the Middle East, and in Yemen pointedly, is replaced by a dire fallacy: life as a foreigner, notably a British or American citizen, is inherently fraught with imminent danger. Cue the chorus line of weathered clichés, fundamentalists and Islamic extremists will target you for assault, maiming, and possibly murder.

If you make it through that nasty gauntlet more harrowing peril awaits. Kidnapping. Actually I was informed by a Canadian Islamic scholar and one time resident of Cairo that the kidnapping rate has escalated to "cottage industry" status. Not surprisingly, he had never set foot in any part of Yemen but was sure the statistics (more likely lore) held true. After all he asserted "I am a scholar". What hope can be left if even the learned amongst us are being sucked in?

Well whatever the conduit, be it nerve wracked governments, ill-advised individuals, or myopic journalists I am no longer partial to this weak dialectic. It is plainly false and painfully outdated.

As a working citizen of Aden I see the danger not in the streets and alleyways-chaotic as they are. Rather it lies imbedded in a ubiquitous web spun from beyond Yemeni and Middle Eastern demarcations. The web orb is fixed over the Middle East and its spin doctors are busily at work here in Yemen.

Its strands connect to a taut and hegemonic conglomerate, ie. North American and European media corpo-

rations. The message - Yemen is unsafe - is derived from the medium - the news - recycled by them ad infinitum and mass produced until the stories origin is virtually forgotten. Is it that absurd to indict these corporations based on the misinformation they choose to proliferate? Absolutely not.

You need only to reference the research of American Will Hutchison pertaining to contrasting images of Yemen and America to begin to comprehend the immense double-standard in reporting (In Kansas City, Missouri, pop.440 000, a person is 97 times more likely to be a victim of a crime than in Sana'a). Where is old Eliot Ness when you need him? Certainly somebody has to lay charges of fear mongering on this the new breed of newsroom untouchables. I wouldn't hold my breath in the interim.

At the core of this epic blunder in communication between the West and the East is a thirst for sensationalism which demands a divorce from ethics. If they negatively sensationalize it - Yemen - you will not come. And the viewer ratings of a major broadcasting station grow. If they condemn the country as a haven for Al Qaeda then you just may dismiss it soundly enough to malign it outright.

This is the all to concrete and neglected crisis facing the national psyche of Yemen. It is a stake to the heart of key industries-culture and tourism related promotion and foreign business investment to name a few-already struggling to get on their feet in the country.

While the rest of the world reaps the exposure and profits of the global travel phenomena, Yemen crouches recently in an arcing shadow of bad publicity. In the same way a global super-

power might render a recalcitrant "minor league" nation disabled vis-à-vis economic sanctions, it follows that discriminatory mass reporting of events in Yemen has reconfigured the country into a global pariah.

Sadly, those who lead the charge in this myopic campaign of misinformation fail to consider its social and economic ramifications; the insidious and demoralizing consequences that mar the dignity of an entire nation. In a court of law one party can sue another for using inflammatory language for the purpose of slander.

Yet how is it the denigration of Yemen at the hands of media charlatans-an act tantamount to all out skullduggery-is tolerated and accepted as the status quo.

Well I think it is about time the pitch in the battle cry of this media assault changed from accusatory to accountability. Then, mercifully at least some semblance of the real picture of life in the Yemen can unfurl itself and allow the red, white and black and to fly true.

Then maybe the outside world, so long misled by spin doctors and propaganda, will start to see the genuine Yemen. And then finally foreigners like myself and countless others can stop chastising ourselves for not coming to this refreshingly uncommon country sooner. The German philosopher Hegel once said,

"Sometimes there is nothing behind the curtain other than that which is in front of it." The truth about Yemen can be as sublimely vivid as a sunset over Elephant Bay, just don't look for it on the evening news.

Bryan K. Manning is a Canadian teacher working for the American Language Center in Aden.

Political repression is key issue

Women's plight part of larger Arab problems

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite the fact that there are plans to allow more women's participation in the political, economic, social and cultural life of Yemen, equality to men remains limited.

Statistics show in 1993 there were 478,379 female voters. The number leaped significantly in 2003 to hit the mark of 3.4 million, (42%) compared to 4.68 million for men.

Yet, in 1993 the number of female political candidates was 41 in 1993, then fell in 1997 to 17, and in 2003 further shrank to 11.

Only two female candidates won the elections in 1993, and two others in 1997

whereas only one won in 2003 elections.

Local councils elections also disappointed Yemeni women who aspired to get a broader political role. Some 35 women joined the election under political parties. The ruling party had 34 female candidates of them only 25 women got seats.

In local councils, while the total number of seats was 6,636, women secured only 35. Five independent candidates won, and five others representing opposition parties.

Women's occupation of key positions in political parties number 259 of 12,975 female partisan members. That's just two per cent.

And women's participation in civil organizations does not exceed 6 per cent.

It is also notable that only 95 women

are general managers in all departments of the government.

They're challenging numbers. Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik al-Mutawakil said the exclusion of women is against the norm in the universe which is multiplicity and integration.

He added: "if it was otherwise, Adam would be created alone, day would have light and no darkness and life would be full of evil and no goodness. We can assure that woman's role is not a step but a political and social reform."

He also noted that the mistake committed by the women movement is isolating it from the whole movement of the society as though women are the only oppressed individuals in the Arab world; but women will not have more rights unless the community in general sees

more freedom.

As females, they suffer from the oppression of the community as they are seen to be the weakest link, said Mutawakil. Their struggle to get their rights is part of the struggle of the whole society to defend its rights.

"Their role should not be limited to claiming to be part of a system where they can not function. They can change and influences the whole society and they should not wait for permission from anybody. They can be pioneers in reform: in political reform via the civil community organizations. Our modern experience has showed that the most successful civil community organization are the ones led by women."

He also said women will have no freedom and salvation from oppression and discrimination in the society only in a liberated community. "Women's participation in political reforms does not need anyone's permission."

Amat al-Alem al-Suswah, Minister of Human Rights, said previously that society needs to identify the factors that inhibit women from participation in political activity in particular. "I think her ability to work in the field of politics is the most effective means to persuade voters and political parties to admit her competence. This should be in ratio with number of women."

She said these factors are manifold. Some originate in the social upbringing, cultural heritage, misconception of religion, illiteracy, ignorance of politics and law, and the increasing influence of conservative intellectual parties which call for keeping women in the cocoon of her home, and alienates her to any creative role. There are also the economic and living conditions which determine the whole character of a family.

She added, "the conservative intellectual stream and the misunderstanding of religion and cultural heritage are main factors behind women's political deprivation."

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Eliminating violence against women

By KHALED ALHILALY
khaledyn922@hotmail.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Of all human rights issues, it is the issue of violence against women that must be a priority. Violence, like discrimination, is an infringement of human rights which integral to any truly democratic system.

Islam gave women rights over than 1,400 years ago and placed them on a higher pedestal in society than ever before. These rights included the right to child custody, the right of inheritance, the right to equal status and the right to divorce. Yet unfortunately, women still lag behind in social development in some Muslim societies. This backwardness is rooted in male prejudice and non-religious cultural taboos.

I acknowledge that the Qur'an permits a husband to beat his wife, though a correct reading of this verse indicates that he should use nothing more injurious than a miswak, a twig that commonly serves as a toothbrush in the Muslim world. Women are subjected to injustice, violence and marginalization despite the deference and fairness accorded to them by Islam.

Violence against women is a universal issue, crossing the boundaries of culture, geography, race, ethnicity, class and religion, however illiterate and poor women are particularly vulnerable. In many countries laws offer only limited protection to women, often treating domestic violence as a "private family matter", not one warranting legislative intervention or administrative intrusion.

Educational expansion plays an important role in the reduction of violence against women. Arab states have clearly overcome traditional barriers to educat-

ing women. Accordingly, education rates have risen rapidly, however half Arab women still cannot read and four million girls are not in schools.

One in four women suffer violence at some time during their lives. In a male dominated society, women are suffering in silence. Injuries to breasts, abdomen, or chest leading sometimes to miscarriage or other fetal problems, fractured bones, lost teeth and non-physical cases such as depression all are examples of frequent domestic violence against women.

Furthermore, rape rates have risen recently and in most Arab countries awareness of sexual harassment is only a recent phenomenon, with legal redress still limited and uncertain.

Unfortunately, GPs in causality departments are not trained for identifying such cases. Doctors and health workers still turn a blind eye to tell-tale signs of violence such as bruises and black eyes, and don't even offer any practical help.

There are several ways to prevent violence against women. Women's organizations, research centers and governmental agencies should step up their efforts and activities to press for women's legal rights. Legal measures must be adopted towards the elimination of violence against women.

Legal literacy campaigns could be organized to make women fully aware of their legal rights. Reintegration would be easier if psychological treatment was provided and women's shelters were spread throughout the region.

Specially trained female police officers could provide assistance to victims of violence. Regulating the media's treatment of the female body is another effective way of eliminating such behavior in everyday life.



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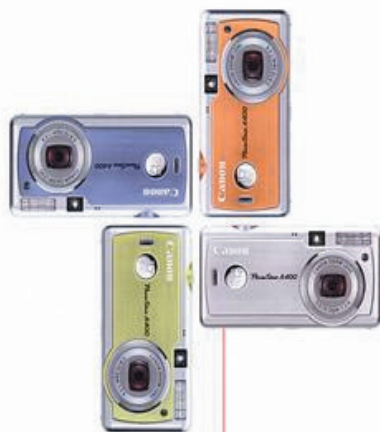
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Iraqi forces seize 131 suspected insurgents in raid

BAGHDAD, March 26 (Reuters) - Iraqi soldiers backed by U.S. helicopters killed several suspected insurgents and seized 131 more in a dawn raid on Saturday, capturing tonnes of explosives earmarked for attacks on the holy city of Kerbala, officials said.

"It was a surprise operation based on intensive surveillance by military intelligence," Defence Minister Hazim al-Shaalan told Reuters.

"It was very successful."

Earlier this week Iraqi police commandos said they killed 85 militants in

a raid on a suspected insurgent training camp near Baghdad, hailing it as a breakthrough against the insurgency.

Shaalan said several suspected militants were killed in the latest operation, which began late on Friday and culminated in the dawn raid just outside Kerbala, about 100 km (60 miles) southwest of Baghdad.

The vast majority of the 131 captured were Iraqis, although officials said many faked Iraqi identification papers were also found.

It was not clear how many people

were killed.

"We carried out this operation so that visitors to Kerbala can go there in peace," Shaalan said.

Kerbala, an important Shi'ite Muslim holy city, has been targeted by militants several times in the past. Next week it will draw hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from throughout the region for Arbain, a major mourning ceremony.

Another defence ministry official said many of those detained were from Ansar al-Sunna, a militant group based in northern Iraq, near the border with Iran, that has carried out several high-profile attacks over the past 18 months.

"This group was intending to attack Kerbala," he said.

Seized along with the suspects were three tonnes of TNT explosive, at least three ready-made car bombs, hundreds of rocket-propelled grenades, several Katyusha rockets, more than 250,000 rounds of ammunition and other equipment.

In terms of the number of people detained and the amount of weaponry seized, it marks one of the most successful Iraqi-run operations in the past two years.

Iraqi officials say their intelligence network is improving, while Iraqi security forces are also growing stronger, giving them fresh impetus in the battle against the two-year-old insurgency.

available for comment.

The GSPC, which has pledged allegiance to al Qaeda, is the largest rebel movement still fighting the Algerian government in a waning civil war which began after the military cancelled legislative elections in 1992.

The group warned Arab leaders on the eve of the Arab League summit that their peoples would wreck revenge on them for obeying U.S. and Israeli orders.

Authorities estimate that 150,000 people have died since militants took up arms against the government in 1992, although violence has sharply fallen in recent years.



