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At least 14 killed, dozens wounded in new Sa'ada clashes

SA'ADA, Jan. 18 - Different media outlets reported this week that armed confrontations between military and security troops and Al-Houthi supporters entrenched in the mountains of Sa'ada governorate have entered their fourth week.
 Media sources stated that armed confrontations between Al-Houthi supporters and Sheikh Al-Aujari's men, backed by the government, lasted one week.
 Last Friday's confrontations were the fiercest since fighting broke out once again between Al-Houthi followers and government troops and tribesmen standing with them.
 Some Al-Houthi followers managed to control Al-Fakhdhain Mountain where Sheikh Al-Aujari, standing with the government, was entrenched

Friday night following fierce fighting that claimed the lives of two Al-Aujari tribesmen and injured another eight, including two sons of Al-Aujari's brother. Al-Fakhdhain Mountain was subjected to extensive missile and mortar firing by the army in Nishour.
 According to sources, government forces used different weapons to attack the mountain until noon Friday. This eased the task of Al-Aujari's men regaining control of the mountain after suffering deaths and injuries. Four Al-Houthi followers reportedly were killed and three wounded in fighting to assume control of the mountain.
 Military troops and Al-Aujari tribesmen dominated Al-Fakhdhain Mountain and continued firing missiles and mortars at Al-Baidha Mountain where Al-Houthi followers were hiding

earlier in the week. According to the same sources, government troops never scored a commendable victory.
 Bloody confrontations between Al-Houthi supporters and the army are spreading to different areas of Sihar District, the fiercest of which was in Al-Sharj, where Al-Houthi supporters destroyed armored vehicles and seized three soldiers. Many fighters on both sides reportedly have been killed in the area.
 Night raids and guerrilla warfare are spreading in the mountains of Anm, Fillah, Bani Muad, Al-Khazaen and Al-Talh. Government forces destroyed a number of buildings belonging to Al-Houthi supporters in Bani Muad, sources said.
 Journal and tribal sources said Salim's area was under heavy bom-

bardment until this past Monday, with approximately eight people killed during Eid. These developments came in the wake of reconciliation efforts the past two weeks, led by Al-Baidha governor, Brigadier Yahia Al-Shami.
 Sources say Al-Shami and the area's military field commander, Brigadier Ali Muhsin, met with Al-Houthi envoy Abdulkareem Ameeradeen Al-Hothi. Results of the talks are not known, however pessimism prevails amid the massive bombardments.
 In Al-Jawf Governorate tension still prevails following official evacuation of Jabal Ham residents in Al-Zahir and Al-Mitoun districts. The evacuees are accused of being Al-Houthi followers. Observers fear the evacuation could be the beginning of attacks similar to those in Sa'ada.

King Faisal International Prize Winners 2006

RIYADH, Jan 13 - The 29th annual King Faisal International Prize winners were announced recently. Seven winners from around the world won King Faisal's International prizes in the fields of science, medicine, Arabic language and literature and service to Islam. The winners of the service to Islam are H.E. Shaikh Salih bin Abd Al-Rahman Al-Husayyin from Saudi Arabia, and Shaikh Yusuf bin Jasim bin Muhammad Al-Hidji from Kuwait. Winner of Arabic Language and literature are Professor Tammam Hassan Omar from Egypt and Professor Abdelkader Fassi Fehri, topic of research was The Arabic Language in Modern Linguistics. Winner in medicine is Professor Michael Anthony Gimbrone, Jr. from USA whose research was on Biology of Vascular Inflammation. Winners in science are Professor Simon Kirwan Donaldson from UK and Professor Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan from India whose research area was Mathematics.

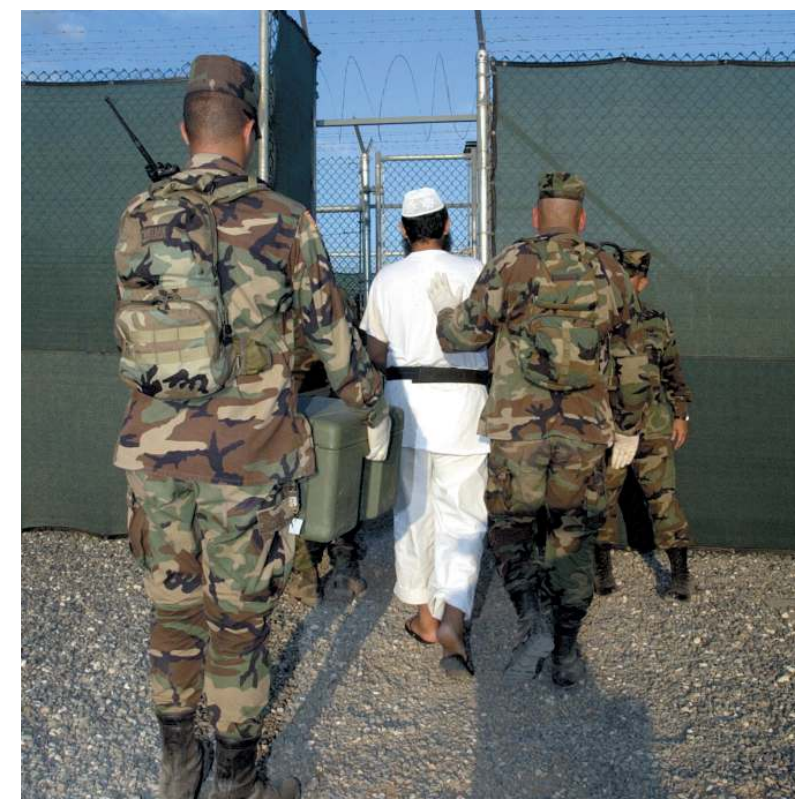


of the Foundation, the King Faisal International Prize is the most widely known. By drawing attention to important issues and rewarding gifted scientists who have made these issues a priority in their careers, it is hoped that the direct and indirect effects of the Prize will be far reaching.
 Prizes for Service to Islam, Islamic Studies, and Arabic Literature were established in 1977 and first awarded in 1979. In 1981 the Prize Board added Medicine; Science was included in 1982. They were awarded in 1982 and 1984 respectively.
 Each year, the selection committees designate subjects in Islamic Studies, Arabic Literature, and Medicine. Topics in Islamic Studies highlight areas of importance in Muslim society; Arabic Literature related to specialized areas within the discipline. Subjects in Medicine are reflecting current areas of international concern. The Science sub-categories cover a broad scope: physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology.
 Nominations for the Prizes are accepted from international institutions and organizations only, and not from individuals or political parties. Winners of the Prize for Service to Islam are chosen directly by the respective selection committee. For other Prize categories, pre selection by peer reviewers is carried out, following which the works of worthy nominees are submitted for further scrutiny by selected referees appropriate to each discipline. Autonomous, international, specialist selection committees are then convened at the headquarters of King Faisal Foundation in Riyadh each January to make their final decisions.
 Merit alone governs the rigorous selection procedures, earning King Faisal International Prize the distinction of being among the most prestigious of international awards to scholars and scientists who have made the most significant advances to benefit humanity and enrich human knowledge. This year's awards bring the total number of laureates to 175 distinguished individuals from 38 countries.
 Each of the five Prize categories consists of a certificate, hand written in Arabic calligraphy, summarizing the laureate's work; a commemorative 24 carat, 200 gram gold medal, uniquely cast for each Prize; and a cash endowment of SR750,000 (US \$200,000). Co winners in any category share the monetary grant. The Prizes are awarded during a ceremony in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the King of Saudi Arabia.
 King Faisal International Prize laureates have earned numerous other prestigious national and international prizes for their efforts. In some cases, King Faisal International Prize has preceded other international awards, including even the Nobel Prize, thus validating the rigorous and unbiased selection process.
 The granting of these Prizes embodies King Faisal Foundation's firm belief that through the collective efforts of outstanding individuals the highest aspirations of mankind are realized. The Prizes enable the Foundation to show its appreciation to men and women who have made truly outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

Yemeni citizen refuses to be tried before American military court

Agencies, Jan. 15 - The American UPA agency stated last Wednesday that Yemeni citizen Ali Hamza Al-Bahloli refused to testify before an American military court. Detained in Guantanamo, Al-Bahloli confessed that he was a bodyguard for Osama Bin Laden and an Al-Qaeda member. He refused to attend the military court hearing on war crime accusations against him because he does not recognize the court.
 A source said Al-Bahloli is one of nine Guantanamo detainees accused of committing war crimes. He is accused of committing war crimes by working as a Bin Laden bodyguard and preparing videotapes to recruit new Al-Qaeda members.
 Most of the 500 Guantanamo detainees have been held for years without charges. Al-Bahloli said prisoners have been beaten and tortured; however, he ascertained that British detainees will not be referred to military committees.
 Speaking in Arabic before the court, Al-Bahloli stated, "I do not recognize an illegal court established by the enemies of Islamic countries." He continued, "There will be judgment by God on the Day of Resurrection. Do whatever you like and judge as you are supposed to judge, but God will judge fairly."
 He objected to the prospect of introducing secret evidence and protested against American description of detainees as illegal fighters. He

explained, "We are war captives and legal fighters according to our religion. We do not care about your descriptions."
 Al-Bahloli refused to meet Army-appointed defense lawyer, Major Tom Filner, saying he will represent himself. He faces life imprisonment if found guilty. He refused to confess to or deny charges against him. Al-Bahloli concluded his participation in court procedures by saying one English word, "boycott," then took off headphones through which he was following Arabic translation. The military court set a May 15 preliminary trial date.
 The Pentagon is going ahead with the case, although an American court had stopped the trial of three other Guantanamo prisoners, waiting for a Supreme Court ruling which will determine whether Bush has the right to establish such courts. The Supreme Court will hold a hearing in March.
 America now is facing internal and external criticism over its handling of the Guantanamo affair. Since the first detainees arrived from Afghanistan January 11, 2002, they still are handcuffed and made to wear dark glasses and surgical masks.
 In related news, 10 American lawyers from the Constitutional Rights Protection Center will travel to Sana'a to meet the families of Yemeni Guantanamo prisoners. A source from Human Rights Organization for



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (WWW.DEFENSELINK.MIL)

Protection of Rights and Freedom (HOOD) said the lawyers will inform prisoners' families about procedures to defend their relatives and reflect on what is to be done next in continuing their efforts. The source told News Yemen the lawyers will hold a press conference at the end of the meetings.

Italians' kidnappers stand trial

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
 SANA'A, Jan. 11 - On Wednesday, the Specialized Penal Court began the trial of six accused kidnappers of five Italian tourists on January 1. At the first session of their trial, the six confessed that they willingly surrendered themselves to security authorities after negotiating with them in the presence of the Minister of Interior deputy and Serwah district mayor, believing they would settle their differences with the government.
 The six confessed to kidnapping five Italian tourists in Serwah district in Marib. The Italian hostages remained in captivity for six days. However, they denied the court's indictment that they formed an armed gang mainly to kidnap tourists.

The six accused are: Najji Mohammed Al-Zaidi, Mohammed Saleh Saleh Al-Zaidi, Merei' Ali Ahmed Al-Ameri, Ali Saleh Ubad Al-Zaidi, Abed Sahel Saleh Al-Zaidi and Hadi Mohammed Al-Ameri. All reside in Marib's Serwah.
 The prosecution presented evidence in which the accused confessed their crime and how they planned to kidnap the Italian tourists. According to prosecution's investigation of the accused, the kidnappers met at Saleh Ubad Al-Zaidi's house, arranged their weapons and cars and then kidnapped the Italians in Marib at noon on January 1. They forcibly kidnapped the five Italian tourists, took their car and brought them to Al-Multaqa village in Serwah district.
 Upon hearing of the kidnapping, security forces and terrorism fighting troops tightly surrounded the Marib area. The Italian Embassy in Sana'a urged the government not to resort to force and to seek a peaceful solution instead. The kidnappers stuck to their sole demand for releasing the hostages, which was the release of their detained relatives.
 On January 6, mediation efforts by MP Sheikh Jaabel Tua'eman and



PHOTO BY SABA NEWS AGENCY

Sheikh Derham Al-Dhama, general secretary of the local council in Serwah district, persuaded the kidnappers to release the Italian tourists in exchange for following up procedures in the case of the detained tribesmen.
 The accused still demand eight Al-Zaidi tribesmen detained by security authorities be set free. The government detained the eight tribesmen to force the tribe to hand over the murderers of Sheikh Abdulwali Al-Qiari, killed by a group of armed men, who authorities believe are from Beit Al-Zaidi, in Sana'a at the end of 2004.
 Lawyers for the accused, Saqr Abdulaziz Al-Samawi and Mohammed Tua'eman, asked the court to give them a copy of the case file and allow relatives of the accused to visit them. The court agreed to allow them to copy some case documents, as well as allow relative visits. It suspended the trial until next week.

King Faisal Foundation believes that it is through the collective efforts of outstanding individuals that the highest aspirations are realized. The annual presentation of King Faisal International Prize enables the Foundation to reward dedicated men and women whose contributions make a positive difference: those who exceptionally serve Islam and Muslims, and the scientists and scholars whose research results in significant advances in specific areas that benefit humanity. This incentive also encourages expanded research that may lead to important medical and scientific breakthroughs.
 Merit and excellence alone are the criteria for selection. As testimony to the high calibre of Prize recipients and to the importance of the research carried out by KFIP laureates, nine winners have gone on to win Nobel prizes for the same works that were recognized by King Faisal International Prize. Incredibly, four of the six Physics and Chemistry Nobel Laureates for 2001 were former KFIP winners.

Topics & Nominations
 Following its inception in 1977 (1397H), the King Faisal International Prize has quickly established itself as one of the world's most prestigious awards. This reputation could not have been accomplished without, firstly, the strict adherence to nomination and selection procedures to ensure that all the winners are selected solely on the basis of merit, and secondly, the continuous support of academic institutions both nationally and internationally. Through the Prize, the King Faisal Foundation seeks to show its appreciation to those individuals who have rendered exceptionally outstanding services to Islam and Muslims, and to scholars and scientists who have made significant contributions and advances in areas that benefit developing and Islamic countries, and humanity at large.
 Each year, Islamic organizations, universities and other learned circles throughout the world nominate individuals for any of the five categories of the Prize. The winners are usually announced in January, and receive their awards two months later in a special ceremony held in Riyadh under the auspices of the King of Saudi Arabia. This ceremony is one of the most important annual events organized by the King Faisal Foundation.

Selection Procedure
 King Faisal Foundation was established in 1976 by the eight sons of the late King Faisal ibn Abd Al Aziz, a son of Saudi Arabia's founder and the Kingdom's third monarch. The ongoing memorial to a great man has revitalized the traditions of Arabic and Islamic Philanthropy.
 Of the many philanthropic activities

Topics for 2007 G / 1427 H	
PRIZE BRANCH	TOPIC
SERVICE TO ISLAM	-
ISLAMIC STUDIES	Muslims' Contribution to Pure or Applied Sciences
ARABIC LANGUAGE	Ancient Arabic
AND LITERATURE	Rhetoric
MEDICINE	Prostate
Cancer	
SCIENCE	Chemistry

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Largest Qatabani temple discovered in Shabwa

Shabwa, Jan. 17 — An Italian archaeological mission working in Yemen has discovered the largest ancient building in Shabwa. As reported in 26 September newspaper, Shabwa antiquities manager said, "The mission carried out excavations for 25 days in the royal palace in old Tamnu' city. The palace goes back to the fifth century BC. The site turned out to be the largest temple discovered in Arabia."

Tamnu' lies in Ausailan-Baihan district, 170 kilometers west of Ataq, capital of Shabwa. It is also 150 kilometers west of historic Shabwa on the old caravan route.

"An American mission for human studies worked at the same site in 1951 and a French mission also worked there," the manager noted.

He continued, "The Italian mission rediscovered the building and removed earth that accumulated on it the past 50 years. The astonishing fact they discovered was that what was once thought to be a royal palace of the Qatabani state turned out to be one of its biggest temples. Its dimensions are approximately 42 by 35 meters. It contains nine bases in the front courtyard and 16 granite pillars." He added that worship cere-



monies were held in the temple.

"Excavations will resume this season on the eastern side of the discovered temple to reveal the secrets of neighboring buildings," the manager stated. "Archeological excavations in the gov-

ernorate have marked out 74 archeological sites so far."

Sixty temples are estimated to be in Tamnu' city alone. Two smaller temples previously were discovered in the city.

First Climate Change Café Scientifique

On Saturday 21 January the British Council launches a new project looking at the world-wide dangers of climate change. Leading British scientists and science communicators, Dr Michele Clarke and Quentin Cooper are coming to Yemen for the first Café Scientifique with students, and for meetings with academics working in this field. The Café Scientifique will be held in the University of Science and Technology (fifth floor, Girl's Branch, by the Sanabani Roundabout) beginning at 1000. Journalists are invited to the press conference at 0900.

Climate change concerns us all. It represents one of the greatest threats to humankind in the 21st century. The next hundred years could see coastlines submerged, and a surge in heat-waves, hurricanes, droughts, floods – and so in disease, famine and displacement. The debate among scientists is not whether climate change is happening, but how quickly it will happen, and how bad the effects will be. For civilisation to survive and prosper, action is essential.

The British Council worldwide is rolling out a programme of activities which aim at raising awareness and stimulating debate about climate change and the challenges we face. In Yemen in early 2005 there will be a series of Cafés Scientifiques, conversa-

tions and discussions between scientists and young people about the connections between science and society. In early summer there will be a major photographic exhibition in Sana'a and Aden, North South East West. Later, the climate change programme will see exchanges of young scientists working in this area between the UK and Yemen, and other countries in the region.

For the first Café Scientifique on 21 January at 1000, Dr Michele Clarke (Nottingham University) and Quentin Cooper (BBC) 'the world's most enthusiastic man' will be meeting students from Sana'a schools for an informal discussion, linked by video-conference to a group of students in Oman. The second Café Scientifique will be on 4 February in Oman and Yemen, and the third in this series on 5 March in the UK and five countries in the region. There will be parallel cafes in Bahrain, UAE and Kuwait.

British Council Director Elizabeth White said, "We want to create a space for making contacts, for exchanging ideas, and for creative discussion of how we can make a difference in our changing climate."

This is a tremendously important issue, and one which interests each and every one of us. Climate change is

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that the authorities will allow fair presidential elections next September?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Prices of the sacrifice animals soared this year. Do you think that poor citizens will manage to buy their sacrifice animals next year?
No 46%
I don't know 27%
Yes 27%

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

going to affect us all; luckily, we can still affect climate change to some degree.

"There's been a lot of interest in this programme already from our partner schools and universities in Sana'a. We're looking forward to working on a range of activities around the topic of climate change over the next year'.

Eritrea denies detaining Yemeni fishermen

SANA'A, Jan.17 — In a statement distributed last Tuesday, the Eritrean Embassy in Sana'a denied that Eritrea has detained Yemeni fishermen.

The embassy said a large number of Yemeni fishermen fish in Eritrean regional waters by official permission of the Ministry of Fisheries in Asmara. It added that Yemeni fishermen receive great respect and kind treatment from the Eritrean government and its people.

The statement released by the embassy denied authenticity of reports that Eritrean authorities exposed Yemeni fishermen's lives to risk. It ruled out the allegation that Eritrean authorities packed 100 Yemeni fishermen into a wooden boat built for one-third that number and drove them toward Yemen for one month.

The embassy said reports published in some Yemeni newspapers are merely fabrications, false accusations and malicious attempts to harm the Eritrean government's reputation and its strong traditional ties with Yemen.

The statement urged the Yemeni press to strive for authentic information when publishing such news in order to maintain the profession's credibility.

Less spread of drugs in Yemen

SANA'A, Jan. 10 — Dr. Hanifa Rabbani, secretary of the International Committee for Combating Drugs (ICCD), affirmed Monday that Yemen is one of the countries witnessing less spread in the drug trade and also less drug consumption. Saba Net reported that in a meeting held Monday between an ICCD delegation and the Ministry of Interior's Department of Combating Drugs (DCD), Hanifa said Yemen exerts much effort in combating the drug trade and addiction.

In the meeting, DCD head Brigadier Khalid Al-Radi discussed with the delegation ways to fight drugs in Yemen with the ICCD's help. Al-Radi said such cooperation produces fruitful results in combating drugs. He added that Yemen is one of the countries approving a 1992 international treaty to combat drugs.

The delegation also made a detailed survey on efforts by the DCD and its 23 branches throughout the country, especially at land, sea and air outlets.

The delegation met with the High Committee for Monitoring Drugs (HCMD) and discussed the committee's role in monitoring legal entrance of narcotics into Yemen. HCMD head Abdullah Abdulkhalq referred to HCMD capabilities and its role in monitoring and putting limits on drugs entering Yemen.

Dr. Nabil Hazza', manager of Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a, met with Rabbani and discussed the possibility of providing a special center for drug addicts, built by the hospital.

The Ministry of Interior stated that in 2005, 36 drug trade crimes were controlled? and 77 drug smugglers arrested. In the second half of 2003, security



authorities seized a container loaded with drugs worth \$10 million and arrested the traffickers.

On October 2, 2004, seven drug suspects stood trial in the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a. A month later, Sana'a anti-drug authorities referred six drug cases to the prosecution, which then began investigating 12 people involved in those cases.

In May 2004, security forces arrested a drug gang in Taiz and on July 29, police arrested two female Somali nationals along with 35 grams of drugs in Aden. Similarly, Sana'a security forces arrested three people with three kilos of drugs.

Hashish, said to be more widespread in Yemen than other drugs, and has been used here for more than a decade.

It is grown locally in places like Ibb and Taiz, according to locals. In April 2005, security authorities arrested four people with 22 kilos of hashish worth more than 10 million Riyals. The accused have been referred to the General Prosecution.

Considering Yemen's strategic location, drugs usually are shipped from Southeast Asia through the Gulf of Aden and the country's other coasts. From there, it is shipped to numerous Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other countries in the region. Not surprisingly, many of these illegal drugs are left behind and used in Yemen. New markets for these drugs have been created in places like Aden, Hodeida and other cities across the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf shores.

