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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Yemen threatened to be next, according to alleged Al-Qaeda statement: Yemen denounces Madrid bombings

**Yemen Times Staff**

Yemen officially denounced on Thursday the Madrid bombings that resulted in the death of more than 200 citizens. Saba Official News Agency reported that a source at the Foreign Ministry said that "the Yemeni Government, as it condemns fiercely such a horrific criminal act, renews its emphasis that terrorism is an international malady that does not belong to any civilization, culture or religion. Serious and responsible international efforts need to be concentrated to uproot terrorism and destroy it."

The source added that the Yemen is "expressing solidarity with the Spanish people and national government." It stressed that Yemen remains committed to fight terrorism in all its forms and have expressed its sincere condolences to the Spanish Government and to families of the victims.

**Alleged al-Qaeda statement**

Meanwhile, the famous London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi Arabic Daily said that it received a statement claiming to be from Al-Qaeda announcing its responsibility for the blasts in Madrid and the one in Istanbul last Tuesday.

*Continued on Page 3*



The Madrid bombing has been strongly denounced by the Yemeni government. Even though the perpetrators are still unknown, yet an alleged al-Qaeda statement claimed responsibility and threatened to strike other in countries including Yemen. Reuters

## Following the car accident in Senegal last week ... Ahmar fine and recovering

**BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF**

In a statement to Sahwa.net, Yemen's Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar has emphasized that he is fine and recovering from his injuries caused by the accident of last Thursday in Senegal's Capital, Dakar.

The Chairman of the Supreme Isha Party Authority told Al-Sahwa.net by telephone that he will be leaving the hospital in Paris within the coming couple of days.

Sheikh Al-Ahmar was flown to Paris on a special medical plane in the early hours of last Friday to Paris, France, to carry out a medical checkup to ensure he receives the treatment he needs to recover fully from the accident.

**How it happened**

According to reliable sources

close to the Sheikh, at around 4.30 pm and while he was returning to the place he was staying, a puncture in one of the car's back tires resulted in a collision with a tree on the side of the street.

He was then rushed to the hospital with his security guards and driver of the car. At the initial diagnosis, only minor bruises were noted on his body, especially his right and left arms. It was mentioned that the same bruises were caused to all those in the vehicle at the time of accident.

The Sheikh talked to President Saleh by telephone, as the latter called the Sheikh at least three times, according to Sahwa.net sources, to enquire of his welfare. The Sheikh also received calls from a number of prominent figures such as Saudi Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, who called the Sheikh upon hearing of the accident.



Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar

**Senegalese government praised**

Sheikh Al-Ahmar also praised the government of Senegal for the efforts exerted to ensure that the Sheikh receives all the attention necessary. Al-Ahmar emphasized that the President of Senegal had sent his Foreign Minister to the hospital to ensure that he receives the needed treatment. Furthermore, the Senegalese Deputy Speaker of Parliament stayed with Al-Ahmar until he left for further medical treatment.

The Yemeni Parliament Speaker was in Senegal to participate in the sixth round and third conference of the member states council meetings of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The sessions of the meetings ended last Wednesday.

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**Thabet's lawyers demand accountability for PSO  
 PSO's actions condemned**

**BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF**

The case of journalist Saeed Thabet Saeed was resumed last Wednesday on charges of "spreading false news" regarding the thwarted assassination attempt targeting Colonel Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh. The case was attended by over 50 lawyers who volunteered to represent the journalist after he was kidnapped on the fifth of March by agents of the Political Security Organization. *Cont'd on P10*

**Journalists gather out of the Western Sanaa Court.**  
 Photo by M. al-Qadhi

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## Islah Calls for Boycotting Parliament Sessions

BY HASSAN AL-ZAYEDI

Islah Party, Hadramout Branch, called for standing firmly against the intolerable doses' policies adopted against the people.

The statement urged the citizens to stand by and to support the effective powers and the Opposition which favor lifting and ending of suffering of pain and hunger of million of our people.

It called on the people to be aware of the seriousness of the situ-

ation and the economic and social consequences and to utilize all possible peaceful means to reject this dose. It also called on the PGC block, the ruling party, in the parliament, to bear their historic responsibility.

The Government intends introducing a new dose, to increase prices of oil derivatives by more than 100%, which would lead to additional costs and suffering and a heavy burden to sustain somewhat a dignified living condition for a citizen.

## The Social Fund discussion session

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Social Fund for Development organized a discussion ring, which took place from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

The session was attended by representatives from the World Bank and Arab and International Donor Organizations after the selection of the Social Fund to present the Yemeni experiment at the Shanghai Conference, which will be held in order to exert more efforts to ease poverty.

The World Bank delegation, currently visiting Yemen, will inform the Yemeni side of how the Social Fund for Development can present its experiment and examine its performance and success in carrying out projects financed by donor countries.

The World Bank Representative said in the discussion ring that Yemen is considered the second beneficiary country in the Middle East Region, pointing out the examination by the World Bank of the 21 supported projects in the field of education.

She described the Fund as an effective partner in the Bank's strategy to assist Yemen.

During the discussion ring, the Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs and Executive Director of the Social Fund for Development, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Araby, reviewed projects carried out by the Fund. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation also pointed out that the Government has sought to reform the democratic system and has intensified its efforts to carry out the economic, financial and administrative reforms in order to build the infrastructure for development within the framework of the five year development plan. Achievements are noticeable but remained late.

Mr. Abdul Latif Al-Hamed, Director of Arab Fund who attended the meeting, pointed out that Yemen in 1972 was going through a difficult phases but today has achieved major steps in the field of development and the Arab Fund must continue its efforts in Yemen for the sake of development and combating poverty.

## A Truck seized in Oman loaded with Yemeni antiquities.

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Security Authorities in Sultanate of Oman seized last Wednesday at Al-Mazyouta Custom Exist Point, a large truck loaded with antiques. The antiques consist of parts of historic pillars and antiques the size of a piece exceeds one meter, belonging and dating back to Sheba civilization era. The Authorities held the Yemeni driver and his assistant trying to get through the exist point in their way to United Arab Emirate.

The smugglers hid the antiques inside the trailer of the truck usually used for loading fuel. The Oman Authority is still interrogating the two detainees, while the Public Antiquities Authority in Yemen is preparing a file on the stolen pieces, which proves them to be Yemeni properties.

It is note mentioning that smuggling of antiques has become a flourishing trade in the present time, as we regularly, weekly, hear some quantities of antiques are seized at Yemeni either Airports, border entry/exit points or seaports of the Republic.

## Cars' Customs Committee

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Alaway Al-Salami, announced that work of the cars customs committee that start on Saturday March 12, would be terminated on April 12, 2004. He pointed out the importance that Traffic Police to seize and to bring cars with old license plates to the customs committee.

