

Al-Zindani on top of terror list

Yemen unable to stop supporting terror, US report

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Report of U.S. Secretary of State on international terrorism said the Yemeni government is still unable to stop channeling different kinds of support to terrorists. Although, al-Qaeda Organization in Yemen has become less active, there is a series of attempts and plots that target western interests, added the report.

It pointed out that the Yemeni government never took any procedures to restrict activities of Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, nor prevent him from traveling abroad, or freeze his assets according to UN Sanctions Committee that blamed al-Zindani last February for having the will to support

al-Qa'eda Organization.

The text of the report is as follows:

Yemen

In 2004, the Republic of Yemen continued to provide support for the global war on terrorism and took action against al-Qa'ida and local extremists, arresting several individuals suspected of having al-Qa'ida ties and prosecuting the perpetrators of several terrorist acts.

On August 28, the Sana'a Primary Court convicted 14 al-Qa'ida members for the October 2002 attack on the French tanker M/V Limburg, the murder of a Ministry of Interior officer during the November 2002 attack on an oil company helicopter, a plot to attack the

Civil Aviation and

Meteorology Authority, a plot to attack four foreign embassies in Sana'a and to kill the US Ambassador, and for forging documents for the purpose of carrying out terrorism.

Two defendants received death sentences, one in absentia. The other defendants were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to ten years. Under Yemeni law, both defendants and the prosecution have the right to appeal rulings. All defendants have appealed their sentences, as has the prosecution, the latter arguing that some of the sentences were too light. The appeals process is expected to conclude in early 2005.

On September 10, the Sana'a Primary Court concluded the trial of five defen-

dants for the October 12, 2000, attack on the USS Cole in Aden that killed 17 US sailors and injured 35. This included suspects Jamal al-Badawi and Fahad al-Quso, who were re-apprehended on March 10

by Yemeni authorities following their escape from an Aden prison in April 2003. On September 29, the court issued two death sentences for the ring-leaders of the bombing (al-Badawi and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri in absentia). Three others were convicted and sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to ten years for their roles in the attack. These cases were under appeal by both the Government and the defense at the end of 2004.

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Ordered to leave their houses Al-Nasr inhabitants feel oppressed

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 2 May YT - a number of citizens living in al-Nasr Zone, 45-meter Street came on Monday May 2 to the Yemen Times and filed a complaint against the Secretary General of the Capital and Housing representatives. They were to move from their houses under the pretext of completing the project of rainwater-disposing passage.

Citizens expressed concern about the illegal procedures practiced against them, particularly when housing representatives ordered them on April 1 to evacuate their houses to enable the concerned parties to complete the project of rainwater-disposing passage.

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Al-Nasr inhabitants assembling before the building of Yemen Times in protest against arbitrary orders.

Traders appeal against sales tax law

By YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 2 May YT - The Capital's Chamber of Industry and Trade held on Monday May 2 a press conference with the aim to clarify the stance of the private sector towards sales tax law No. 19 for the year 2001, due to be put into practice next July.

The Chamber of Industry and Trade

filed an appeal claiming invalidity of the sales tax law No. 19 to the Supreme Constitutional Court for the sake of reconsidering it.

The conference was attended by a number of traders and businessmen including Jamal al-Muttarrif, member of the Chamber of Industry and Trade, who, on behalf of businessmen and traders, confirmed the issuance of sale tax law No. 19 is a violation against the law and

the constitution.

He added that the law in its current draft will cause price hikes, discourage the national industries, magnify investment costs and open the door for smuggling that in turn may collapse the national economy.

He further stressed that the PM attacked the private sector and stopped dialogue between the government and the private sector, which caused a prob-

lem without a solution.

The Chamber of Industry and Trade authorized Dr. Hassan Mujalli, Professor of Criminal Law at Sana'a University to file a suit against the sales tax law to the Supreme Constitutional Court.

The press release issued by the press conference called for the amendment and clarification of most of the articles contained in the law, as well as activating the role of judiciary and establishing the monitoring judiciary to protect investors and the private sector. It recommended the implementation of legislative reforms for all the laws associated with private sector activities.

The sales tax law led to fomenting a political crisis over the past few months between the government on the one hand

and objectors of the law on the other, causing a crisis between the government and the opposition Joint Meeting Parties.

People took to the streets in most of Yemeni governorates in protest against the sales tax law and those demonstrations were accompanied by chaos and conflict between civilians and security troops.

Afterwards, accusations were exchanged between the government and the opposition Joint Meeting Parties and the Government-affiliated media means waged campaigns against the opposition parties and accused the Islah Party of being held accountable for a great portion of chaos and violent acts that accompanied the demonstrations.

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Unified Arab Traffic Week starts

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 4 May YT- activities of the Arab Traffic Unified Week was inaugurated in all governorates of Yemen on Wednesday 4 May 2005. Observation of this week was held this year under a motto "Safety of Pedestrians, National

Obligation & Common Responsibility".

This year's celebrations would include holding many activities at schools, institutes and universities, in addition to holding symposiums, lectures and meetings for information and enlightenment on the issue of traffic.

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Resorting to songs for happiness

Marginalized people denied equality

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The marginalized and poorest category, people who work as street cleaners and other works which are insulted by other social categories, are deprived from the equalities of life and looked down upon by other higher classes despite the fact that they proved to be more responsible and patient to provide themselves with any minimal standards of living.

Most of the time I tend to question myself about the superiority complex felt by some when dealing with such marginalized people like: "why do many people look down on this category although they offer services that deserves respect?" and "why are they looked down by others when they exert high efforts in collecting wastes to keep our cities tidy and clean?"

The teachings of Islam do not include any social discrimination between classes and so does the Yemeni constitution, but why do these marginalized people feel inferior to others. Their contributions and undeniable efforts compelled me to have a look at their sufferings and the severe circumstances they endure throughout their life.

When I went to one of their residences in the Capital, one of these marginalized people named Hassan, 27, told me that they lead miserable lives and endure difficult situations. He further confirmed that some of these people came by fate from other Gulf countries and that the actual reasons behind their sufferings include poverty, instability, and where no attention is drawn to them by the society.

They came to Yemen several years ago, but over the last few years, the Yemeni government attempted in cooperation with civil society organizations to make changes to their lives.

On the other hand, the World Bank contributes to the construction of social development for these marginalized people with the aim to provide them with basic services such as water and electricity. Houses for these Yemenis were built in Sana'a and Taiz.

At the beginning of the year, the European Union contributed Euro 253 million as a humanitarian support for people who live in small huts scattered in different areas all over the world. The support is aimed at 24 thousand of these marginalized people as an initial step. The issue of these marginalized people deserve to be given more attention by the concerned sides.

Regarding the origin of these marginalized people, many researchers believe that they originate from the historic city of Zabid while many other historians hold the view that they are the remnants of the Ethiopian occupation of Yemen in 525. Afterwards, they became servants of the Zaidia State in Zabid and were led by a president named Najah al-Habashi who exploited the collapse of the Zaidia State to form the so-called "State of Al Najah" (407-554, Islamic Calendar) under his dominance.

This State expanded its dominance over the city of Zabid and Tehama Pain and attracted increasing numbers of Ethiopians. The period of Al Najah's rule was characterized by tyranny and oppression as they used to take other people as servants for their own interests.

Later on, locals in Zabid and Tehama could erupt against the State of Al Najah causing its collapse after long wars. After victory, the leader of Zabid swore to make the remnants of the Al Najah State servants for the Yemeni society and since then they occupied the lower position of the social ladder and became a marginalized category.



The social view of these marginalized people is somehow negative since they are looked at as inferior people without any protection.

Such historical facts are opposed by Mr. Mohammad Ali al-Qair'e who belongs to the marginalized category and pursues extensive efforts to establish a society to defend their rights.

He said such information is incorrect and groundless since, in his viewpoint, the dark-skinned people are the remnants of Arab dynasties who ruled the coastal parts of Yemen in 4000 BC.

Al-Qair'e added the social tyranny against this category is based on the supposition that they are the remnants of the Ethiopian conquest of Yemen that coincided with the Parisian occupation, though there is a huge difference between the former and the latter, and nowadays one cannot realize any cultural discrimination against the Parisian and Turkish remnants.

The social view of the marginalized category

The social view of the marginalized people is somehow negative since they are looked at as inferior people without any protection. The primary problem stems from the fact that the majority of people see these dark-skinned people as immoral and undisciplined and therefore commit uncorrectable mistakes such as eating the flesh of the dead.

Other research groups hold the view that poverty of such people is one of the reasons that make other social classes look down upon them. The marginalized category endures several economic and social problems that lead a miserable life.

Additionally, the historic oppression and tyranny are among the reasons behind poverty of such people as they have been deprived for a long time of the possession of lands and production tools as well as the other components of social development. All these facts reflect the unjust culture practiced against them until they feel compelled to seek other professions respected by the society.

Poverty, lack of awareness and misery are the primary reasons that hinder such people from getting access to education and make them confined within specific locality.

Living in difficult conditions

Severe poverty experienced by this marginalized group compelled them to

Some of the non-governmental organizations received financial aids in the guise of supporting the marginalized people, however in fact, they could not provide any effective programs for the sake of integrating this category into the society.

live in difficult living conditions. Nowadays they are realized to center on shantytowns and some rural areas where their huts are made of cloths, thatch, hay, empty barrels and bins. Their huts, which usually comprises of one room for over ten people, are subjected to several catastrophes like floods. These housing groups are usually called "Mahawi". The word "Mahwa" linguistically means a place for dogs to drink, however many studies indicate that this term was historically used in rural areas that surround the city of Zabid. They refer to the housing groups of servants, which lack health services and give out disgusting smells, where their residents suffer from several epidemics.

Humble professions

Professions pursued by these people are recognized as humble jobs hated by many and their payment is habitually low. The workers receive daily wages and this makes them live without thinking of shaping their future plans. Their life is characterized by humility and happiness as they visualize themselves as kings on earth.

Majority of these marginalized people work on farms for the rich and sheikhs, particularly in the governorates of Ibb and Taiz with very low wages that cannot meet their basic needs.

The cleanliness sector is the most important profession for these marginalized people. Street and sewage cleaners in the main cities come from this category and since they do us a great service, there is no need to look down on them.

Street and sewage cleaners, com-

pared to other public-sector employees, do not enjoy their rights and social insurances as most of them always complain that their wages do not cover the minimal standards of living. Moreover, they became subjected to extortion by their bosses. All such facts make them experience various problems, which increase their daily sufferings leading them to practice beggary in rural areas and some public markets.

Additionally, some of the marginalized people offer untraditional services in wedding parties and many other different occasions.

Despite suffering, they enjoy singing and dancing

Despite the fact their professions are looked down on by other social classes, they usually tend to enjoy beating drums and performing nice songs by both men and women. In this way they attempt to alleviate their sufferings and tragic situations.

In al-Hegaria, Taiz Governorate, for instance, the existence of these people in wedding parties are one of the main factors for making the occasion a success and due to this they entered the world of their masters.

Cooperation is manifested in their environments and most of their ladies and boys wed at the age of 16 with less wedding expenses. The problem of spinsterhood is rarely realized in their surroundings and some of the marginalized ladies have married men of tribal origin, a fact, which was a taboo in previous days.

