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Customers enraged as Watani Bank declares bankruptcy

SANA'A, Dec. 7- The Watani Bank (WB) announced last Tuesday that it failed to meet its financial obligations to its customers as stipulated by the articles 43, 44 and 46 of the Law No. 38 issued in 1998 concerning banks and financial institutions.

Therefore, the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) decided to take firm measures against the bankrupt bank as of last Wednesday and put an end to the authority of its board of directors and executive administration. Hundreds of angry customers gathered at the WB which was surrounded by a large number of security troops and police vehicles to avoid its being stormed.

Naji Bin Abdullah al-Ghader, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors at the WB said that he met the President of the Republic and urged him to give orders to the government to deliver the financial allocations of contractors who borrowed large amounts of money from the bank upon pledges that such loans will be paid back when they receive their allocations from the government.

A total of 6.612 billion Riyals is the debt on the government for the bank that said the amount would not suffice for paying back the deposits of customers, adding that it had other debts on traders and businessmen.



Overwhelming withdrawal demand: The Watani Bank collapse has put its customers in turmoil and panic.

The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors at the WB denied that he withdrew a large sum of money from the bank to his personal account, as some rumors indicated. The WB started its work in Yemen on Dec. 31-1998 with a total capital of 7 billion and 968

million Riyals and in June-2005 its budget totaled 55 billion and 389 million Riyals.

In June 2005, deposits of customers and other banks in the WB totaled 22 billion and 604 million Riyals while debts on contractors do not exceed one

third of the sum, contrary to WB announcement that unpaid debts resulted in its failure.

According to Al-Ghader, investments in the bank, including the treasury bonds reached 5 billion and 154 million Riyals, the paid capital is 2 billion and

517 million Riyals, the self-funding amount (assets of customers) reached 3 billion and 536 million Riyals.

Statistics released by the bank revealed that interests of the first half of the year amounted to 149 million Riyals, 34% is the liquidity rate at the bank, 8.93% is the bank's capital efficiency rate and 25% is its liquidity rate in the Central Bank of Yemen.

The WB is the first bank in Yemen to face firm measures and was shut down by the CBY and its board of directors faced condemnation. The closure of the WB for Trade and Investment raised concern among Yemeni citizens having deposits in other commercial banks, who tend to withdraw their money, fearing a similar situation to happen to their deposits.

Exchange of information in Terror fighting

SANA'A - Dec. 6 - President Musharaf of Pakistan has concluded a 3-day visit to the Republic of Yemen this Tuesday December 6th, during the visit several agreements were signed including an understanding memo on oil, gas and mineral exploration and production, as well as an agreement on vocational and educational training. There was also an understanding memo on air cargo transportation.

President Musharaf raised several points during the bilateral discussions such as the military training and supply however no final agreement was concluded. The security cooperation agreement also contained the exchange of information in the war

against terrorism, organized crime and drugs manufacturing and trafficking.

However, the agreement signed was confined to security and intelligence issues, considering that there are sensitive elements of fundamentalist and terrorists who work clandestinely and are believed to receive funds from unidentified sources. Yet, it was not disclosed whether such funds are being provided from, or through, Yemen. President Musharaf only said that the two countries should coordinate their intelligence efforts to face this threat. He also confirmed that his country is willing to offer facilities for Yemeni students in Pakistan.

Continued on page 3

First Yemeni woman candidate for presidency

Sana'a, Dec. 5- Ms. Sumayah Ali Raja, head of Yemen-French Forum, announced she would run for the next presidential elections in Yemen scheduled for next September. Her announcement came in the closing session of the "Women Rights in the Arab World" conference held in Sana'a recently.

Sumayah is considered the first Yemeni woman in the country's history to run for presidential election. She said that her candidacy would enhance Yemeni women to attain their legal and constitutional rights and would elevate their participation in different fields; adding that her nomination would also enhance women's abilities and political

role in the country.

Ms. Raja hopes that she would receive support from Yemeni political parties and civil society organization for her candidacy.

The position of women in the Middle East is in need of improvement in all fields, including the political, economic, social and cultural, a recent conference devoted to "Women's Rights in the Arab World," concluded.

The symposium was held in the capital Sana'a from 3 to 5 December under the slogan "From Words to Deeds."

Citing recent research on the subject, a final statement noted, "Violence against women and unequal opportunity in the Arab world are still prevalent in both rural and urban areas."

The gathering, which included some 300 participants from all over the world, collectively urged the Arab governments that have not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to do so immediately.

It also chastised signatory countries

that had added subsequent articles negating CEDAW principles.

Often called "an international Bill of Rights for women," CEDAW was adopted by the General Assembly at a 1979 UN "Decade for Women" conference in Copenhagen.

The Sana'a convention, organized by the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights and financed by the UNDP and several western governments, further called on Arab leaderships to "promulgate national legislation aimed at enforcing women's rights...and excluding all discriminative articles."

The statement cited national personal-status and citizenship laws as frequent examples of discriminatory legislation in Arab countries.

Further, the conference called for "necessary actions" aimed at guaranteeing greater female representation in the political decision-making process, such as a quota system in general elections and the appointment of women to executive and judiciary positions.

In an effort toward reaching these ends, the conference made a number of recommendations. It urged, for exam-

ple, the improvement of education for women and the elimination of high female illiteracy rates in the Arab world by making primary school education both free and compulsory.

Civil society organisations, meanwhile, should be granted a consultative role in drafting legislation and overseeing its implementation.

Opening the conference, Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bajammal promised that his government would take the conference's recommendations into consideration, and vowed its compliance to all international conventions ratified by Yemen.

Bajammal went on to urge local political parties to adopt a quota system giving women 15 percent of their parliamentary seats.

Notably, the conference, also attended by participants from Europe and the United States, covered more than just women's issues.

In its final statement, the symposium also advocated the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees displaced by Israeli occupation and the "release of all female Palestinian prisoners cur-



Ms. Sumayah Ali Raja: Improving women status quo is a priority.

rently held by Israeli authorities."

It also called for "terminating the US invasion of Iraq and immediate intervention to end obvious human rights violations suffered by Iraqis, especially those faced by Iraqi women."

Abdulrahman Al-Baidani, Abdullah

Numan and Abdullah al-Hakimi, (all of them running as independents), had so far declared they would run for presidential elections, after President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced he would not run elections for a new tenure as president of the republic.

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GASQC seizes 23 containers filled with expired flour

HODEIDA- Dec.5- The General Authority for Standards and Quality Control (GASQC) has seized 23 containers filled with expired flour in the Hodeida Port. As many as 29920 sacks of flour were found in the seized containers.

Hussein al-Wishah, General Manager of the GASQC Hodeida Branch told the Yemen Times that the

containers are detained by the GASQC, which is about to discard their loads.

He added the authority released 11 containers out of a total number of 34 containers containing 6680 sacks of flour after examination, while the other 23 containers are still in custody, as the authority found their loads filled with insects and unfit for human consumption.

UN Media Center launches website

SANA'A- Dec.7- The UN Media Center launched its website containing useful data and information around the UN mission, activities and events held by UN agencies in Yemen along with selected speeches of the UN's Secretary General. Information was presented in both Arabic and English to enable researchers and interested people to easily benefit from the data.

The Center offers several benefits for the public in general and media

personnel and the press in particular. It is to publish the UN daily press releases and is expected to be periodically updated to include all the modern UN issuance and publications.

On the occasion, the UN Media center invites all pressmen, researchers and university students, as well as the government and non-governmental institutions are invited to benefit from the website at www.unicem.org.

360 Somali refugees arrested

SANA'A - Dec. 6 - Security authorities in Marib have arrested 360 Somalis in Al-Husoon area, 10 kilometers east of Marib city, out of which 114 were women. Those Somalis have entered Yemen illegally through Shabwa coasts and infiltrated to Marib governorate.

Commander Abdunaser Al-Qawsi of Marib security forces said that the detainees were handed over to immigration authorities to deal with them. However, sources in Marib said that there is no immigration office in the city while there is a large number of Somalis being detained in Marib, while others work in manual labors in Al-Husoon area.

These infiltrations take place in spite of a large Somali refugee gathering in front of the UNHCR premises in

Sana'a. They demand that their refugee cards should be renewed, and to be given their allotted refugee aids. A source in the UNHCR said that six centers for registering refugees were opened, during last two weeks.

The officially registered number of refugees in Yemen is around 76 thousand, but some sources say that most of these have left Yemen to the neighboring countries, in search of employment.

The condition of Somali and other African refugees is worsening because of their bad economic conditions. They could not merge in the Yemeni community, because the Yemenis think that many of them carry dangerous diseases such as AIDS. Common people in Yemen think that those Somalis receive monthly sums from UN that reach more than \$200.

Frog-shaped infant surprises hospital staff

TAIZ- Dec.5- Doctors and nurses at Al-Jomhuri Hospital were surprised on Monday morning while delivering a newborn who was shaped as a frog. The mother, 18, who requested not to be identified, attributed the strange shape to the consumption of drugs during her pregnancy without consulting the physician.

According to her, the medicines she used to take were indisposed analgesics under the term of Vulturine and others without visiting doctors because there isn't any health unit in her locality or close to her residence. The lady was compelled by her relatives to buy analgesics from grocers in the neighborhood.

Nevertheless, the lady had visited the hospital one month prior to her delivery as she has been suffering from severe pains in the left side of her abdomen, the pain was severe to the extent that she was unable to sit down, and made her relatives take her to the



The unfortunate child at Jomhuri Hospital.

YT Photo

hospital with the belief that she had kidney-related problems. After diagnosing her, physicians discovered that

the fetus was dead and has congenital deformity and the mother was in a condition of parturition.

Frost kills three soldiers, destroys crops

SANA'A- Dec.6- Three army recruits have died in the Yemeni province of Dhamar as a result of several frosts that affected them as a result of the negligence of their training officers and army authorities, the three recruits were sleeping in tents in sub-zero temperature during a military drill.

Their death came as a part of a cold wave which hit the country over the last few days, affecting livestock and destroying crops particularly vegetables and fruits production in the governorates of Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar, Marib, Ibb and Sa'ada were affected by the cold wave, many farmers have lost millions of Riyals

after their farms were destroyed by the frost, leading to an increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits, such as the price of tomato was exceeded 200 Riyals per kg whereas the usual price never exceeds 50 Riyals.

The General Authority of Meteorology confirmed that the cold wave will continue over the coming

few days. It mentioned that the temperature drop to sub-zero degrees in the governorates of Sana'a, Dhamar, Ibb and al-Dhale' along with several districts like Rada'a which is of high altitude. It also warned citizens to be prepared; pointing out different kinds of crops will be affected by the frost.

Internet to carve own market away from media

DUBAI- United Arab Emirates- Dec. 7- The shoptalk on journalism focused on how to have bloggers, digital tools, and the speed of new media that changed newsrooms around the world.

Ammar Bakker, Director of Al-Arabiya.net has acknowledged the role of new media, saying that the internet has changed the Arab region, and the mainstream media has to make way for the internet. He said that although it is not possible to undermine the role of the mainstream media in reporting accurate and objective news and information to the public, citizen journalism, i.e. the

participation of the public in shaping the news through sources such as the internet and community newspapers, which have changed the face of mainstream media as we know it.

Eric Case, Program Manager of Blogger - Google agreed with the above thought and said that technologies such as blogging have been given an opinion which goes beyond the mainstream media and its coverage of important international events, which was demonstrated during tsunami last year where a lot of people got a better perspective of the happening through personal accounts from blogs of people on the scene.

Pete Clifton, Head of Interactive News, BBC, said that during the last July bombings in London, the BBC coverage of the events was transformed by people's feedback with the BBC receiving over 20,000 e-mails, including pictures taken after the blast. This contribution became central to the coverage and was a live example of citizen journalism in action.

John Clippinger, Senior Fellow, The Berkan Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School said that the Internet provides a very accountable and open system with technologies such as blogging, giving

a voice to the people. He said that although the nature of the technology and how it evolves in the next few years is yet to be seen.

He added that the mainstream media will change dramatically in the next few years with new kinds of media companies emerging such as Yahoo.com.

The Arab and World Media Conference-200- was held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai under the theme "Getting it Right". It is jointly organized by the Arab Thought Foundation and Dubai Press Club. It concluded yesterday the 6th of December 2005.

Conference for Saving Al-Quds started

SANA'A, Dec. 4 - The 4th Conference of Al-Quds Trustee Board and the 2nd Meeting of World Networks working in Jerusalem started last Sunday in Sana'a. The conference focused on saving Jerusalem from the challenges and threats on its existence and identity.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussien Al-Ahmer, Speaker of the Parliament, delivered a speech on the occasion and warned of attacking Jerusalem or implementing any Zionist plans that

aim at wiping out the Islamic heritage of the city. He added that such dangerous acts would stir up conflicts among religions and would ram the entire area to a devastating conflict. Sheikh Al-Ahmer mentioned this conference would initiate a new step to integrate and coordinate the efforts of those concerned with Jerusalem cause.

On the other hand, Sheikh Yousof Al-Qaradawi, Chairman of Al-Quds Trustee Board, called for providing more entailed lands for Jerusalem in

all Arab and Islamic countries, and that Islamic scholars should adopt such a project for the sake of Jerusalem. He also called for upholding Palestinians in their resistance against Zionism.

Mr. Ali Akbar Muhtashmi, vice-Chairman of Al-Quds Trustee Board, stressed on the importance of uniting efforts to stand before the Israeli occupation. He called on the Islamic nation to stand united and gather their courage and assist the Palestinians.

GWCC celebrates graduation of new batches



The graduates celebrating

SANA'A- Dec.5- The Girls World Communication Center (GWCC) celebrated the graduation of the second, third and fourth batches for the educational years 2003-2004-2005 last Monday in the presence of representatives from international bodies, donor countries and non-governmental organizations, Joint Meeting Parties and concerned parties in the government.

The graduates received a series of

training courses on the English Language and skill development with the aim to improve the communication skills of activists in human rights.

They also received training on in the installation of telecommunication networks and the role played by organizations backing human rights, as well as other studies in the field of computer sciences and scientific research methodologies.



Qabool al-Mutwakil - director

Qat tops agricultural products

SANA'A- Dec.7- According to the Central Organization for Statistics, 311 billion and 611 million Riyals is the value of the domestic agricultural production for the agricultural season 2005 with a net worth estimated at 29 billion and 117 million Riyals, representing a growth of 24% comparing to 2004.

The agricultural crops mentioned accounted for are six kinds: Qat, grains, vegetables, grasses, cash crops and fruits. Statistics revealed that Qat tops the list of the agricultural production as 127 billion Riyals is the net worth value of the Qat produced in 2005 recording a 12% growth rate, while fruits such as dates, bananas, grapes and orange stood second in the list.

According to these statistics, sale of oranges was the highest among fruits with a value of 24.8 billion Riyals while all other fruits combined accounted for 18.4 billion Riyals.

Similarly, the value of vegetable sales rose to 49 billion and 654



Qat trees in Yemen could reach 3 meters high

million Riyals with an increase of 4 billion Riyals compared to 2004. Potatoes and tomatoes ranked first and second on the list of vegetables sales.

Regarding grains, white corn tops the list of locally produced grains reaching a value of 16.6 billion Riyals, followed by legumes

production which was worth 6.4 billion Riyals and millet with a value of 2.2 billion Riyals.

However, Large quantities of agricultural products are expected to be destroyed this year because of frost and expected temperature drop according to reports by the General Authority for Meteorology.

Together against corruption

Tomorrow will mark the second anniversary for the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December since the signing conference for the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Mérida, Mexico. Yemen has recently ratified the convention and in effect it has become bound to fighting corruption.

The Forum for Civil Society which is a non-governmental, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization to promote democracy and strengthen civil society, is currently working on promoting this convention in Yemen. For promotion of the cause the Forum is holding a press meeting today in which a number of journalists and human rights advocates are participating.

The creation of an Anti-Corruption Day is in large part a result of the international lobbying efforts by Transparency International to recognize worldwide anti-graft initiatives. The UN Convention against Corruption is a milestone for global efforts to combat graft and provides a unique opportunity to create public awareness and commitment to curbing corruption. The Convention is evidence of global commitment and gives citizens around the world a basis for ensuring that their respective governments follow through.

Effective action against corruption is the responsibility of governments, and implementation of the Convention rests in the hands of States. Civil society and the private sector also have an active role to play in these efforts by supporting governments and holding them accountable. However, the capacity to take these actions does not always exist in many developing and least developed countries. For this reason, UNODC provides technical assistance through legal advisory services for the ratification of the Convention and technical cooperation projects focusing on preventive measures.

In its resolution 55/61 of 4 December 2000, the General Assembly recognized that an effective international legal instrument against corruption, independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (resolution 55/25, annex I) was desirable and decided to establish an ad hoc committee for the negotiation of such an instrument in Vienna at the headquarters of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. The text of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was negotiated during seven sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of the Convention against Corruption, held between 21 January 2002 and 1 October 2003.

The Convention approved by the Ad Hoc Committee was adopted by the General Assembly by resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/169 of 18 December 2002, accepted the offer of the Government of Mexico to host a high-level political signing conference in Merida for the purpose of signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Assembly invited all States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible levels of Government.

Convention highlights Prevention

Corruption can be prosecuted after the fact, but first and foremost, it requires prevention. An entire chapter of the Convention is dedicated to prevention, with measures directed at both the public and private sectors. These include model preventive policies, such as the establishment of anti-corruption bodies and enhanced transparency in the financing of election campaigns and political parties. States must endeavor to ensure that their public services are subject to safeguards that promote efficiency, transparency and recruitment based on merit. Once recruited, public servants should be subject to codes of conduct, requirements for financial and other disclosures, and appropriate disciplinary measures. Transparency and accountability in matters of public finance must

also be promoted, and specific requirements are established for the prevention of corruption, in the particularly critical areas of the public sector, such as the judiciary and public procurement. Those who use public services must expect a high standard of conduct from their public servants. Preventing public corruption also requires an effort from all members of society at large. For these reasons, the Convention calls on countries to promote actively the involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations, as well as other elements of civil society, and to raise public awareness of corruption and what can be done about it. Article 5 of the Convention enjoins each State Party to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption.