Iraqis survey the remains of a car bomb which exploded as a joint U.S. and Iraqi Army convoy was driving past on a highway in al-Warrar area in Ramadi, west of Baghdad March 26. REUTERS

Algerian Islamic militants kill two soldiers

ALGIERS, March 26 (Reuters) - Algeria's main rebel group with alleged ties to al Qaeda has killed two soldiers in an ambush east of the capital Algiers, a newspaper said on Saturday.

The attack on Thursday evening near the town Thenia, 30 km (20 miles) east of Algiers, came a day after a summit of Arab heads of state was held in the capital.

Two soldiers in civilian clothes were on their way home when they were killed by a unit of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), newspaper Liberte said.

Authorities were not immediately

National Population Council Vacant Positions

The National Population Council /T.S announces the following vacancies to be filled with immediate effect. Interested applicants who meet the below mentioned qualifications, working experiences and linguistic abilities should submit their application ASAP to the General Department for Coordination and follow up P.O. Box 12551 Sana'a,

Telefax: 220272,

Tele No. 231528 :Ext.229

1) Programme Manager

His or Her Qualifications:

- 1- Advanced University degree in Health (Specialized in Sexually Transmitted diseases or Public Health).
- 2- At least 3 years with relevant HIV/AIDS

2) Administrative Assistant:

- 1-University degree, preferably Master Degree in Business Administration and Management and/or relevant discipline.
- 2-At least 5 years of progressively responsible experience in the Relevant field.
- 3-At least three years with the international organizations.
- 4-Computer literacy.

3) Finance Assistant:

- 1-Advanced University degree with experience and advanced Training /courses.
- 2-At least 5 years of progressively responsible experience in Financial aspect.

4) Executive Secretary:

- 1- Completion of secondary school or Diploma in secretariat.
- 2- At least three years experience in the relevant field.
- 3- Good knowledge of Computer and good organizational abilities.

* All employees should be fluency in oral and written English and Arabic.

For further information or inquiry, please contact the General Depart for Coordination and Follow-up at the above address.

Lebanon figure urges pro-Syria security to resign

BEIRUT, March 26 (Reuters) - A leading Lebanese opposition figure on Saturday urged the country's Syrian-backed security chiefs to resign to make way for an international probe into the killing of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri.

"It is not possible to carry out a just, serious, clear and transparent investigation if the heads of the agencies remain in their place," Druze chieftain Walid Jumblatt told reporters.

"We warned against a security state over and over."

A U.N. fact-finding team said in a report released on Thursday that Lebanon's own inquiry into Hariri's Feb. 14 killing was seriously flawed and called for an international investigation, long a demand of the opposition that holds Damascus and the security services it backs responsible.

Hariri's assassination has plunged Lebanon into its biggest political crisis since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Syria denies involvement in the assassination of Hariri in a huge bombing in Beirut, but the report said such an inquiry was unlikely to fulfil its mission satisfactorily if the Lebanese security chiefs stayed.

Lebanon's pro-Syrian authorities, put on the defensive by the findings that criticised their shortcomings in preventing and investigating the killing, have slammed the report.

But opposition figures say it bolsters their repeated calls for an international probe and for the security chiefs to go.

"Yesterday, they tried to defend themselves ... they tried to defend themselves to the last moment," Jumblatt said of Lebanon's justice, interior and foreign ministers.

"Tomorrow, they will no doubt be brought to court, to investigation."

The U.N. Security Council, which last year passed a resolution demanding Syria pull its troops out of Lebanon, ordered the fact-finding mission last month to report on "the circumstances, causes and



Lebanese people assemble a large montage of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri near his grave at Beirut's Martyrs' Square March 26. Lebanon's opposition urged the country's Syrian-backed security chiefs on Saturday to resign to make way for an international probe into the killing of former prime minister al-Hariri. REUTERS

consequences of the assassination".

The United States and France, co-sponsors of the resolution, are expected to introduce a new resolution to the Security Council calling for an international inquiry, diplomats say.

Street protests

The opposition has seized on mass street protests to force the pro-Syrian government to resign and Damascus to bow to international pressure to finally withdraw the forces it poured into the country early in the civil war.

Facing mounting pressure, Syria has pledged to withdraw its troops, intelligence agents and equipment from Lebanon.

It has already completed the first phase of a two-phase plan, pulling back to eastern Lebanon and withdrawing over a third of its 14,000 troops out altogether.

Syrian troops left four positions in the eastern Bekaa Valley overnight and crossed the border into Syria, witnesses said. They left five

positions in the agricultural plain earlier in the week and continued to dismantle positions on Saturday.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said he expects Syria to complete its withdrawal before Lebanese general elections due in May. A Lebanese-Syrian military committee is expected to meet in early April to set a timeline for full withdrawal.

Lebanese Defence Minister Abdel Rahim Mrad warned on Friday that Lebanon's military and security forces were too small to take over from Syrian troops leaving the Bekaa and may not be capable of securing the area if Syrian forces leave quickly.

Syria's backers in Lebanon have long argued that their country could slip back into lawlessness without it, but Jumblatt blamed the pro-Syrian security forces for bombings that have rattled the Lebanese.

Two blasts have shaken Christian areas where opposition to Syria is strong in the past week.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position within its project "Electoral Support for the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda"

Post Level SC-B / SC-C

Post Title : National Coordinator

The National Coordinator is competitively recruited by UNDP in collaboration with the SCER. She/He works as primary national interlocutor to the Election Support Project's Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), and Election Support Project staff.

The Role, responsibilities and tasks of the National Coordinator are:

The Role of the National Coordinator is to:

- Play the role of SCER representative with regards to project issues as instructed by the Chairman of SCER.¹
- Play the role of facilitator between the project Chief Technical Advisor and the UNDP Programme Monitor on one hand and SCER on issues pertaining:
 - o The implementation of the project workplan;
 - o Ensuring the engagement of SCER in the project approach, planning and implementation in line with project objectives and expected results.
 - o Supporting the CTA in daily liaison with the departments of SCER.

The Responsibilities of the National Coordinator include:

- Ensuring the achievement of project objectives and timely implementation of corresponding activities;
- Briefing and consulting with SCER Chairman on the project approach;
- Providing and ensuring the provision of efficient, timely and daily management and communication support to the Project's Management team
- Briefing the CTA, regularly on national policy issues, political and developmental changes in the country that would impact on the project approach and its activities;
- Advice CTA and UNDP on most appropriate measures for project coordination with the beneficiaries, counterpart institutions, local communities, and private sector in order to optimize the success and effectiveness of project activities;

The Tasks of the of the National Coordinator include:

In the Planning and monitoring processes:

- Participate in the project Technical Committee and Steering Committee meetings and provide technical and logistic support to the SCER with respect to the proceedings of meetings;
- Prepare Minutes of all project meetings in Arabic and English jointly with CTA/project team and submit to SCER and UNDP in a timely fashion not exceeding three days of each meeting;
- Communicate approval of the SCER Chairman on the workplan and timetable;
- Assist in preparing public and media communication programmes for the SCER;
- Participate in review meetings with UNDP;

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a university degree in the field of political science, law, administration, economics, or a related field.
- A minimum of 7 years experience working with and/or providing support to development projects, preferably with an international agency.
- Extensive knowledge of Yemen's electoral processes.
- Very good communication and reporting skills.
- Fluent in English, with demonstrated good translation and interpretation skills (English/Arabic).

Interested candidates may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday April 7, 2005

¹The National Coordinator does not represent UNDP unless specifically requested by the UNDP Resident Representative.



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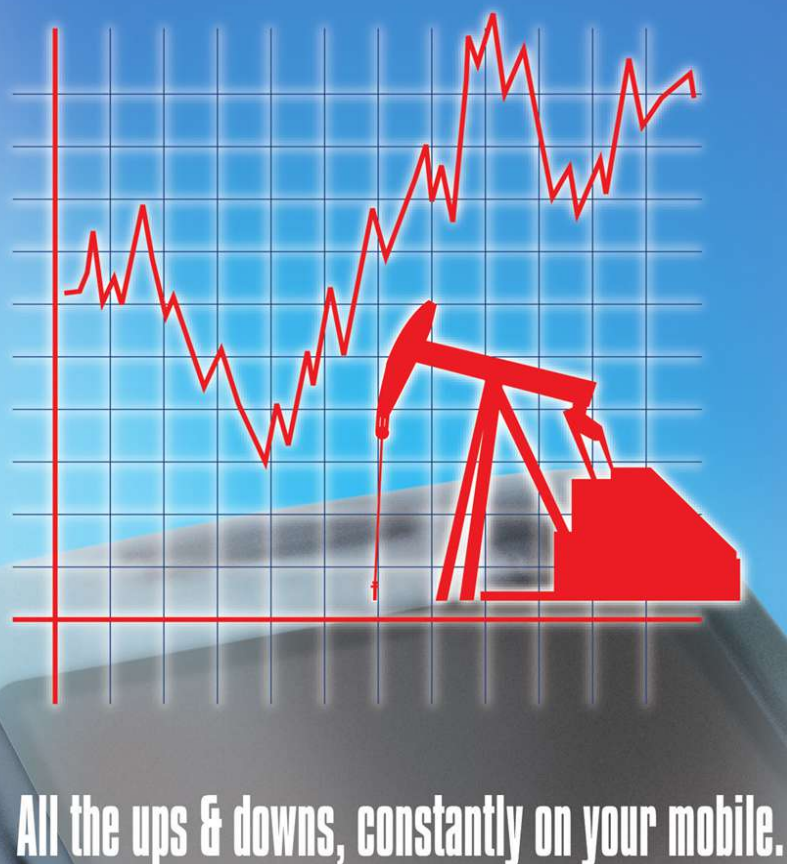
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SUPPLY PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supply of Medical Equipment and Furniture for District Hospitals and Health Centres
Taiz, Lahj, Al-Bayda and Hadramout in Yemen

- 1. Publication reference**
EuropeAid/ 120548/D/S/YE
- 2. Procedure**
International open tender
- 3. Programme**
ALA programme
- 4. Financing**
Financing Agreement No. YEM/B7-3000/IB/98/0710
- 5. Contracting authority**
Ministry of Public Health and population, Support to the health sector reform Project, Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
(Telephone: 00967-1- 220594) (Fax: 00967-1- 252241)(E-mail: HSRSP@y.net.ye).

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

- 6. Description of the contract**
Supply, set-up, installation, commissioning, testing, training and warranty obligations by the Contractor of Medical Equipment and Furniture for 8 District Hospitals and 8 Health Centres in Taiz, Lahj, Al-Bayda and Hadramout.
- 7. Number and titles of lots**

Lot no.	Title of Lot	Description
Lot 1	Medical Equipment for 8 hospitals	X-ray Units, Ultrasound Machines, Anaesthetic Apparatuses, Dental Chairs, Operation tables and a variety of other equipment and instruments
Lot 2	General Equipment for 8 hospitals (Generator & AC equipment)	Air conditioners and Electric Generators
Lot 3	Medical furniture and general furniture for 8 Hospitals	Beds, couch examination, cabinets, chairs, mattresses, trolleys, etc.
Lot 4	Medical instruments for 8 Hospitals	Cut down sets, D&C sets, tonsillectomy sets, general instruments sets, etc.
Lot 5	Medical equipment, furniture and instruments for 8 Health Centers	Office furniture, medical furniture, diagnostic and surgical instruments, laboratory equipment, etc.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- 8. Eligibility and rules of origin**
Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons [participating either individually or in a group (consortium) of tenderers] of the Member States and the Republic of Yemen . All goods supplied under this contract must originate in these countries.
- 9. Grounds for exclusion**
Tenderers must provide documentary proof that they are not in any of the situations listed in point 2.3.3 of the **Practical Guide to contracts procedures financed by the general budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions.**
- 10. Number of tenders**
Tenderers (including firms within the same legal group, other members of the same consortium, and sub-contractors) may submit only one tender for one or more lots. Tenders for parts of a lot will not be considered. Any tenderer may state in its tender that it would offer a discount in the event that its tender is accepted for more than one lot. Tenderers may submit a tender for a variant solution in addition to their tender for the supplies required in the tender dossier.
- 11. Tender guarantee**
Tenderers must provide a tender guarantee of:-

No. of Lot	Amount of the tender guarantee in EUROS	Amount of the tender guarantee in YEMENI RIAL
Lot 1	8.000	1.944.000
Lot 2	1.000	243.000
Lot 3	1.500	364.500
Lot 4	500	121.500
Lot 5	2.000	486.000

when submitting their tender. This guarantee will be released to unsuccessful tenderers once the tender procedure has been completed and to the successful tenderer(s) upon signature of the contract by all parties. This guarantee will be called upon if the tenderer does not fulfil all obligations stated in its tender.