These marginalized people have their own traditions and customs that they enjoy at wedding parties. Both males and females keep dancing and

guise of supporting the marginalized people, however in fact, they could not provide any effective programs for the sake of integrating this category into the society.

On the other hand, the government tends to pay attention to these marginalized people as they build them houses in one of the suburbs of the capital as well as Taiz. These charitable projects embody the reputation of the state before other countries.

The marginalized are a game of policies for parties

Most of the marginalized people hold the view that they are denied their rights of citizenship and political participation although the constitution ensured the rights of equality and political participation.

The humiliating vision of other social classes toward the marginalized people are one of the primary reasons behind their being deprived of enjoying their rights. The political parties are also responsible for not respecting this category and involving it in the political life. It is regretful to realize that attention is drawn to this category only during the days of elections in order to be exploited to the advantage of a certain candidate. Some of these marginalized people living in cities were forcibly taken by tribal sheikhs to rural areas in order to vote for them.

Some of these marginalized people are found to affiliate to political parties though they do not care for policy, and how it is possible for a hungry person to have a motive for policy. Poverty is one of the reasons that prevents them from being involved in the political representation.

Before the Re-unification, these marginalized people were deprived from enjoying their rights. In 1985 for instance during the experience of local authority, one of the candidates belonging to the marginalized class in al-Higera, Taiz, was denied the post after he scored an overwhelming majority due to their great existence in his constituency. After he won, he could not pursue his duties since he was not backed by tribal sheikhs and therefore the election committee in the constituency rejected his victory.

The issue of these marginalized people is both terrible and simple as there is no attention drawn to them by the non-governmental organizations and the political and press platforms in the country. These organizations are accused of exploiting the situation of the marginalized for serving their own interests and receiving grants from international organizations to be allegedly delivered to the marginalized category.

It is everyone's duty to help these marginalized people and make them feel equal to others, as well as to break the bridge that separates them from other social classes, in spite of being accused of marginalizing themselves by some university professors.

Recently the government took a positive step in building houses for around 185 marginalized families in the capital. This step is recommended to be followed by different steps to help these marginalized people to abolish any expected difficulties.

singing together all night through until dawn. On such occasions, they heavily chew qat, which is very important to them as it is the main source of happiness that helps them feel more relaxed and comfortable, enabling them to escape their sufferings.

Marginalization and deprivation

These people's being marginalized and deprived of their rights can be ascribable to a variety of factors, but they themselves should be held accountable for a great part of this suffering. They prefer to live far away from other people and not go beyond their localities which leads to their being marginalized. Additionally, their lack of awareness and lack of interest in education can be one of the factors behind their inferiority complex.

The marginalization of these people magnified when the state and the non-governmental organizations lost the designs of mechanisms of dealing with them. The governmental bodies do not care for this category and enable them to occupy political positions. We realized that over the last few years many strategies were implemented by the government in different areas, however these marginalized people were not included in any. The non-governmental organizations did not play the required role in protecting the marginalized people.

According to many researchers, some of the non-governmental organizations take the issues of marginalized people for serving their own interests and to be well known to other international organizations. These organizations received financial aids in the

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Afghans hunt for survivors of deadly arms blast

PAJGA, Afghanistan, May 3 (Reuters) - Hundreds of Afghan villagers and police searched through smoking rubble of flattened homes on Tuesday for any survivors of an explosion that killed 29 people and wounded 70 at an illegal ammunition dump.

Monday's blast at the home of a former militia commander in Pajga village of Baghlan province, 120 km (80 miles) north of the capital, Kabul, left a huge, smoking pile of broken rocks and bricks, the remains of seven homes.

"The search is going on for survivors and authorities are still investigating what caused it," said Interior Ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal.

"One suspicion is that it could have been sabotage, the result of a factional

difference," he said.

Insurgents from the ousted Taliban regime do not operate in that part of Afghanistan and were not suspected of being involved.

At the blast site, men lined up in a row tossing away rocks one by one in their search for survivors.

"It was six in the morning and I was returning from the mosque when I heard a massive explosion. I was knocked unconscious, fell down and was brought to hospital," one of the wounded said in hospital in the provincial capital, Pul-i-Khumri.

The ammunition was hidden by Jalal Bajgaye, a former commander who was demobilised in a government drive to disarm factional forces but kept the ordnance, including artillery rounds

and mortar bombs, in a pit next to his house.

The commander was not killed in the blast, as reported earlier, Mashal said. He was out shopping, but 13 members of his family were among the dead.

President Hamid Karzai said that he was deeply saddened by the deaths and he had ordered an investigation.

Afghanistan is awash with weapons and old stocks of ammunition after decades of conflict.

The government launched the drive to disarm militias and take away their heavy weapons and ammunition in 2003 but much ordnance remains uncollected.

There have been several blasts at arms depots in recent years but Monday's was the most deadly.



Afghans search for survivors through the ruins of a house destroyed by a blast at an illegal ammunition dump which on Monday killed 29 people and wounded 70 others in Pajga village in the northern province of Baghlan, 120 km (80 miles) north of the capital Kabul, May 3. REUTERS

Blair stands firm on Iraq as poll lead grows

LONDON, May 3 (Reuters) - Prime Minister Tony Blair entered the final two days of Britain's election campaign on Tuesday still under fire over Iraq but with polls showing him on course for an historic third straight term in office.

After a week of attacks over his integrity and support for the U.S.-led invasion, a MORI survey showed his Labour party has a comfortable 10-point lead in the run-up to Thursday's poll.

The main opposition Conservative Party has accused Blair of lying over the advice he received from the government's top lawyer on the legality of the 2003 war. But the impact has been muted by the Conservatives' consistent support for the invasion.

"I think the action that was taken was the right action. I think it was wrong of Mr Blair not to tell the truth about the intelligence," Conservative chief Michael Howard told BBC Radio.

Blair has spent much of the past two years defending himself against charges he exaggerated the threat posed by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq following his ouster.

The widow of British soldier Anthony Wakefield, who died on Monday after a roadside bomb attack in southern Iraq, added to the pressure by blaming him for her husband's death.

"You should not have sent the troops over," Wakefield's wife Ann Toward said in a message to Blair.

And the brother of Ken Bigley, a British engineer held hostage and slain in Iraq last year, also called for an anti-Blair protest vote.

"I urge everyone who has lost loved ones in Iraq to ensure that Mr Blair is not re-elected," Paul Bigley wrote, backing independent candidate Reg Keys, who is standing against Blair in his northern Sedgfield constituency in



Britain's Liberal Democrat party leader Charles Kennedy speaks during election campaigning in Hythe, Kent, southern England, May 3. REUTERS

honour of his son who died on military duty.

Large majority

Blair expressed his condolences for Wakefield's death on Monday, but later defended his decision to go to war in Iraq.

"I don't expect you to agree with that but I do expect you at least to understand I took the decision in good faith because I believed it was right," he told an ITV studio audience.

Polls suggest Iraq has done little to harm Blair's lead as he tries to secure an unprecedented third successive election victory for the centre-left Labour party.

The MORI/Financial Times poll put Labour on 39 percent, up three points on last week, the right-wing Conservatives down five on 29 and the centrist Liberal Democrats down one on 22.

If repeated on May 5, Blair would win a still-massive 146-seat parliamentary majority, down from 161 now, MORI said.

Analysts say the crucial electoral factor has been the prime minister's move to patch relations up with finance minister Gordon Brown, now the more popular man according to the polls.

Brown, favourite to succeed Blair, has repeatedly backed his boss during the campaign and did so again on Tuesday.

"Of course we have lessons to learn, as Tony Blair has said, about the way things were done ... but at the end of the day we wanted the security of Britain and the British national interest to be advanced," Brown said of the Iraq war on BBC Television.

Votes are still up for grabs. MORI found more than a third of voters said they may change their minds.

Greek commandos find no pirates on Norwegian ship

ATHENS, May 3 (Reuters) - The captain of a Norwegian cargo ship who sparked a major Greek rescue operation after sending a coded signal that pirates had boarded his vessel issued the alert by mistake, officials said on Tuesday.

Two Greek naval helicopters, a plane and a frigate carrying special forces were sent late on Monday to aid the ship which was sailing in the southern Aegean.

"It was a mistake by the captain who accidentally got his code wrong," a spokeswoman for the Greek merchant marine ministry said.

"Special navy forces which raided the ship early on Tuesday followed all procedures as if there were pirates on board, checked all 19 crew's identities and interviewed the captain only to

discover there were no pirates on board."

The ship was ordered to change course for the port of Pinos in the Peloponnese for security reasons.

The ship, the KCL Banner, carrying cement from Turkey to Italy had sent a message to its owners on Monday afternoon which in turn alerted Greek authorities.

"However unusual the incident was, pirates or no pirates, we had to take every precaution and security measure to find out what exactly had happened and deal with the situation," a defence ministry official said.

Greece has considerably boosted security in its territorial waters in the past three years to tackle a sharp rise of illegal immigrants attempting to enter the country by boat.

Putin to try to repair shaky image at VE-day feast

MOSCOW, May 3 (Reuters) - Vladimir Putin will seek to improve his image abroad when Moscow hosts world leaders in three days of high diplomacy to mark World War Two victory, after sharp U.S. criticism and tensions with pro-Western ex-Soviet allies.

The May 8-10 ceremonies and summitry around the 60th jubilee will give the Russian leader a stage to play the statesman before a world cast that includes U.S. President George W. Bush.

But the diplomatic feast will throw into relief the new, and awkward, geopolitical reality in which Russia finds itself.

Former Soviet neighbours are in turmoil, with three of them — Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova — slipping from Moscow's orbit.

Relations with Washington are faltering, amid competition for influence in areas like the Caucasus and the Middle East and complaints over Kremlin treatment of individuals and businesses.

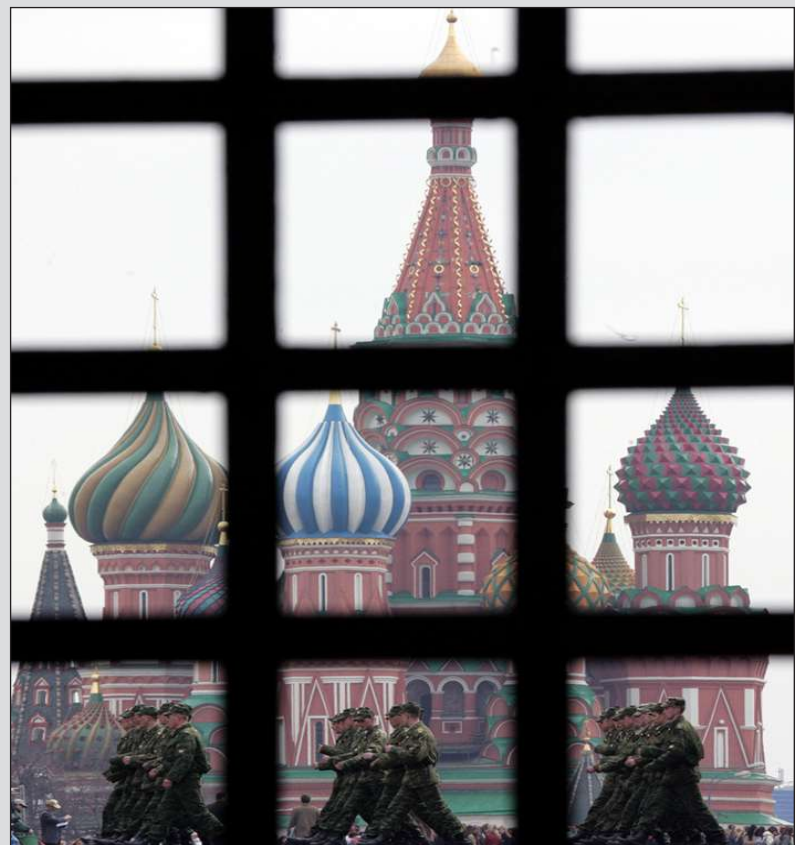
Moscow is also only slowly coming to terms with an enlarged European Union whose new, ex-communist members are among Moscow's sharpest critics.