The Traffic Police Dept. of Ministry of Interior is to withdraw

the temporary plates (Customs duties not paid), granted to car owners.

The Government, through these measures, is seeking to confront the budget deficit it faces, to complete the registration process of cars and to reduce customs tax evasion of thousands of cars pouring into the country from the borders.

Following this, the Government intends to cancel custom fees on recent models of cars and to prevent importing used cars, which possess serious risks on the environment.

## Conference held on technology

The College of Sciences and Engineering at the University of Sciences and Technology held a conference on the "Use of Technology in Education" at the city of Communication and Information on 1-3 March, under the auspices of minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Abdulwahab Rawih.

Dean of the Sciences and Engineering college, the chairman of the conference Dr Jameel Abdulrab said the conference was the first of its kind in Yemen and received an official care.

The conference included a number of scientific working papers presented by a group of experts and academicians from Yemen and abroad. The event also included holding an exhibition of equipment and devices used in information technology in which big companies and establishments took part.

Among the important premises of the conference were:

- a- the use educational technology in the world;
- b- the use of educational technology in the Middle East and;
- c- the use of educational technology in Yemen.

The conference had discussed a number of scientific seminars, workshops and presentation of successful programs in a number of countries. The prime aim of the conference is to provide information for decision-makers and those interested in education process on the latest available technological means and how to use them in developing and activation of both teacher and student role in realization of education goals.

## Dead body found in farm in Taiz

YEMEN TIMES  
TAIZ BUREAU

On Sunday 29th February, the body of Abdulghani Ali Otham saif was found, covered with blood, inside a watch room in a farm at Al-Mehraq village, in the eastern part of Taiz City. The victim received three shots from a machine gun leading to his death. Security authorities have started an investigation to find the perpetrators while the body was transferred.

According to statistics issued by the General Prosecution Authority, the rate of major crimes has increased in Taiz Governorate to 972 in 2003, including 115 premeditated murders and 291 unintentional death incidents, in comparison to 855, 507 and 403 in 2002, 2001, and 2000 respectively.

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## The Founding Conference of Restaurants and Cafeterias Owners Association

On Wednesday 10 March 2004, the founding conference for the Restaurants and Cafeterias Owners Association was held at the Al-Saeed Corporation for Science and Culture, Taiz City, during which administrative and control committees were elected. The conference focused on the goals to provide excellent services to members of the society in order to improve food health awareness and to support the efforts being exerted by associa-

tions working in this field. The conference confirmed the importance of non-partisan work dedication, so that the association can perform its duties effectively. The conference emphasized the importance of the newly established association to get involved with the other public associations and organizations and be active in its role in responding to democratic reactions in society and the general direction of the country.



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## Dar Al-Sallam Cultural and Social Organization

## A call against violence and revenge

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dar Al-Sallam Cultural and Social Organization, in a letter distributed to various media organizations on 12 March 2004, called on the High Arbitration Council to support action against violence and revenge and to promote the spread of forgiveness, culture and peace. The organization has asked for assistance in the recognition of the third national campaign, through the distribution and laying down of eight hundred guiding signs, related to the awareness of the results of carrying and misusing arms. The letter states,

"Since the phenomenon of carrying weapons has weakened society, scattered its resources, distorted its reputation as a civilization, threatened its security and stability and increased the number of revenge, violence and hostilities cases, the organization contributes to the reduction of this phenomenon by increasing awareness among the public".

The first phase will be inaugurated on 20 March 2004, by distributing the guidelines signs starting from the Sana'a Secretariat and going through all governorates of the Republic, accompanied by several carnivals, art exhibitions and plays.



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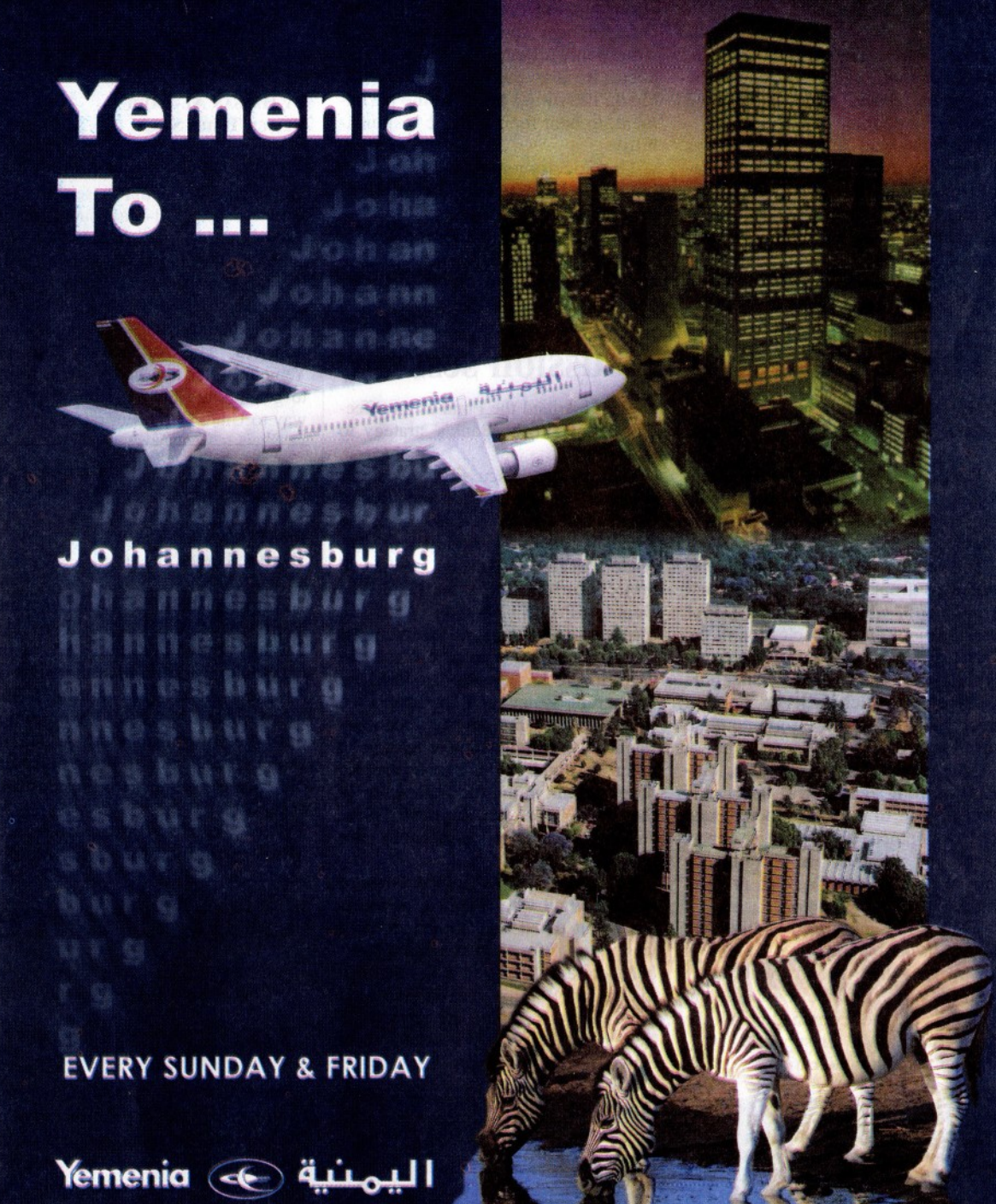