- 12. Performance guarantee**
The successful tenderer will be asked to provide a performance guarantee of no more than 10% of the amount of the contract at the signing of the contract. This guarantee must be provided no later than 30 days after the tenderer receives the contract signed by the Contracting Authority. If the selected tenderer fails to provide such a guarantee within this period, the contract will be void and a new contract may be drawn up and sent to the tenderer which has submitted the next best compliant tender.
- 13. Information meeting and/or site visit**
No information meeting is planned
- 14. Tender validity**
Tenders must remain valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline for submission of tenders.
- 15. Period of execution**
60 days (maximum) from the date of the contract signature.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

- 16. Selection criteria**
 - 16.1 Professional and technical capacity:**
 - The tenderers must provide evidence that facilities for warranty are available for the supplies offered in the delivery area.
 - At least three (3) projects where the tendere has provided similar medical equipment and furniture during the last three (3) years.
 - Experience in Yemen or region.
 - 16.2 Compliance with administrative and technical criteria as stipulated in the tender dossier.**
- 17. Award criteria**
Price and combination of quality of services after sales.

TENDERING

- 18. How to obtain the tender dossier**
The tender dossier is available from the following Internet address:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm.
The tender dossier is also available for collection from the Ministry of public Health and population, Support to the Health sector reform project, Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Yemen.
Project management unit, **Mr. Akram Al-Rassas**.
(Telephone: 00967-1- 220594) (Fax: 00967-1- 252241) (E-mail: HSRSP@y.net.ye)
Tenders must be submitted using the standard tender form included in the tender dossier, whose format and instructions must be strictly observed.
Tenderers with questions regarding this tender should send them in writing to:
Ministry of Public Health and population
Support to The Health sector reform Prpject
Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Mr. Akram Al-Al-Rassas
Project Finance Manager
Mentioning the publication reference shown in item 1, at least 21 days before the deadline for submission of tenders given in item 19. The Contracting Authority must reply to all tenderers' questions at least 11 days before the deadline for submission of tenders.
- 19. Deadline for submission of tenders**
On 28 May 2005 12:00 noon (local time).
Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.
- 20. Tender opening session**
On 28 May 2005 13:00 noon (local time) at:
The ministry of Public Health and population, Support to the health sector reform project, Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.
- 21. Legal basis**
Financing Agreement between the European community and the Republic of Yemen: YEM/B7-3000/IB/98/0710

New Kyrgyz leadership seeks to restore order

BISHKEK, March 26 (Reuters) - Kyrgyzstan's new leadership sought to tighten its hold on Saturday on the ex-Soviet Central Asian state gripped by lawlessness after the toppling of President Askar Akayev.

One man was killed trying to repel looters in the capital Bishkek, officials said, and automatic weapons fire could be heard overnight but there were fewer signs of the violence and chaos that accompanied widespread looting on Thursday night.



Kyrgyz opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiev listens during a parliament session in Bishkek, March 25. REUTERS

The country's new leaders — a loosely united opposition that includes many former government officials — seized power when crowds of protesters clashed with police and marched into Bishkek's White House, the seat of gov-

ernment, on Thursday.

"We completely control the situation in the country and in Bishkek," opposition leader Felix Kulov, put in charge of security after his supporters broke him out of jail on Thursday, said.

"During the night there was only one murder."

Kulov has set up mobile police patrols and given orders for police to fire in the air to disperse looters.

Akayev, who had ruled since 1990, confirmed on Friday he had left the country but did not say where he had gone.

He said he was still the legitimate president and his absence was only temporary.

The opposition had carried out an "anti-constitutional coup", he said.

Acting president Kurmanbek Bakiev, an opposition leader who played a central role in the protests against a flawed parliamentary election, appointed key interim ministers on Friday and said a presidential poll would be held in June.

Kyrgyzstan, a mainly Muslim country of 5 million bordering China, lies in an energy-rich region where Washington and Moscow vie for influence. Each has a military base outside Bishkek.

West, Russia work with new leaders

The United States said it supported "a peaceful outcome to the political future of Kyrgyzstan".

"We will continue to work to support the efforts of the Kyrgyz people as they endeavour to build a stable democracy," State Department spokesman Adam



Looter picks through the rubble in a supermarket in central Bishkek in search of any valuables night-time looters may have left behind March 25. REUTERS

Ereli told reporters.

Asked whether the United States recognised the interim government, Ereli said it "isn't the issue here".

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was ready to work with the Kyrgyz opposition.

Britain's ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, James Sharp, said his country was also in contact with the new leadership.

"The message we have been giving them is the need to establish security and order throughout the country," he told Reuters.

The overthrow of Akayev's government followed weeks of protest throughout the country that turned violent in two towns in the impoverished south.

Kyrgyzstan has become the third ex-Soviet state in two years, after Georgia

and Ukraine, where a revolt after disputed elections has ousted the entrenched leadership.

And events there could raise questions for other authoritarian Central Asian governments in neighbouring Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Acting president Bakiev said the departure of Kyrgyzstan's veteran leader, once seen as the most liberal leader in a region run by autocrats, stripped Akayev of any moral right to be head of state and he could expect a harsh reception on his return.

"The indignation which people feel towards him and his family is very deep," Bakiev told Russian state television.

"That is why there is a certain danger for his return."

China's Hu to North Korea in early May: Report

SEOUL, March 26 (Reuters) - Chinese President Hu Jintao is to visit North Korea for the first time in early May to meet reclusive leader Kim Jong-il, a South Korean newspaper reported on Saturday, citing diplomatic sources in Beijing.

The Hankyoreh daily speculated that a visit by China's top leader at this time could mark a turning point in international efforts to coax the isolated North into serious negotiations on scrapping its nuclear weapons programmes.

Hankyoreh said Hu planned to go to Pyongyang just before attending ceremonies in Moscow on May 8-10 marking the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.

"It is spurring expectations that the talks will make a breakthrough in resolving the (nuclear) issue as it comes when six-party talks have been stalled."

Since Pyongyang announced in February that it had acquired nuclear weapons, it has come under heavy pressure to return to the multilateral talks which also involve China, South Korea, the United States, Russia and Japan.

On Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry said Kim had invited Hu to visit and the two sides were working on the schedule.

The invitation was made through North Korean Premier Pak Pong-ju, who met Hu on Wednesday in Beijing.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday it was unaware of any schedule for Hu's trip.

"We don't know when he will go to North Korea, although it is true that he will be there sometime this year," said ministry spokesman Lee Kyu-hyung.

The North Korean leader paid a secretive visit to China, his country's main ally and benefactor, in 2004.



North Korean Premier Pak Pong-ju (R) wears a hard hat as he visits the Anshan Steel factory in northeast China March 26. Chinese President Hu Jintao is to visit North Korea for the first time in early May to meet reclusive leader Kim Jong-il, a South Korean newspaper reported on Saturday, citing diplomatic sources in Beijing. REUTERS

Taiwan holds "democratic carnival" against China law

TAIPEI, March 26 (Reuters) - Hundreds of thousands of people chanting "Oppose war, Love Taiwan" joined a "democratic carnival" in Taipei on Saturday to protest against China's military threat.

Organisers aimed to rally one million people in a show of people power against Beijing's anti-secession law, which sanctions the use of force against the island, but Taipei police estimated the crowd at just over 230,000 so far.

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's ruling Democratic Progressive Party hopes the protest will draw international attention to the new law and put pressure on China to scrap it.

"I am here to protest against a barbaric China who looks down upon the Taiwanese people," said 70-year-old businessman Fan Wen-yi, adding he was not affiliated to any political party and had never participated in a protest before.

"The anti-secession law, simply put, is a law that authorises war.

If they really see Taiwan people as their compatriots, why do they enact such a law?"

Many protestors brought their children and pets to the "democratic carnival", which featured 10 different themes, such as anti-aggression and protecting Taiwan.

Scores of children took part in a "naked kiddie butt" event, where they bared bottoms plastered with anti-missile stickers.

The protestors chanted slogans and waved green flags that read "democracy, peace, protest Taiwan" as they marched towards the presidential office from 10 locations around the capital.



Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian waves green inflated batons reading "democracy, peace, protect Taiwan" at a street protest against China's anti-secession law in Taipei March 26. REUTERS

President Chen and his family also joined the marchers.

"China has never ruled Taiwan, not even for one day, yet they treat us as part of their territory," Huang Ming-yu, who took his wife and 2-year-old daughter to join the rally after a nearly 10-hour bus ride from the southern county of Pingtung.

"China is so rude and unreasonable."

International orphan

Analysts view the anti-secession bill approved by China's parliament on March 14 as a bid to deter Chen from pushing for a formal split from China before the end of his term in 2008.

The law codified Beijing's long-standing threat to attack Taiwan, authorising the use of non-peaceful measures against the democratically ruled island if it pushes for formal statehood.

Beijing has claimed Taiwan as its own since the defeated Nationalist gov-

ernment fled there at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

The United States has criticised the law, calling its passage "unfortunate" and a potential setback to cross-Strait relations.

Washington has urged the arch-rivals to resume fence-mending talks, stalled since 1999.

"Taiwan is in such a sad position. It's like an international orphan.

If we don't stand up and fight, no-one will fight for us," said 23-year-old student Jonathan Lin.

"We should not be afraid of China. If they invade, I am willing to fight to the last moment," he said.

While the Chinese law is opposed by many in Taiwan, the opposition Nationalist Party is expected to shun the protest.

China's state media quoted Chinese academics as saying the protest could raise tensions and sour ties.

Ugandan bishop calls on LRA rebels to rejoin talks

KAMPALA, March 26 (Reuters) - Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels should rejoin talks to end almost 19 years of war that have spread "intolerable misery" across northern Uganda, a top religious leader said on Saturday.

High hopes for peace in the north, where some 1.6 million people have been uprooted by fighting, were dashed following the failure of landmark discussions between both sides late last year, Catholic Archbishop John Baptist Odama said.

The violence has escalated in recent weeks, he added, with a number of brutal attacks by LRA fighters on impoverished villagers already forced from their homes by the conflict.

"I sound my strongest appeal to the LRA leadership to make all possible efforts to go back to negotiating a peaceful end to the war," Odama said in an Easter message.

"The cruel maiming and killing of innocent people, especially women and children who find suffering at your hands when going to look for food, is a crime that God rejects."

The LRA, which has no clear political agenda, is notorious for targeting civilians, mutilating survivors and kidnapping more than 20,000 children as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

Moving swiftly on foot in small groups, its fighters have long terrorised victims in remote communities on both

sides of the Sudanese border, 350 km (220 miles) north of Kampala.

Odama praised all those involved in the latest efforts at talks, and called on all local leaders in the north to put aside their political differences and unite to end the war.

"Our country is experiencing a sad descent into intolerance and violence which needs to be quickly corrected by fostering a culture of dialogue," he said.

He also called for an end to arbitrary arrests and the detention of suspects for long periods by security agents.

The archbishop heads the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative, a multi-faith group pushing for talks with the LRA.