While an elusive agreement to strengthen ties with the EU may be concluded next week, few breakthroughs are on the cards. But clues may emerge over how much Putin's Kremlin is ready to adapt to a changing world.

Analysts say the Kremlin is at pains to improve the atmosphere before the diplomatic rollercoaster starts on Sunday.

For one thing, it is signalling it is ready for an early withdrawal of its troops based in Georgia — a shrewd move since Bush will visit the Caucasus country straight after Moscow.

"A major goal for President Putin is to put on a big show for his foreign guests and the rest of the world which will bring greater respect and help assuage some of the problems Russia has had with its image particularly in the West," said Andrew Kuchins, director of the Carnegie Moscow Centre.



Russian soldiers march during a rehearsal of the military parade in Moscow's Red square May 3. Russia prepares to celebrate the Victory Day on May 9. REUTERS

U.S. ties in question?

The 52-year-old Putin, a year into his second four-year term, is at the peak of his political authority.

But in the past year his international image has been damaged by fallout from the Beslan school hostage seizure, when 330 adults and children were killed, the trial of oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Putin's clumsy, and unsuccessful, bid to influence Ukraine's presidential election.

More particularly, his highly-prized special relationship with Bush could now be in question.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice, changing of tack, said in Moscow last month Putin had too much power and warned him against seeking an, as of now unconstitutional, third term.

"Russian diplomacy today badly needs a success in terms of international image," said Thomas Gomart at the IFRI institute in Paris.

Politics are likely to take a back seat on May 9 itself, as world leaders pay homage to Russia's role in the defeat of Nazi Germany and to the 26.6 million Soviet war dead.

Russia will mark the end of its "Great Patriotic War" — still the most solemn milestone in its calendar — with a Red

Square military parade and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Apart from Bush, the guest list includes Chinese President Hu Jintao, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and a host of other leaders.

But some notable absentees highlight underlying tensions.

New EU members Lithuania and Estonia, which were reconquered by the Soviet Union in 1944, are boycotting the party since they see May 9 as the date when Soviet occupation resumed.

Meanwhile, a border dispute has suddenly re-emerged to strain Russia's relations with the third Baltic state, Latvia, even though it says it will attend the Moscow festivities.

CIS strains

On the eve of Monday's Victory Day parades, Putin will hold what could be an uneasy meeting of leaders of the club of ex-Soviet countries, the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Peaceful pro-Western revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia, and a revolt in Kyrgyzstan, sent shockwaves through the 12-nation body. Ex-Soviet Moldova is also wanting to turn westwards.

It is not clear whether this will be the moment when Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova turn in their membership cards.

The pragmatic Putin will try to avoid being overbearing on the issue. But he will argue that the CIS can still be of use as a forum for discussing regional problems, analysts say.

One silver lining in the diplomatic clouds is the strong likelihood that Russia and the EU will now agree a complete overhaul of relations when they meet on May 10.

An agreement has been held up for months but Russia recently gave ground on a key EU demand that the European bloc had a role to play in resolving "frozen conflicts" in ex-Soviet states such as Georgia and Moldova.

Nepali media calls for freedom after emergency ends

KATHMANDU, May 3 (Reuters) - Hundreds of Nepali journalists marched in the capital on Tuesday demanding the removal of curbs on press freedom and the release of detained colleagues, three days after the king ended emergency rule in the kingdom.

About 1,000 journalists participated in the rally in Kathmandu to mark World Press Freedom day as riot police, armed with bamboo batons, kept a close watch but did not intervene.

"Stop the crackdown on the media and guarantee uninterrupted press freedom," read a placard held up by one demonstrator. "Release the jailed journalists," others said.

King Gyanendra imposed a state of emergency on Feb. 1, sacked the multi-party government, detained political leaders, suspended civil rights and clamped strict curbs on the media, saying the moves were needed to control a Maoist guerrilla revolt that has killed more than 11,000 people since 1996.

Bowing to international pressure, the king lifted the emergency at the weekend, followed by the release of some political leaders, but has retained the extraordinary powers he seized.

"Press freedom in Nepal is facing the most serious crisis in its history right now," Taranath Dahal, the chief of the

Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), told a meeting after the march.

Dahal said curbs on the press were still in place and that 10 journalists had been detained since the state of emergency came in force.

Authorities have refused to comment on the detention of journalists. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has urged the royalist government to lift press curbs and release journalists under detention in the impoverished country.

The FNJ said many journalists had also been questioned by police and hundreds of reporters had lost their jobs as the government had barred independent radio stations from broadcasting news.

Editors have been told by authorities not to write anything critical of the king or about the Maoist rebels, who want to set up a one-party communist republic in the world's only officially Hindu nation by toppling the monarchy.

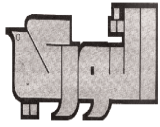
On Monday, the royalist government restored some mobile phone services in Kathmandu for the first time in three months and freed two senior communist party leaders from house arrest in order to ease international criticism of the king's move.

But political parties said hundreds of their activists were still being detention.

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



Al-Thawra weekly,
28 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- In the wake of acquitting the murderers of Jarallah Omar, a demand for an international investigation and exert pressure on the Yemeni government to stop liquidation of opponents
- A demand for election of a new parliamentary presidential body
- Head of YSP parliament bloc criticizes the government stance towards universities strike
- Sana'a university maintains its strike
- "Al-Nahar" newspaper on trial for lawsuits of Al-Thawra hospital and Jaashin sheik

Columnist Ibrahim Hassan says in an article the Yemeni center for documentation and information is conducting preparations for holding symposiums, among them one "Yemen and Normalization" and 15 years of Yemen Unity.

The question of Yemeni official normalization with Israel is old and new and has many channels and men. For a very long time, Israel has not carried out any hostile acts against Yemen and the Yemeni official address towards Israel does no longer with that strength. While the popular condemnation, under the slogan of "death to Israel" has become banned and praying against it is no longer commendable.

If an opinion poll were to be conducted with a random sample of people in Yemen about official normalization with Israel, the results, according to an impartial reading of the popular temperament and monitoring politicians' orientations in Yemen, would be 70% with normalization with Israel.

Normalization is not necessarily a free service, the calculation of profits and losses has to be taken into account as important. Experts of politics, economy and culture are capable of defining the asset. The asset should not necessarily be in the form of creditor or debtor. The Yemeni-Israeli trading accountancy would be just and according to each party's capability.

I am definite that the authority in Yemen wants to cross towards normalization but it exaggerates in estimation of the opposition's response, which is a modest one regarding such an affair. I am also certain that the opposition may bid because it does not such an accomplishment to be recorded in favour of authority.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces,
28 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- PM stresses on enhancement of efforts for radiation safety
- Cabinet discusses final results for operating the container port beginning of June
- In implementation of the president's directives, a regional bone surgery hospital is to be built by Cuban expertise
- Confirming the person who hurled the bomb in front of customs building from al-Houthi followers, security source denies that General Ali Siyani was the target
- 45 Saudi companies take part in the second forum of Saudi and Yemeni businessmen
- Seizure of two ferries active in smuggling migrants, 1800 infiltrators and illegal residents seized since the beginning of last April

Columnist Abdulsamad al-Qaleesi says in an article that he has thought the application of health insurance was an easy matter and to be easily gained. He says the time I pondered the subject I found out that it is a wide-ranged topic. The constitution of

the Yemeni republic stipulates the right of the citizen to health care and the state is obliged to guarantee this right. But the constitutional text has left it to the law to organize the citizen's obtaining free health care, and that the law has not been issued yet.

There is a draft law on health insurance and another for the establishment of the state authority for health insurance prepared by the ministry of health. The two drafts were presented to the Shoura Council that presented its remarks in prelude to submit to the cabinet and then to parliament.

The point is that the draft laws do not meet the end and would not realize the goal. There are experts in the field of health insurance who have expressed their important remarks about them. I think the specialized parties should take them into consideration and rather reconsider the text of the two draft laws.

The major problem in the subject is the government employees and the acute decline in the level of their salaries. If a large installment were deducted from their salaries for health insurance, they and their families would need to cover expenses of the minimum level of living, even if the government would pay 50% of those installments.

On the other hand, if deducted installments were little, the insurance companies would not accept that. This would either cause their loss or impose on them to set a low ceiling of medical service, which would not offer actual care for the employee.

The second problem is that the health insurance mentioned in both draft laws is confined to the employee alone without his family. In this case who would undertake treatment of his family and how?

Among the remarks displayed by the Shoura council there is a phrase saying each participant would contribute according to his financial potentiality and gets health services according to his need. The state has to reconsider the so-called the society contribution to expenses of health care as the citizen is now obliged to pay 75% of the costs of examinations and treatment, which is a matter very unfair.



Al-Wahda weekly,
27 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- 27 April luminous point in Yemen's democratic march
- Cabinet decides to subject employment to civil service ministry endorsement
- Oil undersecretary: Inauguration of the project of sector 51 installations in May
- Civil service undersecretary: Until last March, 33 thousand employees pensioned
- Medicines & insecticides topping the list, 34 cases of smuggling before courts
- More than 13 thousand antiquities discovered in Mareb
- YR 750 million for implementation of 15 water barriers in Mareb
- From agriculture lending bank capital, more than YR 150 million loans lost in Mareb and al-Jawf governorates
- Regional workshop for water desalination

Columnist Dr Ali Mohammed al-Ashmouri writes saying there would be no future for the homeland but with the future of all there must be total participation for discovering and building it.

The file of dialogue called for by the General People's Congress is considered a qualitative step in political history of ruling parties. This is a radical change required from the other to respond in order to treat issues that are far from the game of conflict between the positions and roles that represent a national concern and common responsibility.

The option of dialogue is the safest

of all choices and having the least losses and less dangerous ramifications, it accommodates all types of political spectrum of the country.



Al-Isbou weekly,
28 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- Journalists syndicate would ignore the law, information ministry demands for suggestions to the law
- Execution against killer of al-Mikhlafi inside the court
- Ahmed Bazaraa: State withdraws from being a major provider for job opportunities
- Escape of al-Houthi outside the country, ruled out
- Partisan crisis at universities
- Fish wealth ministry sues 20 fishing companies.