Criminalization

The Convention requires countries to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption, if these are not already crimes under domestic law. In some cases, States are legally obliged to establish offences; in other cases, in order to take into account differences in domestic law, they are required to consider doing so. The Convention goes beyond previous instruments of this kind, criminalizing not only basic forms of corruption such as bribery and the embezzlement of public funds, but also trading in influence and the concealment and laundering of the proceeds of corruption. Offences committed in support of corruption, including money-laundering and obstructing justice, are also dealt with. Convention offences also deal with the problematic areas of private-sector corruption.

International cooperation

Countries agreed to cooperate with one another in every aspect of the fight against corruption, including prevention, investigation, and the prosecution of offenders. Countries are bound by the Convention to render specific forms of mutual legal assistance in gathering and transferring evidence for use in court, to extradite offenders. Countries are also required to under-

take measures which will support the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of corruption.

Asset recovery

In a major breakthrough, countries agreed on asset-recovery, which is stated explicitly as a fundamental principle of the Convention. This is a particularly important issue for many developing countries where high-level corruption has plundered the national wealth, and where resources are badly needed for reconstruction and the rehabilitation of societies under new governments. Reaching agreement on this chapter has involved intensive negotiations, as the needs of countries seeking the illicit assets had to be reconciled with the legal and procedural safeguards of the countries whose assistance is sought.

"Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid".

Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General in his statement on the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Corruption



Bribery and corruption. IMAGE COURTESY OF IMF

Several provisions specify how cooperation and assistance will be rendered. In particular, in the case of embezzlement of public funds, the confiscated property would be returned to the state requesting it; in the case of proceeds of any other offence covered by the Convention, the property would be returned providing the proof of ownership or recognition of the damage caused to a requesting state; in all other cases, priority consideration would be given to the return of confiscated property to the requesting state, to the return of such property to the prior legitimate owners or to compensation of the victims.

Effective asset-recovery provisions will support the efforts of countries to redress the worst effects of corruption while sending at the same time, a message to corrupt officials that there will be no place to hide their illicit assets. Accordingly, article 51 provides for the return of assets to countries of origin as a fundamental principle of this Convention. Article 43 obliges state parties to extend the widest possible cooperation to each other in the investigation and prosecution of offences defined in the Convention. With regard to asset recovery in particular, the article provides inter alia that "In

matters of international cooperation, whenever dual criminality is considered a requirement, it shall be deemed fulfilled irrespective of whether the laws of the requested State Party place the offence within the same category of offence or denominate the offence by the same terminology as the requesting State Party, if the conduct underlying the offence for which assistance is sought is a criminal offence under the laws of both States Parties".

The greatest impact of corruption is on the poor those least able to absorb its costs. By illegally diverting state funds corruption undercuts services, such as health, education, public transportation or local policing, that those with few resources are dependent upon. Petty corruption provides additional costs for citizens not only are service provision inadequate, but payment is required for the delivery of even the most basic government activity, such as the issuing of official documentation. In many countries, applicants for drivers' licences, building permits and other routine documents have learned to expect a "surcharge" from civil servants. At a higher level, larger sums are paid for public contracts, marketing rights or to sidestep inspections and red tape. However, the consequences of corruption are more pervasive and profound than these bribes suggest. Corruption causes reduced investment or even disinvestment, with many long-term effects, including social polarization, lack of respect for human rights, undemocratic practices and diversion of funds intended for development and essential services.

The diversion of scarce resources by corrupt parties affects a government's ability to provide basic services to its citizens and to encourage sustainable economic, social and political development. Moreover, it can jeopardize the health and safety of citizens through, for example, poorly designed infrastructure projects and scarce or outdated medical supplies. Most fundamentally, corruption undermines the prospects for economic investment. Few foreign firms wish to invest in societies where there is an additional level of taxation. National and international companies too by offering bribes to secure business, undercut legitimate economic competition, distort economic growth and reinforce inequalities. In many societies widespread public suspicion that judicial systems are corrupt and that criminal acts are committed by elites in both the private and public spheres undercuts government legitimacy and undermines the rule of law. Along with the growing reluctance of international investors and donors to allocate funds to countries lacking adequate rule of law, transparency and accountability in government administration, corruption has the greatest impact on the most vulnerable part of a country's population, the poor.



With Corruption Everyone Pays: The Arabic logo for the International Anti-Corruption Day.

Parliament approves additional appropriation to budget

SANA'A, Dec. 7 - The Parliament approved Sunday YR451 billion additional appropriation to the state budget of 2005, rating a proportion of 54% of the estimated expenditures of the budget. The approval move was endorsed by 149 MPs, all from the ruling party, and rejected by 55 MPs from opposition, independent and the ruling party.

The approval came after two days of heated discussion and bickering between opposition and the ruling party MPs.

In a statement published Sunday, opposition and independent blocs in the parliament warned against what they described as frivolous policies the government pursues in squandering public revenues. The statement also accused the government of luxurious spending that often in benefit of corrupt forces. They said consequences of that policy predicted of a catastrophe leading to collapse of the social and economic structure.

Opposition and independent blocs confirmed that their rejection of the additional appropriation was out of their full keenness on interests of the people threatened by the government that does not observe the constitution, the law and public interest.

Rejection of the additional appropriation, the statement mentioned, was because of many constitutional and legal violations among which are: the government's violation of the constitution by

spending the appropriation before being endorsed by the parliament, violation of the parliament's resolution of setting aside the differences in oil prices into a special account not to draw on it but after approval of the parliament. They also said the government violated terms of the law regulating additional appropriations that restricted it to the narrowest limits.

The statement said the government provisions of the law of tenders through giving contracts to directly to contractors without tender invitations. The statement mentioned the government did not abide by the principle of scientific planning in preparation of budgets and intentionally demonstrated deficits in expenditure so that it would be easy for it to manipulate in revenues through asking for loans. The statement moreover mentioned that despite adoption of price doses on oil products, there has been an allocation for subsidizing oil products with an amount of YR237 billion in addition to YR44 billion in the budget of 2005.

The statement of the opposition and independent blocs in parliament concluded that the additional appropriation could open widely the doors for corruption, increase inflation and affect exchange prices. They held the government responsible for the negative consequences of the additional appropriation.

Care for street children

SANA'A, Dec.7 - The Children of the World Organization (CWO) in Yemen together with the French Cultural Center in Yemen held a press conference to highlight the activities that have been carried out so far by the organization.

Ms.Ghislaine Pawilhac, representative of CWO illustrated that the organization is working in Yemen to promote the awareness of children rights and is concerned mainly with those children who work at their early childhood: "We have been working in Yemen since March, 2005. For the time being, we are mainly working in several areas in Sana'a including Haddah, Bab Al-Yemen, Tahreer, and Al-Hasbah, where there are many children who suffer from house violence problems, and those who are homeless," said Ms. Ghislaine.

Ms.Ghislaine pointed out that the organization has a center for sheltering fugitive children and giving them sufficient care. The center, which belongs to Al-Saleh Establishment, includes nearly 60 children and aims at solving their problems in cooperation with some local associations; "In the center we nurture children, take care of them, and try to bring them back to their families," said

Ms.Ghislaine. The activities carried out in the center would develop children skills, encourage them, and prepare them to mix with society, said Ms.Ghislaine

Regarding the support the organization receives; Ms.Ghislaine stated that funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and the European Union. There are some local associations working with the organization such as SOUL, Family Forum, Shawdab, Maeen, Ibbah and Sam, "these associations receive children and offer them assistance in educational and health fields," said Ms.Ghislaine

The Republic of Yemen signed the Child Rights Treaty on August 1991. It was estimated that around 3 million children in Yemen are living in poverty, with some 5000 children are found begging in Sana'a city, and some 28000 are working (mostly to maintain their families.) their ages range between 5 to 16 years of age.

Evening of the conference's same day, the French cultural center held a musical concert in which the famous Yemeni singer Faysal Alwai sang for the sake of the Yemeni children. The pairs of the concert tickets were dedicated to CWO's projects in Yemen.

Continued from page 1

Exchange of information in Terror fighting

The Pakistani president is also seeking similar partnerships with Arab and Islamic countries in order to back his country's efforts into becoming a major regional power, in par with the larger Middle East project and normalization with Israel. These issues are likely to be strongly presented in the agenda of the extraordinary Islamic conference which was held in Mecca on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Pakistani president has also explained the motivations behind the deportation of several Yemeni students who were studying in several Islamic fundamentalist centers in Pakistan; he explained the harm that his country is suffering from Arabs who are affiliated with Al-Qaeda with forces garrisoned on the Pakistani-Afghani borders.

According to Aljamo' weekly, the Pakistani people are troubled by the continuous recruitment of Arabs including Yemenis to join or support Al-Qaeda. It is worth mentioning that over 32 thousand Afghan-Arabs had returned to Yemen in 1992-1994, with the consent of the Yemeni authorities, in order to support President Saleh in the 1994 civil war in Yemen.

However, more recently these groups started spreading back to Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq and selected locations. While other groups remained in

the protection of Yemeni tribes until the 9/11 events. However, Yemen is trying to expel these groups out of the country as a part of its war against terror commitments.

President Musharaf also confirmed the Pakistani desire to strengthen the bilateral relations and the prospect of importing Yemeni commodities. He also discussed the prospects of defense cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed while there are many Yemeni prisoners in Pakistan who were detained on alleged Al-Qaeda membership; it is believed that Yemeni Mujahideen used to cross the Pakistani borders into Afghanistan. However, the Pakistani authorities did not extradite any of the Yemeni terror suspects to Yemen and they were all extradited to the United States of America. On the other hand, there are three Pakistanis who are still in Sana'a Central Prison. One of them, called Abdurrahman, was sentenced to death after being charged with Hashish and drug trafficking. Abdurhman appealed to the UN to put pressure on the Yemeni authorities not to carry out the death sentence. In his appeal, he clarified that he is a businessman and said that the charge against him was a fabrication. He claimed that the drugs were put in his house in order to cease his money.

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At the Police Officers Club

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* Text provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

إعلان هام



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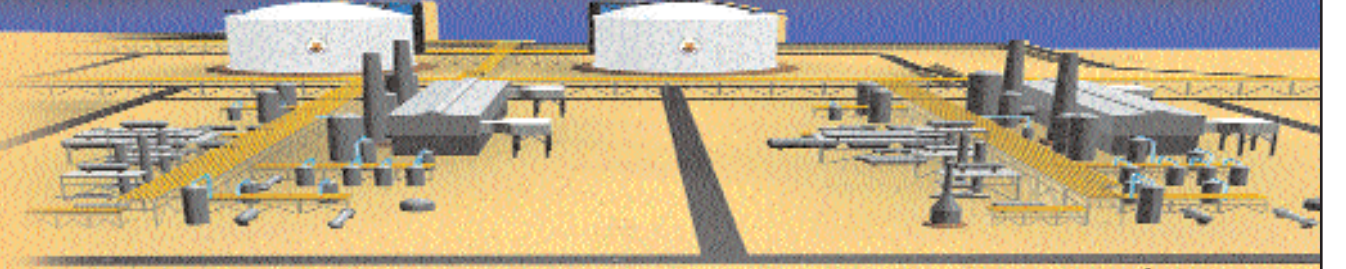
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- أن يكون لديه مستوى مبتدئ في اللغة الإنجليزية
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* استمارة طلب التقديم متواجدة في:

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An interview with Edward Prados, Director, AMIDEAST Aden

AMIDEAST in Yemen: Scholarships, TOEFL, English language, and more

Edward Prados has served as Director of AMIDEAST Aden for almost four years, from 1999 to 2003, after having served previously as director of another organization's Education Institute in the United States. His four years in Aden were filled with activities, programs, and great experiences. Outside of work, he grew to know the city of Aden very well and had the opportunity to meet thousands of citizens and officials during that time. Although he left Aden in 2003 in order to pursue a second Master's degree at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., when the position of Director, AMIDEAST Aden became vacant, he wasted no time in re-applying for the post. "I returned to Yemen in early September, and am pleased to say that I'm busier than ever, both at work and in re-acquainting myself with Aden and my friends here." He told the Yemen Times in an interview with him.



Edward Prados

Sections of U.S. Embassies but we remain an independent organization dedicated to improving educational and cultural exchange between America and the Middle East.

Q: Oh, I thought that AMIDEAST was just another language institute.

A: We offer English language training, but we are much more than that. You might say that AMIDEAST is the "one-stop shop" for language, scholarships, training, and testing in Yemen.

Q: Recently, we have seen a lot of advertising about scholarships available from AMIDEAST. Could you please tell us about these scholarships?

A: Well, AMIDEAST in Yemen

works with a variety of companies, organizations, and governments to help provide Yemenis of all differing ages, backgrounds, and interests with the opportunity to study in Yemen and the U.S., on both short and long-term training programs. A major sponsor of these scholarships is the U.S. Department of State. We also work with Canadian Nexen and have worked with the Royal Netherlands Embassy to provide grant opportunities to Yemeni citizens. This year, we are offering more scholarships than ever before. In fact, I'm pleased to say that hundreds of Yemenis will be able to benefit from these scholarships.

Q: What are the scholarships you're offering this year?

A: Although the deadlines have

passed for many scholarships this year, now is the time to start preparing for 2006 scholarships. In order to prepare, it's important to acquaint oneself with the different types of scholarships that we have available. This year, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State, AMIDEAST helped support 450 one-year English language scholarships in Yemen to under-served students. The ACCESS Microscholarships are designed to boost the English language skills of these students so that they have a better chance for jobs in Yemen or so that they may qualify for some of the many U.S. government scholarships and training that AMIDEAST administers for study in the United States. These scholarships include the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) scholarship, which enables Yemeni students to study one year at an American high school; the Partnership for Learning Undergraduate Scholarship (PLUS) for the last two years of college study in the U.S.; and the Fulbright Student Scholarship for Master's degrees in the U.S. Separately, Canadian Nexen funds a four-year scholarship that sponsors ten Yemeni students in obtaining bachelor's degrees in Canada.

We also help recruit for shorter-term training programs available for business-oriented professionals from the U.S. Department of State. We recently assisted in the selection for the Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women, which enables young female professionals in the region to benefit from academic training and real-world work experience at major U.S. corporations and law firms; and we've also assisted in the selection of participants for the Middle East Entrepreneurship Training in the U.S. (MEET-US), which brings participants



Mr. Nabil Khouri presents certificates of merit to high achievers at AMIDEAST

to the U.S. for two weeks of high-level entrepreneurial training.

Q: How about AMIDEAST's English language training?

A: AMIDEAST has, within the past ten years, earned a reputation as being one of the highest-quality English language institutes in Yemen. We continue to enhance and improve our EL program and offerings. What helps make our EL programs so special is that students studying here have concrete opportunities in front of them... They know that if they succeed in the TOEFL (which is offered at AMIDEAST), then they stand the chance of benefiting from one of the many international scholarships listed above. So, studying English here is more than just about learning a language... it's about how learning a language can benefit you.

Q: What else does AMIDEAST do?

A: In addition to administering all of the scholarships mentioned above and training hundreds in its high-quality EL program, AMIDEAST serves as the official ETS and College Board testing center in Yemen. That means that AMIDEAST is the only place that offers TOEFL, TOEIC, GRE, and SAT. We also help guide students who are interested in higher study in the U.S.; we offer an EducationUSA library, high-speed internet access, and conversation clubs; we help coordinate professional training workshops with universities around the country, including Sana'a, Aden and Hadramaut Universities; we have helped sponsor professional EL teachers in universities; and we have worked on technical assistance programs and training of trainer programs with the Yemeni government.

Q: I want a scholarship to study in the U.S. What can I do?

A: Come visit us.

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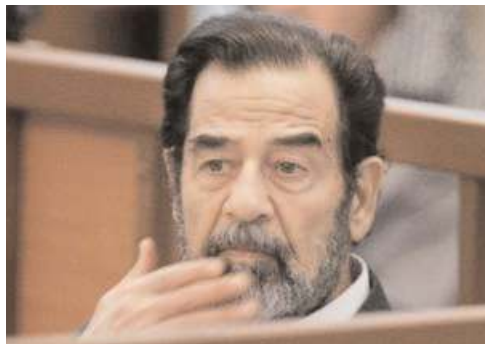
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Saddam trial halts over witness protection hitch

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The first woman witness took the stand against Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, hidden behind a high curtain, but problems with equipment intended to distort her voice to protect her identity prompted a brief recess.

Shortly before the judge ordered the break, "Witness A" broke down in tears relating how she had been forced to strip in custody. Her voice was heavily modified through a computer and Saddam's defense team complained they could not understand her.

The judge first cut off sound to the public galleries, allowing people in court to hear her voice clearly, then



Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein listens during his trial held under tight security in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone Dec. 6. REUTERS

ordered a break to fix the technical problems.

Saddam and seven others are accused of crimes against humanity over the killings of over 140 men from the Shi'ite village of Dujail after a failed assassination attempt on the then president in 1982.

After the woman began her testimony by reciting a Shi'ite Muslim religious poem, the judge halted her and asked her to keep to the facts. She said her brother and other family members had been taken away by Saddam's forces.

Israel begins clampdown after bombing

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel began a clampdown in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday in the early stages of what it vowed would be a harsh military response to a Palestinian suicide bombing that killed five Israelis.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has given the green light for hits on leaders of Islamic Jihad, the group behind Monday's attack in central Israel, amid a reelection campaign against rightist foes who accuse him of being soft on the Palestinians.

Israel's army said it tightened restrictions on Palestinian movement in the West Bank and carried out raids that led to 14 arrests. Witnesses said the bomber's father and three brothers were among those detained.

Sharon convened his security cabinet to lay out plans for retaliation for the bombing at a busy shopping mall, which threatened a new spiral of violence that could bury peace hopes stirred by Israel's Gaza pullout in September.

Gaza-based leaders of Islamic Jihad, which said it carried out the attack to avenge Israel's recent killing of senior members, shut off their mobile phones fearing the signal could be used to track them for assassination from the air.

Security sources said Israel wanted to deal a heavy blow to Islamic Jihad, which is sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state, and send a message to the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that he must crack down on militants.