South Korea ruling party debates Iraq troop numbers

SEOUL, March 26 (Reuters) - South Korea's ruling party is debating whether the country should scale back the number of its troops in Iraq around August, a party official and a newspaper said on Saturday.

Kim Sung-gon, a member of the Uri Party, told Reuters some lawmakers wanted to reduce the size of the 3,600-strong Korean force in Iraq as conditions there had improved.

Seoul's daily JoongAng Ilbo quoted a core member of the party as saying it may seek a reduction in numbers

from August.

"A number of ruling party members and government officials have been raising the issue that we need to cut the scale (of deployment) gradually," the daily quoted the unnamed official as saying.

South Korea's deployment in Iraq, the third largest contingent after the United States and Britain, has been authorised by parliament until the end of 2005.

President Roh Moo-hyun said in January the troops would remain until

goals set by Washington and its allies had been accomplished and Kim played down the extent of the rumblings.

"We have never discussed the issue on an official level.

We have not been informed of such a plan by the Defence Ministry either," he said by telephone.

A Defence Ministry spokeswoman said the ministry had never discussed the matter.

The presidential office was not immediately available for comment.

Rape victim appeals against acquittals

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (Reuters) - The victim of a notorious gang-rape in Pakistan filed an appeal with country's top court on Saturday against the acquittal of five of the six men convicted of the crime.

Mukhtaran Mai, who was raped in 2002 on orders of a village council, filed the appeal with the Supreme Court in Islamabad against the March 3 ruling by a provincial high court.

Mai's rape provoked an outcry in Pakistan and focused international attention on the plight of women in rural Pakistan after she took the rare step of going public about her ordeal.

An anti-terrorism court sentenced six men to death in July 2002 for the attack — four for carrying out rape and two who sat on the village council.

But the high court in the central city of Multan overturned the ruling, acquitting five of the six, citing a lack of evidence and commuting the sentence of the sixth to life in prison.

Clad in a black embroidered shawl, Mai told reporters after filing her appeal: "One should always remain hopeful and I am hopeful I will get justice."

The village council ordered Mai's rape as a punishment after her brother,

who was just 12 at the time, was judged to have offended tribal honour by befriending a 30-year-old woman from the powerful Mastoi clan.

Mai has since become an icon for women rights in conservative Muslim Pakistan and has set up a school for girls in her village with donations from the government and supporters at home and abroad.

"Victim is still suffering:

Her appeal came a day after President Pervez Musharraf said Mai's case was tarnishing Pakistan's image in the world.

"The victim is still suffering," local news reports quoted him as telling the lawmakers from the ruling coalition.

"Mukhtaran Mai will be given protection and justice."

Musharraf, who espouses a moderate and progressive version of Islam, has long called for stringent steps to curb violence against women, including a review of controversial Islamic laws that rights groups say are discriminatory.

But the government has failed to take significant steps in the face of stiff opposition from Islamic parties and feudal politicians.

Mai expressed fears for her life after the acquittal of the convicts and authorities last week re-arrested four of them after their release pending appeal hearings.

The fifth acquitted man has remained in jail throughout in connection with another case.

The case became snarled in a legal tangle after high court overturned the conviction of the five men.

The Federal Shariat Court, Pakistan's highest Islamic tribunal, on Mar. 11 rejected the Multan court's judgment, saying it had no jurisdiction to rule on the case.

Words of Wisdom



The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a hand-shake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.

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

OUR
OPINION

Our Arab mess

Almost every editorial and political column in the Middle East is covering the recent Arab Summit in Algeria. Most writings revolve around the outcomes of the summit and how it has become a joke, or how Arab leaders have made fun of themselves and the issues they are supposedly fighting for.

For me, this is no joke. In fact, it is rather sad. It is sad because we – as Arabs – seem to fail in every attempt we make to prove ourselves. And what's worse is that we keep on repeating our mistakes again and again.

The credibility of such summits, and even of the Arab League as such, fades with every failure.

The second article in the League of Arab States Charter states: "The League has as its purpose the strengthening of the relations between the member states, the coordination of their policies in order to achieve cooperation between them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and a general concern with the affairs and interests of the Arab Countries."

Ironically, the opposite of this is happening. Instead of wasting money on such events, it was more important for the Arab leaders to take serious steps within their own countries to improve governance and reduce poverty.

Strength of countries is measured by the empowerment of the people and the welfare of the nations. The USA is not the supreme international power it is because of George W. Bush's muscles or how much he has in his bank account.

This is a critical era for the Arab world. A bad decision would not just hinder development of the Arab countries; it would risk their independency, sovereignty and accountability. The Arab mess of today is a result of short sightedness of Arab governments. Unfortunately making a political mistake has long term consequences that cannot be undone.

I have always believed in the great potential of Arab states. Financial and human resources, rich cultural heritage and the historical wealth are factors that could be used to take us from this mess. There is no excuse why the situation should be what it is today.

We have every potential to grow, and reach higher positions in the international stage. If we could only break out from the mental barriers that have been imposed on us willingly throughout the years.

There is no need for another summit, meeting or conference to realize who we are and what we can do. It's just a matter of having a living conscious and a clear vision. All Arab citizens have a shared responsibility with the governments to improve their nations.

The starting point comes from within, to hold the responsible ones responsible, or in one word: accountability.



Nadia Al-Saqqaf
Editor-in-Chief

Freedom of expression

Democracy ...
not tolerance

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

I remember once writing a column for The Yemen Times in 2002 under with the same headline as this article. I cannot really explain why all this hostility the government and the political regime has towards the press. Our colleague Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani was put in jail for over seven months. Regardless whether we agree or disagree with what he writes, we do not find any justifications to the humiliations and harassments he went through since then.

He was badmouthed, beaten up and harassed in various ways. Other journalists faced harsh court sentences which actually showed this hostile attitude towards journalists and writers.

There have been over 100 violations registered against the journalists last year, making it a dark year for the media freedom. However, we started this year with a number of court verdicts against journalists, including imprisonment.

It's really crazy that journalists go to court because they criticize corrupt crooks who have been in office for ten of years without any accountability despite people complaints.

The political regime always shrugs its shoulders of pride that Yemen is becoming a model of democracy in the region. What is democracy for our officials? Is it something that exists in the clouds only? Democracy is not merely elections and parliament only that some Arab governments are using to decorate their already tarnished image.

Beware guys! Democracy means accountability, transparency and responsibility. Democracy flourishes when there is accountability. Accountability exists when there is free press and investigative journalism which matters because of its great contribution to good and democratic governance.

In a democratic society, journalism should play a watchdog role. That is, democracy means free press that should hold governments accountable by publishing information about matters of public interest even if such information reveals abuses or crimes perpetrated by the big guys in authority.

The government is mistaken when it thinks that such harsh and ruthless attacks against the media professional and democrats might threaten and silence them. Such hostility makes journalists feel they are doing the right job and that they are becoming influential enough to afflict the corrupt crooks and comfort the afflicted.

In fact, media has started hitting the nail on the head. What media needs now is enhancement of its professionalism and institutionalization which would make more and more powerful.

Now al-Khaiwani is back to his kids who missed him for seven months. Still, he is guilty if we take the law into consid-

eration as he just received a presidential "gift" or "makramah". The primary and appeals court verdicts indicted him and other seven writers and journalists.

We still remember that the President interfered in July 2002 to get the two journalists, Abdullaheem Mohsen who were jailed on charges of "inciting sectarianism" released.

That is kind of him. But we do not need this kindness. We need our democratic rights to be respected. We do not need the rulers' tolerance, but the implementation of law and order. We need this to become

an institutionalized culture we exercise and practice as a daily routine. This is because tolerance of the rulers is different from democratic rights ensured by the law and constitution. The first can be usurped; it is like a gift.

To drive the point home, we need to be equal before the law that should be respected and be made a terrace that cannot be surpassed by anyone despite his rank in the society. But, if things continue to run loose, we feel scared and concerned over the deterioration of the freedom of expression in the country.

Appeal to the President

Save our youth

BY AFRAH A. BASALAMAH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen has witnessed many slogans saying that education and science are the best investment for the future, and that "youth are the real future and fortune for the nation." A lot of attention has been paid to education, particularly higher education, many new universities have been opened, and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has been established.

Unfortunately, the lack of equal opportunities for all students regardless of their racial, economic or political backgrounds has left good students without the necessary scholarships.

The case of my brother, Engineer, Sameer Basalamah, is an example of the injustice in the education system. He studied at our family's expense during his undergraduate studies abroad, and graduated with a Aerospace Engineering degree from one of the best universities in Britain. During this time, he did not receive a scholarship, despite the fact he deserved one, because our family did not have the appropriate connections.

The principle of connections or "wasta" contradicts Yemen's constitution, which stated that all citizens have equal rights and responsibilities in front of the law. It also contradicts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which grants everyone the right to an appropriate education.

After being accepted by five British universities to attend the year-long Masters course in Aerospace Engineering, my brother applied through the Ministry of Higher Education for a scholarship. After completing all the necessary paperwork, and after the initial agreement by Dr. Abdulwahab Rawah, Minister of Higher Education, the Minister refused to sign it without giving any explanation.

Does it make any sense that the future of Yemen's youth should be determined by the whim of a government official?

This minister's actions toward my brother were unfair, unreasonable and unjustifiable.

My brother managed to get enough money and start his education in the UK, but unfortunately, after the first semester, he was not able to pay the rest of the fees, despite the fact that my family had paid thousands of U.S. dollars already. He requested an academic suspension from his program, so that he can continue after one year. He returned to his homeland frustrated and hopeless.

My family tried again to get a scholarship for my brother but the minister maintained his negative position. Then, after more than two months of paperwork, my brother's scholarship was approved to cover him for the remainder of his course. However, the Minister told us that "as he started his studies, he should complete them," implying that he should also pay the rest of the fees, and once again refused the scholarship.

This bureaucracy and negative attitude of the minister has damaged my brother's future twice. Why can't this country provide hardworking smart people with good educations or at least assist them in getting one? This experience has cost my brother to lose two years of his life and prevented him from finishing his Masters degree.

Every day we hear about dozens of Yemeni youths who deserve but did not win the support of the educational system in this country. The Minister of Higher Education owes us an apology and an explanation for our misery.

Yemenis are being forced to lose precious time in search of connections, and are obstructed by authority figures, who should be the first people to encourage and support the youth. If this generation feels loved, and respected, they will give it back to this nation and help in developing their country.

We are in great need, your Excellency Mr. President, to help a young Yemeni to complete his education, which will benefit him and our country when he returns to our beloved homeland after his graduation.

Letters to the Editor

Nomani misleads
Friday prayers

The woman behind the campaign for mixed-gender Friday prayers led by a lady, is Asra Q. Nomani, an author and former journalist at the Wall Street Journal.

In a programme televised by Al-Jazeera on March 18, Asra Nomani defended the right of a Muslim woman to share the bed with whomever she likes, as she has done by example, and is now promoting the idea in her book.

Her father was shown on the programme playing with the child that Asra Nomani has given birth to, outside of wedlock.

Whether her father was proud of her promiscuity or she was proud of her father's upbringing style, this is none of our business and normally, no Muslim would like to interfere into what is happening in private households. But if they try to spill their moral decay into the Muslim society by campaigning for it and by using Friday prayers as a

smokescreen, in promotion of their unethical lifestyle, then it is a cause of concern for the entire Muslim community.

Amina Wadud herself, who led the Friday prayers, has confessed publicly that at times one has to say "no" to the Qur'an and that she is in favour of same sex marriages.

On Al-Jazeera programme Asra Nomani also said that if the Prophet's wife Ayesha could lead the Muslim army on the Camel, why can't a Muslim woman lead men in Friday prayers?

It is no coincidence that all the heretical groups in recent history got promoted in America. In this case, whoever is standing behind this open challenge to the Sunnah of the blessed Prophet, has started the ball rolling for Judaisation and Christianisation of Islam.