On its back page the newspaper published an article saying when al-Houthi sparked confrontations with the authority last year he was actually having hopes of an imamate rule with which he had inspired hundreds of his followers.

It was not only mere suicidal confrontation in the most rugged mountains of Yemen. Al-Houthi had pursued the legend of the return of the imam, which was then appeared to be repeated after the revolution by supporters of the monarchy.

The legend says the imam would return after forty years of the revolution and more than one thousand years before the state of imamate appeared in Saada. Hussein Badruddin al-Houthi repeated the slogan of "Death to America and Israel".

For some years, he was preparing his supplies in valleys of Mran Mountains. It was one of the reasons behind flourishing of weapons trade in the governorate situated on borders with Saudi Arabia.

Was the AL-Houthi dreaming of repeating al-Khumeini's experiment of hostility to America and Israel? Al-Houthi was not able to wait, despite that some of his followers saw that he was hasty in his confrontation after he had ignited it.

Months later the spark of al-Houthi returned, as the legend was still tickling their dreams. The authorities have to thank al-Houthi. He has awakened it to hidden intentions, with all what they would bring with them of problems and chaos.

But as a nightmare for it, the authority has to pay attention to development, upgrading education and health and the living condition. These are the stronger weapons so that such a small legend could become a costing and disturbing situation.



An-Nahar weekly,
28 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- A campaign to topple a new draft for press law proposed by the ministry of information
- Al-Nahar newspaper on trial for lawsuits from al-Thawra hospital and sheik al-Jaashin
- Torrents cut the Yemen-Saudi highway
- 86 cases of polio in Hodeidah and fears of spread to other governorates
- Education unions crisis re-emerge

Writer Mohammed al-Qadhi describes in an article the press draft law presented by the ministry of information as totalitarian and disastrous. He says it has disclosed intentions of the government towards journalists and the press, adding that they have not yet comprehended the reality of the ongoing international changes and tempest blowing on the Middle East.

The government would not produce but such a press law that would restrain the word and renders the

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.



As-Sahwa weekly,
28 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines:

- Because of violations amounted to more than YR two billion, Parliamentary report stresses on referring information ministry to public property prosecution
- At the second anniversary of Yemeni Democracy Day, Yemeni opposition parties demanded for comprehensive political reforms
- Opposition blocs: GPC statements, an outbidding not respecting the other opinion
- In Hodeidah, 86 cases of polio
- Parliamentary committee fails to oblige Sana'a University to back down from its unconstitutional decisions
- Possibility of filing a lawsuit against it, Official press not neutral in covering news
- Judges demand amendment, others complain of much talk about the lost independence of judiciary
- Politicians demand election of districts and governorates governors
- Sana'a University's teaching staff declares continuation of strike

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article that people on this earth either come to agreement and cooperate or differ and coexist, as an

alternative to conflict, war and destruction. As full agreement is a kind of impossibility, difference remains as a norm pushes the rational to look for means for coexistence and acceptance of the other along with recognition of his peculiarity.

Recently, the call has come from the European Union and statements of some American officials, calling for opening dialogue with Islamic movements. However, this has come rather late but it indicates the listening to the call of reason, logic and common interest.

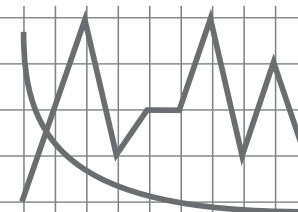
Those Islamic movements have active presence and big influence. They work openly wherever they are allowing and demanding for freedom to declare themselves. They have their visions for building the man and reform the state as well as the relationship with the other. Not to recognize these movements does not mean wiping them out of the map of public life.

It is regrettable in this regard that the west comprehends the variables and developments and reaches at a conviction of opening dialogue with who it sees as adversaries, whereas some regimes in both Arab and Islamic worlds still believe in expulsion, prisons, detentions, despotism and gagging mouths.

They think those ways are more useful than dialogue. Is it now not the best time for turning the chapter of the past and its conflicts to move to horizons of dialogue and building, and not to wait for others to impose that on us?

جمعية زوجات رؤساء البعثات الدبلوماسية (هومسا)
Heads of Missions Spouses Association (HOMSA)
 البازار الخيري السنوي
ANNUL CHARITY BAZAAR
 Thursday 12th May 2005. الخميس، ١٢ مايو ٢٠٠٥
 Venue: Police Officer Club المكان: نادي ضباط الشرطة
 Time: From 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. الوقت: من ١٠ صباحاً إلى ٥ عصر
 Ticket Cost: YR 300 سعر التذكرة: ٣٠٠ ريال
Children Under 12 Free Entry
 Raffle & auction from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 الدخول مجاني للأطفال تحت الثانية عشرة
 السحب والمزاد من ٣:٠٠ - ٥:٠٠ عصر

YT Business



International Conference on

Financial Leasing in Yemen

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

It is a popular instrument in Muslim countries as it is a rent-based financial facility. Actually, some of the transactions carried out today by some Yemeni businessmen, especially those practicing Islamic banking principles, are very similar in their substance to financial leasing operations.

In a number of countries, leasing plays a vital and increasing role providing finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as it holds attractive features such as the fact that collateral is not required by banks to extend a loan, as the bank holds the title to the equipment, making enforcement more secure. As a result, many small and medium enterprises are now able to obtain financing for their business activities.

Introducing financial leasing in Yemen will have a wider impact than just a financial sector development and easy access to finance for SMEs. It will also contribute to invigorating the Yemeni economy as a result of the

financing of capital investments. Thereby creating more business and jobs, increasing the tax base and accelerating economic growth.

However, there are various constraints to the introduction and development of leasing in Yemen. The weak legislative and regulatory framework for such type of transaction, may limit potential investors in the leasing market. Moreover, potential uneven fiscal treatment which would make leasing less competitive than other forms of financing such as traditional bank loans, Murabaha, Mudaraba, etc.

Not only the lack of experience and skills by potential leasers or providers of leasing, but also the lack of awareness by potential clients of this product, since leasing is particularly non-existent in Yemen, and is a relatively new financing instrument in many countries and particularly those in the region.

On the legal aspects, the Central Bank of Yemen prepared a draft law for financial leasing which was presented to the Cabinet and is now in its final



stages of being passed. This is one of the requirements of the Financial Sector Adjustment Credit, which was extended by the World Bank to Yemen in 1997. The CBY has relied on its preparation on a draft prepared by the International Finance Corporation IFC back in 1997, and a number of the laws of neighboring countries.

To introduce leasing term as well as

it being the beginning of the spread of awareness, and the importance of this type of activity, under the auspices of Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bajammal, the Central Bank of Yemen CBY along with the International Finance Corporation IFC, World Bank Group, held on 25 April at an international conference on "Leasing for Small and Medium Enterprises Development" that took place at the Police Officers club.

Through the five sessions of conference a number of topics were presented.

The First session was about general presentation of leasing in which Mr. Fritz Peter presented a paper "Leasing Global Prospects (History of European & U.S. markets & prospects). Talking about definition and characteristics of leasing Mrs. Houria Sammari, MENA leasing program manager and IFC team presented "Key benefits of financial leasing for leasers, lessees, country development leasing in the MENA Region".

The second session was about Experiences of regional leasing companies in which Mr. Abderrazak

Trabelsi, general manager of Arab leasing corporation, Agiers, introduced a paper entitled "Experience of recently established leasing company in Algeria."

While Mr. Shaheen Amin, chief executive officer of Saudi ORIX leasing, Riyadh displayed his paper "Experience of an international leasing company in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Egypt-ORIX leasing".

In the third session the topic was about legal and regulatory framework. Ms. Kamila Makhmudova, leasing legislative expert at IFC, and Mr. Khalid Abdullah, IFC legal counsel in Yemen, both presented a paper "Legal aspects of leasing-International best practices".

Mr. M. Seif Kaid, legal advisor at CBY, and Mr. E.H. Mohammed Said, legal advisor at International Bank of Yemen, presented respectively two papers, which were "Leasing legislative framework in Yemen" and "Leasing legal aspects".

The topic of the fourth session was tax and accounting treatment. Mr. Umedjan Umarov, leasing and accounting expert at IFC, and Mr. Mohammed Zahdi, accounting expert at KPMG, Sana'a, presented a paper about "Tax aspect of leasing" and "International best practices and Yemen applications".

Another two papers were introduced, entitled "Accounting aspects of leasing" and "International best practices and Yemen application". The issue of the fifth session was about "next steps for leasing development in Yemen".

Ms. Jasmina Vignjevic, business development officer, south Eastern Europe leasing program manager IFC, presented a paper "Presentation of IFC leasing work (technical assistance) in other regions".

Finally the last paper was about "What are the next steps towards proper

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	190.9500	191.3000
Sterling Pound	363.4900	364.1600
Euro	245.6800	246.1300
Saudi Rial	50.9200	51.0100
Kuwaiti Dinar	653.7600	654.9600
UAE Dirhem	51.9900	52.0800
Egyptian Pound	32.9100	32.9700
Bahraini Dinar	506.5100	507.4400
Qatari Rial	52.4500	52.5500
Jordanian Dinar	269.6100	270.1000
Omani Rial	495.9700	496.8800
Swiss Franc	159.5500	159.8400
Swedish Crown	26.7300	26.7800
Japanese Yen	1.8126	1.8159

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

leasing development in Yemen.

The participants came up with a number of recommendations most of which were:

- 1-Hastily issuing the law related to financial leasing and giving it to the parliament to approve it according to the constitution.
- 2-The Commercial and Islamic Banks should start establishing leasing institutions and involving this type of activities in their financial activities.
- 3-Private sectors should practice leasing and benefit with the technical support of IFC.
- 4-Universities should incorporate the financial leasing within the curricula of the special faculties.
- 5-Institutions should hold training courses, workshops and seminars about the financial leasing.
- 6-IFC should start implementing the program of participating in developing the small and medium enterprises in Yemen, as well as to take part in encouraging and supporting the private sectors. Giving loans and facilities for the successful investment projects that enhance in economic and social development with creating job opportunities and decreasing poverty.
- 7-The speeches delivered in the conference were considered one of the conference papers.

Abdul Qader Bajammal, Mr. Saad Sabrah, representative IFC-Yemen, Mr. Mohammed Ali, president of Banking Association of Yemen, Mr. Abdulrahman AL-Samawi, governor of CBY along with a number of financial experts and specialists from Yemen and abroad attended the conference.



Modern study mentions,

Technical cheating spreads in Yemeni market

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A study specialized in marketing affairs emphasized that technical swindling is increasing in the Yemeni market through influx of expired commodities and smuggled goods which are not abiding by national specifications and standardization, especially regarding technical cheating. This is mainly related to electronics and electrical apparatuses. The study focused that those goods are among the most widespread commodities in Yemeni markets and have great influence on consumer, tradesman, environment and the national economy.

The study also mentioned that technical cheating constituted as one of the most wide-spread phenomena that accompany the international trade movement and its impact noticeably appears at

markets where there is low levels of monitoring on quality of goods incoming across borders. A well as to constitute material burden on Yemeni consumer who has become victim to the trade of electronic and electric goods.