But they said the response would be tempered to avoid drawing in Hamas, a more powerful Islamist group that has largely restrained itself during a nine-month-old cease-fire engineered by Abbas.

"It will be a show of strength but not something that will get out of control," one security official said.

Risk of political damage

More violence could be politically damaging to both Abbas and Sharon. Abbas is struggling to instill order ahead of a January parliamentary election in which his Fatah party faces a challenge from Hamas.

Sharon is seeking re-election in March as head of a new centrist party he founded after carrying out the Gaza pullout over fierce opposition within his rightist Likud party.

He has hinted his new party would be more open to compromise but has refused to resume peace talks with the Palestinians until they rein in militants.

Sharon billed the Gaza withdrawal as "disengagement" from conflict but rightist opponents he faces in the coming election say it rewarded Palestinian violence.

Palestinians accuse Israel of stoking conflict with army raids and building settlements in the occupied West Bank where Sharon has vowed to keep large settlement blocs forever.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice condemned the Netanyahu attack, the fifth of its kind in the Jewish state since a truce was declared in February.

"Clearly there are people who wish to arrest the potential progress toward peace the Israelis and Palestinians are trying to make," she told reporters en route to Berlin. "This does call upon the Palestinians to fight terror."

U.S.-led mediators had hoped Israel's Gaza withdrawal would serve as a springboard to renewed peace efforts, but violence and mutual recriminations have made progress difficult.

The Netanya bomber, from a village near the West Bank town of Tulkarm, was stopped by a security guard before he could enter the mall. But he detonated his explosives, killing the guard and four shoppers and wounding more than 40 people.

All 94 people on crashed Iran plane feared dead

TEHRAN (Reuters) - An Iranian military plane carrying at least 94 people crashed into a densely populated district of Tehran on Tuesday, setting fire to an apartment block housing about 250 residents, a local government official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said all 94 people on the C-130 transport aircraft were feared dead.

"The lives of 250 people are at risk," he added, referring to the residents of the 10-storey building hit by the plane.

The semi-official Fars News agency said at least 40 bodies had been retrieved from the crash site in southern Tehran.

"All the people on the plane must be dead. It was horrible, all the bodies were burned and crushed," a policeman at the scene said.

But another policeman said at least one man had been pulled alive from the wreckage. He said the survivor, who had been on the plane, was on fire but that he and other rescuers had extinguished the

flames with a blanket.

"It is awful down here. I am suffocating," Red Crescent official Shahram Alamdari told Reuters by telephone.

The official IRNA news agency said 94 people were on board the plane. Fars put the number at 106.

IRNA said the plane was bound for the southern port of Bandar Abbas and most of the passengers were local journalists who were going to cover military exercises in the region.

Engine trouble

The pilot had reported engine trouble and requested an emergency landing at Tehran's Mehrabad international airport, police told state television.

The apartment block is in the Shahrak-e Towhid neighborhood inhabited by members of the military and their families. It lies on the flight path to Mehrabad airport.

"I was sitting in my shop when I saw

an airplane moving in the wrong way," said a resident who gave his name as Mohsen.

"We are used to airplanes but I thought: 'Oh my God, this one is going to crash'. Then it struck the building with a big bang and smoke came pouring out," he said.

Police cordoned off the area, trying to keep back scores of anxious residents trying to push past them.

Emergency services were using helicopters, ambulances and buses to evacuate the dead and wounded. Bulldozers also arrived at the scene. Smoke was still pouring out of the building.

Military officials could not be reached for information.

In Iran's last major military air disaster, an Iranian Ilyushin-76 troop carrier crashed in the southeast of the country on February 19, 2003, killing all 276 Revolutionary Guard soldiers and crew aboard.

Mehlis to step down from UN Hariri probe soon: aide

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Detlev Mehlis will step down shortly as chief U.N. investigator into the killing of ex-Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri but will remain available should the inquiry require his services, his spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The spokesperson, who asked not to be named, said the date for Mehlis' departure was not yet determined but added that the German prosecutor had made it clear when he accepted the job that he would stay on only for six or seven months.

The investigation into Hariri's February 14 murder was launched in June and Mehlis is expected to submit

his findings to the U.N. Security Council on December 12. Lebanon asked the world body last week to extend the inquiry's mandate for six months.

"When he (Mehlis) came, he said he would be committed for six or seven months. Therefore his mandate is about to end," the spokesperson told Reuters in Beirut.

"He will certainly be available if required but not as a full-time commissioner."

Lebanese political sources have said that Mehlis was likely to remain in charge of the inquiry beyond mid-December.

Mehlis, in his interim report in October, suggested that the truck bomb that killed Hariri and 22 other people at Beirut's seafont was planned by top Syrian security officials and their allies in Lebanon.

The report prompted a unanimous Security Council resolution threatening Syria with unspecified action if it did not cooperate with the investigation.

Damascus has strongly denied any role in the murder but has agreed to allow U.N. investigators to quiz five Syrian officials in Vienna. The questioning started on Monday at the U.N. offices under a cloak of secrecy.

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N.Korea says US finance row blocking nuclear talks

SEOUL (Reuters) - A U.S. crackdown on North Korea's financial assets makes it impossible to resume multilateral talks on dismantling the state's nuclear weapons programs, a commentary in Pyongyang's official media said on Tuesday.

It was the first time the North has openly linked a possible halt in the six-party nuclear talks to the U.S. moves against its finances, South Korean officials said.

Washington has offered to brief North Korean officials on the legal reason for its clamping down on firms the United States suspects of involvement in counterfeiting, money laundering and the drugs trade.

It says these have helped finance Pyongyang's nuclear programs.

North Korea's communist party newspaper Rodong Sinmun called the U.S. measures "sanctions" and demanded that they be lifted, the North's official KCNA news agency reported.

"It is impossible to resume the six-party talks under such provocative sanctions applied by the U.S. upon the DPRK," the Rodong Sinmun said.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Pyongyang often uses brinkmanship to bolster its bargaining position, North Korea experts say.

China, the North's main benefactor, appealed for calm.

"We hope each side can, through the six-party talks, have full consultations and talks to find as quickly as possible an appropriate way to solve problems," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular news briefing.



South Korean protesters burn North Korean flags and portraits of the North's leader Kim Jong-il at a rally demanding the reform of human rights in the North, in Seoul Dec. 6. A U.S. crackdown on North Korea's financial assets makes it impossible to resume multilateral talks on dismantling the communist state's nuclear weapons programmes, a commentary in Pyongyang's official media said on Tuesday. REUTERS

In the latest diplomatic dispute between the two countries, a planned December 9-11 meeting between North Korean and U.S. Treasury officials was canceled after what U.S. officials said were differences over the nature of the discussions.

Christopher Hill, the chief U.S. negotiator to the nuclear talks that also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea has offered to brief North Korean officials on the matter.

But he said the U.S. actions, which include freezing some North Korean assets, were ultimately linked to law enforcement and were not part of the six-party talks.

South Korean officials have also said this week the financial issue was separate from the six-party talks.

But South Korea's chief envoy to

the six-party talks cautioned on Monday that Pyongyang and Washington needed to resolve differences on the financial crackdown issue to help keep the nuclear talks on track.

Sources have indicated the next round of the nuclear talks could be held in January.

In a separate statement on KCNA, the North repeated its call made last month for compensation after the collapse of an international project to provide it with civilian nuclear reactors as a part of a 1994 deal.

The beleaguered project had been suspended since 2002 when Washington accused Pyongyang of cheating on the deal with a clandestine plan to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

Kenya opposition seek unity before cabinet named

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Kenya's opposition, worried President Mwai Kibaki is trying to split them by offering individuals places in a new cabinet, threatened on Tuesday to expel members who take up posts without party approval.

Kibaki is expected to unveil a new cabinet in the next 24 hours, nearly two weeks since he sacked ministers and assistant ministers on November 23, after Kenyans soundly rejected a new constitution he backed in a referendum.

The opposition has accused Kibaki of approaching individual opposition members of parliament to join his cabinet, a move they say is designed to create divisions in opposition parties before elections in 2007.

The main opposition Kenya African National Union (KANU) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from Kibaki's ruling National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) joined forces to oppose the charter, winning 57 percent of the 6 million votes cast in the referendum.

The two parties have said they would contest the 2007 election under a yet-to-be registered coalition, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM).

"To negotiate directly with opportunistic individuals who use political parties solely for the purpose of personal gain is most imprudent," said former roads and public works minister Raila Odinga in a statement published in local newspapers.

"The ODM leadership will, therefore, immediately expel any members who join the cabinet through such private arrangements."

Government sources say Kibaki has held discussions with at least seven legislators from both KANU and LDP to join his cabinet but has refused to talk to the ODM as a group because it is not a recognized party.

The sources said Kibaki, who has held wide consultations including talks with predecessor Daniel arap Moi, had not met former LDP ministers who vigorously opposed the constitution, suggesting he could leave

them out of the new cabinet.

William Ruto, KANU's secretary general and ODM spokesman said although the threat of expulsion from parties would not stop individuals from taking up cabinet posts, the opposition was sending a strong message of unity to its members.

"We are sending a very strong signal that we want to negotiate with the president as a group," Ruto told Reuters.

He said the opposition was willing to consult with the president on cabinet appointments before the Wednesday deadline Kibaki had given.

"We have told him that we are ready to talk to him through the front door, we don't know why he is choosing to stand next to the window and call our members," he said.

The opposition accused Kibaki of killing multiparty politics when he "poached" friendly opposition members of parliament into his cabinet in June 2004 to defeat a planned no confidence vote.

Rice says US rectifies mistakes in terror war

BERLIN (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Tuesday that Washington would work to rectify any mistakes it made in its war on terror, but declined to comment on the alleged CIA abduction of a German man.

"When and if mistakes are made, we work very hard and as quickly as possible to rectify them," Rice told a news conference in Berlin.

She noted the case of German Khaled el-Masri, allegedly abducted by the CIA to Afghanistan, was subject to litigation in the United States and declined to comment on it.

Masri says he was seized in Macedonia at the end of 2003 and taken by the CIA to Afghanistan, where he was held in jail for five months until the Americans realized they had got the wrong man.

He plans to file a lawsuit in the



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (R) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel walk in the Chancellery in Berlin, December 6, 2005. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice faces the first test on Tuesday during a visit to Germany of whether her defence of U.S. handling of terrorism suspects can quell concern in Europe over alleged abuses. REUTERS

United States on Tuesday over the case, which has caused a furor in Germany.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the same news conference she would ask her Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier to report on the Masri case to the parliamentary committee responsible for supervising the security services.

Rice reiterated her defense of U.S. methods in the war on terror against 21st century militants.

"If you don't get to them before they commit their crimes, they will commit mass murder," she said.

"We have an obligation to defend our people and we will use every lawful means to do so."

Indian minister to quit over Iraq scandal: reports

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India's suspended foreign minister will quit the cabinet within days, targeted by opposition parties after he was named in the Iraq oil-for-food scandal, media reports said on Tuesday.

Natwar Singh was stripped of his post a month ago but remained in the cabinet as a minister without portfolio after being named in the Volcker report on irregularities in the United Nations program for Iraq.

Singh has told his Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi he will hand his resignation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh -- they are not related -- after the prime minister returns from a visit to Moscow on Wednesday, several newspapers reported.

Gandhi dropped Singh from the party steering committee after he told her of his plans in a half-hour meeting on Monday, a sign his resignation would be accepted, The Indian Express said.

Singh, one of the most senior people



named in the Volcker report, could not be contacted for comment.

Both Singh and the Congress party were named in an annex to the report detailing beneficiaries of oil allocations made by the government of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

The issue has caused a political

furor, with the opposition pressing for Singh's dismissal and a full-scale inquiry.

The government has announced a judicial investigation. The prime minister has taken over the foreign affairs portfolio with the help of two junior ministers.

China denies torture widespread, slams UN envoy

BEIJING (Reuters) - China on Tuesday vigorously denied the findings of a U.N. special rapporteur that torture is widespread in the country and said it had asked the envoy to think again.

Manfred Nowak, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture, last week slammed China for abusing prisoners, adding the government had obstructed his investigations and prevented family members from meeting him during his two-week trip.

"China cannot accept the so-called conclusion that torture is widespread," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular news conference, adding that torture was banned in China.

"The rapporteur was only in China for two short weeks, and went to three cities after which he made the judgment that torture was widespread. This lacks an objective foundation and does not accord with reality," Qin said.

"China has already made this position clear to the rapporteur and requested that he correct his conclusion."

China's parliament passed a bill earlier this year mandating punishment for police who torture detainees during

interrogation but Nowak urged deeper reforms, saying the country needed an independent judiciary and independent monitoring mechanisms.

He said suspects were routinely beaten, adding police were under heavy pressure to extract confessions.

There was also evidence authorities had intimidated victims and family members the U.N. team tried to interview, Nowak said.

"As far as we know, no police prevented family members of people who are detained from meeting the rapporteur," Qin said. "Nobody followed Nowak or his activities."

Nowak said his team was under frequent surveillance during a trip that included Tibet and the northwestern Muslim-majority region of Xinjiang and was granted after 10 years of lobbying by his office.

Rights groups have accused China of being particularly brutal in dealing with Tibetans and other ethnic minorities who chafe under Beijing's rule.

The government has been grappling with a series of cases in which people have been wrongly convicted after giving forced confessions.

In April, it freed a man who spent 11 years in jail for allegedly murdering his wife after the woman turned up alive. The man, She Xianglin, said he had confessed to the crime under torture.

Qin also took aim at a report released last month by the Geneva-based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions which said forced evictions in China were rife, and that 400,000 had been moved from sites for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"That international organization must be on drugs," Qin said. "If they came to China they would see the improvement in living conditions of the Chinese people ... and their conclusions would collapse all around them."

China is home to the world's biggest prison population and has a legal system the United States says is characterized by mistreatment of prisoners and an "egregious" lack of due process in the use of the death penalty.

China signed the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights in 1988 but has yet to ratify the treaty seen as a cornerstone of global rights law.

UK Conservatives to name leader to challenge Blair

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's opposition Conservatives are expected to choose David Cameron, the party's youthful education spokesman, as their new leader on Tuesday to try to revive their fortunes and challenge British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

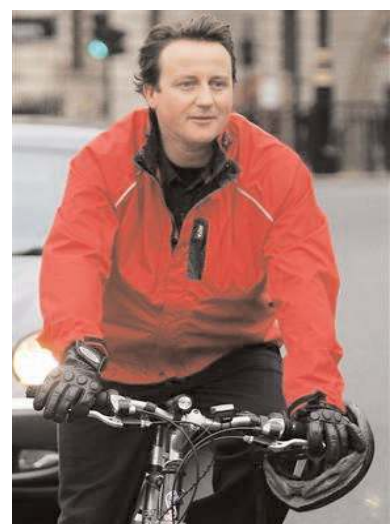
The center-right party, which dominated 20th century British politics under leaders such as Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill, is struggling to drag itself out of the wilderness after losing three successive elections to Blair.

Favorite Cameron, if chosen by the party's roughly 260,000 members, will be the fifth Conservative leader in eight years but there is new hope in the party as Labour's popularity is waning and Blair has said he will not fight a fourth election.

His parliamentary majority was more than halved at a May poll, attributed largely to anger over the Iraq war, and the Conservatives are now focusing their fire on his likely successor, finance minister Gordon Brown.

Brown boasts a sound record in managing the world's fourth biggest economy since 1997. But his stewardship is starting to lose some of its shine -- he was forced on Monday to cut his economic growth forecasts.

Cameron, 39, is vying for the leadership with David Davis, 56, the party's experienced home affairs spokesman. The winner will have about four years before the next election, due in 2010 at the latest, to make inroads into Labour's lead.



Contender for leadership of Britain's opposition Conservative party, David Cameron arrives at the House of Commons in Westminster, London Dec. 6. The Conservatives are expected to choose Cameron, the party's youthful education spokesman, as their new leader on Tuesday to try to revive their fortunes and challenge Prime Minister Tony Blair. REUTERS

Initially favorite, right-winger Davis's campaign lost momentum after a lackluster performance at the party's conference in October and Cameron has topped most polls for nearly two months. The result is due at about 1500 GMT.

"Same old conservatives" Supporters believe Cameron, who has

cast himself as a modernizer, can widen the party's appeal to voters in the center ground in the way Blair revamped his Labour party in the 1990s.

They think Brown will be vulnerable because he will pursue more traditional left-wing policies.

But the finance minister said on Tuesday he had no intention of abandoning Blair's centrist policies, including public service reforms which state employees find painful.

"I don't think anybody should be in any doubt that not only will the reforms continue but in future years they are going to have to be intensified," Brown told BBC Radio.

Blair and Brown are seen as Britain's toughest political operators and will aim to rough Cameron up, starting with his debut at prime minister's questions in parliament on Wednesday.

Brown said Cameron -- who is 15 years younger -- represented the "same old Conservative party".

"What we have got here is simply a rebranding of an old policy with a new gloss on it ... which is cuts in public spending," he said.

Cameron is vague on policy detail but has said he would share the proceeds of economic growth between public service spending and tax cuts.

Derided by some as too pushy, he has emphasized the caring side of Conservatism and has pledged to support Labour on policies with which he agrees while his eurosceptic views have won him popularity in his party.

Words of Wisdom

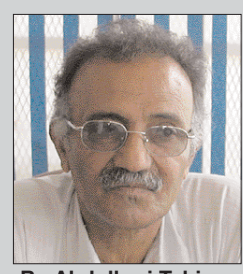


The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

The leader whom we tyrannized

Late liberal politician Mohamed Noman was a pioneer enlightenment leader. He was one of the first founders of the liberty movement. He used to have deep experience, vision and the most important of all is that he was a civil peaceful democrat. His deep insight provoked



By Abdulbari Tahir

against him, even his close colleagues, and many other political parties. He was one of the most nonviolent Arab politicians. He used to believe in peaceful democratic development. In the early talks of the Liberal Party in Aden, he objected to violence and to the assassination of the Imam Yahia. He also refused the hurried changes in power. The dialogues between Al-zubiry, Al-noman, Al-shami and Al-fodiel reveal the deep insight of Al-noman.

that the right endeavor was in spreading education. Events proved that he was right.

