

Pressure from journalists and international organizations help Thabet's release

Freedom of press defended

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Western Court ordered on Monday the release of journalist Saeed Thabet, who was detained last Friday accused of publishing "false information" on the assassination attempt of Colonel Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Thabet, 39, correspondent for Quds Press Agency and a member of the newly elected board of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) was, according to a statement of the YJS, kidnapped by agents of the Political Security Organization (PSO) after returning from the mosque on Friday with his 3-year old son. The intelligence officers refused even to let him bring home son. After the first session, which was held among a huge crowd of jour-

nalists, Judge Mohammed Abdulqader ordered the release of Thabet, whose hearing resumed yesterday.

Colleagues come to the rescue

About thirty lawyers who volunteered to defend Saeed and more than 300 journalists overwhelmed the observers and prosecutors when they stepped forward for his defense, carrying banners denouncing the arrest and trial and putting stickers on their mouths to express their anger at the harassment the media has suffered in the country. The trial session witnessed a heated debate between the defense lawyers (Mohammed Allow, Abdulaziz al-Samawi and Ahmad al-Wadee) and the prosecution, as the lawyers demanded that the court hold the intelligence officers accountable for kidnapping a mem-



Yemeni journalists show their gagged mouths to symbolize what they think of freedom of the press in Yemen, after the arrest of Saeed Thabet (inset), who was free upon tremendous pressure by the journalist community. (Yemen Times photos by Mohammed al-Qadhi)

New trial for Jar Allah Omar's assassin demanded

By MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Assistant Secretary General of Yemen Socialist Party, Dr. Mohamed Al-Mekhlafi, the lawyer of family of Jar Allah Omar, has demanded the preliminary verdict against Ali Al-Sawani, the murderer of Jar Allah Omar, be overturned.

The prominent member of YSP called for a new trial of the accused before the General Prosecution in order to complete the investigation with those mentioned in the confession minutes, but whose names were not recorded in the indictment decision.

The appeal request presented by the lawyer to the Criminal Division of Court of Appeal consists of a list of personalities headed by Sheikh Abdulmajed AL-Zendani, Chairman of Al-Shoura Council of Islah Party, accused of having a meeting with (Ali Al-Sawani).

It added that Sheikh Zendani presented guarantees to the Political Security Apparatus for the release of the above-mentioned, previously detained on charges related to his aggressive accusations, insinuating the infidelity of the political system.

The list includes, in addition to Sheikh Al-Zendani, ten other personalities all affiliated with Islah Party. Some of them are working at the religious Al-Eman University whose president is Sheikh Al-Zendani.

The Preliminary Court in Northern Sana'a Secretariat issued a death-sen-



Late Jar Allah Omar

tence verdict on September 14 of last year against Ali Al-Sawani, for the pre-meditated murder of Jar Allah Omar, Assistant Secretary of Yemen Socialist Party.

Some analysts say that the stance adopted by YSP against Sheikh Al-Zendani will support the accusation of US Treasury Dept. against Al-Zendani to his support of terrorism and puts Al-Zendani in a difficult position.

Sheikh Al-Zendani previously called on the Joint Meeting Parties, YSP is one of them, to condemn the US accusation and to take a stance, which denounces the accusations against him.

Meanwhile, the Appeal Court in Sana'a Secretariat has postponed the hearings in the case of Al-Sawani.

The court hearing was adjourned to March 28, based on a request of attorney of defendants.

ber of the YJS board and putting him in jail for two days. The lawyers even attacked the prosecution, who interrogated Thabet on Sunday evening after his release from the PSO and ordered that he should be imprisoned until he appears in court the other day.

They even appealed to the court to set free the mobile phone of the journalist, which was taken by the intelligence officers from his house as they considered it an evidence of "the crime". The prosecution said that Thabet published false information with the aim to destabilize the safety and peace of the country. Thabet denied from the beginning the charge and said he published the denial. He said that the source of the news was Jordan. His agency supported his argument and authorized Mohammed Allow to file a case against the intelligence for kidnapping its reporter, whom they said is a highly professional man.

Reporters Without Borders helps

Meanwhile the worldwide 'Reporters Without Borders' urged that the case against the journalist accused of "spreading false news" be dropped. It called on Judge Mohammad Ismail Abdel Kader of the Sana'a court to drop the case against journalist Thabet, who is accused of "spreading false news damaging to public interest and security."

"The arrest of a journalist and his detention for 72 hours as if he were a criminal are serious and unacceptable violations of press freedom," said the international press freedom organisation.

"Now is the time to put right these mistakes and drop all charges against this journalist and also to offer assurances to the rest of the profession, which will have been intimidated by the use of such methods. The press law should also be amended in consultation with journalists' professional organisations to abolish prison terms for press offences," Reporters Without Borders added.

The organisation pointed out that it was the second arrest of a journalist in Yemen in less than a month. On 24 February Najeeb Yabli, of the Daily Al-Ayyam, was questioned for around 12 hours by the Aden Political Security Services in the south of the country for writing that the politics of the Yemeni President and that of the United States were only "two sides of the same coin".

Hunger strike initiated

Saeed told Yemen Times after his release that he went on hunger strike and refused to reply to any questions before he was referred to prosecution, as his arrest was illegal. "Spreading false news" is a civil, not criminal, offence. In a statement issued on Sunday evening, the YJS called all journalists and international human rights NGOs to stand by Thabet and refuse his

trial, which is illegal.

In its statement issued on Sunday, the National Authority for Defending Rights and Freedoms appealed to President Saleh to set the journalist free and that the press and publication prosecution should deal with the issue as with others. It said that there should be no big fuss about the issue because it is related to the son of the President, as Yemen is not a Monarchy in which people can not talk about the members of the royal family. It stated its wish that Saleh would take the initiative to abolish the jail penalty of journalists, as President Mubarak has done in Egypt. Journalists have started to discuss the idea and collect signatures of journalists demanding Saleh to take this step.

Political observers believe that the strong pressure and solidarity journalists showed towards their friend is a major reason behind his release. Of course, the international NGOs were of great help in this regard.

Thawra journalists on strike

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Over 30 journalists from state-run al-Thawra Daily started on Saturday a sit-in at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate premises to denounce the bad treatment they receive from the Editor.

They complained in a letter to the YJS that the Chief Editor Ali Al-Rawee abused them, called them "rubbish" and threatened to sack them and

use the internet instead. They also said they were fed up with the bureaucratic work and bad living standards, which should be improved. The YJS called Al-Rawee to reply to the complaints so that necessary measures could be taken. The journalists who stopped going to work demanded that the Editor should apologize openly to the journalists and take immediate action to put an end to the routine work and improve their situation.

Al-Rawee said the strike might be because of a decision that would be issued concerning the redistribution of the editors.

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Ethiopian sit-in drags on Month two

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The sit-in of around 200 Ethiopian refugees in Sana'a has entered its second month with no end in sight.

The protesting Ethiopians are camped out just outside the headquarters of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sana'a.

And the refugees, who started their sit-in on Feb. 10, say they'll stay indefinitely unless their demands are met.

"We will stay until we get a clear and tangible solution," says one of the refugees Adane Belachew. "There is still a big question: Who is responsible? We are waiting for someone to step forward and be responsible for the condition of the refugees and end our suffering that has lasted for years."

The refugees, who have lived in Yemen since 1991, are demanding citizenship in Yemen or be resettled in another country.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has a department dealing with African refugees, the refugees can continue living in Yemen under refugee status but did not show interest in offering the refugees citizenship. At the end of February, UNHCR offered the group assistance to begin the process of trying to be resettled elsewhere.

The refugees participating in the protest rejected UNHCR's offer. They claim that it was not clear if the procedures would meet their demands.

"It is important for everything to be clear," said Belachew. "Does the Yemeni government want us to be integrated or not? We did not receive a direct message from the government. UNHCR asked us to fill out forms asking us if we want to get local integration or resettled. UNHCR must speak with the host country and get an

answer. The only information we received from UNHCR was to fill out a registration form. What we want is a tangible solution."

Camping out for over a month has taken a toll on the refugees. Their meals are cooked in a makeshift kitchen, they have no access to a bathroom and they sleep in sleeping bags or bedrolls every night outdoors. Over a half-dozen refugees have become ill, including one who had to go to a hospital suffering from pneumonia.

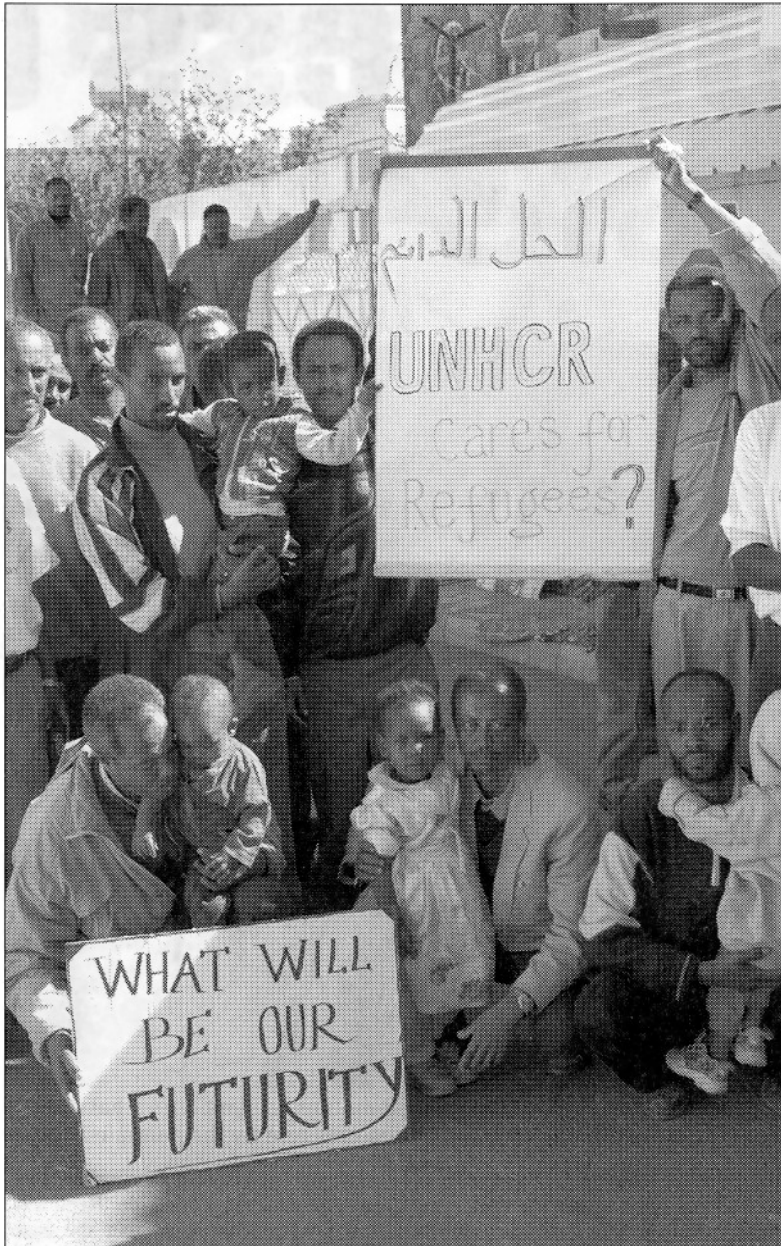
"All of us are tired. We are physically and mentally exhausted," said Yassin Mohammed Lejiso, one of the Ethiopian refugees participating in the sit-in. "I have lost weight and my strength, and it is now becoming easier for us to get sick."

The refugees have not received assistance from NGOs stationed in the capital. There was only one short visit from Red Crescent during the first week of the sit-in. According to a representative of the refugees, they sent several letters to the ICRC office in Sana'a concerning their physical condition but did not receive a response.

The refugees state that they chose to carry out their sit-in next to UNHCR's headquarters because after living in Yemen as refugees for over a decade with no clear future on gaining citizenship, they want UNHCR to find a solution.

"We have no access or freedom to deal with our plight," said one of the refugees Belay Merid Alemie. "UNHCR is our only intermediary, and its job is to help refugees."

UNHCR claims that it has fulfilled its obligations: It is a facilitator and has assisted the refugees in gaining basic rights and freedom in Yemen and has encouraged the Yemeni government to give the Ethiopians citizenship. It is also able to assist the refugees seeking resettlement outside of Yemen.



Protesting Ethiopians are still asking who is taking care of their interests. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

"UNHCR cannot offer citizenship to refugees. It is the responsibility of a host country," said Zivan Damato, Administration Officer at UNHCR in Sana'a. "And UNHCR cannot offer a refugee any resettlement status because that decision rests on the shoulders of another country."

Damato added that the assistance offered by UNHCR to the refugees camping out has been affected by lack of cooperation by the refugees.

"Their frustrations are certainly understandable, and UNHCR wishes to attempt to find a solution," said Damato. "However, it seems the representatives of the refugees don't represent the better interests of the people. They have actively and deliberately obstructed allowing UNHCR to assist them or to let many of the refugees contact UNHCR."

One example Damato gave was the refugees refusing to fill out the registration forms offered at the end of last month. He said that without forms being filled out, UNHCR will not be able to take further steps in assisting the refugees seeking nationality in Yemen or in another country. Some refugees have complained that they did want to fill out the forms but their representative did not allow them to do so.

If the Yemeni government is reluctant to give full integration to the refugees, finding a home in another country will be difficult. There are 22 million refugees around the world and only 3,000 succeed in being resettled each year.

The refugees involved in the sit-in may find it even more difficult to gain citizenship in Yemen or elsewhere. They are members of Ethiopian Naval and Civilian Refugees (ENCR) and represent around 600 Ethiopians that defected their country. They handed over 14 warships to the Yemeni government when they arrived.

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 release of journalist Saeed Thabet is a victory for the freedom of press in Yemen?

- Yes, it is a positive sign
- Not exactly, as the trial is still continuing
- No, it is a maneuver by the government to silence critics
- It depends on the trial procedures

last edition's question:

Do you think the alleged assassination attempt on Ahmed Saleh, the son of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, was real?

- Yes 46%
- It's too soon to know 31%
- No 23%

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

Many countries are careful dealing with refugees that have been in the military in their original country since, as one foreign diplomat put it, they are considered "political liabilities." The Yemeni government and UNHCR have shown concern working with members of ENCR due to the sensitivity of the relationship between Yemen and Ethiopia.

But if no immediate solution is found to meet the demands of the refugees, the sit-in may not end soon.

"If there is no solution, we are willing to die here outside UNHCR," said Alemie "We want a solution or to die."

إعلان هام للمشاركين في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى

(مسابقة صنعاء الثقافية)

YEMEN TIMES

يسر الصحيفة الإعلان بأن السحب على الجوائز للمسابقة

سيتم في مقر الصحيفة بصنعاء في يوم الأحد الموافق 21 مارس

2004. الساعة الرابعة عصراً.

كما تنوه أن آخر موعد لإستلام الكوبونات سيكون ظهر يوم

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العدد الصادر في يوم الخميس الموافق 25 مارس 2004م.

حظاً موفقاً للجميع

Announcing the U.S. Business Internship Program for Women

AMIDEAST is pleased to announce a new Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program: U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women. This program will provide participants who have demonstrated an interest in professional growth in the business sector of the Yemeni economy with unique opportunities to learn management and business skills while working in the dynamic and productive U.S. business environment.

The Internship Program will begin in August 2004 with a four-week academic program, including coursework in management, finance, business strategy and information technology, and will be followed by a three or six-month management internship or three month entry-level internships with American corporations. The program will cover international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing and a living stipend in the U.S.

Applicant criteria:

- Must possess either (1) an undergraduate degree in business or law from a recognized academic institution; OR (2) an undergraduate degree in any field with at least three years' business experience. (Applicants who are currently enrolled in a U.S. academic program, and who are living or working in the U.S. are not eligible.)
- Must have a strong academic background and proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum Institutional TOEFL (ITP) score of 550.
- Must demonstrate maturity, flexibility and suitability to operate successfully in an American corporate environment.
- Must demonstrate a sufficient level of information technology knowledge and word processing ability to operate in a U.S. business.

The application is available online at <http://www.amideast.org/forms/mepi/MEPIMain.aspx>. Deadline for application is April 5, 2004. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.amideast.org>, or contact AMIDEAST's Yemen offices:

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This MEPI program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the Bureau of Education, and Cultural Affairs and the Middle East Partnership Initiative, with support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, and implemented by America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST).

In Brief

Financial course at Taiz University

Under the auspices of the Dean of Taiz University, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Sofi, and the Ministry of Finance, a training course is taking place during March 3-13.

The program will focus on the field of financial rehabilitation, and 80 employees from the financial, procurement, storage, tender and expenses sectors will attend. The course aims to improve the performance and to improve services to educational operations at the University.

Specialized experts and university professors are taking parts in this course.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mohamed Al-Sayaghi, Under-Secretary for Education Affairs and University Faculties at the Ministry of Finance.

Workshop to empower women

A recent two-day workshop of the Women's Empowerment Association was held recently, led by chairwoman Dr. Fateha Bahrani.

She said that twelve trainees, participants in the workshop, would receive various forms of training to raise their capabilities in the development of the society, research and social studies.

She pointed out that a similar workshop will be held in Ibb Governorate on Monday to be attended by 17 participants representing heads of saving associations and coordinators of the association in Lahij, Zabed and Ibb.

50% of educational fees go to schools

The Ministry of Education is seeking the issuance of a decree from the Council of Ministers, which will allow the usage of 50% of each school's fees by the school itself. This financial support will enable it to successfully carry out educational operations, especially in the fields of reactivating the school's activities as well as preserving it.

Helicopter shot at in Marib

Gunmen in Marib fired at a helicopter while it was patrolling the area during the President's visit to Marib last Sunday.

Sources in the Obeda area confirmed that some people fired guns at the helicopter but they missed the target.

While visiting the governorate President Ali Abdallah Saleh requested the Sheikhs of Obeda tribe to extradite the culprits. The Sheikhs responded by handing over two persons who were accused of firing at the helicopter.

Abyan's Cultural Days

On Saturday, March 13, 2004, Abyan's Governorate cultural days begin in Sana'a, consisting of a variety of seminars and artistic and cultural nights. The cultural days will be hosted and performed by artists, singers and intellectuals from Abyan Governorate in order to reflect the rich, special and distinguished songs and music, and cultural and artistic inheritance, Abyan Governorate. The Abyan cultural activities come within the frame of the celebrations of Sana'a, the Arab Capital of Culture 2004.

The Project to Reserve Water Reservoirs in 15 Governorates

It is expected that a project to maintain and preserve the water reservoirs in 15 governorates will begin implementing its work plan for 2004 in the middle of this year, now that the feasibility studies of project, the cost of which is estimated at 52 Million USD, are completed.

The fifteen governorates are Sana'a, Sada, Amran, Taiz, Ibb, Dhamar, Al-Beidha, Lahuj, Hajjah, Shabwah, Al-Dhala, Al-Hodeidah, Hadramout and Al-Mahweet.