The matter is not going to end here. If Muslims keep quiet, then it will have very wide ramifications. These renegades are seeking direct answers from the

Letter of the Day

Land for sale?

Prove Islam is not forced

I found the recent *East and West* column for Easter week to be one of the best articles ever written in The Yemen Times.

Particularly revealing was the paragraph on Muslim Yemen, and the fact that there is not one Yemeni church for 20 million Yemenis.

In order to prove that Islam is not forced on people and the people have a free choice there must be the possibility for Yemeni people to worship Jesus the Messiah.

I challenge the Yemeni government to allow me to build a church building where anyone is welcome

to come. I will look after the cost of such a place.

Having visited your beautiful country and its warm hearted people, I remember that in the old city in Sana'a there is a place where there used to be such a building. It is now a wasteland with a wall around it.

Maybe this would be a suitable place to build. How much would the city of Sana'a charge me for this land?

(P.S. I LOVE Yemen.)

The Gentle Giant
British Columbia,
Canada
gentlegiant2005@
hotmail.com

Qur'an only, such as, the Qur'an does not say that a woman cannot lead Friday prayers.

The next thing they might

question is that the Qur'an does not tell us to pray the way we are praying.

Eqbal
eqbalcorp@yemen.net.ye

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Ministry of Education:
A Rhetoric of Hatred?

One would expect that the last government organ in the Republic of Yemen that would adopt a platform of hatred and religious intolerance would be the highly responsible Ministry of Education. In all honesty, it is safe to say that the ME has not officially launched any program, curriculum or syllabus to disseminate any factional strife among the different groups of citizens that are especially tied to religious orientation. Nor is this observer aware of any declared policy laid out by the government to ferment conflict among the religious sects adhered to by the Yemeni people. Actually, from a historical perspective, at least among the two leading Islamic religious sects in Yemen, the Shafe'i (Sunni) and Zeidi (somewhat Shi'a), violence or even intolerance is anathema to their respective teachings.

Most textbooks issued by the Ministry of Education on Islamic teachings almost from the time of the September 26, 1962 Revolution have drawn most of their material from conforming common principles shared by these two moderate sects (relative to the other offshoots of the Sunni and Shafe'i sects respectively).

On another note, it is worth noting that the major sects of Islam do not differ on the major areas of faith, worship rites and even social contracts, whether they are classified as Sunni or Shi'a. Moreover, violence between the different sects of Islam is a rare exception in the history of Islam. Most sects rightfully shun the killing of Moslems by fellow Moslems, irrespective of the sect they adhere to. There are ample texts of Islamic jurisprudence [of Quranic origin, or derived from the related sayings and practices of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him) and his early faithful followers] that stress the brotherhood of all Moslems, without regard to their ethnic background, social standing and political or factional association (as most Islamic sects are in fact born out of political inclinations than dogmatic beliefs). An important note to bear in mind is that the so called "founders" of the various Islamic sects that bear their names, did not seek to create any institutional schism from the mainstream "Ummah" or Nation of Islam. Some were however indeed prodded by some of their followers to lead revolts or protests against the prevailing ruling regime of the Moslem Empire, as a whole, or in specific territorial dimensions, due to the tyranny or corruption that characterized the prevailing regime, which should be set straight, as these traits are unacceptable in government, according to Islam and most be corrected. But these revolts or protests were not intended to impose a certain sect on the general Moslem citizenry, even if the new authority may be under the influence of a particular sect. Thus, history has attested to Moslem rulers of minority sects in their domains sometimes ruling, but few sought to generalize their sects on all their constituencies, even if their sect was the majority in the domain. In any case, most, if not all the Moslem sects came into being long after their "founders" have passed away and most often were institutionalized under certain political circumstances. Most of the alleged "founders" of Islamic religious sects regarded themselves as "reformers", who sought to correct what they felt were clear deviations from their scholastic renditions of proper Islamic dogma in their times.

For the most part these highly respectable theologians were noted for their outspoken views on tyranny and repression by the current prevalent ruling regime, which they rightfully taught was unacceptable in Islam. Many of these religious experts on Islamic jurisprudence often referred to the teachings of other "founders" of other sects to substantiate their views and thus produced a healthy accumulation of legal opinions acceptable to most of the Moslem religious sects. Having said all of the preceding background, it is sad to point out that there are opportunists amongst Moslems throughout the ages, who ascribe to the genuinely un-Islamic practice of fueling heated debates and sometimes violent conflicts among followers of different Islamic sects. Often this will be more apparent under political regimes that are autocratic and corrupt, which would augment such activities to keep their constituencies bogged down in senseless feuding between the followers of various sects. The regime itself may not always be the engineer behind such factional conflicts, but will not stand in the way of opportunists, who might render such a political convenience for the regime. Sometimes, these opportunists are prodded by external sovereign regimes or religious institutions that have a vested interest in seeing a particular area unstable.

In Yemen, such opportunistic elements have ceased upon the chances to promote their political interests or material gains through such sleazy tactics, many of whom are able to rely on substantial external political as well as financial backing, usually from neighboring Gulf states or perhaps regional or global powers. For the most part, these opportunists have seldom openly made use of their assigned executive positions in Government to foment such religious infighting, especially if they were in the Ministry of Education. However, a recent new appointment as an Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education has become a source of strong controversy in the public, because of his proliferation of diatribes and insinuations, especially about Yemeni citizens that are followers of the Zeidi sect. Mr. Tawwaf has the right to believe whatever he likes, but one would feel that a senior official of an important ministry like the Ministry of Education ought to know better, or else should be contained by his superiors, as such public controversy is neither within the scope of duties of the Ministry, nor a healthy projection of the educational mission expected to be delivered by the Ministry of Education. Moreover, such religious fanaticism as preached by the vigilant Undersecretary would probably not go well with the donors, from whom the Ministry is recipient to substantial support and who are currently under the impression that Yemen is indeed combating terrorism and misguided religious extremism as preached by Mr. Tawwaf. May God keep Yemen free from all factional strife, because there are enough worries for the citizens of Yemen to address than a rhetoric of hatred preached by responsible senior government officials, who ought to know better.

Does anyone trust each other?**Europe and Asia's arms race**

By PER AHLMARK

When European unification was launched, it was thought that "ever closer union" would establish a community that would protect Europeans from political blackmail. Now we see – though the lifting of the Union's arms embargo may now be delayed thanks to US pressure and Chinese aggressiveness – that the European Union has become merely a tool for corruption when France and China draw up joint action plans.

The strategy is simple and ruthless. The world's largest dictatorship is preparing to crush and occupy the first Chinese democracy in history – Taiwan. In order to do so, the People's Republic needs much more sophisticated arms than those it possesses today.

The United States naturally does not export such arms to China. Instead, the US is trying to deter China's rulers from launching a military attack on the democrats in Taiwan. But if the EU ever begins to offer China extensive exports of powerful and offensive weapons systems, the military power of the People's Liberation Army would be able to defeat Taiwan's defense forces. Over 600 missiles, already deployed on the mainland, are aimed at cities and military bases on the island.

The threat is more apparent than real – for now. Russia currently sells certain arms to China, but avoids exporting its most sophisticated systems, since the Kremlin views China as a potential

future threat. However, if EU countries start competing for a share of the Chinese market, the Russians could soon be tempted to sell their best arms to the communist regime in Beijing.

China's new armaments, together with the North Korean crisis, will probably force half a dozen countries in the region to renew their armed forces. Thus, by whenever the Union should decide to lift its ban on weapons exports to China, the EU could help fuel an arms race in East Asia.

How did China and France manage to fool the EU into thinking that it should ever take part in this? When Jacques Chirac's government decided to expound its economic co-operation with China, arms became an important component in the strategy. Just as a ruthless Prime Minister Chirac sold a nuclear reactor to Saddam Hussein in the 1970's, so the President Chirac of today is being lured into doing big business with another aggressive dictatorship.

The rest is a question of economic blackmail. French diplomats have of course informed China about the reluctance of other European countries about lifting the arms embargo, which was imposed after the massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989. China then simply threatened to abandon or never to conclude trade deals with these EU members.

To the Germans, the Chinese probably murmur something about Siemens and Volkswagen. To the Dutch their whispers are most likely about Philips. China follows the power game within

the EU through its French friends, and therefore knows which governments need to be whipped into line. In Sweden, it has probably been enough to whisper "Ericsson" and "Volvo" to make Premier Minister Göran Persson understand what is at stake for his country commercially.

What European nation, indeed, dares to put at risk a Chinese order for several billion euros?

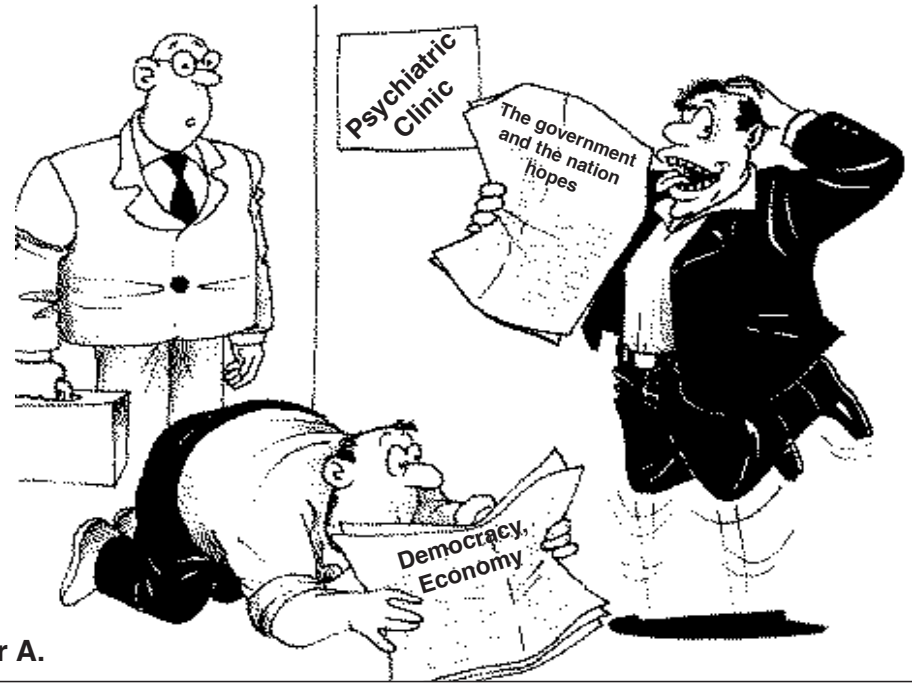
Typically enough, no EU-country has mentioned Taiwan as a reason not to resume arms exports. Instead, the EU talks of a "code of conduct" (which probably does not mean very much, but sounds nice) and "free trade" (another charming euphemism for arms exports to dictatorships).

This silence gives a hideous signal. For what the EU in practice says to China is this: "Taiwan's cause is not our own." If and when the Union lifts the embargo, Europe will be refusing to take responsibility for the catastrophe that may be approaching. As usual, it is up to America to protect a free nation that may otherwise be destroyed.

Compare this situation to the drama 60 years ago. Then it was American troops and arms that liberated Western Europe from Nazism. Now it may be European arms in the hands of the Chinese that will be aimed at American troops protecting a democracy with 23 million inhabitants (in other words, as many people as in all the Nordic countries combined).

As Tom Lantos, a Democratic US Congressman from California, put it, the move to lift the ban on arms exports

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

to China clearly shows that the EU has "lost its moral compass." Lantos knows about moral compasses: as a boy, he was rescued by Raoul Wallenberg from being deported to Auschwitz by the Nazis in Budapest.

Wallenberg was a Swede. But now Sweden is revealing that it, too, lacks political morality. Several friends of mine in the Conservative party's parliamentary group have long been engaged in supporting a free Taiwan. Over the past ten years, we have held Scandinavian conferences on Taiwan in the parliaments in Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm.