Al-Motawkel faces assassination attempt

DHAMAR, Jan. 17 — Yahya Musa Al-Motawkel, adviser to the Justice Minister, faced an assassination attempt Monday at 11:30 a.m. by an armed group of three men. They hit him on the head and then shot him in the leg while he was walking on Rada'a Street beside his home. The group immediately escaped after accomplishing their target.

According to medical reports, Al-Motawkel is in critical condition in the intensive care unit at Queen Arwa Hospital in Dhamar Governorate. Ahmed Yahya Al-Motawkel, the victim's son, said his father does not have any enemies or revenge with anyone so they cannot accuse anyone now.

Local authorities, sheikhs and members of Parliament assembled in a special meeting and condemned the assassination attempt. They demanded the state and security try criminals as far as possible. They termed the incident a terrorist activity against innocent people.



Yahya Musa Al-Motawkel

Ahmed Al-Makaleh of the Socialist party told News Yemen the reasons behind the assassination attempt are attributed Al-Motawkel's belonging to a religious creed called Al-Zaidi. Al-Makaleh pointed out the ruling party's newspapers (the GPC) initiated a press campaign against Al-Motawkel weeks ago. Newspapers described him as the Imami head in Yemen and a supporter of Al-Houthi's followers.

Missing boat found

SANA'A, Jan. 18 — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed that a missing boat carrying 110 Somali and Ethiopian migrants has been found.

UNHCR field officer Mohammed Qatb Aldeen confirmed that the boat, missing approximately four days, reached Yemen's coast 7 p.m. yesterday. He said the boat was one of 12 vessels en route across the Gulf of Aden. The boat experienced technical problems and migrants suffered food

and water shortages during those days, according to Aldeen.

Media sources reported the boat missing after it left Somalia's northeastern coast Monday. Most passengers were young men from southern Somalia and Ethiopia aged 15 to 30. There were some women and children, but not many, the source said.

In the past five years, hundreds of migrants have lost their lives and drowned miles from Yemen's coast.

Yemen participates in 38th Cairo International Book Exhibition

CAIRO, Jan. 16 — Yemen will participate in the 38th Cairo International Book Exhibition running January 17 through February 3. Yemen will exhibit many books on culture and tradition, especially those published during Sana'a Arab Culture Capital activities in 2004.

President Husni Mubarak launched the exhibition, which consists of 16 Arab and 15 foreign countries.

Germany is the Guest of Honor at this year's fair. Dr. Naser Al-Ansary discussed details of Germany's participation with Martina Barth, Vice

President of Frankfurt International Book Fair. Germany will exhibit a number of books concerning building bridges and contact between Germany and the Arab world.

Many interested readers and intellectuals seek the latest publications in science, literature, information, medicine, media, etc.

Established in 1969, the exhibition is unique in creating continuity and positive interaction between different outlooks and intellectual views, which has enabled it to always have a foremost role in the Middle East.

First training on disaster management

SANA'A, Jan. 11 — The Islamic Relief Organization (Emergency and Preparedness Unit) in Britain, in cooperation with Islamic Relief in Yemen, UNDP and Civil Defense, have organized a training course on natural disaster management.

Khalid Al-Mulad, IRO-Yemen resident representative, said the training course aims to train 45 participants, 20 from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt, and the rest Yemenis. The training project is considered the first of its kind in the Middle East, Al-

Mulad added.

The trainers, two British and one Jordanian, will train participants in enhancing their abilities and knowledge of natural disaster management. Participants also will be trained in analytical measures to be taken by disaster management personnel. The course also will cover principles of humanitarian systems, working with refugees and dispersed people and adherence to international standards.

The training course will run five days, beginning January 21. Trainees

will be given field training at the end of the course.

On Wednesday, the Geological Survey Authority (GSA) technical team began the first phase of an extensive program to survey surrounding mountains that overlook populated areas throughout the country. GSA head Ismael Al-Janad stated to Saba Net that the GSA team will evaluate the geological situation in Al-Dhafaer, Thila, Al-Ahjer and Al-Tawela. The team also will study geological and environmental phenomena so that future natural

disasters will be avoided.

In the second phase, Al-Janad added, the GSA will continue studying areas susceptible to landslides and provide appropriate solutions to avoid such natural disasters.

On Tuesday, the GSA held a meeting that included officials from the GSA, the National Center for Observing Earthquakes, the Ministry of Public Works and Highways, Sana'a University and UNESCO. Attendees discussed possible ways to implement government directives to study areas susceptible to landslides.

2006 designated for fighting computer illiteracy

SANA'A, Jan. 18 — Abdulmalik Al-Mulmi, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, declared that 2006 will be devoted to fighting computer ignorance.

His announcement came at the launch of a campaign to erase computer illiteracy as well as alphabetical illiteracy in Ministry of Communication employees, its authorities and sectors.

Al-Mulmi wondered at current talk about technology because most employees still suffer alphabetical illiteracy. "Ignorance is the main reason behind the spread of violence and illegal actions of those who cannot express their views and opinions. They tend to behave violently, like kidnapping, and such attitudes reflect poorly on Yemen's reputation," he said. He added that the General Institute of Communication is ready to receive all those desiring to learn and qualify in any trade, management or information technology field.

Ministry statistics show there were 140,000 personal computers in Yemen in 2003, roughly seven computers for every 1,000 people. Approximately 1.54 percent of the population is able to use a computer. This estimate is considered quite small in comparison to Yemen's population of approximately 19 million.

The internet became available in



Yemen in 1996. Since then, two Yemeni companies have controlled internet service provision: TeleYemen and the General Institute for Communication. The number of Yemeni internet users in 2004 was estimated to be only 150,000. The total number of subscribers is far less than this number, as every subscription is used by more than one user.

By the end of 2002, there were 248 Yemeni websites on the internet: 51 governmental, 15 news, 24 embassy and organizational, 91 private business, 23 educational, 6 bank and insurance, 7 forums and various internet services.

According to ministry statistics, the main reasons for Yemeni disuse of the internet are lack of material and financial ability, inability to use the internet

and no need for it. A study prepared by Helmi Noman, a technology analyst and freelance consultant and researcher on issues related to the internet in developing countries, revealed that Yemen's internet population is concentrated in five large cities, nearly 60 percent in Sana'a alone. This is not surprising given urban population is only 24.7 percent of total population.

The study revealed that the typical Yemeni internet user is male (86 percent), single (66 percent), young (47 percent are aged 18-24), finished high school (68 percent) and makes between \$100 and \$200 monthly (43 percent). The low rate among female internet users can be attributed to a number of social and economical factors but the

high illiteracy rate among Yemeni adult females (74.8 percent) is probably the main factor.

Noman also pointed out that Yemeni educational institutions have not integrated the internet into the education system. According to the study, the University of Sana'a, which has the country's largest student body, has not incorporated information technology as an educational delivery tool nor does it have an internet-ready computer network. Some private universities, notably the University of Science and Technology, make internet access available to their students as a value-added service. However, connectivity in these schools usually is very slow because they depend on sharing dialup accounts via proxy servers.

Specialized internet training for academic research is virtually absent in most state and private academic institutions.

English, the language of the majority of research materials published on the internet, is not widely spoken in Yemen.

In 2002, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared a project to stimulate computer use among government employees and students by providing computers at suitable cost. It expected to circulate 101,815 computers by 2010.

President Saleh resolves disputes between two tribes

SANA'A, Jan. 18 — Tribal sources disclosed this week that President Saleh had met a number of sheikhs from Al-Abdullah and Al-Raid tribes and their alliances in Shabwa and Abian.

The sources told Al-Ayyam newspaper this week that the president had discussed the background of the dispute. Three persons from Al-Labqath, from Baqzam tribe, and a soldier had died in a fight in May 2004. It is worth mentioning that Al-Abdullah tribes kidnapped the German Minister together with his family, following the arrest of five of their fellow tribesmen last December.

The president directed that the conflict should be resolved within fifteen days, after he had met the tribal sheikhs.

The Germans' release deal included a point that stipulates that there should be an end to the conflicts in a month and a half time. Al-Ayyam newspaper said that the Ministry of interior came to an agreement that will end the aftermath of the exchange of fire that

took place inside the government premises in Ahwar district in Abian Governorate in May 2004. The three people from Al-Labqath tribe together with the soldier had died in this confrontation.

The newspaper added that the government and tribal sides came to a deal with the Ministry of Interior and Al-Labqath tribe to end the problem. The deal considered that the conflict was the fault of the two sides. YR 2 million will be given to the families of each of the dead tribesmen, and the soldier. Four posts will also be offered to their families. Al-Labqath tribe accepted the agreement.

The ministry of Interior had also resolved their differences with Al-Qara'a from Bakzam tribe. They accepted tribal arbitration in the case of the killing of their imprisoned tribal member, Al-Saleeb Abdullah Al-Qara'a. YR25 million and twenty pieces of arms was agreed to be paid by the government and that the killers of the victim from the security forces will be referred to justice.

Steel factory to be built in Mukala

SANA'A, Jan. 18 — A steel factory is to be built in Mukala in Hadramout governorate. The cost of the factory, which will be the first steel factory in Yemen, is estimated to be \$26 millions. An official in the Chamber of Commerce told the media that the factory, which is funded by a number of Yemeni investors, would start production at the end of this year. The factory will have a capacity of 120 thousand tons. However, it will reach 300 thousand tons when the project is completed.

The source added that the factory would produce building steel with different sizes and measurements, together with the Hangers' steel and other iron works. The factory will cover the needs of Hadramout and other neigh-

boring governorates. It will furnish jobs for 300 employees and will be managed by foreign technical experience.

The erection of the factory will start in March 2006. It will be in Salab area in Al-Rayan, 50 kilometers north east of Mukala, on an area of 180 sq meters.

The project is one of the strategic projects that Hadramout will witness in 2006 along with other investments, such as Hadramout refinery, which will cost about \$900 million. There is also a cement plant that will cost \$260 million. In addition, resident tourist cities of Durat Al-Mukala and Joharta Al-Mukala, costing YR 8 billion and \$300 million respectively, are to be built on the coast of the Arab sea.

Somali reconciliation in Yemeni-US talk

SANA'A, Jan. 16 (Saba) — Foreign Minister Abu Baker Al-Qerbi met with the US ambassador to Sana'a Thomas Krajcski. They discussed ways of promoting bilateral relationships between the two countries and some current matters.

Abu Baker Al-Qerbi confirmed Yemen's intention to work hard in order to settle security and stability in Somalia, calling for an international support for the current Somali government.

They also discussed some regional and international developments, especially Yemen efforts in reconciling Somali factions. The US ambassador paid tribute to such efforts.

Yemen calls for peaceful resolution in Iran nuclear case

SANA'A, Jan. 18 - Foreign Minister Abubakr Al-Qirbi called for a peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear issue Wednesday. He emphasized the importance of diplomacy and continuing EU-Iran nuclear talks to resolve problems via diplomatic channels.

In his statement, Al-Qirbi urged Iran to consult with Russia and seriously consider Russia's advice on resolving the nuclear dispute. In this regard, Moscow delivered a written proposal to Iran last month offering Tehran the opportunity to carry out its uranium enrichment in Russian territory. Both the European Union (EU) and the United States

disagreed with the proposal.

Al-Qirbi said he was optimistic about the proposal and believes it would reconcile differences and contribute to promoting security in the region and ensure Iran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful requirements. He displayed Yemen's steady and unrelenting policy that the Middle East be free from all weapons of mass destruction. He also called on Iran and other Middle Eastern countries to seek to eliminate the reasons for regional tensions and avoid a nuclear weapons race.

Al-Qirbi also said the international community should force Israel to

dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and allow checks of its facilities by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

The U.S. administration has accused Iran of developing nuclear arms in secret, confirming that military options should be used if Iran's administration does not cooperate with the international community.

Iran resumed its nuclear activities of uranium enrichment Jan. 10 after a two-year suspension. As a result, the U.S. and other western nations have called for transferring the matter to the UN Security Council for possible resolution.

Reliance to pick up 25% equity in Yemen refinery

Mumbai, Jan. 16 — RELIANCE Industries Ltd will be picking up 25 per cent equity stake in a greenfield refinery in Yemen. Reliance is expected to invest \$33.78 million (about Rs 149 crore) in the \$450-million refinery project.

According to sources close to the company, RIL's participation in the project is materialising on the strength of its expertise to execute world-class projects without any cost or time overruns.

The refinery will have a capacity to produce 60,000 barrels/day of different refinery products. This roughly amounts to 3 million tpa capacity at a conversion rate of 7.3 barrels to a tonne and assuming round-the-year operations. The refinery's product-mix would include petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas and benzene.

The Yemen Government-owned Yemen Petroleum

Company will buy most of the refinery products and sell them in the domestic market.

The refinery will receive Marib light crude oil that is currently exported from Yemen. It will have built-in flexibility to process alternative crude oils including the ones originating from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran. The Yemen Government has already guaranteed supply of domestic crude over 11 years. The refinery is expected to go on stream in the third quarter of 2007.

The refinery is being developed by a start-up firm named Ras Issa Refinery Company (RIRC) in which Yemen's HoodOil Ltd is the principal promoter with 50 per cent equity. International Finance Corporation, the private sector funding arm of the World Bank, has proposed to invest \$5 million representing 3.7 per cent stake in RIRC.

Private investors from Yemen and the Middle-East would sub-

scribe the remaining shares in RIRC.

IFC loan: IFC is also considering chipping in \$45-million loan to this joint venture. In its project summary on refinery, IFC says: "The founders of HoodOil and RIL have long standing ties, the groups are engaged in various commercial endeavours. The partnership with RIL is crucial for the success of the project, given that RIL builds and operates one of the largest refineries in the world and therefore has a strong operational and technical track record."

HoodOil is the flagship company of Yemen's largest private business house, the Hayel Saeed Anam (HSA) group. Both HoodOil and RIL have participation interest of 25 per cent each in Malik. Calvalley Petroleum Inc of Canada, which is the operator of Malik, holds the balance 50 per cent interest is the asset.

Beyond equity: Though RIL is

keeping its overseas business strategy close to its chest, business analysts believe that the company's participation in RIRC would go beyond mere equity investment. Thus, RIL may not only guide the joint venture in project execution but also in operating the refinery.

According to an international consultant HMR Consultants, "It is presently envisioned that a credible international company will operate the refinery with its own experienced staff until transfer of technology and skills by training on the job at Ras Issa and other refineries would facilitate HoodOil to eventually operate and manage the refinery operations based on the acquired expertise."

The refinery will be sited at Ras Issa, which is a peninsula on Red Sea coast in Yemen. HoodOil has already acquired land for the refinery and associated facilities including a jetty and pipelines.

Germany equips dentist's office in Hajja

HAJJA, Jan. 18 — New equipment for dental treatment, an x-ray-machine, dentist's instruments, an autoclave for disinfection and other equipment will be officially handed over to Hajja-based dentist Dr Ahmed Nassar by the German Development Consellor Dr Irene Fellmann coming Sunday in the office of

Dr Ahmed Al-Khiari in Hajja. Dr Nassar, who studied dentistry in

Berlin, had applied for the equipment to the German World University Service when he decided to come back to his Hajja to practice dentistry in his homeland. Academic training at German universities is part of the German development commitment and Germany encourages academics to put their skills and knowledge acquired in Germany to the service of their home country through grants like the one which will be handed over in Hajja.



Embassy of India, Sana'a

REPUBLIC DAY 2006

The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of 57th Republic Day of India on Thursday, the 26th January, 2006 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0800 hours.

PROGRAMME
0815 Hours

- Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the President's Address
- Patriotic Songs/ Cultural Events organized by the Indian Embassy School, Sana'a.
- Refreshments.

To all members of Indian Community in the Republic of Yemen

PS: (i) The recipient of this circular may kindly circulate the information to other Members of the Indian community known to him/her.
(ii) It is requested that cameras/ bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises. Otherwise these will be kept at checking-point at owner's risk.

Al-Hakimi: Yemen needs a different system

Al-Hakimi wants a parliamentary system to replace the presidential one. He calls the present regime oppressive and corrupt, and accuses it of using democracy as a cover to suppress opponents.

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

Abdulsalam Al-Hakimi, a prominent opposition figure living in Egypt, declared he will not retreat from his nomination, even if President Saleh runs in this year's presidential elections. He stated that those who rule now are not more competent than him.

He told media, "The regime scares opponents through repression, humiliating and offending purposely to force them to shut up. Those who refuse will be terrorized through kidnapping, beating, imprisonment or in the end, liquidation at the hands of a fanatic, an extremist or a car accident."

Al-Hakimi added, "I am the candidate for the oppressed, miserable, unemployed and poor. I am also the nominee for the good ones who refuse the dynasty and sectarian spirit that rules the country now."

Al-Hakimi's agenda caters to Yemeni tribes. In a Dec. 16 statement, he said Yemeni tribes are an important social sector impacting internal developments. "It is the second force that controls events in the country, apart from the regular army. It also is a civil force that can be modernized, and it is factually a force that is practicing modernization, without oppression, abuse or dictatorship." He assured that tribal matters will be dealt with in a democratic manner that is more efficient than the current regime.

It is clear to those interested in Yemeni affairs that Al-Hakimi's federal proposal attracts attention. Whether it could be a solution to Yemen's problems, we put it forward for our readers to consider.

The electoral agenda he asked to be discussed by media, political parties and non-governmental organizations consists of five major points. They relate to political and constitutional reforms, judiciary reforms, fighting corruption, resolving revenge cases and military and security reforms.

Political and constitutional reforms
Al-Hakimi said, "A constituent assembly of legal and financial specialists, political personalities, representatives of university scientific societies, civil society organizations and syndicates, will be formed to set

up a new constitution. It will be set on the following bases:

Establishing a federal system partitioning the country into four regions: Hadramout region: Hadramout, Al-Mahrah, Shabwah, Marib, Abian and Al-Baidha governorates
Aden region: Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale, Taiz and Ibb governorates
Sana'a region: Sana'a, Saada, Al-Jawf, Amran and Dhamar
Tihama region: Haja, Hodiedah, Raimah and Mahwit

This will fulfill the principle of people's self-rule and their participation in the administration of community and country, ending the grip of centralization. Inside each region will be administrative divisions for governorates and districts. Each also will have its elected people's council and executive authority. Each will have a local parliament and a government. Governorates and districts will have their people's councils and executive elected offices.

Establishing a genuine democratic Parliament:

This will be done by removing all the obstacles that prevent people from forming their parties and civil organizations, and dissolving the Committee of Party and Organizations Affairs. In case of conflicts between the parties or organizations, judiciary will be the only authority to resolve them.

The central government will be the responsible authority and will be formed of the parliamentary majority. It is responsible and will be held accountable before the two central parliamentary authorities.

The President and Vice President will be elected by secret poll in a joint meeting of the legislative councils. This will be guaranteed in case the President resigns or something happens to him, the Vice President will finish his remaining term of office. This will ensure political stability.

The central federal authority will be formed of two elected councils: a Parliament, which will represent all regions according to population, and a dignitary's council, in which all regions will be represented equally. Representatives will be elected from Parliament.

Regional parliaments will be formed through elections in the elected peoples' councils in the governorates and the districts, with equal

numbers for each district regardless of population.

The proposed constitution should contain a transition period of four years, in which each region elects within their local parliament a president, a head for the federal government and a head for the federal parliament. This will guarantee peaceful power transfer between the four regions until reconstruction of the state's political and constitutional institutions. This certainly will ensure judiciary independence, separation of authorities and rule of law.

Judiciary reforms

Al-Hakimi said, "Basic judiciary reform will be the first job preceding all others. Major measures will be taken to introduce a specialized, skilled and qualified judiciary in the fields of commercial, constitutional and administrative judiciary. All measures guaranteeing a decent living to the judge and his family will be secured so he will not be compelled to resort to other illegal methods.

Transfer, supervision, disciplinary measures, appointment, promotion and termination will be handled within the judiciary itself. Strict laws and punishments will be issued for transgressions.

The Ministry of Justice will be dissolved because it is an example of executive authority's bad influence over judiciary independence. Judiciary reform and restructure should be made at federal and local levels, governorates and districts."

Al-Hakimi's theory on freedom and human rights

Al-Hakimi said, "I will make procedural reforms that will secure full human rights in belief, expression, thought, work, travel and movement. They also will guarantee peoples' private affairs and privacy of communications and personal secrets. All forms of aggression and degradation, like confiscation of nationality and passport, the right to live inside or outside the country, will be prohibited. Oppressive measures such as termination, salary and allowance stoppage and other forms of pressure will be stopped.

The constitution will include a provision banning all types of physical and psychological torture of citizens and foreign residents. Innocent relatives and friends of any person shall not be exposed for the purpose of pressuring or extortion. Such acts will be severely punished and those committing such actions will be fired from their jobs."

Al-Hakimi said he will firmly face all forms of corruption and organized crime, especially drug trafficking, prostitution, money laundering, bribery and plundering public funds. He also will tackle environmental destruction, destabilization and pollution.

He will strictly face efforts that are changing Yemen into a safe haven for terrorists, extremists and criminals. He will stop all direct and indirect support and facilities to them. The constitution will assure asylum rights in Yemen to all those fearing for their lives and rights. They will not be deported or extradited unless they committed terrorist or penal crimes or instigated violence and terrorism.

He said he will dissolve the Ministry of Information and change audio, visual and print media into shareholder companies with 25 percent staff ownership. Remaining shares will be for public subscription. This will ensure independence of these media establishments so they will be neutral in developing public opinion awareness and transparent conveyance of news.

All punishment against publications will be banned, except those infringing upon individuals' rights. Judiciary will be the only authority



Al-Hakimi: All appearances, obstacles and impediments that alienate investors will be ended. Incentives and motivations attracting investors will be encouraged.

responsible for making decisions.

The constitution will provide for canceling execution for political crimes.

Financial reforms

Al-Hakimi said, "Yemeni individuals will be our top priority in financial reforms." He said he will furnish a decent life for them. He will work to limit the deterioration in peoples' lives, compared to that of wealthy key officials who obtained their wealth through corruption and embezzlement.