It is a pity that his suggestions aroused splits among his party's colleagues and some elements in the Yemeni association. This difference persisted until the post revolution era. The liberals did not evaluate their experience and modern political parties did not do it either. While the Yemeni liberals were wronged by the Marxists and the new national forces, Noman was wronged by all. He was often accused of sectarianism and regionalism by modern Marxists and reactionary forces. This reached a climax by sending him into exile.

Noman was not always right or certain, but he was brave in confronting every one. He stood in the face of Imam as well as in the face of Jamal Abdul Nasir to tell him that his leaders in Yemen were corrupted. He even criticized his major supporters like Abulhakim Amer and Sadat. This instigated all against him.

It is a pity that Noman was not judged correctly despite the fact that the military rule had resulted in catastrophes, and that the absence of liberty led the Arab revolutions to tyranny corruption and defeats that Arab nations still suffer.

Noman's letters and his documents are very important and still have the momentum that the Arab world lacks. I met Noman in 1964 when he was the head of the Shora council. I was elected as representative of our village Al-marawa'ah. The election used to be a collection of signatures of the chiefs. I met him with Noman Qaid Bin Rajeh.

Mr. Qaid introduced me to him saying that the people of Zabid are Angles. Noman said that we want them devils and not Angles.

The revolutionaries and nationalists looked upon the liberals' movement as a traditional movement whose time is over. Leftist accused Noman of being a representative of feudalism.

Noman was sarcastic towards our inexperienced judgment. His call for dialogue with the royalists was one of the causes of our dispute with him. He was one of the main organizers of Khamir conference. He was one of the distinct callers for reconciliation. He paid for his brave call, because he was the one who made the contacts and prepared the way for the conference. His colleagues and students acquired the gains of the reconciliation. He only received the curses.

The legacy of reactionary, which is our ailment, led us to exile Noman while we used to carry out his suggestions anyway. This happened following his return to Yemen after the revolution.

It is a must that we should honor and publish the autobiography of great men such as Abdulrhman Aliryan, Abdullah Al-Salal and the Abdulsalam Sabra. The important effort that Dr Ali Mohamed Zaid did by publishing Noman's autobiography is not enough. The ambassador Adullah and Mustafa, sons of Noman know this fact. The autobiography of these leaders should not be concealed for unforeseen reasons.

Establishment of the rights of these patriotic leaders and to Noman in particular, in addition the reassessment of the past experiences, should not be understood as an admiration or acceptance of the dominance of traditional right wing forces. It is also not a disheartening because of what is going on in Iraq and Palestine. Acknowledging the right of our leaders and criticizing our experiences is a step in the right direction for the modernization forces to make distinct self-confrontation. Freedom and democracy battles are not fought without deep exploration of patriotic history of national struggle.

COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Our lopsided justice system

One of the most interesting news items last week was the sentencing of an Iraqi, allegedly caught red handed with hundreds of valuable antiquities and other contraband or illegal items. This man has been under surveillance for two years and was even caught snooping on one senior official, who simply would be the last person anyone would dare snoop on. The man was caught earlier this year as he was leaving Aden International Airport, with all those goodies and then some.

Thanks to the pleasant side of the news that our security forces are really alert to such evil visitors, who forget that Yemeni hospitality can only go so far in showing the warmth and generosity of the Yemeni people. So, since that time, one would think that the Prosecution was building up a strong case against the Iraqi man, who forgot that antiquities are to be seen by the eyes and are the eternal property of the Yemeni people. After all, aren't there enough antiquities in Iraq that the man can pick up, especially in these wonderful days of chaos and lawlessness in Iraq, where all kinds of criminals are having a field day, thanks to an American invasion-turned-occupation that has left Iraq in - literally - a mess. No matter, our antique thief felt it is better to make a start in a new territory that is still virgin to such sophisticated vices as stealing the hard work of our ancestors and maybe our friend just couldn't find any more Iraqi antiquities, because the Americans had made it easier for all Iraqi antiquities thieves to make their big catches at the end of the invasion - start of the occupation.

Now we come to the real nitty gritty of the story. Here is a foreigner caught with a big catch of precious antiques, who has been tailed for over two years now and who was even caught snooping on very important officials of state. So, what did he get for such highly daring crimes and mysterious snooping: a mere 1-year prison sentence. That is really a reward and not a punishment by any books and our friend should really be thankful at the kind mercy of His Honor, who was probably intrigued by the daring of the man. Imagine that; one year for so much criminal and suspicious espionage. Yet, we have two Yemeni men, who have gone through such a horrible ordeal for more than a year now, who have never committed a crime, who have faced trial under uncertain charges that have no weight in any Court in any real democratic state, their rights violated a million times over, end up with a sentence of execution and a harsh prison term of eight years. With the way executions have been going these days, and the appeal of the defendants thrown out the window, the likelihood is that Hussein Al-Dailamy might just be executed as well. As the last recent executions of Shahari and Huraish have shown, there is no hope in an appeal by Amnesty International and many in the local and international community for saving the lives of those who have been sentenced to death, under dubious charges. For people like Hussein Al-Dailami, this would certainly be an inexcusable execution, to a man who is known for his piety and anti-terrorism and anti-extremism. Yet our justice system deems whatever unsubstantiated charges worthy of the worst punishment - the executioner's sword or bullets. It is hard to find the balance between this and the very mild sentence of the Iraqi who was supposedly caught with unmistakable evidence that depicts that his crime was far more than a serious driving violation, which is what he was sentenced for more or less, rather than for the theft of national treasures and other illicit acts with the tools of the trade right with him. This is justice that would baffle the most studious of law students, as they try to weigh the pros and cons of our judicial system. Mr. Al-Dailami and Mr. Muftah are given such severe sentences for crimes that cannot be seen or demonstrated, which they were tried for, and for ulterior allegations that they were siding with the "Houthi rebellion" in Sa'ada, which are even more harder to prove than the original espionage charges they were confronted with in Court. So, what can one say, had they really been guilty, and caught red-handed with all the evidence needed to give the case some grounds for prosecution, they might have gotten a lighter sentence, with a chance for a quick parole, maybe in a couple of months! After all this is what the very light sentence meted out to the Iraqi thief shows.

OUR OPINION

Confidentiality: liable or reliable?

More than ever, the "newsgathering privilege" for confidential sources is being debated around the world and recently in Yemen. To what extent can journalists maintain the anonymity of their sources? Does this privilege extend after the event is over or the person concerned is dead? And would using this privilege affect the credibility of the journalistic reports?

In UK for example, there has been a heated debate between journalism and governance. The pressure exercised by authorities leading to the disclosure of Dr. Kelly drove him to take his own life. Dr. Kelly was the source who dismissed the claim that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Conversely article 7 of the UK National Union of Journalists rulebook states: "A journalist shall protect confidential sources of information". Similarly article 15 on confidential sources of the Press Complaints Commission states: "Journalists have a moral obligation to protect confidential sources of information."

The issue about confidential sources in Yemeni journalism has taken a rather different trend than is common around the world. Most journalists, including those in the Yemen Times, would rather not only hide the names of their sources but also hide their own names behind "Yemen Times Staff" label. Our battle is not in court halls but rather has been taken to the streets as Yemeni journalists have to defend their lives against any governmental or non-governmental threats. For example, the recent violations against the few daring journalists took place because the journalist targeted corrupt authorities and individuals inside and outside the government. The thrashing they received was not inside the court halls but was rather on the streets by masked or unidentified criminals. This has directly lead to the reluctance journalists demonstrate in mentioning the source when writing reports, sometimes to the extent of not even attempting to avail it. Yet by doing this, the credibility of the source and of the report in general are jeopardized, and it is considered bad practice in journalism.

How could Yemeni journalists maintain a balance between protecting their reliable sources and being responsible enough for the liability of the information reported? It is common practice that the original document or a statement used to support a potentially defamatory report should be retained for any future justification defense. In case of the information given could potentially be seen as sensitive information with serious consequences, such as threat to national security, the source might refuse to be identified. Then maybe the journalist should refrain from quoting him or her in the first place. Especially in a country like Yemen where the understanding of what could be seen as "threat to national security" is very much dependable on the perception of the national security itself. Although this would perhaps limit the possibility of having victim journalists, it may discourage journalists from reporting on critical issues. News gatherers claim that if the confidentiality cannot be assured then important information for an investigation report will not be provided. And so the vicious cycle goes on. What is concerning the most is in media such as the Yemen Times, what would the best alternative be? Would you, as a reader, prefer to read a somewhat interesting story without knowing the source or would you rather have the reporter compromise the risky content in order to acknowledge credibility of the source? Please send your opinion to editor@yementimes.com, awaiting your contribution.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The lessons of Perestroika, 20 years after

By GAVRIL POPOV

Twenty years after Mikhail Gorbachev launched perestroika, many people have come to lament the slow pace of reform in Russia under President Vladimir Putin. But could it have been otherwise? This should not be a surprise, because the tumultuous Gorbachev and Yeltsin eras left the country exhausted. So who can blame Russians for suffering from the reform fatigue?

But if Russia is to get back on its feet, more reforms are needed. Yet before a new round of reforms is to begin, some basic principles about Russia's political capacities must be understood.

The first question that any would-be Russian reformer should ask nowadays (and which we did not ask during Gorbachev's perestroika) is the following, is society prepared to endure the short-term pains of reforms, and how willing it is to endure the pain?

The experience of perestroika underscores the importance of this question.

Perestroika took place at a unique moment in Russian history. The great reforms of the past, including the liberation of the serfs in 1861, followed many years of discussions among westerners, slavophiles, and others. The revolutions of 1905 and 1917 also came at a time when those discussions were finished, and everyone knew who stood for what.

Indeed, I once read that Stalin's appointment to his first key party post was a mistake. But it is still obvious that the entire party knew who Stalin was. When they entrusted him with responsibility for convening the constituent assembly, the Bolsheviks knew what they wanted to do with the constituent assembly, because they knew Stalin as a person who would not stop at anything.

Perestroika was different, because debate had not ended; indeed, countless debates were raging about what Gorbachev should do. Moreover, all previous eras of Russian reform eras and revolutions were connected with

some historical model. Perestroika had no such historic precedent. The transformation from state socialism into a postindustrial society had never occurred anywhere else. Thus, perestroika took place in a void.

Alas, this experience is being repeated. Various political leaders of different political parties flash across Russia's television screens, but there is no real national discussion about how to lead the country forward. We are not moving toward a choice reached after countless discussions.

The second lesson of perestroika concerns the program of reform. After two decades of earthshaking change, Russia has still not had a real program of constructive reform. To use a modern expression, we don't have a road map. Practically everyone knows what is unacceptable, and what needs to be eliminated. But we simply don't know what should replace things that are eliminated.

Of course, the exit from socialism was unprecedented. Much of what socialism built needed to be undone. But it was done using slogans, not a program of change that ordinary Russians could understand and embrace. All we have are endless arguments, not practical alternatives to discuss and decide upon.

One reason that Russia's reform debates are so barren is the country's lack of coherent political parties. During perestroika and the Yeltsin presidency, the legacy was a wide-spread hatred and fear of the Communist Party with all its force and power. This fear extended to all political parties and all in all blocked the desire to create powerful parties. But this suspicion of political parties as such meant that there was no organized body across the country committed to carrying out a consistent, well-thought-out reform program. Instead the reforms were decreed from high above, without having any grassroots support - and thus with no lasting durability.

All we had were direct appeals to the street and the masses rather than encouragement of a genuine social

consensus. Such a direct method is the wellspring of authoritarianism. We must recognize that and understand that it emerges not only when the public is apathetic or frightened, but also when there is no apparent stable advanced guard, such as powerful political parties, which choose the leaders and control them.

As a result Russia now confronts a situation in which the election of the president is the only political issue. In reality, what Russia need are powerful independent social and political organizations that would say: in any presidential term the following things should be done to steer policy, thus making the question of who is president secondary. In this respect, Putin's recent effort to assert tighter state control over private organizations is particularly worrisome.

But the final and most vital lesson of perestroika concerns the pace of reforms and society's expectations. Simply put, the government must meet the people halfway. Yet it also cannot reduce reform to a nullity in order to ingratiate itself with the masses. This is a tricky road to pursue, but it is the only one worth taking.

Indeed, perestroika and the decade of reform that followed demonstrated that just following the formal structures of the Western democratic model isn't enough if Russia is to see reform implemented consistently. For this model, as we have seen in Russia, leads to populist democracy and timid reform. The country needs a deeper commitment to reform that will come only when its institutions engage the Russian public in the sort of open debate that we have lacked. We must jettison populist democracy and embrace what democracy has always stood for—the engagement of all citizens in running their government.

Gavril Popov, a former Mayor of Moscow, is President of the International University in Moscow.

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Let Africa into the carbon market

By LIDIA BRITO

The G8 summit earlier this year focused on Africa and climate change because the two issues are linked: Africa is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and therefore must be supported to adapt to it.

Adaptation to climate change is critical worldwide, but nowhere as much as in Africa, where exposure to natural disasters is higher than in most other regions. Aside from adaptation, Africa can also play a role in mitigating climate change through more sustainable forest and land management. Rural populations from Africa have the capacity to compete and export greenhouse-gas emission-reduction credits generated by forestry and agriculture activities that improve their livelihoods, ameliorate local environmental problems, and increase communities' ability to cope with climate change.

However, in order to fulfill that promise, the industrialized world must give Africa a chance through the emerging international carbon market. The best approach would be for Europe, Japan, and Canada to buy certificates of biological carbon sequestration from Africa as part of their efforts to meet their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

Under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, industrialized countries (so-called "Annex I countries") have the right to purchase certificates of carbon sequestration from reforestation projects undertaken in developing countries and use them to offset up to 1% of their 1990 greenhouse-gas emissions from industry, transport and housing. Although this represents a small fraction of the effort needed from industrialized countries to fulfill the Kyoto Protocol's goals by 2012, it would help significantly in improving forest and land use in Africa.

Europe, in particular, can demonstrate its commitment to mitigating climate change and promoting economic development in Africa by filling its 1% quota of credits from reforestation projects. This requires modifying some of the rules governing its own internal carbon market, the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

Under current EU ETS rules, carbon credits generated by forestry projects undertaken in the CDM currently have no value, despite their obvious climate, environmental, and social benefits. This is because the so-called "linking directive" – the regulation authorizing EU firms to import Certified Emission Reductions from CDM projects – bans credits from any forestry project. Unsurprisingly, no European firm is currently interested in purchasing such credits. Even European governments, which are not tied by the EU ETS ban, purchase very few.

The EU ETS's exclusion of carbon credits from forestry projects will remain in force at least until 2008, with the question of whether to include them subsequently set to be revisited next year. The European Commission will submit a report for consideration by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers by June 30, 2006.

Preserving the European bias against credits from forest projects is not justified, as positive experience emerging from the first land-use projects will show. In the Doha trade negotiations, industrialized nations accepted the need to liberalize their agricultural markets by reducing subsidies to domestic producers and tariff barriers on agricultural imports. So why not liberalize the carbon market as well – a move that would help, not hurt, domestic producers?

It would also help if all the parties to the Kyoto Protocol amended the post-2012 CDM rules. In particular, three changes are necessary: the relaxation of the 1% rule, the expansion of eligibility criteria to include more than just reforestation, and the removal of the 60-year replacement rule (which mandates the replacement of temporary with permanent credits after 60 years, regardless of the state of the underlying forests).

The first change would enable Annex I countries to satisfy a greater share of their increasing climate responsibilities using credits from land-use projects implemented in non-Annex I countries. The second change would allow forestry and land-use projects that are eligible to issue carbon credits to include such activities as re-vegetation, forest restoration, and improved agricultural management. The third change would eliminate a perverse rule, by which parties to CDM contracts can liquidate forests to buy

replacement credits.

The responsibility for reforming the emerging carbon market does not lie solely with the North. All parties to the Kyoto Protocol, including African nations, have a unique opportunity to influence the post-2012 debate and defend the inclusion of land-use projects in the emerging carbon market.

Lidia Brito was Mozambique's Minister of Science and Technology until February 2005, and is now a Professor in the Department of Forestry, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique.
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The dilemma of multiculturalism

RALF DAHRENDORF

Many people have suddenly become very hesitant about using the term "multicultural society." Or they hesitate to use it approvingly, as a desirable ideal that social reality should at least approximate.

July's terrorist attacks in London demonstrated both the strength and the weakness of the concept. London is certainly a multicultural metropolis. An indiscriminate attack such as a bomb in the Underground will necessarily hit people of many cultural backgrounds and beliefs.

Sitting, or more likely standing, in the "tube" (as London's Underground is affectionately known), one never ceases to be amazed at the ease with which Jewish mothers and Muslim men, West Indian youngsters and South Asian businessmen, and many others endure the same stressful conditions and try to lighten its impact by being civil to one another. The terror attacks demonstrated not only how particular people helped each other, but also how the whole city, with all the ingredients of its human mixture, displayed a common spirit of resilience.

This is the positive side of a multicultural society. Careful observers have always noted that it is

strictly confined to the public sphere, to life in those parts of the city that are shared by all. It does not extend in quite the same way to people's homes, let alone to their ways of life in the private sphere.

This is one reason why London has experienced the other, darker side of the multicultural society: the veneer of multiculturalism is thin. It does not take much to turn people of one group against those of others with whom they had apparently lived in peace.

We know this because it lies at the core of the murderous environment that gripped the Balkans in the 1990's. For decades (and in some cases much longer), Serbs and Croats, – indeed, Orthodox, Catholic, and Muslim "Yugoslavs" – had lived together as neighbors. Few thought it possible that they would turn against each other in a bloodletting of such brutal enormity that it is very unlikely that Bosnia-Herzegovina can ever become a successful multicultural society. Yet it happened, and in a different way it is happening now in Britain.

It is important to recognize that we are not talking about the return of age-old hostilities. Ethnic and cultural conflicts today, often in the form of terrorism, are not the eruption of a supposedly extinct volcano. They are, on the contrary, a specifically modern phenomenon.