But a call from Prime Minister Persson was enough to render the Conservative party leader Fredrik Reinfeldt docile. Persson had discovered that he lacked a majority in the Swedish parliament to lift the arms

embargo on China. By whispering "Ericsson" into Reinfeldt's ear, it seems, Persson achieved the desired result. Reinfeldt became the first Conservative party leader in Swedish history to encourage arms exports to a Communist dictatorship.

But Reinfeldt, like Jacques Chirac, has forgotten something. Liberal-minded

people may very well prefer not just to exchange one cynical prime minister for another at the next election. They may prefer a clear choice.

Per Ahlmark is a former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden.

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Americans not all the same**Lindh is worse than Bush**By DON BARRICK
BALTO_DB@YAHOO.COM

As an American, I can honestly say that I am embarrassed and angry and the antics of some of my fellow Americans, particularly in the areas espoused by Al-Haifi, in "Fighting terrorism with sex?" I was also very vocally against the U.S. invasion of Iraq, as well as the administration's efforts to re-construct the company; there seems to have been no plan, and whatever was planned, has been terribly executed. I voted against George Bush, in both elections, and feel that his "cowboy" attitudes have hurt the view of America overseas, and caused terrible pain to thousands of people.

I am not alone. Yet some of your readers are even more deplorable than Mr. Bush. Robert Lindh, for example, states that, "The majority of Americans are also enjoying the torture and humiliation of Muslim men." I am uncertain how he comes by his information, but I have never, ever seen any of my fellow citizens suggest anything but disgust at the antics of a few, rotten apples that have perpetrated such activities.

He should be reminded that it was the U.S. media that initially broke the news about this crime. It is the U.S. media that has publicized any perception that the Government has been slow in bringing the entire matter to light, or slow to punish the guilty. This is not the mark of a people who rejoice at the disadvantage of prisoners. Mr. Lindh suggestion that Mr. Bush was re-elected because American's delight in the harm done to Iraqi prisoners is the most outlandish thing he has yet said; and it demonstrates his lack of mental capacity, in expecting others to agree with his lunacy.

It is noteworthy that, following the news about the catastrophe on September 11, Arabs danced in the streets, at the news. Nowhere in America have you seen or heard of any such celebrations. Who is enjoying what, Mr. Lindh?

Mr. Lindh also states of "facts" regarding the death of Rafiq al-Hariri, blaming the U.S. for Hariri's death, as a pretext to the invasion of Syria. Mr. Lindh cites no "facts", because there are no "facts" about the assassination. Why, Mr. Lindh, do you feel the need to incite further hatred? What is your agenda? Why is it that YOU hate so frightfully? Your argument seems not to be with George W. Bush and the U.S. political system; it seems to be a very personalized, venomous and irrational attack against anything American.

Many, many people in the U.S. voted against George Bush. Many, many American people are demonstrating, writing their representatives and voicing their opposition to the actions in Iraq. Many, many American people voice concern about relations with the U.S. and the Moslem World. Yet, your hate-filled tirades would seem to paint them all with the same brush. And many, many of those who support the U.S. mil-

itary in Iraq do so because of fear; not hatred toward Iraqis, Arabs or Moslems.

It would seem to me that the sensible man attempts to find common ground, or the good that we can work together to expand. Your effort seems to be to fan the fire of fear and hatred. How sad for you.

I have yet to hear anything negative from Mr. Lindh about Saddam gassing of his own people. I have yet to hear anything negative about al-Zarqawi's network killing an innocent CARE worker. I have yet to hear anything negative about a number of women and children being slaughtered by "insurgents". What are the thoughts about such mindless murder?

And why term such vile assassins as "insurgents", when it is reported that a large portion – even by Arab news reports – are not "insurgents", by definition? Insurgents are, after all, rebels; a huge number of the so-called "insurgents" are actually every bit the invaders that the U.S. military is touted to be.

Many of the "insurgents" are from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Morocco and other places, who have come to fight against the U.S. and anyone else they deem as thinking in terms that are contrary to their own beliefs.

You can say that they are there to fight the Americans; but they are wantonly slaughtering huge numbers of innocent Iraqis, at the same time. Not innocents who get caught in the crossfire, but people who are killed for simply trying to do their best to re-settle their broken culture.

And the ultimate: Moslems, who bomb, decapitate and generally slaughter other Moslems – what are your readers' thoughts on those issues? Sunni's killing Shiites. Bombs exploding inside Mosques.

This is not an American invention. This has been going on for centuries. The sad part of this is that, because of Saddam's ruthlessness, such violence was curtailed. The U.S. has allowed this to happen, precisely because the U.S. military, for all its faults, are not as iron-fisted at Hussein. We did create the opportunity, and this is deplorable. But we did not detonate the bombs, or slit the throats of the victims here. We leave that to the "insurgents" to do that. The people some of your readers worship.

Finally, a Canadian recently wrote a letter complaining of the arrogance of Americans. Interestingly, I have traveled in many parts of the World, including Asia, Canada, some parts of Europe and the Middle East. I have been treated extremely hospitably, in almost all of those areas, including Yemen, which is one of my favorite places to visit.

One of the few places where I have been treated with extreme discourtesy is Canada. Moreover, in the Middle East, on several occasions, people walked up to me and asked if I were an American. I was surprised and said that I was, then asked what made them think that. Their response was, "Americans are always friendly, and smile a lot." If this is their general view of American, how is this the mark of an arrogant people?

What does "freedom" mean?**A season for renewal at the UN**

By KOFI ANNAN

Recently, I presented my report "In Larger Freedom" to the UN General Assembly. For my audience in New York Monday was also the first day of spring and I hope this report will mark a new beginning for the international system, and for the UN itself.

Some will find that a surprising and pretentious statement from an organization they see as part of an obsolete world order, which anyway had little to do with freedom.

Yet the words "in larger freedom" are taken from the preamble to the UN Charter – whose opening words, "We the peoples", I used as the title for my Millennium Report five years ago. In both cases I wanted to remind the governments of the world, who put me in my job and to whom I am accountable, that they are in the United Nations to represent not themselves but their peoples, who expect them to work together for the aims set out in the Charter.

These aims can be summarised as peace, human rights, justice and development – but in 1945 that last word was not yet as fashionable as it is today. The actual words of the Charter are "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

By that magnificent phrase our founders clearly implied both that development is possible only in conditions of freedom, and that people can only benefit from political freedom when they have at least a fair chance of

reaching decent living standards. But "larger freedom" can be taken as embracing the other aims too. You can be truly free only if you are secure from war and violence, and if your fundamental rights and dignity are upheld by law. Human rights, development and security are mutually interdependent, and taken together they add up to larger freedom.

They also form the three main planks of a UN platform which can definitely have global appeal today – simple, readily understandable aims, which clearly matter to ordinary people, whether they are citizens of London or New York fearing another terrorist attack, or shantytown dwellers or villagers in Latin America and Africa where hunger, disease, desertification and civil conflicts seem the more immediate threats.

Of course, the UN often falls short of these noble aspirations, since it reflects the realities of world politics, even while seeking to transcend them. But political freedom has been making its way in the world, as first the peoples of Asia and Africa won their freedom from colonialism, and then more and more peoples shook off dictatorship, asserting their right to choose their own rulers.

Twenty years ago it was almost unthinkable for the UN to take sides between democracy and dictatorship, or seek to intervene in the internal affairs of its members.

Today, by contrast, almost all UN members accept democratization as something desirable, at least in theory, and the UN itself does more than any

other single organization to promote and strengthen democratic institutions and practices around the world. In the last year alone it has organized or helped organize elections in over 20 countries – often at decisive moments in their history, as in Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq and Burundi. The UN's member states can now agree, if they so decide, to increase that assistance, and to make the international machinery for defending human rights more effective and credible. In my report I proposed to them a way to put human rights on a par with security and development in the renewed UN.

Sixty years of peace and economic growth in the industrial world have also given the human race today, for the first time ever, the economic and technical power to overcome poverty and its attendant ills. And, thanks in large part to a series of UN conferences, culminating in the summits at Monterrey and Johannesburg in 2002, there is also very broad agreement on what needs to be done. The UN's "Millennium Development Goals", with their daring promise to halve extreme poverty by 2015, have become a kind of manifesto for newly enfranchised poor people throughout the world.

There is no longer any excuse for leaving well over a billion of our fellow human beings in abject misery. All that is needed is some clear decisions, by the governments of both rich and poor countries.

Five years ago, peace and security seemed more within our reach than development. Terrorist attacks, and bit-

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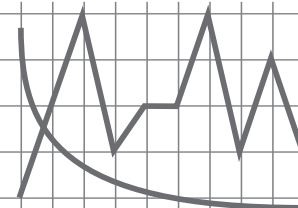
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YT Business



Financial sector is floundering

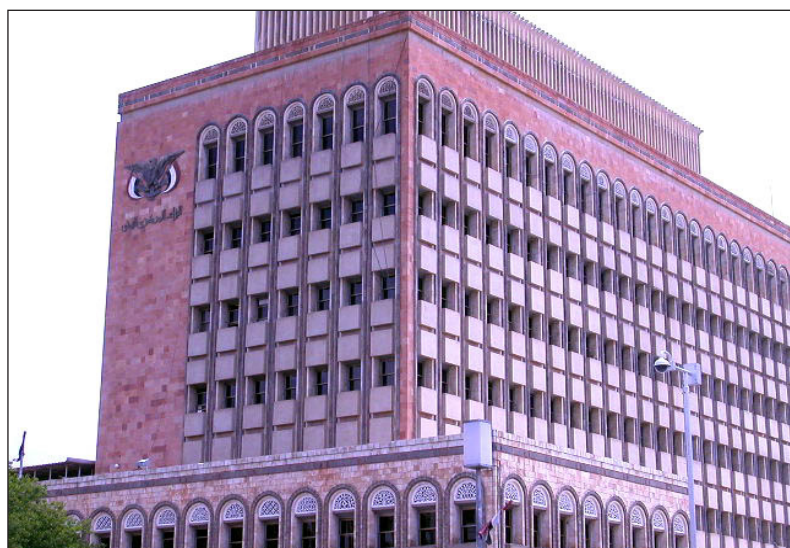
How can banking reform without a stock market?

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Reasons for the floundering of financial reforms in Yemen, according to Yemeni businessmen, include factors that hamper banks carrying out their tasks. This has made reforms appear as if they are government-sponsored, and weaken opportunities of partnership and integration among all types of banks.

Some say reform is failing because of poor financial tools used by some banks, and confinement of their activities to deposits, without giving attention to the investment process. For example, there is no financial and banking partnership leading to the birth of a stock market in the country.

Under financial reforms that helped the central bank of Yemen to control the national currency and stability of its price, there are other challenges emerging.



While the central bank of Yemen believes it has taken positive steps towards the establishment of a stock

market, some view the commercial and specialized banks activities as being an opportunity for rapid gain. This matter

requires work for expanding those activities and taking care of investments.

Experts emphasize that establishment of a stock market in Yemen would help secure sustainable and stable profits. For this reason, the operation of financial reforms should target the banks towards investment and encourage them to establish a stock market.

Hence, there must be rationalization of investment and a policy of financial reforms in line with the general goals and in a manner leading to development in Yemen.

Part of that is the process of offering necessary facilities to expatriates and attracting their savings for the establishment of productive projects in Yemen.

Financial reforms must also be translated on the ground and should not be confined to legislations and studies. The matter needs for more practical steps so that banking reforms would yield and move investment in the country.

CCC holds first meeting

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The first meeting of Consultant Commercial Council (CCC) members will be held today to review the objectives of the group. It will also review the names and data of members of the council.

The CCC provides training for job seekers to give them the skills necessary for the Yemeni labor market, and help reduce the unemployment rate.

The CHF International Yemen Organization along with representatives of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the private sector will take part in the meeting.