Journalists wanted for UN scholarship

By UN INFORMATION CENTER

The Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund is accepting applications from journalists for fellowships to cover the 59th General Assembly session which begins in September 2004.

The fellowships offer unique opportunity for promising young journalists from the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America to see the United Nations at work and to report on its proceedings for news media in their home countries.

Over the past 41 years, fellowships have been awarded to over 152 journalists from the developing world. The fund expects to award three fellowships in 2004.

These awards require the presence of the journalist selected in New York for the duration of the General Assembly Session and should be regarded as an opportunity for employers and journalists to provide their audiences with special assignment news coverage from UN Headquarters.

Successful applicants must obtain a leave of absence from their employers.

By endorsing the application of a staff journalist for a fellowship, the

editor undertakes to meet all communications expenses.

Applicants must be full time, professional journalists between 25 - 35 years old and employed by recognized print and broadcast media organizations. They must have a good working knowledge of English.

The Fund will provide: round-trip airfare to New York; modest hotel accommodations; health insurance for the duration of the fellowship; and a daily allowance to cover food and other basic necessities.

It will not be responsible for other expenses of a professional or personal nature.

It is necessary that application forms to be filled by the applicant, providing all needed information. Also the enclosures should accompany his application and include samples of his work as well as his qualifications, CV, and letter from references and employer.

The United Nations Information Centre is pleased to call upon all interested young and qualified journalists to apply for this fellowship, and to obtain the application form from the Centre during its working hours.

All duly completed applications should be received at the centre no later than March 17.

Yemen arrests eight Islamists after mountain siege

SANAA, March 8 (Reuters) - A week-long siege of Islamic militants in Yemen has ended with the surrender of eight men including six suspects in the 2000 attack on the USS Cole warship, a government official said on Monday.

"We believe we have six more suspects in the Cole bombing," said the official, who told reporters the siege ended late on Sunday.

He said some wanted men had man-

aged to escape the standoff in the remote mountainous province of Abyan, despite being surrounded by security forces.

Earlier this week at Abyan, security forces arrested local al Qaeda leader Abdul Raouf Nassib, who Yemeni officials say masterminded a 2003 jail break by al Qaeda suspects in the bombing of the warship Cole in a Yemeni port killing 17 sailors.

KAP against the Israeli wall

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

Under the title "Israel besieges our Palestinian people and you have to react", Kana'an Association for Palestine in cooperation with Sana'a University organized on Monday 8 March a festival at Sana'a University as initial step to the collection of a million signatures that opposed the Israeli discriminatory wall.

Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdulla Saleh, Head of KAP, Ahmed Al-Khalani, State Minister, Capital Secretariat attended the festival along with the university doctors and professors as well as a large number

of students who were full of enthusiasm, repeating supportive slogans with Palestinian people and with the President Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Yahya, delivered speech in which he asked all the Arab people to stand in solidarity with Palestinians who have been suffering from heinous Israeli crimes, and stand against the wall that Israel wants to establish.

Nathalie, Australian singer, along with a talented Yemeni singer participated with beautiful songs devoted to Palestinian children and to any children who suffer from conflict, and for the peace in the world.

Yemen celebrates World Women's Day

The Women's National Committee organized on March 9 a celebration on the occasion of World Women's Day under the slogan, "Towards better life for all members of society".

The celebration, attended by several government officials and representatives of civil society and private and

non-governmental organizations interested in human rights, focused on the position of Yemeni women in political life, and gains achieved in all levels, especially in decision making and in assisting men in change and effective development inside the country.

Taj Sheba commemorates Women's Day

To commemorate the International Woman's Day, The Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a facilitated the in-house gathering of ladies guests individually at a reception at the hotel on March 8.

International Women's Day, held March 8, is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world.

When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.



Female participants celebrating International Woman's Day at the Taj

Woman Economic Empowerment Association

Workshop held on NGO management

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES STAFF

While most civil society organizations have stopped their activities during Ramadhan, Woman Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA), cooperating with Dutch Embassy, concluded its three-day workshop on how to manage NGOs, Nov. 8.

The workshop tried to accomplish a number of objectives, such as to teach how to run civil organizations and

concepts of the institution-building, as well as to understand the internal and external relationship for any organization, and lawful frames with which an organization depends on in its relations with partners through coordinating the individual activities and put them in a complete and balanced frame to follow the society during establishing NGO.

In addition, the workshop helped participants acquire the ability of running volunteer organizations, and get acquainted with the means of planning, organizing, observing and evaluating the level of organizations performance

and development.

The workshop aimed also to improve the skills and abilities of the members, volunteers and the regional coordinators and the way of dividing the work as well as giving authority to achieve WEEA objectives.

Around 25 women from the WEEA, members and volunteers, as well as different governorates and areas where WEEA project activities are implemented, participated in the workshop.

It is noteworthy that there is a follow-up plan for the trainees.

Rokia Saleh, an expert at WEEA, led the three days of the workshop.

Yemen seeking loans to boost coast security

SANAA, Yemen (Reuters) - Yemen is seeking loans from Italy and Poland and warships from China to boost coastal security after al Qaeda-linked attacks on Western ships in its waters.

Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Bagammal said in an interview on Sunday the country needed \$700 million to patrol its 1,400-mile coastline, which touches the Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

"We cannot handle this amount. Our domestic budget can only provide at most two percent of that figure," he told Reuters.

Suspected al Qaeda militants killed 17 U.S. servicemen in a suicide attack on the U.S. destroyer Cole in the port of Aden in 2000. Two years later, militants believed to be from Osama bin Laden's group also struck a French supertanker.

Bagammal said the United States had already provided Yemen with what he said were second-hand boats, adding that the Sanaa government had been promised between 12 and 15 new boats.

"How can these cover such a dis-

tance? And yet they hold us responsible for monitoring these seas. There has to be international cooperation because we even have problems monitoring commercial fishing boats beyond six miles," he said.

Yemen has been negotiating with European countries for financial help.

"There are negotiations with Italy for around \$30 million but until today nothing has happened. We are also asking to cooperate with Poland for some loans to buy ships and we are trying to see how we can benefit from China's warships," Bagammal said.

"Of course that is not enough. We also need helicopters, radar and a communications network."

Border cooperation

Yemen's economy has suffered in the wake of the al Qaeda-linked attacks, with foreign investment and tourism both hit hard.

The country is trying to shed its image as a hotbed for militants and has been cooperating with the U.S.-led "war on terror" since the September

2001 attacks in New York and Washington.

Bagammal also said he expected Yemen and neighbor Saudi Arabia to finalize plans for cooperation along their land border within six months.

"We plan to have joint observation points, joint patrols and a communications network linking observation towers," he added.

Saudi Arabia, which is also battling a surge in Islamic militant violence, agreed last month to dismantle a frontier fence designed to stop arms smuggling, after complaints from Yemen that it violated a border pact.

Saudi Arabia is urgently trying to tighten border controls after suicide bombings killed more than 50 people last year. Security forces have seized tonnes of explosives as well as surface-to-air missiles and grenade launchers in the past year.

The border with Yemen, which cuts in part through mountainous tribal regions, is a source of concern as the area is awash with arms and central government control remains weak.

French ambassador visits Taiz

The French Ambassador to Yemen, H.E. Mr. Alain Moureau visited Taiz and met with the Governor, Judge Ahmad Abdullah al-Hajri, on the 7th March.

During the meeting they discussed a number of development projects that are funded by the French government, especially the projects which support livestock, cheese production and encouraging rural women to continue in such industries.

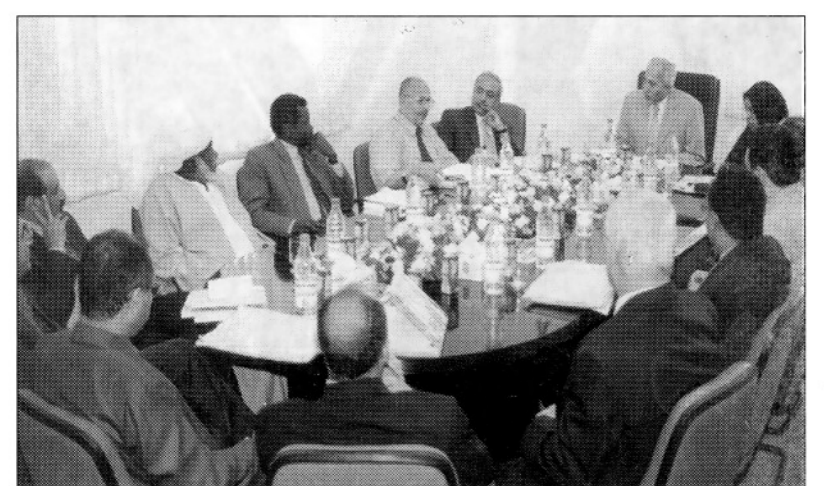
They also went over the social activities carried by Dia French organization in Taiz.



Evaluation Committee Meeting for Hael Saeed Anam Award

The Scientific Evaluation Committee for the Hael Saeed Anam Award for Medicine, Art, Ecology, Agriculture, the Humanities and the Social and Islamic Sciences had ended its meeting after looking into the result of individual evaluations of the works submitted last Thursday in Taiz.

The General Manager for the al-Saeed Science and Cultural Foundation, Mr. Faisal Saad Far'a Madhigi, informed the Yemen Times that 33 researchers submitted there work to win the award in the different fields, and that the Committee has reached the final result, which will be announced in a press conference in Sana'a during this month.

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World Women's Day celebrated

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister, Abdulkader Bajamal, the Women's National Committee (WNC) celebrated and marked International Women's Day at the Center Cultural on Monday.

Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, attended the ceremony along with a number of representatives of local and international organizations.

The Minister of Social Affairs con-



gratulated all the women on their day and said "Today, it is an occasion to remember what Yemeni women have achieved and what has not yet been fulfilled."

He further said, "Educating women is an important issue and one of their principal problems. If the woman is educated she will know her rights and organize her family in the context of the fast population growth. She can also act as an effective and positive influence on her children."

He wished success for the conference and fruitful results.

Ms. Rasheeda Al-Hamadani, the

Chairman of the WNC, delivered a speech in which she welcomed the crowd and said "This ceremony has come after the success that the first conference on ending violence against women. It is not enough to be proud of having one woman here or there to say to claim a victory for women. However, it becomes more necessary to merge the women economically, politically, socially and culturally and in all development fields to take part effectively in the

building of society and to enable her to express her opinion. It is necessary to give her the ability to change as well as to have the ability to overcome all the obstacles that she may face."

She further said, "I find this good opportunity to ask all the concerned bodies, women-related organizations and the mass media to play an effective role in promoting women's issues and rights, as unfortunately most women ignore their rights."



Child labor continues



BY ISMAEL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Child labor remains a world problem, but it seems to be a more complex one in developing countries, including Yemen.

Statistics published by the International Labor Organization indicate that at least 205 million children, (age 5-17) are working in developing countries. Half of them are full time workers. ILO estimates that 8.4 million children are faced with harsh con-

ditions leading them to accept hard and demeaning jobs such as smuggling, prostitution and compulsory recruitment to fight in armed conflicts. Despite obligations and commitments by governments and their associates to address the problem of child labor in all countries, an extensive problem remains.

In Yemen, the problem of child labor is present in almost all economic fields. The 1995 Annual Statistics indicate that the percentage of children working, aged 10-19 years, is 14.2%. In October 1997, when a seminar was held on this phenomenon, the percentage of children, aged 10-14, estimated to be working was 40%. Another estimate was 20%. However,

96% of this category is composed of children coming from rural families or working in rural areas.

The field survey prepared by specialists on child labor in Yemen, in cooperation with a Swedish Organization caring for children, conducted on random samples of 1555 children aged 7-17. The study confirmed that working conditions involve a high risk of injury and difficult or exhausting work. The study recorded a higher injury rate among children. 22% suffer from permanent disabilities, 18% poisoning incidents, 13.6% burns, 7.2% electrical shocks, 7% contagious diseases and 25% are exposed to extreme cold. The study mentioned above, the costs of which

the Swedish Organization paid in advance, showed that 15% of children have dropped out of school, after different periods of attendance.

The rates of child labor in the governorates of the Republic, in 1994, are as follows: Hodeidah 14.6%; Dhamar 11%; Hajjah 10.2%; Sana'a with 10.1%. The percentage of children working gradually drops to the lowest rates in Al-Jouf 2.9%; Aden 0.8%; and Al-Mahra 0.3%. However, there are no recent precise statistics about the number of children working in different economic activities. Recent years have witnessed increased numbers of children working due to the difficult economic situation, which began to deteriorate in the 90s.

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فاكس ٠٠٩٦٧٤ / ٢١٧١٥٧

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Iraq Council signs finally gets interim constitution

BAGHDAD, March 8 (Reuters) - Iraq's Governing Council signed an interim constitution on Monday after two delays, in a key step towards a planned handover of sovereignty by U.S.-led occupying powers to Iraqis on June 30.

The signing took place at a hastily arranged ceremony in Baghdad after Shi'ite Muslim members of the 25-member council persuaded Iraq's foremost cleric at the weekend to go along with the document despite reservations.

Just before the signing, guerrillas mounted a rocket attack in central Baghdad. One rocket hit a house, shattering windows but causing no casualties. On Sunday night, insurgents fired multiple rockets at the Baghdad headquarters of the U.S.-led administration but nobody was seriously hurt.

The signing had been delayed first by bomb attacks on Shi'ites last Tuesday that killed at least 181 people and then by last-minute Shi'ite reservations that forced a high-profile ceremony on Friday to be abandoned.

Adnan Pachachi, a senior member of the Governing Council, said at Monday's ceremony that the event was "a great and historic day for Iraq". Iraq's U.S. governor, Paul Bremer, also hailed the agreement and noted the difficulties it had faced.

"We are witnessing the birth of democracy and birth is painful, as we've learned over the last few evenings," he told the council. "Not everyone got everything they wanted in this law — that's the way of democracy."

Representatives of the five Shi'ites who backed out on Friday spent the weekend in the holy city of Najaf talking with top clerics including Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who wields immense influence over Iraq's 60 percent Shi'ite

majority.

They announced on Sunday that Sistani still had deep reservations about the document but had given them the go-ahead to sign it rather than appear as spoilers. Some indicated they hoped to undo some clauses in a permanent constitution to be drawn up next year.

"We will do our best to change the situation," said Hamid al-Bayati, a senior official of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a top Shi'ite party. "We are committed to what we signed but if we have the chance to alter it in the future, we will do our best."

Under a U.S. timetable, an Iraqi government is to take over sovereignty on June 30 and elections for a transitional assembly are to be held by the end of next January.

RIFT OVER KURDISH DEMANDS

The main point at issue was a clause that could allow Iraq's minority Kurds to veto the permanent constitution if it fails to enshrine their right to autonomy in three northern provinces.

"I'm very happy with the outcome of the visit our brothers made to holy Najaf and their visit with the religious authorities," Governing Council member Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan told Reuters.

He said winning Sistani's approval for the signing was "a huge victory for the law, for the Iraqi people and their unity".

The signing reduced the risk of a damaging confrontation between Kurds and Shi'ites, and ensured that U.S. plans for the sovereignty transfer remain on schedule.

Sistani, a 73-year-old Iranian-born religious scholar, has increasingly exerted his influence on politics in recent months.



US civilian Administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer (R) gestures to Mohammed Bahr al-Uloum, President of the 25-member Council (L, seated), and other officials during the meeting of the Iraqi Governing Council in Baghdad on March 8. Iraq's Governing Council signed an interim constitution on Monday, a key step towards a planned handover of sovereignty by U.S.-led occupation forces to Iraqis on June 30. REUTERS

He had previously objected to the U.S. timetable for handing back power, forcing the Americans to bring forward planned elections.

U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces in Baghdad were on high alert against any attempt by guerrillas to disrupt the signing ceremony.

The document will guide Iraq's leaders until the permanent constitution,

which will be put to a referendum next year.

Several contentious issues had threatened the passage of the interim constitution. Shi'ites had wanted Islam to be recognised as the main source of legislation; instead, it was recognised as one source, and as the official religion of Iraq.

The Kurds wanted recognition of

governments they have in the northern zone they have run since 1991, as well as guarantees their militias would be the only military force there, not the central government's army.

The agreed document nods toward Kurdish demands by embracing a federal state, and also sets a target that one quarter of an Iraqi assembly due to be elected next year should be women.

Israeli forces kill Palestinian woman



Palestinians medical staff wheel Saif Dahlah, a photographer working for Agency France Presse, from the scene after he was shot and injured in the West Bank city of Jenin March 9. REUTERS

JENIN, March 9 (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian woman and wounded two men, one of them a news photographer, during a raid on Tuesday in the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian witnesses said.

Israeli military sources could not confirm the death but said soldiers had exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen.

Witnesses said soldiers opened fire with machine-guns, hitting the 23-year-old woman in the neck as she watched from the roof of her house as tanks rolled into her neighbourhood.

A photographer working for Agence France Presse was wounded in the leg, the news agency said. Witnesses said he was hit by Israeli gunfire, as was a 21-year-old Palestinian who was wounded in the stomach.

The army said it allowed a Palestinian ambulance to take the photographer to a local hospital.

The Israeli force, backed by two tanks and two helicopters, detained three Palestinians, one of them a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group, witnesses said.

Israel mounts frequent raids in Palestinian cities against militants spearheading attacks in an uprising that began more than three years ago.

Kuwait seeks \$435 M for families

GENEVA, March 9 (Reuters) - Kuwait applied to a U.N. commission on Tuesday for \$720,000 compensation for each family of more than 600 Kuwaitis who disappeared during Iraq's 1990-1991 occupation of the Gulf state.

The application, totalling \$435 million, was made to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) whose Governing Council began a three-day, closed-door meeting on Tuesday.

Bodies of the missing have been found in mass graves and Kuwait also sought a \$10 million reimbursement for exhuming remains in Iraq and doing DNA tests.

The UNCC was set up after the 1991 Gulf War to award funds from U.N.-controlled sales of Iraqi oil to victims of the occupation who could prove damages. At present it receives five percent of Iraq's oil revenues.

Khaled Ahmad Al-Mudhaf, head of Kuwait's Public Authority for Assessment of Compensation for Damages Resulting from the Iraqi Aggression, said relatives of 605 missing Kuwaitis had suffered great mental pain during 13 years of uncertainty.

Compensation must be "proportional to the harm suffered", regardless of the UNCC's "political or financial constraints", he said in a speech obtained by Reuters.

The Governing Council, made up of the same 15 member states as the U.N. Security Council, debated the application but was sharply divided, diplomatic sources said.

A decision was expected this week, the sources said.

Deadlines passed years ago for individual claims for serious personal injury, death of a close relative, loss of property or being forced to flee Kuwait or Iraq.

But the Governing Council agreed to consider the latest Kuwaiti application after the fall of President Saddam Hussein and the discovery of mass graves.

The UNCC has received claims totalling \$350 billion from individuals, companies and nearly 100 governments. To date it has approved awards of \$48 billion, of which it has paid out \$18.2 billion.