He said, "We will adopt a fair distribution of the petroleum and mineral revenues. They will be distributed as follows:

- 20 percent of land treasures will go to the state.
- 20 percent of unified taxes will go to the state.
- 55 percent will go to national social insurance.
- 5 percent will be for production areas for treatment of environmental and health damages due to mining

Economic and commercial activity

Al-Hakimi said as soon as he assumes office, he will privatize all public projects. Employees will be given 40 percent of shares and the other 60 percent will be for public subscription. The law specifies the mechanism of privatization.

All appearances, obstacles and impediments that alienate investors will be ended. Incentives and motivations attracting investors will be encouraged. There will be legal, procedural, security and financial guarantees, with the state securing and compensating investors in case of loss or damage for non-commercial or administrative reasons.

Al-Hakimi said he will establish strategic industrial and agricultural producing projects. In case investors will not invest in the projects, their shares will be presented to the public, according to provisions in the privatization section.

Wages and taxes

Al-Hakimi promised to reconsider the wage policy so there will be balance between income and prices. Basic income should not be less than \$150.

Multiple customs imposed on investors and individuals will be lifted. A customs of 20 percent will be imposed and those with limited income will be exempted.

Financial reforms

The present fiscal system will be replaced by the fiscal system used in the south before unification because it is more efficient in fighting corruption.

He said he will immediately carry out money quittance for all key officials.

Al-Hakimi said he will drop the right to prescribe corruption, crimes against humanity and unlawful wealth cases.

There should be a constitutional provision preventing key officials' relatives, up to third grade, from assuming key positions within two years of their relative's departure from the job.

Al-Hakimi called for a mechanism to investigate the background of those who will lead key institutions such as civil, military, ministerial, ambassadors, Supreme Court, military leaders and others.

To fight ethical corruption, Al-Hakimi said all who are found to be working in intelligence in the judiciary and educational fields, especially in universities, will be fired. He said a judge who is an intelligence member will be unconscious, whereas a teacher in intelligence is incompatible to bring up future generations.

Al-Hakimi also said the National Organization for Corruption Control will submit its findings to COCO, which will refer its assessment to judiciary.

Al-Hakimi also assured there will be no immunity for anyone, from the president to the lowest official.

Resolving tribal revenge cases

Al-Hakimi said once he assumes the presidency, he will do the following:

"A national tribal conference will be held, in which a comprehensive reconciliation will be signed between the tribes for five years. Revenge will be stopped between all tribes. Punishments will be imposed on those who violate this deal.

- Families of revenge victims will receive monthly salaries from social insurance.

- A deal will be made to refer revenge cases to Sharia law.

Military and security reforms

Al-Hakimi said, "We will make comprehensive military reforms in the following fields:

1- The military will be converted into a productive investment institution in addition to its defense duty. This will be done through building agricultural, industrial, residential and road projects. This will create an investment institution and something to increase its personnel's income.

2- Classification of a competent force according to its scientific skills and quality, not only quantity.

3- Rationalize armament policy and curtail weapons expenditures which lead to citizens' hardships.

4- The Defense Minister will be wholly responsible for army affairs. The president's role as supreme commander will be only to approve appointment, promotion and recommendations of the defense minister. He also will declare war and peace and has no right to interfere in administrative, financial or operational affairs.

Security

1. Annex political and national security to the government by annexing it to the Minister of Interior's authority, thus placing it under direct supervision and accountability to the legislative and judicial institutions.


2. End the security devices' control over state institutions, thereby ending the state terror it evokes over citizens.

3. Stop all spying, repression appearances and transgressions against citizens' privacy. Storming and arrests without judicial warrants also will be prohibited.

4. Forbid all security methods of penetrating and bribing their party members. Initiating party splits and corrupting political life of parties, syndicates and civil societies also is to be forbidden.

5. Security funds are to be controlled and supervised by legislative, judiciary and COCO.

6. Clear security devices involved in assassinations, torture and corruption and refer them to judiciary. Prescribed principles will not be applied in their cases.



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

External VACANCY

The office of the UN Refugee Agency in Yemen invites applications for the post of
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSISTANT
(In UNHCR Aden)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assesses the general social conditions of refugees and their needs for social services including medical, financial and other assistant.
2. Provide counselling and ensure follow-up regarding individual needs, with a particular focus on vulnerable individuals.
3. Undertake research and assess community resources in support of the planning and implementation of assistance, services and activities for refugees, including medical education and self-reliance activities.
4. Assist the refugee community to identify its own needs, establish priorities and to meet those needs through self-help initiatives, the mobilization of community resources and effective use of other available services.
5. Ensure effective cooperation and good working relations with implementing partners and with Government officials in relevant institutions concerning the planning of assistance, services and activities for refugees.
6. Assist in the preparation of project proposals, based upon the results of research and evaluation carried out.
7. Prepare correspondence, reports and statistics as required.
8. Supervise and coordinate the work of lower level staff and implementing partners, as they relate to the community services.
9. Perform any related tasks assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

- Master degree in Health or Social Science field.
- 6 years of progressive previous experience in related field.
- Proficiency in the use of computers and office software packages.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (written and oral).

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and experience are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae with a brief letter not later than the 03 February 2006 to:

Admin. & Finance Unit
The UN Refugee Agency
P.O. Box: 6090,
Tel No.: 23511/231441
Fax No: 02-234406
Aden, Republic of Yemen

Woman enough women and man enough men!

Woman enough women and man enough men! What does it mean? The social role division passed from generation from generation and protected and cherished by most cultures across the globe says a man is a provider, protector and leader and woman is a nurturer, carer and an obedient follower. To implement this code, men are relieved of the responsibilities that follow procreation, ie, caring for and nurturing infants and children, and repetitive essential tasks like cooking, caring for elderly and sick and those related to housekeeping. This code can be successfully implemented only if there are others to over these responsibilities. Application of this code means that men continuously devote time, full commitment and energy to remunerative work and women support them by doing all that which are unpaid and needed to keep the home and hearth going.

The labour market too does whatever it can to implement the social code. It has its own set of sub-codes that offer men better prospects. For example, biological motherhood means women would have to take a gap in their career if they want to give birth and have more flexible hours to care for the infant. The labour market uses an elimination process, based on continuity of service and fixed hours to keep women out. But then the labour market as a business constituent has a strong element of profit. It sees benefits from having greater choice in labour. So nowadays, the labour market is using more innovative ways to benefit from women's labour without jeopardizing the social code. The labour laws recognize the division of roles and responsibilities and make the sub-codes flexible so that women could supply their labour to the market while fulfilling their role of being a nurturer, carer and an obedient follower.

The labour market could have come up with set of sub-codes, which could transform the role divisions. But doing that would mean two things: First, challenging the social code and dealing with consequent social resistance, and second, losing out free compliant labour at home. The labour market does not like turmoil and strife. It plays by the code. In the process, the labour market re-assigns and prioritizes the social role entrusted to women and thereby reinforces and strengthens the roles division and the social code. In the process, it has also done its bit to rearticulate the notion of a woman. It has given birth to the notion of a 'new woman' - a woman who is devoted to home, hearth and hubby but also has the skills and stamina to help the family survive better or live in more opulence by sacrificing her own leisure and stretching herself to extra-ordinary long multi-tasking hours. There is some tentative talk to encourage men to contribute to the unpaid reproduction process but then it is a matter of choice for them. They can easily choose not to be a 'new man'.

The social code has its own place in the aspiration of women and men as well. A woman is expected to aspire for femininity - gentleness, coyness, beauty, patience, soft-spoken, emotional fragility, and so on. She has to aspire for wifehood and motherhood. The higher the price she pays to be these the more woman she is. A man, on the other hand, is expected to aspire to be masculine - emotional and physical ruggedness, success in career, public recognition, daring, and so on. He doesn't have to do much beyond these to be man enough. So imagine the acrobatic adjustments a woman or a man would have to do if they do not wish to be seen as deviating from these aspirations but have to take on responsibilities



By: Nisha

ities which the social code has reserved for the other. The 'new woman' aspires to maintain her femininity and fulfil her biological and social roles while being active in the labour market by taking recourse to meticulous manoeuvring, incredible self-control, sacrifice, pushing stamina to extreme, and being reliable and flexible even in the most testing times. This combination of femininity and extra-human abilities are taken for granted or ignored in some societies, encouraged in some, and sometimes recognised by being identified as the ideal woman, or the modern day version of Shakti (female power base good enough to be worshipped).

Now one might question women's desire to stretch themselves, especially if there is no financial compulsion to do so. Why can't they stay put where the social code and generations of socialisation dictate them to stay? Tough questions without efficient and universally acceptable answers. Some women say that they have an inner drive that pushes them to do things beyond mundane household or unpaid chores. Some say that if they don't do this they would not be valued by their family members. Some say they would not have self-worth if they do what every other woman does. Some say it gives them some financial independence. Some say it is needed for their security, especially if the social relations were to fail them. Some say it is needed to build up security for the family, especially in the time of hardship. Some women give a combination of these and other reasons.

The next question that comes to mind is that if there are so many good enough (at least to the woman concerned) reasons to be part of the labour market, why do these have to be this 'new woman'? Why can't they just be part of the labour market? Now these questions are not easy to answer either. An inclination to live up to the image of the 'new woman' does not mean that women's consciousness of their situation has not altered. It does not mean that these women cannot demand equal contribution in reproductive and unpaid work from their husbands and other male family members. The social code is backed up by punitive measures. Women's capacity to give expression to their altered consciousness and demands is compromised by those punitive measures. Divorce and consequent threats of social ostracism, insufficient socio-economic security, stress of day-to-day bickering, physical and psychological violence, and many such potent factors clash with women's altered consciousness and demands. The 'new woman' is a relatively safe compromise. It is a compromise which helps women fulfil their personal desires or take additional responsibilities for the family's sake or often both. It is a non-threatening compromise for the society because it is achieved at the cost of women. It is a compromise without adequate social prerequisite, which is, a change in the social code.

Nisha is an Indian activist working in development and gender. She is a campaign and advocacy expert and has published many research papers around the world.

Yemeni American women striving for education

By: Hakim Almasmari
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

Education is a growing issue, which is being given more attention in Yemen. Compared to the recent past, less people are illiterate and the values of education are becoming known to all. Unfortunately, a weak issue, which seems to still be untackled in our society is the education of women. However, Yemeni women spread across the globe are using their chances for gaining as much education as possible.

Ameena Ali, Umm Al-Zahra is a Yemeni American who was born in the United States. She is now a professional Yemeni American Teachers in the United States. Here she talks about education from the Yemeni American women's point of view.

YT: Being a Yemeni American, how does it feel being a teacher in the western world?

A: I think it's a big responsibility. People tend to look at you as an example for you being a teacher. The Yemeni society in general lack highly educated citizens. Those who hold university degrees are numbered and don't go as high as 1000. This is a very low number knowing that there are nearly 700,000 Yemeni's in America. Comparing the Yemeni society to other ethnic minorities, we are lowly rated in the educational aspect. This in return decreases the respect that Americans have for ethnic minorities as they only understand the language of education.

YT: Mrs. Ameena how could you explain the differences in education between America and Yemen for women?

A: Well, back home in Yemen, women strive and give all they possess for education, while in return don't receive enough opportunities to show their skills. Here in America however, women are given equal opportunities to glow and shine. This is because America is a country that respects education not looking at race or color. The more educated you are, the more it's guaranteed for you to get a prosperous paying job. I think that women are more qualified than men in certain fields are deserve an opportunity to show their skills.

YT: What are the difficulties Women in America face?

A: In my point of view, and I'm not an expert, I think it's the culture. People tend to lose their cultural values in this part of the world. People have to understand that Islam orders us to seek education and knowledge, but in the same time gives priority to religion and values that lie within it. In America, you will notice numerous successful Yemeni women, but on the other hand, rarely they would be noticed as leaders of societies for their little knowledge of their own culture, forcing their own children to take sides with a culture far different and open than their original one.

YT: Can women in America earn leadership?

A: Muslims in America lack leadership in general, not to mention women. In my point of view, being a leader in society start with being a good person. The early generations of Yemeni Americans were too busy working as laborers, trying to suffice their family needs back home. This in result did not create positive chances for achieving education. However, for the last ten years, a big strive in education has been noticed when thousands of Yemeni Americans started enrolling in universities. In this part of the world education is the beginning steps of leadership. With education you can rise and change the people around you to the better.

YT: Raising your children in the western world, how difficult is it?

A: Oh, very difficult. In America, families are really different in the way the children are brought up. Being a Muslim mother, I try to teach my children the good of the American culture along with the beauty the Yemeni culture has within it. In this way, I balance the issue and take the better of both cultures. It's very hard to watch over your children because of schools and the



Ameena Ali, a Yemeni American teacher walking home after a long day at work as she tries to stick firm to cultural beliefs.

influence they have by other friends. In raising our children we will try very hard to raise them as guiding stars, giving Islam a stronger and peaceful presence in America.

YT: How can you balance between your job as a teacher, and your house work?

A: This all goes back to the person and the understanding between the husband and wife. First of all, my working hours are always in the morning. This way my children are busy at school and my husband is also at work. I pick my children from school and take them home. At home they busy themselves doing their homework, while their father is on his way home from work.

I use this time to arrange a meal for my family. Things turn out perfect in most situations. In the end women must

realize what best for her household before deciding to do anything on her own. If in any situation have to decide between my work and family, definitely family comes first. No exceptions.

YT: Have you visited Yemen recently? And what have you done to help Yemeni Women?

A: Yes I have, earlier this year I toured the country with my husband who is a Doctor. I tried to focus my lectures on education and the importance of it, while in the same time sticking firm to our religious and cultural values. In Yemen, people have to understand that Americans gained prosperity and success for the love and honor they have for their culture along with extra effort given in serving their country. We being Yemeni, have a deep rooted culture, which through the ages passed

through prosperity, riches and empires that even ruled the world. All this was seen when they held on to their values, as well as taking the good of other nations and putting it into practice. This is how accomplishments are created.


YT: do you have any closing comments?

A: I really thank The Yemen Times for their courageous efforts in serving the Yemeni Community abroad. I hope that The Yemeni people in general, not only the women continue to strive in education, for it is the key of a successful future. The future looks bright for the Yemeni people. I advise them to be patient in their long road of education and I promise that the fruits will be seen in the end of the journey. Thank you and god bless you.



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Saudi mediates to ease Lebanon-Syria tensions

LONDON (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has presented Lebanon and Syria with a plan to defuse tensions between the two countries over the killing of ex-Lebanese premier Rafik al-Hariri, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told the FT in an interview that the kingdom had made proposals for an agreement, but was waiting for a response from Beirut and Damascus, and details would have to be worked out.

"Now it's in the hands of both countries and they will let us know," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged caution in dealing with the standoff between Syria and the international community.

"When investigating the circumstances of the crime, it is extremely important to stay within the legal framework and not to try, as with the Iranian nuclear program, to use this problem as an instrument for achieving political goals," Interfax quoted Lavrov as telling a news conference.

Prince Saud insisted the kingdom was not seeking a compromise on the United Nations probe into last February's killing of Hariri which has

implicated top Syrian officials in the assassination.

"This (initiative) has nothing to do with the investigation. We are as anxious as anyone to find out who the perpetrators are and we want them to be found quickly," he said.

The assassination of Hariri, a close Saudi ally who fell out with Damascus in his last days, sparked international alarm, put a chill on once-warm relations between the two neighbors and led to the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon in April.

Syria denies any involvement in the murder of Hariri and 22 others and has said it will not let U.N. investigators question Syrian President Bashar al-Assad over the murder, threatening a new showdown with the international community.

A U.N. Security Council resolution passed in October demands that Syria cooperate fully with the investigation or face unspecified action.

Prince Saud said the proposals were designed to pave the way for negotiations between Beirut and Damascus on details of an agreement.

He said Riyadh's priority was to reduce tensions between Beirut and



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal speaks during a news conference in Jeddah, November 13. Saudi Arabia has presented Lebanon and Syria with a plan to defuse tensions between the two countries over the killing of ex-Lebanese premier Rafik al-Hariri, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. REUTERS

Damascus and prevent more chaos in the region.

"We have enough problems as it is," he said. "It's about time we resolve the ones we have - Palestine, Iraq - instead of establishing more."

Lavrov said Russia encouraged Syria to continue to cooperate with the United Nations commission.

"Sanctions are unlikely to prove an effective way to solve these or other problems," he added.

Cheney has talks with Mubarak

CAIRO (Reuters) - U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday at the start of a working day which includes talks in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Egyptian state news agency MENA said the agenda for the working breakfast included Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the implications of the ill health of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and new developments in Syria and Lebanon.

Cheney arrived in Egypt on Monday afternoon and is expected to leave for Saudi Arabia soon after his talks with Mubarak.

Cheney's office said on Monday that the vice president and Arab leaders would discuss the president's (President George W. Bush's) freedom agenda and the war on terror.

At the airport in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday, he will see Lebanese politician Saad al-Hariri, son of assassinated former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, added a spokeswoman.

The United States strongly supports the United Nations inquiry into the Hariri assassination in February last year. The investigators have pointed the finger at Syrian intelligence but the Syrian government denies it played any role.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia were to be part of a trip Cheney took in December when he visited Iraq, Afghanistan,



U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney delivers a speech on the war in Iraq in Washington, January 4, 2006. Cheney headed to Egypt and Saudi Arabia on Sunday for meetings with leaders that are expected to focus on counterterrorism, the Palestinian election and energy. REUTERS

Pakistan and Oman. But he cut short that tour to fly back to Washington to cast a tiebreaking vote in the U.S.

Senate. Cheney added Kuwait to his itinerary so that he can offer condolences after

the death of the emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, a spokeswoman said. Sheikh Jaber died on Sunday at 78.

California executes oldest death row inmate

SAN QUENTIN, California (Reuters) - California executed Clarence Ray Allen, its oldest condemned prisoner, by lethal injection early on Tuesday at San Quentin State Prison after last-ditch court appeals for a stay of execution failed.

Allen, who turned 76 on Monday and was legally blind, used a wheelchair and suffered from diabetes and chronic heart disease, had been sentenced to death for ordering the murders of three people in 1980 while serving a life sentence for murder in California's Folsom Prison.

The time of death was 12:38 a.m. (3:38 a.m. EST/0838 GMT)

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected on Monday pleas to spare Allen's life. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer issued a dissenting statement, citing Allen's age, bad health and the fact he had been on death row for 23 years as reasons to stay the execution.

Allen was the oldest person ever executed in California and the second-oldest man executed in the United States in recent decades. Last month, Mississippi executed a 77-year-old convicted mur-

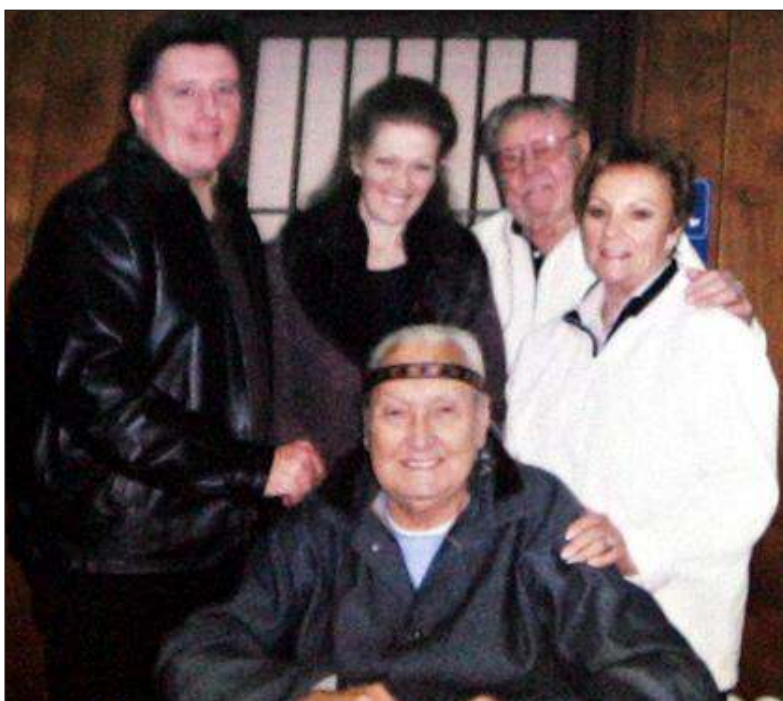
derer. Allen's lawyers had sought to block his execution, arguing to state and federal courts that carrying out his death sentence would be cruel and unusual because of his frail health.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Friday he would not grant clemency to Allen despite his failing health because he committed his crimes when he was 50 years old. Allen's clemency petition was the fourth the Hollywood icon has rejected as governor.

Allen's crimes reflected the "hardened and calculating decisions of a mature man," Schwarzenegger said in a written statement explaining his decision.

A Fresno, California, businessman, Allen had led a criminal gang in California's Central Valley after turning to crime in middle-age.

His execution at San Quentin prison north of San Francisco followed the December 13 execution there of Stanley Tookie Williams, the ex-leader of the Crips gang who had been convicted of four murders in 1979.



Convicted murderer Clarence Ray Allen (front C) is seen with family members in this photo provided by his family, taken at San Quentin Prison in San Quentin, California, January 16, the day before his scheduled execution. REUTERS

Iran calls for renewed EU3 nuclear talks in letter

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran on Tuesday urged the EU trio of Britain, Germany and France in a letter to immediately return to the negotiating table over its nuclear program, an Iranian source in Vienna told Reuters.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source said Iran had written to the EU3 and emphasized Iran's willingness to "remove existing ambiguities regarding its peaceful nuclear program through talks and negotiations".

The source said the letter, written by Javad Vaeedi, deputy head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was designed to show that "despite the

London meeting, Iran is determined to continue talks and to find a solution through talks".

He was referring to a meeting in London on Monday of officials from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States to discuss the possibility of sending Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council for possible punitive action.

The Iranian source said Vaeedi had pointed out in his letter that Iran was ready to hold talks with the EU3 on Wednesday as had been scheduled following a previous meeting between the two sides in Vienna last month.

Iraq says Iran holds nine coastguards prisoner

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The Iraqi government said on Tuesday nine Iraqi coastguards were taken prisoner by Iran after an incident involving a suspected oil smuggling ship in the

Gulf. "Eight men from the Coast Guard and an officer were taken prisoner by Iranian coastguards," said a spokeswoman in the prime minister's office.