The study has also disclosed that phenomena of trade swindling emerges mainly in citizens' complaints about expensive and costing malfunctions occurring to apparatuses and their accessories, such as computers, typewriters, facsimiles, telephone sets, cameras, recorders, television sets, TV receivers and others. The study also disclosed that prices of those tools and appliances are very high compared to costs of buying the same types of those apparatuses. The major problem, the study says, is in the accessories of computers of such printers. One finds in the market certain types of printers at price of around \$200 to 250, but after a short while of using the print-

er it is malfunctioned. Nevertheless, this is not the sole problem, it is mainly in the price of spare parts to be replaced and that costs between \$ 105 to 200, which is expensive compared to the price of the printer itself. This situation mostly pushes the consumer to buy a new printer instead of repairing the previous one.

Cheating in the trade of electronics and electrical apparatuses has become very clear and includes TV dishes and receivers that the market contains tens of their types, very little of them are commercially known and for most of them, the country of origin is unknown.

The study considered that a reason behind this cheating is mainly the openness of Yemeni markets, which is considered among the main markets in the region where commercial cheating is apparent. It includes all commodities demanded in the market, mainly electronics and electric apparatuses.

To face importation of cooking oils, Annual YR11 worth investment opportunities

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni official sources have revealed that Yemen imports cooking oils from external markets at a cost of around YR 11 billion. Thus, there is a need of investors in agricultural sector specialized in plantation of crops related to extraction and production of oils and their refinery to sell and export them.

The sources told the Yemen Times that there were directives issued by high-ranking authorities to the end of paying a prime attention to agriculture of sunflower plants to obtain seeds from which oil is extracted. The proportion of oil in this plant ranges between 30-50% and yields good economic revenues to farmers, as the value of one ton of such oils is more than \$850.

The sources added that the oil of sunflower plant is considered rich in vitamins, especially vitamin B and is characterized by good flavor and pure color. Therefore, it is considered as major source for vegetable oils used in cooking. Industrially, the oil is also used in soap and paint industries. After extraction of oil from sunflower seeds, the remains could be used in feeding animals as it contains 30-35% of proteins, 20% of carbohydrates and 6% oil. Stalks of the plant contain a high percentage of nitrogen, calcium and potassium.

After harvesting the plant and ploughing the soil, the remains of the plant increase organic material in the soil and improves its fertility. Growing of sunflower plants help increase pro-

duction of honey, as bees pollinate the plant and such their nectar.

Growing sunflower plants would also lead to diversification and development of the Yemeni farmer's income through the increase in his economic revenues due to the high economic return of this crop which is deemed as one of the oil crops that can stand hard climatic circumstances and drought. It is also characterized by economizing in the use of irrigation water for its growth.

On the other hand, the sources confirmed the significance of the private sector participation in providing local raw materials for the industrialization of vegetable oils and fodders to make these contribute to covering part of national requirements for these essen-

tial goods.

They pointed out that Yemen imports YR11 billion worth of vegetable oil from abroad. This urges the need for supply and industrialization of those oils locally through increasing agricultural production of the sunflower crop, cottonseeds, sesame and others in a manner benefiting the farmers and the national economy.

It is to be pointed out that some private sector investors have gone ahead of the government in investment in this field and need support from official authorities as well as offering facilities to them. Particularly regarding irrigation and arable lands in order to expand in production of oils to cover the need of the Yemeni market of this commodity.

Sana'a First International Fair, preparations

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of Industry and Trade held a plenary meeting in Sana'a which included a number of commercial attaches, officials of trade relations and diplomatic missions accredited to Yemen. The meeting was devoted to acquaint participants with underway preparations for holding Sana'a's 1st International Fair to be organized by the ministry on 1-7 September at Expos Fair in Sana'a.

Sources of the ministry of industry and trade have told Yemen Times that the fair is considered a giant and important economic activity as it would include a number of Arab and foreign countries seeking

through their participation to display their best quality products. They would consequently open new markets for their products in Yemeni markets.

The fair would also discuss the possibility of conducting trade exchange with businessmen from those countries and their Yemeni counterparts. The sources indicated that the ministry was working directly with the Apollo fair and that it was continuing in coordination and cooperation for the success of this international event that was coinciding with the Yemeni people's celebrations of the 26 September revolution day as it is the first international fair to be held in Yemen.

The fair, according to the sources of the industry ministry, acquires a great importance, as it would include a number

of world economic companies, international pavilions, and well-known trademarks.

They affirm that holding the fair comes after the Yemeni government has taken serious and practical steps in development of its trade and economic relations with most of world countries, especially industrial ones.

The sources have expected that most of the Arab countries would take part in the fair, particularly after the announcement of the Arab agreement on the exemption of all Arab products from customs and support of trade exchange among Arab countries, indicating that Apollo Center takes part in many exhibits that are held in a number of Arab and foreign countries.



Thousand years to the Mozambique Island between the two shores of the Indian Ocean

By IRENA KNEHTL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It is an emerald set in a sapphire sea. A small coral island at the mouth of Mossurill Bay in the Mozambique channel in the Indian Ocean. Its natural harbor was used by Arab merchants as a maritime trading station.

It served as an important link in the East African trade routes that stretched along the coast. Much of the gold found its way to the island on the sea route from Europe to the East Indies. This island harbor, four km off the coast of Africa, just opposite of Madagascar, for hundreds of years was a major center of intercontinental maritime trade. First mentioned in Arab writings in 10th century, today it is a World heritage site.

The Arab sources recorded waves that here break rhythmically along its broad, pearl sand beaches. The first Arab settlers probably came from the Hadhramaut region in Yemen.

Since the beginning of civilization man has used the Arabian Sea as a trading route to the world's wealth. The first sea-trading route known to man passed through this sea.

Shortly after 3000 BC ships raced along the coast from and to southern Arabia and India, exchanging copper from Oman, teakwood from India, incense from Yemen for wheat and



barley. The Yemeni pre-Islamic kingdom probably traded by sea, but definitely in the Sabeen kingdom.

While civilization spread around the world, the Arabian Sea remained a center of commerce. Empires reached its shores and crumbled through centuries. A regular half-yearly alternation of weather conditions and winds plays a more important role on the Arabian Sea than in any other sea on earth.

From October to May the favorable trade/wind blows across the sea and brings a strong south westerly current. When the strong southwest monsoon blows from June to September, they would sail home again to Arabia.

The Arabs had known since ancient times that they could rely on prevailing winds for long voyages beyond sight of land and were hazarding their lives on

the deep water beyond their shores. Their dhow, an oceangoing vessel, was usually constructed of coconut wood or teak, the hardest and most durable timber.

It was entirely seaworthy amid the comparatively mild waves of the Indian Ocean. Its triangular lateen sail was adapted to catch the slightest breeze and lend the ships maneuverability in treacherous coastal waters. Even perishable goods could be transported safely.

Their remarkable meteorology of the Indian Ocean and the way in which the Arab navigators had been exploiting it for centuries made them true scientists of the sea, experienced in navigation, meteorology, geography.

Adept at taking advantage of good sailing conditions on a regular seasonal schedule. As early as the 8th century Arab traders entered the region along the Zambezi river in the East African interior. They brought ceramics, cloth, glass, beads, salt and metal in exchange for gold, palm, oil, rhinoceros horn, amber, valuable skins, and ivory.

The dhows from Mozambique island station carried incense, gold, pearls, glass and ornaments of every variety. They returned with their holds full of rich and spicy perfumes, silk, cotton, diamonds and teakwood. The city of Sofala, the present day, Beira, on land to the Mozambique island, developed into a trade center.

It used to be a city of warehouses and trading goods for East Africa and India. From Sofala, much before the 15th century, Arabs, Indians and Swahilis traded up the Zambezi, Save and Limpopo river valleys with the old Zimbabwean empire and the stone-building peoples of Southern Africa and Botswana, a powerful indigenous African gold-trading empire in the interior of Southern Africa.

The gold of southern Africa has always been fabulous. It fuelled trade in the western Indian Ocean for at least 500 years before European explorers arrived there.

Buried in the sands of the coast, there should be another older Sofala, of coral stone palaces and fine mosques. Sofala emerged as a Muslim city built by an Arab Muslim ruler Musa bin as-Sembiq, though his name was erroneously corrupted to Mozambique and of which both the present day Republic of Mozambique and the

Mozambique island derive their name

Sand, sea, sky

A full moon rose out of the sea as the sun set behind the sea. Coral reef listening to the wash of waves far down the beach where the spring tide had taken the sea. Black silhouettes of uncovered reef and dark patches of water. Past Islands of the Moon, the Comoros islands to Mozambique island, these were the last marts of Azania on the right hand from the land of Bernike.

For after those places the unexplored ocean curves round to the west, and extending southwards in the opposite direction. Cape of Currents was the traditional southern limit of navigation in the Indian Ocean prescribed by Arab navigators. Their dhows were designed for the greater tropical seas and predictable season of the monsoon. Beyond that point the weather deteriorated.

The regular wind systems became unreliable. The land rose gradually above the level. A great low-tide plain of yellow sand before them. Watching the moon and listening to singing of the coral sands in the silver sea as they approach Ilha de Mozambique, today part of Republic of Mozambique.

Water of memory

The Mozambique island, has been brought to world attention by its classification as a World heritage site, aiming to preserve and stimulate the conservation of the wonderful old buildings, some of which are made out of coral. The entire island has been proclaimed a World heritage site.

A maze of narrow streets hemmed by tall buildings with a bustling harbor and markets. At the ocean side the fresh monsoon breeze blew every day. A long roll of history bearing the heavy burden of a strategic position, on an old crossroad on the Indian Ocean. Not so much a different place, but a different time.

From the dhow, the island looks like a floating city, an African version of a tragic Venice. A meeting point of cultures, flat roofs, designed to collect rainwater and compensate for the islands lack of freshwater spring. Smaller houses roofed with palm leaves.

The Portuguese made it to the focal point of their trade and industry during 15th century. Tons of limestone were shipped in from Portugal to build what was one of the most formidable forts in Africa. It was never conquered.

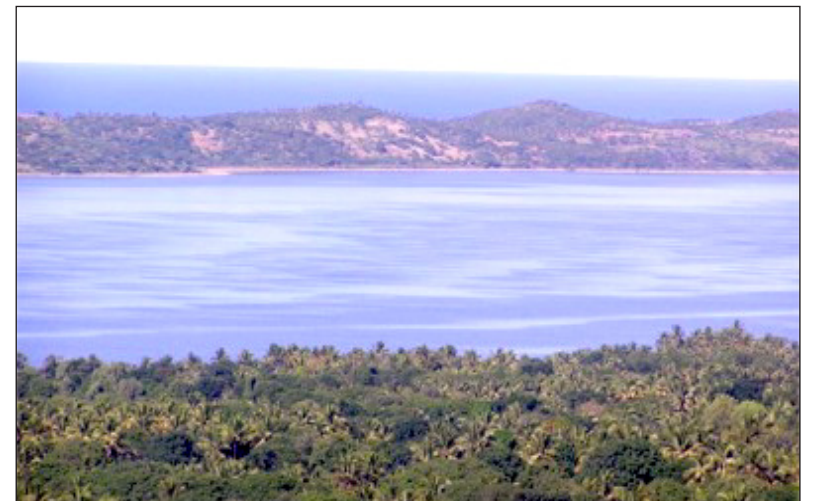
Today the fort is empty and haunted. The Mozambique island is a low lying coral island almost equidistant between Sofala and Zanzibar, convenient, safe and secure port on the route from Kilwa, the city which ruled the southern African trade, and Sofala, the base for contact with the gold of Zimbabwe.