Israel's Sharon faces army dissent over Gaza plan

JERUSALEM, March 9 (Reuters) - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon struggled on Tuesday to keep a lid on increasingly vocal dissent in the military's top ranks over his evolving plan to uproot Gaza settlements, political sources said.

Sharon planned to summon army chief Lieutenant-General Moshe Yaalon in coming days to explain his reported criticism of the prime minister's unilateral "disengagement" strategy towards the Palestinians, the sources said.

The rare public rift signalled growing divisions at the top over Sharon's plan to remove Jewish settlements and possibly withdraw troops from the Gaza Strip if a U.S.-backed peace "road map" remains stalled.

The right-wing leader was expected to lobby for diplomatic support for his controversial initiative in talks this week with visiting U.S. envoys and at a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah that Sharon said would likely be held in a few days.

An official in King Abdullah's office in Amman said he was unaware any meeting had been scheduled.

Palestinians fear that by pursuing disengagement Israel is seeking to trade Gaza for permanent control over large parts of the West Bank with its larger settlements, effectively depriving them of land they want for their own state.

Sharon's office denied a television report he was "enraged" at Yaalon and would reprimand him for airing disagreement over the Gaza plan. But a source close to Sharon said he wanted to put a stop to the military's public expressions of dissent.

"Sharon thinks Israel has to stop speaking with so many voices," the source said.

Withdrawal may fuel more attacks
Yaalon, who has been at odds with

Sharon before, was quoted in news reports as predicting a unilateral withdrawal would fuel more Palestinian militant attacks.

"It will take more than a division (of soldiers) to repair the damage created by withdrawing from one settlement under fire," Israeli newspapers quoted him as saying.

Israeli security sources said senior commanders feared that a Gaza pull-out with nothing in return would enable militants to claim victory and encourage them to keep fighting.

The commander of Hamas's armed wing, Mohammad Deif, said on Tuesday an evacuation of Jewish settlers from Gaza would signal a victory for Palestinian militancy.

"The criminal Sharon was elected to smash our resistance in 100 days. But now the man who once said Netzarim (isolated settlement in Gaza) was just like Tel Aviv is planning to withdraw from Gaza without something in return," he said.

"This is a great prophesy of victory," Deif said in a rare voice interview broadcast by Hamas's military wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, on its Web page.

Seeking to defuse the row, Yaalon telephoned Sharon on Monday, political sources said.

"The prime minister knows my opinion. They are voiced in closed meetings...and that is what I have done regarding the disengagement plan," Yaalon told Israel Radio. "I heard about this through the media and I know of no crisis." Despite that, Sharon fears the army's objections will be used by his pro-settler coalition partners to undermine his plan as he prepares to present it to U.S. President George W. Bush in late March or early April, a political source said.

Settlers accuse Sharon, once considered the godfather of the settle-



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon talks in a meeting with representatives from "Bridging the rift" at his house in Jerusalem March 9. "Bridging the rift", a joint Jordanian-Israeli organization, will today lay a cornerstone for a new Jordanian-Israeli Rift centre. REUTERS

ment movement, of betraying their cause.

In violence on Tuesday, Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian woman and wounded two people, including a news photographer during a raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, witnesses said. Israeli military sources said soldiers had exchanged fire with gunmen.

Ahead of vote Algerian body backs women's rights

ALGIERS, March 8 (Reuters) - A government-backed commission on Monday proposed reforming Algeria's controversial family code to give women more rights, a move seen linked to upcoming presidential elections.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, seeking re-election on April 8, has come under pressure for failing to live up to his 1999 election promise to give more rights in a country where 52 percent of the 32 million population are women.

"The current law makes a woman minor from birth to death. She has only one right — to shut up," said Ouadia Harhad, spokeswoman for the independent women's rights group Aitdf.

Voting, or crime

"The only time in a woman's life she can consider herself not a minor is when she votes or commits a crime."

The government commission was set up in October to quell mounting criticism in the Muslim North African country, particularly after neighbouring Morocco said it would improve women's rights in marriage and divorce.

Algeria's 1984 family code forces women to seek approval from a male family member to marry, authorises polygamy and gives men the right to divorce without reason and offers women little maintenance for caring for her children.

Chafika Ait Benamar, a parliamentary member of the commission, told state radio the reform would propose allowing women to marry without family consent from the age of 19, the

same as men.

The husband would have to give greater financial support in case of a unilateral decision to separate. He would also have to provide accommodation for the children and their mother. Stricter rules would be applied in case of polygamy, she said.

The reform would be put to a vote in parliament, Ait Benamar said without giving a date.

Louisa Hanoun, the first woman to run for president in Algeria and leader of the small Trotskyite opposition Workers' Party, told a news conference: "It's a positive first step. The current family code boosts oppression and discrimination."

A rare national health survey, published in newspaper El Watan, showed married women were significantly more subjected to violence than single women.

Embarrassed

Women have fewer rights than in Morocco and Tunisia, a fact many Algerians are embarrassed about given the role women played in fighting for independence from colonial France and opposing the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the 1990s.

Political analysts said Bouteflika initially shelved the plan because of opposition from Islamic parties.

On Sunday leading opposition presidential candidate Ali Benflis said he would give women more rights if he won.

Separately, Bouteflika pardoned 242 women imprisoned on Monday on the occasion of the international women's day. Women sentenced for "terrorism" were excluded.

Indonesian militant Bashir could be free in weeks

JAKARTA, March 9 (Reuters) - Indonesia's most prominent militant Muslim preacher, accused of being spiritual head of the radical Jemaah Islamiah network, could walk out of jail within weeks after the Supreme Court halved his prison sentence.

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday it had cut Abu Bakar Bashir's time in jail for immigration and document forgery offences from three years to 18 months.

Security experts said the move sent the wrong signal about Jakarta's desire to fight terror, adding that the release of Bashir in the near future would embolden his supporters at a sensitive time just before Indonesia's elections this year.

Based on time served, the 65-year-old Bashir could be free in weeks. His lawyers predicted it would be in late March or early April, but court officials could not be reached to confirm reports that the date would be April 4.

Bashir was first detained in mid-October 2002, just days after the Bali nightclub bombings, which killed 202 people, mostly foreigners. Authorities have blamed Jemaah Islamiah for the Bali blasts and last year's suicide bombing at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people.

Moegihardjo, head of the crimes division at the Supreme Court, said judges agreed with an appeals court move to uphold immigration and forgery charges, but to drop a treason charge.

"The sentence was lowered from three years to one and a half years that will later be reduced by the time spent," Moegihardjo told Bashir supporters and reporters inside the court office.

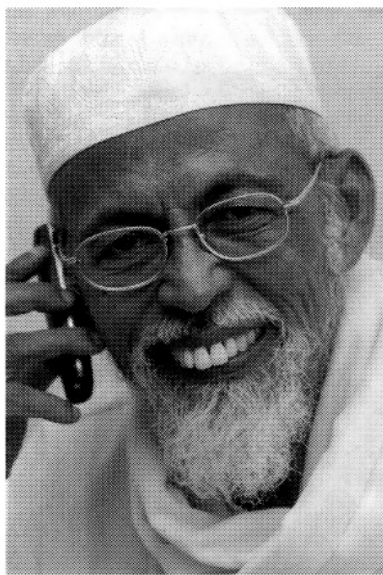
He said the Supreme Court decided the appeals court had imposed the incorrect jail term on Bashir. That court had reduced his sentence to three years from four.

A lower court had already quashed charges that Bashir headed the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah.

With elections in the world's most populous Muslim nation due this year, the Supreme Court decision could please conservative Muslim voters who have accused the West of forcing Jakarta to get tough with radical Islamists.

Emboldened supporters

But it will likely draw fire from Western and regional nations who blame Jemaah Islamiah for a spate of bombings. Those countries accuse Bashir of being the group's spiritual leader.



Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir speaks on a mobile phone in a Jakarta prison in this Dec. 1, 2003 file photo. REUTERS

Ken Conboy, head of RMA Indonesia, a Jakarta-based security risk firm, said Bashir supporters inside and outside Jemaah Islamiah would get a lift from the move.

Some security experts have expressed concern Jemaah Islamiah or other militants could try and disrupt parliamentary elections due on April 5 and a presidential poll on July 5.

"I can only imagine that if he's out in a very short time he is going to be far from contrite. I think his supporters will be very emboldened," Conboy said.

Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda denied the decision had any impact on Indonesia's determination to fight terrorism.

"Our commitment is to arrest every person suspected of terrorism, whether or not they are connected to Bashir," he said.

Police have said Bashir provided inspiration to the perpetrators of the Bali bombings.

About 30 people, including many Jemaah Islamiah members, have been convicted for their role in the Bali attacks.

Some studied at an austere Muslim boarding school co-founded by Bashir in central Java in the early 1970s.

Bashir has denied terror accusations against him, but has called al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden a true Islamic warrior.

Security experts say Jemaah Islamiah has been weakened by numerous arrests in the past year, but that it still poses a threat. It wants to set up a pan-Southeast Asian Islamic state.

Pakistan tests first long-range nuclear missile

ISLAMABAD, March 9 (Reuters) - Pakistan on Tuesday successfully test-fired for the first time a long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads to every corner of neighbouring arch rival India.

"The two-stage Shaheen II Missile System, which has been developed indigenously by Pakistani scientists and engineers, can carry all types of warheads up to 2,000 km (1,250 miles)," the Pakistan military said.

Nuclear scientist Samar Mubarak Mand — a key architect of Pakistan's atomic bomb — said the full range of the missile was around 2,500 km (1,500 miles).

"We have fired it to the end of our sea limits, which is about 2,000 km," Mand said on private Geo television.

Pakistan says its weapons programme is a response to that of rival India, with which it has fought three wars since both countries won independence from Britain in 1947.

Japan expressed concern that Pakistan had conducted the test despite efforts by the international community to curb proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles.

"The Japanese government hopes that the test will not bring about a negative effect on positive developments between Pakistan and India towards improving their relations," said a statement from the Japanese embassy in Islamabad.

India, which has a vigorous missile development programme of its own, offered no immediate response to the news.

The military said Pakistan had informed neighbouring countries of the test as a "confidence-building" measure.

The test came after Israel last week concluded a deal to sell India a strategic

airborne radar system, despite warming ties between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Pakistan says the new weapons exceeds the 1,500-km (900-mile) reach of the Ghauri, previously its longest-range missile, which some experts say was developed with North Korean help.

TEST AMID CLOSE SCRUTINY

The test of the Shaheen II comes amid intense scrutiny of Pakistan's nuclear programme after revelations that its scientists sold nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

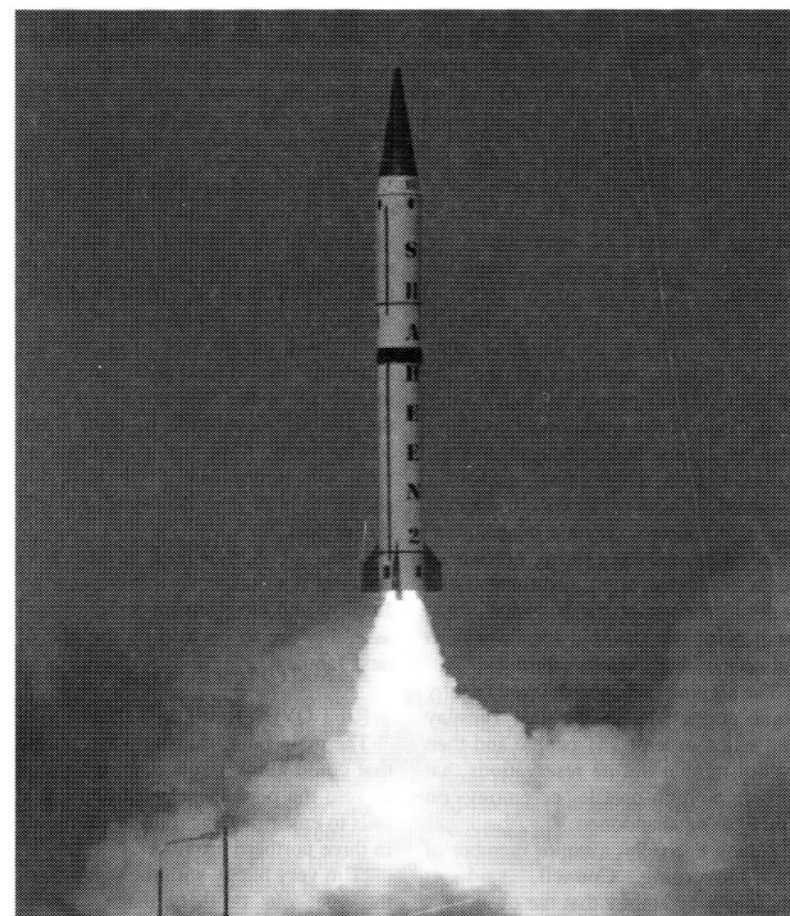
Defence analyst Riffat Hussain said the test was significant because it laid to rest apprehensions in Pakistan that the scandal had compromised its nuclear and missile programmes.

"This particular test defies that kind of criticism or at least takes the sting away from that, and just sends the message out that Pakistan's missile programme is very much on course," said Hussain, head of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. "This underscores the fact that Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme is well, robust and on track," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said on Monday the aim of the test would be to ensure the reach of the missile was sufficient to deter aggression and prevent military coercion.

India concluded a deal last week to buy an Israeli Phalcon airborne radar system that Pakistan has complained will threaten its security and require steps to keep a balance between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

The Phalcon system can detect aircraft hundreds of km (miles) away, can intercept radio transmissions and put large parts of Pakistan under Indian surveillance, including disputed Kashmir, which has been the trigger for two of



Pakistan's medium-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile Shaheen-IIc takes off from an undisclosed location Mar. 9. Pakistan test-fired on Tuesday an intermediate-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile, which could reach all the cities in neighbouring India. State-owned Pakistani Television announced that the missile could travel 2,000 km (1,250 miles) and carry all kinds of warheads. REUTERS

the rivals' three wars.

There has been no pause in a thawing in relations that has led to a reopening of air, bus and rail links. The two countries are due to hold peace talks in May or June on all issues in their dispute,

including Kashmir.

On Tuesday, Pakistani and Indian officials held technical level talks in Islamabad on starting additional bus services linking people in their southern regions.

Arrests in Equatorial Guinea after clampdown on foreigners

DAKAR, March 9 (Reuters) - Some 15 suspected mercenaries have been arrested in Equatorial Guinea, sub-Saharan Africa's third-biggest oil producer, after a widespread clampdown on foreign nationals, the government said on Tuesday.

"Some 15 mercenaries have been arrested here in Equatorial Guinea and it was connected with that plane in Zimbabwe. They were the advance party of that group," Information Minister Agustin Nse

Nfumu told Reuters by telephone from Malabo.

Zimbabwe seized a U.S.-registered cargo plane on Sunday evening which the government has said was carrying 64 suspected mercenaries and a cargo of military gear.

The minister said the group of 15 was made up of white South Africans, black South Africans of Angolan origin, a German and others from Kazakhstan and Armenia.

He said the suspected mercenaries

had arrived in the former Spanish colony, which borders Gabon and Cameroon, in December and were picked up late on Monday evening. He said some of them had been "presented to the diplomatic corps".

Equatorial Guinea said on Monday its security forces had been chasing down illegal immigrants since Saturday night and detained a number of people. Residents said the swoop had been unusually severe with heavily armed troops roaming

the streets.

The clampdown comes amid growing tensions within President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo's family, whose members hold most top positions in the country, and speculation among exiled opposition politicians that a coup was in the offing.

Equatorial Guinea's information minister said Obiang would address the nation on state media at 8 p.m. (1900 GMT).

South Korean opposition starts Roh impeachment

SEOUL, March 9 (Reuters) - South Korea's main opposition parties took the first parliamentary step on Tuesday in an unprecedented attempt to impeach President Roh Moo-hyun — a move that could cause chaos weeks before a parliamentary election.

A parliamentary official told Reuters enough members of the single-chamber National Assembly had signed papers to register the impeachment bill and thus place the motion before parliament.

"I can only think of the bill as legal reason," Kim Geun-tae, floor leader of the breakaway Uri Party that backs Roh, complained to parliament after members later reported to the chamber, in its imposing domed building on Seoul's Han River.

"This is a motion for national disaster," Kim said, urging erstwhile colleagues not to approve the bill. "It will leave a mark on your political life that can never be erased."

Tuesday's dusk session set the political clock ticking for the bill to be formally introduced on Wednesday. The presidential Blue House described the opposition move as irrational.

Roh, a 57-year-old former human rights lawyer, has just notched up his first year as president, a rocky 12 months in which he has muscled out his capabilities, called for a referendum

on his rule and seen his ratings dwindle.

Once the bill has been introduced, members must vote on it within 72 hours. The bill may be referred to committee initially or voted on directly. A two-thirds majority in the 273-member chamber is required to pass the measure.

Should that be achieved, Roh's fate would lie with the Constitutional Court. At least six votes on the nine-person panel would be required to remove him from office.

Local media said on Tuesday court deliberations could take up to six months. In the meantime, Roh would have to cede power to the prime minister, constitutionally his number two.

Impeachment — often threatened in South Korea but never carried through — would thrust the country into uncharted constitutional territory as its economy, Asia's fourth largest, recovers and it grapples with a nuclear crisis in North Korea.

Strategic move?

The main opposition Grand National Party agreed to join the smaller Millennium Democratic Party in submitting the impeachment measure over



South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun takes a breather to compose himself at a graduation ceremony of a military academy in Seoul Mar. 9. REUTERS

the president's refusal to apologise for partisan comments in the run-up to an April 15 parliamentary election.

"I think it will be difficult to muster a two-thirds majority," said Kim Young-rae, a political science professor at Ajou University near Seoul. "Perhaps this is more of a strategic move by the parties before the elec-

tion."

An impeachment vote would further sharpen rivalries amid a probe into illicit political funding from the "chaebol" conglomerates that dominate South Korea's export-driven economy.

An interim prosecution report said on Monday the main chaebol had given \$70 million to the Grand National Party and \$8.3 million to Roh's camp in the 2002 presidential election campaign.

The Millennium Democrats proposed impeachment after the National Election Commission ruled last week Roh had violated election rules by speaking out in favour of the Uri Party during the pre-election period. The commission did not penalise him.

The Millennium Democrats have 62 seats in the 273-seat chamber and the Grand National Party 147. It is not a given all members would back the vote because of internal feuding and the looming election. Some members may have an eye on how a vote for impeachment would play with their constituents.

The Uri Party, which split from the Millennium Democrats last year, has said it would block proceedings if the opposition parties tried to introduce the bill.

Harare "mercenary" plane was on a civil mission

JOHANNESBURG, March 9 (Reuters) - A plane seized in Zimbabwe carrying 64 people whom the Harare government suspects of being mercenaries was bound for the Democratic Republic of Congo to provide security guards for mines, its operator said on Tuesday.

"They were going to eastern DRC. They stopped in Zimbabwe to pick up mining equipment, Zimbabwe being a vastly cheaper place for such," said Charles Burrow, a senior executive of Logo Logistics Ltd which had chartered the Boeing 727 freighter.