Iraqi coastguard inspect their new patrol boats during their graduation ceremony in the southern city of Basra, September 30, 2004. The Iraqi government said on Tuesday nine Iraqi coastguards were taken prisoner by Iran after an incident involving a suspected oil smuggling ship in the Gulf. REUTERS

Israel's Olmert says hopes to renew peace talks

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Interim Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Tuesday that he hoped to resume peace negotiations with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after Israel's March 28 general election.

But Olmert said that such talks would depend on Israel's long-standing demand for Abbas to disarm militant groups, a process the Palestinians are supposed to start under a U.S.-brokered road map to peace.

"I hope that based on the results of their (January 25 Palestinian) elections, and after that the results of our elections, I will be able to enter negotiations with (Abbas) on condition that he will uphold his commitments ... for a permanent settlement between us and the Palestinians," Olmert told reporters.

But he added: "That depends on whether he (Abbas) will uphold his commitments to disarm the terror groups, and I hope that he will do this."

Egypt ignores US request to see jailed opponent

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Egyptian authorities have ignored a request from U.S. congressman Frank Wolf to meet opposition leader Ayman Nour in prison and the prison visit will not take place, sources close to Nour said on Tuesday.

Wolf, a Virginia Republican, has been in Cairo since Saturday and asked Interior Minister Habib el-Adli and Justice Minister Mahmoud Aboul Leil to authorize the visit, they said.

"He has not had any response," one of the sources said. Asked if there was still any chance that Wolf would visit Nour in Tura jail south of Cairo, the source said: "No chance."

Nour, who came a distant second to President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt's first presidential elections in September, with 8 percent of the vote, is serving a five-year sentence after a Cairo court convicted him of forging documents.

Nour and his liberal Ghad (Tomorrow) Party say the authorities trumped up the charges to discredit Nour and keep him off the political stage for the next few years.

The vice president of Egypt's National Council for Human Rights, Kamal Abou El Magd, said after meeting Wolf on Monday that the congress-

man had been going around distributing U.S. editorials critical of Mubarak's handling of the Nour case.

But two close associates of Nour, who asked not to be named, said Egyptian officials who met Wolf appeared to have influenced the congressman's thinking on the Nour case.

"I had thought the issue was clear but he (Wolf) got the impression from all the officials he met that Nour has been a corrupt forger since he was young... The impressions given to him had an effect," one of the associates said.

Wolf has declined to speak to reporters on several occasions over the last two days. He had a meeting with President Mubarak on Tuesday but left the palace without speaking in public.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said they were not aware of any request from Wolf to visit Nour in prison.

One Nour associate said Nour felt Washington had lost interest in his case after criticizing his trial last year and giving the government a chance to paint him as American-backed.

The Washington Post said in an editorial on Tuesday that the United States should withdraw military aid to Egypt — worth about \$1.3 billion a year — unless Nour comes out of jail.

US rejects Manila request for custody of Marines

MANILA (Reuters) - The United States has rejected a request by the Philippines to hand over four Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman, saying a visiting forces treaty allowed for U.S. custody until the case was concluded.

About two dozen protesters chanted anti-U.S. slogans and burned the U.S. flag on Tuesday outside the U.S. embassy in Manila, where the soldiers are being held.

Despite weeks of small demonstrations, the rape case has not inflamed any serious anti-American sentiment among the public in the Philippines, a former U.S. colony and Washington's closest security partner in Southeast Asia.

But several opponents of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said the U.S. position could prompt the Philippines to seek a revision of the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement.

"What this tells is that the U.S. does not have faith in the Philippine justice system," said Joker Arroyo, an opposition senator not related to the president. "The Philippines cannot go on with this one-way relationship with the United States."

Franklin Drilon, the Senate president and a former ally of President Arroyo, said "justice and equality would call for the transfer of these American GIs"

because the alleged offence had nothing to do with their official function as soldiers.

A judge issued arrest warrants for the four Marines last week but the chief state prosecutor, Jovencito Zuno, said they had not been served due to the U.S. refusal to relinquish custody.

In a January 16 diplomatic note made public on Tuesday, the embassy said "the U.S. government shall continue to exercise custody until completion of all judicial proceedings", citing an article in the visiting forces treaty.

Treaty versus local law

Philippine government officials and many legal experts have said the treaty takes precedence over local law. Others say the rape case is extraordinary, allowing Philippine law to override the forces agreement.

Zosimo Paredes, the undersecretary of foreign affairs and executive director of the presidential commission on the treaty, said it was up to the justice department to decide the next move.

"The act of the U.S. embassy should not stop us from serving the arrest warrants," he said on television.

The presiding judge, Renato Dilag, said last week matters of sovereignty and national pride were part of the case but that diplomatic means should first

be exhausted.

Washington's widely expected refusal came as elite U.S. troops began counter-terrorism drills with Philippine soldiers on Tuesday on the southern island of Mindanao, the heartland of the largest Muslim rebel group in the mainly Roman Catholic country.

"We are calling on the government to arrest the four U.S. Marines, junk the Visiting Forces Agreement and stop all U.S. military exercises," said Venzor Crisostomo, who heads a league of students protesting outside the U.S. embassy.

The four soldiers charged in late December were among six members of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit initially accused of raping the 22-year-old woman in a van at a former U.S. Navy base in Subic Bay on November 1.

The Marines, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, had just ended two weeks of military exercises with Philippine troops in October.

In affidavits, five of them disputed the rape allegations, suggesting that sex with one of their group was consensual. Under Philippine law, accomplices can be accused of rape.

Two of the six Marines were cleared for lack of evidence and have left the Philippines to rejoin their unit in Okinawa.



Filipino protesters burn an American flag made of paper carton during a protest in Cotabato city, southern Philippines, opposing the month-long U.S. military exercises with Filipino troops in the troubled south January 15. REUTERS

More bird flu deaths as experts meet on crisis



An Iranian health official accepts a duck turned in by its owner in a village near Iran's border with Turkey. REUTERS

By: Ben Blanchard and Lindsay Beck

BEIJING (Reuters) - Bird flu experts meeting in Beijing said on Tuesday the world urgently needed to amass a war chest to fight bird flu and prepare nations should a pandemic strain emerge.

Underscoring that urgency, Indonesia's health ministry said a toddler who died on Tuesday was being tested for bird flu days after his 13-year-old sister died of the H5N1 virus, according to local tests. A surviving sister is also being tested.

Turkey said on Monday a fourth person had died of avian flu, as authorities slaughtered tens of thousands of birds to try to contain the outbreak. Neighbouring nations feared the virus might spread.

"There is a significant shortfall of funds in many affected countries ... which will seriously hamper their prevention and control efforts," Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese vice foreign minister, told the donors' conference in Beijing.

"In the fight against avian influenza, no country can stay safe by looking the other way," he said.

Bird flu has killed at least 79 people since 2003 and has now arrived at the gates of Europe and the Middle East.

While difficult for people to catch, nearly 150 people are known to have been infected by H5N1 in six countries, killing more than half its victims, a death rate that reinforced fears about the havoc the virus could wreak if a pandemic occurs.

"It is going more and more toward the western part of the world," Food and Agriculture Organization Chief Veterinary Officer Joseph Domenech told Reuters in Beijing.

"If the mobilization of the funds is not

coming immediately, in a couple of months we'll need more money."

Fear and uncertainty

The World Bank estimates that between \$1.2 billion and \$1.4 billion will be needed to prepare for and respond to outbreaks. The Bank has estimated that a bird flu pandemic lasting a year could cost the global economy up to \$800 billion.

A senior World Health Organization official told delegates the risks from a bird flu pandemic were great.

"Timing is unpredictable and the severity is uncertain," Margaret Chan, the WHO's top pandemic expert, told the conference, attended by delegates from 89 countries and more than 20 international organizations.

The Bank approved a \$500 million line of credit last week toward the \$1.2 billion target and the European Union has pledged \$100 million in aid. More significant pledges are expected.

In Indonesia, a health ministry official said the latest local test results on the dead 3-year-old boy were not conclusive, although an initial result had earlier shown he was positive for the virus. His 13-year-old sister died of the virus, local tests show.

H5N1 is already endemic across parts of Asia and has been found in wild birds and poultry over a third of Turkey.

Turkish officials said the country had recorded a total of 20 human cases, including the four deaths, in two weeks.

The brother of the girl who died on Sunday was in critical condition in eastern Turkey. He has tested positive for H5N1.

Turkish authorities have culled 932,000 birds over the past two weeks to try to contain the crisis. The Agriculture Ministry had imposed a nationwide ban on the transit of poultry.

The FAO's Domenech said there was still the chance to keep the virus from becoming endemic in Turkey.

"We really think they still have the capacity to eradicate it even if they've had so many outbreaks," he told reporters.

Iran and Caucasus

But Turkey's neighbors were also under threat.

"The Caucasus region and Iran are countries where the usual trade movements are bringing very high risk of contamination. So the surveillance in these countries has to be intensified.

"If the virus keeps circulating in this area (Turkey), during next spring when wildlife is coming back from places like Africa it will stop again in these areas and go further," he said.

With donors and lending agencies focused on ramping up the fight against bird flu, there have been concerns that money might be drawn from other health programs.

"My argument is, whatever resources you put in place, compared to the possible economic loss in the event of a pandemic, is peanuts," Chan told reporters in Beijing.

"The kind of investment for pandemic preparedness will serve the long-term interests of global health security," she said.

Some poor nations are also worried about missing out on crucial flu-fight funds, fearing they might be overlooked. Tanzania called for specific country pledges and regional, rather than global, funding.

A conference statement from the Tanzanian delegation in Beijing said the country was at risk because it is along migratory bird routes and needed \$9.3 million but could only raise about \$120,000 from internal resources.

Cambodia PM orders four critics released on bail

By: Ek Madra

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Cambodia's prime minister has ordered four government critics facing criminal defamation charges to be released on bail "as a gift" to the United States, which had criticized the arrests, an official said on Tuesday.

However, Hun Sen, the former Khmer Rouge soldier who has run Cambodia for the last two decades, would not drop the charges, which have intensified fears the southeast Asian nation is sliding from fledgling democracy to dictatorship.

"Prime Minister Hun Sen is aware of those concerns and to demonstrate his compassion, he is sending a letter to the court ordering that those being detained are released on bail," his spokesman, Om Yentieng, told reporters.

"But they must turn up at the court when the trial happens," he quoted Hun Sen as saying.

Hun Sen's gesture came during a meeting with Christopher Hill, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, who was in Phnom Penh to mark the opening of a new embassy compound.

"This is a gift for Mr. Christopher on the day of the inauguration of the new embassy," Om Yentieng said.

Hill said he hoped Hun Sen's unexpected move would lead to an improvement in Phnom Penh's tense political atmosphere.

"It's a very welcome step and we hope this will create the momentum for additional steps," he told reporters. Among those being freed are Kem Sokha, a vocal Hun Sen critic and head of the U.S.-funded Cambodian Center for Human Rights, (CCHR), and his deputy Pa Nguon Teang.

Both men were charged with defamation — which carries up to a year in jail — in connection with a banner at a December human rights rally that said Hun Sen was a communist and a traitor who sold off land to neighboring Vietnam.

The other two are Mam Sonando, director of independent Beehive Radio, who was arrested after airing comments on a border deal Hun Sen signed with Hanoi in October, and teachers' union head Rong Chhun, who also commented on the frontier pact.

Another human rights worker affiliated with the CCHR, Yeng Vireak, was released on bail last week.

Washington led a chorus of international disapproval of the arrests, which came shortly after an 18-month jail sentence was handed down in absentia to opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who is in self-imposed exile after losing his parliamentary immunity.

Sam Rainsy had accused Hun Sen of trying to assassinate him in a 1997 grenade attack on an opposition rally that killed at least 16 people.

Nigerian militants threaten new oil attacks

LAGOS (Reuters) - Nigerian militants who have attacked oil facilities and kidnapped workers in the southern Niger Delta threatened on Monday to use more aggressive tactics against oil workers and their families from February 1.

In an email statement, the group known as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said it would carry out a series of attacks "to prove to all companies that we alone, your hosts can guarantee security."



Smoke and flames billow from a burning oil pipeline in Andoni, Rivers State, Nigeria, December 20, 2005. REUTERS

Germany says clear consensus lacking on Iran

By: Noah Barkin

BERLIN (Reuters) - Members of the U.N. Security Council are at odds on how to tackle Iran's nuclear program, Germany said on Tuesday, suggesting a consensus on pursuing sanctions against the Islamic Republic may prove elusive. German Deputy Foreign Minister Gernot Erler, speaking on German public television, confirmed that agreement had been reached to convene an extraordinary meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on February 2.

But he said world powers that met in London on Monday were still divided on the purpose and content of a planned IAEA resolution referring Iran to the Security Council.

"We remain in talks about what should be decided there and what the role of the United Nations should be," Erler said, referring to the meeting of U.N. nuclear watchdog agency.

"That is a sign that we could not reach a full agreement on what the goal of the IAEA is through a resolution but that more time is needed."

His comments suggest that permanent veto-wielding members of the Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — are farther apart on putting more pressure on Iran than suggested by Western officials after the London talks.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who also took part in the London meeting, had said he was confident China and Russia would back the EU in sending the issue to the Security Council.

Leading European countries and the United States suspect Iran is developing nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian atomic energy program.

At the London meeting, which involved the Security Council's five per-

manent members plus Germany, Western participants had hoped to convince China and Russia to back referral of Iran to the Council, which has the power to impose sanctions.

Tehran denies charges it is seeking nuclear weapons, insisting its ambitions are limited to power generation.

Russia, China stances

President Vladimir Putin said after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Moscow on Monday that Russia European countries and the United States had "very close positions" on Iran.

However, Putin also warned the crisis should be solved "without abrupt, erroneous steps" — a possible nod to concerns of some that a rapid push toward U.N. sanctions could backfire. "We must move very carefully in this area," he said.

China said last week that resorting to the Security Council might "complicate the issue", citing Iran's threat to hit back by halting snap U.N. inspections of its atomic plants.

Erler said it remained important to seek a diplomatic solution to the impasse over Iran's nuclear program.

"We remain of the opinion that there definitely must be a diplomatic solution," he said. "Western states and the Europeans are ready at any time to restart talks, but only if Iran fulfills the pledges it has made."

Meanwhile, EU diplomats said on Monday that Germany, France and Britain had begun drafting a referral resolution to submit to the IAEA board next month, though they said the drafting process was at a very early stage.

"It's short. It calls for (IAEA Director-General Mohamed) ElBaradei to report Iran to the Security Council," one diplomat said, asking for anonymity because of the subject's sensitivity.

Justice is reconciliation

By: Desmond Tutu

In South Africa, indeed around the world, we are raised on a strict diet of justice as retribution. With violent crimes on a shocking upsurge, with the hideous crimes of child rape and abuse on the increase, there are nowadays frequent calls – backed by wide public support – to restore capital punishment. Mercifully, South Africa's Constitutional Court has ruled that the death penalty – which South Africans eliminated at the same time we were liberated from apartheid – is unconstitutional.

Sadly, in many places in the world, it seems that men and women have not advanced beyond the biblical admonition of "an eye for an eye" in their yearning for retribution. Indeed, some Muslim countries amputate the hands of convicted thieves in public. But that biblical adage was in fact invoked originally to curb blood feuds from claiming the innocent relatives of the person who

committed the killing. "An eye for an eye" asks that the culprit should be the sole target, and not others, whose only crime was to be related to him.

So the "eye for an eye" adage was not intended to mean what it has come to mean, namely that killing be paid for by another killing. Given the brutality of the apartheid era, that would have never worked in my homeland.

Some South Africans called for Nuremberg-type trials, especially for perpetrators of those atrocities that were designed to maintain the vicious apartheid system. There were demands that the guilty be brought to book.

But we were fortunate in that Nuremberg was not really an option for us. Nuremberg happened because the Allies inflicted unconditional surrender on the Nazis and so could impose a so-called victor's justice. In our case, neither the apartheid government nor the liberation movements could defeat each other. We had a military deadlock. Moreover, in the case of Nuremberg, the

prosecutors and judges could pack up their bags after the trial and leave Germany for their several homes. We had to make our homes in this, our common motherland, and learn to live with one another.

Such trials would probably have gone on nearly forever, leaving gaping wounds open. It would have been difficult to procure the evidence to get convictions. We all know just how cunning bureaucrats can be in destroying incriminating evidence.

So it was a mercy that our country chose to go the way of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – granting amnesty in exchange for the truth. This was ultimately based on the principles of restorative justice and *ubuntu*.

At the TRC hearings we were exposed to gruesome details about atrocities that were committed to uphold or to oppose apartheid. "We gave him drugged coffee and shot him in the head and then we burned his body. As it takes 7-8 hours for a human body to burn,

we had a braai on the side, drinking beer and eating meat." How low men can sink in our inhumanity!

Each time such horrible stories were published, we had to remind ourselves that, yes indeed, the acts were demonic, but the perpetrators remained each a child of God. A monster has no moral responsibility and so cannot be held accountable; but even more seriously, designating someone a monster closes the door to possible rehabilitation. Restorative justice and *ubuntu* are based firmly on the recognition of the fundamental humanity of even the worst possible offender.

We cannot give up on anybody. If it was true that people could not change, once a murderer always a murderer, then the whole TRC process would have been impossible. It happened because we believed that even the worst racist had the capacity to change. And I think we in South Africa have not done badly; at least that is what the rest of the world seems to think of our transformation

and the TRC process. Because an "eye for an eye" can never work when communities are in conflict – reprisal leads to a counter-reprisal in the sort of blood spiral we are seeing in the Middle East.

The type of justice South Africa practiced, what I call "restorative justice" is, unlike retribution, not basically concerned with punishment, it is not fundamentally punitive. It sets high store by healing. The offence has caused a breach in relations and this breach needs to be healed. It regards the offender as a person, as a subject with a sense of responsibility and a sense of shame, who needs to be reintegrated into the community and not ostracised.

There is a wealth of wisdom in the old ways of African society. Justice was a communal affair and society set a high store by social harmony and peace. The belief was that a person is a person only through other persons, and a broken person needed to be helped to be healed. What the offence had disturbed should be restored, and the offender and the

victim had to be helped to be reconciled.

Justice as retribution often ignores the victim and the system is usually impersonal and cold. Restorative justice is hopeful. It believes that even the worst offender can become a better person.

This does not mean being soft on crime. Offenders must realize the seriousness of their offences by the kind of sentences they get, but there must be hope, hope that the offender can become a useful member of society, after paying the price they owe to society. When we act as if we really believe that someone can be better, is better, then they will often rise to our expectations.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

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Is Bernanke ready?

By: Robert J. Shiller

Ben Bernanke, the nominee to replace Alan Greenspan this month as Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, is a highly capable economist who has devoted his professional life to understanding the historical role of central banks and the problems that they have faced. His views represent, as much as can be expected, a consensus among those who have studied the issues carefully.

But that does not mean that Bernanke is prepared to ensure that healthy economic growth continues in the US in the coming years and provide the kind of leadership that the world needs. By the standards of what is generally understood today, he will do a good job. Unfortunately, that may not be enough.

John Maynard Keynes once said that monetary policy may work like a string. A central bank can pull the string (raise interest rates) to rein in an economy that is galloping ahead unsustainably. But it cannot push the string up: if economic growth stalls, as when confidence is seriously damaged, lowering interest rates may not be enough to stimulate demand. In that case, a recession can occur despite the central bank's best efforts.

Bernanke made his name as an economist by analyzing the worldwide Great Depression of the 1930's – good expertise to have, since preventing such disasters is a central bank head's most important job. The Great Depression, which followed the stock market crash of 1929, saw unemployment rise sharply in many countries, accompanied by severe deflation. In the US, consumer prices fell 27% between 1929 and 1933, and the unemployment rate topped out in 1933 at 23%.

According to Bernanke's "debt deflation" theory, the collapse in consumer prices was one of the causes of the Great Depression, since deflation raised the real value of debts, making it difficult to repay loans. As Bernanke pointed out,

45% of US farms were behind on mortgage payments in 1933, and in 1934, default rates on home mortgages exceeded 38% in half of US cities. The debt burden destroyed consumer confidence and undermined the banking system, crippling the economy.

Bernanke's research also stressed that the sooner a country abandoned the gold standard, the better off it was. Adhering to the gold standard during the Great Depression implied a deflationary monetary-policy bias, since it required keeping interest rates relatively high to encourage investors to hold deposits in banks rather than demanding the gold that backed them. Once a country eliminated convertibility into gold, it was free to pursue monetary expansion, and deflation tended to end.

But Bernanke's impressive research on the Great Depression does not mean that he can prevent the next recession or depression, for stopping deflation hardly solves all problems. After all, the US went off the gold standard in 1933, and the Fed cut the discount rate to 1.5% in 1934, ending deflation (except for minor episodes); but the unemployment rate did not fall consistently below 15% until 1941 and the onset of World War II.

Bernanke will therefore have to be careful about over-generalizing from his past research, just as medical specialists must be careful not to over-diagnose diseases in their own specialty and military strategists must be careful not to over-prepare to fight the last war.

Of course, this does not mean that we should ignore the past altogether. A 2005 study headed by Guillermo Calvo, Chief Economist for the Inter-

American Development Bank, found important similarities between the Great Depression of the 1930's and economic crises since 1980 in 31 emerging countries. But the study also found important differences.

The fundamental experience of the Great Depression has repeated itself, on a smaller scale, many times and in many countries in recent decades: a shock in financial markets, followed by a sharp decline in gross domestic product. But the behavior of consumer prices in the post-1980 crises is fundamentally different from that seen in the 1930's. In contrast to the Great Depression, collapsing national output was in recent decades accompanied by accelerating inflation, not deflation. The Calvo study thus concludes that Bernanke's debt deflation theory of the Great Depression does not generally apply to the more recent crises.

At the same time, Bernanke is inheriting a pair of economic vulnerabilities that are unusual by historical standards, and that did not precede the Great Depression of the 1930's. We are now in the late stages of the biggest real estate boom in US (or world) history, driven by frenzied market psychology. In contrast, US home prices were uneventful before the Great Depression, and actually fell slightly in real terms between 1925 and

1929.