The deep tankers and graceful dhows



which sail into the harbor retain some flavors of old kingdoms, of Sindbad, the sailor, and Arab merchants from antiquity, and of Arabia Felix, sailing in search for wealth, knowledge and discovery.

They seem to bring twentieth century prosperity to the people who carry on the tradition of an ancient sea.



About Mozambique

The Republic of Mozambique is located on the southeastern coast of Africa and covers a total of 799,380 sq kilometers. Incredibly diverse and scenic landscape.

The country has natural attractions, offering 2500 km of unspoilt coastline and a string of

sub-tropical Indian Ocean islands forming. The Bazaruto Archipelago, located about 10 km off the coast is said to be one of the most beautiful places on the African continent. The whole area is now protected as a world class conservation area

The country also boasts many stunning game parks, lakes,

mountains and historical towns.

Natural resources include titanium, natural gas and hydropower

Capital: Maputo

People: 99 percent African.

Mozambiquans are renowned for being the friendliest people in Africa. Official language: Portuguese.



Who Is It? A story to be told - - (1/4)

By SALWA YEHIA AL-ERYANI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I ran with wearing one slipper while the other bare foot. I reach the house of the leader of the area within seven minutes. I ran out of breath and nearly fell down. My heart was beating so fast and loud. It was like drums in my ears, especially because it was dark and silent. I knocked on the door but no one answered.

I kept banging on the door with my fist and kicking it with my feet violently. At last, the door was opened. I asked the guard to allow me to see the leader. He pointed at his watch and said "Now!" I was so short-tempered, I shouted "No, tomorrow!" He smiled an irritating smile and replied, "Well, come back tomorrow then." I spread my arm to stop him from closing the door and said "Come

on, Of course now. It is urgent. Please quickly."

The leader himself came down with his pajamas and looked very disturbed and said "What happened? Who are you?" I replied, "I am the lady living in the house behind your house. I am a neighbor. Tonight I heard sounds and voices from around my house. I am afraid a thief is trying to enter my house, I recognized feet landing in my garden ground.

The thief obviously has jumped over the fence. When I shouted who's there? I heard the feet stamps run away. I am certain that he will try again until he succeeds in entering the house. As long as the thieves know our address they'll keep coming until they find what they are looking for. You know sir that I am living alone."

The leader calmed me down "Don't panic, I will inform the police station to be ready at all times incase we call

them tomorrow, Please don't be nervous and don't exaggerate." I interrupted him "No sir, oh, no no this is not enough.

I suggest that a police car makes several rounds in this area during night upon a regular basis. This would, actually it should fear the thieves." He looked fed up and said shortly to end the conversation, "Fine, I'll think about it. Now go home." I did what I was ordered to do, As if I had any other solution! I felt that he was deceiving me and that he will not talk with any police. In other words he was lying.

It was hilarious and funny to see someone lie to you, while you have to act like you believe him. This is what our life has taught us to do. Life has taught us to lie, deceive and act. I went home and read about three paragraphs from a novel and then fell asleep.

The Second Night

The next night I was confident that the thief was not as stupid to coming back after what had happened last night. I boiled some milk and filled my mug to drink milk in front of the TV. I watched the news but couldn't hear a word of it. I must admit that all my senses were trying to catch any sound around my house.

As soon as I took a sip I definitely heard someone shaking the gate. I froze in my place. Then I heard sounds of keys being tried on a door. How daring! Not only did he yesterday climb the fence and jump into my garden but also he's trying today several keys to see which one would open the house's door.

Oh my God I heard one of the keys click. I put the mug aside with a shaking hand. I squeaked from my place "who is it?" No one answered. I strengthened my knees and got up to

the kitchen's window that looked on to the gate. I yelled "If you don't go away right now I am going to call the Police!" I remembered that addresses here in Yemen are hard to solve, like puzzles. The thief might laugh, as he knows that the police will spend a couple of hours to find the house.

So I decided to say "The police came to my house before. So you better disappear." I heard the footsteps run away until I couldn't hear them. I took a deep breath and relaxed on the chair as my muscles were all cramped. I then took the phone and called the leader of the area. As soon as I heard his voice I became nervous again I shouted "Sir, the thief today opened the door of the gate which, he jumped over yesterday.

He is advancing quickly. I am terrified. Please sir, what arrangements have you made to assure my safety?" He answered me in

a grumbling voice "I now have guests for dinner, I'll see what precautionary procedures could be taken for you when I discuss this problem with the dancer, oops I mean with the Police."

I interrupted "Yes, but when?" He lost his patience and screamed, "I don't know when. Listen this is not the proper time for chatting". That rude creature didn't even say goodbye. I stared at my telephone. It felt like receiving a slap on the face. People who have been slapped on the face said about this likeness. I haven't, but now I feel I have. I burst into tears.

When you don't have a solution, this is what you do as a female. I did that not only because I was insulted but also because I was afraid. Will this crazy leader leave me until I am robbed or killed? Oh, no, no, no. I will take care of myself. I can't understand this negligence and underestimation.

Desalination & renewable energy training course & workshop

BY NAZEEL ABDULLAH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN BUREAU

A training course and workshop on desalination and renewable energy was held in Aden on 23-28 April, 2005. The event was organized by Yemeni Ministry of Water and Environment in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory and the UNESCO. At the closing meetings of the event, sponsors and participants issued conclusions and recommendations on the theme of the training course.

The participants welcomed and appreciated the cooperation between the Ministry of Water and Environment of Yemen and the Ministry of Environment and Territory of Italy, and collaboration of UNESCO. The UNESCO was instrumental in the organization of the workshop. We call for furthering this cooperation to implement pilot projects and capacity building projects in Desalination and Renewable Energy. In particular we request UNESCO-Paris to consider supporting the implementation of the follow up of this workshop.

We, the participants of the workshop, also call donors, international and Bilateral Cooperation, UN Organizations, GEF and the World Bank to provide their support. In this regard, the participants recognize Yemen's need for support, particularly in view of the following facts:

- Yemen's water sources situation reveals that annual per capita water availability of 120-150 cubic meters per annum is far below the regional average of 1,250 cubic meters per capita per annum. Uncontrolled groundwater abstraction, of which 90 percent goes to agriculture, is largely responsible for the over exploitation of Yemen's scarce water resources. Estimates indicate an annual water deficit of over billion cubic meters/ year. Studies show that the country's 200 mm average annual rainfall is simply insufficient to recharge age old aquifers and meet the demands of both rural and urban populations. In several critical areas, water tables are dropping by as much as six meters per year. Water quality is also deteriorating due to sea water intrusion in coastal aquifers. As a result of excessive abstraction of groundwater, the imbalance between water demand and water availability poses a real problem for agricultural production in rural areas, threatening the basis of the rural economy. High population growth of 3.05% and a total population of 19.8 million according to the 2004 census adds to the complexity of the problem.

- Full implementation of Integrated Water Source Management is strongly recommended in Yemen, including (i) water reuse e.g. for agriculture to save groundwater resources, (ii) the use of non-conventional water resources e.g. desalination of brackish and seawater to increase available water resources, (iii) campaigns to use water wisely, (iv) full

cost recovery and progressive tariff domestic water sector, which is very important because the cost of desalinated water is much higher than groundwater.

- Yemen's "vision 2000-2025" indicates that future economic development will take place in coastal areas of Yemen. It is becoming clear that water quality in coastal areas is deteriorating. It is therefore highly recommended that Yemen should start immediately and gradually with the construction of "pilot" sea water desalination plants mixing the output of these plants with groundwater to improve water quality and enable water corporations not to make high tariff adjustments.

It is strongly recommended to select the most energy efficient desalination technology for brackish and seawater desalination in Yemen. The desalination of brackish water with reverse osmosis membrane technology is more energy efficient than seawater desalination plants, outside the Middle East region, are almost exclusively membrane technology because the energy consumption and the investment costs are lower than for thermal technology.

It is also strongly recommended that the environmental impact of desalination technology, and in particular the disposal concentrate (brine), is carefully assessed. Measures should be taken to ensure that chemical compounds used to control scaling in thermal and membrane systems should be blood biodegradable

and non-toxic and that concentrate is diluted with sufficient seawater to avoid upsetting the marine environment.

The participants recognize and endorse that fact the private sector involvement is needed in desalination projects in Yemen. This trend is evident worldwide, as more and more BOT/BOO/BOOT contracts are given for brackish and seawater desalination plants, and these staff can be provided and trained (initially) by the private sector.

Capacity building in desalination and renewable energy at all levels is also urgently required in Yemen. National Research Institution's capacity should be strengthened to support long term national water and energy strategies. In the short term, technicians will need short training courses to become familiar with desalination and renewable energy technology, and technical staff will need to be educated to MSC level in water supply engineering, with emphasis on desalination and renewable energy technology. In addition, staff training in the legal, financial and technical aspects of desalination will be needed to judge potential contracts with the private sector.

The international community is urged to provide additional research and development to make renewable energy more affordable for desalination projects. Nevertheless, the use of renewable energy should be encouraged in Yemen because of the particular characteristics of the country.

First global report on efforts to roll back malaria highlights progress and challenges

More people are accessing prevention and treatment services for malaria, sparking hope that the number of people who become sick and die from malaria will begin to decline. However, challenges remain to reduce the burden of the disease, which still kills one million people every year, most of those in Africa, according to the 2005 World Malaria Report.

The report, released today by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), finds that progress has been made in preventing and treating malaria since 2000. It finds that more countries are introducing the newest medicines to treat malaria, and that more people are receiving long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets through innovative new programmes. The report analyzes malaria data collected through 2004 and represents the most comprehensive effort ever made to present the available evidence on malaria worldwide.

"Many countries are moving forward with malaria control programmes, and even those with limited resources and a heavy malaria burden now have a better opportunity to gain ground against this disease," said Dr LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of WHO. "However, proven interventions such as insecticide-treated nets, and the latest artemisinin-based combination therapies must reach many more people before we can have a real impact on malaria."

Due to the difficulties involved in gathering reliable information about malaria in most affected countries—and because those countries have intensified their efforts only in the past



Burden of malaria still worst in Africa, but prevention and treatment reaching more people

few years—it is too soon to measure the impact on illness and death of the recent expansion of malaria control strategies, the report states. A measurable effect should become apparent about three years after widespread implementation.

A number of countries are now engaged in intense antimalarial campaigns. In particular, more and more people are protected with insecticide-treated nets—a highly effective method of malaria prevention. In Africa, all countries reporting on nets collectively had a 10-fold increase in the number of insecticide-treated nets distributed over the last three years.

After a 2003 campaign to distribute treated nets in five districts of Zambia at least 80% of children under five were sleeping under the nets. A similar campaign across Togo in December 2004 succeeded in raising the overall percentage of households owning at least one treated net from 8% to 62%.