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# More killed & wounded in Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 13 (Reuters) - A bomb exploded at a shop in a busy commercial district of central Baghdad on Saturday, killing the store owner and wounding several others, police and witnesses said.

The clothing and accessories store was completely destroyed, its windows blown out and the ceiling fallen in. The windows of nearby shops were also shattered and pools of blood were visible on the pavement alongside torn and bloodied clothing.

"The shop-owner was killed and three people were injured," police officer Abbas Abid said at the scene.

"He was an honest man. We were together in the mosque and then we came back to the shop and ten minutes after that he died," witness Abdul Satar-Jiwad said of the shop-owner. "He did not interfere in politics or anything."

Witnesses said a young man entered the shop carrying a parcel and a plastic bag. He left and moments later the blast occurred, they said.

U.S. soldiers responded to the blast and were helping with rescue efforts.

It was not immediately clear why the shop-owner might have been targeted. Some witnesses who knew the man said he was related to a member of Iraq's Governing Council and may have been attacked for political reasons.

"There are some people who have interests in destabilising the situation and stopping security and development," said Tariq Hashem, a local resident.

"The Iraqi police and the Americans cannot protect us."

Earlier this week, after weeks of wrangling, the Iraqi Governing Council signed an interim constitution that lays the groundwork for the U.S. transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government on June 30.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities have expressed fear of increased violence as

the deadline for the political transfer nears. On the day of the interim constitution's signing, several bomb blasts rocked Baghdad and rockets were feared at buildings near to the U.S. military and political headquarters in the city.

## Two U.S. soldiers killed

A roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers and seriously wounded five others before dawn on Saturday as they were patrolling Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, the U.S. military said.

The blast, which raised to 385 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action since the war to overthrow Saddam was launched last March, underlined the persistent dangers to U.S. and coalition forces almost a year since Saddam's regime fell.

Those killed were from the 1st Infantry Division and had only recently arrived in the country to take over responsibilities from the 4th Infantry Division, which is being rotated out after nearly a year's deployment.

The deaths came days after two U.S. civilians working for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority were killed by Iraqi police in a new development that suggests insurgents may have infiltrated the U.S.-trained police force.

The employees, who were on secondment from the Department of Defence, were killed as they travelled by car between the towns of Kerbala and Hilla, south of Baghdad. Their Iraqi translator was also killed.

The car was later found by Polish troops in charge of security in the area, with the bodies still in the trunk. It was the first time since the start of the war that U.S. civilians working for the administration had been killed.

The two Americans killed were Fern Holland, 33, who was working on human rights and women's issues, and Robert Zangas, 44, a former service-

man who had returned to Iraq to work as a press officer.

## Suspects detained

The U.S. military said six people had been detained in connection with the incident and said it believed most of them were legitimate members of the Iraqi police force.

"Four of those persons were carrying current, and we believe valid, Iraqi police service identification," Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the U.S. Army in Iraq, told a news conference on Friday.

Kimmitt said the fifth suspect was a former policeman in Saddam Hussein's toppled government and the sixth a civilian.

U.S. occupation forces have been hiring and training Iraqis for the police for the past several months in the hope they will eventually be able to take over responsibility for security.

There are now about 70,000 police on duty countrywide, most of them new recruits, but many of them once members of Saddam's security forces. In addition, there are about 25,000 Iraqis serving in the military-style Civil Defence Corps (ICDC).

Senior U.S. officials have complained that their eight-week training programme is not enough to instil a human rights culture and sense of restraint in the way police and ICDC members carry out their work.

Dan Senor, the chief spokesman for Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, defended the security services and the screening process, saying the incident earlier this week had been an exception.

"We have a very robust vetting process for all Iraqis that are hired or rehired into security services and while it is robust it is also not perfect," he told a news conference.

"Individuals slip through the cracks. We act to identify it and remove them immediately."



U.S. Army soldiers guard a destroyed clothing and accessories shop after a bomb exploded in the upmarket Baghdad neighbourhood of Karrada March 13. "The shop-owner was killed and three people were injured," police officer Abbas Abid said. REUTERS

## Iran halts U.N. inspections for "vacation" reasons

VIENNA, March 13 (Reuters) - Iran surprised the U.N. nuclear watchdog on Friday by calling a temporary halt to inspections aimed at verifying that Tehran's atomic programme is peaceful.

Western diplomats said the move was highly troubling, but Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, Pirooz Hosseini, said inspections would only be delayed three weeks because of Iran's New Year holiday beginning next week.

"This is just purely a vacation issue, a holiday issue," he told Reuters. "That was the main reason, the only reason."

A diplomat close to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the halt to inspections would last much longer than the four-day official New Year holiday beginning on March 20 and was clearly not the reason for Tehran's sudden decision.

"The Iranians have postponed the inspections until the second half of April, possibly the end of April," he said.

The postponement, he said, would not help Iran as a week of intense talks drew to a close on Saturday when the IAEA board was expected to adopt a resolution on Iran's nuclear programme.

"If they really have nothing to hide, it's fully against their interests because people who accuse them of having a weapons programme are getting a lot of ammunition," he said.

The United States accuses Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons and systematically hiding evidence of its research and development. Iran says its programme is for peaceful purposes only and has accepted snap IAEA inspections.

A Western diplomat on the IAEA's board of governors said a number of countries had expected Iran to seek a confrontation with the agency as an excuse to limit cooperation with the IAEA as inspectors close in on

Tehran's alleged weapons programme.

"This could be it," the diplomat said.

An IAEA spokeswoman declined to comment on the postponement.

Washington hopes a tough resolution will open the door to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Backroom talks at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna were set to continue on Saturday as Canadian, Australian and European diplomats negotiated with counterparts from Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries to find a compromise on the toughly-worded draft that "deplores" Iran's withholding of information from the IAEA.

Tehran said the draft text was the result of U.S. "bullying". The NAM countries, which have 13 of the 35 seats on the IAEA board, China and Russia all want the draft softened.