Moreover, we are now experiencing a fundamental change in expectations about oil prices: not only are today's prices quite high in real terms by historical standards, but the futures markets indicate that prices are expected to remain high for years to come. In contrast, real oil prices were flat leading up to 1929, and down nearly 50% in real terms from the 1925-6 "fuel folly" peaks.

In the near future, substantially higher oil prices, lower real estate prices, or both, could, depending on public reaction, put Bernanke into uncharted territory for economic stress. If confidence declines, his historical understanding of the Great Depression of the 1930's could leave him ill-equipped to prevent such shocks from sinking the US, and the world, economy. He might find himself pushing on a string.

Robert J. Shiller is Professor of Economics at Yale University, Director at Macro Securities Research LLC, and author of *Irrational Exuberance* and *The New Financial Order: Risk in the 21st Century*.

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Heroes of Yemen

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

The initiative of shababyemini.com is praiseworthy; the Yemeni Students Association Abroad (YSAA.org) has successfully established its online portal (www.shababyemini.com) as an expansion of its monthly newsletter, hereby allowing hundreds of Yemeni youth to make the most of internet technologies and take part in active communication with their counterparts in all parts of the world.

The Shabab Yemeni portal has an interesting philosophy, as it successfully diverts the image of Yemeni from qat-chewing depressed youth to self-starter visionaries who actively participate in promoting their ideas and thought process in a similar manner to the youth of the developed world. Shababyemini.com is a successful attempt to share knowledge, experiences, and resources through articles that draw on social phenomena and trends of cultural change within their communities, a cultural change which they are proudly a part of. It also includes insightful editorials and com-

mentaries around the subjects of development, education, cooperation and policy.

Technology-related articles are always under the spotlight, considering that most contributors are highly technologically literate, aiming at sharing their technological knowledge with other participants and readers as an attempt to transfer knowledge and enrich the minds of fellow Yemeni youth through shababyemini.com.

This initiative follows the tremendous success of the Yemeni Students Association Abroad which includes close to 500 active members and viewers taking part in the various discussions, therefore it is evident that the materials published in Shabab Yemeni are considered the cream of the crop in terms of Yemeni youth intellectual thinking, as they are the current scholars of Yemen and the creators of Yemen's tomorrow.

These young men and women are nothing short of heroes, and they must be congratulated on their visionary work.

Raidan al-Saqqaf is a young Yemeni journalist specializing in economy and marketing

Letters to the Editor

Responses to "Nexen Scholarships: The truth?"

As a Nexen graduate I am tempted to respond to your letter, "Nexen Scholarships: The truth?"

Everyone can confidently vouch that the Nexen program has been one of the most fair, impartial, and successful scholarship programs in Yemen's history. It has indeed fulfilled its original mission of "helping Yemen". No matter where the graduates end up, they will always be a great asset to Yemen. Therefore I see a fallacy in the writer's argument. Dual Yemeni citizens have and always will help Yemen prosper. If anything, the fact that many of the graduates successfully found great jobs within Canada on their own is a testament in itself to Nexen's impeccable selection standards. I am sorry to say I see no valid point in the writer's argument.

Majid S. mshahada.hsb@alumni.ucalgary.ca

I would appreciate you letting me to reply to the letter titled "Nexen Scholarships: The truth?" by "Concerned Yemen Citizen" published on the Yemen Times, Issue No. 903 regarding the Nexen Scholarships Programs and its benefits to Yemen. I found myself obligated to refute the whole reasoning of the letter, as it is stands on distorted facts, leading to a faulty conclusion.

Nexen Scholarship has proved to be one of the most, if not the only, transparent and honest scholarships programs in Yemen. For over four years Nexen has been sending Yemeni overachieving students to Canada based on their merits. This is easily proven by looking at the students' achievements during high school and studies in Canada. That aside, I will discuss and refute the

original letter one point at a time:

1) Although I don't agree with the companies decision not to hire its newly graduates students' in their facilities in Yemen. The claim that students was discouraged to go back to Yemen and to look for jobs in Canada based on this decision is refuted in more than one way:

1- The truth is that this decision was put in place after the fact that these graduates have already found jobs. Hence, the decision has nothing to do with some of the students deciding to look for jobs in Canada.

2- Nexen has already helped all the graduates of this scholarship in their careers by offering them one of the most highly regarded scholarships in the country, and by providing them with a high-standards undergraduate studies. Nexen scholarships' graduates did indeed prove their attractiveness to employers, especially in Yemen. Thus, Nexen scholarship graduates are not, and need not to be discouraged from applying for jobs in Yemen or anywhere else!

2) If the company did indeed hire Yemenis in their headquarters in Calgary, then that should encourage by anyone concerned about Yemen. This students' will have a really opportunity to take a look at the company's operation and to develop a better understanding of its operations in Yemen.

3) I really failed to understand how getting the Canadian citizenship harms our beloved country, Yemen. Especially since Canada and Yemen both allow for dual citizenship. I believe that one of the main reasons that made Yemeni lawmakers to allow for dual citizenship is how it helps in bringing two countries and two nations together for the mutual benefit of both. It is really sad that

"Concerned Yemen Citizen" missed this point. Actually many Yemenis living in Yemen do apply for other citizenships, and many others do hold a dual citizenship, and never has any of those been accused of harming Yemen or working against Yemen.

Finally, It should be understood, that the decisions of some of the graduates to stay and work in Canada does not contradict with the overall benefit of our beloved country, Yemen. The challenging level and intensity of their experience does indeed create the specialists, the intellectuals, and the leaders for whom Yemen is in dire need. It is also evident and well documented that these Yemenis abroad and others do help Yemen in many ways those who do live in Yemen may not be able to do. Just a few weeks ago Yemen Times published an article regarding the 36,000 books that the Yemeni American Society of Professionals and Scientists donated to Sana'a University (www.yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=901&p=culture&a=1). The association is created by professionals Yemenis who live in the United States. Moreover, just in 2004 these very Yemeni scholarship students' in Canada planned and implemented a very successful conference for Yemeni Youth (www.ycr.ca). They inspired over 130 youth from all over Yemen. Many of the attendees of the conference are now active members of the civil society organizations and youth associations in Yemen.

Bottom line, Does the Nexen Scholarships Program benefit Yemen? Absolutely, YES. Does it help Canada as well? I really hope so, and we should be thinking about

how to increase this help to Canada and Nexen; at least as a mere thank you for a wonderful program!

Adeeb Qasem
One of the graduates of the 2003-2004
Currently working in Yemen
adeeb_qasem@hotmail.com

This letter is a reply to the article entitled "Nexen Scholarships: The Truth?" which appeared in issue number 903, Dec.15-Dec. 23 in the "Letters to the Editor" section in which an anonymous author expresses his/her grievances with the Nexen Scholarship program. As a graduate of the Nexen scholarship program who has decided to remain in Canada I believe it is only fair to provide a counter opinion to what was mentioned in that letter to ensure a fair treatment of the issue it mentioned.

Although the author, who strangely enough decided to remain anonymous, has the right to express his/her grievances with the Nexen scholarship program it must be noted that the claims mentioned in the letter are not only far from the truth but completely baseless.

Even to a casual reader who may be unfamiliar with the structure and nature of the program it is obvious the author suffers from the "conspiracy theory" syndrome which we've become all too familiar with in the Arab world in general.

As mentioned, I am personally a graduate of the Nexen scholarship, and one of the students who has decided to stay in this great country to pursue further opportunities for personal and professional growth which will enable me to further participate in the development process of Yemen.

Nexen has always encouraged us to go back to our country and partici-

pate in its development. Those of us who stay here, decide to do so ourselves with no interference from Nexen or anyone else and for reasons far beyond what the author has in mind.

To serve as direct evidence against the claims mentioned by the author about people like myself abandoning our country with the encouragement of Nexen, it must be duly noted that many of us here have established organizations and initiatives with the sole aim of participating in our country's development with the direct support of Nexen.

Furthermore, and with the platinum sponsorship of Nexen, we were able to organize Yemen's first ever Youth Development Conference in the summer of 2004 which resulted in remarkable success as evident by the ripple effect the conference has had on its numerous (130+) participants. Nexen was a platinum sponsor of the conference and donated \$10,000 USD along with various other resources, including some of its own staff.

Many of the conference participants, who were youth from Universities all over Yemen, have gone on to becoming change agents within their society and contributing to Yemen's development.

This is not to mention the various other projects Nexen has carried out in remote areas where it operates. From supporting schools and funding hospitals, to electricity infrastructure projects and United Way programs, Nexen's support of Yemen and the Yemeni people is unrivaled by any other company operating in Yemen, foreign or domestic, reflecting the true "motives" behind this great company.

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The Bush Repression

By: Aryeh Neier

How will President George W. Bush's administration be remembered historically? After five years in office, and with another three years to go, some answers are already apparent. Others are emerging gradually. The latter category includes an increasing assault on civil liberties within the United States that now compares to that of Richard Nixon's administration more than thirty years ago.

Of course, civil liberties were bound to suffer in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Throughout American history, threats to national security, whether real or imagined, have led to clampdowns on the rights of citizens and, to a far greater extent, on the rights of immigrants and others suspected of acting in the interests of alien forces.

In the twentieth century, abuses of civil liberties were particularly severe during four periods. In the years 1917 to 1919, US participation in World War I and anarchist bombings after the war led to almost two thousand federal prosecutions, mass roundups of aliens, and summary deportations. During World War II, Japan's attack on the US was followed by the internment of more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans because of their race, including many who were born in the US.

In the late 1940's and the 1950's, the Cold War and fears that the Red Menace would sap American resolve from within led to myriad anti-subversive programs, with tens of thousands of Americans losing their livelihoods as a result. Finally, during the Nixon years, the president's paranoia about opposition to the Vietnam War and to his policies fuelled a pattern of abuses that eventually brought about his resignation in disgrace.

The Nixon administration's legacy is particularly instructive in assessing the Bush record. Though Americans tend

to lump Nixon's violations of civil liberties together under the heading of "Watergate," much more was involved than the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters and the subsequent cover-up. The participants in those events included the "Plumbers," a personal secret police established by Nixon and so named because one of their tasks was to eliminate leaks of information that the White House did not want to disclose.

Another secret assault on civil liberties was Nixon's adoption of the "Huston Plan" which authorized political surveillance by burglary, electronic eavesdropping, and the use of the military to spy on civilians. Nixon used these methods against political opponents, journalists, and government employees suspected of disloyalty to the president.

As far as we know, Bush has not gone that far. Nevertheless, electronic eavesdropping without court authorization, of the sort Bush ordered starting in 2002, played a particularly important part in Nixon's downfall. One of the three counts against Nixon in the vote to impeach Nixon by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee was based on such eavesdropping.

In fact, Bush pursued his policy despite a 1978 law – adopted in response to the Nixon-era abuses – that specifically requires judicial approval, and in contradiction to his public assurance that no such eavesdropping takes place without a court order. Now that his electronic surveillance program has been exposed, Bush's Justice Department has launched an investigation into how the news became public, threatening the journalists who reported the information.

But even before the latest revelations, the Bush administration's assaults on civil liberties were legion, including its imprisonment of hundreds of men without charges at Guantánamo Bay in an effort to evade judicial review of their cases. It also rounded up, jailed, and deported hundreds of aliens in an anti-terrorist drive none of

whose targets was shown to have any link to terrorism.

The list does not stop there. Bush's subordinates authorized methods of interrogation that led to torture, and his administration adamantly resisted legislation that would ban its use. It even insisted that it could imprison an American citizen, José Padilla, incommunicado for an indefinite period without criminal charges until, faced with the prospect of Supreme Court review, it suddenly pressed charges that had nothing to do with the allegations that had formed the basis for his detention.

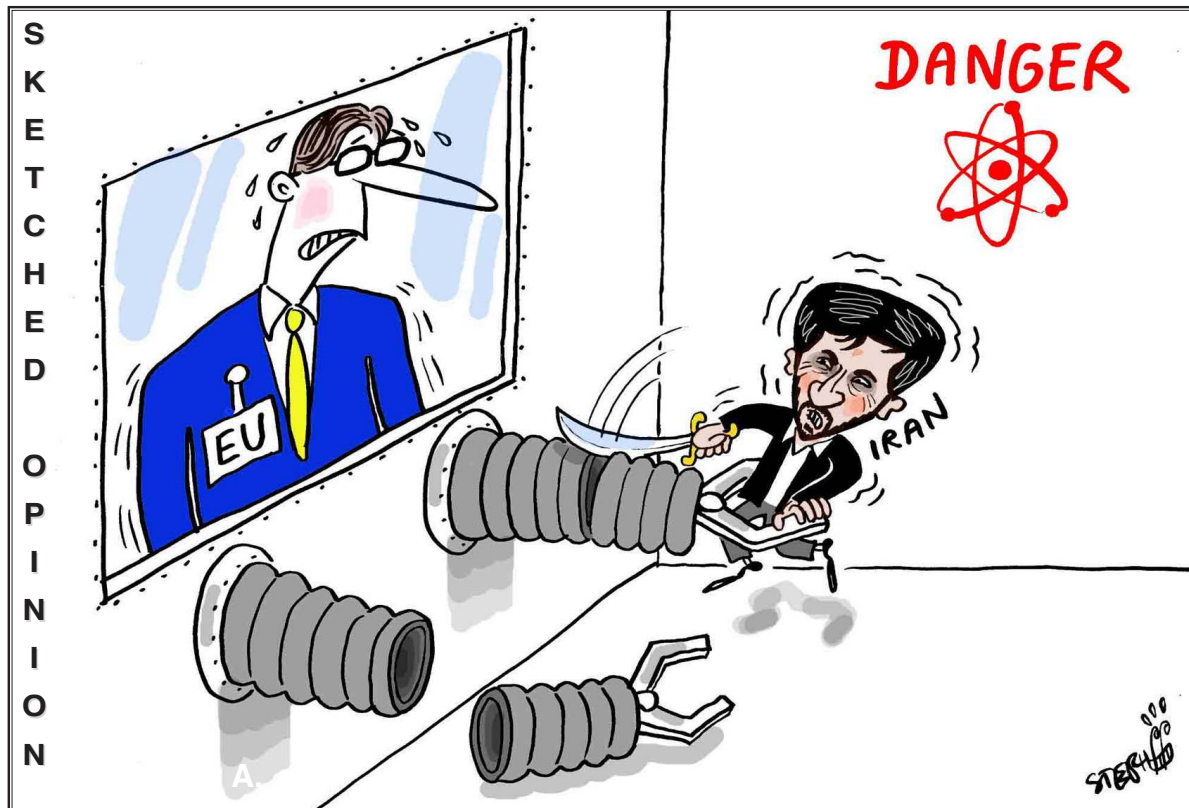
Indeed, a hallmark of the Bush administration's violations of civil liberties is that many involve efforts to evade judicial review. Guantánamo, the deportations, the Padilla case, and the electronic eavesdropping program all share this characteristic. At the same time, Bush has systematically packed the federal courts with judges chosen for their readiness to defer to presidential power. His latest nominee to the US Supreme Court, Judge Samuel Alito, exemplifies this trend.

The mood in the US today is far from the point that it reached in 1973 and 1974, when the drive to impeach Nixon and convict him in the US Senate forced him to resign. But, while it seems safe to predict that Bush will serve out the rest of his term, it also appears certain that history will look upon him as a president who sought to undermine civil liberties.

Unfortunately, given Bush's repeated assertions – in defiance of America's constitutional tradition of checks and balances – that his office endows him with unilateral powers to violate rights, he appears to be untroubled by that prospect.

Aryeh Neier, the president of the Open Society Institute and a founder of Human Rights Watch, is the author most recently of Taking Liberties: Four Decades in the Struggle for Rights.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

To computerize or not to computerize!

By: Osama Al-Shar'abi
osaleh@sfu.ca

Information technology (IT) and the ability to effectively use it, is a critical factor in accessing wealth, power and knowledge at the dawn of the new millennium. The Arabic world is considered, by and large, one of the least computerized and technologically underdeveloped regions in the world which makes it utterly impossible for the Arabic countries to compete at an international level in manufacturing technology or providing high quality advanced services. There are many reasons for such technological apartheid ranging from the absence of a proper infrastructure, to the lack of qualified personnel in the field of technology and the discouraging IT market. In this article, I will try to highlight these obstacles in a Yemeni context.

In Yemen, the infrastructure required to use computers is far from adequate. We have no reliable power supplies to begin with; electricity blackouts have become a routine in our daily lives. The telecommunication infrastructure is another issue with most of the country having no phone lines to say the least. Most rural areas, accommodating 70% of the population, have virtually no network connectivity. This contributes to the large computer illiteracy and makes information technology inaccessible

for a large segment of the population. Also, in a fast-changing world, training is a must to keep up with the technology pace and the new developments in the field. Yet, the limited IT-related programs offered by Yemeni universities are very primitive and do not train good academicians nor are they tailored to satisfy the market needs. Universities make no effort to recruit highly qualified instructors or researchers in computer science disciplines, and tend to piggyback teaching computer courses on faculty members from other engineering departments. There are even students with IT bachelor degrees from Yemeni universities who get jobs as teachers in the faculties they graduated from. I made these observations after talking with many computer science students and faculty members during my last visit to Yemen. This poor IT training is reflected in the poor outcomes and greatly affects our transition into a more computerized society. Another issue contributing to our technological backwardness is the discouraging IT market. Most businesses in Yemen are unaware of the importance of computerizing their systems and by how much their productivity could increase, and as a result they don't seem to be interested in IT products. And because of the lack of established technology providers, businesses that choose to computerize their systems will most likely outsource their jobs

abroad. This affects the economy at large by not utilizing technology for an increased productivity and contributes very little demand for local IT!

In a poor country like Yemen, we have to utilize in every resource we have, and brain power is one of our best treasures. This could only be achieved by providing a proper infrastructure for information technology to prevail, establishing cutting edge training centers and research facilities and encouraging investment in the IT market. But in an ad-hoc system of government like the one we have, it seems quite impossible for Yemen to be computerized anytime soon.

A Thousand...

By: Lamya Al-Sakkaf
lamyazoo@yahoo.com

A thousand times she had risen with the sun
Baking the bread of the day
Making lunch
for a thousand guests
Washing clothes
of a thousand children
she had once borne
Vacuuming a thousand steps
Falling down the stairs
under a thousand stars

A thousand times she had cried in front of the mirror
Looking at her face
of a thousand wrinkles
Broken soul
Injured heart
Bruised body
Under a thousand layers
of blackness
Lost years
Twenty that felt like a thousand

A thousand times she had prayed for her husband
to never come back
to marry a thousand wives
And for herself
to never have another child
Another bruise
Another chore
Another world to carry
on her weary shoulders
Another thousand worries
and oven burns

A thousand times they'd say
She died young
That woman of twenty years
and a thousand smiles
and a thousand tears
and a thousand children
and a thousand bruises
and cooking pots
and wrinkles

Twenty years
they say she had lived
but they don't know
that she was
a thousand years

An open letter to Ehud Olmert

By: Daoud Kuttab

Dear Mr. Olmert,

I am writing you in the hope that you will take time from your busy schedule as Israel's acting Prime Minister to hear one Palestinian's hopes.

Even though your ascension to the position of Prime Minister came in an awkward way because of Ariel Sharon's stroke, I believe that you have an opportunity to be part of a historic reconciliation. While I am sure you will insist that you are going to follow in the political legacy of Sharon, you have some important advantages with Palestinians that Sharon did not have.

The first advantage is that you're not burdened with Ariel Sharon's negative image among Palestinians and Arabs. Having been the mayor of Jerusalem for 10 years, you know the situation of Palestinians close up.

I believe that the chances for a political breakthrough in our region have never been better. On the Israeli side, your faith in the political process was demonstrated recently when you and Sharon decided unilaterally to go against your own ideology and take on the powerful settler movement.

The two of you also went against conventional Israeli thinking by breaking away from your Likud party, greatly weakening the ideological stranglehold that Likud's far-right central committee held on Israeli politics. The realization that withdrawal from populated areas, and thus an end to holding another people under permanent occupation, was necessary to preserve the Jewish nature of Israel clearly brought the two of you to the center of Israeli thinking.

On a much smaller scale, significant change has been taking place on the Palestinian side as well. While I believe

that the occupation, rather than the reaction to it, is the main cause of our conflict, the unilateral *tahdia* ("declared calm") decision by Palestinian militant groups has reduced anti-Israeli attacks mightily, which shows that Palestinians also realize the limits of their military actions. The decision by Hamas to join the political process by participating in the upcoming legislative elections shows that even this hardline Islamic movement has concluded that our conflict needs to be addressed by political rather than military means.

While I understand that you are an Israeli patriot, I believe that much can be done to reduce the tensions between our two peoples, eventually leading to genuine reconciliation and peace. As a start, priority must be given to face-to-face negotiations. Sharon and you might have felt that unilateral action was needed in Gaza, but the withdrawal from Gaza could have produced many more benefits for both sides had it been done bilaterally.

Direct talks should concentrate on two parallel tracks. They should attempt to produce an immediate cessation of violence from both sides while simultaneously focusing on a permanent settlement of our conflict.

Contrary to territorial withdrawal, cessation of violence can be achieved only bilaterally. Both sides should commit to an end to assassinations, shelling, bombings, and any other form of attacks on the other side's military targets and citizens. To be effective, such a cease-fire must contain a monitoring mechanism. Neutral foreign observers should be asked to be deployed in major hot spots and be asked to identify anyone on either side who violates any of the agreement's clauses.

Alongside this effort, vigorous nego-

tiations on a permanent settlement should start immediately. Historically, cease-fires have survived only when they are backed by talks that both parties believe are genuine and serious.

At the same time, the atmosphere among Palestinians and their attitude towards Israel must be improved, so that we can have a political environment that supports negotiations. Improving the daily conditions of life, particularly increasing Palestinians' freedom of travel both between Gaza and the West Bank and within the West Bank, will also go a long way in helping to create a positive atmosphere.