He told Reuters by telephone from London that most of the people on board were South African and had military experience, but were on contract to four mining companies in Congo. He declined to name the companies.

Burrows denied any knowledge of a group of "15 mercenaries" which the government of the west African state of Equatorial Guinea said it had arrested on Tuesday and said they were linked to the plane impounded at Harare.

"I haven't the foggiest idea of what they're talking about," he said.

Zimbabwe authorities said on Monday they had impounded the plane and its passengers at Harare airport on Sunday when

it said the crew made a false declaration.

In a separate statement faxed to Reuters, Logo Logistics, which is registered in Britain's Channel Islands, said the group was contracted "to provide a range of services to mining clients, including logistics, support services, asset and human security".

It disputed the statement by Zimbabwe which said military equipment had been seized on the plane.

"What had been described as 'military equipment' in some earlier reports now has been shown to be items such as boots, tools, pipe-bending and other equipment, wire-cutting and connecting tools, and similar," it said.

"All are items normally sourced in South Africa, as they are difficult and expensive to obtain elsewhere in southern Africa."

Burrows said the plane was still on the United States register of aircraft as it had just been bought by its new owners, Systems Design, from whom it was chartered.

The previously registered owners of the plane, Dodson Aviation Inc of Kansas, said on Monday that they had sold their ageing aircraft to Logo Limited last week.

UN calls for \$35 million in urgent aid for Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 9 (Reuters) - The United Nations launched an emergency appeal on Tuesday for \$35 million in humanitarian aid to help troubled Haiti cope with the effects of an armed rebellion launched last month.

The appeal would fund urgent humanitarian needs over six months for more than 3 million of Haiti's 8.3 million people, most of them women and children, the United Nations said.

"The recent turmoil has made life even more precarious for the people of Haiti, who need aid now more than

ever," said U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland.

"To prevent more suffering, donors must respond quickly," Egeland said in a statement.

Haiti is the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, and as many as a third of its people suffered from chronic malnutrition even before the rebellion began. The Caribbean country has been further shaken by the rebellion that led to the Feb. 29 departure, under international pressure, of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.



Haitians show their support for former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the site where a man was shot dead, near an industrial park in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Mar. 9. REUTERS

Bush accuses Kerry of trying to cut intelligence

HOUSTON, March 8 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush accused John Kerry on Monday of trying to gut intelligence services and of lacking the fitness to lead America "in a time of war," in his sharpest attack against his Democratic rival.

Bush said the Massachusetts senator introduced a bill in 1995 to cut intelligence services by \$1.5 billion. Bush lambasted the bill as "deeply irresponsible," as he and Vice President Dick Cheney sought to cast doubt on Kerry's ability to lead in the "war on terror," which Bush declared following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Once again, Senator Kerry is trying to have it both ways. He's for good intelligence, yet he was willing to gut the intelligence services," Bush told a Houston fund-raiser. "And that is no way to lead our nation in a time of war."

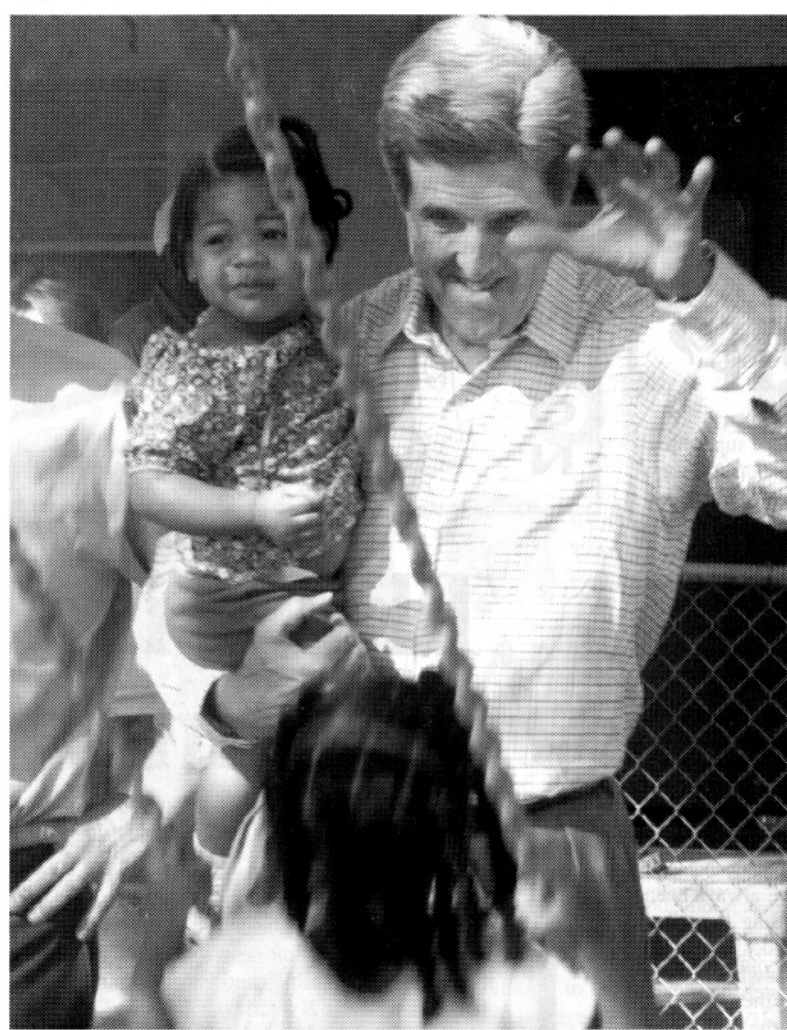
"As I tell people, war's what they got with George W. Bush as president, and we're going to win the war," he told a local television station in an interview.

The Kerry campaign retorted that the accusations on the intelligence bill were misleading. The senator was opposing an intelligence budget he said was "essentially a slush fund for defense contractors."

The campaign said Kerry voted to support \$200 billion in intelligence spending in the past seven years.

The president's broadsides against Kerry came as polls suggested a tough re-election campaign for Bush, whose approval ratings are hovering near the lowest of his presidency and who is lagging Kerry in surveys for the November election.

Kerry campaigned on Saturday in Bush's home state of Texas, using the attention-grabbing expression, "Houston, we've got a problem," to



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry (D-Ma) pushes a little girl on a swing while holding two-year-old Dalia McCloud in his arms during a visit to the "Little Big World Day Care Center" in West Tampa, Florida, Mar. 9. Kerry moves another step closer to facing President George W. Bush in the November general election as voters head to the polls today for primary elections in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida. REUTERS

hammer Bush on the anemic rate of job creation in the U.S. economy.

'Clear vision'

The jab prompted Bush to put his

full Texas pride on display.

"Nothing like spending the weekend in Texas," he told those attending a midday fund-raiser. "If you can't count on your home state in politics, you're

in deep trouble."

Later, as he surveyed prize heifers at a Houston livestock show and rodeo, Bush said: "It is really good to be home. I thought there was a lot of bull in Washington, D.C."

In Des Moines, Iowa, Cheney joined the attack on Kerry, accusing him of embracing a strategy "which holds that when we are attacked, we ought to round up the guilty parties and put them on trial."

Bush raked in \$3 million for his campaign coffers at the Texas fund raisers. He has already raised about \$150 million, far outstripping Kerry.

Bush took aim at Kerry for supporting a 2002 resolution to authorize the use of force in Iraq and then later criticizing the U.S. president's decision to go to war.

In a Fox News interview, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested Kerry was politicizing Iraq policy to advance his own "political interest."

"Senator Kerry accepted it and spoke as if he believed it; and now a year later, to say the president was doing the wrong thing or he misled the nation just isn't accurate. We ought to stick with what we said and not start changing our view a year later because it's in our political interest," Powell said.

Kerry maintains he and his congressional colleagues were misled into their support of the war by the Bush administration, which warned of the dangers of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have been found.

Bush mocked Kerry, citing the war as an example of how Kerry likes to take both sides of every issue. "My opponent clearly has strong beliefs — they just don't last very long," he said.

Economy, finance ministers stay in Russia reshuffle

MOSCOW, March 9 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin kept Russia's economy and finance ministers in place on Tuesday but swapped his energy and foreign ministers in a reshuffle that trimmed the cabinet's size ahead of his expected re-election.

Putin, virtually certain to win a second four-year term in Sunday's poll, slashed the size of the cabinet serving under Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, approved by parliament last week.

Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin and Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref stayed in their jobs. Viktor Khristenko, made acting prime minister last month, becomes energy minister with the additional portfolios of construction, industry and nuclear power.

Russia's respected longstanding envoy to the United Nations, Sergei Lavrov, was appointed foreign minister to replace Igor Ivanov, who becomes Secretary of Russia's



File picture taken February 24, 2004, shows Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin in Moscow. President Vladimir Putin kept Russia's economy and finance ministers in place on Tuesday, Mar. 9, but swapped his energy and foreign ministers in a reshuffle that trimmed the cabinet's size ahead of his expected re-election. REUTERS

Security Council.

Analysts expressed satisfaction that the Kremlin's reform team had remained intact.

"It is a relief that Kudrin and Gref have been re-appointed to the finance ministry and the ministry of economic development and trade," Roland Nash, chief strategic at Renaissance Capital, said by telephone.

"There was some fear that the changes to the structure of the government would mean that they would be sidelined and (their re-appointment) is good news."

Putin, quoted by Itar-Tass news agency, said he would make no further changes in the government lineup should he win — as is widely expected — on Sunday.

The Kremlin leader unexpectedly sacked long-serving prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov last month in the middle of the election campaign, pledging to form a new team to pursue reform.

Jailed 9/11 plotter seeks release pending retrial

BERLIN, March 9 (Reuters) - The lawyer for the only man convicted over the September 11 attacks said on Tuesday he had applied for his release from jail pending a retrial ordered by an appeal court.

Moroccan-born Mounir El Motassadeq, sentenced to 15 years in jail in February 2003 for conspiring to murder nearly 3,000 people in the 2001 hijack attacks in the United States, had his conviction quashed

last week by Germany's Supreme Court.

"He must be set free. I have applied for him to be released and I am very confident he will be," said Josef Graessle-Muenschner, one of Motassadeq's lawyers.

He said he expected the Hamburg court to decide on the application for Motassadeq's release within two or three weeks.

Motassadeq, who was also con-

victed of belonging to a terrorist organisation, a German al Qaeda cell which included three of the hijackers, insists he had no knowledge of the 9/11 plot and did no more than help fellow Muslims living in a foreign country.

His lawyers had argued that new evidence, which secured the acquittal of friend Abdelghani Mzoudi, on similar charges, also made Motassadeq's conviction unreliable.

وَشَهِدْنَا أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْمَوْلَى الْوَحِيدُ وَأَنَا الْيَتِيمُ
يَتَقَدَّمُ الْأُسْتَاذُ / وَلِيدُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ السَّقَافِ
رئيس تحرير جريدة يمن تايمز

وَالْأُسْتَاذُ / خَلِيلُ غَالِبِ الْجَبَلِ
رئيس مجلس إدارة مجموعة الجبل

وَالْأُسْتَاذُ / رِيْدَانُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ السَّقَافِ
وفريق سمارة

بِخَالصِ الْعِزَاءِ وَالْمَوَاسَاةِ

لِلْأُسْتَاذِ / مُصْطَفَى الْبَرْكَانِي
بِوَفَاءِ الْمَغْفُورَةِ بِأَذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالِدَةِ
أَنَا لِلَّهِ وَأَنَا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Words of Wisdom



Change is basic in life. Every thing has to change. Without change, there is stagnation and decay. It is the job of human beings to push for positive change. The possibility of change in the wrong direction exists and we have seen it in many places. We have to guard against that. Slow and gradual change is better than abrupt jolts. In other word, evolution is the key word.

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

OUR OPINION

Mentality change

Too tough?

I received plenty of letters from readers supporting our initiative to have a 'Arms-free' country as they have all encouraged us to take the step to introduce the one million signature petition against the carrying of arms in Yemen.

I thank all those who supported our proposal by email, fax, letters, and in heart. Indeed, the country cannot withstand any more of the current situation in which thousands of people are being killed needlessly by the 50 million or so pieces of arms scattered throughout the country.

It is unfortunate however that the ambitions of clearing our country from arms is far from reach at the moment. The reason for that is obvious and straight forward, ie, there is no belief in decision makers in our initiative. If you ask me why they don't believe that arms are the issue, I would simply be unable to answer as they have multiple stories to tell.

One of the justifications is that arms have always been part of the culture of the country and ridding the tribal community for example from arms is too risky and could result in warfare and violent resistance. Meanwhile, others think that weapons are not the issue, it is the economy, political tensions, selfish interests that are the real factor behind violence and insecurity in the country, forgetting that without weapons such violence could not have been so deadly and fatal.

The President himself does not seem to believe in the need to eradicate weapons from the hands of Yemenis. He once said in an interview to one of the major Television networks that the priority is not to take away weapons and prohibit the carrying of arms, it is rather regulating the issuance of arms licenses and carrying of arms.

So it is obvious that the country requires a large-scale operation of changing mentalities and way of thinking of Yemeni decision-makers. It is up to the educated sector to do this role as the rest are also supporting to carrying an use of weapons.

Yemen is undeniably, a tribal community. There is nothing wrong I belonging to a tribe or certain social sector, but what is wrong in my opinion is to replace the rule of law by tribal regulations in settling disputes, using weapons, and other issues.

However, large portions of the country are being government by such tribal laws that do not have any respect or consideration to state laws, making law enforcement a very difficult task, and causing a lot of trouble to a government that had pledged to establish law and order in every square mile of the country.

What we need to concentrate on write now is to change people's mentalities before acting on real measures to disarm them. Yemenis must realize that carrying and using arms has caused tremendous damage to the country's economy, stability, well-being, and overall image worldwide. This can only be achieved by a political ruling power that is itself convinced of the need to change the reality we are living in today and should be the first to apply disarmament measures on themselves before attempting to do so on others. Only then will our country rid itself from the situation it is in today.

Will our politicians realize the idea behind this and start changing their mentalities soon? Or is too tough a mission? Only time will tell.

The Editor

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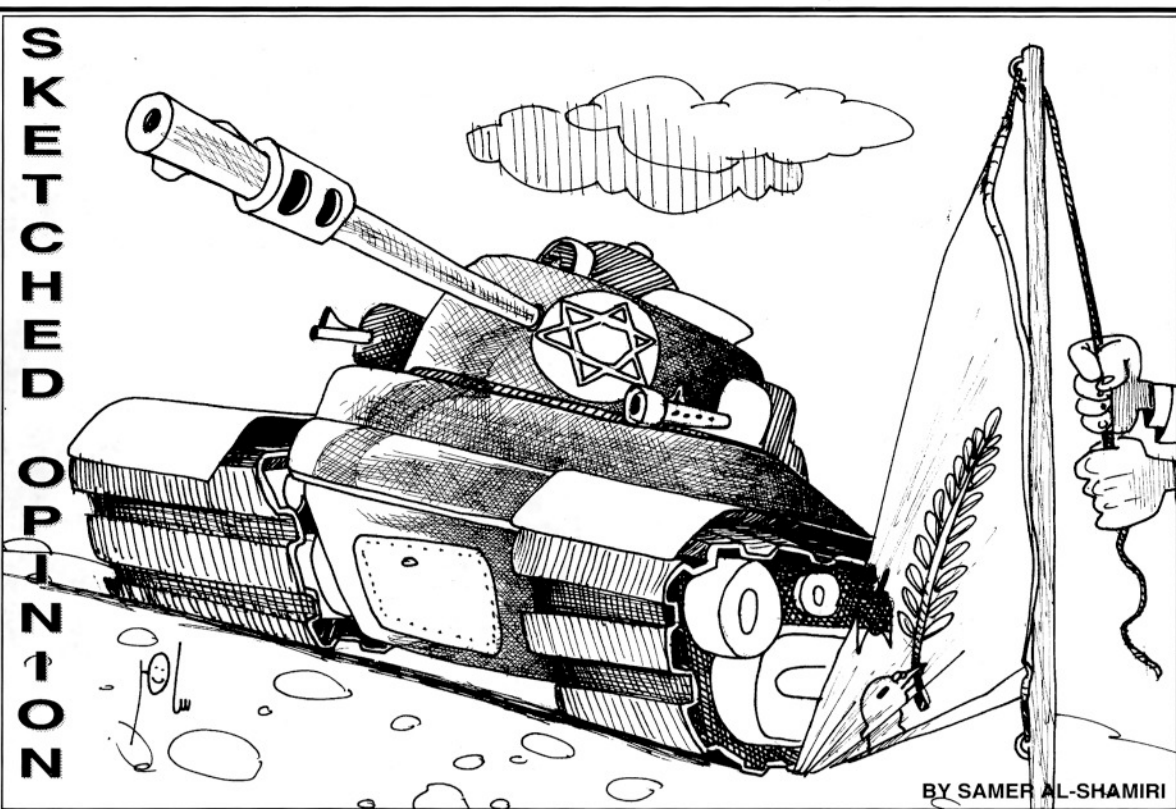
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The story of 'Uncle Saeed'

The wisdom of age is undervalued

BY ABDULWAHAB AL SOFI
Abduwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The struggling man is usually respected for their loftiness haughtiness, dignity and honor as well. He is wearing glasses with thick lenses He is old enough, but he still has the ability to walk on the pavement to look for a job. His silence reflects a tone of sadness and misery.

He walks so slowly that you think he carries a heavy load. Once I could see him walking before my work place I took the chance to chat with him, asking if I can render my help I gestured using my complete arm high up to say hello.

Unfortunately, he couldn't see me. I tried an other attempt shouting "uncle uncle" but no vain Later, I followed him and tapped on his shoulder slightly He stopped and looked at me to say: Yes can I help you? I said, "thank you sir."

The voice of mine, reminded him who I am and then he gave me a smile blended with melancholy. He trained me when I joined with my first job. I did not remember him as his look changed completely.

"Are you Uncle Saeed?" I asked. He shook his head to say, "yes." Then he whispered to himself. Thanks goodness life is still fine.

He told me his story as looking for a

job. He was dismissed from his work during his leave for cure. He got a leave to make an operation to his eyes as he suffered to see properly. Their managers in the company believed that he was going to be blind.

During the time he was lying in the hospital for the operation, they got rid of him as he became old. He served them about ten years. More over he had ten years experience getting them in somewhere else.

He has now a big experience. His experience is double of what he studied. More than 20 years experience is well sufficient to get him a very good job easily. Unfortunately, this didn't happened Experience is very important to get a job.

The certificate is not enough. This is what we read in all notices of vacancies in the private sector. At the same time they don't accept old people. They want fresh new blood and experienced young persons. After hard effort and many prestigious recommendations, he was accepted to work in another company.

Two months later, he decided to hire a flat in Hodeidah city He asked for a leave to bring his family During that leave, the company got red of his service. Thus, he neither enjoyed his new job nor his new flat.