For the terrorists themselves, such conflicts are one consequence of the

unsettling effects of modernization. Beneath the veneer of integration into a multicultural environment, many people – especially young men with an immigrant background – are lost in the world of contradictions around them. Their seamless, all-embracing world of tradition is gone, but they are not yet confident citizens of the modern, individualistic world. The question is not primarily one of employment, or even poverty, but of marginalization and alienation, of the lack of a sense of belonging.

It is in such circumstances that the key feature of terrorism comes into play: the preaching of hate by often self-appointed leaders. They are not necessarily religious leaders; in the Balkans and elsewhere, they are nationalists who preach the superiority of one nationality over others. But to call these hate-mongers "preachers" is fitting nonetheless, because they invariably appeal to higher values to sanctify criminal acts.

The mobilization of criminal energies by such preachers of hate is itself a modern phenomenon. It is a far cry even from such doubtful claims as the self-determination of peoples defined as ethnic communities. Hate preachers use highly modern methods to enhance their personal power and to create havoc around them.

But countering them does not involve warfare, or even a rhetorically looser "war on terror." Of course, part

of the answer is to identify the relatively small number of people who are prepared to use their lives to destroy the lives of others without distinction or purpose. But the more important issue is to identify the preachers of hate and stop their murderous incitement. This is why it is so important to capture and prosecute Radovan Karadzic, who spurred on the homicidal rage of so many Bosnian Serbs. And this is why militant Islamist preachers must be stopped.

Beyond this carefully targeted – and, in principle, limited – task, there remains the need to strengthen the sphere of common values and cooperation in societies that will, after all, remain multicultural. This will be difficult, and it must not be approached naively. Differences will not – and need not – go away; but ensuring that all citizens can rely on each other requires us to find a way to extend and bolster the civic trust that we see in the public sphere.

Ralf Dahrendorf, author of numerous acclaimed books and a former European Commissioner from Germany, is a member of the British House of Lords, a former Rector of the London School of Economics, and a former Warden of St. Antony's College, Oxford.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Love and life

BY SAHAR SHUKRI
Sahar.Shukri@gmail.com

The life has to be filled with love. That love which makes the life more beautiful.

Love is a very big word and it has a lot of meanings: sincerity, candor and faithfulness.

Thus how could you love if you are not sincere or faithful?!

When you love, you must be responsible for this love because love is responsibility.

You love Allah so you have to be honest when you deal with people and you have to do the real love deeds for Allah.

After you find what you love, I mean love for Allah, the prophet, the family that you are with, the country that you live in and friends that you are with, you will love the life that you live.

Thereupon, you have to be responsible for what you love and who you love, because love isn't only a word to say but it is doing. For example:

You love your job, you must work hard and sincerely to be worthy of this job.

You love your studying that makes you excellent.

So, the love has many plus points sans negativities, and with these positivities the life will be more blissful. Then you will feel more pleased with everything you love and you will face its difficulties to culminate the success.

Therefore, it is possible to say that when you love something, your aim is to get it. So love itself is an aim.

For instance, you love Allah, that makes you to do the good deeds and your aim here is to get Allah satisfaction. And when Allah loves you, you will get paradise. So, there is an aim following another one and when you get it, you get success.

I say it again "THE LOVE IS THE BASIS OF THE LIFE THAT WE LIVE AND IT IS THE SUGER OF LIFE".

I'm writing now with a feeling of love for my pen, my country, my

family, my friends ... and all my life.

In my point of view, the one who loves his life will be successful and will face the difficulties strongly.

Unfortunately, most of the people don't know the real meaning of this word.

We will not improve and achieve our dreams without love.

Now I want all the readers to ask themselves "What do you love? Can you achieve what you love and what you want??" And when you get the reply, you will get success at the end .

Thereupon, you must love Allah and every thing Allah gives us and be responsible for it with right dealing.

And now
CAN ANYONE LIVE WITHOUT LOVE?!!

CAN ANYONE ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS IF HE DOESN'T LOVE THEM?!

Short Story

A hidden feeling

WRITTEN BY: SOMAYA AL-NOUZILI

Sahl is an English teacher. He looks ordinary, average height and build. He has black hair and eyes. These days, he is working as a private teacher for a twelve-year-old boy named Ali who was born in a simple family.

One lovely evening, Ali was crying in his room when Sahl came in. "Hallo" Sahl said.

"You don't seem fine. Why are you crying? Is there something wrong?"

Ali looked at him with tearful eyes. "My father doesn't like me." Ali said sadly. "That makes me sad."

"Why do you think so?"

"He doesn't take care of me. I have been studying at school for seven years, and he doesn't even care. He has never asked me about my school, homework, and friends or about anything that happens to me." Sahl sat beside him. "I love him so much."

Ali said. "But I feel unable to tell him. He doesn't give me a chance to show him my feeling. I know that he thinks I don't like him."

Sahl held Ali's hands nicely and said "He loves you. You should make sure of that... Let me tell

You a real story." Ali nodded. "I used to love my father a lot and kept that feeling in my heart as you do. One day, he felt sick and we took him to the hospital. There were a lot of loving people in his room. I was holding his hand while he was looking at me. His eyes said that he loves me so much as I do, and he will be happy when he hears that from me. But I felt unable to say it. I kept my feeling unknown until his last breath.

"When the last visitor had finally left, my father died. I believe that everyone needs to hear that others love him before it becomes too late. You should say whatever you feel." Sahl said nothing for a minute. Then he said: "It was too late to realize that... Ali, make sure that

every father loves his children a lot. Trust me, tell him what you feel towards him. He will be happy to hear that." Ali smiled and Sahl stood.

"Show your love. Do not be late." Sahl said while he was walking towards the door.

"Where are you going?" Ali said.

"I will be waiting for you tomorrow in my house to have our missing lesson."

"You don't seem like a troubled person."

Sahl smiled and said: "People always hide behind something called appearance."

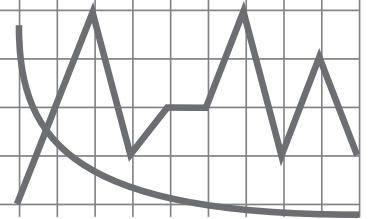
Sahl has gone home and Ali to the sky through the window.

In the next morning, Ali woke up as usual at half past seven. He looked out of the window.

It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining and the birds were singing in the trees. It was a new day with a big smile on Ali's face.

"Thank you teacher Sahl." Ali said.

YT Business



Yemen coffee, pearls upon trees

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni production of coffee has noticeably receded in the recent four years and rate of recession has increased with the appearance of an insect destroying 30-50% of production quantity. This has forced the ministry of agriculture to adopt a plan for planting around one million coffee trees by the end of this year in various areas of Yemen suitable for growing this type of trees, both climatically and environmentally. The goal is to expand and develop plantation of this kind of crop and an attempt to restore reputation of Yemeni coffee which it has gained across long decades.

his well-known song "The Yemeni coffee, the pearls and treasure upon trees". Unfortunately this song is no longer fitting the present condition of coffee production of Yemen, unlike what that production used to be during the first three centuries of modern history. Side by side with coffee giving reputation to Yemen at that time were the Yemeni spices that had been then direct reason why international companies and fleets protecting them competed for reaching the warm waters in the orient in quest for its inexhaustible riches. Exportation of Yemeni coffee was also an important reason that gave importance to the port city of al-Makha until the mid of the nineteenth century. In their efforts to find other alternatives for Yemen in growing coffee and to put an end to competition among them-

and the use of traditional ways of irrigation and rise in cost of production due to the steady increase of the cost of hired labor, in addition to limitedness of family labor resulting from expansion of internal migration from countryside to cities. Studies also point out the strong shakings produced by spread of crops competing Yemeni coffee in local markets as Qat and tobacco, drop in farmers interest in this kind of crops because of its low economic return and rise in cost of its production compared to imported coffee which much affected prices of domestic coffee. Meanwhile the Yemeni coffee suffers the problem of absence of suitable marketing policies, lack of modern irrigation networks and limitedness of infrastructure in areas of its growing, such as electricity, water pipes and others. Added to that are insects that affect fruit of the coffee tree.

Coffee growing areas

Coffee is planted in various regions in Yemen. It is grown mainly in areas that are 1000 to 1700 km high above sea level in valley sloping from western, central and southern heights. Coffee is also grown in mountain terraces, especially in the range of western mountains overlooking Tihama. Here density of areas planted with coffee trees is between 900 1000 trees in one hectare and production of one hectare between 300 t 600 kg. These areas represent around 40% of the area planted with coffee trees. Warm and humid climate, with availability of ample quantity of water, is considered ideal for coffee growth. Most of the areas where the coffee tree is grown lack the suitable conditions for its growth, but the Yemeni farmer has throughout years managed to acquire great experience in cultivating the coffee tree in circumstances guaranteeing requirements of production. Studies prepared by experts in this field from certain Arab and international organizations mention that Yemen is the only country in the world where the coffee tree is planted under circumstances dissimilar to climatic circumstances of growing the coffee tree in other regions of the world. In the environment where coffee tree is grown in Yemen there is scarcity of water and added to that the soil is not capable enough of storing enough amount of water. Despite of that the farmer in this country is able to obtain the best kinds of coffee in the world, known by the Arabian coffee.

Marketing

Al-Kaboos group, established by Haj Hassan al-Kaboos in 1938, has been playing an important role in re-breathing life into marketing the Yemeni coffee. His group was then the first to grind coffee by using manual grinders. Drinking coffee at that time was not salable in Sana'a whose inhabitants were accustomed to drink coffee made of coffee shells and drinking coffee was rather confined to the Turks. Tribesmen were then mingling coffee with its shell. Today the name of al-Kaboos is linked to the industry of the best quality of coffee in the world. Al-Kaboos group products are exported to neighboring markets of the Gulf, the neighboring countries, Europe, Japan and America. In 1951, al-Kaboos was the first to introduce the mechanical coffee grinders to Yemen. His name nowadays replaces the historical status of Mocha that points to the coffee of Yemen. In 1996, al-Kaboos group inaugurated the biggest factory for coffee industry in the Middle East according to the popular ways of markets where it is exported. To Japan it exports coffee grains, to the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Spain, Syria and turkey it is exported as ground coffee.

Despite of this marketing activity, the Yemeni farmer has not been urged to double production of coffee because majority of farmers preferred leaving agricultural lands and migrated to towns and immigrated abroad in quest of speedy acquisition of sustenance.

Recent efforts

According to sources of the ministry of agriculture and irrigation, the concerned parties are working on imple-



mentation of a project for development of coffee produce in the governorate of Lahj. The project is to include many of constituent elements such as water, training, plantations and production as well as dealings of after harvest through purchasing a large container for gathering and drying the produce inside it. The French-funded project costs around YR186 million. There are also programs to be implemented in cooperation between the ministry of agriculture and irrigation and Sana'a University on breeding a parasite for fighting the insect that destroys coffee in most areas where it is cultivated. A

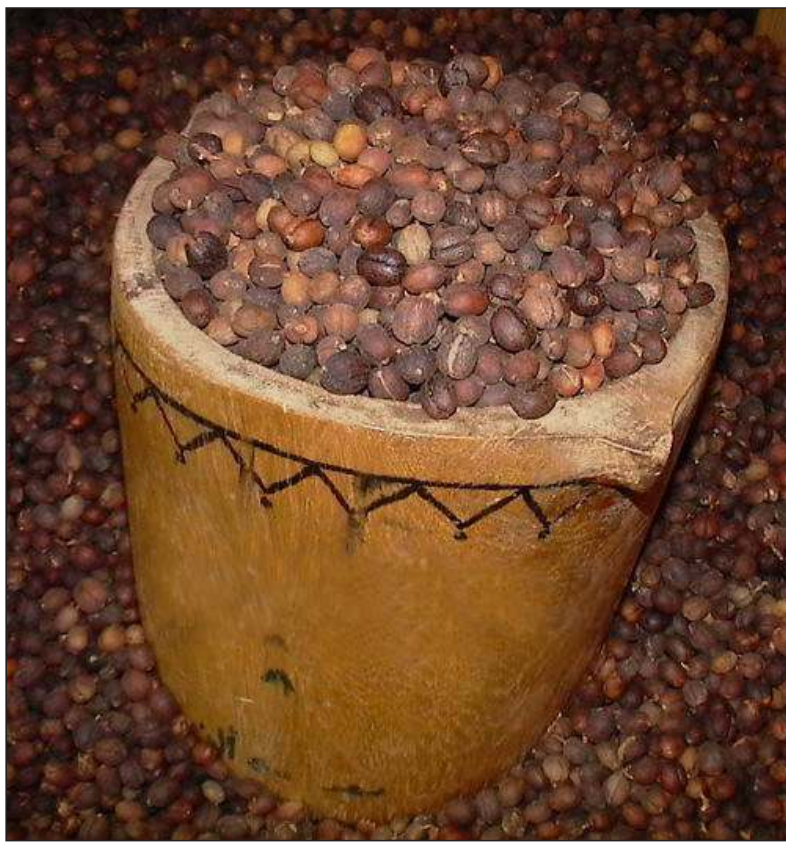
quantity of loss between 30-50% of production is caused by that insect.

The coffee project has begun distribution of modern irrigating networks in a number of coffee growing areas, among which the district of Yafie in Lahj governorate where 10 hectares have been covered with modern irrigation networks. Seven coffee plantations have also been built with local funding. The total number of coffee plantations reaches 18, producing around 300 thousand trees in a year. The total number of coffee trees in Yemen amounts to 15 million seedlings.

Scientific studies recommended the

importance of using modern irrigation networks instead of traditional means, taking into account characteristics of external markets, encouragement of farmers and defining a time ceiling helping them continue in growing and producing coffee, encouraging of flow water irrigation of coffee.

Would we witness soon a return to developing of coffee produce in Yemen so that farmers would return to their agricultural farms and terraces to face hardship of living and consequences of price rise doses of oil products, increase in taxation duties on water and electricity bills and others?



For the Yemenis, the coffee tree possesses a historical and moral value. Owing to coffee produce, and because of it Yemen had gained a world presence since the beginning of the 6th century A.D. as it was the major source of coffee that was being exported via the seaport of Al-Makha and the Arabian coffee was called after the name of that port and carried it all over the world. The world knows the Yemeni coffee as the Arabian coffee which represents the best quality of coffee types. Under that name there are three kinds of coffee in Yemen: al-Udaini, al-Dawaieri and al-Tuffahi, the latter of which is the most spread in Yemen. There are many more names by which the coffee of Yemen is known and most of those names are given after the areas where it is grown. Such names are: al-Hammadi, al-Matari, al-Haimi, al-Yaafie, al-Buraaic, al-Haraazi, al-Saadi, al-Rajmy and al-Saarabi.

Yemen coffee...treasure of pearls upon trees

The coffee of Yemen until past recent was dominating many tastes and external markets even before the Yemeni singer, Ali al-A'nisi, sung for it

selves on one source, the foreign companies managed to grow coffee trees in commercial quantities in areas Indonesian islands and Brazil. That had gradually resulted in big recession in coffee production in Yemen and very quickly rendered coffee produce to become marginal among other crops such as Qat whose cultivation has spread in a large scale.

Retreat in production

Recent official statements indicate low rate in Yemen's production of coffee. Production has retreated from 11.904 tons in 2001 to 11.408 tons in 2003 and in 2004 to 11.590 tons. Statements mentioned that coffee produce in the last four years has occupied the last position on list of money-yielding crops at a time Qat occupied the first place with regard to produced quantities and their annual increase. Qat production in 2003 rose from 103.410 tons to 118.207 tons in 2004. Thus, Qat has indisputably topped the list of money-yielding crops in Yemen.

Recent studies ascribed causes of Yemeni coffee production retreat to the aggravating water crisis, waves of drought that hit areas where it is grown



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex

P.O. Box 551 Sana'a, Yemen

<http://www.undp.org.ye>

Phone: 00 967 1 448605

Fax: 00 967 1 448841

INVITATION TO BID

Invitation to Bid for **Information Technology Equipments (IT)** to supply various projects with (computers, printers, UPS, etc)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites potential suppliers to request a copy of the bidding documents from the undersigned no later than **December 24, 2005**:

Ms. Samira Al-Farah

United Nations Development Programme

Email: samira.alfarah@undp.org

Phone: 00 967 1 448605

Fax: 00 967 1 448841

The deadline for invited suppliers to submit their sealed bids to the UNDP Office in Sana'a is **31 December 2005 at 12:00 P.M.**

Rescue for university students

BY SHAKER AL-ASHWAL
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is a young country where more than 60% of the total population are between 15 and 40 years old. Most important group within this age group are the university students because they are considered the prime pillar for the country's future. However, because of a deteriorating educational system coupled with the insufficient available schooling many of those students are at loss. One of the major complaints university students have is the lack of educational resources especially books.

Some private universities have tried to overcome this problem through networking with organizations or donors interested in promoting education in Yemen. The Science and Technology University for example was granted a well-established library from the British Council in Yemen last year.

This year the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals (AAYSP) granted Yemeni government universities a collection of books worth \$70,000 on July 31, 2005. This shipment included more than 3500 books, most of which are concerned with medical studies. Other books cover topics on science, sociology, literature, journalism, and politics. These books would promote the educational level of students. The books were distributed to public and universities and some health institutes.

The shipment includes some of children books as well, which will be granted to some schools in Yemen. These books are intended for some private schools such as Azal al-Yaman School where the curriculum is in English.

Most of the granted books are not available in Yemeni universities and markets. And when they are, the price of one book may rise up to YR 20,000, which a student cannot afford. The second shipment, which has just arrived to Sana'a, includes 63,000 books.

Overall, the organization, known as the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals, has suc-

ceeded in arranging the shipment of \$800,000 worth of books and equipment to Yemeni colleges and universities. Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Nasser Zawia, the director of the organization.

Dr. Zawia will strike you as an energetic, yet modest individual. In the U.S., he is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Rhode Island and Assistant Director of the Rhode Island Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (2001-2004). He is the current Chair of the University of Rhode Island Research Council. Dr. Zawia has received numerous awards and medals for his teaching and research excellence. Dr. Zawia has also been involved in the Yemeni academic scene and has served as a member of the International advisory board for the Yemeni scientific Research Foundation (YSRF) and serves on the editorial board of the Yemeni Journal of Science. His work and research have not distracted him from finding the time to be an involved and engaged member of the community in the U.S.