I truly wish you success in your responsibilities as acting Prime Minister and acting head of Kadima. Your efforts to move forward towards resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will generate significant improvement in the political atmosphere in the entire Middle East.

But, whatever you do in the next few months to win the forthcoming parliamentary elections, please remember that the support that Kadima has received from the Israeli public derives precisely from the fact that it has taken a moderate centrist position. So please don't allow yourself to be drawn into pandering to Israel's radicals and hawks. The support that you and your colleagues will get from Israelis and Arabs will depend on the resolve that you show in making serious progress in the peace process. That process, now as before, must culminate in an independent and democratic Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel.

Daoud Kuttab is the director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University in Ramallah.

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Educated Illiterates?

By: Najwan Al-Junaid

Illiteracy in the Arab world is one of the biggest and complicated challenges facing Arab youth. According to UNESCO, 40 percent of adults in the Arab world are illiterate. There are many reasons for illiteracy, but probably the sweeping poverty in the Arab world is the biggest hindrance. Reading is a privilege for those with money and time. Since the habit of reading is not grounded in 40 percent of Adults, not many will pass such a habit to their children: the Arab youth.

Illiteracy is not the only challenge

When compared to their French or English-speaking peers, many Arab youth lack the ability to express their thoughts and ideas. Why? There is a big gap between classical and colloquial Arabic. In formal occasions, Arabs are required to use grand language. In everyday life, Arabs use their casual, colloquial dialects. And since many do not read much of classical literature and Arabic poetry, it is hard for these youth to express themselves in classical Arabic or even simplified standard Arabic. The spoken language is not the language of thought and expression.

For Arabs, the language of thought is far more complicated than the language of slang. The complexity of the language makes it rich and deep; however, it is a double-edged sword. For

instance, there is no literal translation for the word "sandwich." Although Sandwich was a man who invented the idea of the sandwich, this idea does not have an Arabic equivalent. When translated literally, a sandwich turned to be, "a divider and divided thing together with something fresh inside." The language's complexity and the incompatible educational systems do not help Arab youth to grasp the language and consequently, express themselves clearly in classical Arabic.

In my opinion, it is even questionable if the hundreds or thousands who finish eight years of schooling are literate. The rift between classical and colloquial Arabic is becoming bigger. Classical Arabic is isolated in schools and excluded among intellectuals and writers. Once average Arab youth leave school, the classical language is barely used in their daily lives hence their lack of self-expression in standard or proper Arabic.

Source:
http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/v.php-URL_ID=8521&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Najwan Al-Junaid is an editor for ShababYemeni. ShababYemeni is an initiative by a group of inspired Yemeni Youth made specifically for the Yemeni Youth. SY could be contacted at shababiyemeni@hotmail.com

Skyrocketing prices in the Eid

The citizens hold merchants and authorities responsible for high rates of prices and consumer protection society demands the government to bear its responsibility.

Yemeni markets selling necessary consumer goods, especially foodstuffs, clothes and animals for sacrifice slaughtering have seen undeclared rise in prices which has caused annoyance and complaints by limited income citizens. Many citizens have put the blame for that exaggerated rise in prices on tradesmen and government concerned parties claiming they were behind what they have described as an undeclared dose of price rises. The public indicated that requirements for preparation for the Eid were difficult to buy by majority of the people whose purchasing power was low

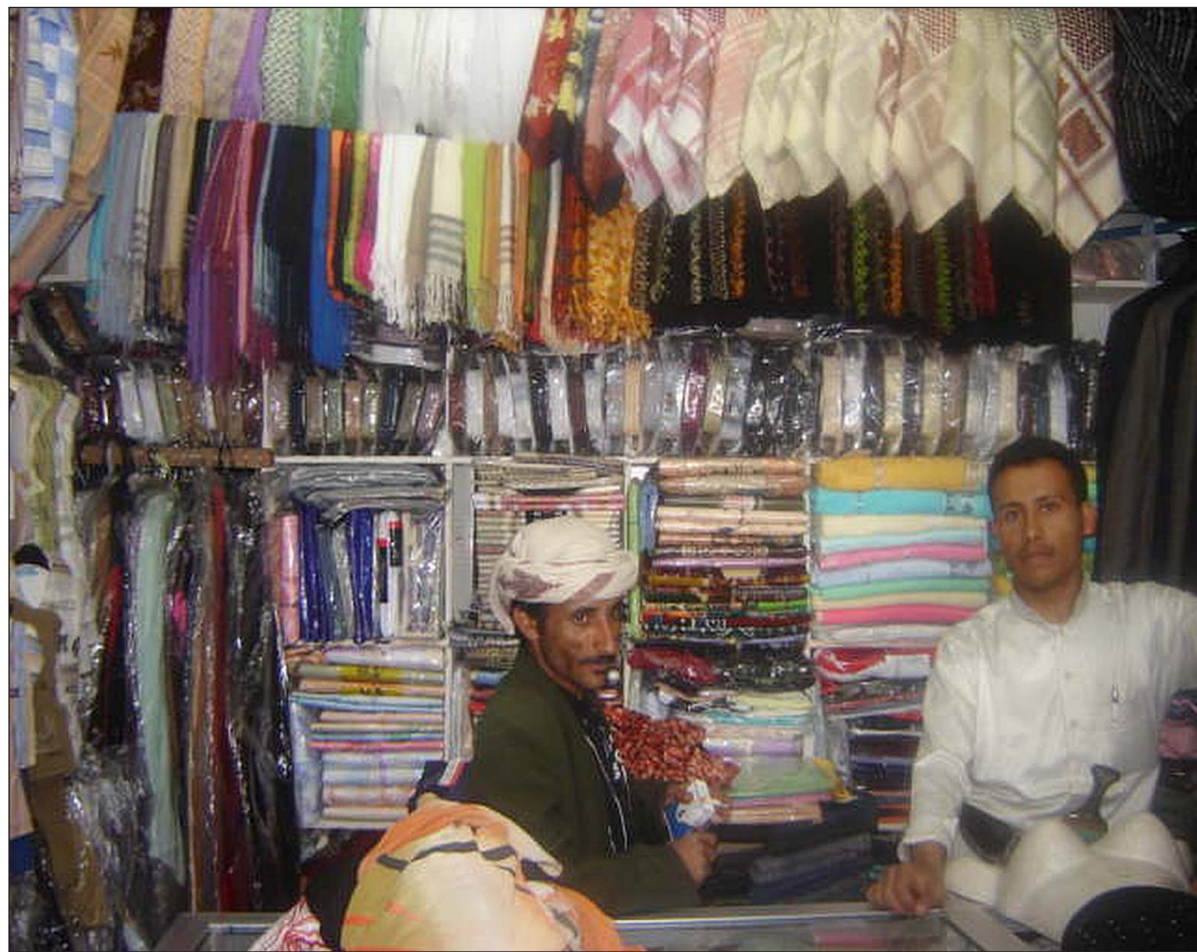
because of non-availability of job opportunities.

On its part the society for the protection of consumers asked the government to shoulder its responsibility for creation of an institution to undertake the responsibility of price and supply watching. The society also held the government responsible for rise in foodstuffs prices. Sources at the society have said there is no excuse for what the government has done in raising the prices except the absence of watching authorities under justification of the market openness on the one hand and greed of merchants on the other. The sources emphasized it had received many complaints from

citizens in this regard. They indicated that there were contacts it was holding with the concerned sides in the government and the parliament, sarcastically considering that as a gift by the government offered to the people on the Eid al-Adha.

The citizens also accused the ministry of industry and trade of neglecting its duties in practicing its responsibility in watching prices and that it evades from that responsibility and protection of consumers.

Experts in affairs of the local market told Yemen Times, "What is happening is natural outcome for many reasons and factors. Main among those is that the government is not practicing



Citizens have complained about clothes soaring prices.

World companies to invest in Yemen's fish wealth

Fish Wealth Ministry plans to establish fish cultures in the sea to develop Yemen's fish wealth.

Yemeni officials announced that a number of Japanese, German, Australian, Turkish and Arab companies have applied to invest in Yemen's fish sector. Sources said most applications are decided and some are in the decision process before beginning investment procedures, whereas others require ecological studies.

Minister of Fish Wealth Dr. Ali Mohammed Mijwis explained that a Japanese company intends an investment project to fatten tunas by establishing fish cultures. It aims to catch small tunas and put them in basins fed with special nutrition to increase their normal weight from six kilos to 20 kilos. He pointed out that the fattening project is among Japan's successful projects and that Yemen should strive for such a project. He also said the Japanese company would deliver a full study to specialists to assess the project's ecological influence, as well as its economic impact.

The minister noted that a German company intends to build a fish culture factory in Hadramout governorate, the first of its kind in the region, exporting to both Europe and Asia. The planned factory will specialize in shrimp reproduction and breeding other small, marine life species at an annual production capacity of 500 tons.

The ministry also is coordinating



with an Egyptian oceanography center to study a site stretching across Yemeni coasts to the sea as to soil and fresh water suitability. Mijwis said a preliminary study is complete, revealing more than 36 sites ideal for shrimp reproduction. He also pointed out that both the Yemeni and Egyptian sides would work to develop the study and include it in an investment map of all coastal fish projects.

Such studies aim to define suitable sites where investors can locate their projects, whether building boat, ice, canning or other relevant factories. In this regard, the World Bank announced it would grant Yemen \$25 million to improve fish wealth management,

allowing a 10-month grace period.

The ministry intends to implement the improvement project between 2006 and 2010 in all governorates situated on the Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aden. The project also is meant to improve fisherman support by improving wharfs and facilities unloading and selling fish. The project is considered one of the most important of the forthcoming period in developing the fish sector. Implementation will coincide with completion of a sea monitoring and inspection project begun in 2003.

For its part, the World Trade Organization announced last month that it would support Yemen's fish export project with a \$400,000 grant.



A marketplace for selling sheep and cattle for slaughter in Eid al-Adha. Cattle merchants have raised prices very high.

its duty in watching especially as it has become certain that the parliament is unable to hold it accountable and oblige it to enforce the laws particularly in relation with living aspects of the citizens."

The people have felt a wave of high prices that included clothes and requisites for the Eid and citizens have expressed their denunciation of this price situation that hinders them from shopping, deprives their children of the Eid joy and limits visits to their relatives and families in villages. Workers in markets selling used goods told Yemen Times they were unable to

visit their families in villages because of their low income and incapability of buying clothes and Eid requirements for their children. They stressed that their financial condition would not allow them to secure their children's needs and therefore they have preferred to stay in the capital.

Prior to Eid al-Adha those markets have witnessed a noticeable drop in rate of job opportunities especially for those workers having no permanent jobs. The reasons were the state of stagnation that prevailed activities of real estate and contracts and receding of construction works after accusa-

tions directed to relevant parties of manipulating in projects of big tenders. The workers said that situation requires finding positive solutions by the government and concerned parties, confirming the situation gets worse at labor market. There work opportunities are dwindling despite of plans which the government claims to be ready for the implementation of big projects providing numerous job opportunities. They say the majority of them can hardly gain financial income enabling them to have means for maintaining living and staying alive.



Job Vacancies

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Technical Evaluation Engineer - Reference No. 040

Yemen LNG Company intends to support sustainable development programmes within the vicinity of the Balhaf gas terminal and the pipeline route through the Marib and Shabwa Governorates. These projects must be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that they are technically and financially feasible, and provide genuine long-term benefits to the local population. Reporting directly to the Sustainable Development Manager, the Technical Evaluation Engineer will have a broad and challenging remit. The position will be based in Sana'a for the foreseeable future, but frequent trips to Shabwa and Marib will be involved.

The successful candidate will work closely with Yemen LNG Company's Community Liaison Officers and Senior Development Program Advisor and will assess the technical feasibility of the potential projects which they will propose. This will involve visits to the proposed locations and the preparation (personally or via experienced specialists) and review of the proposals, designs, feasibility studies and cost estimates. After approval by the Sustainable Development Manager and YLNG senior management, the job holder will prepare call-for-tender documentation, will advertise the tender and will participate in the evaluation and approval of bids. The incumbent will then supervise the execution of each project, ensuring that the objectives are achieved, that the required standards are maintained throughout and that YLNG management are provided with regular and comprehensive progress reports.

Candidates must be qualified Civil Engineers with at least 8 years of experience of assessing and implementing developmental projects in rural communities within Yemen, ideally on water, electricity, health and educational matters. Extensive experience of working directly and constructively with the representatives and members of local communities and with Governmental and Non-Governmental bodies is also essential.

Deadline: Wednesday, January 25, 2006

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

Applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post either to the address below, or by e-mail to HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE

**The Human Resources Department
Yemen LNG Company
P.O. Box 15347
Sana'a, Yemen**

Candidates selected for interview will be contact by Yemen LNG. Please send your CV once only and do not telephone to discuss your application.

Sana'a University publishes a festschrift in honor of leading archeologists

Sana'a University has published "Sabaean Studies," a host of archeological, epigraphical and historical essays written in Arabic, English, French and German, in honor of Prof. Yusuf M. Abdullah, Prof. Alessandro de Maigret and Prof. Christian Robin on the occasion of their 60th birthdays. A festival was held at Sana'a University on January 4, 2005, where the three celebrated scholars were honored and the book was released.

The celebration was in recognition of these scholars' plausible efforts and exertions they put into South Arabian studies.

Containing over eight hundred pages, the book was edited by Dr. Amida Sholan, Sabina Antonini and Dr. Mounir Arbach. Some 37 archeologists, scholars and researchers contributed to the festschrift (celebration publication) including Yemenis, Arabs and foreigners. The essays covered a variety of aspects related to Yemen's archeology and old history.

Worthwhile topics

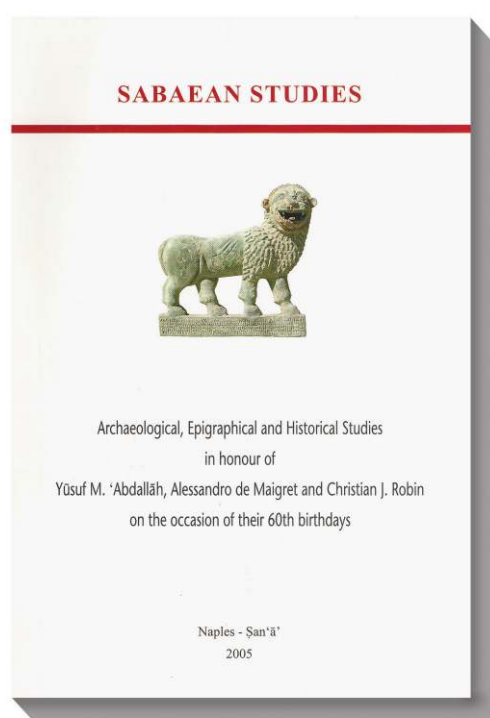
Printed in Italy at the expense of Sana'a University, the book contains a collection of interesting essays. It also includes many pictures and illustrations that help the understanding of the contents. One of the essays, written by Sabina Antonini, describes the first two campaigns at Hayd Ibn Aqil, the necropolis of Tamna'. The essay presents a preliminary outline of the scientific results obtained during two campaigns of excavations at Hayd Ibn Aqil, the necropolis located about two kilometers north of Tamna', the capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban. The campaigns were carried out in 2003-2004. The expedition focused on investigating a number of tombs. It is noteworthy that this site had been investigated by an American mission in 1950.

Another essay, authored by Jean-Francois and Jean-Claude Roux,

reports new excavations in Shabwa, namely in the ancient inta-muros city, near al-Matna village, on the southern flank of al-Aqab range, some 100 meters east of the so-called main temple. Undertaken by the French Archeological mission, the excavation aimed at obtaining a new archeological sequence from the old city of Shabwa to complement the earlier sequence which lacked some chronological phases. One of the important discoveries was an original "massive earth structures" architecture. The excavation provided a preliminary sequence ranging from the 14th-12th centuries BC to the middle of the 3rd century AD.

Vittoria Buffa, member of the Italian Archeological Mission and German-Russian Archeological Mission to Lahj, Yemen, presented an essay titled "Cults, symbols, and rituals in the late prehistory of Ancient Yemen: Some questions from Sabr." The author states that the Sabr culture developed on the coast of the Gulf of Aden during the 3rd and 2nd millennium and ceased to exist in the first half of the 1st millennium BC. Excavations in the Wadi Tuban Delta and on the coast of the Gulf of Aden revealed that Sabr culture represented two subsistence modes: agricultural settlements - the most important one being the eponymous site of Sabr - and shell-middens, sites with a marine-oriented economy.

Paolo Costa's concise essay tackled the defenses of the city of Sana'a through the ages. The author mentions that the name Sana'a means "well-fortified." The writer describes the types of fortifications such as the "constructions designed to prevent entrance into the area by means of massive walls which were defensible from a sentry walk and could be entered only through a few gates, all of them of difficult bent access." Drawing on many sources, the



author describes Sana'a defenses in comparison to other Yemeni cities taking into account the historical political changes.

On the other hand, Barbara Davide and Roberto Petriaggi wrote an essay which confirms records of economic exchanges among the civilizations in the past by means of underwater archeological findings in the port of Qani'. The underwater excavations produced several ceramic artifacts originated in Mediterranean countries. The ancient ports of Yemen were Mouza and Okelis on the Red Sea and Aden, Qani' and Moscha on the Indian Ocean. Qani' and Moscha were called the ports of incense. Ships plied between them and India.

The paper of Christopher Edens explores early agriculture in the highlands of Yemen. The author sheds light on the characteristics of the Bronze Age in Yemen's highland such as subsis-

tence activities, domestic arts, craft and trade and burial. His focal point, however, is the beginning of agriculture in Yemeni highland. He describes the patterns of traditional highland agriculture and the agricultural intensification.

Another essay draws attention to the Bronze Age sites in Bidbida, the northeastern highland of Yemen. Written by Abdu Ghaleb of Sana'a University, the essay describes a local team's visit to the Bidbida region, which is situated in the drier northeastern highlands of Yemen, between Sana'a to the west and Marib to the east. The main objective of the survey was to unearth and glean remains of the Bronze Age sites in this region. The mission documented some 20 archeological sites providing significant proof of an early settlement in Bidbida, dating back to the 3rd millennium BC.

Of these 20 sites, 12 were defined as settlement sites. They attested a remarkable culture, including circular, elliptical, rectangular, square and irregular structures with few associated stone artifacts and pottery shards.

Another interesting essay was about the rock-shelter painting in the Tihama foothills. Written by Edward Keall, the essay describes the painted rock-art in an area behind the city of Hays, in the immediate hills at the edge of the Tihama plain. With logical arguments, the author arrives at interesting conclusions.

There are many useful essays that focus on different aspects of the Yemeni archeology and Old Yemen's civilizations. The book can be described to be so much a gist of long years of research that it deserves to be read and, above all, to be a gesture of gratitude and appreciation towards three masters of archeology.

and subsequently, from 1983, of the Istituto per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (IsMEO), directed by Gherardo Gnoli, is still actively engaged in field work, having changed its name to the "Italian Archeological Mission in the Republic of Yemen."

In the years 1981-1985 the Mission carried out a preliminary recognition of the rich and multifarious prehistory of Yemen (investigated both on the tableland and in the desert and coastal plain). In 1981 it made the crucial discovery of the existence of a Bronze Age culture in Yemen (3rd-2nd millennium BC). More than fifty sites from this pre-Sabaean phase were found in the mountainous region to the southeast of Sana'a. The data to emerge from the explorations and excavations carried out in 1984 and 1985 in four of the main settlements gave a first, quite complete picture of a culture showing clear affinities with the one that flourished in Palestine in the Early Bronze Age and which preceded the Southern Arabian civilization of the classic period.

In 1985 research into the Sabaean period resulted in the discovery, on the eastern boundary of the desert, of a large, complex of ruins (Wadi Yala) which, after Marib, can be considered the most important Sabaean site known in Yemen. An excavation conducted in the city (1987) provided essential data for clarifying the much debated chronology of Southern Arabian civilizations.

In the late 1980s the Italian Mission investigated a number of topics, including the types of necropolis located in the desert (turret tombs) and the tableland (hypogean tombs).

In 1990, A. de Maigret became full professor of Archeology and Art History of the Ancient Near East at the Istituto Universitario Orientale in Naples. The following year, he was elected President of "Arabia Antiqua (International Association for Studies of the Arabian Peninsula). This led in 1992 to his appointment by the Italian Foreign Ministry as Archeological Counsellor to the Italian Embassy in Riyadh.

He is a member of many institutes such as Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome; and the Society for Arabian Studies, London. He is director of the series Repertorio Iconografico Sudarabico, co-director of the journal Arabia, and member of the scientific committees of other journals such as Arabian Epigraphy and Archeology (Copenhagen).

Institute de recherches et d'etudes sur le monde arabe et musulman from 1997 to 2000, and Joint Director of the same center during 1994-1997.

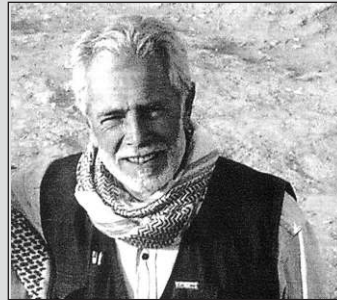
He was the Chairman of the Section 33 (Formation du monde moderne - Historie moderne, Historie contemporaine et Orientalisme) of the National Committee of the Scientific Research. (2000-2004)

Currently, Prof. Robin is the Director of the Laboratoire des etudes semitiques anciennes, UMR, Paris. He is also the Director of the French Archeological Mission in Hasi (Republic of Yemen).

He is the Editor of the Inventaire des inscriptions sudarabiques and Co-director of the Semitica, Arabia and Raydan journals.

Prof. Christian Robin was awarded corresponding member of the Academie des inscriptions et belles-lettres on October 31, 1997 and was awarded member of the same Academie on March 18, 2005.

Alessandro de Maigret



Alessandro de Maigret, Italian national, was born on August 14, 1943. He studied archeology of the Near East at the Istituto di Studi del Vicino Oriente in Rome University. On graduating in Classics (archeology) in 1971 and specializing in Eastern archeology in 1973, he spent several years excavating at Tell Mardikh/Ebla (1970-1976) with a team from Rome University directed by P. Matthiae as part of the Italian Archeological Mission in Syria.