Two kicks on the head are very painful. Uncle Saeed was lost between the arrogance of private companies and

the poverty, the misery, the bad livelihood regional racism and the denominationalism insult the person who needs necessary food for his children.

People now are thinking how to afford tomorrow necessary food. In addition to that, they worry how to pay the lease at the end of month. Therefore, crowded thoughts in such person mind, back break him.

We may one day be like uncle Seed. It is the turn which revolves on us a day. We have to wake up and be careful not to water ourselves from same uncle Seed's cup.

On the other hand, we are obliged to have it as we have no way but to face those problems strongly. We are certainly coming to the same arbir, particularly have, no laws defend our rights because ministry of labor and affairs is still sleeping. He is only a sample for many.

Even though retire employees get simple salary, which is not enough for the lowest need of life. Yet we have to investigate this matter well. Wouldn't uncle Seed calculate his future need well? Or was his future not planned for?

His expectation backfired. He is a victim of his age. We, as a new young generation have to calculate our life well before the axe falls on our heads We never want to be Uncle Saeed.

Otherwise our lives will be worse than his life.

Letters to the Editor

Religion should be avoided

As one who has been opposed to the AUS invasion of Iraq, and who is also opposed to Israeli encroachment via the settlements, and who is opposed to any form of religion of any kind in any place, I can tell you why the Iraqi Constitution should not be based on Islam or any other religion.

It is simply this: Religion is bunk. Religion is superstition. Religion is the means by which human rights are oppressed. Religion is the means by which humans are degraded and enslaved. If you could show me one good thing that religion has achieved in human history, I can show you 10 million examples of brutality, torture and murder

resulting from religion.

And don't think that Moslems have a corner on the market of brutality. Christian fanatics are itching to take hold in the USA, and when it comes to brutality, there is nothing like Christianity. I give you Lebanon, Ireland, the Crusades, the Inquisition.

Yes, I know. It is impossible to get rid of religion. We have to live with it just like we live with disease and hunger and stupidity.

Robert Lindh
lindh@swnebr.net

About youth, once more

I can't stress any more the frustration that we, the Arabic youth, are experi-

encing, and the disappointment in our environment, and as well our governments. As this frustrations deepen in our hearts almost leaving us with two options, either to implode or explode, trying to cross that red line where we wish everything will be triggered to move upward again.

Fortunately, some of us get to read and experience different cultures, and lives. They get to listen to Amr Khaled, Tareq Alsaidan, and Tareq Ramadan. They get to read articles like yours. It triggers a buried believe in us that change is possible. Yet limited in our experiences, and knowledge, we fail to initiate a real process of change, or to foster our efforts to alter our environment.

I had the following idea for a while in my mind. I thought I will bring it to life through you. I am calling for a grass-root Arabic (Muslim) youth organization. The main mission of this organization is to bring those who care together, to foster efforts, and introduce positive change in the area. I am calling for an NGO with no political, nor religious agenda, but a sense of responsibility toward the whole Arabic world.

I see international organization operating all over the world including our countries, with Arabic youth participating in conferences in the US, Canada, and Europe; I wonder what stops us from importing the positive experiences of these organizations to our lands, the awareness that it creates, and the sense of ability and responsibility. Although, this idea is now expressed in just this few words in a letter to you, with enough commitment I believe that it can turn into reality.

A. Sallam Qasem
sallam_8@hotmail.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Streamlining the bureaucracy

One of the major areas by which the public has now almost become frightened of getting enmeshed is having to process various requirements or applications for services through the government bureaucracy. While it is wonderful to see our government offices equipped with state of the art computer capacity and equipment, one cannot fail to notice that any dealings with the government by the public at large involve a myriad of red tape and bureaucratic procedures. In many cases all this red tape is enough to scare any petitioner and may actually lead to the deprivation of countless citizens from government services, because of being unable to bear all the requirements or devote the time and the patience required to complete their processing.

While much has been said about Government reform on a broad plane, little has been actually undertaken to institute procedures in Government activity and functions that considerably cut the awesome bureaucratic ordeal that citizens must confront in dealing with their Government. The bureaucratic nightmare is a common denominator of almost all the Ministries and this observer has heard similar public complaints of the agony that petitioners must go through to apply for certain services or even licenses. Surely, this is not indicative of a Government that seeks to make life easier for its people, or to attract local or foreign investment in development projects, both private and public. One might even suggest that streamlining the bureaucratic procedures for all government activity will go along way towards achievement of the objectives of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program, which has been pursued since 1995.

It is not clear what led to the development of almost an impossible bureaucratic framework that costs the concerned petitioners a great length of time, and requires substantial expense (both direct and opportunity cost) and of course a lot of patience. It could probably be due to the lack of real progress towards implementing the administrative aspects of the reform program, but the reform program in this field would never in itself be sufficient to alleviate the monumental tasks the public is forced to go through in order to handle their petitions.

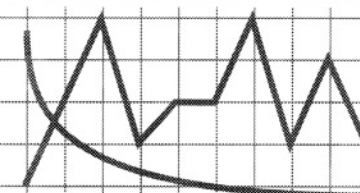
The obvious dehumanizing steps that must be undertaken to accomplish certain government requirements or to benefit from certain government services or programs are actually a drawback to any hopes for development or for encouragement of a greater role for the private sector in energizing the economy. So many are the complaints that the observer has encountered and so many actual experiences of the observer in dealing with the Government bureaucracy are enough to indicate that there is ample room for improvement in the way the Government directly deals with the public. There are so many different steps involved in getting a certain petition through any of the majority of the Government ministries and authorities that one is inclined to believe that logic and common sense have no place in Government administration of its various functions.

The overriding characteristics of government bureaucratic framework may be summarized as follows:

- 1) The petitioner is forced to go through every agonizing step of processing the petition.
- 2) There are no set procedures that are clearly laid out and outlined to the public to be able to determine ahead of time both the requirements of certain transactions and the flow chart for the various processing tasks involved.
- 3) There is a lot of time wasted by the obvious absence of so many employees on any given time.
- 4) There is a lot of duplication of requirements for a given transaction and within a given Ministry or Authority.
- 5) There are no clear delineations of authority and most important decisions are left to the head of the Ministry or Authority, even for already approved or appropriated transactions. Often the head of the unit will see the same transaction passed to him at least three times, from the time the petition is presented to the issuance of the license, check or final ruling or opinion, as the case may be.
- 6) Even intergovernmental processing of various government activities entails a significant amount of red tape and "reapprovals".
- 7) There is no measuring yardstick to determine the efficiency of administrative handling of various government functions or dealings with the public, except for the despair that is visible on the faces of the hundreds of people running around the halls of government offices at any given time, desperately seeking the last conclusive step for their applications or procedures.
- 8) Some people manage to speedily complete the procedures in the minimum of time, as they enjoy the ample influence their social and political positions may generate, all under the noses of the "normal" people that must go through all the tedious steps, many of which are practically and logically unnecessary (like producing countless copies of documents that are issued by the same Ministry or authority which are certified authentic "as good as the original", for the different departments they have to go through within the same ministry or authority).
- 9) The lack of accountability and clear job descriptions as well as performance evaluations has been a major encouragement for the development of this bureaucratic nightmare and leads to corruption, extortion and embezzlement, with almost no recourse for the public except to submit.

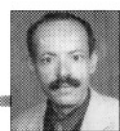
Surely, the Yemeni people deserve much better and speedier ways to deal with their government, if social degeneration is to be discouraged.

YT Business



Hybrid maize a successful venture

Plan for expansion in food cereal production



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Experiments with farm practices, including hybrid maize, have been successful across Yemen, in governorates of Abyan, Lahj, Taiz, Hadramout, Hudeida, Tamar and Mareb where the one farm production of each hectare exceeded an average of 5 tons.

The implementation of the experiments comes within the context of the government plan for reclamation of arable lands and expansion in production of food grains and reduction of the volume of imports.

The ministry of agriculture has prepared a strategic plan for increasing the plantation of food cereals. In a report on the activities that could be negotiated with the donors.

The American agency for international development expressed willingness for resuming its activities in supporting Yemen's agricultural projects particularly in promising productive sectors.

Sources at the ministry of agriculture aid the American agency for development would support Yemen in six agricultural projects, open for expansion in the future.

According to figure indicators the agricultural sector is still occupying a forward position among many various



A maize plantation.

activities in Yemen. Agriculture employs about 52% of the workforce and provides living for about 75% of the population while it contributes 15% of the GDP.

According to the book on the sec-

ond 5-year plan the agricultural production accomplished during the past five years an increase in growth by 5.4%. Exports of foodstuffs and live animals grew to averages reaching to around 28% per year.

Therefore the government endeavors to increase agricultural production and improve infrastructure of marketing and development of exports in preparation for joining the World Trade Organisation.

American IT company New Horizons on the move

Anaheim, California-based New Horizons Computer Learning Centers was named the world's largest independent IT training company by IDC in 2003.

Through its Integrated Learning offering, New Horizons provides customer-focused computer training choices with a wide variety of tools and resources that reinforce the learning experience.

With more than 250 centers in 50 countries, New Horizons sets the pace for innovative training programs that meet the changing needs of the industry. Featuring the largest sales force in the IT training industry, New Horizons has over 1,700 account executives, 2,000 instructors and 1,900 classrooms.

Recently, Martin Bean, Chief operating officer of New horizon, has moderated a live conversation with U.S. President George W. Bush discussing the National IT

Apprenticeship System (NITAS), a program delivered jointly by the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) and the U.S. Department of Labor.

The NITAS program, in partnership with community colleges, is an example of an innovative public/private partnership that is keeping the United States competitive in the new century.

The NITAS program provides apprentices with foundational, broad-based knowledge and skills,

according to Bean. The program is designed to provide the tools and infrastructure for the expected increase of 82 percent in the number of positions for network and computer systems administrators, and a 97 percent rise for computer support specialists, between 2000 and 2010.

It also predicted that job growth for software engineers will come up to 100 percent, depending on area of expertise, for the same time period.

Second annual event

Marseille Forum to help region with knowledge-based changes

The second annual Knowledge for Development Forum will be held in the French city of Marseille March 14-16 to engage countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in a dialogue on how to take advantage of knowledge-based economies as they move towards greater integration with the global economy.

The forum is sponsored by the World Bank in partnership with the Institut de la Méditerranée and the City of Marseille.

The 'Knowledge Economy' results

mainly from an intensification of the globalization process, the spread of information and communications technology, more automation and computerization of productive activities, the increasingly tight links between science and innovation, and the development of new fields such as biotechnologies.

Under the theme of Trade, Competitiveness and the Knowledge Economy, this second gathering will take stock of progress made by MENA countries in reorienting their development strategies towards knowledge-based economies by facilitating trade and investment.

Several countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates will present case studies.

The Forum also coincides with the inauguration of the Middle East and North Africa Knowledge Hub in Marseilles by the World Bank and the City of Marseilles.

The Knowledge Hub aims to respond to the challenges of globalization faced by MENA countries by facilitating the exchange of global knowledge and learning services, and connecting people, firms, institutions in the Middle East, North Africa and

Europe. It will be managed by the World Bank Institute, the training arm of the World Bank Group.

The two Marseilles events come as the MENA region faces unprecedented social and economic challenges. According to a recent World Bank report, the region must double today's employment levels by 2020, creating 100 million additional jobs.

An increasingly educated and young population are entering already strained labor markets, with unemployment rates averaging 15 percent. Jobless rates are on average 50 percent higher among women than among men.

Poll shows consumers not wise on health



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An opinion poll conducted by the Market and Consumer Studies Center on 3000 persons, distributed last Wednesday, shows that more than 70 per cent of Yemeni consumers do not have adequate health consuming awareness.

Yet, they prefer good and reasonably priced goods.

The director of the center, Hamoud Al-Bakhaiti, in a press conference attended by representatives of WHO, National Population Council and Private Sector, stated that consuming awareness in Yemen still needs more government efforts and more commercial and industrial responsibility.

He said that there are still women who do not know when to have anti-chicken box vaccination, which strikes millions of children every year in Yemen.

However, about 80 per cent of subjects in the poll have good knowl-

edge of Aids, probably due to the international media campaign on Aids.

Some citizens in remote governorates said they have little information to differentiate between good and spoiled goods, due to the limited effective media role in dispersing consuming culture.

The poll showed no participation of women in Marib and a limited number of women in Al-Mahweet, Amran and Al-Beidha Governorates.

Al-Bkhaiti said that the people involved in the poll were encouraged to submit their answers in a competition to win YR 700,000 worth in prizes for 35 contestants. The poll shows that reading materials are most common in Hadramout and Lahj Governorates where TV Media was in first place in other governorates.

Many women believe that iodine substance is added at the beginning of cooking contrary to the health instruction, which should be added at the end.

Al-Bakhaiti called for more efforts to improve the standard of Yemeni markets, which respect quality and production and marketing.

IMF and WB to oversee the process

Merging banks could help middle class

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A significant change is being witnessed in the Yemeni monetary sector recently, as the council of ministers has issued a decree which leads to the merging of the various government banks.

This is to improve the resources of the Yemeni middle class.

The capital of the new emerging bank is estimated not to be about \$50 million. This capital includes the government participation being the capitals of the integrated banks in addition to opening doors for a strategic partner and underwriting for public shares.

This move comes in line with the economic reforms that had been going on in Yemen since 1995, guided by the World Bank vision, which indicates that if no change has been done in the monetary conditions then the whole monetary system would collapse.

And although there has been significant development in the capital of Yemeni banks, from YR 250 million to YR 500 million, to a recent YR 1.75 billion, the desired and expected enhancement in the revenue which was merely \$7 million.

Therefore, a strategy was directly required in which the merging of the banks is the first step.

It also includes the creation modern monetary units spread around 301 districts and with strong capital and high technology so as to allow it to compete with external institutions and to

open branches internationally.

The strategy also includes opening letter credits, and guarantees to fund the large scale projects and investments for better returns on the Yemeni economy.

The merging banks include the Yemeni Public Bank and the Yemeni Bank for Construction. The merging will take place with help of the WB and the IMF, through a specialised technical delegation that would evaluate the process.

In line with the merging, the Yemeni Central Bank has presented a study to accept new investment applications in the monetary sector and banks establishment whether national, Arab or international.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.3500	184.6000
Sterling Pound	338.3100	338.7700
Euro	224.8400	225.1500
Saudi Rial	49.1700	49.2400
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.2400	626.0900
UAE Dirhem	50.1900	50.2600
Egyptian Pound	29.9000	29.9400
Bahraini Dinar	488.9900	489.6600
Qatari Rial	50.6400	50.7000
Jordanian Dinar	260.1800	260.5300
Omani Rial	478.8700	479.5200
Swiss Franc	142.1200	142.3200
Swedish Crown	24.3300	24.3700
Japanese Yen	1.6728	1.6751

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Computers and cancer

BY STERLING THOMAS

Computing technologies are providing powerful tools to investigate the development of cancer, diagnose the disease at an early stage, and select an appropriate treatment plan.

A doctor in Virginia, relying on the latest available technology, diagnosed two of his patients with what appeared to be an early stage of the same type of cancer. He surgically removed the cancerous tissue from both patients and placed them under the same follow-up regimen of radiation therapy. One of them recovered fully, while the other continued to suffer from the disease and had to receive additional treatment.

This example is not unique in health care, particularly in cancer care. For cancer is an extremely complex disease, and the formulation of a treatment plan appropriate for each patient often eludes even the most brilliant doctors.

What, then, is cancer? It is a term applied to a group of related diseases that affect a variety of organs in the body. Usually, each form of cancer is named after the type of organ or group of cells where it originates. The common denominator for the various types of cancer is that the affected cells are abnormal and multiply out of control.

Moreover, each type of cancer develops in stages, following a progressive pathway. During the early stages, the cancerous tissue is localized, and treatment of the disease is more likely to succeed. Over time, however, some of the cancerous cells may break away, enter the bloodstream or lymphatic system, and spread to other parts of the body—a phenomenon known as metastasis.

Unfortunately, most cancers are detected during their advanced stages, when it is nearly impossible to effect a cure. Medical researchers have therefore sought to develop methods that allow early diagnosis and tracking of the disease. In so doing, they are increasingly relying on computers to perform important tasks.

For example, computers are an integral part of imaging devices such as CT (computerized tomography) and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners, which are used to distinguish cancerous tissue from normal tissue in a patient's body. These techniques, which produce three-dimensional images, have been refined to reveal tumors as small as a few millimeters in width.

On another level, scientists have been using computers to help them understand the molecular mechanisms that underlie the development of cancer. Having discovered a variety of cancer-related genes and proteins, they have found it necessary to sort through enormous quantities of data and build mathematical models to predict the course of the disease. For this purpose, they have turned to the field known as bioinformatics—a field in which computers and computational methods are

used for the organization and analysis of biological data [see "The Biologist Meets the Computer Scientist," *The World & I*, March 2002, p. 136].

Cancer-related genes

The first step in the development of cancer is referred to as the initial insult. It is thought that in most cases, the initial insult is a process that introduces one or more mutations in certain genes. The genetic material consists of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), and genetic mutations correspond to alterations of the DNA structure.

Some mutations may be inherited, others may arise randomly, and yet others may be caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation or harmful chemicals. If the mutations occur in genes that are involved in the control of cell growth and division, then those gene functions may be disrupted and the cells may grow and multiply abnormally, leading to cancer.

Researchers have identified a number of genes that, when mutated, influence the development of various cancers. For example, mutations in the BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 genes are associated with certain types of breast and ovarian cancers, while defects in the p53 (or TP53) gene are linked to many different tumors. Generally, each type of cancer is associated with mutations in several genes, and each gene may be mutated at more than one site.

Based on this knowledge, genetic tests have been developed to determine whether a person's DNA happens to carry cancer-related mutations. For the rapid screening of large numbers of genes and their mutated variants, researchers use DNA microarrays, often called gene chips [see "Genes on a Chip," *The World & I*, September 1997, p. 189].

Each microarray consists of thousands of DNA fragments (of known structures) attached to a glass or silicon chip. The DNA that needs to be tested is extracted from the appropriate tissue, tagged with a fluorescent dye, and evaluated for its ability to bind (hybridize) specifically to fragments on the chip. Each chip yields an enormous amount of data that must then be processed by algorithms in a computer, eventually revealing the identity of mutations in the test DNA. In most cases, the genetic information is useful only if the gene's function has been studied and understood.

The presence of cancer-related genetic mutations is one factor that increases the risk of a person developing the disease, but it generally does not predetermine the onset of the disease. Other factors that increase this risk include the individual's age and lifestyle—such as smoking or heavy drinking.

Cancer-related proteins

While genes are important, they do not directly participate in carrying out the cell's functions. Rather, they contain the information from which proteins are synthesized, and it is the proteins that are directly involved in many of the body's functions [see

"Proteins, Proteins, Everywhere," *The World & I*, May 2002, p. 130]. Some proteins are structural components of cells; others function as enzymes, hormones, or antibodies.