Q: You are a founding member of the American Association for Yemeni Scientists and Professionals. Could you tell us more about AAYSP, and the goals you and others are hoping to accomplish by forming this association?

A: AAYSP is a non-profit national organization for Yemeni-American Scientists and Professionals registered in the state of Rhode Island. AAYSP's main goals include establishing dialogue and links with scientific and professional organizations in the United States and Yemen, disseminating information, promoting the value of higher education, and increasing access to educational resources and opportunities for students of Yemeni origin. The AAYSP is filed as a non-profit educational and professional organization under IRS section 501(c) (4).

Q: The goals of AAYSP as stated in its mission statement are:

A: To work with scientists, professionals, associations and academic institutions in the United States and



Dr. Nasser Zawia

Yemen for the advancement of science, higher education, and scientific research.

To promote greater understanding between the United States and the people of Yemen through academic and scientific cooperation.

Q: What was the idea behind the creation of this organization?

A: With respect to the history of AAYSP, AAYSP is a product of an unexpected meeting between two Yemeni scientists in 2002 who discovered that they both shared a common vision of developing a network of Yemeni scientists to help promote science in Yemen. In 2003, they met with a delegation of Yemeni scientists who were visiting the American National Science Foundation. There they shared and discussed ideas relating to the promotion of higher education in Yemen and the US, and how scientists in America could help promote that goal. Later, a small group of individuals from both the USA and Yemen continued to work on developing the best mechanism through which to achieve these goals. This founding committee recruited others and decided to nominate individuals to lead the effort of forming an association. In 2003, the founding committee and the interim board decided to expand this organization beyond scientists and to build an association of Yemeni scientists and professionals. After months of debate and discussion, an association was developed to serve all Yemenis worldwide. AAYSP was registered in the State of Rhode Island and its website was launched in July, 2004. AAYSP is receiving applications for membership on a regular basis and currently has more than 200 members worldwide spanning many professions from science, medicine, law, pharmacy, engineering, information technology, and the social sciences. We hope that this association will grow more in the future and become the premier vehicle for networking among highly educated and professional Yemenis around the world.

Q: What has the AAYSP done since it was established?

A: The AAYSP is a young organization but we are proud of our accomplishments over this brief period. We helped delivered two shipments of books worth more than ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY MILLION RIYAL to Yemeni universities. Our organization also does a lot of outreach and work in the United States to encourage young Yemenis to pursue higher education in America. We also publish an annual directory.

that contains the names of all of our professional members and is considered an important networking tool. Despite our lack of funding these accomplishments attest to the resourcefulness of our members and we hope we will continue to impact the educational scene both in Yemen and within the Yemeni-American community.

Q: Why did you concentrate on sending books to Yemeni Universities?

A: The most important tool in learning is books. When we visited Yemeni Universities we found that there was a severe absence of technical and teaching textbooks, particularly in the health, science, and technology fields.

The busiest areas of any university in Yemen are the Copy Centers. Students are constantly copying and buying core notes, booklets, and manuals prepared by faculty. Teaching notes have replaced books and the absence of internet access at the University forces students to rely completely on notes provided by their teachers. Therefore students do not have the means to buy expensive textbooks which sometimes maybe akin to an employees full month salary and thus are completely reliant on the notes prepared by the faculty. The faculty also does not have the latest books, and those who do, buy them from their own money, and do not want to lend them to students.

A student is thus deprived of the depth of knowledge available in text books, does not have access to the latest on the internet, can not go to a library to borrow subject text books etc. The only source of information for the student is the teacher and his/her notes.

AAYSP realizes that the absence of such books will result in a less than average education. We are also aware the average Yemeni student can not afford to buy these books, thus we would like to help in ameliorating the situation

Q: Who will benefit from these books?

A: The primary beneficiary will be the students because they will be placed in the libraries of each relevant College.

Q: Are you donating these books to public universities only? How has the universities responded to your initiative?

A: Our initial efforts are focused on supporting government-sponsored Universities because the greatest need exists there; however, we are also helping some private institutions. By the way we can not refer to these institutions as "Public Universities" as is understood in the US (there is no public involvement in their administration); but this is a topic for another interview.

The response of the Universities to our initiatives at the highest levels has been supportive, understanding, and productive. At this juncture I would like to thank Dr. Saleh Basuurah, the President of SU and Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher who have provided us with unquestionable assistance. The mid-management level and

many other officials have been extremely disappointing. We found a lack of understanding, caring, inefficiency, and ignorance. Such behavior would be extremely puzzling and discouraging to donor organizations; however, we are committed to the development of Yemenis and the building of educational and cultural bridges between the people of Yemen and the United States and will not waver in our efforts.

Q: Has the Yemeni government been helpful? What should the Universities do to receive donated books?

A: The Yemeni government has been helpful. They have provided us with the exemptions when we need them, they have shown their appreciation for our efforts and we look forward to doing more with them. Official government-sponsored newspapers have publicized our efforts and have helped us convey our message.

As to what should Universities do to receive books, the numbers of books we have brought are large enough to be distributed among all the Universities in Yemen. Thanks for the efforts of the AAYSP Co-Director Dr. Hilal Lashuel, we have secured 63,000 science and technical books and journals from the American Chemical Society (ACS). Although Sana'a University is the primary recipient of these books, Dr. Bassurah has agreed to permit us to distribute excessive and additional copies of books to other institutions. In most cases we will contact each University with their share of these books.

Q: What other services can you offer to Yemeni professors and graduate students?

A: We are a very ambitious association; although we are small and limited in resources we offer many services for students and professors such as advising, networking, collaborative projects, access to scientific databases, workshops etc. An overview of our services is available on our website www.aaysp.org

Q: Do you have offices in Yemen? How does the AAYSP fund its activities?

A: We do not have offices in Yemen, but we have many members here who help us implement our programs. We plan to have a physical location in Yemen in the future. We are a non-profit, non-governmental organization, who relies solely on the generous donations of individuals to survive. We also raise some money through advertising on our website and annual

directory. We would greatly appreciate any support we can get.

Q: Since arriving in Yemen, what difficulties have you faced?

A: The biggest problem is the response time. Things run very slow and it was unfortunate that I arrived at the beginning of the academic year in mid-September and discovered that the first-day of classes is not the beginning of the academic year. Unlike the US, Universities here take time to settle their schedules. Two weeks later Ramadan began and everything slowed down and the students decided not to attend class. Then Eid arrived.

Here we are two months later and I can only count about 12 real teaching days. I did not start teaching yet because my program has yet to be approved. This would be disastrous at a University in the USA where we panic if it snows one day because we have to make up work for that day and where we plan a University's schedule years in advance. My biggest problem has been adapting to this attitude and to the disbelief that this goes on and the University has no power to enforce a real schedule.

A huge big problem for a visiting professor from the US is the absence of internet connection to an office (if one was given), a phone, and a computer. Without these tools a professor from the US would become dysfunctional.

Q: What would you like the Yemeni government and universities to do to help you in your mission?

A: They need to recognize the value of a visiting professor and provide such an individual with the tools to allow him or her to help Yemeni students.

Q: What role can the media play?

A: The media can play one of the most important roles in reforming education in Yemen. The Yemen Times in particular is known for its honest and constructive criticism of misuse of power and public interest. The credibility and independence of Yemen Times can be a great vehicle to push the engine of reform. An important issue that they media can promote is the involvement and participation of the Public in the education of future generations, the formation of school boards, and Parent Teacher Organizations, and special interest groups. The media can advocate more Public involvement and less Government control of education.

When the stakeholders are in charge of the education of their children, the outcome is likely to be better.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Project (DLDSP)".

Post Title: Donor Program Monitoring Officer SC-B Responsibilities

- Develop a methodology and then carry out a survey of current and pipeline donor programs and identify those, which are relevant to decentralization.
- Document the scope, scale, geographic location and focus (sector) of such programs and projects.
- Carry out a review of the implementation modalities used and the institutional arrangements put in place for such projects at the local level.
- Identify donor project personnel both administrative and technical and identify reliable contacts to facilitate communication and coordination with DLDSP.
- Function as PR officer for the DLDSP and produce a monthly newsletter summarizing program activities.
- Assist program management in preparing for and holding donor coordination meetings.
- Any other related tasks that are of relevance to this scope of activity.

Qualification:

- A master degree in the field of public administration, business administration, public, international relations or other related discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years demonstrated experience in the field of local governance and local development.
- He/she shall have strong analytical and writing skills and experience in dealing with or working for donor agencies in less developed countries.
- Proficiency in Arabic and English Languages.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 17th December 2005

60% at risk in Yemen

Malaria still the one

BY AMEL ALARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Recently, Yemen is subjected to many diseases and epidemics attack such as dengue fever, polio, and hepatitis. However, Malaria was and is still the biggest health challenge in Yemen. Dr. Mohammed Alnumi, Yemeni health minister, has revealed that 60 percent of Yemeni population at risk of Malaria, according to the last population statistics in last December, which estimated the population of Yemen to be around 19.7 million.

"Malaria has been a major challenge for some decades" Dr. Alnumi said in a seminar that held on last November in Sana'a. He referred that the disease spreads in coastal regions as well as in mountain regions. However he added that Yemen had made progress in its fighting against the disease, for example, in Socotra island the rate of infection of Malaria had fallen from 36% to 1%, whereas the rate of infection in Tihama region was 46% in 1998, and raised to 11.5% in 2003. Dr. Mohammed Khalifah, expert on Malaria in World Health Organization (WHO), insisted that Yemen is still

one of most malaria-affected countries in the Middle East with an estimated 800,000 cases per year.

According to the WHO report, Yemen managed to control this disease successfully in 1980s. However, Yemen was hard hit by malaria in 1998 after an extremely heavy rain season. The number of annual cases during that period increased from 1.5 million to three million, with mortality rate between 15,000 and 30,000.

Malaria is a chronic disease caused by parasites and spread through the bite of the female Anopheles Mosquito. This disease characterized by chills, shaking, and periodic bouts of intense fever. In recent years, malaria has become more difficult to control and treat because malaria parasites have become resistant to drugs, and mosquitoes that transmit the disease have become resistant to insecticides.

In 2001, Yemen with the cooperation of WHO established its National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) whose strategy includes elements such as early diagnosis and prompt treat-

ment, surveillance and information system and applied researches.

Yemen also gets support from its neighbors Oman and Saudi Arabia that provided Yemen with pesticides, space-spraying machines and vehicles. There are also supports from United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Authority, the World Bank and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In this regards, Yemen through WHO presented a proposal in 2002, to Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, asking for strengthening the infrastructure of the NMCP. The fund has offered to Yemen \$12 million for five years, according to Dr. Khalifah.

A report of Ministry of Public Health and Population mentioned that 90% of the total Malaria cases are due to Plasmodium falciparum parasites that cause 1% of mortality that takes place among children below 5 years old and pregnant women. This data was confirmed by a field study titled (Malaria in Pregnancy in Hodeidah, Republic of Yemen). The study, which was conducted by A.M. Assabri and A.A Muharm in 2002, dealt with 500 woman and showed that the rate of malaria was higher among pregnant women (55%) than non pregnant women (20%). Moreover, Anemia was

significantly more noted among malarial-infected pregnant woman than malaria-infected non-pregnant women.

According to a report issued by the regional office of WHO for the Eastern Mediterranean, which discusses the Epidemiological situation in the Middle East countries, the main factors that lead to deteriorating the situation in Yemen with regards to Malaria include:

- The discontinuation of organized vector control activities.
- The increase of breeding places due to water resource development projects, such as agricultural irrigation schemes, lakes and dams.
- Heavy rainfall and floods.
- Increased population.
- Weakened organizational structure of national malaria control programme
- Absence of core group of experts in general, logistic support and transport.
- Miss classified diagnosis, due to weak quality of laboratory diagnosis and absence of quality control.
- Lack of appropriate case management, national policy leading to increased numbers of carriers in the population.
- Availability of sub standard anti-



malarial drugs in the market.

- Absence of appropriate surveillance system.
- Low health awareness particularly in women and children due to inadequate information, education and communication (IEC).

The report recommended to strengthen the NMCP's infrastructure both at central and peripheral levels. It stressed on the importance of the decentralizing of Diagnosis, treatment, surveillance and health education to district level and be integrated in PHC system. The report referred also to the importance of community participation by information, education and communication (IEC) systems.

Smoking or Qat chewing

BY HAKIM ALMASAMRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasamri@hotmail.com

Yemeni people are known to have below average health compared with many other countries around the world. This has been indicated in more than one report by the World Health Organisation and by special reports of the Yemeni Ministry of Health. One of the reasons could be that Yemenis have two dangerous addictions: smoking and Qat chewing. These two habits have grown tremendously in Yemen throughout the last 10 years for reasons still undecided. While there is a lot of attention given to the Qat issue in Yemen, relatively less is being given to smoking as a bad health and social habit. Health research indicates that both issues are hazardous to health... Here are some revealing facts.

Qat and its effect:

Not much research has been done into the side effects of Qat. But studies indicate that it certainly causes weight loss and insomnia. It may also be the cause of mouth cancer and, although many claim it is an excellent aphrodisiac, in the long term it could probably also result in impotence. In the USA and most of Europe it is classified as a drug and is illegal. In Britain and Holland however it is not used regularly by Africans and Yemenis.

Studies in Yemen showed that the incidence of heart attacks among Qat chewers is 49% higher than in non-chewers. Regular users had bad gum disease, a tendency to lose teeth, and a higher incidence of esophageal and gastric cancers. The plant has also been linked to a reduction in sperm quality and impotency.

Death cases occurring because of Qat chewing are usually as a result of masticating Qat leaves treated with highly poisonous chemical substances. In those situations, it is mostly in connection with the Topaz chemical product, which is usually used by farmers to prompt the growth of Qat plants. Yemeni markets are crammed with tens of internationally prohibited as well as expired chemical products mostly used by Qat farmers.

There is also an increased sensitivity to sensory stimulation; excessive Qat use may cause

hyperesthesia (over excited). Hyperactivity may be observed, and the associated behavioral syndrome can be described as hypothemia; a manifestation of irresponsible fearlessness has also been reported.

Qat leaves contain chemicals that are mildly stimulating. They contain three alkaloids: cathine, cathinine, and cathidine, as well as sugars, tannins, and vitamin C in great amounts. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers Qat to have amphetamine-like properties, and categorizes it as a separate drug group in which it is the sole member. In its analysis of Qat, the WHO contends that chronic Qat-chewing can cause hypertension in young adults.

Consumption of Qat leads to many oral effects including oral mucosal lesions, dryness of the mouth, discoloration of teeth, poor oral hygiene and periodontal disease. While the majority of Qat chewers think that the health risk that Qat has is highly exaggerated, they don't argue the point that it is unhealthy. Yet on the other hand the issue is given much more importance than it deserves. Perhaps because it is not a major concern for the world community.

Smoking and its effects:

The research, published by The Lancet medical journal, concludes that over 5 million people died from smoking worldwide in 2004 - 2.61 million in developing countries and 2.39 million in rich nations. Newly developing countries seem to be the most at risk of smoking as forecasts show that 70 percent of the 10 million people predicted to die yearly by the year 2025 are from developing countries.

In the late nineties, Professor Judith Mackay, the Hong Kong based director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, said that there were 1.1 billion smokers worldwide, but she estimated that by 2025 this would grow to 1.64 billion owing to longer life spans, bigger populations, and more women smokers.

About 87% of lung cancer deaths are caused by smoking. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women, and is one of the most difficult cancers to treat. The overwhelming medical and scientific consensus that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other serious diseases in smokers. Smokers are far



Usually when people chew qat, they smoke.

more likely to develop serious diseases, like lung cancer, than non-smokers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), smoking has caused 12 million deaths in the United States since the first Surgeon General's Report was released in 1964.

Nearly 1 of every 5 deaths in the United States are related to smoking. Cigarettes kill more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, suicide, AIDS, homicide, and illegal drugs combined.

Based on data collected from 1995 to 1999, the CDC estimated that adult male smokers lost an average of 13.2 years of life and female smokers lost 14.5 years of life because of smoking.

Although 70% of smokers want to quit and 35% attempt to quit each year, less than 5% succeed. This in return shows a desire to quit by the people, but in the same time losing hope that they could ever succeed in

quitting smoking before its too late.

The comparison:

Comparing both Qat and smoking one would definitely realize that both are a health risk. While smoking being many times a higher life threatening habit than Qat. In spite of this fact, health attention in Yemen focuses more on fighting Qat and not Smoking. One would argue that Qat is of particular interest in Yemen because it is much common than other countries around the world while smoking is spread overall. Over one million people around the world are smokers, not to mention second hand smokers could easily number a billion as well. Countries around the world put huge amounts of taxes on cigarettes sales, trying to discourage the addiction of smoking, comparing to Yemen where the highest quality of a cigarettes package could be easily bought for less than a dollar.

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Brazil and Germany seeded for World Cup draw



A combination of pictures shows faces of volunteers painted with the national flags of some of the countries participating in the soccer finals, as they pose after a news conference to launch the World Cup 2006 gala creative team, in Berlin Nov. 30. REUTERS

LEIPZIG (Reuters) - Hosts Germany and defending champions Brazil were named among the top eight seeds for the World Cup finals as expected on Tuesday, along with England, Spain, Mexico, France, Argentina and Italy. FIFA decided the rest of the draw, which takes place on Friday, would group teams in pots according to their geographical locations rather than their current world ranking or previous World Cup performances. The second pot will contain Australia, the five African finalists: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Angola and Togo, plus the two lower ranked South American teams Ecuador and

Paraguay. The third pot will comprise eight European teams: Croatia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. The fourth pot will comprise four Asian teams: Iran, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the three remaining from CONCACAF Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. A special pot will contain only Serbia & Montenegro, the lowest ranked European team, who will be placed in a group including either Brazil, Argentina or Mexico.

FIFA created the special pot so they could avoid having any groups with more than two European teams. Jim Brown, FIFA's Director of Competitions explained: "The seedings were based on FIFA rankings for the last three years and the last two World Cup finals. "Germany will be seeded in slot A1 in the draw and Brazil in F1, and there were economic factors involved in this decision as those teams are guaranteed to play in larger stadiums." One team from each pot will be drawn into the eight groups in the first stage of the finals in Germany which run from June 9 to July 9.