In 1980, following his appointment as Associate Professor at the Istituto Universitario Orientale in Naples, he created the "Italian Archeological Mission in the Yemen Arab Republic," with funding from the Italian Foreign Ministry, the Ministry for the University and the National Council for Researches. This Mission, founded with the support of Sabatino Moscati and under the aegis of first the Istituto per l'Oriente of Rome

Archeologists' profiles

Yusuf Muhammad Abdullah



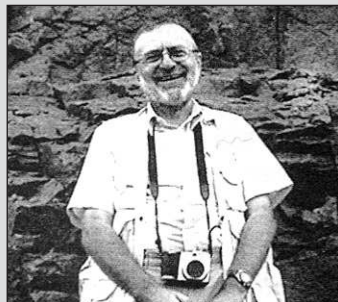
Yusuf Muhammad Abdullah was born on May 19, 1943 in Taiz province, Yemen. After gaining his high school certificate in Aden in 1962, he went to the American University in Beirut to study Arabic Language and Literature, obtaining his B.A. in 1967. For his M.A. (1970) Prof. Abdullah benefited from the supervision of Prof. Mahmud al-Gul assisted by both Prof. Ihsan Abbas and the well known British Professor Lancaster Harding. All three professors contributed to Abdullah's continued studies in the field of Semitic and ancient archeology, especially in those related to Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula. Abdullah won a Ph.D. scholarship to study in Tubingen University in Germany with the help of Prof. Walter Muller, who is considered today one of the foremost authorities in Sabaean studies. Abdullah specialized in Sabaean and Islamic archeology and studies in 1975. In 1986 he was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt certificate for his post doctorate research in the field of epigraphy and archeology.

Yusuf Muhammad Abdullah's main research interest lies in the archeology of Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula. He has made many journeys inside Yemen and is considered the leading expert in epigraphy from the area of al-Mi'sal and Hagar Qaniya. He discovered the first literary text in the form of a poem or religious hymn written in musnad (old Yemeni script) in 1977, deciphering its symbols, translating it into Arabic and publishing it. He was among the first to contribute to decoding the symbols of public al-zabur handwriting, found inscribed on wooden sticks in 1985. He also contributed to discovering and documenting a large number of Yemeni archeological locations and was head of the campaign that discovered the mummies in Shibam al-Ghiras in 1983.

Prof. Abdullah has taught in the University of Sana'a for nearly thirty years and still lectures on ancient Yemeni epigraphy and archeology. He has supervised many M.A. and Ph.D. theses and participated in M.A. and Ph.D. discussion committees at the King Sa'ud University in Saudi Arabia.

Prof. Abdullah has served in a member and trustee of many research and academic institutes. Moreover, he has been a board member for many journals and specialized books. He has been awarded many medals, including the medal in Literature and Science, first class in Yemen (1989) and the award of the Supreme Council for Literature and Arts in Kuwait (2001). He was appointed President of the General Organization for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts. Since 2004, Prof. Abdullah has been a consultant for the Minister of Culture and Tourism on museum and archeological affairs.

Christian Robin:



Christian Julien Robin, French national, was born on May 12, 1943. He is specialized in History of Arabia from the earliest times to the first years of Islam. He studied political science at the Institute d'etudes politiques de Paris as well as Arabic Language and Civilization.

Since 1978 he has been a researcher at the Centre National de la recherche scientifique, and currently he is directeur de recherche de Ire classe.

He was the founder of the French Archeological Mission in the Yemen Arab Republic (1978) and founder of the Centre francais d'etudes Yemenites, currently Centre francais d'archeologie et de sciences sociales de Sana'a. he was the first Director of the above mentioned Centre (1982-1987)

Prof. Robin served as Director of the

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 11

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Here with a loaf of bread
beneath the bough,
A flask of wine, a book of verse
-and thou
Beside me singing in the
wilderness -
The wilderness is paradise
enow

Short story: The Hidden Depression (part 2 of 2)

By: Salwa Yehia Al-Eryani

The Third Day

We thought Fun City might be a better place. It is more organized and people are fewer. Ticket prices are not cheap; therefore, people there are mostly those who have been abroad and know how one should behave in amusement parks and respect others. We all feel comfortable at Fun City. New games are always added and queues are arranged. Truthfully, what happened there was just a matter of bad luck. I wanted to write about it only to raise a topic for further discussion.

After our kids had fun playing several rounds of their favorite games, I lost my sister with whom I had come. I looked, but didn't find her. I called her on my mobile, but she didn't answer. She probably was either fighting with the kids to persuade them it was time to go or couldn't hear the mobile ringing due to the high volume of music playing. I remember it was Nancy Ajram's "Ah Wa Nos." I turned sideways to put the mobile in my handbag and at the same minute, I saw two of my friend, I hadn't seen them since university. We hugged each other warmly and asked about each other's lives.

I thought afterwards that in that moment, I hadn't put the mobile in my bag, but that it slipped outside the bag and fell on the floor. I couldn't hear it fall on the floor because of "Ah Wa Nos." Also, the kids around me were making an enormous racket, in addition to the laughter and shouts. After I left them, I found my sister. We walked toward the door to leave when I remembered my mobile. I looked, but couldn't find it. I threw my entire bag's contents on the floor, but found no mobile. I was so frustrated. We called my mobile using my sister's mobile, but no one answered, so we thought it still was on the floor somewhere. I went to the same place I'd met my friends, but didn't find it. I asked all the boys continually sweeping the floor. They smiled and said they didn't see anything.

We called my number again but this time, it was turned off, so we expected someone took it. We kept calling, but it was no use. I remembered my mobile's welcome note was "In Allah We Trust," so maybe when the person opened the mobile and read this note, he would feel guilty and give me back my mobile. I sent a message from my sister's mobile saying, "Please call this number +++. When you return the mobile, you will be rewarded an amount of money that will please you. Don't take what isn't yours. It is forbidden. The forbidden is punished through your health." As you may expect, I received no answer. People no longer fear what is forbidden or what doesn't belong to them. Or maybe people's health already is dreadful and stealing cannot make it any worse. At the Fun City entrance, I left a note to call my husband's number if anyone finds my mobile.

We left and all the pleasure I had felt

left me. I sighed and sighed, remembering how many numbers I had lost. I also was thinking how I can get new mobile. Honestly, I was hurt. In the car, we discussed why people lose their mobiles a lot. We decided it was a matter of bad luck or life's stresses that make people lose their concentration. Yet, what we couldn't explain was why people no longer fear the results of stealing others' belongings. Why don't people feel guilty when they steal? Why don't they care about punishment from Allah, from whom they know they can't escape, no matter where they hide? This is what I wanted to raise as a discussion topic.

The Final Day

We had had enough of Eid in Sana'a. The previous days made us feel, without any exaggeration, deeply depressed. We decided to go to Aden and enjoy the sun and sea. The next day, we were there. I was sitting on the beach watching my kids play and swim. I enjoyed myself simply seeing them enjoy themselves. My youngest son wasn't in the water but was building a sandcastle. I sighed, "Now this is real relaxation."

Suddenly, I saw a lady in black coming near my son. A young man followed her holding a small icebox. She was getting closer and closer to my son. She looked like a black fog. All of a sudden, I saw her grab my son. The young man behind her opened his box and gave her something that she tried to put in my son's mouth. My son was screaming and kicking.

I was so shocked that I didn't run to see what was happening to him until it seemed maybe a few minutes had passed. I was trying to determine whether it was a black fog or a nightmare or what. I ran to them and yelled at the woman, "Hey, what do you think you're doing?" She simply said she was giving him the vaccination for infantile paralysis. I lost my temper and shouted, "And do you just grab kids like that without asking them where their parents are? Without asking whether they just took this vaccination a few days ago or not? Without asking their names or who are the adults they came with?" My son was crying behind me. The woman answered that this was her duty and that any child under age 5 must take it. I agreed, but asked her to be sensible in implementing it. I looked sadly at my son's sandcastle. It was destroyed. He had crushed it while trying to escape this 'angel.'

We left the sun and sea to return to the hotel. The kids were very hungry, so we decided to eat in the hotel. We ordered fish, beefsteak, rice and french fries. An hour later, we all were vomiting and suffering diarrhea. It was very bad food poisoning. This lasted about a day and half, during which we spent the time in bed and in the toilet. The next day, as soon as we felt a little better, we got in the car and went back to Sana'a.

I am positive that the location is not the problem. We have a wonderful land and moderate weather. Our problem is the people in Yemen.

Fake medicine: Doses of poison

Forging and smuggling are two phenomena indicating absence of legislation and supervision in Yemeni markets. There is anarchy in the drug market.

By: Sadaam Al-Ashmori

There are huge amounts of smuggled and faked drugs flooding markets and posing serious health threats. Although smuggling is found in many countries, a lot of Yemeni patients were victims of smuggled and faked drugs which were not appropriate for human use.

Ex-smuggler confession

"Smuggling is very easy in this country," an ex-smuggler from Hajjah said. "Anyone can do it at anytime and through any outlets. I worked four years as a smuggler. I brought many medicines and made them available in the market. We went even to India for that purpose." He continued, "I believe ethical commitment necessitates we should provide drugs, whatever the cost. I cannot bear hearing that a patient died due to lack of medicine."

Describing his method, the ex-smuggler added, "We inquire about a certain drug that has a high price and which is highly demanded. We contact our agents to buy this drug at an appropriate price." He explained that they then agree on the price at which the drug will be sold and advertise the drug before it goes on sale.

As to the profit rate, the ex-smuggler said, "An agent in Yemen sells it for \$20. We buy it for \$5 and sell it at \$10." He assured he met no problems during his years working as a drug smuggler in Yemen.

Authorities' failure

Dr. Ahmed Noman, head of Al-Manar Medical Establishment said,

"Medicine in Yemen differs from all commodities, but unfortunately, agents and manufacturers deal in them as monopolized supplies with no regard for career ethics. All they care about is profit. As a doctor, I sometimes go to a pharmacy and buy a drug. I find a queer drawing on the packet and a name that is neither Arabic nor English, which has no connection with medicine. If I do not understand such things, what do you expect of ordinary citizens?"

Noman believes the problem is that authorities fail to combat this phenomenon. "The Ministry of Health, World Health and the Supreme Authority for Drugs should shoulder the blame for this. The authority should demand full mandate to carry out studies and evaluate the real need of developing countries. It is well known that developing countries follow the policy of 'prevention is better than cure.'" He added that the authority should prepare reports on whether agents and factories suffice the market's need. "If market need is met with appropriate quality and price, the smuggler and the forger will be defeated in a natural manner." He added that there is no supervision of the smuggler, the forger or the local drug manufacturer.

Dr. Abdullah Abdulkhaliq, general manager of the Authority for Medicines, said the authority's role is to control drug marketing and it does this within the limited authority they have. He said it is present at all the country's ports 24 hours a day, seven days a week, checking all drugs entering the country. Any medicine entering without the authority's coordination and consent is considered inconsistent



It is not easy for ordinary people to distinguish fake drugs.

with requirements and hence a smuggled drug.

Customs' responsibility

Abdulkhaliq added that combating smuggling is Customs' duty because it has authorization. He said their work is consultative and when smuggled drugs are caught, they often are destroyed in the presence of authorities and a report written.

Pharmacist Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Haj said supervision is not enough. He thinks the Minister of Interior and

security forces should be involved in strict surveillance of air, land and sea ports. "The Ministry of Supply should oblige agents to abide by the prices. The Health General is responsible for supplying lifesaving drugs and obliging agents to provide drug supplies." He added that he often receives offers of smuggled drugs, noting that fake and smuggled drugs are offered in a suspicious manner.

National economy

Dr. Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Shihari, general manager of Shifaco Drug Company, said, "Drug forgery is an international problem. It is not easy for ordinary people to distinguish fake drugs. The responsibility includes the doctor, the pharmacist and the merchant. From a specialized point of view, we need special standards because medicines now are not consistent with standards." As for the motives of this phenomenon Abdulkhaliq attributed it to absence of drug supervision.

Abdulkhaliq added that local drug manufacturing has covered a wide area so far, as there are 70 kinds of drugs now being manufactured and exported. "We found that export is better than conflicts with smugglers here."

Al-Shihari said the drug law still is pending in Parliament. "Parliament should use the experiences of neighboring countries," he added.

The smuggler and the faker are killers

Al-Shihari said application of the law by the judiciary is good, but there is some inattention that costs the plaintiff and the claimant a lot.

Al-Shihari added that they want to activate the outcome of the debate organized by Yemeni drug producers, Sana'a University and the Supreme Authority to combat smuggling. The Prime Minister said in that debate that the smuggler and the faker are killers deserving death sentences.

Some seek to excuse smugglers because of the lack and monopoly of the drug, but there is no excuse for fakers.

Abdulkhaliq said one reason for forging a drug is its good reputation. He added that faking began with the most consumable and rare drug types, then included others. He explained that if they discover a faked drug, they issue a warning and distribute it to all markets. He said the authority is exerting efforts to control the medicine market and encourage local production, so Yemeni markets will be free of poisons, smuggling and faking.

Do not blame the patient

Why do faked and smuggled medicines have good marketability? Noman said



Dr. Abdulkhaliq

"There are 70 kinds of drugs now being manufactured and exported."



Dr. Noman

"If market need is met with appropriate quality and price, the smuggler and the forger will be defeated in a natural manner."



Dr. Al-Shihari

"Parliament should use the experiences of neighboring countries."

he had a former patient who used a certain type of medicine that had no side effects. He said the medicine disappeared from pharmacies, so the patient bought local medicine. The result was that he suffered stomach scratches.

Other reasons for marketability are price differences. For instance, medicines sold by an agent cost 4,000 YR, while smuggled ones cost only 1,500 YR. One cannot blame the patient if he chooses the smuggled drug.

An unnamed pharmacist said faking is far more serious than smuggling. "Faking can only be discovered through its side effects on the patient. A patient using a faked drug may suffer materially and in his health. He may be compelled to visit another doctor and try other drugs because the faked drug was ineffective."

When asked about smuggled medicines, the pharmacist said, "There is smuggling and there are smuggled drugs. This happens because an agent monopolizes the drug to raise the price. This motivates smugglers to provide the alternative."

The pharmacist noted that he receives offers to buy smuggled drugs. When asked about the role of supervision, he said, "There is supervision but it is used as a means for unlawful profit."

There is no medical legislation

Noman believes there is lack of supervision. He said supervision is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and the authority. "The authority should expose any imported drug to examination," adding that the phenomenon indicates there is a defect in the supervision system.

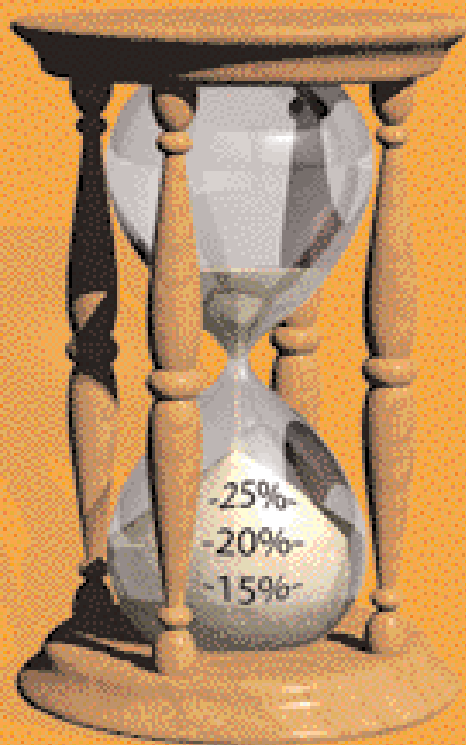
Where are smuggled drugs marketed and how do they enter?

An ex-smuggler answered that he used to market his smuggled medicine in 20 of the most famous governorates' markets. As for entrance, he said there are more than 80 land and sea inlets through which smuggled drugs infiltrate.

"My father paid dearly for my last fake drug"

The ex-smuggler said the last fake drug he smuggled was Indian insulin. He distributed it in the markets and to his father, who bought it as a diabetes patient. The result was that his leg wound aggravated because of the fake drug and doctors were compelled to amputate it. He wishes such a situation would happen to every smuggler so they will give up smuggling. "Smuggling is like giving your relatives direct doses of poison," he lamented.

Special Offer



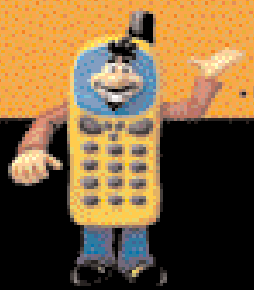
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وجبة الكبريت

Kirilenko hits triple-double to lead Jazz past Raptors

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Andrei Kirilenko had his first career triple-double and Mehmet Okur chipped in with game high 29 points to power the Utah Jazz to a 111-98 win over the Toronto Raptors in Salt Lake City on Tuesday.

Kirilenko's 18 points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists was also the first triple-double for Utah since Karl Malone completed the feat against the Los Angeles Clippers on May 4, 1999.

The big Russian's 16 rebounds and 10 assists also represented career highs.

Okur also had seven assists and six rebounds while Devin Brown contributed 15 points to the win as the Jazz

won for the first time in three games.

Chris Bosh continued to set the pace for the Raptors with 27 points, while Jalen Rose had 16 and Mike James 15.

The Jazz led 54-47 at the half then took command in the third, out-scoring the Raptors 33-25 to open up a 15-point cushion going into the final 12 minutes.

In Sacramento, Kevin Martin poured in a career high 25 points and Kenny Thomas contributed 22 points and 15 rebounds as the Kings handed the Phoenix Suns their heaviest defeat of the season, 119-90.

Rookie Francisco Garcia added 21 and 10 rebounds in the rout while Mike Bibby had 19 and Brad Miller flirted

with the triple-double, hitting for 18 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Shawn Marion had 25 points in the loss for the Suns, while Raja Bell had 19 and league MVP Steve Nash was limited to just seven points and eight assists.

The Suns showed none of their usual offensive flair as the short-handed Kings, playing without injured Peja Stojakovic, Shareef Abdur-Rahim and guard Bonzi Wells, stormed to a 22-point halftime lead of 65-43.

The Kings continued to maintain the pressure in the second half by increasing their lead to 27 points going into the final quarter and cruising to the easy win.

Reading upset WBA, Wigan need penalties to beat Leeds



Reading's Leroy Lita (R) shoots and scores his third goal past goalkeeper Chris Kirkland of West Bromwich Albion during their FA Cup soccer match third round replay at the Madejski Stadium in Reading, southern England January 17.

REUTERS

By: Nick Mulvenney

LONDON (Reuters) - Congolese Leroy Lita's hat-trick helped second division leaders Reading come back from two goals down to beat Premier League West Bromwich Albion 3-2 after extra-time in their FA Cup third-round replay on Tuesday.

Top-flight Wigan Athletic needed a penalty shootout to eliminate second division Leeds United, who came from behind four times over the two matches and forced a 3-3 draw after extra-time in the replay.

Second division Stoke City also needed penalties to see off minor league Tamworth after their replay finished 1-1 while Premier League Birmingham City ran out 2-0 winners over fourth division Torquay United.

Middlesbrough, savaged 7-0 by Arsenal in the league at the weekend, took out their frustrations on Nuneaton Borough with a 5-2 victory over the minor league club.

Reading, so keen to secure Premier League status they rested several regular starters, trailed 2-0 after a first-half double from West Brom's Richard Chaplow.

Lita got one back for the home side after the break and added a second with a beautiful strike a quarter of an hour later to send the match into extra-time.

The 21-year-old then finished off a good move to claim his third goal.

Reading now play Birmingham, who had Jiri Jarosik and Mikael Forssell to thank for their 2-0 triumph over Torquay.

At Elland Road, Wigan's Swedish striker Andreas Johansson put the visitors into a deserved lead in the 24th minute.

Leeds equalised four minutes from the break when Lleyton Baines cleared a Rob Hulse header off the line and David Healy was on hand to score.

Jason Roberts turned and lashed home Wigan's second five minutes into the second half but Leeds levelled again when Healy converted a 64th-minute penalty.

Twelve minutes into extra time, Roberts rose to nod in a Graham Kavanagh cross but a screamer of a shot from Ireland fullback Gary Kelly sent the tie into the penalty shootout.

Misses by Healy and Hulse left Kavanagh needing to convert his spot kick to clinch victory and the Irishman

delivered a 4-2 win on penalties, setting up a fourth-round tie against Manchester City.

Blushes saved

Nathan Jackson put Tamworth in front against Stoke but Paul Gallagher saved his side's blushes by equalising 10 minutes from time.

After a scoreless extra half-hour, Stoke prevailed 5-4 in the shootout and next play Walsall, who beat fellow third division side Barnsley 2-0 in their replay.

A goal after 34 minutes from Middlesbrough defender Chris Riggott and a penalty six minutes later from Yakubu Aiyegbeni put paid to Nuneaton's hopes.

The Premier League side scored three more through Stuart Parnaby, a second from Yakubu and Mark Viduka to line up a fourth-round trip to second division Coventry City.

Gez Murphy, who scored the equaliser in the first game, struck twice for Nuneaton.

In the night's other replay, Cheltenham beat Chester 1-0 and will play Premier League Newcastle United for a place in round five.

Poulter shrugs off hand injury in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Ian Poulter seemed relatively unconcerned after hurting his left hand during practice for the inaugural Abu Dhabi Golf Championship which begins on Thursday.

The stylish Poulter, with the blond-tipped hair and exotic wardrobe, played down the extent of the injury.

"It's a bit sore," the 30-year-old Ryder Cup player told reporters on Tuesday. "I played about seven holes out there just now and it's pretty painful."

"It's nothing serious (though), I just need to keep icing it."

World number 63 Poulter, who wore striking Union Jack-patterned trousers at the 2004 British Open, said he would be launching his own clothes range at the end of the year.

"As long as I feel comfortable in what I am wearing, I am happy," he said. "If I feel I look good then that (wearing outlandish clothes) doesn't put any extra pressure on me."

Poulter is looking forward to taking on a high-class field at the European Tour event in Abu Dhabi which will

include world number two Vijay Singh, Sergio Garcia of Spain, fellow Briton Colin Montgomerie and American pair Chris DiMarco and John Daly.