The synthesis of each protein occurs through a complex mechanism, in which the information within a gene is first used to synthesize RNA (ribonucleic acid); this RNA then directs the formation of the corresponding protein [see "Unraveling the Human Thread of Life," *The World & I*, September 2001, p. 136]. The protein may then undergo a variety of modifications by additional processes in the cell.

If a gene becomes mutated, its protein product will be structurally altered, and the protein may be unable to function normally. Alternatively, if the gene is normal but the protein-synthesizing machinery is defective, then the resultant protein's structure and function will be adversely affected. Thus, to track the development of a cancer, it is important to check the proteins associated with the disease.

Some proteins, known as tumor markers, are present at elevated levels in the blood, urine, or tissues of individuals with certain types of cancer. Those found in the blood include PSA (prostate-specific antigen), for prostate cancer in men, and CA 125 (cancer antigen 125), for ovarian cancer in women. An elevated level of a marker in the bloodstream suggests but does not prove the existence of cancer because it may occur in non-cancerous conditions as well. Moreover, many tumor markers are associated with more than one type of cancer, so their detection in the blood does not indicate the location of the cancerous tissue.

For these reasons, it is important to test proteins in tissue samples obtained by biopsies. In this process, proteins that occur in cancerous tissue need to be compared with those in normal tissue from the same patient and organ, to look for abnormalities that may otherwise be missed.

One common technique used in identifying proteins in tissue samples—both normal and cancerous—is known as immunohistochemistry (IHC). In this case, the researchers begin by preparing antibodies that will bind specifically to each type of protein that they wish to detect. The antibodies (which are tagged with a dye or other type of label) are allowed to interact with the tissue sample, and the tissue is stained to reveal the sites of antibody-bound proteins. Using this technique, the development of cancer can be tracked by examining the tissue for tumor-specific protein markers.

Recently, Dr. William Grizzle of the University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham developed a new adaptation of IHC, by which the concentrations of proteins in tumor cells can be determined. In this method, an image of the stained tissue (after antibody binding) is scanned into a computer, which then evaluates the stain intensity, percentage of cells stained, and the protein concentrations. This method has sparked new

research because the concentrations of protein markers are thought to reveal the aggressiveness of the disease.

Some important protein markers that are tracked using IHC include p53, BRCA-1, and BRCA-2, which are specified by the p53, BRCA-1, and BRCA-2 genes, respectively. Under normal conditions, the p53 protein helps inhibit the growth of tumors. When its structure is altered (by mutations in its gene), it may lose this function. Deformed versions of the p53 protein have been found in most solid tumors.

The BRCA proteins have several functions, including the repair of damaged DNA and the regulation of RNA synthesis from various genes. When the BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 genes are mutated, the corresponding proteins may not function properly. As a result, damage to cellular DNA may go unrepaired and the cells may become cancerous.

It should be noted that the detection of a single defective protein marker does not give sufficient information. Cancer progresses in a complex, non-linear fashion, and multiple protein markers need to be checked to grasp the behavior of the disease. Moreover, the structure of each marker may be modified at a number of sites, producing different variants of the protein.

For the rapid testing of many proteins or many variants of the same protein, researchers now use protein chips (protein microarrays), which are modeled after gene chips. Each chip carries an array of sensors that function like antibodies—that is, each sensor can bind specifically to a protein (or protein fragment) with a particular structure. The protein sample that needs to be tested is allowed to interact with the chip under special conditions, and the markers (or their fragments) can be identified from their pattern of binding to the chip's sensors. Here again, computers are needed to evaluate the binding patterns.

While the above methods of screening individuals for cancer-related genetic and protein markers provide useful information for the diagnosis and tracking of cancer, they also raise some social and ethical issues. For instance, if a person who seems healthy is found to carry cancer-related gene mutations or defective proteins, indicating a predisposition to cancer, he needs to receive the information with appropriate counseling and emotional support. In addition, this information needs to be kept secure, so it is not used to discriminate against him when he applies for insurance or seeks medical care. To protect the person's identity, many research institutions separate his medical data from his personal information.

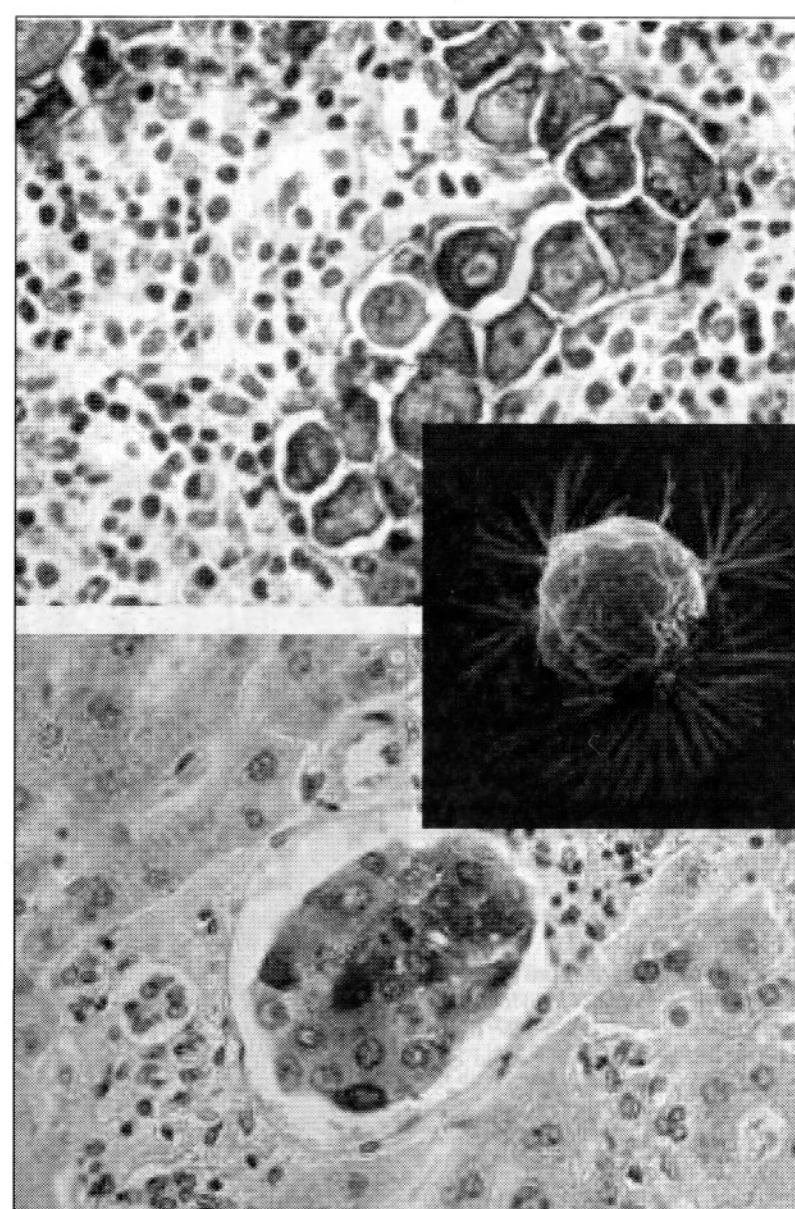
Pathways of cancer development

The identification of protein markers does not provide sufficient information about the disease they are associated with. Scientists also need to know the functions of these proteins, how they relate to one another, and how they participate in the steps of cellular growth and multiplication. The course of these steps is described as a pathway. If a clinician is able to predict the pathway along which a patient's cancer will progress, he would be able to select a treatment plan with the best chance of success.

Computer-based technologies—such as data mining, decision trees, mathematical analysis, and simulations—offer assistance in discovering, understanding, and predicting these pathways. In the pool of data produced from a single tumor, not all the points are useful, and patterns or abnormalities need to be identified. Data mining is the process of evaluating a large data set and extracting relationships between data points, as a way to obtain useful information.

A decision tree is a means of organizing the information to help the physician decide on a treatment plan for the patient. If two patients with the same symptoms have the same protein markers at approximately equal concentrations, both individuals would be placed on a common branch of the decision tree and assigned the same treatment plan.

An example of such a case was given at the beginning of this article. In that example, the two patients were initially placed on the same branch of a decision tree, but they responded dif-



Cancer cells that originate in one part of the body may break away and metastasize (spread) to other parts. Here we see breast cancer cells (brown) that have metastasized to the lymph nodes (top) and liver (bottom). The tissues were stained using a technique known as immunohistochemistry. Inset: A breast cancer cell is visualized at high magnification with a scanning electron microscope.

ferently to their treatments. Consequently, the patient who did not recover had to be moved to another branch of the decision tree, and researchers had to look for a new, distinguishing protein marker.

The data sets obtained from looking at protein markers may also be subjected to mathematical analyses to extract useful information. In this regard, significant research is being done to identify statistical methods that describe relationships between protein markers. A nonstatistical method, called artificial neural networks (ANN), has also met with success. An ANN system uses artificial intelligence to learn patterns within the data presented to it, and it may help identify relationships (between data points) that may be overlooked by typical statistical methods.

When we see a pattern, our mind has the ability to remember it and identify a similar pattern on another occasion. Likewise, an ANN system can be trained to learn different sets of data about cancer patients, along with the corresponding treatments and outcomes. The system creates connections within its memory that even the scientist is unaware of. Later, when presented with new data, the system will associate the information with certain patterns that it has recognized and will predict outcomes and suggest treatments.

Some scientists have been using high-speed computers to develop simulations of biological pathways. For example, Mandri Obeyesekere of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas has published a complex mathematical model that simulates the behavior of human cells, including some mechanisms of cancer development. Such simulations are difficult to formulate because of the large number of proteins in each cell. Obeyesekere's model has a number of limitations, but it can mimic most known behaviors of early cell growth. Its potential usefulness ranges from early diagnosis of cancer to treatment evaluation and development.

Recently, Emanuel Petricoin III of the Food and Drug Administration published a system in which computer-based analysis of protein patterns can help with the early detection of ovarian cancer. More than 80 percent of women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer are already in a late

stage of the disease, when the survival rate is only 35 percent. On the other hand, if the cancer is detected at an early stage (stage I), the survival rate reaches 90 percent.

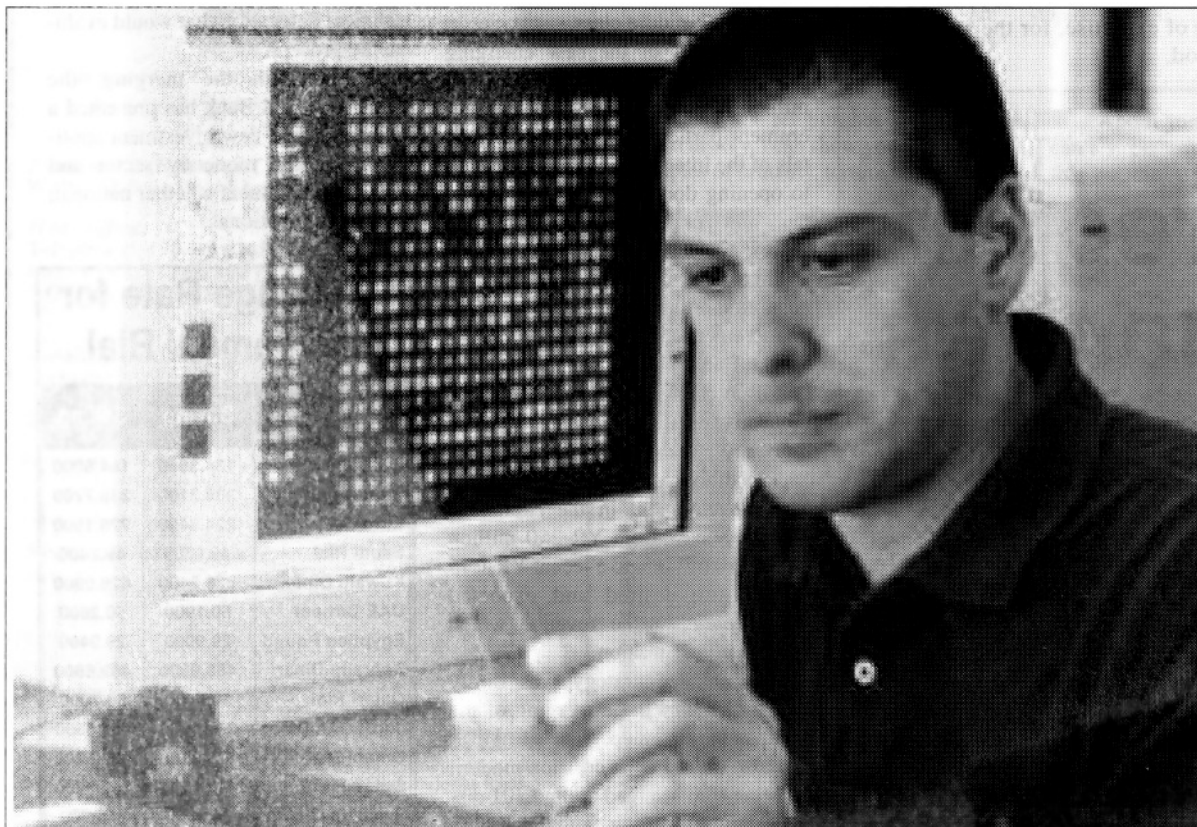
Petricoin and his research team started with a group of 116 women, 50 of whom had ovarian cancer while the rest did not. They analyzed the women's blood proteins using protein chips and a technique known as mass spectrometry (to read the microarrays). They also trained a computer algorithm (similar to an ANN system) to recognize protein patterns that were associated with ovarian cancer. By this method, they correctly identified all 50 cases of ovarian cancer, and the computer found a protein pattern that was specific for early-stage ovarian cancer.

Thus we see that computer-aided analysis of multiple protein markers can help with the diagnostics and treatment of cancer, as well as improve our understanding of the development of cancer through different stages. The new methods, however, are limited by the amount of data collected from cancer patients. The development of each new data set from a patient commonly takes at least five years.

As the median age of our population rises, the need to deal with cancer is likely to become a more pressing issue. New technologies will be eagerly sought to detect the disease as early as possible and predict its behavior. In addition, computers will be increasingly used to model cancer-related molecules and their interactions and to design cancer-fighting drugs.

The recently developed systems are available to many researchers, but they have yet to gain acceptance by practicing physicians. Dr. Don Colvin, a colorectal surgeon, offered this assessment: "If the new techniques don't change how I treat a patient, then the research is useless in a clinical setting." In other words, research results should lead to new treatment options or significant modifications of current treatment programs. Toward this end, many bioinformatics projects have begun including medical doctors in the acquisition and analysis of data.

The above examples are just a small slice of the pie, as many additional technologies are in the works. Someday soon, computers may finally help scientists find the way to cure cancer.



A technician prepares a patient for a mammogram, which can reveal signs of breast cancer, the leading type of cancer affecting women.

Arabia's 1001 Nights relived

When the sun shines from above



BY IRENA KNEHTL
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Once history will ask about rooms in which the light did not pass. While we were the light and the light was us...

It was in the season of mangoes, water melons, and red water melons when the Arabs died. They died standing like palm trees in the wind or Apricot trees in the spring. Overnight their glory and Tales from Thousand and One Night turned into desert dust. Like broken mirrors. The Island of Arabs is in a state of shock, covered in silence. The voice has swallowed the silence, the silence has swallowed the voice.

It does not go for an emotional affair, or past glories, or Tales from Thousand and One Night.. It goes for Algebra of injustice, it goes for business, interests, for strategies and new maps. What destiny the Sky is writing now? News have been intruding from everywhere, from the sky, internet, words of mouths, mangoes, water melons, holes of houses. The city wires shook with the news. And the breeze of the road at night had eyes. Silence and shadow of death. No glory after today and no joy.

Time change, change of power, change of water.

Scent of power, power of scent, beauty of scent, scent of beauty.

The skies now have become clouded and the nights cooler.

Beginning of the Third World War. A war for maps, interests and strategies without hearts of people. Being trapped in the bog of a story that was and was not theirs. That had set out with the semblance of structure and order then bolted like frightened horse into anarchy.

Baghdad, torture chambers, underground tunnels uncovering its layers veil by veil. They were on the way to have their hero. But he fell from the horse, and broke into thousand pieces. Millions who were building one boat for one dreamer under the green moonlight on a summer night. While roses felt from the hand. And pale lips did not approach prayer at dawn. Million who work hard and do not dream of the death of a butterfly. Or of a sail glowing.

What will happen to Iraqi POWs? Iraq, big business.

Someday the Sky and not Scheherazade will tell different Tales from One Thousand and One night. Without glory. Without dignity. Without justice.

Time change, drying up of the spirit and of the pen.

The sun now is in the middle of the sky.

Baghdad, death civilians, death soldiers. Suicide bomber. Looters.

Citizens without glory and dignity have become looters.

We are in the season of mangoes. It is the season of melons, and red water melons.

Time for new maps, interests and big

business. The maps of hearts were forgotten, excluded. As Tales from Thousand and One Night, that told of glory and dignity will be deleted. Countries will be crossed out, cancelled or will ease to exist. Harun AlRashed from Thousand and One Night will be deleted. Antar and Abla were never in love. Salah AlDin will be deleted. Omar AlMohtar fell from the horse and disappeared..

• We sail unanchored on troubled sea. We may never be allowed ashore. Our sorrows will never be sad enough, our joys never happy enough, our dreams never big enough, our lives never important enough. To matter. And when we look through the windows all we see are shadows. And when we try to listen, all we hear is whispering. And we cannot understand the whispering because our minds have been invaded by war. A war that we have won and lost. A war that captures dreams. Fearing for the dream hoping to be that may end.

• Sun and shade: We failed to sing with the voices of the mountains. We failed to paint with the colors of the wind. Our poems are without colors. Without bite. Without sound. The winds have turned away. Pain has not depth and regret no taste.

• The Island of Arabs is in the state of shock. Anglo-American as new Crusaders have returned with new maps without hearts of people. During the season of mangoes, melons and red water melons, the Island of Arabs, their past glories, dignity and Tales from One Thousand and

One Night, have become desert dust. The Island of Arab fled and took with it the Palace of Tales. As the desert and mountains of their eyes, their hands, and their hearts. In the age that lost the truth across in the desert wind a Million flowers were crushed underfoot.

Once history will talk about fire with no flames. About lanes and houses in fever. About a spark that was about to fly. About the dead about to rise. History will ask about rooms in which light did not pass. While we were the light, and the light was us.

How can we defeat pain: postpone till next morning or evening. Occupy it, divert it with a toy or song? Or tell it an old story of a forgotten tune? Will it sleep if we smile and sing:

From thousand ports I came, to a thousand ports I will be gone. And in my eyes are a thousand waitings. There are no clouds to make green our wishes And the sea is divided between old and new, the sands of silence and carpets covered with thousands of baskets. The sea cannot clear sins, nor can tears.

• It was and it was... that the essence

of fire was behaving as water, such as rainbow.

The dark essence of earth as air, water, and ice. The essence of water as fire such as running river, and as cold rain, and warmth as desert storm. And dark essence of air as clear blue sky.