Duncan in command for Spurs in easy victory over Magic

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Tim Duncan poured in 26 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked five shots to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 110-85 rout over the Orlando Magic in Florida on Monday, stretching their winning streak to four games. Tony Parker contributed 20 points and seven assists to the San Antonio cause, while Robert Horry came off the bench to add 18 as the Spurs improved to a Western Conference best 14-3 behind a 64-point second half surge. Jameer Nelson scored 20 points and DeShawn Stevenson had 15 points and seven rebounds for the slumping Magic, who lost their fourth straight game. Tied 46-46 at halftime, the NBA champion Spurs outscored the Magic 31-15 in the third to take control and a 77-61 lead into the final frame.



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (L) shoots the ball over Orlando Magic forward Pat Garrity (R) during second half NBA action in Orlando, Florida, Dec. 5. The Spurs beat the Magic 110 - 85. REUTERS

The Magic opened the fourth with back-to-back three-pointers by Travis Diener and Pat Garrity to pull back to 78-71. But Orlando would get no closer as Duncan took charge, adding 10 points in the final quarter to help seal the win. In Chicago, Dirk Nowitzki drained 35 points and Marquis Daniels chipped in with 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the Dallas Mavericks

defeated the Bulls 102-94. Adrian Griffin added 14 points and 12 rebounds, while Devin Harris nailed 13 points and dished out a career-high 10 assists as the Mavericks continued their domination over the Bulls in winning for the 14th time in 15 games. Ben Gordon led Chicago with 26 points, while Luol Deng had 25 in the loss. The Bulls lost Kirk Hinrich early in

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Double Olympic champion Holmes quits

LONDON (Reuters) - Double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes retired from running on Tuesday and announced she planned to take up the new challenge of ice dancing on a television reality show. At an emotion-charged news conference the 35-year-old Holmes said she was no longer motivated and had also been deeply upset by the sudden death of a man she had met in Ireland. "I don't want to do it anymore. I have achieved everything I wanted...I have nothing to prove to anybody, including myself," she said. Holmes also said she had met a friend of her physiotherapist during a trip to Ireland, who was not feeling well after falling over in a tennis match. "One minute I was having lunch with the guy and the next minute he had four weeks to live and he died four weeks later," she said. "That was a life-changing experience for me." Holmes then announced a total career change. "I will be starring in 'Dancing On Ice'...I

decided maybe I needed another challenge." "I have never skated before. It is a lot harder than I envisaged. My family find it quite hilarious the thought of me dancing in a tutu. But I am up for it and have started training with a pro dancer," she said. **Rollercoaster career** Holmes confirmed she would not compete at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games next March after missing the Helsinki world championships in August with an Achilles injury. She had been named provisionally in England's team for Melbourne. A former army officer, Holmes left in 1997 to concentrate on athletics and started training with 2000 Olympic champion Maria Mutola. Only the third woman in Olympic history to complete the 800-1,500 double at a single Games, Holmes was the first Briton in 84 years to win two athletics golds in the same Games. "The fact that I hung in there totally

makes me believe in fate," she said of a rollercoaster career that proved a triumph of perseverance over adversity. Her constant battle with injuries prompted twice Olympic 1,500 champion Sebastian Coe, who twice failed to clinch the same double, to write she was a "Rolls Royce athlete being given back-street servicing". Once asked to describe her injuries, Holmes drew a deep breath and said: "Let's see -- hips, femoral nerve, calcification of the hip bone, lower leg problems, shin problems, calf injury." Athens, for her, was the supreme moment. "I am not a religious person at all but I remember sitting in my room the day before the Games started. I closed all my doors and put all my inspirational messages up. "I sat on my bed and a big gust of air swirled around my neck. At that point I knew I was going to do something special and I had that feeling during every day of the Olympic games."

Al Ahly promise expansive football in bid to extend run

TOKYO, Dec 6 (Reuters) - Al Ahly say they will play expansive, modern football as they bid to extend their 55-game unbeaten record at the Club World Championship, which begins on Sunday when the Egyptians face Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad. The opening match involves two teams with similar defensive styles but Al Ahly captain Ahmed Hassan signalled the African champions' intent before the six-team tournament. "We want to make the semi-finals at least," he said. "We didn't come to make up the numbers. We came to win and take

the cup back home." Even if Al Ahly overcome the Asian champions, their remarkable unbeaten run will be severely tested against Brazil's Sao Paulo, who join the competition with European champions Liverpool at the semi-final stage in midweek. Al Ahly's Portuguese coach Manuel Jose does not agree. "We want to go out and play the sort of expansive, modern football we're capable of," Jose told reporters on Tuesday. "Of course we believe we can win all our matches. That is what we will be trying to do to extend our unbeaten record."

The first semi-final takes place in Tokyo on Dec. 14, with Liverpool taking on the winners of Monday's game between Australia's Sydney FC and Costa Rica's Deportivo Saprissa in the second semi-final in Yokohama on Dec. 15. Al Ahly's unbeaten streak stretches back to July 2004 and they have won 39 of those games. The Cairo-based side qualified for the tournament with a 3-0 aggregate victory over Tunisia's Etoile Sahel in the African Champions League last month. The Club World Championship final takes place in Tokyo on Dec. 16.

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World Cup security concerns focus on English, Dutch fans

LEIPZIG, Germany (Reuters) - World Cup organisers said on Wednesday they will focus security concerns on matches involving England and the Netherlands as soon as Friday's draw has determined where they will play.

Hooliganism is a big concern for the 2006 finals in Germany. At the last major tournament to be held in Germany, the 1988 European Championship, there were serious problems involving Dutch, English and German fans.

Tournament rules for the 2006 finals in Germany prevent switching any matches from the venues assigned at Friday's draw in Leipzig.

That could see group games involving England and the Netherlands being held at some of the smaller venues, increasing the chances of ticketless fans turning up and providing a greater security risk.

Hosts Germany and champions Brazil, by contrast, have already been allocated slots to ensure their group matches are played only in the larger stadiums of Berlin, Munich and Dortmund.

"There will be a seminar to provide team delegates with the information they need to allay any concerns," World Cup organising committee vice-president Horst R. Schmidt told a news conference on Wednesday.

"Once we know where England and the Netherlands matches will be, we will come up with concrete plans on security."

Hooliganism was also a major problem the last time the World Cup was held in Europe, in France in 1998. A French policeman was beaten almost to death by German hooligans and English fans rioted in Marseille.

The finals begin on June 9 in Munich, when Germany will play an opponent to be decided in Friday's draw. The final is at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on July 9.



An English soccer supporter is led away by French riot police in St. Etienne during clashes after their match against Argentina June 30, 1998. Reuters

Increase allocations

Schmidt said everything possible would be done to give national associations more than the minimum ticket allocation of eight percent for each match.

"We're promising to make more available if we can," he said.

More tickets could become available for one team if their opponents do not take up their full allocation, or if sponsor, partner or hospitality tickets are returned.

The final public sales window, which opens on December 12, will put around 250,000 tickets up for grabs, Schmidt said. The final figure will be decided by January 31.

Schmidt said there were no plans to abandon the plan to print the holder's name on all tickets, questioned on Monday by FIFA president Sepp Blatter who suggested the German organisers were complicating the scheme by trying to be too perfect.

"It's a huge task but we want to meet our own aims," he said. "We agreed this with the security experts and we will go through with it, even if it is labour intensive."

Organising committee president Franz Beckenbauer rejected criticism of Germany's stadiums after the recent structural problems experienced at the Kaiserslautern, Nuremberg and Frankfurt grounds.

"This is trivial," Beckenbauer said. "It's being played up because people are getting very excited."

Beckenbauer, who won the World Cup as captain with West Germany in 1974 and as coach in 1990, tipped champions Brazil as clear favourites to defend their title.

"My top favourite is Brazil," he said. "They played very well in the Confederations Cup recently and if they confirm that performance they will be very, very difficult to beat."

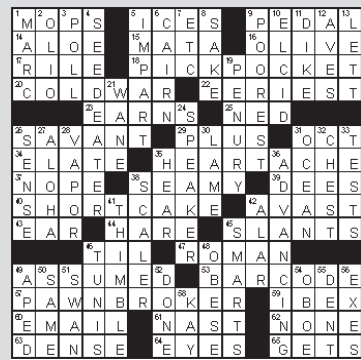
"Of the rest, we have the traditional favourites of Germany, England, Italy and Argentina."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

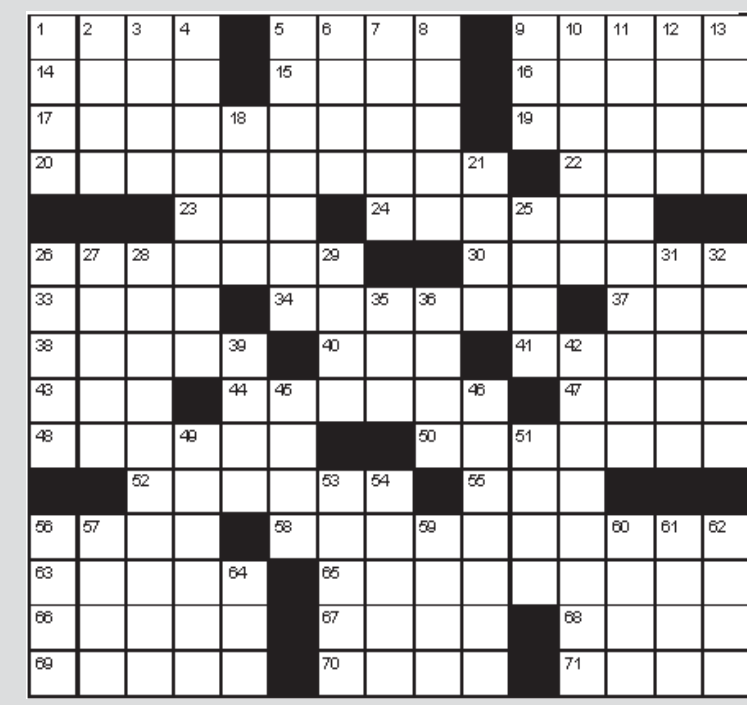
- ACROSS**
- 1 9000, e.g.
 - 5 It may be managed
 - 9 Certain faith
 - 14 Humdinger
 - 15 Hale of "Gilligan's Island"
 - 16 Buyer be where?
 - 17 Spiderlike
 - 19 Party hearty
 - 20 Fashionable New York address
 - 22 Audition, in a way
 - 23 Palindromic constellation
 - 24 Disney film dog (with "Old")
 - 26 Easily insurable
 - 30 You'll find them standing in malls
 - 33 Golfer Aoki
 - 34 Medium-sized sofa
 - 37 Capt. Jean-Picard
 - 38 Macheles originated in the Philippines
 - 40 Parliamentary vote
 - 41 Where some people have it made
 - 43 Pipe joint
 - 44 Early archbishop of Canterbury
 - 47 Words with sit or look
 - 48 Nielsen or Uggams
 - 50 Type of yard in a Burt Reynolds flick
 - 52 Lake Erie port
 - 55 Japanese drama
 - 56 Ethnic round dance
 - 58 Where cowboys hear
 - 63 Uninterruptedly
 - 65 Becomes aware of
 - 66 Arab chieftain (Var.)
 - 67 And others (Abbr.)
 - 68 ___ serif
 - 69 Hold another hearing for
 - 70 Prescribed amount
 - 71 Opposite of ecto-
 - 11 Where romantics bowl?
 - 12 Bailiwick
 - 13 Pinocchio play
 - 18 Mata ___ (infamous spy)
 - 21 Sommer of film
 - 25 More than fudges
 - 26 Malign in print
 - 27 "___ Mio"
 - 28 Where much of the talk is bull?
 - 29 Home and end, for two
 - 31 Acclaim
 - 32 Aroma
 - 35 Golf expendable
 - 36 Like some orders
 - 39 Crossjack, e.g.
 - 42 Certain apartment building
 - 45 At no time, poetically
 - 46 Prop for Mr. Peanut
 - 49 Temporary vehicle
 - 51 Lymph ___
 - 53 Drugged chemical
 - 54 "___ Billie Joe"
 - 56 Earth mover
 - 57 Words with "Lay it" or "The joke's"
 - 59 Memorable periods in world history
 - 60 Infamous czar
 - 61 Blow off steam
 - 62 Classic gas brand
 - 64 Liquor-free

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"ROAD MAP" by Patrick McConville



United need Best-type inspiration in Lisbon



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal controls the ball during a training session at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon Dec. 6. REUTERS

LONDON (Reuters) - Twice European Cup winners Manchester United, whose attack boasts Wayne Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy, must end a surprising three-match scoring drought to avoid Champions League elimination in Lisbon on Wednesday.

Benfica, who a United side inspired by George Best memorably crushed 5-1 in Portugal in 1966 and beat at Wembley to lift the trophy for the first time two years later, stand between them and a place in the knockout phase for the 10th successive season.

United have not scored in Group D since beating Benfica 2-1 at Old Trafford in September and are in a precarious third place a point behind lead-

ers Villarreal. They are level with Lille but have an inferior head-to-head record against the French team.

Benfica are bottom a point further back but will qualify from the tightest of the eight groups with a victory.

United could go through with a draw but that would only happen if Villarreal beat Lille at home in the other game.

The only other berth in the knockout phase still undecided is the runner-up in Group C, which has already been won by tournament favourites Barcelona.

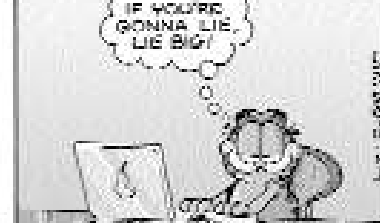
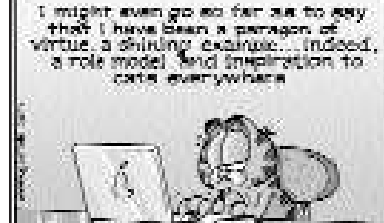
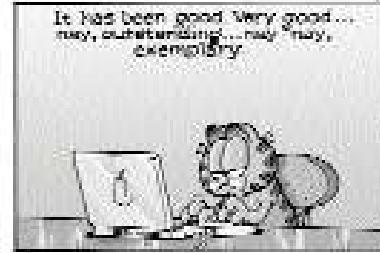
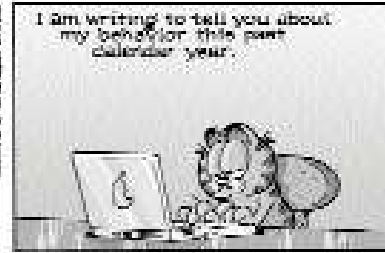
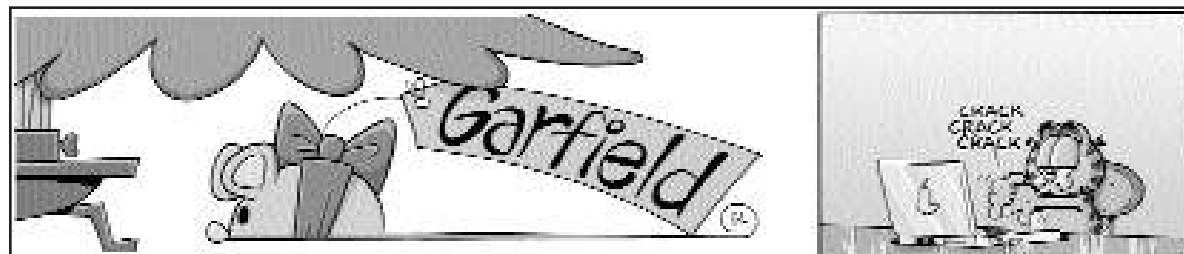
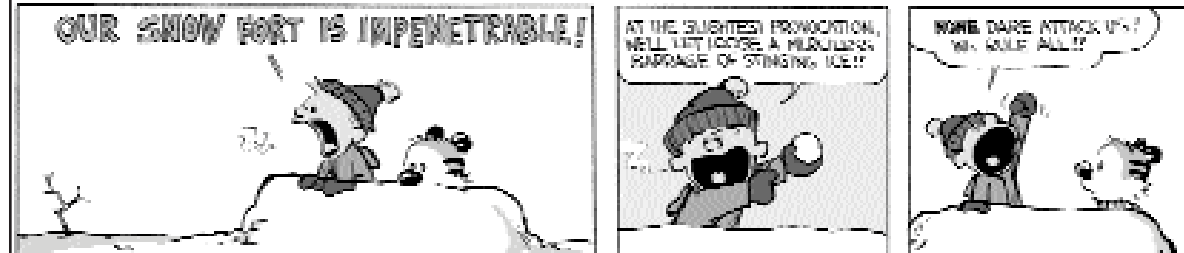
Udinese will secure second place with a draw at home to European Footballer of the Year Ronaldinho's team but defeat for the Italians would open the way for Werder Bremen if they

beat Panathinaikos at home.

In Group A, Bayern Munich and Juventus will be vying for first place when they face Rapid Vienna and Club Brugge away respectively.

Arsenal, who have won Group B with a perfect 15 points so far, and second-placed Ajax meet at Highbury with their berths secured, while Swiss surprise package Thun need a draw at Sparta Prague to clinch a UEFA Cup qualifying spot in third place.

Fixtures in Groups E to H were completed on Tuesday with 2005 finalists AC Milan, PSV Eindhoven and Rangers joining holders Liverpool, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Olympique Lyon and Real Madrid in the knockout phase.