## Getting too close?

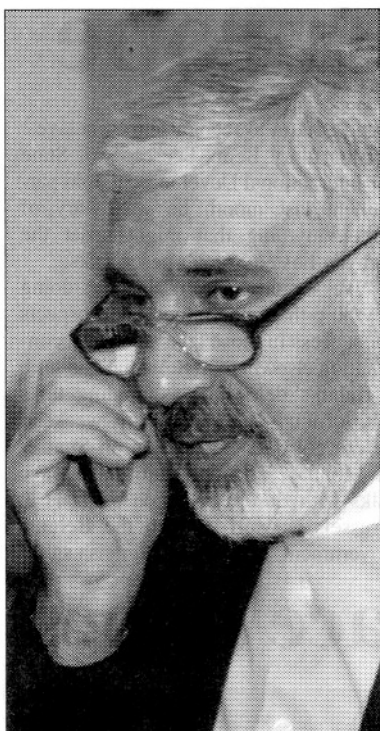
The diplomat close to the IAEA said the inspections were likely related to Iran's uranium-enrichment programme, the full extent of which Tehran hid from the IAEA for nearly two decades.

Even after Iran gave the IAEA what it called a full declaration of its nuclear programme in October, U.N. inspectors earlier this year uncovered designs and components for advanced "P2" centrifuges capable of making bomb-grade uranium.

The diplomat said Iran's motives for halting inspections were unclear.

"Either there's the possibility that they felt the agency was getting too close to them or they wanted to show some political muscle of their own to defy those countries casting a strong resolution condemning them," the diplomat said.

Earlier this week, an Iranian exile, Alireza Jafarzadeh, who has accurately reported on Iran's nuclear programme in the past, told Reuters the same "well-informed sources inside Iran"



Iran's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ambassador Pirooz Hosseini takes a phone call during a closed-door meeting of the board of governors of the IAEA in Vienna March 12. REUTERS

who told him about the Natanz enrichment plant in August 2002 told him about a recent secret meeting of Iran's top leaders.

At this meeting, Jafarzadeh said Iran's leaders decided to get the bomb "at all costs" by the end of 2005 and begin enriching uranium at secret plants away from the increasingly watchful eyes of the U.N. watchdog led by Mohamed ElBaradei.

Jafarzadeh was a spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran until the United States branded it a terrorist organisation and shut down its Washington offices last year. He is now president of Strategic Policy Consulting, a Washington-based consulting firm.

## Israeli soldiers kill two Gaza militants

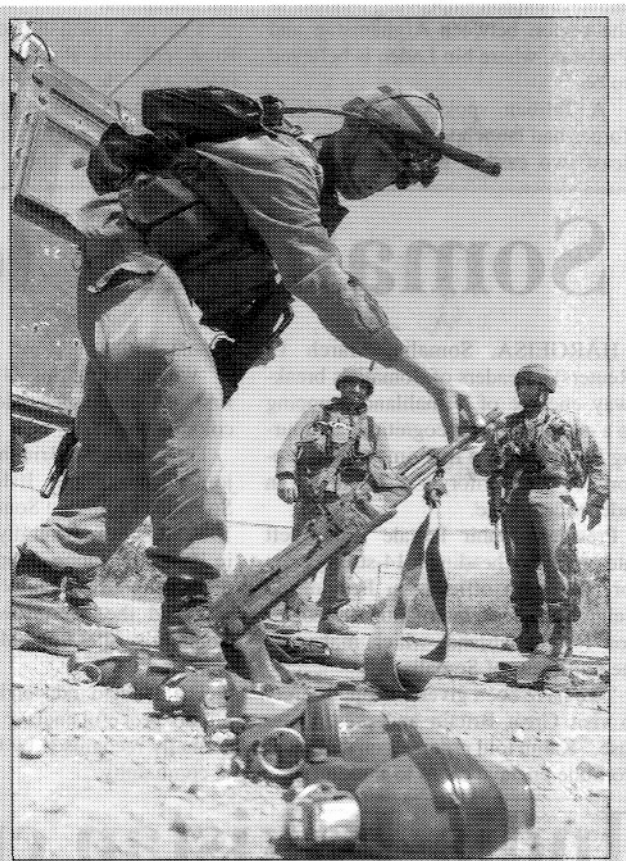
GAZA, March 13 (Reuters) - Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinian militants as they approached the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, Palestinian and Israeli security sources said.

The deaths were the latest in more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian violence and came hours after senior U.S. envoys held talks with Israel and the Palestinians on possible peace moves.

The Islamic militants of Hamas and a militant group affiliated with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction said in a statement faxed to Reuters that the two men were on an "operation" to avenge the deaths of 14 Palestinians during Israeli military action last Sunday.

Israeli military sources said the Palestinian militants were carrying rifles, ammunition belts, grenades and a pipe bomb. They said they were shot and killed as they crawled towards the fence near Nahal Oz, a crossing into Israel in northern Gaza.

On Sunday, armoured Israeli forces raided the Nusseirat and al-Bureij refugee camps, igniting gunbattles that killed 14 Palestinians after militants staged an attack on Israeli soldiers at Gaza's border.



Israeli soldiers look at weapons they found at the scene where they shot and killed two Palestinian militants as they approached the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip March 13. REUTERS

## Sudan army bombs Darfur town & kills six witnesses

KHARTOUM, March 13 (Reuters) - Sudan's army bombed a town in the western Darfur region, killing six civilians and injuring 25, eyewitnesses said on Saturday, weeks after the government said major military operations were over in the area.

Two rebel groups launched a revolt in remote Darfur last February, accusing the government of neglecting the arid region and arming Arab militias to burn and loot African villages.

The oil producer's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, said last month the government was in full control of Darfur and major military operations were over, which the rebels deny.

A resident of Sherya town, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) east of the Southern Darfur state capital Nyala, said that Antonov planes began bombing the town on Friday evening and Arab militias known as "Janjaweed" attacked at the same time.

"The aerial bombardment began on Friday evening. We left as soon as we heard the Janjaweed coming. They were screaming and shooting into the air so we ran," the man, who declined to be named, told Reuters by telephone.

He said six women and children were killed by the bombings, including a one-year-old child, and 25 people were injured.

The Sudanese armed forces spokesman declined to comment and the governor of Southern Darfur was unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Reuters by telephone from near Sherya the bombing was continuing sporadically and 15 children were still missing.

"The Janjaweed took 670 heads of livestock and burned 100 huts," said Mohamed Mursal.

The United Nations warns of a humanitarian crisis in Darfur and says the conflict has affected one million people with more than 100,000 refugees fleeing to Chad.