The inhabitants of the Peninsula had, for as long as it can be remembered, referred to it as "Jazirat alArab", the island of Arab. It used to be a beautiful Island. Once full of glory, pride and dignity of man. And Tales from Thousand and one Night. The history will remember it and tell about it still.



An Arabian desert scene.

جامعة الملكة أروى

Queen Arwa University

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- 4- علوم الحاسوب ونظم المعلومات
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إعلان مناقصة عامة

تعلن شركة النفط اليمنية عن إنزال مناقصة تأثيث مبنى الإدارة العامة لصناعات الكائن بشارع الستين الجنوبي.

فعلى شركات تصنيع الأثاث والديكور العالمية والراغبة في التنافس، التقدم إلى مبنى الشركة الحالي الكائن بشارع الزبيري (مبنى مجمع البنوك الدور الثالث قسم المشتريات والمخازن) لإستلام نسخة من كراسة المواصفات مقابل رسوم وقدره (١٠٠٠٠٠ ريال) لا ترد ويرفق بالطاء المختوم بالشمع الأحمر.

١- ضمان إبتدائي بواقع ٢٠٪ من قيمة المطاء صالح لمدة ١٢٠ يوم من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.

٢- إرفاق شهادات التأمينات.

٣- إرفاق البطاقة الضريبية.

٤- الإلتزام بكل ما ورد في الشروط المقدمة للأثاث.

٥- تقديم الأسعار في العرض للمفردات والإجمالي بالريال اليمني ويكتب نسخة باللغة العربية، ولن يقبل أي عطاء لم يقدم بالريال اليمني.

٦- أن ينص خطاب العرض على الإلتزام بتنفيذ أعمال الديكور وإيصال الأثاث إلى المبنى وتركيبه وتنسيقه، وتبديل التالف منه بأخر مماثل مع تحديد فترة التنفيذ.

٧- يقدم ضمان حسن تنفيذ وصيانة مجانية لمدة ٦ أشهر.

٨- الإلتزام بتوفير قطع الغيار للأثاث وتوفير كمية كافية منها عند توريد الأثاث والديكور وتركيبه.

٩- يلتزم المتقدم بتوفير قطع الغيار والأكسسوارات لفترة لا تقل عن ١٠ سنوات.

على الشركات الراغبة في الدخول في هذه المناقصة إرفاق ملف متكامل يحتوي على المعلومات المطلوبة لتأهيل الشركات والذي سيعتبر شرط لقبول العطاء على أن يتم تقديم الملف خلال مدة أقصاها خمسة عشر يوم قبل موعد فتح المضاريف على أن يحتوي الملف ضمن المعلومات الأخرى على المعلومات التالية:

١- الأعمال التي قامت بها الشركة المتقدمة في مجال تصميم وتنفيذ الديكورات المكتبية والأثاث.

٢- شهادات من الجهات التي نفذت لها هذه الأعمال إن وجدت.

٣- إعداد قائمة بالكادر المتخصص الذي يعمل في الشركة المتقدمة.

٤- تقديم الوثائق التي توضح الموقف المالي للشركة خلال الخمس السنوات الأخيرة.

٥- تقدم شهادات الإمتياز إن وجدت.

٦- آخر مشروع منفذ للشركة وتكلفته وفترة تنفيذه.

آخر موعد لإستلام مضاريف المناقصة في تاريخ 13-4-2004م

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Ayyam daily, 8
March 2004.

Main headlines

- Stores and packaging for cement utilities to be built at Aden seaport
- Security men break into a school in Lauder, Aden searching for a teacher
- Deputy of Aden governor stresses the necessity of removing centralization
- Training course on international commercial arbitration held in Sana'a

Dr Sameer Abdulrahman al-Shameeri says in an article the language is the instrument of thinking, communication and dialogue and the conveyance of ideas and feelings etc. The polite and sincere word carries civilization and cultural indications in addition to its educational and cultivating meanings. The freedom of speech is the prominent priority of democracy and one of the main indicators of to human right. It is ironical to perceive the progress of democracy without commitment to priorities of democratic principles at the head of which is the freedom of speech that means, among other things the efficiency of the art of dialogue and the best use of the constructive and sincere word.

The democracy defends the freedom of speech, faith and the unionist and political affiliation and does not confiscate the citizen's freedom. But at the same time there must be a decent and honest use of the freedom of speech.



Al-Wahdawi weekly
organ of the Nasserite
Unionist Organisation,
2 March 2004.

Main headlines

- Security authorities arrest two elements from Islamic Jihad Organisation
- Government aborts conferences of the physicians and engineers
- The government asks approval of the parliament and shoura council of the price rise
- Dahhan: Journalists conference, a turning-point in unionist action
- Iraqi Nasserite: No dealing with the occupier and the governing council

Columnist Ali al-Saqqaq says in his article the results of the Yemeni journalists syndicate have aroused many clamor or especially amidst some journalist colleagues who have not been lucky enough to win membership of the syndicate council. During my actual participation and follow-up of the elections process I can almost confirm that partisan, professional, emotional and personal criteria were strongly present in the

elections but regionalism was completely absent but in the imagination of the some who did not comprehend that in elections there is winning and loss. On the honesty of elections I can confidentially say they were honest in the election of the syndicate council and the selection of the chairman. Each candidate had got the votes granted to him by those present in the hall of the conference.



Al-Shumou weekly, 6
March 2004.

Main headlines

- Kuwait denies hosting al-Biedh
 - Disappearance of Yemeni politicians and businessmen in Cairo, questions without answers
 - News on existence of operation room for making false news
- Mahmoud Mohammed al-Tahir says when there is an Arab summit convened the eyes of the Arab and Islamic world turn to it and carries a group of expectations praying that that summit would be the place where they could be achieved. Unfortunately what happens after each summit comes to be contrary to whatever they have hoped for or expected and their hopes end in smoke.

Against the present developments in the Arab countries and the existing indicators it becomes logical and reasonable the queries aroused regarding what results could the next summit scheduled in Tunisia this month would be issued, especially concerning the confrontation with the critical and sensitive circumstances the Arabs are experiencing in order to go ahead for reforming the their joint action.

Now as the date of the Arab summit is approaching the Arab leaders have to remember their past regarding the Zionists challenges that happen after each of their summits. They have to prepare themselves for this summit by taking necessary and daring resolutions to recover the beautiful face of the Arabs. They have to try to go forward in the right direction towards an Arab union capable of facing the impending dangers, of all sorts.



Al-Isbou weekly, 4
March 2004.

Main headlines

- 12 persons arrested after a military siege
- Conclusion of a training course on women role in Taiz
- A training course on commercial arbitration

Abdulfatah Mahmoud says in an arti-

Main headlines

- News on 6 accused escapees from political security in Aden surrender themselves
- PM Bajammal: American supplied Yemen with used gunboats, we seek to benefit from Chinese military ships
- Yemen needs \$700 million to protect its coasts
- Saudi Al-Watan newspaper: Ahmed Salem Ubeid handed over to Yemen, the embassy denies its knowing of that
- Government searches for operator for container port in Aden
- 4 killed, 26 injured, massacre committed by killer at Utmah mosque and commits suicide
- Zindani calls on the JMP to denounce American charges against him
- Presidential Guard commander denies allegations of attempted attack against him
- Large-scale denunciation of the Ashura crimes in Iraq
- Helicopter sniper in Al-Hadda' surrenders himself
- 20 March massive world popular wrath on the anniversary of aggression on Iraq
- American monitoring of regional waters
- Iraqis prevented to enter Yemen without visa
- New price dose on parliament table
- French search operations in Yemeni regional waters
- Preparations for international anti-America activities
- Investment and development projects in Abyan governorate suspended
- Abdulkareem al-Eryani: Democracy and change could not be imposed from outside
- A leading member of al-Qaeda hunted down
- Security cooperation with America might save al-Zindani
- Yemeni teachers demand unity of unionist and educational work in Yemen
- Islah and GPC face divisions regarding deciding the stands
- Government determined to increase the number of the poor with its killing doses
- Al-Eryani: We reject the Greater Middle East plan,
- The plan aims to render the Arab countries a stage for the American forces operations
- The residents of Mareb confirm their response to the president's call for concluding reconciliation to end vengeance in the governorate
- No presence of French gunboats in Yemeni regional waters
- Center opened at Hardh crossing for Yemeni exports

cle the Islah party has held the government responsible for defending al-Zindani. The Islah policy is revealed in the case of Washington's accusation against one of its prominent personalities. He is one of the most religious men influence throughout the Islamic movement history in Yemen. Since the war on terror was declared, al-Zindani was very cautious but since the fall of sheikh al-Mouayad in the intelligence trap inside Germany he stopped travelling abroad. The United States announced its accusation against him as using his money for funding organisations suspected of having terror links.

Al-Zindani accepted his his party's advice to postpone a pres conference he had called for after the news of accusing him, saying he would not comment unless official indicting documents reached. After the meeting of its leadership Islah had held the government responsible for the protection of al-Zindani and that was what the sheikh had referred to in his Friday sermon and denied his relation with terror. There is a constitutional text on the government defending him and the foreign minister of Yemen commented last week that the government would respond to official accusation documents. The American treasury department has accused Zindani as he had played a major role in procuring weapons for al-Qaeda but did not mention at waht period of time was that and whether his activity ws still gong on even after the events of September 11.



Al-Mithaq weekly,
organ of the General
People's Congress, 8
March 2004.

Main headlines:

- GPC's general committee confirms the government role in stability of the economic situation
- FM al-Qirbi: The Arab countries agree on the principle of reform and no differences in the latest ministerial meeting
- Yemen-Ethiopia oil, gas and minerals cooperation, activated
- Sana'a University: A committee for preparing rules for students elections
- Recent report by the National Committee for dealing with land mines: More than 5000 injured or victims of mines and projectiles
- Director of management for rural woman: We endeavor to integrate rural women in development

The president has again drew the attention to the danger of vengeance as an impediment to development and a human crime and that fighting that epidemic has become a real crisis demand-

ing joint efforts from the government and the people. In his field tours of the country's governorates the president has always repeated and confirmed on this question. The latest of his calls was in the governorate of Mareb when the president called on sheikhs and notables of the governorate to hold reconciliation for five years during which all the parties agree to stop all acts of vengeance between tribes in order to the state a chance for radically dealing with the problem of revenge. No doubt when the people cooperate and reconcile with themselves in this regard would discover that the chances of achieving their interests in development would increase and that would help continuation and stability of development activities the government is carrying out in their areas.



Al-Umma weekly,
organ of Al-Haq party,
4 March 2004.

Main headlines

- Military buildups in Surat Mountain between the army and the repentant from Hutut
- Al-Haq party condemns the unsightly crimes in Iraq
- Continued arrests at the Grand Mosque
- National Committee of Women holds the first conference on fighting violence against the woman

The newspaper's editorial says the sectarian commotion the American occupation endeavors to foment in Iraq has become very clear and the latest events in Kerbala and Baghdad confirm that and display the ugliness of the crime that targeted the religious places of all sects in Iraq. The crime instigates and aims at realization of sinister goals, especially triggering a sectarian sedition so that the occupation could devote its efforts to reap the fruits of its strategic scheme which is now faced with the unity and firm stands of the Iraqis and their resistance. The nature of the crime that targeted the Iraqis and their ideologies stresses the aggressive nature of the American-British occupation of Iraq.

Recently, the occupier's cat's-paw, the so-called the governing council approved the interim constitution that refuses to make the Islamic law the only source of legislature which the Iraqis demanded since the occupation. This confirms the continuation of the Zionist-American scheme against Iraq aimed at its division and sectarian conflict. The chaos and assassinations and arrests and plundering of Iraqis wealth is the old new colonialist lesson that the occupation intends to generalize in the entire region.

Reflections



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Yemen's Democratic Margin

I have received criticism regarding my article on corruption in that I have accused everybody of being corrupt and made corruption as an ingrained attribute of our history.

But, I would like to stress that I have not pinpointed anybody in person and that the existence of corruption has been recognized by everyone including the corrupt themselves and whose traits I have mentioned in detail, in edition 714.

Linking corruption with the invaders is pretty clear because invaders do not think about building the invaded land in those days but looked at it as an opportunity to plunder.

I compared the present corrupt people with those greedy invaders and defied anybody to prove otherwise. So this criticism is general and is aimed at making the impulse and the impetus to ameliorate things in face of the current slump.

As you might well know Yemen is a historic country which was always renowned for its, navigational skills, dams, tunnels, citadels, prestigious architectural relics, sciences like Algebra (promoted by a Yemeni named Ahmed Ibn Mousa Aljaladi) etc. and culinary contribution by introducing coffee to the world (coffee comes from the Arabic word Qahweh not from mount Kaffa in Ethiopia as wrongly proclaimed).

The Turks who occupied Yemen introduced Coffee to Europeans as Kahveh in Turkish and hence comes the English word 'coffee' etc.

Of course some countries are still claiming unjustifiably that they are the

original providers of coffee but do lack the concrete evidence while in Yemen's case its claim is far more convincing and boasts overwhelming absolute support as well as concrete evidence by Turkish, French, Dutch, British and Italian historical sources.

All those sources testify that Yemen is the indisputable original homeland of coffee and was once upon a time its one and only exporter but later the plant was implanted in other lands around the world namely Ethiopia and South America.

The political leadership represented in the person of his Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh, has on many occasions voiced having an absolute aversion towards the corrupt and on several occasions the president himself made surprise visits to some establishments and closed them down.

Although I disagree with the method, the president has shown himself at least to be against corruption. In fact he made some of those individuals cease exercising their official capacities until after some time influential people interfered for them.

I would like to stress also that the president and the declared policy of the government are all against corruption to the extent that the corrupt in order to make a good impression about themselves do parrot the president and the prime minister's calls for fighting corruption and act as referred to in my article of edition 714 and hence they always exercise pilferage with a seemingly legal cover-up and the calls of the president and the prime minister come

to nothing.

As for, the historical facts they are indisputable and no body can argue, that with the Ethiopian and Persian invasions the Yemeni civilization came to a grinding halt and that the oppressed Yemenis of those days played the most crucial rule in spreading Islam while the invaders remained behind.

Until this very day you can still see tombs of Yemenites in China bearing their distinguished names such as Al-Khowlani, Al-Mawradi etc. or the names of citadels in Spain such as Yahsub, Khowlan etc. let alone the fact that Spanish is still brimful with Yemenite Arabic words e.g. Alqala. (vide Al-Arabi Magazine).

My articles against some illnesses in our society are destined for the general good and in order for us to stop the present "Ostrich Policy" as well as to avoid detractors naming us a "cardboard state" (vide articles written about Yemen in certain Arab Gulf States).

The president should use his acumen so as to avoid being duped by those who care only for their own insatiable egoistic interests against mere lip service, because curbing corruption is in the interest of everybody including the corrupt themselves albeit most think that they have already secured themselves abroad, and forget the famous wisdom of our sagacious sapient Ali Ibn Zayed.

I remember that the president has declared more than once that people must be allowed to express themselves and that he cannot in the same time hold together poverty with loss of freedom.

So, in order to keep up the good work, poverty should be fought and freedoms furthered even more. The illness is only cured by taking the right medicine not by ignoring it.

The close associates possess by now enough and should start being more honest with themselves and in their advice, for their sake and our sake, because the country needs badly their being more patriotic and to stop immediately their continued willingness to please and cajole lest the ship wrecks in us all.

Unfortunately, while the democratic margin is narrowing corruption has become an established fact and is gaining momentum and partisans. We should recognize the illness in order to find a cure. With Yemen being united and having the necessary resources it needs the will and determination not compromise solutions and compromise appointments.

There is now no room for nepotism, favoritism, lineage or compromise solutions, for curbing corruption has become an overriding necessity. Sufficient salaries should be paid for the state employees and the army and this for sure shall be reflected in more stability, less crime and less tribal strife. There are many sad examples I am avoiding to mention. I am writing about corruption because I care and because I am not reading or hearing people speak enough about it.

Our government should allow more criticism in order to ameliorate things because journalism cannot be respected if it is not sincere and people from one glance can observe if this or that paper is

sincere or insincere. It is unbefitting to interpret articles whimsically in order to hush people up. We are not on a lonely planet and thus should always keep in mind that other nations are looking at us and each and every embassy reports the policies and the government's attitude towards issues such as democracy, freedom of press, multi-party system, cleaner elections etc. and then formulate their respective policies towards us and rate us based on our actions according to their own interests.

Our government should follow the example of Egypt by enacting a law that prohibits jailing, intimidating or fining journalists for we should at least catch up if not excel our Arab brethren.

Our president possesses the acumen and the courage necessary and is surrounded by some of our extremely intelligent people whom I urge to use their intelligence by being more serious and truthful with the president and to abstain from the known day-to-day panegyrics. I would like also our president to discourage the extollers and encourage the faultfinders albeit human nature likes extolment and abhors criticism.

Our president should know that his people do in reality like very much to hear his addresses, but equally do request from him, to follow up their fulfillment indeed. Our president can easily obtain the Magic Wand by the mere encouragement of good people and the punishment of the baddies because Yemen is in a dire need for serious actions, in brief "It Is Now Or Never!"

Surgery Unlikely for Sheffield

NEW YORK (Reuters) - New York Yankees slugger Gary Sheffield will probably not need surgery on his injured right thumb and is expected back in the team's spring training camp later today, Major League Baseball's Web Site reported on Tuesday.

Sheffield, one of the Yankees' key off-season acquisitions when he signed a three-year, \$39-million contract, had returned to New York to have a specialist look at his thumb, which he injured in a spring training game Saturday against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Doctors diagnosed Sheffield's problem as a recurrent injury of a previously torn ligament in the thumb, which he aggravated Saturday after falling while chasing down a fly ball.



New York Yankees slugger Gary Sheffield may not need surgery on his injured right thumb and is expected back in the team's spring training camp later today, the team announced Mar. 9. Reuters

"He played through this thing last year in the second half of the season," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman told the MLB Web Site. "He's got stability, so we'll see how he comes through the next two weeks."

"If there are no issues, there will be nothing further with it, and he'll continue to play."

Cashman said doctors would continue to monitor the injury and refused to rule out the possibility of surgery, which could sideline the right fielder for up to three months.

"We're not out of the woods on this, don't get me wrong," said Cashman. "But today's news is certainly more encouraging after he saw the hand specialist than yesterday's news. 'The concern is still there.'"

Avalanche Swing Three Deals at NHL Trade Deadline

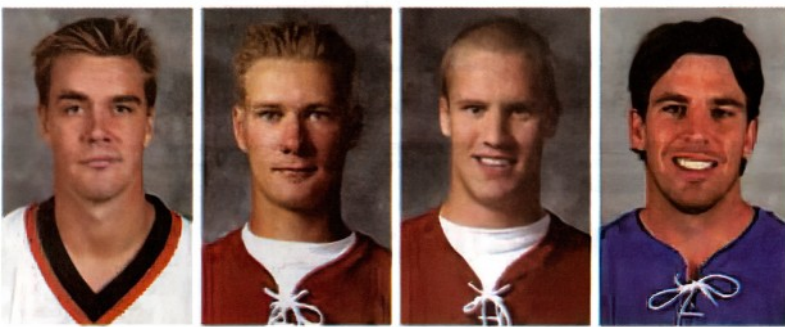
TORONTO (Reuters) - The Colorado Avalanche underlined their Stanley Cup aspirations Tuesday, pulling the trigger on three major deals just hours ahead of the NHL trade deadline.