Aden a key

Thai companies seek Yemeni markets

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

More than 50 Thai companies recently held a trade fair at Apollo commercial center in Sana'a, which concluded last Tuesday.

The purpose of the fair was for Yemenis to learn about Thai products in such markets as automobile spare parts, electrical appliances, furniture, accessories and decorations, hospital equipment and medical apparatuses.

The Thai exhibits also included leather products, stationery, construc-

tion materials, jewelries, foodstuffs and beverages, clothes and cloth, as well as household utensils, and pharmaceutical and medical products.

An official at the Thai foreign ministry announced his country's desire for opening new marketing lines in Yemen. In a press conference, he had held on the sidelines of the trade fair, the Thai official confirmed his country's keenness on enhancing commercial cooperation with Yemen due to its special situation that links the continents of Asia and Africa. He said his country was studying investment in the free zones in Aden and marketing its products from Aden to

neighborly countries in Africa.

On his part, the executive director of the Thai trade center said the Yemeni-Thai navigation route scheduled to operate in the near future would contribute to consolidate the two countries' trade cooperation. He said the investment environment in Yemen was encouraging for Thai businessmen, as foreign investments are given facilities and customs and tax exemptions.

The Thai trade fair has contributed to inform the Yemeni consumer on Thailand's products, competition prices and the nature of those products and ways of using them.

JOB VACANCY

Education Development Center (EDC), Inc. is looking for candidates for the position of

Life Skills Technician Advisor

for the Yemen Accelerated Learning Activity (YALA). YALA is a three-year USAID-funded project to increase children's access to primary education, improve the quality of instruction, and reduce gender inequality in the education system. The start date is tentatively February 2005.

The successful candidate will have the following tasks:

- To design and manage a face-to-face life skills component for the facilitator training program;
- To develop evaluations rubrics for the project for the life skills component of the non formal education team;
- To coordinate life skills activities with the other training within the non formal education team and across the teams of YALA.

Requirements include:

- Applicant should have at least a Bachelor's degree in education or a related field, a Master's degree is preferred;
- At least 3 years of life skills/ non-formal education program development and implementation for adults;
- Knowledge of principles of non-formal education, especially related to life skills for adults especially the youth and women;
- Proven skills in communication and teamwork;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Must be able to work within a cross cultural setting, negotiate diplomatically, and function well under pressure;
- Oral and written English language proficiency required;
- Knowledge of / experience with USAID-funded projects preferred but not required;
- The ability and willingness to travel frequently in Yemen.

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

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	188.1500	188.3800
Sterling Pound	352.1500	352.5800
Euro	244.7500	245.0500
Saudi Rial	50.1700	50.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	644.3500	645.1400
UAE Dirhem	51.2300	51.2900
Egyptian Pound	32.4400	32.4800
Bahraini Dinar	499.0800	499.6900
Qatari Rial	51.7100	51.7700
Jordanian Dinar	265.5600	265.8900
Omani Rial	488.7500	489.3500
Swiss Franc	157.5800	157.7700
Swedish Crown	26.8600	26.8900
Japanese Yen	1.7697	1.7719

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

In brief

- In collaboration with the International Immigration Organization, the Ministry of Expatriates approved nearly 300 boats for returnees working in the sea with the aim to improve their living standards. The Yemeni Ministry of Fisheries Wealth is looking at a new law to organize fishing in Yemeni waters, as well as to monitor the quality of the fishery products and assign the areas of traditional, coastal and industrial fishing.

- Eng. Abdulmu'ti al-Junaid Director General of the Electricity Corporation announced the Supreme Committee for Tenders completed the procedures of selecting an Iranian company to implement the project of the transfer station in Marib at a cost of \$45 million, while the Korean Company Hyundai was selected to implement the project of the electrical energy highways with a total cost of \$59 million.

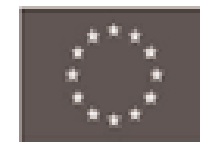
- A delegation from social

ministries in the Gulf countries is due to visit Yemen in the beginning of the coming month to enhance cooperation in the area of social affairs and labor.

- The Tax Authority has estimated the Yemeni losses in taxation smuggling over the past five years at YR 150 million.

- Minister of Justice Adnan al-Jefri conducted discussions in Khartoum that concentrated on the possibility of Yemen's receiving Sudanese experts in the field of commercial judiciary in an attempt to reform the situation of commercial courts in the country.

- A Yemen-Chinese consultant meeting was held in Beijing, the capital of China, in the presence of Hussein Taher Yahya Undersecretary of the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting focused on the enhancement of economic and political ties between the two countries. Yemeni exports to China totaled YR 213.3 billion last year.



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The SAR project is seeking to employ a Project Administrator (Finance and Contracts) to daily manage all financial aspects of the SAR project.

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Book keeping (Project Finance)
Assisting GoY to manage project grant
Contracts management

Qualification

Minimum of higher education certificate / degree
Proven track record in project administration (international)
Proven knowledge of financial management
Good English skills
Good organisational skills
Proven computer end user skills (MS Office applications)
ICDL - International Computer Driving License an advantage

This position is open to national and non national residents of Yemen
Ability to work in an international environment essential

To apply for the above positions, please fax or email a letter of application and your CV to: -

EU Team Leader
SAR Project
CSMP
Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance

Fax: 481 951 (Sana'a)
email: paul.martin@yemenar.org

Closing date for CV's - Seven (7) days after this publication

More than just "cognitive outputs"

Children need to have a break

BY ANTHONY D. PELLEGRINI

The buzzword of preschool and primary school education in many countries over the past 20 years has been "accountability." Advocates suggest – rightfully, I think – that scarce tax dollars should be spent only on programs that "work."

But one of the less noticed effects of the movement for greater accountability has been that children's opportunities for free time and opportunities to interact with their peers, especially at recess, has been eliminated or diminished in many school systems in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain.

Politicians and school superintendents view "accountability" as a way to prove that they are "tough on education" and are striving to improve academic performance. Indeed, it seems like common sense that reducing recess time would have a positive effect on achievement – a position endorsed by educational leaders like Benjamin Canada, a former superintendent of schools in Atlanta, Georgia. But there is no empirical or theoretical evidence to support this claim.

On the contrary, whereas many educators recognize the centrality of teaching skills and maximizing efficient use of classroom time, they also advocate breaks between periods of intense work to allow children to relax and interact with peers. They also hope that children will return to their classrooms after their breaks and work with renewed interest.

There can be common ground between these two positions, particularly with respect to primary schools. While accepting the need for accountability, our best theory and empirical evidence must be used to guide practice. To do otherwise is to squander the trust and resources of children, families, taxpayers, and educators.

Indeed, far too many of the policies being recommended for primary schools have no scientific basis. I am not aware of any data supporting the idea that eliminating recess maximizes



Young children like this girl learn best in a relaxed environment.

children's attention to classroom tasks. In fact, experimental data supports the argument that what goes on during recess periods is "educational" in the traditional sense. Specifically, children are more attentive to classroom tasks after recess than before recess. Attention to classroom tasks, such as reading, is related to more general indicators of cognitive performance, such as reading achievement, so it is an important indicator of the effects of break time.

Anecdotal evidence from East Asia also suggests that children's attention to classroom work is maximized when instructional periods are relatively short and followed by breaks. In most East Asian primary schools, for example, children are given a 10-minute break every 40 minutes or so. When children come back from these breaks, they seem more attentive and ready to work than before. American experimental evidence that my colleagues and I gathered also supports these claims.

To illustrate the role of recess on attention, consider the findings of a series of experiments conducted in a public elementary school, in which we manipulated recess timing, or the time children spent doing seatwork before recess. On randomly assigned days, the children went out to recess at 10 a.m. or at 10:30 a.m. Before and after the break, children's attention to classroom tasks was coded. In three of the four experiments, we also controlled the tasks on which children worked before and after recess.

In all the experiments, the children were more attentive after the recess than before, and they were less attentive when the break came later. Furthermore, in many cases, gender moderated the effects of recess. First, in reading assignments, the children were more attentive to same-gender, relative to other-gender, books. Second, boys' attention was especially sensitive to recess timing: boys were more likely

than girls to be inattentive when recess came later.

In one of our experiments, the recess period was held indoors rather than outdoors. We chose this venue first, because the effects of indoor recess on children's attention would provide insight into the role of a relatively sedentary break period on subsequent attention. If children's attention were greater after the indoor break than before, the role of physical activity per se would be minimal. Second, as a policy matter, educators sometimes use indoor recess as an alternative to outdoor breaks. The results from this experiment replicated the findings from the outdoor recess results: the children were more attentive after recess than before.

In conclusion, these experiments support the idea that providing breaks over the course of instruction facilitates children's attention to classroom tasks. The fact that these results were obtained using well-controlled field experiments and replication across a number of studies instills confidence in the findings. Educational policymakers should therefore use these findings to guide policy. If they do not, concerned citizens should demand that educators provide a justification for the policy that they do impose on schoolchildren.

School officials and politicians often extol Asian educational practices, but they should also consider Asian recess practices in the context of an extended school day and academic year.

Extending the length of the school day and the academic year – a key priority of "accountability" advocates – might positively affect children's achievement while simultaneously providing parents with badly needed additional childcare. But requiring that children spend more time in school will not boost cognitive performance and social competence unless we also increase the time children spend outside the classroom.

Anthony D. Pellegrini is Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota and author of *The Role of Recess in Children's Development and Education*.

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Hodeidah locale is too busy

Kidney centre needs more support

BY ABDULWAHAB AL SOFI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Health is the most precious thing in life. Without a shadow of doubt, people who are sick make us feel mercy towards them. As Moslems, we should feel with others.

Health is no longer a personal responsibility only; it is a public one too. As far as civilization develops, diseases increase and spread rapidly all over the world. New diseases occur suddenly amongst our society. The

exposed to a real calamity in which dangerous diseases invade our society freely. It is absurd to see those patients on the beds of hospitals, and we enjoy satisfied healthy life.

Once, a friend, Mr. Hilal who works in the kidney's failure center in Hodeidah City, accompanied me, there. I saw different ages of patients and painful sights met our eyes. My body shuddered of the sight. All patients with frail bodies twisted my heart of pain. Their faces are as yellow as leaf of tree in autumn season. How painful they are.

I was so powerfully affected, that I

patients have only one per week. In fact, the standard of dialysis is three times per a week, but unfortunately due to lack of place and overload in the center, patients cannot have this standard. Dialysis is life-saving therapy, without it, death is the standing for all kidney failure patients since not transplantation yet in Yemen.

Meanwhile, I decided to meet the manager of this important human center. It really provides a valuable human service to our country. It is worthy to get full support from the government or from other suppliers such as well disposed or charitable people. It also



A public park in Hodeidah city.

smoke of factories and cars' exhausts, Qat with all toxins add to this tree. Smoking cigarettes, exhausts and many other pollutants, pollute our atmosphere and cause many dangerous diseases such as malignant tumors, kidney failure, blood pressure and many other kinds.

In addition to that, water we use for drinking is mixed with chemical additives. Fruits and vegetables expose to insecticide's spray during growing. Canned foods, either liquid or solid, contain chemical additives. Food should contain no harmful chemical additives. Where is the protection of consumers in our country? Simply, we can say that we drink water mixed with chemical material added in, and we breathe polluted air to our lungs.

We also eat food blended with chemical additives. That is why, we are

burst into tears, since I was not accustomed to such sad scenery. I wished I could have visited it before. We entered the center through the hemodialysis unit where I saw patients connected with special lines for blood and many apparatuses and machines.

Around them nurses were working actively with the aim to safe life of those patients. When looked over this center, I felt that something is not so good. Patients did not seem satisfied to the services offered them.

I read many things in their eyes; soon a question came to my mind. What is going on here. I learned that patients always come from different far places and other governorates.