# U.S. launches new Afghan push against bin Laden

KABUL, March 13 (Reuters) - U.S.-led forces have launched a sweeping new hunt in Afghanistan's remote southern and eastern mountains where Taliban and al Qaeda fighters, including Osama bin Laden, are believed to be in hiding.

The operation, codenamed "Mountain Storm", began on March 7 and involved troops from the 13,500-strong U.S.-led force backed by air support, U.S. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hilferty told a news briefing on Saturday.

"We believe that this will help bring the heads of the terrorist organisations to justice by continuing to place pressure on them," he said.

Asked whether the operation could lead to the arrest of al Qaeda leader bin Laden, Hilferty replied: "This operation is aimed like the rest at rebuilding and reconstructing and providing enduring security in Afghanistan, so it's certainly about more than one person.

"We do have confidence though, and the leaders of al Qaeda and the leaders of the Taliban need to be brought to justice and they will be."

Hilferty said "Mountain Storm" was a continuation of previous operations and involved patrols, searches and small-scale air assaults. But he declined to provide details.

"We have air support, close-fire support from the air 24-hours a day, circling overhead ready to assist coalition forces. It is a continuing effort to keep pressure on the terrorist organisations and their infrastructure."

The fresh campaign comes after a surge in militant attacks on aid workers and foreigners, as well as against Afghan and U.S.-led forces.

U.S. defence officials in Washington on Friday described "Mountain Storm" as a broad spring offensive to hunt down al Qaeda fugitives, including bin Laden.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters it was timed to exploit improving weather in the region between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where bin Laden is believed to be.

A Taliban spokesman said U.S. forces had launched an offensive in at least two eastern provinces but elu-

sive Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, who headed the Afghan Taliban government that harboured the al Qaeda network, was safe.

"Mullah Omar is in a very safe place. But we don't know about Osama bin Laden," Taliban official Abdul Latif Hakimi told Reuters by telephone.

**Secret task force**  
U.S. officials said the secretive Task Force 121, a covert commando team of Special Operations troops and CIA personnel involved in the capture of Saddam Hussein in Iraq in December, has relocated people and equipment to the border region to search for bin Laden and other al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas.

Pakistan has in recent weeks moved forces into the lawless tribal lands on its side of the Afghan border in the search for militants. Hilferty said the Pakistanis had done "a great job".

Lieutenant-General David Barno, the top U.S. general in Afghanistan, said last month the United States and Pakistan were moving toward coordinated operations along the border — "a hammer and anvil approach" — to prevent fleeing guerrillas from escaping by crossing from one country to the other.

Pakistani military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan dismissed the suggestion Pakistan represented the "anvil" but said militants would not be able to cross the border.

"We are doing the surveillance, we are carrying out regular patrolling to ensure that the border is effectively sealed off."

U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban in late 2001, in an invasion launched in the wake of the September 11 attacks on U.S. cities, for which al Qaeda is blamed.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has declined to add his voice to predictions by some U.S. military officers in Afghanistan that bin Laden will be caught this year.

"I'm not going to get into that," Rumsfeld told Reuters in a recent interview. "He's probably alive. And he's probably in Afghanistan or Pakistan. And we're probably going to catch him or kill him."

# S. Korea asks military be vigilant after impeachment

EOUL, March 13 (Reuters) - South Korea's acting president told his military forces facing the communist North to be more vigilant and urged calm on Saturday after parliament sparked an unprecedented crisis by impeaching President Roh Moo-hyun.

Some 12,000 Roh supporters, many holding candles and chanting slogans, protested peacefully near parliament on Friday night over a crisis that has unnerved a country already trying to tackle a standoff over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, revive a fragile economy and hold a parliamentary election next month.

All Roh's powers are in limbo until the Constitutional Court rules on Friday's vote, which the opposition called after he broke an election law. That process could take up to six months, during which time Prime Minister Goh Kun will run the country.

The Defence Ministry reported no signs of unusual movements on the northern side of the most heavily fortified border on earth, where Pyongyang deploys many of its 1.2 million troops.

"Our armed forces are faithfully carrying out their duties by strengthening their security posture to forestall any gap in national security," Goh said in a televised address, adding Seoul remained committed to six-way nuclear talks on North Korea.

Defence Minister Cho Young-kil met the commander of U.S. forces in Korea, General Leon LaPorte. The United States has 37,000 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended in a truce and left the peninsula in a state of war.

"It is crucial that forces of South Korea and United States stay perfectly ready for crisis..." the defence minister told reporters before the meeting.

The Defence Ministry said the "strengthened security posture" did not mean the forces were on a higher military alert status despite the political upheaval of the impeachment vote.

"The alert status is normal," said a ministry official.

**Second rally planned**  
The vote came barely a year into Roh's single five-year term. His time in office has been marked by dramatic and unsettling gestures such as a call for a referendum on his rule, statements of self-doubt and incessant media criticism.

Goh's address was his second statement aimed at reassuring the country and restoring confidence in the economy since the 66-year-old veteran bureaucrat was thrust into the role of acting head of state on Friday.

The nine judges on the Constitutional Court are likely to meet on Thursday to review the impeachment resolution, a court spokesman said. Goh urged them to deliberate swiftly.

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon telephoned U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to offer reassurances on foreign policy — crucially the deployment of South Korean troops to Iraq.

Roh, 57, a liberal former labour lawyer, says he is committed to sending troops to Iraq and engaging North Korea in dialogue. The main opposition



South Koreans hold candles at a rally supporting Roh Moo-hyun in central Seoul March 13. Clutching candles and some in tears, tens of thousands of supporters of Roh rallied in the capital on Saturday and vowed to hold daily demonstrations until the impeached South Korean president was back in office. REUTERS

Grand National Party favours a harder line.

South Korean newspapers put the blame for the unprecedented impeachment squarely on the opposition parties that gathered 193 members of the 273-seat National Assembly. That was more than the 181-vote, two-thirds majority of occupied seats they needed.

"It is a day we retreated to the politics of barbarians," said the left-leaning Hankyoreh. "It was a coup d'etat by old politicians trying to seize power before their terms end."

The conservative Chosun Ilbo, a harsh Roh critic, said: "Opposition parties that passed the impeachment bill should feel more responsible for this. If the opposition shows rash and thoughtless actions out of joy of victory, Koreans will never forgive them."

Many were baffled and angered by

the vote. A further pro-Roh rally was planned for 0900 GMT in central Seoul in the area where thousands gathered to cheer on their team during the 2002 soccer World Cup. Police expect about 9,000 people to show up.

Goh urged calm and vowed to ensure the parliamentary election on April 15 is fair and to stabilise financial markets.