At present malaria remains the infectious disease that takes more lives of children in Africa than any other—three times as many as HIV infection, said Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF. If we are going to dramatically reduce child deaths in the next decade, we need to put more focus on combating malaria.

Countries where the former mainstays of malaria treatment, such as chloroquine, are no longer effective are also moving forward on new therapies. Since 2001, 42 malaria-endemic countries, 23 of them in Africa, have adopted artemisinin-based combination therapies recommended by WHO. These are the latest generation of antimalarial medicines and the most effective treatment against falciparum malaria, the deadliest form of the disease. An additional 14 countries are in the process of changing their malaria treatment policy; and 22 have embarked on home-care programmes, which enable fami-

lies and other care-givers to manage malaria.

The recent shortage of artemisinin-based combination therapies has hindered efforts to reduce the impact of the disease, but sufficient supplies to meet demand are expected to be available by the end of 2005, thanks to the combined efforts of UN agencies, other multilateral agencies, non-profit groups and corporations working together under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

The report finds that in 2003, some 350 to 500 million people worldwide became ill with malaria—a slight revision of the estimate of 300 to 500 million annual cases that WHO has used since 2000. The reasons for this difference are advances in data collection methods and increases in the world's population. Current methods do not allow for a more precise estimate, given that malaria is most often not diagnosed with certainty as well as the scarcity of reliable data from the communities where it occurs.

Halting and reversing the incidence of malaria by 2015 is a target of the Millennium Development Goals. The more immediate goal of Roll Back Malaria is to halve the burden of malaria worldwide by 2010. A major obstacle to achieving that goal, the report explains, is a lack of funds. The report estimates that US\$ 3.2 billion per year is needed to effectively combat malaria in the 82 countries with the highest disease burden. This year, US\$ 600 million was made available for global malaria control. WHO and UNICEF welcome the recent World Bank announcement of its plan to commit US\$ 500 million to US\$ 1 billion over the next five years, which will help more people get access to essential malaria prevention and treatment.

Facts of Life



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Handling cats during pregnancy: is it a concern?

Your cat is a part of the family, but you wonder if it's safe to keep it if you're pregnant. If this is a concern of yours, and it is a common one, you can relax. Your kitty can stay right where she belongs. However, there are some precautions you will want to take if you are pregnant.

Toxoplasmosis, a disease of cats and other mammalian species, is caused by a parasitic protozoan, *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*). It is not a new disease, having first been discovered in 1908. Since its discovery, toxoplasmosis has been found in virtually all warm-blooded animals including most pets, livestock, and human beings. Nearly one-third of all adults in the U.S. and in Europe have antibodies to *Toxoplasma*, which means they have been exposed to this parasite.

Toxoplasmosis is a zoonotic disease. It is transported from animals to humans. There are two populations at high risk for infection with *Toxoplasma*; pregnant women and immunodeficient individuals. It has been estimated that *Toxoplasma* is responsible for over three thousand human congenital infections in the United States each year, most of which are symptomless. Congenital infection is of greatest concern in humans. About one-third to one-half of infants born to mothers who have *Toxoplasma* during that pregnancy are infected. "In general, *Toxoplasma* infection of the fetus is least common (but disease is most severe) if the maternal infection occurs during the first trimester of pregnancy. Fetal infection is most common (but disease is least severe, often without symptoms) if the maternal infection occurs during the third trimester."

Although the majority of infected infants show no symptoms of toxoplasmosis at birth, many are likely to develop signs of the infection later in their life. Loss of vision, mental retardation, loss of hearing, and death in severe cases, are the symptoms of toxoplasmosis in congenitally infected children.

The life cycle of *T. gondii* has been reviewed extensively. Cats usually become infected with *T. gondii* by ingestion of encysted organisms present in the tissues of a chronically infected intermediate host (see figure 1 & 2). The cyst wall is digested by the cat, releasing infectious organisms into the intestinal lumen.

How do people become infected with Toxoplasmosis? There are 3 principal ways that *Toxoplasma* can be transmitted:

1. Directly from pregnant mothers to unborn children if the mother becomes infected with *Toxoplasma* during pregnancy.
2. Consumption and handling of undercooked or raw meat from infected animals.
3. Ingestion of food or water or inhalation of dust contaminated with a very resistant form of

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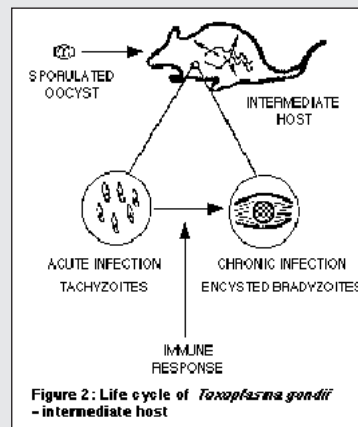


Figure 2: Life cycle of *Toxoplasma gondii* - intermediate host

Toxoplasma called the oocyst, during a period called Stage F.

Cats previously unexposed to *T. gondii* usually begin shedding oocysts between 3 and 10 days after ingestion of infected tissue, and continue shedding for around 10-14 days, during which time many millions of oocysts may be produced. Once a cat has developed an immune response, further shedding of oocysts is extremely rare.

To help prevent *Toxoplasma* infection in cats, follow these steps:

1. Keep cats indoors and do not allow them to hunt rodents and birds.
2. Feed cats only cooked meat or processed food from commercial sources.
3. Secure trash containers to prevent your cat from scavenging the garbage.
4. Remove carcasses of rodents or birds before your cat can get to them.

Specific Recommendations for Pregnant Women

- Exclude rare or undercooked meat and unpasteurized dairy products from the diet.
- Protect cats from infection (or reinfection) by preventing access to birds, rodents, uncooked meat, and unpasteurized dairy products.
- Avoid handling any cat showing signs of illness.
- Wear rubber gloves if working with garden soil. Uncooked vegetables, whether grown in a home garden or supplied commercially, they should be washed thoroughly before ingestion, in case cat feces have contaminated them.

- Make a habit of vigorously and thoroughly washing hands with soap and water after contact with soil, cats, unpasteurized dairy products or uncooked meat or vegetables.
- When cooking, avoid tasting meat before it is fully cooked. Cook meat thoroughly until the internal temperature reaches 152°F (66°C) in a conventional oven. Micro waving is not a sure way to kill *Toxoplasma* in meat.

Wish you a healthy pregnancy!

Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, New York



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وكذلك موعد تسليم الجوائز في ٢٠٠٥/٥/١٦م
BEST-PHOTO CONTEST
We would like to draw our readers' attention
that the winners of the contest, as well as
the date of giving their prizes will be
announced in 16/5/2005

Ex-boxing champ Naseem Hamed bailed after crash

LONDON, May 3 (Reuters) - Britain's "Prince" Naseem Hamed, the former WBO world featherweight boxing champion, was released on bail on Tuesday after a man was seriously injured in a car crash involving the boxer's Mercedes, police said.

Hamed, 31, was arrested on Monday along with two other men on suspicion of leaving the scene of an accident involving injury and allegations they tried to pervert the course of justice.

Hamed's Mercedes collided with a Ford Mondeo and a Volkswagen Golf on a road in Sheffield, northern England at around 2:30 p.m. (1330 GMT).

"Three men arrested in connection with this incident have this morning been released on police bail until August pending further inquiries," a police spokeswoman said.

A man in the Volkswagen suffered broken arms and a broken leg, while a woman with him sustained cuts and bruises.

One of the arrested 26-year-old men was taken to hospital suffering chest pains.

Hamed was as famous for his flamboyant entrances to the boxing ring, as for his bold and unique combination of speed and power inside it.

He was undefeated in 35 professional bouts before losing his World Boxing Organisation title to Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera in 2001.



عيلاد عيلاد سعيد
أجمل التهاني والتبريكات مهداة للطفلة الجيوية
سمر مراد الخليلي
بمناسبة إطفانها الشمعة التاسعة
فائف ألف مبروك
المعشور:
بابا وماما ومن صابرين ووسيم وأسرار ومن كافة الأهل والأصدقاء

تهانينا
أكايل الورد. وأجمل التهاني والتبريكات
نهديها الأخ
رمزي طاهر العبسي
الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف
المعشور:
شاكر الملصق. بسام أحمد. عادل الخولاني.
صدام محسن. عبدا لله صغير. أحمد الهاللي
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Liverpool and Chelsea face defining moment

LONDON (Reuters) - Liverpool have home advantage, but Chelsea have the league title in their cabinet and an unshakeable belief in their own destiny heading into the second leg of the Champions League semi-final at Anfield on Tuesday.

A goalless draw in last Wednesday's first leg at Stamford Bridge would, in normal circumstances, have left Liverpool feeling very positive about their chances of reaching the final against either AC Milan or PSV Eindhoven in Istanbul on May 25.

But they face a Chelsea side brimming with confidence after clinching the championship for the first time for 50 years on Saturday with a 2-0 win at Bolton Wanderers.

Chelsea stayed in the north for the second leg and despite a few knocks and bruises, coach Jose Mourinho will send out his strongest squad at Anfield as he attempts to repeat with Chelsea what he did with Porto last season.

Twelve months ago Porto drew 0-0 at home in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final against Deportivo Coruna before winning the away leg 1-0 en route to a winning 3-0 finale against AS Monaco.

He will be hoping to do the same but could well be without Dutchman Arjen Robben again after he took a knock when he came on as substitute in the first leg.

The 21-year-old winger, who has played only about an hour's football for Chelsea since the first of a series of foot injuries suffered on February 2, said he did not know whether he would be fit. He missed Saturday's Championship winning match at Bolton.

Damien Duff is Mourinho's other worry and he missed both the first leg and the Bolton match after tweaking a hamstring.

With both first-choice full backs and both wingers out of action, Chelsea lack natural width though they are still likely to play with Mourinho's preferred 4-3-3 formation.

Liverpool's squad arrive for practice at their training ground at Melwood, Liverpool, May 2, 2005. Liverpool are due to face Chelsea in the Champions League second leg semi-final on Tuesday. REUTERS

William Gallas, a central defender drafted in to play left back after Wayne Bridge's broken ankle in February, is playing with a back strain.

Mourinho is bidding to become only the third man in history to win the European Cup with two different clubs after Ernst Happel (Feyenoord 1970 and SV Hamburg 1983) and Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund 1997 and Bayern Munich 2001).

But skipper John Terry believes Chelsea are capable of realising their dream of a treble haul of trophies following their League Cup win over Liverpool and the title.

Terry said: "Winning the championship gives us confidence for Liverpool, but there's a bit more pressure on us now."

"It's a chance to win one of the best competitions in Europe. We're not going to throw that chance away."

Chelsea went out at this stage last season when they lost 3-1 at Monaco and drew 2-2 at home after some rash substitutions by then manager Claudio

Ranieri. Terry, temporarily blinded in one eye after a collision at Bolton, recalled that defeat "being the worst feeling ever" and will be determined to right that wrong if he possibly can.

Determined Liverpool

Liverpool, however, will be just as determined to reach the European Cup final for the first time since 1985 and although they continue to disappoint in the league, their home support and their history could count for plenty.