Despite that, they do not have places to get in hemo-dialysis many times. The majority of them have two sessions of dialysis per week and many others of

grants patients a little hope of life that carried to them unfortunate destiny.

I asked Dr Maher Maagam, the manager of the center, two questions: What are the obstacles and problems do you face in the center? He summarized the answers with two points:

1 - Increasing numbers of patients that now use the center do not cope with the available numbers of dialysis machines and the materials. The cases caught with kidney failure reached 370 patients, whereas only 15 hemo-dialysis machines exist so far. Therefore, works in the center doubles during day and night.

2 - The doctor added that the center does not only receive Hodeidah cases only, but also cases from neighboring governorates such as Hajjah, Raimah and Mahweet governorate.

The doctor wished that Ministry of health would have increased the capacity of the center in Hajjah. This will ease pressure of the center in Hodeidah.

The second question: what are reasons that cause kidney failure in general?

"There are many reasons," the doctor said. "One of them is the healthy awareness especially in the countryside starting from the healthy units to the hospitals.

"Secondly, the existence of medical experiences in every part of our country helps easily in discovering the cases of kidney failure and many other diseases."

While I was thinking of those sufferers at home, I thought to myself: we are human beings. We should imagine what it's like to be like them once. God (glory be to him) inflicted them. We should share their pain and help them.

God loves his creatures, especially humankind. He likes man to be healthy, as he wants man to believe in him. Allah creates us and grants us with all life's demands. Water, air, food and health are graces of him.

We should preserve these. They are our general responsibility. Today neither personal nor national care is enough. Governments and nations must work together in order to solve the problems of health throughout our country

It came to my knowledge that Ministry of Health is organizing very important steps to improve the services of this vital center in many governorates including Hodeidah.

We wish this will give those patients hope, and a smile which I missed in this visit.



Save the Children Sweden
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VACANCIES

Save the Children-Sweden (SC-Sweden) is an international non-governmental organization working for the implementation and promotion of children's rights. SC-Sweden is seeking qualified candidates to fill two positions

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Requirements

- ∞ At minimum, a university degree in law, social studies, economics or other relevant fields. A post graduate study is an advantage.
- ∞ At least five years experience with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
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- ∞ Computer skills
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- ∞ Management and leadership experience and skills.

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- ∞ Plan and monitor the implementation of activities with the partner national organizations/institutions.
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- ∞ Work with the country and regional teams to develop the program in Yemen and the MENA region.
- ∞ Write reports and proposals to the country, regional and head office as well as to donors.
- ∞ Collect, analyze and document information pertaining to children and children's rights in Yemen on regular basis.
- ∞ Represent SC-Sweden in forums and meetings as requested by the country manager.
- ∞ Submit periodic reports as requested by the country and/or regional office.

(2) A program officer

Based in Sana'a but with frequent travel within the Republic of Yemen and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Region.

Requirements

- ∞ At minimum, a university degree in law, social studies, economics or other relevant fields.
- ∞ At least three years experience with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- ∞ Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- ∞ Computer skills
- ∞ Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.
- ∞ Ability to work under pressure and the ability to work in team.
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Responsibilities

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Application

Application letter, C.V. and copies **ONLY** of certificates and supporting documents to be submitted to one of the following addresses:

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Fax: (01) - 417636 e-mail: welbashir@scsmena.org tel. (01) 417899	Fax: (02) 232035 e-mail: asaheed@scsmena.org Tel. (02) 231602

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Closing date: 6 April 2005

Vacancy Announcement

The Department of Political Science within the Faculty of Commerce and Economics of Sana'a University works on a project to implement a training system for the civil service. In close co-operation with the National Institute of Public Administration (NIAS) and the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance (MoCSAI) the project aims at developing a Master of Public Administration and various other training programs for public sector employees.

For the project we are recruiting a:

Project Secretary

(Full-time position, working hours between 8.30 hour and 14.30 hour, office at the new campus of Sana'a University)

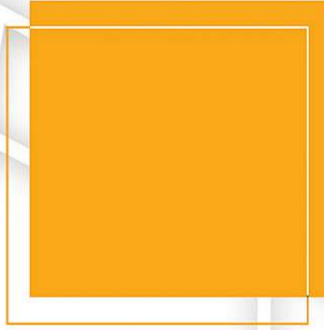
The candidates should have:

- Fluency in Arabic and English
- Computer Skills (Windows, Word, Excell, Internet, Outlook)
- Bookkeeping and filing skills
- The ability to communicate by phone, e-mail and fax with customers and other stakeholders of the project
- At least two years of work experience in a similar position

Interested candidates can send their Curriculum Vitae with relevant educational and working experience to:

Sana'a University
MPA-project
Dr Sander Dankelman
E-mail: s.dankelman@roi-opl.nl
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**The deadline for applications is Wednesday 6 April 2005.
Interviews will be held on 17 april 2005.**



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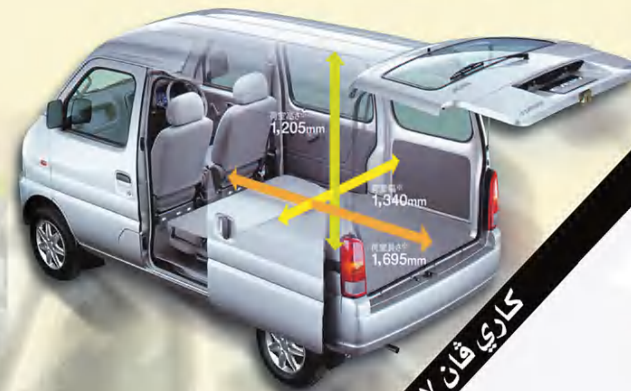


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East and West

BY JAMIL ABDUL KARIM



We'll all miss Walid

Saying hello, saying goodbye

*May you grow up to be righteous,
 May you grow up to be true,
 May you always know the truth
 And see the lights surrounding you.
 May you always be courageous,
 Stand upright and be strong,
 May you stay forever young,
 Forever young, forever young,
 May you stay forever young.*

— Bob Dylan

If I had things my way, which I usually don't, someday I'd like to see two of my friends meet each other. One is Daniel Pearl. You'll recall Danny was an American journalist, abducted and beheaded by Islamic extremists in Pakistan in 2002 for no real reason, besides that he loved the truth. The other is Yemeni-born Walid al-Saqqaf, who, as you read recently, has left his post as Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times.

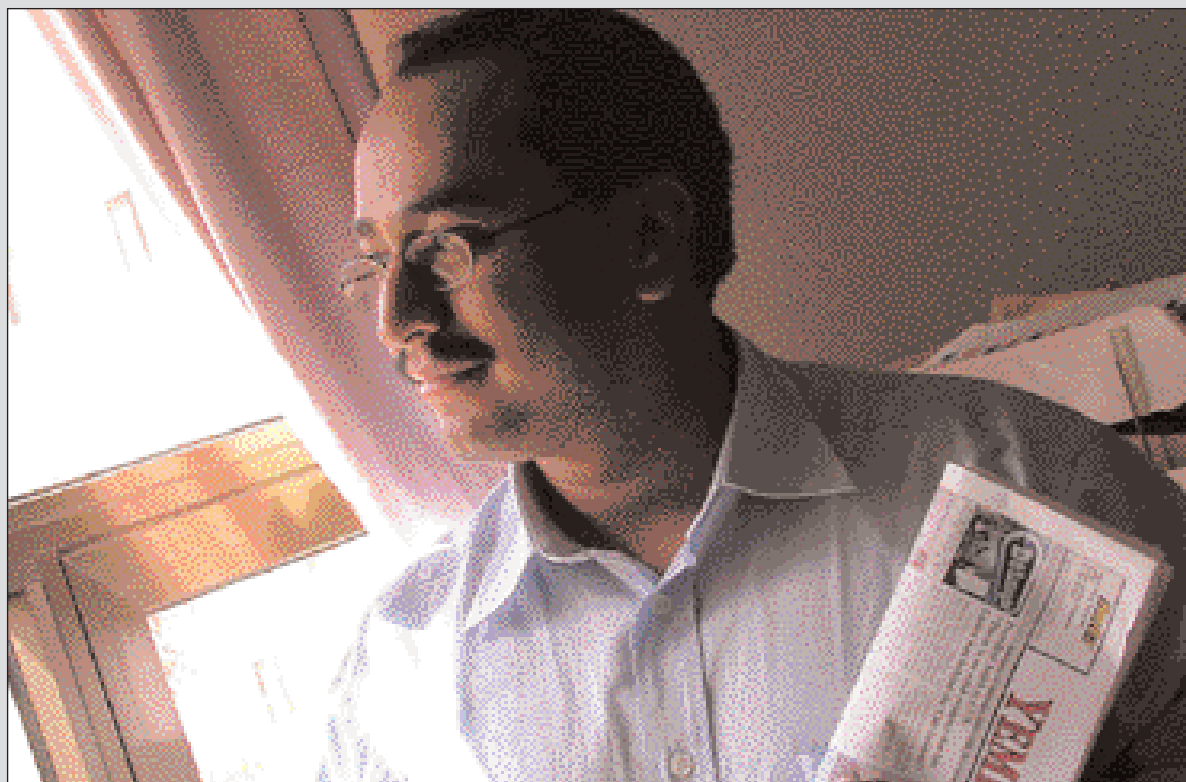
Last week, he began work at The Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau. It's where Danny worked for several years. Until recently, as the chief editor of The Yemen Times, Walid was my boss. Now, like Danny, he's simply my friend.

Changing the world

By all accounts, Danny, who was



Daniel Pearl
 (Photo courtesy of Daniel Pearl Foundation)



Former Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief Walid al Saqqaf.

(Photo by Jamil Abdul Karim)

Jewish, was a remarkable man: skillful, unconventional, and one of those rare people, who, although young, had both the nature and opportunity to help change the world. Which is why I think he and Walid, who's just 31, would enjoy furthering Muslim-Jewish dialogue in, say, some juice bar in Tehran with Bob Dylan playing.

As it is, Walid is now in Washington on a Daniel Pearl Fellowship. It's a new part of the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship Program, which, for over 20 years, has given journalists from dozens of developing countries work opportunities in American newsrooms. None have ever come from Yemen. Which says something about Yemen. But something more about Walid.

"It was my destiny to be a journalist, and it was my fate to lead this newspaper in particular," Walid wrote in his Yemen Times farewell editorial. After The Wall Street Journal, he'll stay abroad for higher studies. Interestingly, the last Times issue under his helm was #820, which corresponds to his birth month and day.

Walid began leading The Times several years ago, after the death of his father Abdulaziz, who founded this independent newspaper. That was not long before I arrived in Yemen.

My own departure

As fate also has it, Walid has now left Yemen just before my own departure. Soon my family and I move our overseas

base to Africa. I feel fortunate for my season of time with Walid. And I will miss him.

I'll miss watching him do business with a phone in each hand. I'll miss that sheepish feeling I always had after complaining about his country's befuddling laxness. I'll miss our laughs together over what Danny would call the "absurdities de l'existence."

Yes, Walid has shown a courageous intellect. He's been able to both scold and befriend high officials. He's been a cultural bridge and ambassador while already routinely representing Yemen abroad.

And many Yemenis will miss him because they see a likeness of his father. Shortly after becoming the only Arab to receive the U.S. Press Club's International Freedom of the Press Award, Abdulaziz died in a traffic accident. Not surprisingly, many Yemeni herald him as a martyr for human rights.

It all seems fitting. Because if you look inside Walid's copy of Danny's *At Home In The World*, after a personal note to Walid from the Pearl family, you'll see the book's dedication: "For Danny's son, who will know his father in words and spirit."

No, Walid won't ever meet Danny in this world. But he too will now know him in spirit. And, you know, Danny's son, who was born shortly after his father's death, is now big enough to reach up and say hello.

Jamil Abdul Karim has been a Yemen Times editor and columnist since 2002. He leaves his formal editing and writing duties with this issue.

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