Avalanche general manager Pierre Lacroix has dramatically reshaped his team in the last 24 hours.

He has acquired a reliable backup goaltender in Tommy Salo from the Edmonton Oilers, veteran center Chris Gratton and defenseman Ossi Vaananen from the Phoenix Coyotes and rugged winger Matthew Barnaby from the New York Rangers.

The moves should shake up the slumbering Avalanche, who hold a three-point lead over the Vancouver Canucks at the top of the Northwest division but have won just three of their last 12 games.

Salo, 17-18-6 with a 2.58 goals-against average for the Oilers this season, will provide valuable insurance



The Colorado Avalanche underlined their Stanley Cup aspirations, pulling the trigger on three major deals just hours ahead of the NHL trade deadline, Mar. 9. Reuters

for David Aebischer, who inherited netminding duties in Colorado from retired Hall of Famer Patrick Roy and has never started a playoff game.

The Swede has posted a 209-222-72 record with 37 shutouts in a 10-year career but has yet to impress in the post-season where his team have failed

to advance past the first round going 5-16 in 21 games.

The Avalanche also get a sixth round draft pick from the Oilers in exchange for college prospect Tom Gilbert. A hulking forward, Gratton will provide the Avalanche with a menacing, physical presence up front.

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- ✦ After Completing three full paid weekend Package Vouchers within six months, Mar/Sep 2004, will count your next weekend package cost less 50%.
- ✦ After Completing four full paid weekend Package Vouchers within six months, Mar/Sep 2004, will count your next weekend package cost Free of charge.
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- ✦ Payment, upon hotel check-in Cash or by Credit Cards, Visa, Master Card, Amex,



اسماء الفائزين بجوائز السحب الأول لمهرجان (كريستال ... يمنك الملايين)

إنها الحقيقة ..!

كريستال

يمنك الملايين



السحب الثاني

يوم الإثنين

٢٠٠٤/٤/٥ م

تسليم الجوائز

يوم الإثنين

٢٠٠٤/٤/١٢ م

رقم التليفون	مبلغ الجائزة	العنوان	رقم الكوبون	الاسم	م
814045	1.000.000	رباط ريمة	327624	غالب عبيد محمد غالب	١
555236	500.000	دمت	519499	زهر محمد بن محمد	٢
73824655	200.000	البيضاء	134943	صالح عبدالله عمر	٣
71798640	100.000	الحديدة	482168	تبيل عبدالله صالح	٤
504468	100.000	إب	149340	ابراهيم محمد الحميدي	٥
229734	100.000	الأمانة	247301	محمد حميد عبيد ناجي الحطامي	٦
06-604188	50.000	الروضة	72928	صالح محمد قائد أبوغريز	٧
845208	50.000	يافع	08759	ياسر محمد أحمد عبدالرحمن	٨
303000	50.000	حزم العدين	143665	ايهاب عبدالحميد محمد الحزني	٩
219420	50.000	الأمانة / شيراتون	63366	لبنى عبدالحميد محمد عبيد	١٠
406170	50.000	خمر/صنعاء	288182	سميرة عبدالله صالح	١١
05-948046	50.000	الحديدة	553985	سلطان أحمد يحيى	١٢
662321	50.000	تعز	340724	حامد زيد القياطي	١٣
415347	50.000	الشماسي	299067	هاني غسان	١٤
241102	50.000	إب	230366	حسن سند	١٥
406032	50.000	تعز	142647	عمر عبدالله الحريري	١٦
73345031	50.000	ثمود	160233	طارق محمد اليكيلي	١٧
236841	50.000	حبابه	23037	عمار علي صالح رفيع	١٨
06-865923	50.000	تريم/حضرموت	162004	أحمد عمر بافضل	١٩
260229	50.000	صنعاء	45026	محفوظ محمد سيف الديني	٢٠
610123	50.000	سيتون	180444	صالح علي بازمو	٢١
07-665052	50.000	جبين	134762	زين أحمد زين واصل	٢٢
71697192	50.000	تعز	099152	زياد محمد محمد	٢٣
403780	50.000	صنعاء	49877	فاطمة علي البخيتي	٢٤
71897920	50.000	الحديدة	550723	خليل محمد حسن الحكمي	٢٥
261075	50.000	المهرة	184708	مليار الجماعي	٢٦
231792	50.000	ثلا	22651	سامي عبدالله محمد الصديق	٢٧
254436	50.000	صنعاء	24183	صدام عبدالكريم الخولاني	٢٨
301654	50.000	سيتون	180217	زينب علي باصالح	٢٩
71453628	50.000	عدن/التواهي	13107	زكريا يوسف علي محمد	٣٠
241102	50.000	كريتر/عدن	17189	أحمد محمد أحمد	٣١
257127	50.000	الحديدة	481676	حسن أحمد يحيى	٣٢
250475	50.000	شباب كوكبان	23898	محمد حسين هريش	٣٣
7126910	50.000	كريتر/عدن	55729	مروة هائل غيلان	٣٤
414388	50.000	التربة	325819	هاثل سعيد شعلان	٣٥
228455	50.000	صعدة	39011	زياد عادل حمود أحمد سيف	٣٦
407142	50.000	صنعاء	45027	محفوظ محمد سيف الديني	٣٧
71759126	50.000	تعز	296046	منال أمين أحمد حسن النهاري	٣٨
73528549	50.000	الحديدة	79185	ماهر محمد سالم منصور	٣٩
	50.000	تعز	342243	حمادة تبيل المقطري	٤٠
	50.000	تعز	316176	محمد عبدالرحمن العامري	٤١
	50.000	كريتر/عدن	18721	ام عماد عبدالله حمود	٤٢
	50.000	تعز	343583	اماني محمد سيف البرهي	٤٣
	50.000	الحديدة	79188	عبدالحكيم محمد سالم	٤٤
	50.000	تريم حضرموت	163616	أحمد عبدالله محفوظ بامزوع	٤٥
	50.000	الحديدة	313185	خالد تبيل يحيى أنعم	٤٦
	50.000	التجد الأحمر	146102	نجيب محمد ناجي دماج	٤٧
	50.000	فندق قصر المتصور	18999	محمد عيادل اليافعي	٤٨
	50.000	تعز	093902	رمزي عادل عثمان البعداني	٤٩
	50.000	تعز	318160	سامي قاسم محمد هائل السامي	٥٠

تنويه : سيتم تسليم الجوائز الأول يوم الإثنين الموافق ٢٠٠٤/٣/١٥ م فعلى جميع الأخوة الفائزين الحضور الى مقر الشركة يوم الإثنين صباحاً مع إصطحاب كوبون المسابقة والبطاقة الشخصية

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	27	27	27	28	27	26	26
Lo	7	7	8	8	7	7	8
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	34	33	34	34	34	35	35
Lo	21	21	22	22	21	21	20

NON SEQUITUR
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Contest No. (5) مسابقة رقم (5)

إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز اكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا

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Match these English proverbs with the explanations.

Proverbs

1. Half a loaf is better than no bread at all.
2. One man's meat is another man's poison
- 3- Actions speak louder than words.
- 4- No man can serve two masters.

Explanations

- a A person cannot serve two opposing groups or ideas
- b Having something is better than having nothing.
- c A person's actions are more important than what he or she says.
- e What is good for one person may not be good for anyone else.

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Answers should be delivered to the institute or send by fax at least on Monday

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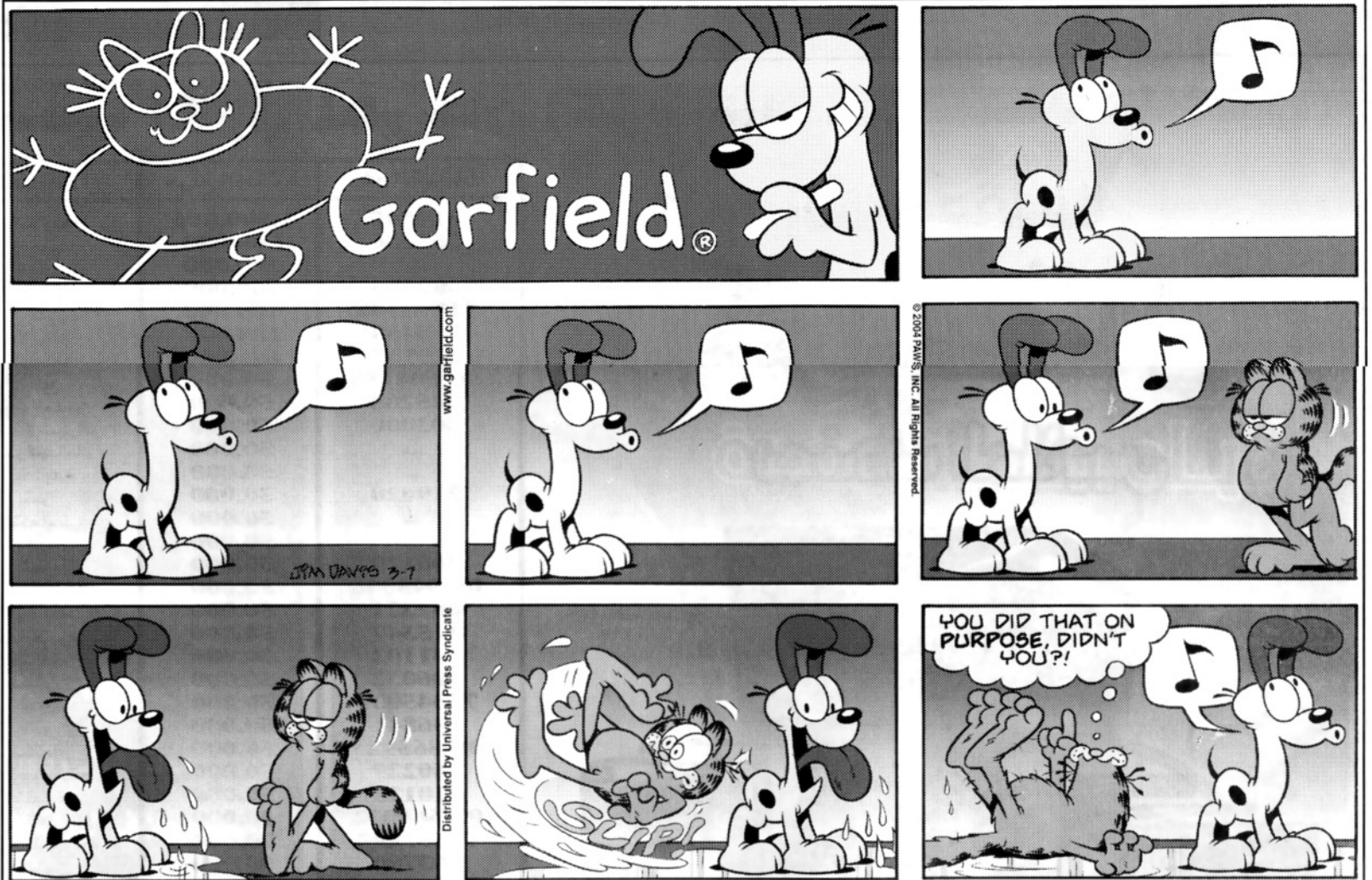
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المهنتون

مروان منصور، موظفي المتقدمة للتكنولوجيا

عنهم الأستاذ عادل بارعية

THE LAST
WORD IN
ASTROLOGY
BY EugeniaAries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

It won't be easy to confront any situation that is bothering you, but it will be better than letting it fester. Deal with any obstacles that you encounter, but don't let anyone push you around.

Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)

Projects, social activity and travel will all lead to love, romance and friendship. You will be able to expand your awareness through the people you meet. Focus on your goals.

Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)

Get rid of any paper trail you have left behind. Don't take chances with your future. Money matters will be of concern so know exactly where you stand before taking on additional expense.

Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Problems are likely to arise if you are too clingy. This is the time to appreciate and love your friends and family — not criticize them because of your own insecurities.

Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You'll be strictly business today. If you can attend a workshop or a convention pertaining to what you do for a living, you will make valuable connections and acquire interesting information.

Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)

You need a stress buster in your life. Consider trying your hand at a new hobby that will ease your tension. Curling up with a good book will spark your imagination and get your enthusiasm back on target.

Libra
(Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Don't argue and you won't find yourself in an emotional duel. Channel your energy into what you can do to make your home more comfortable. Be careful how you handle your personal life today.

Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You can speak your mind and discuss your plans with someone who interests you if you are single and, if you are already in a relationship, build a closer bond. Family gatherings or

neighborhood events should be attended.

Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Go over your personal papers and you'll discover something that you should have made an adjustment to some time ago. This could cause a problem for you if you don't act fast.

Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will be full of good ideas, intent on following through with things. Don't jump the gun because you think you are right — give others a chance to speak.

Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Problems will arise with authority figures should you not play by the rules. Don't take a chance and trust someone to keep a secret.

Pisces
(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Romance will highlight your day. If you are single, join a group you believe in. If you are in a good relationship, make plans to enhance your commitment to one another.

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مطلوب: سائقين ومسوقين في مجال الاعلانات للعمل وقت جزئي أو كلي. وذلك بنظام العمولة. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦، ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦، ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

مطلوب: (١) شغالة للعمل في القاهرة مع توفير سكن وتذكرة طيران شرط أن تكون مقيمة الجنسية (٢) شغالة للعمل في منزل. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

مطلوب: (١) مدير تخطيط كرمكي، (٢) مدير تسويق. ويشترط أن يكونوا من المتقدمين التاليين: خبرة لا تقل عن ٥ سنوات في مجاله، أن يجيد اللغة الانكليزية بطلاقة كتابة وطلاقة، أن يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر ونظافة، حسن السيرة والسلوك. للتواصل: إرسال السيرة الذاتية على البريد ٢٠٠٠٠٠

مطلوب: (١) خبيرة للعناية بالبشرة والتجميل وتصفيف الشعر - وكوافرة، (٢) مفصل أو مفصلة خياطة، (٣) قص وتصميم ازياء نسائية. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٦٦٦٦٦، ٧٣٥٦٦٦٦٦

مطلوب: (١) مدرسين لغة انكليزية، (٢) مدير علاقات عامة (٣) علاقات عامة، (٤) سكرتيرة (٥) حارس. للتواصل: صنعاء ٢٤٨٨١٠، صنعاء ٢٤٨٨١٠، صنعاء ٢٤٨٨١٠

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شيرة: ت: ٣٠٢٤٦١
سبون: ت: ٤٠٢٤٦١
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مطور كبريتاني نوع بانمار ٥٠ كيلو بجاله جيدة جدا. (3/9) ٧١٩٠٩٥٧٥

للبيع
مطور كبريتاني نوع بانمار ٥٠ كيلو بجاله جيدة جدا. (3/9) ٧١٩٠٩٥٧٥

عقارات
مطلوب للإيجار: منزل دور ثاني ٣ غرف وحمامين ومطبخ بسعر ١٢٠٠٠ ريال. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

للبيع: منزل مكون من دور واحد ١٧ لينة يقع في شارع حدة جوار حديقة الزبيري جوار المدرسة الفنية المتفرع إلى أمام المستشفى الجمهوري. سعر الينة ١٥٠٠٠٠. للتواصل: ٧١١١٠٧٦٠، ٧١١٠٧٦٠

للبيع: محل اتصالات وانتشرت على تقنيات كبيرة في شارع الزبيري أمام بنك التضامن الاسلامي. للتواصل: ٧٣٨٨٧٣١

للبيع: أرض مساحة ٢٥ لينة وسعر مناسب بالمطار. للتواصل: ٧٧٦٤٥٧٤

للبيع: شقة مكونة من ثلاث غرف، صالة، مطبخ، حمام. في مدينة التواهي عدن (بدون وساطة). للتواصل: ياسل مهدي ٢٠٠٠٠٠٠٠

للبيع أو المشاركة: أرضية مساحتها (٢٥٠٠٠٠) متر مربع والتي تساوي (٥٧٧) لينة تصلح كمدينة سكنية أو أي مشروع وسعر مفر جدا جدا. للتواصل: ٧١١٥٧٦٠، ٧١١٥٧٦٠

للبيع: فيلا دورين-أرضية ٢ لينة في حدة - ٤ لينة في شارع الستين، بأسعار مغرية جدا. للتواصل: ٢٤٠٢٤٠، سيار: ٧١٧١٥٧٨٠

مطلوب للإيجار: منزل ثلاث غرف ومطبخ وحمامين ومطبخ بسعر ١٢٠٠٠٠ ريال. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

عقارات
مطلوب للإيجار: منزل دور ثاني ٣ غرف وحمامين ومطبخ بسعر ١٢٠٠٠ ريال. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

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مطلوب للإيجار: منزل ثلاث غرف ومطبخ وحمامين ومطبخ بسعر ١٢٠٠٠٠ ريال. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

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مطلوب للإيجار: منزل دور ثاني ٣ غرف وحمامين ومطبخ بسعر ١٢٠٠٠ ريال. للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٦٦

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عقارات
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Is it a miracle, talent, vision, or mere coincidence?

Hubble image said to echo Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - It's astronomy, but is it art?

Scientists using the Hubble Space Telescope said they see similarities between a newly released image of a distant expanding star and Vincent van Gogh's painting "The Starry Night."

Astronomers said the Hubble image released on Thursday "bears remarkable similarities to the van Gogh work, complete with never-before-seen spirals of dust swirling across trillions of miles of interstellar space."

Still, there are obvious differences. Van Gogh's 1889 painting of the sky over a sleeping village is predominantly blue, while the Hubble pictures of a supergiant star called V838 Monocerotis show a glowing red center surrounded by wisps of gray interstellar dust.

The star gave off a flashbulb-like pulse of light two years ago and Hubble has been keeping track of it ever since, taking a series of images that show the expanding illumination of the dusty cloud around the star.



Van Gogh's Starry Night painting.

This latest image, made Feb. 8 by the Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys, is the first to show swirls and eddies in the dust cloud, Hubble scientists said in a state-

ment.

The red star is about 20,000 light-years from Earth in the direction of the constellation Monoceros (The Unicorn) at the

outer edge of the Milky Way galaxy.

A light-year is about 6 trillion miles, the distance light travels in a year.



Astronomers at the Space Telescope Science Institute unveiled the deepest portrait of the visible universe ever achieved in this image released March 9, 2004 taken by Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and the Near Infrared Camera and Multi-object Spectrometer (NICMOS). In this image, blue and green correspond to colors that can be seen by the human eye, such as hot, young, blue stars and the glow of Sun-like stars in the disks of galaxies. Red represents near-infrared light, which is invisible to the human eye, such as the red glow of dust-enshrouded galaxies. The image required 800 exposures taken over the course of 400 Hubble orbits around Earth. The total amount of exposure time was 11.3 days, taken between Sept. 24, 2003 and Jan. 16.

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