"I earnestly hope that all citizens will cooperate in maintaining social stability and revitalising the economy so that any apprehension the international community might have about our situation will change into renewed trust in Korea," he said.

South Korean financial markets reacted with dismay on Friday.

Investors sought the safe haven of bonds, shares closed at a five-week low and the won shed one percent against the dollar.

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# Somaliland leaders tour Europe

HARGEISA, Somalia, March 13 (Reuters) - Leaders of Somalia's break-away enclave of Somaliland, stepping up a campaign for recognition, are touring Europe for the first time to win support for the territory's claim to be an independent state.

President Dahir Rayale Kahin left late on Friday heading a 14-strong team for talks with officials in Britain and Belgium to seek international recognition for Somaliland, which makes up the northwest of Somalia.

"We have been given the opportunity to visit Great Britain and present our case," Kahin told reporters on departure from the enclave of up to three million

people.

"We are doing this 44 years after we first got our independence from the colonial power."

The former British protectorate joined the former Italian colony of Somalia to form the Somali Republic in 1960. It split unilaterally from Somalia in 1991 after a long independence struggle, taking advantage of the chaos that followed the overthrow that year of Somalia's dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

The de facto independence of the relatively peaceful enclave has never been formally recognised by the international community.

The rest of Somalia has been devastated by warlords and their militias. The lack of central control has earned the country a reputation as a potential haven for terrorists.

Peace talks are in progress in Kenya but are mired in wrangling between various factions. Somaliland is not attending.

Somaliland in 2001 voted massively for a new constitution reasserting its independence claim and in 2003 held its first multi-party elections.

Member of the British parliament's select committee for international development toured Somaliland in January and on their return some MPs

urged Britain to recognise the enclave.

But Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, told parliament last month he was wary of doing anything that might upset the Kenyan-hosted Somali peace talks.

"We should be careful about doing anything that undermined the prospects for success in those talks and the reconciliation elsewhere in Somalia," he said.

Kahin's delegation is holding talks with officials in Ethiopia this weekend before going on to London on Sunday or Monday. The delegation will have talks with European Union officials in Brussels as well as with the Belgian government, officials in Hargeisa said.

# Philippine vice-president backs Poe for leader

MANILA, March 13 (Reuters) - Philippine Vice President Teofisto Tadeo III has supported presidential candidate and film star Fernando Poe Jr on Saturday, saying he would advise him on governance and public policy.

"I do so mainly because almost everyone agrees that the nation must change, that the socio-economic downturn must reverse," Guingona said in a statement.

Polls show Poe and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo running neck and neck and the uncertainties surrounding the race have rattled the markets. The peso is at record lows, stocks are underperforming and yields on the Philippine sovereign — Asia's second-largest traded debt after Japan — have blown out.

On Wednesday, Poe unnerved the bond market after he unveiled his economic platform, which included a plan to "look into the possibility of restructuring our sovereign debt in the domestic and international financial markets".

Poe's comments left many debt analysts guessing and prompted the central bank to state that the Philippines would honour its debts and that any restructuring "should be carefully studied".

"Poe asserts that he is his own man. If so, coupled with the right political will, he can chart a meaningful change to rebuild the nation," Guingona said.

Arroyo selected staunch nationalist Guingona as vice-president after she took up her post in January 2001, but the two fell out over Arroyo's decision to allow U.S. troops into the country to help fight Muslim rebels.

The Philippines, a staunch ally of the United States, is an Asian front line in the U.S.-led "war on terror".

Last October, Guingona resigned from Arroyo's ruling Lakas party, saying she had failed to fulfil her reform promises.

Guingona said on Saturday he would now resign from civic organisations he heads to focus on advising Poe.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview the president had accepted Guingona's decision, saying the two had no personal grudges but merely differed over policies.

"Now at least he can help explain Mr Poe's economic platform. We also expect him to convince Poe to join the presidential debate," Bunye said. "Mr Poe should not worry anymore because now he has an expert adviser."

Poe, a political novice and a high school drop-out, has said he was not inclined to join presidential debates because "he is a man of action".

Poe's comments on his economic plans were ill-timed as the Philippines — Asia's most active sovereign dollar debt issuer — was then launching its first bond deal for the year worth US\$500 million of 11-year papers to fund its budgetary requirements for 2004.

The Philippine government forecasts a budget deficit of about \$3.6 billion this year, the country's 10th fiscal shortfall in 14 years, as it works to raise money, pay interest on \$60 billion in foreign debt and avoid a spending blow-out in an election year.

Poe's campaign team later clarified that Poe would not seek to freeze the nation's debts and planned to stretch the amortisation period so that interest payments deferred on them could be channelled to economic projects.

# India-Pakistan cricket brings peace hopes

SRINAGAR, India/Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, March 13 (Reuters) - Strife-weary people across divided Kashmir were glued to their televisions on Saturday as India and Pakistan fought a battle of a different kind — a cricket match.

The nuclear neighbours, who have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan region, began a historic series of matches with a one-day match in the Pakistani city of Karachi.

"I am sure cricket will bring them much closer and hope they finally resolve their dispute over Kashmir and let us live in peace," said government employee Habibullah Lone.

People crowded at the windows of television shops in Srinagar, Indian Kashmir's main city, and in Muzaffarabad, on the Pakistani side, to watch the first game in a five-week series that has revived one of the greatest rivalries in sport.

The series is the first to be played in Pakistan in 14 years and has raised peace hopes between the two cricket-mad countries, which nearly went to war over Kashmir again in 2002.

"No business today, only cricket," shouted a tense Fayaz Ahmad, a shopkeeper, as Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar hit Pakistan's leading pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar for six.

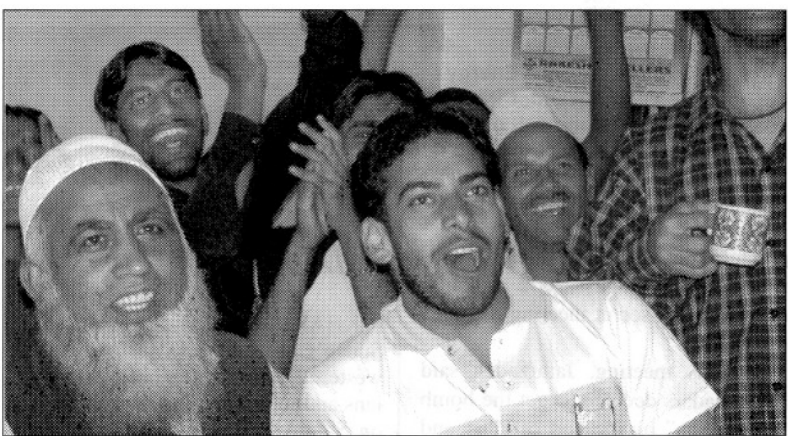
"I support Pakistan... I don't know why," Ahmad added, reflecting the divided loyalties in the Muslim-majority region claimed by both mostly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan.