"It will be great to compete with so many high-ranked players," said Poulter.

Cautious Casey

"I'm really looking forward to playing here. I'm feeling comfortable right now and, more importantly, my golf game is in shape."

Paul Casey, who won the China Open in November, was not quite as upbeat as his compatriot.

"My game is not bad, I think it could be a bit rusty," said Casey. "I've had a lot of range golf for the last three weeks and I need to quickly remember how to shoot a low number."

"I just have to play some golf. It could be very good this week or it could be rusty."

Course superintendent Mike Clarke said the Abu Dhabi Golf Club would test the skills of the best players in the field.



Ian Poulter looks on at the 18th hole during the Volvo Masters in Sotogrande, southern Spain, October 28, 2005.

REUTERS

"We have built new tees on some of the holes to add some length to the course," said Clarke. "We have also added bunkers and grown the rough so that the course is a bit more of a test and ready to host a tournament like this."

"It's quite a length for a championship course at more than 7,300 yards."

((وبش الصابرين الذين اذا اصابهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله وانا اليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله و قدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله

الحاج / سعيد عبده سعيد أنعم

وبهذا المصاب الجلل لا يسعنا سوى أن نتقدم بأحر التعازي و أصدق المواساة إلى

الحاج / علي محمد سعيد أنعم

رئيس مجلس الإدارة لمجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

و الحاج / أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

و إلى ابناء الفقيد / مطهر و فائز و شهاب و سعيد عبده سعيد أنعم

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته و أن يسكنه فسيح جناته و أن يلهم أهله و ذويه الصبر و السلوان

و لا حول و لا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم و انا لله و انا اليه راجعون

مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة و الطباعة و النشر

أ/ نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف - رئيس مجلس الإدارة و رئيس التحرير

وكافة طاقم و منتسبي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة و الطباعة و النشر

Nations-Lemerre only coach surviving from last finals

By: Mark Gleeson

CAIRO, Jan 18 (Reuters) - The vagaries of coaching in Africa are well illustrated by the fact that only one of the 16 coaches at the African Nations Cup starting on Friday was in charge of his team in the last tournament two years ago.

Veteran French coach Roger Lemerre is, not surprisingly, a survivor from the 2004 finals in Tunisia where he steered the host country to their first Nations title.

The other sides returning to the tournament in Egypt or playing again after missing the 2004 finals have new men at the helm, including Ghana's Ratomir Dujkovic, who was in charge of

Rwanda two years ago.

Continuity has never been a hallmark of African football and failure in competitions such as the Nations Cup is an almost certain guarantee of dismissal.

There are various degrees of failure. Performances that in some countries might be considered a success are regarded in others as good cause for sacking.

This was demonstrated at the 2002 finals in Mali, the last Nations Cup to be played just six months before a World Cup.

Nigeria finished third in that tournament, missing out on an appearance in the final only because of a controversial extra-time goal scored in a 2-1 semi-final defeat by Senegal.

Yet failure cost Shaibu Amidu his job.

Carlos Queiroz, now assistant coach at Manchester United, helped South Africa to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals and viewed the Nations Cup as nothing more than a good training exercise ahead of the trip to South Korea and Japan. Yet he was left with no choice but to resign when South Africa lost in the quarter-finals in Mali.

Potential failure

French coach Henri Michel has good cause to view potential failure in Egypt with trepidation. He has twice lost previous jobs because of mediocre returns at the Nations Cup.

In 2000, he left his job as coach of

Morocco after they failed to make it past the first round.

Two years later, he returned to the finals at the helm of Tunisia and was due to take them less than six months later to the 2002 World Cup finals in Asia.

Tunisia failed to score in three matches and went home from the Mali tournament after failing to make the quarter-finals. Michel was fired shortly afterwards and missed out on the World Cup.

Now Michel returns with Ivory Coast, who have also qualified for the World Cup in Germany.

He knows that failure by the Ivorians to turn in a credible performance in Egypt will put his World Cup chances in dire straits again.

Torvill and Dean look back

By: Pritha Sarkar

LONDON (Reuters) - Their interpretation of Ravel's Bolero mesmerised spectators at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics and back home in Britain their every move was followed by a captive audience of more than 24 million television viewers.

The haunting ice dance performance on Valentine's Day in 1984 earned Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean across-the-board perfect 6.0 scores for artistic impression and a gold medal.

Twenty-two years after their routine became part of British sporting folklore, however, Torvill has no doubt what the judges' verdict would be if they were to perform it at next month's Turin Games.

"It probably would have been totally illegal. We'd have been disqualified," Torvill told Reuters in an interview.

Her declaration came in light of the new scoring system that was introduced to the sport following the Salt Lake City Games pairs scandal.

The revamped structure has not only drastically changed the way skaters can earn marks for their routines but has also ensured the duo's feat of nine straight 6.0s can never be repeated as that format was dumped following the 2002 Games.

"I remember starting the routine and then it all became a bit of a dream sequence, like it was almost happening in slow motion," said Torvill.

"Then I remember the ending and then there was a big roar and I remember lots and lots of flowers. I was still collecting flowers when there was another roar because the scores had come up and we'd got of lots of sixes."

Memorable adaptations

Torvill and Dean revelled in turning the rink into a theatre and their other memorable adaptations included a circus-based performance entitled "Barnum On Ice", which they devised with the help of actor Michael Crawford.

Following a 10-year break, the couple made a brief comeback to the competitive stage in 1994 when they won Olympic bronze in Lillehammer with an aptly titled "Let's Face the Music and Dance" programme.

They believe, however, that they would have been stifled under the new format.

"I'm glad of the freedom we had because our strength was being creative and coming up with a new way to do something," said Torvill.

"In the new scoring system, you score more points for doing a more difficult lift. So everyone's going to do the more difficult lift to get more points and therefore they are all doing the same kind of lifts, turns and moves."

Dean concurred: "With ice dance, they still need to tweak the system. Everyone's looking the same and what they need to do is still allow freedom of creativity. Some skaters work the system and they get the points but it's not necessarily very creative."

Relieved that they no longer have to work towards impressing judges on the world stage, the four-times world champions have joined forces once again for the sake of entertainment.

They hope their foray into prime-time television in Britain, with a programme in which celebrities will be trained to skate, will encourage people to go back into ice rinks and even take up the sport at a competitive level.

"Like everything, it's just a question of awareness. People have become

aware of ballroom dancing again through the BBC show (Strictly Come Dancing)," Dean told Reuters.

"I also noticed this winter, all round London there were these little outdoor ice rinks.

"It's a social gathering and not a sporting endeavour but having said that if some children go along to these places and get on the ice and think 'hey this is kind of inspiring and I want to do a little more of this' then maybe it's achieved something."

Torvill added: "Hopefully the programme will make people want to have a go. When they see other people that are complete beginners doing it hopefully they will want to have a go too."

Elite sport

Although the popularity of the sport shot up during the duo's heyday in the 1980s, it has nosedived in recent years to such a level that only three women entered the British championships in 2004.

Dean, who works as a choreographer in the United States, believes one of the problems skating has in Britain is that people have the misconception that it is an elite sport.

"I was a miner's son and we didn't have any money," he said. "We often survived from pay packet to pay packet and sometimes the money ran out by the end of the week."

"Having said that we struggled, we got through it but it was a struggle. I can't say it is an elitist sport. It has the look that it maybe elitist but my background isn't of that and nor is Jayne's."

Few people, however, possess the sheer determination of the pair.

"I never thought of giving up," said Torvill, who used to work as an insurance clerk.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1 Vent sound
5 They get people into jams
9 Assessed
14 Tolstoy hero
15 Over again
16 Take the honey and run?
17 Type of stick
18 Yuletide visitors
19 Field doc
20 What a stuck-up person may be called
23 Kind of fork
24 Heavy metal
25 Put one over on
27 Overhaul
32 Be in accord
36 Kind of wave
38 Comment made with a nod
39 What an old-timer may be called
42 Cathedral or church part
43 Saver of many endangered species?
44 Stops presenting evidence
45 Herb of Tijuana
47 Construction block manufacturer
49 Spooky waterway?
51 Jumpy
56 What a

DOWN

1 "Hungry, hungry" critter of a kid's game
2 Coast or tower
3 Certain powdered starches
4 Pig proboscis
5 Sporty Chevy
6 Collections of literary snippets
7 Rhythmic noble defender of the downtrodden?
8 Utilize a charge card
9 All new from the ground up
10 Sir Guinness
11 Worker's list heading
12 Grand in scale
13 Where to find

two black suits
21 Pass the buck
22 Terra firma
26 "This can't be!"
28 Type of squad
29 Seeks a favor
30 Make the acquaintance of
31 Kennel features
32 Tolstoy's
33 Karenina
34 Hockey player's
35 Letters for an invitee
36 Certain fencing blade
37 Belly problem
40 Start for mural
41 Satire, perhaps

46 Night flight
48 Needler
50 Chris of "Wicked Game" fame
52 Film buff Roger
53 Word with Chicks or cups
54 Screen great Garbo
55 Famed '50s flop
56 Says "yes" without saying "yes"
57 NASA's Shepard
58 Drug shipment, perhaps
59 At all times
60 Express denier

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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"YOU CALLED?" by Andy Pinner

Serena steps up defence of Melbourne title

By: Julian Linden

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Defending champion Serena Williams issued an ominous warning to her Australian Open rivals with an impressive 6-3 6-1 second round win over France's Camille Pin on Wednesday.

The 13th seeded American had appeared to be struggling for fitness and form as she stumbled to a three-set victory over Li Na in the opening round, but her 49-minute destruction of the unseeded Pin proved that she remains anything but a spent force.

Although she has a relatively low seeding after missing most of last season through injury, Williams is lurking as the woman to beat in a top half of a draw packed with the sport's biggest names.

Williams's compatriot and top seed Lindsay Davenport booked a third-round encounter against 25th seed Maria Kirilenko with a hard-fought 7-6 6-3 victory over Karolina Sprem.

World number one Davenport was

not at her best against her Croatian opponent but was able to raise her game when it mattered.

"I think it was great for me (because) I think that I was able to come through not playing perfect tennis," Davenport told reporters.

"I wasn't panicked and I wasn't uptight about anything."

On a day when several leading women's seeds scored impressive wins, 2004 champion Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium beat Hana Sromova 7-6 6-1 to confirm her position as tournament favourite.

The Czech provided eighth seed Henin with some stubborn resistance in the opening set but her challenge faded quickly when she injured her left ankle and was unable to move around the court as freely.

Henin has replaced compatriot Kim Clijsters as the bookmakers' favourite to win the title after a brilliant start to the season and is yet to drop a set in her two matches so far.

Four Russian women all won on

Wednesday with two more, Maria Sharapova and Elena Likhovtseva, yet to play.

The 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova continued her revival after a poor 2005 with a 6-2 6-7 6-2 victory over Arantxa Parra to set up a third round meeting with Mara Santagelo.

Sixth seed Nadia Petrova beat Martina Muller in straight sets to set up a third round contest against Italy's Maria Elena Camerin, while Kirilenko defeated Galina Voskoboeva and Elena Vesnina beat Julia Schuff to face Olga Savchuk of Ukraine.

Williams plays Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova after the 17th seed beat Akgul Ananmuradova 6-4 6-1.

There were two early surprises in the men's event with 13th seed Robby Ginepri and 17th seed Radek Stepanek both losing in five sets.

Ginepri fell 2-6 5-7 6-4 6-3 6-3 to Denis Gremelmayr of Germany while Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus eliminated Stepanek 6-4 6-3 3-6 0-6 7-5.

Calvin and Hobbes
"McZARGALD'S... NEXT EXIT... 50 MEGAZORKS."
"OVER 75 MILLION EARTHLINGBURGERS SERVED."
"SPACEMAN SPIFF IS GOING DOWN!!"
"WE JOIN OUR HERO AS HE STRUGGLES TO LAND HIS DAMAGED SPACECRAFT!"
"THE ALTITUDE FLAPS REFUSE TO RESPOND, BUT FEARLESS SPIFF IS UNFAZED!"
"SPIFF CAREENS THROUGH THE ALIEN CANYON! IS THIS THE END??"
"NO! MOMENTS BEFORE IMPACT, SPIFF EJECTS!"
"NOW ARE YOU THROUGH CHARGING AROUND THE HOUSE, OR ARE YOU GOING TO FALL DOWN THE STAIRS, AGAIN?"
"OUR HERO REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE FEET OF A SARCASTIC ALIEN..."
"MAYBE I SHOULD START EATING MICE..."
"IF I ATE MICE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT AROUND FOR JON TO FEED ME."
"YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT."
"WHY NOT?"
"HAVE YOU SEEN THE MICE IN THIS HOUSE?"

19 January, 2006

سيارة للبيع

سيارة سوزوكي ليانا ٤ أبواب - ٥ ركاب - ٤ سيلندر - ١٦ صمام - موديل ٢٠٠٥ - ١٦٠٠ سي سي - ١٠٥ قوة حصانية - مواصفات خليجية - نظام فرامل ABS - مكيف - CD راديو كاسيت - شفرة الكترونية للمفتاح لمنع السرقة للتواصل: ٧٣٦٧٠٣٦١ - ٧٣٦٧٠٤٣٩١

هل تبحث عن وظيفة؟ هل ترغب في تأهيل نفسك لتجتاز المرحلة الجامعية؟ الآن... المعهد الأمريكي للتدريب واللغات American Language And Training Institute

GULF PHOTO CENTER DIGITAL PHOTO EXPRESS سحب الصور من الفلوبي - السيدي - الميموري - الفلاش ميموري وجميع انواع شراخ كاميرات الديجيتال والموبايل نقل الأفلام الفوتوغرافية وشرطة الفيديو الى سيدي روم

لبن مصنع سات أنتاج غرف التبريد عن تقنيات هائلة أسعار منتجاته الطاولات الخشبية المصنوعة على السرايات والمنتجات عالية عالمية الجودة والكفاءة وأطولوا واحصام وسماكات مختلفة

مطعم ومخبزة الشيباني AI-SHAIBANI RESTAURANT SUPER DELUX باسم محمد عبده الشيباني Haddah st. in front of Al-Komaim Center Tel: 266375 - 505290

مكتب احمد محسن المريسي للخدمات العقارية 733402782 - 679166 عيد مبارك و كل عام و انتم بخير EID MUBARAK

نظارات ستان لنظارتك الكمبيوتر ٧١١٠٥٥٩٧ - ٤٩٤٠٤٦١

وظائف شاغرة مطلوب طبيب أسنان للعمل في جيزان/السعودية براتب ٥٠٠٠ ريال سعودي + سكن لها وللحرم + ٥% من الدخل للتواصل: ٧١١٣٣٦٥

مفقدوات اثاث، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، وأشياء أخرى للبيع منظومة غاز السيارات السعر: ٧٠٠٠٠ ريال قبل للتفاوض للتواصل: ٧١٥٩٣٤٢ - ٧١٥٩٣٤٢ وله مكافئة مغرية للتواصل: ٧٧٨٥٥٨٧ / ٢١٨٨٢٤ عيد الجبار

٤ مجالس - ٥ مطابخ - ١٠ حمامات - موقف يستوعب ٦ سيارات العنوان: حي الأندلس - جوار كلية الطب للتواصل: ٧٣٦١٨٤٥

جامعة صنعاء - د/ علوم حاسوب . المعهد العام للإلتصالات ٦ سنوات خبرة في الحسابات للتواصل: ٧١٩٠١٥٧

مطلوب: مطلوب طبيب أسنان للعمل في جيزان/السعودية براتب ٥٠٠٠ ريال سعودي + سكن لها وللحرم + ٥% من الدخل للتواصل: ٧١١٣٣٦٥

شحن وتوصيل التسليم للشحن والتوصيل ٤٠٧٩٠٥٠ - ٤٤٤٥٠٠٠ - ٤٤٤٥٠٠٠

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وظائف شاغرة مطلوب طبيب أسنان للعمل في جيزان/السعودية براتب ٥٠٠٠ ريال سعودي + سكن لها وللحرم + ٥% من الدخل للتواصل: ٧١١٣٣٦٥

مستشفيات مستشفى حدة الأهلي مستشفى اليمن الألماني مستشفى الاماني الحديث مستشفى الاماني الحديث

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نظارات ستان لنظارتك الكمبيوتر ٧١١٠٥٥٩٧ - ٤٩٤٠٤٦١

وظائف شاغرة مطلوب طبيب أسنان للعمل في جيزان/السعودية براتب ٥٠٠٠ ريال سعودي + سكن لها وللحرم + ٥% من الدخل للتواصل: ٧١١٣٣٦٥

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Yemeni street children

The number of children on the streets is rapidly increasing. The Safe Childhood Center is one of the few places in Yemen that tries to alleviate the nationwide problem.

By: Fatma AL-Ajel

The phenomenon of street children in Yemen can be traced back to the early 1990s, when the country endured a serious economic crisis. More than 30,000 children are now living as vagrants in the streets of Yemen, according to a study presented by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. Other studies show that the number is rapidly increasing.

The most common reasons that children are pushed to the streets are poverty and family conflicts. These children are mostly from the marginalized group of Akhdam (the servant class), children of the returnees from the first Gulf war, children of families who came from other govern orates and settled in Sana'a city, and children of poor families that live in Sana'a city. According to UNICEF's study, 58 percent of Yemen's street children wash cars and beg to get by. The remaining 42 percent work as hardware collectors, cattle grazers, vegetable sellers and the like.

The phenomenon of street children is a nationwide problem exacerbating by the deterioration of the economic situation in the country. On top of living on the street, the children acquire habits and conducts such as smoking and stealing.

The Safe Childhood Center (SCC) is one of the few centers in Yemen, that takes care of these children. The center can accommodate 30 kids, but that is not enough. Many children do not get help they need to become effective members of society.

Lack of cooperation

The SCC faces several difficulties. It lacks a suitable building to fit the increasing number of street children. "We have a small center for thirty children and because of this, we cannot provide help to more than thirty at a time," says the manager of the center, Mrs. Haime. "Most of the women working in the center are volunteers. So we also need qualified male staff. The problem is that we do not have money to give your staff

salaries," she added.

Another important problem is that society does not seem to value the services offered by the center. Some official and charitable societies do not wish to cooperate with the SCC, so money is tight.

Even though the SCC could use more funding, there is support from different sides. The Ministry of Education contains the street kids in regular education despite the fact that these children have no birth certificates or schooling certificates. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor allocates money to cover expenditure of the center, monthly stipends to children and provide children with healthcare for free. The SCC also receive equipment, furniture and staff training with the help of different organizations.

Divorce and poverty

The statistics or figures related to divorce rates and the scant income of the head of the household are two of the primary reasons behind spread of the phenomenon of street kids, in addition to dropping out of school, deviant upbringing and bad social climate.

Yussen was eleven years old and living on the street, when he joined the center. "My father divorced and he married again. After a month of the marriage, my father drove me to the streets with my three brothers," he says. The four children did not find a place to live in except the street. After one month, they went home, but unfortunately they found nobody there. "My father sold the house and went away. We do not know where to," Yussen says.

Help to integrate

The SCC aims to provide full care for children, retrain them to be fully integrated in society, and help them in acquiring new skills. It also aims at developing the abilities and potentials of children and encouraging the society to contribute in making the project a success.

"Some of the children are illiterate, when they come to us. So, we teach them in the center and send them to study in the public schools," says Mrs.



The children carrying the certificates graduating first class

Haime. "These children get excellent degrees in their schools," she added.

The children living at the center are those who are exposed to physical or mental risk and are mainly between 6 and 16 years old. They are mostly homeless children who live under hard economic circumstances are the majority in the center. But also children who have been sexually and physically abused and children who have migrated from rural areas to cities come to the SCC.

The SCC has a list of requirements for the admission of children to the center as the applicant has to be homeless; from a morally deviated family; an orphan or he/she can be one who pursues low-paid professions to sustain their families.

Functions of the SCC

The center has varied and diverse functions and activities in the areas of education, health, religion, sports, entertainment and feeding. In the educational field, the center works on eradicating illiteracy and enrolling kids in government schools or vocational institutes to learn some professions from which they profit in the future. In the religious respect, the SCC registers children in summer camps to memorize the Quran and gain useful lessons in daily Quran sessions. Concerning the areas of health and sports, the center still suffers the lack of staff and health equipment. However, there are some sporting activities such the participation in sport clubs and football tournament.

The SCC staff supervises the activities of the center around the clock, as well as in the official vacations. The staff includes a supervisory committee that collects donations from donor organizations and philanthropists. Female

The Safe Childhood Center was established after a series of consecutive successes that the Women Charitable Society had in solving women, children and poverty-related issues. The SCC was established with the main objective of curbing proliferation of the phenomenon of street children, protecting them and providing care for them in coordination with the concerned sides.

There are two sections in the center which are Temporary Shelter that was opened when the center was launched to acclimatize kids with the center and Permanent Shelter, which was inaugurated for children who seek care and security and refuse to stay in streets.



The children of the center having fun



while feeding in the center depends on the support of traders and donors.

The center has also launched illiteracy eradication centers for children who are deprived of regular education due to difficult living conditions, as well as for those who exceeded the school age without enrollment. The SCC has registers for the education of the children, their progress rate and their behaviors inside the building of the center.

A day at the center

In the summer vacation, a normal day at the center is scheduled to include both religious and entertaining activities. At 8:00 a.m. on the first day of vacation, kids go to the mosque and stay there until noon. Then they return to the center to watch T.V. until 2:00 p.m. At 5:00, kids practice different sporting activities in the field under the supervision of some specialists

until the Sunset Prayer. After the Nightfall Prayer, they clean the center and then go to bed. On Thursdays, children are allowed to visit their families according to particular timetable.

Achievements

Despite difficulties, there are a number of achievements reached by the center that are worth mentioning. These achievements are reflected in the educational progress of children and obtaining high rankings. Some illiterate children come from vocational institutes and join the center to learn as there are varied specializations inside the center, contributing to the organization and success of the center.

The SCC is also involved with the first documentary film on the phenomenon of street children in Yemen.

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