They will miss the suspended Xabi Alonso after his unfortunate yellow card late in the first leg, but his expected replacement Didier Hamann should lessen any perceived weaknesses in the Liverpool midfield.

With Djibril Cisse also back from a leg fracture and likely to be used as a substitute at some stage, and skipper Steven Gerrard driving his team on, the match, the setting, the crowd, could all turn the night into a classic occasion.

Gerrard, who scored an outstanding

goal in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Middlesbrough says that although Liverpool avoided defeat at Chelsea, the tie is still finely balanced.

"We know we are not home and dry, its only halftime. We both have tremendous respect for each other and it might be a little bit cagey at times, but I am sure once we have a couple of chances on goal and the crowd make some noise, they'll pull one in for us."

"It will be a special night — the first Champions League semi at Anfield and we have a great chance."

The atmosphere at Anfield was electric when Juventus were beaten 2-1 in the first leg of the quarter-final a month ago, and under Spanish coach Rafael Benitez, Liverpool have reserved all their best football for Europe this season.

Chelsea are now champions of England, but a premier league club could yet derail their hopes of conquering Europe.

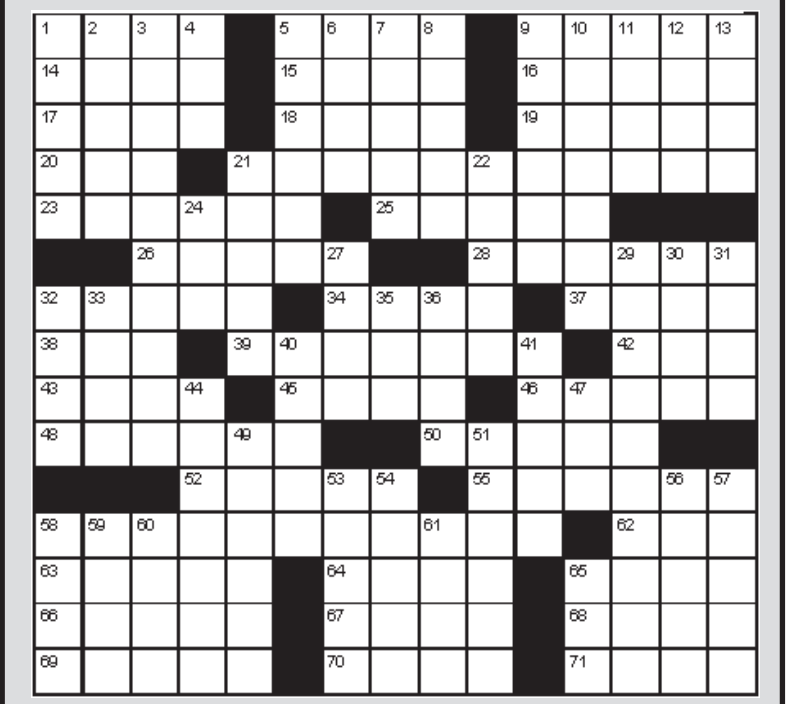
It promises to be a night to remember at Anfield on Tuesday.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS
- 1 Sonic boomerang
 - 5 It'll hold water
 - 9 Style is important here
 - 14 "___ she blows!"
 - 15 Lexicographer Webster
 - 16 "Fantasy Island" sighting
 - 17 Honey of a spot
 - 18 Granny Smith throwaway
 - 19 Start of a famous Schwarzenegger quote
 - 20 Common contraction
 - 21 What a film director does?
 - 23 Decennial count
 - 25 Like many a contrast
 - 26 Fable monsters
 - 28 Shrimp habitat
 - 32 Some artists' studios
 - 34 Chief Norse god
 - 37 Painting type
 - 38 Zoo attraction
 - 39 Exertions
 - 42 Chinese cosmic principle
 - 43 It's drawn with a rifle?
 - 45 It's fit to be tied
 - 46 Duke of drama
 - 48 Manuscript copyist
 - 50 Mormon
 - 52 Third word of 19-Across
 - 55 Lets down, maybe
 - 58 What a skydiver does?
 - 62 Emolument
 - 63 Conspicuous
 - 64 Steal money or the money
 - 65 Wear a hole in the rug
 - 66 Dentist's direction
 - 67 Kind of wolf
 - 68 Way around London
 - 69 Michaelmas daisy
 - 70 Runners support it
 - 71 They travel with the band
 - founder
 - 13 Carefully written
 - 21 Invoke
 - 22 Misfortune
 - 24 Lacks, in brief (Abbr.)
 - 27 Postprandial seat, perhaps
 - 29 What a sharecropper may do?
 - 30 Cut features
 - 31 Abnegate
 - 32 Science class adjuncts
 - 33 Trade org. since 1960
 - 35 A dwarf
 - 36 Hot tempers
 - 40 Type of wound
 - 41 Restaurant faux pas
 - 44 Heterogeneous
 - 47 Sprint alternative
 - 49 Tongue-burning
 - 51 Soda fountain offering
 - 53 Goes public
 - 54 Superheroes do?
 - 55 "___ and his money ..."
 - 56 Condensed wrap-up
 - 57 "___ like old times"
 - 58 Part of a WWII exclamation
 - 59 Nero's bird
 - 60 County on the Strait of Dover
 - 61 First-class
 - 65 Harper Valley org.
- PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
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"DO THIS, DO THAT" by Ron Halverson



Britain handed Federer test in Davis Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - World number one Roger Federer is expected to return to Davis Cup action for Switzerland after his country was drawn to play Britain in a World Group playoff in September.

Federer skipped Switzerland's defeat by the Netherlands in March but is likely to feature in the home tie against a British side that will have to make do without leading player Tim Henman, who has retired from Davis Cup duty.

Federer said he would keep his options open for later matches in the men's team competition as long as they fit in with his schedule and a home tie against the British after all four 2005 grand slam tournaments have been completed is likely to suit him.

Britain, who squeezed past Israel 3-2 in a Euro/Africa zonal match in March, will be underdogs for the trip to Switzerland.

Tuesday's draw at the headquarters of the International Tennis Federation also

paired the United States away to Belgium while Sweden visit India to retain their top-flight status.

A glittering U.S. team featuring Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi were shocked 3-2 by Croatia in California in March and will be desperate to make amends with victory over the Belgians.

Costly failure

Failure to beat the Belgians would leave the U.S. playing outside the elite 16-nation World Group for the first time since 1988.

Champions Spain, who beat the U.S. to win the 2004 title in Seville, were stunned by Slovakia in Bratislava in the first round and must overcome Italy and a partisan home crowd to stay in the World Group.

Germany are away to the Czech Republic while Pakistan — in a World Group play-off for the first time — must visit claycourt specialists Chile.

Austria host Ecuador and Canada

host Belarus to complete the playoffs.

Roger Federer, pictured in a file photo, is expected to return to Davis Cup action for Switzerland after his country was drawn to play Britain in a World Group playoff in September. REUTERS



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- Say yes with your head (3) a
- Tie together (4) k
- Get a goal (5) s
- Incorrect (5) w
- Look closely at (7) e
- Evil gave one to Adam (5) a
- Six-foot bug (6) i

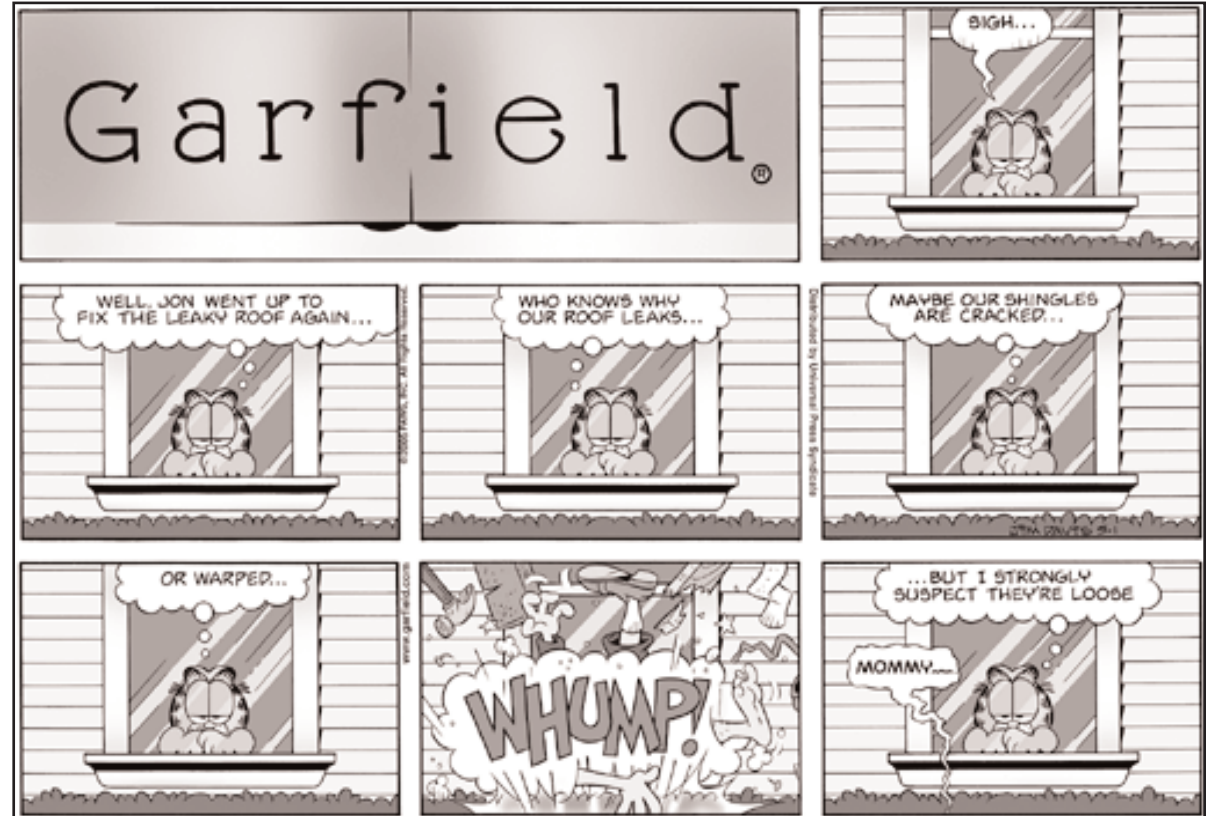
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7. cloudy
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Third arts olympiad for children

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Research shows that if a child's innate creativity is suppressed, it can be lost forever. Understanding that arts are a language of imagination and understanding.

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) prepares children for a creative and cooperative future so that they are able to lead us into a better and peaceful world. For this purpose ICAF developed several programs of which is the Arts Olympiad. The Arts Olympiad is today the world's largest and most prestigious arts initiative for 8- to 12-year-old children.

The program commences with school art competitions on a universal theme, leading to regional festivals, and culminates in an international festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years.

The theme of this year's Olympiad (the Third Arts Olympiad) is "My Favourite Sports" in which several

Arab countries are participating. Children between 8 and 12 years of age from all around the world can send their participations before 31st of December this year. For more information email olympiad@icaf.org

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