**"Sport, not politics"**  
Kashmiris on the Pakistan-side of the region were no less enthralled. People in Muzaffarabad, crammed into shops and hotels where televisions had been set up.

"It's a game, it shouldn't be mixed up with the politics," said Mohammad Ayub, an employee at an electronics shop as about 40 people stood outside, watching the game on a television in his window.

Even some of the normally tense Indian troops stationed in Srinagar appeared to have caught cricket fever.

Some soldiers, dressed in battle fatigues and armed with automatic rifles, listened to the match commentary on pocket radios as they patrolled the streets.



Strife-weary people in Kashmir, at the heart of decades of enmity between India and Pakistan, sat glued to their TVs on Saturday to watch the two countries fight a different kind of battle — a cricket match. REUTERS

"We prayed for the Indian team and we are sure our prayers will be answered and India will win," said Joginder Singh, a Border Security Force soldier.

Even Islamic militants fighting Indian rule were apparently watching the cricket. Police said no rebel attacks were reported from across the state.

In Pakistani Kashmir, amateur cricketer

Mohammad Aamir seemed to sum up the hopes of all Kashmiri people, whose mountain homeland has been divided by the conflict between India and Pakistan for more than 50 years.

"We like this event but we want both countries to allow players from both sides of Kashmir to play with each other," he said.

# Spain turns to election as bomb mystery deepens

MADRID, March 13 (Reuters) - After millions of Spaniards flooded the streets in condemnation of deadly train bombings, the wounded nation turned toward Sunday's general elections with questions about the blasts unanswered.

An estimated 11 million people, more than a quarter of the population, took part in marches on Friday to condemn the violence of Thursday, when 10 bombs exploded in four packed commuter trains, killing 199 and wounding 1,500.

The Friday night protests grew raucous and festive at times, but more serene mourning was expected on Saturday, when a funeral service for 40 victims was set in Alcala de Henares, a town east of Madrid where investigators believe the bombs may have been put on board the trains.

It was Spain's worst ever guerrilla attack and the worst in Europe for 15 years, raising fears that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network may have struck in the West for the first time since September 11, 2001.

The government said armed Basque separatist group ETA remained the prime suspect but has not ruled out Islamic militants and said several lines of investigation were open.

A group tied to al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the attacks and ETA has denied it, though neither claim has been confirmed as genuine.

Sources at Basque public television EITB say they recognised the voice of a caller in the name of ETA on Friday night who said the group "had no responsibility whatsoever" for the attack.

The caller claimed to be one of two ETA members who in a videotaped message last month announced a partial truce limited to the Catalonia region.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes said he did not believe the ETA denial and questioned the credibility of a letter purporting to come from a group aligned to al Qaeda, the Abu Haf's al-Masri Brigades, that took responsibility for the bombings.

U.S. President George W. Bush said however he "wouldn't rule anybody out" as the perpetrator and promised American help in hunting down those responsible.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar is one of Bush's closest allies,



Spanish protestors gather in Independence Street during a silent march through central Zaragoza March 12, 2004. Millions of grieving Spaniards poured into the streets crying "cowards" and "killers" on Friday as Basque separatist group ETA denied responsibility for the Madrid bombings that killed nearly 200 people. REUTERS

backing his decision to wage war in Iraq.

#### Eve of elections

The bombings forced the suspension of the election campaign and could influence the result of the poll, analysts say.

Aznar is to step down, but his hand-picked successor, former deputy Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, is seeking a third straight four-year term for the centre-right Popular Party.

Socialist candidate Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who opposed the war in Iraq but has backed Aznar in the

fight against ETA, is seeking to return the Socialists to power for the first time since Aznar unseated Felipe Gonzalez in 1996.

About one-quarter of the Spanish population was still protesting under a steady rain in much of the country at a time when political rallies would normally be winding up campaigns.

The Saturday before elections is referred as the "Day of Reflection" in which campaigning is normally halted. This time the campaign was called off after Thursday's attack.

Many analysts say any proven ETA involvement in the bombings would probably benefit the ruling party in Sunday's general election because of its tough anti-ETA stance.

But they said that if the killings were the work of Muslim militants, it could be viewed as the price for Aznar's domestically unpopular backing of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

ETA has killed about 850 people since 1968 in its fight for a separate Basque homeland in northern Spain and southwest France. It has been branded a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union.

Focus of investigation

But investigations had so far failed to reveal any conclusive evidence of who had carried out the attacks.

The government revealed on Thursday that a van containing seven detonators and a tape in Arabic had been found near the railway station of Alcala de Henares. The birthplace of Cervantes, Alcala de Henares, is an historic town surrounded by working class suburbs east of Madrid.

Acebes said the discovery of an unexploded bomb meant to be used in the bombing had opened new leads. A sports bag was found on one of the mangled trains which contained explosives similar to a type Acebes said ETA had used in the past.

He said the detonator was the same as those found in the van in Alcala de Henares but did not address media reports that the type of detonator was different to ones commonly used by ETA.

"This attack was prepared so as not to fail," he said.

## Belgium proposes EU intelligence centre

BRUSSELS, March 13 (Reuters) - Belgium has proposed to fellow European Union members setting up a dedicated centre to share and analyse intelligence, following Thursday's train bombings in Madrid, the government said on Saturday.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt has asked other European leaders to consider an intelligence equivalent to police cooperation body Europol at an EU summit in Brussels on March 26, the government's Web site said.

The centre "would analyse terrorist threats and communicate its analyses to all the member states of the European Union," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

The Madrid attacks, which claimed 200 lives, prompted Verhofstadt to write to his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern, the statement said. Ireland currently holds the rotating EU presidency and controls the summit agenda.

The September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States gave impetus for a pan-European arrest warrant, which is now coming into force across the 15-member bloc.

## White House sends senior official to Iraq

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Reuters) - The Bush administration has sent a senior White House official to Baghdad to try and salvage the latest bid to form an interim Iraqi government, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

The White House official was scheduled to arrive in Iraq this weekend for meetings with the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, the Post said, quoting senior U.S. officials.

The paper said it was not identifying the official — at the administration's request — before his arrival in Iraq, because of security concerns.

The mission is, in part, to persuade the governing council to invite the United Nations back to the country, the Post said. It said key Shi'ite Muslim leaders in Iraq were frustrating U.S. attempts to get the United Nations to return.

The Post said Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, had failed to end squabbling among members of the gov-

erning council.

A White House spokesman was not immediately available for comment on the report.

Iraq's Governing Council signed an interim constitution this week after weeks of wrangling, although most Shi'ite members say they are unhappy with it.