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٤١٤-٣٧/٤٢٤-٤٣٣

سفرات

مركز أبولو للتجارة والسفرات
الانشط للسفرات والسياحة
الجزيرة العربية للسفرات والسياحة
النسيم للسفرات
مرجان للسفرات
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة

٤٤٤٠٠٠/٨٨٨
٤٤٠٩٣٠/٨٨٩
٤١٠٣٠٢-٤١٤٧٥٥
٢٧٠٧٥٠
٤٠٠٧٢٢
٤٤١١٥٩٩/٦

مطاعم

مطعم مخبزة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥

سنان للنظارات

عرض خاص
ب ٤٧٠٠ ريال

أفحص عينيك بالكمبيوتر واستمتع عندساتك
اللاصقة طبية شفافة مؤقتة (6 أشهر) فوراً
هدية فورية (محلول ٢٤٠ م)

الصنعا - شارع الزبيري جوار البنك العربي
تلفون: ٤٦٠٤٦ - ٤٦٠٥٩٧

للبيع: عمارة تتكون من سبعة أدوار - ٤ لبن - على شارعين رئيسيين
العلاقات العامة وشؤون الموظفين بشركة عربية أمريكية - دورات في أنظمة السلامة في أرمكو + رخصة قيادة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية
للتواصل: ٧١٤٠٤٢٢٢

مطلوب بيت + غرفة مستقلة للحراسة + حوش + ماء وكهرياء (مستقلة)
للتواصل: ٧١٢٨٦٦١١

للإيجار: ٤ غرف + ٢ حمام + مطبخ + مخزن - جديد وتشطيب لوكنس - شارع تعز
للتواصل: ٧١٧٧١١٠٦-٢٤٦٠٩

للإيجار: يوجد مطعم بكامل تجهيزات بأحد الفنادق بالحديدة (الفندق من الدرجة الأولى)
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٠٢١ أبو فواز

يوجد لدينا للإيجار في مدينة الحديدية بدروم مساحته 120 متر مربع على شارع القاهرة - الخط الدائري سابقاً فمن له الرغبة لمستودع أو أي شئ آخر الإتصال بالمالك على: ٧٧٧٥٠٢١ أو ٧٣٨٠٧١٠٨

عقارات

للبيع: عمارة تتكون من سبعة أدوار - ٤ لبن - على شارعين رئيسيين
السعر مغري
للتواصل: ٧١٤٠٤٢٢٢

مطلوب بيت + غرفة مستقلة للحراسة + حوش + ماء وكهرياء (مستقلة)
للتواصل: ٧١٢٨٦٦١١

للإيجار: ٤ غرف + ٢ حمام + مطبخ + مخزن - جديد وتشطيب لوكنس - شارع تعز
للتواصل: ٧١٧٧١١٠٦-٢٤٦٠٩

للإيجار: يوجد مطعم بكامل تجهيزات بأحد الفنادق بالحديدة (الفندق من الدرجة الأولى)
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٠٢١ أبو فواز

يوجد لدينا للإيجار في مدينة الحديدية بدروم مساحته 120 متر مربع على شارع القاهرة - الخط الدائري سابقاً فمن له الرغبة لمستودع أو أي شئ آخر الإتصال بالمالك على: ٧٧٧٥٠٢١ أو ٧٣٨٠٧١٠٨

سيارات

للبيع: سيارة هوندا (ياباني) أكورد موديل سنة 1994 سوداء - كل قطع الغيار وكالة - مواصفات أمريكية - الحالة جيدة جداً
للتواصل: ٧٣٨٢٨٤٦٥

للبيع: سيارة 1996 جيب شيروكي أتوماتيك - الحالة ممتازة
السعر مغري
للتواصل: ٧٣٧٠٦٨٢٠ جمال

للبيع: سيارة تويوتا كورولا موديل 2003م الجير أتوماتيك 2200 كم
اللون: أبيض - وكالة
للتواصل: ٧٣٧٢٧٠٥

للبيع: مرسيدس بينز E240 موديل 1999 مواصفات كاملة + تلفزيون + فيديو سي دي + نظام تلفون بلوتون
السعر: 18,000 \$
للتواصل: ٧١١٣٢٥٨٢١

للبيع: سيارة سكودا فابيا موديل 2002 مدة الإستخدام 8 أشهر تاريخ شراؤها 2005/2 من الوكالة - اللون أبيض - مكيفه جير عادي
للتواصل: ٧٣٥٠٩٤٢٠-٢٠٨٨٠٥

للبيع أول إيجار - سيارة لاندروفر (ديسكفري) في حالة جيدة جداً
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٣١١١١-٦٧٨٠٤٧٠٠

اثاث، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، وأشياء أخرى

للبيع أو الإيجار: جهاز أسنان مستعمل + معقمة حرارية
للتواصل: ٧٣٨٠٧١٠٨ / ٢١٨٨٢٤ / ٧٧٨٥٠٧٨٧ عبد الجبار

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وظائف شاغرة

مطلوب موظفة لمكتب الكوثر لترجمة الواقع أمام سوبر ماركت الهدى فوق بنك الرافدين - شارع الزبيري - صنعاء
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٠٢٠٩١ حسين علي

مطلوب مدير صالات في مطعم سياحي راقي وبراتب مجزي ، على أن تتوفر في المتقدم خبرة لا تقل عن ثلاث سنوات في نفس المجال أو في المجال الفندقية
وترسل السيرة الذاتية على الرقم ٧٤٨٠٢٤/٠١

مطلوب مدرس للموسيقى للعمل في المدرسة التركية الدولية لفنم الإبتدائي الرجاء إرسال السيرة الذاتية أو التواصل على الأرقام : تلفون: ٤١٢٦٤٥ أو فاكس: ٤١٢٠٢٨

يعلن مركز اللغة البريطاني B.L.C عن حاجته لعدد
١- مدرس لغة إنجليزية
٢ عدد سكرتيرات
بشرط أن تتوفر فيهن ١- حاصل على الإعدادية أو الثانوية العامة
٢- يتم التدريب والتأهيل في المركز
للتواصل: ٤٤٠٧٠٢/٢ عبد الحكيم منصور - مدير المركز

مطلوب طبيبة أسنان للعمل لفترة صباحية شرط وجود خبرة لا تقل عن ٢ سنوات
للتواصل: ٢١٨٨٢٤ عبد الجبار غنام

مطلوب لوظيفة موظف استقبال لفندق درجة أولى في محافظة الحديدية يكون خريج سياحة وفندقة
للتواصل: ٧٣٨٠٧١٠٨ - ٧٧٧٥٠٢١ أبو فواز

باحثون عن وظيفة

عادل مشهور - بكالوريوس تحكم الي والسيطرة والمراقبة (لوحات التحكم PLC)
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٢٥٠٩٨

دكتور / محمد صالح الظلماني - دكتوراة في العلوم الصيدلانية - خبرة طويلة في الإدارة والتسويق والتعليم والتصنيع الدوائي - يجيد اللغات الآتية (الإنجليزية - الألمانية - الروسية والعربية) - يرغب في العمل في مجال التعليم أو الصناعة أو التجارة الدوائية الغير حكومية أو المختلطة بما فيها المؤسسات العامة الخاصة داخل وخارج اليمن
للتواصل: ٠١/٢٤٦٨٠٢ ص.ب: ٢٣٤٢

عبدالله النعماني - بكالوريوس محاسبة ومراجعة - تقدير عام جيد جداً - من أرائل اللغة 2002م - خبرة خمس سنوات في الحسابات والمراجعة في شركة عملاقة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - حاصل على دورات في الحسابات والمراجعة - يجيد المراسلة عبر الإنترنت - يرغب في العمل في أي مكان حتى خارج الوطن
للتواصل: ٧٣٧٤٣٧٢٩

مصطفى منصور ناشر - بكالوريوس محاسبة مالية - جامعة صنعاء د/ علوم حاسوب .المعهد العام للإصلاات - 6 سنوات خبرة في الحسابات
للتواصل: ٧١٩٠١٥٢٧

باحث عن عمل - لغة إنجليزية لإبأس بها - إجابة كمبيوتر لإبأس بها - ثانوية عامة - يرغب في عمل في العلاقات العامة أو السياحة أو أي عمل قابل للتطوير
للتواصل: ٠١/٢٣١٥٨٠ - سيار: ٧٣١١٣١٩٢

صنعا - سيار: ٧١٢٧٨٠٩

يوسف الفتح - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة أكثر من ثلاث سنوات - دبلوم سكرتارية حديثة - خبرة في برنامج يمن سوفت - أربع دورات لغة إنجليزية
للتواصل: ٧١٥٧٨٦٩

موجهة لغة إنجليزية مقيمة في تعز ترغب في إعطاء دروس خصوصية لجميع المراحل (أولاد - بنات)
هاتف المنزل: ٤/٢٢٨٨٧٢

مويايل: ٧٣٦٥٤٠٤٢

سعيد محمد عبد الله التهامي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة ثلاث سنوات كمحاسب - دبلوم كمبيوتر وإنترنت - يجد اللغة الإنجليزية والنرويجية + خبرة سنتين في منظمة إنسانية بالنرويج كإداري
للتواصل: ٧١١٥٩٩٩٧

عمار - بكالوريوس آداب لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم تربية إنجليزي - دبلوم حاسوب - دورات في المحاسبة وإدارة المال - إجابة استخدام الإنترنت

After 34 years of huge achievements

UAE marks its prudent progress

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ymayasi@yahoo.com

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) marked its 34th anniversary on the 2nd of December, after achieving huge progress that placed it among the developed countries. The UAE achieved stability and progress by the efforts of late Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan, the founder of UAE in 1970. The people of UAE are now enjoying the development fruits that resulted in the stability and prosperity we see today,

which was led by Sheikh Zaid who devoted his life for building this state.

The successful model of UAE deserves to be respected and followed. It is a model of a developing country that in a short period managed to become a leading economy in the Arab world.

To display some of the trends of progress, here are some excerpts of the millennium development goals report of the UAE, which was issued in January 2005 by UAE Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the UN Development Program. The report acclaimed the progress that UAE had achieved during three decades. It pre-

sented the comprehensive social and economic development and the high standard of living for the people of UAE. The report assured the state's pledge to pursue a policy of diversifying its economy through adopting sustainable development that would protect the environment. It related the economical success and the progress of development to the social, political, and security stability. It also mentioned the developed infrastructure that came as a result of the free and varied financial policy of encouraging investment in the different production sectors.

The financial success of UAE reveals

a huge economic gap, if compared with the other countries of the region that failed to develop their economies. The success of the UAE is attributed to diversifying its national income away from oil and gas sectors. This secured revenue of 224 billion Dirham in 2005.

The country Gross Domestic Product rate in 2005 jumped to 3.1 %, which reached 101.1 thousand Dirhams. The Industrial Bank managed to fund 472 projects. Additionally, the Free Trade and Industrial Zone became a significant factor in attracting international investments and enhanced foreign trade. There are now more than 16 free zones that enjoy the membership of several international free zones establishments.

The educational sector has also witnessed successive boosting. The public and private schools were 1300 by the end of 2005. There are 40 universities and high polytechnic colleges. It is worth mentioning that the UAE has followed a balanced and credible policy in its international relations, which resulted in the generation of strong international economic ties.

Yemen and UAE - distinctive old relations

The Yemeni-UAE relations are historical ones and developing. The diplomatic relations was established in 1971 after which formal visits exchanged between Sana'a and Abu Dhabi. The first visit for Sheikh Zaid to Sana'a was in 12 March 1977. There were other visits, but the most important among them was the one in which Sheikh Zaid laid the base stone for Marib Dam in the early eighties. President Saleh also paid a number of visits to UAE and commitments for promoting bilateral political and financial relations were formed.

Abu Dhabi Development Fund offered many loans that helped in promoting the



Promising economy: UAE has become a spot of attraction for many international companies.

national development projects in Yemen; for example, the fund financed the Sana'a Water project. It also helped in financing the south highlands rural development projects, aiming at increasing the agricultural product of the area to 50 thousand hectares. The fund also contributed to the technical studies of Wadi Siham in 1980. It also financed the construction of Aden Electric Power Station in addition to enlarging and developing its port.

The New Marib Dam

The fund furnished a large sum for the first phase of the rebuilding of Marib Dam project according to the directions of Sheikh Zaid. The new dam was built near the old one and now irrigates vast agricultural areas. It is an earth dam with a maximum height of 40 m, crest length 763 m and maximum retention volume of 398 million cubic meters.

After the unification of Yemen in 1990, the Republic of Yemen became an important market for the UAE products. This helped the two countries to set a good model in international relations.

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Japan's games displayed at the Culture House

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Kites, spinning tops, and other games meet you at the Sana'a-based Culture House. Inaugurated Sunday Dec 4, 2005, the show is extending over eight days in the city of Sana'a before it moves to Taiz, 260 kms south of Sana'a, to be staged at the headquarters of al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture during December 14-24, 2005.

The event was the offshot of collaboration between the Japanese Embassy, Yemeni Ministry of Culture and Al-Sa'eed Foundation. A wide range of kites with different labels and shapes face you and one gets amazed at the exotic products.

Mrs Terumi Yamazak, the Cultural Attaché at the Japanese Embassy, admits that kites and spinning tops are popular games played by children in particular all over the world but the Japanese variants "have their own distinctive features".

The origin of kites was China and they moved and flourished in Japan. They were flown even by grownups on festive occasions. Kites were also flown

in order to ward off evil. They were often decorated with demon's faces in order to pray for the safety of the family and to ensure its protection from sickness and disaster. Some kites have faces with long tongues sticking out since that gesture is thought to frighten away evil spirits. In another vein, there are also games in which one's kite tries to win by cutting the strings of the other kites.

Tops, on the other hand, were introduced into Japan from China and Korea about 1200 years ago. Around the turn of the eighteenth century, clever performing tops manipulated by entertainers were very popular and they were used in gambling with some people betting their entire houses and fortunes on their favorite top. Depending on how they are spun, tops can be divided into four categories: twisted tops, rubbed tops, string tops, and thrown tops.

According to the Japanese officer, the estimated number of visitors on the first day was in the excess of 2000 and all showed interest in the exhibition and gave their comments which rated the function high.

Although it is a simple idea, the show



Japanese used kites with the demon image to scare away evil spirits

has a significance in terms of enhancing cultural bonds with Japan.

"We would like to introduce the Japanese traditional games into Yemen and further improve relations", the Cultural Attaché added.

The major part of the show is devoted to kites and tops but there were other games such as Darumaotoshi, Hanetsuki, Wanage, Kendama etc.

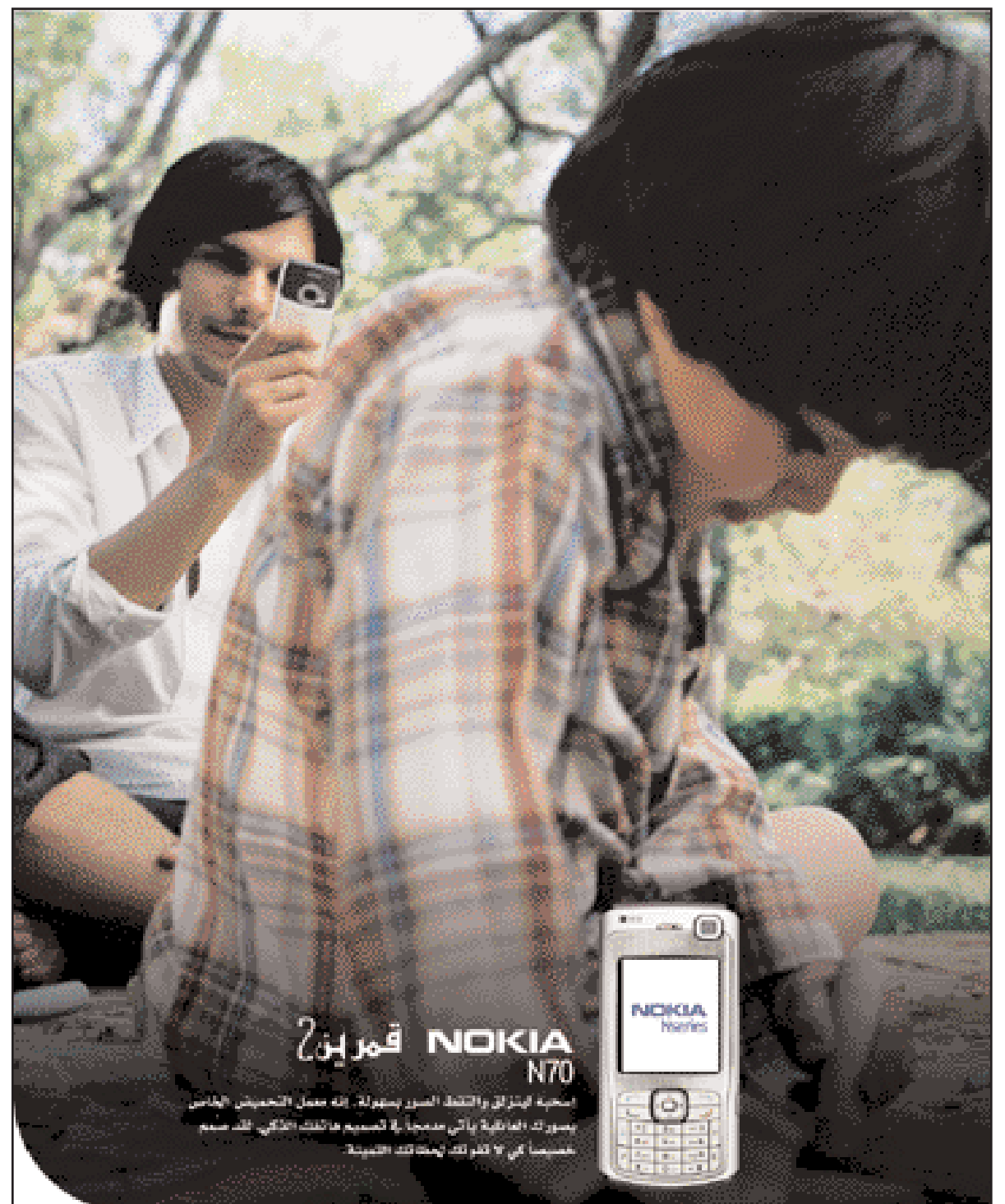
Children's paintings:

In another wing of the show, there lay a host of paintings drawn by Japanese students as a gesture of friendship with Yemeni students who earlier had showed their gratitude to Japan for educational aids in the form of constructing schools in some areas of the country.

It is not the first time for Japan to hold such activities in Yemen. Last February, there was a theatrical performance and last year a number of activities were organized like the Japanese graphic arts exhibition and the visit of a Japanese troupe as part of the celebration of Sana'a as the Capital of the Arab Culture in 2004.



Some of the traditional Japanese crafts



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