The document will guide an Iraqi government due to take power on June 30 until a permanent constitution is drawn up next year.

President George W. Bush will mark the one year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq next week with two major speeches aimed at rallying the troops and shoring up public support for the occupation.

The White House said on Friday that Bush will travel to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to address the troops on Thursday, March 18. The next day, he will give an address in the East Room of the White House.

## Candidates in Russia's March 14 presidential election

MOSCOW, March 13 (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin is certain to win a March 14 presidential election by a landslide. Only the highly unlikely event of a low turnout would prevent him securing a second term in office.

Five other candidates will appear on ballot papers, hoping to steal a small percentage of votes from the popular president.

Following are brief descriptions of the candidates.

#### Vladimir Putin

Incumbent president. The 51-year-old former KGB foreign intelligence officer from St Petersburg has promised to speed up reforms and boost economic growth. His election success in 2000 owed much to a tough stance on Chechnya, but he has hardly mentioned the war this time. Despite his refusal to campaign or appear in television debates, he has occupied large amounts of air time and stole headlines by sacking his government on February 24. He then nominated little-known former tax chief Mikhail Fradkov as his new prime minister, now confirmed by parliament. Putin's allies made big gains in December's

parliamentary election and opinion polls during this campaign generally rated the president's popularity at 70 percent or more. In foreign policy, he has forged close ties with U.S. President George W. Bush after backing Washington's war on terror. But the arrest and detention of oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky pending trial on fraud and tax evasion charges — seen as having been instigated by the Kremlin — have raised fears over his commitment to democracy. Liberals say he could become increasingly autocratic.

#### Nikolai Kharitonov

Candidate for the Communist party, the once all-powerful motor of the Soviet Union badly mauled in December's parliamentary poll. The 55-year-old former Soviet farm director has campaigned for agricultural voters during a decade in parliament. By picking him, his party is sparing the blushes of its leader Gennady Zyuganov, a two-time loser in presidential elections. Kharitonov scores about five percent in recent polls.

#### Irina Khakamada

Standing as an independent, she is

the lone standard-bearer of the liberals, crushed in the December election. The 48-year-old daughter of a Japanese Communist, she accuses Putin of authoritarianism and has accused him of using Chechen separatism to boost his ratings. Like other candidates, she recognises she has no chance of making any impact against Putin. Polls give her about two percent.

#### Sergei Glazyev

Running as an independent after his left-wing nationalist Motherland (Rodina) party deserted him in favour of Putin and removed him as party leader. A skilled orator whose attacks on wealthy business magnates strikes a chord among poorer voters, he hopes to build on Motherland's nine percent showing in December's parliamentary election, scant months after its creation. Glazyev, 43, is a former economic adviser to the Communists and many analysts say he is really eyeing the 2008 presidential race. Polls credit him with four percent.

#### Oleg Malyskhin

Running for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultranationalist Liberal Democrats. A 52-year-old former boxer and a political unknown, he was once bodyguard to the flamboyant Zhirinovskiy. He scores about one percent in recent polls.

#### Sergei Mironov

Chairman of the upper house of parliament and standing as an independent. Loyal to Putin, he sees his campaign as a way of supporting the president. The 51-year-old favours Putin's pledge for more reform in a second term and has led the way in suggesting the next presidential mandate should be extended to seven years from four. Poll give him no more than one percent.

## U.S. Marines kill two more gunmen in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 13 (Reuters) - U.S. Marines said on Saturday they killed two more gunmen after coming under fire in Haiti, bringing to six the number of people killed by U.S. forces struggling to restore order in the Caribbean nation after a revolt ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Marine Staff Sgt. Tim Edwards said Marines patrolling on foot and in armored vehicles near the National Palace in downtown Port-au-Prince were fired upon by several gunmen Friday night.

"The Marines returned fire and two gunmen were killed. There were no Marine casualties," Edwards said.

The Marines, leading a U.N.-sanctioned 2,550-member international peace force, have fought half a dozen gunbattles with suspected Aristide mil-

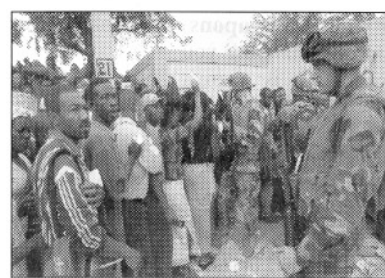
itants since they landed here hours after the former president left the country on Feb. 29, pushed out by monthlong revolt and by U.S. pressure to quit.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, was due to visit Port-au-Prince on Saturday at the end of a Latin America trip.

Supporters of Aristide, a former slum priest and hero of the poor, are enraged at the departure of Haiti's first democratically elected leader. Many of them believe he was removed in a U.S. coup and want him back in office.

Aristide's plans to visit the neighboring island of Jamaica next week has stoked tensions in this deeply divided nation.

Haiti's new prime minister, Gerard Latortue, said on Friday the decision by Jamaica to allow Aristide to return to



The Marines, leading a 2,550-strong peace force of French, Canadian and Chilean troops, have fought at least half a dozen battles, killing four people, since they landed hours after Aristide fled into exile on February 29. REUTERS

the Caribbean was an "unfriendly act." Aristide was expected to arrive on Tuesday on a visit that Jamaica originally said could last up to 10 weeks.

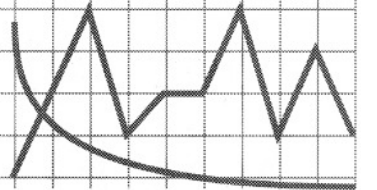


Putin held a meeting on Saturday to discuss Russia's internal and foreign policies-related issues, Itar-Tass agency said. REUTERS





## YT Business

Concern growing over safety of poultry**Symposium held on Jambouri disease**

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

While Yemeni official sources have denied the spread of bird flu, poultry companies and administrators of the animal wealth industry recently held a symposium on Jambouri disease in Yemen.

Research presented to the symposium emphasized the significance of poultry industry in a way providing the consumer with healthy and safe production free from diseases.

The symposium stressed on the deepening sense of responsibility with both the state employees and the private sector to produce research in this respect for the service of public interest.

Chairman of the board of directors of Tarim Poultry Company Khalid Taha Mustafa says the care rendered to animal wealth contributes to national revenues and covers the consumer needs, especially with the increase of demand for domestic products.

A Yemeni technical cadre, in cooper-

ation with the poultry company, have recently, at their laboratory in Sana'a, worked out a detailed study on the jambouri disease that has noticeably spread in Yemen recently.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is exerting great efforts for modernization of the infrastructure of the animal industry, especially veterinary laboratories, considered the cornerstone for development of research into animal wealth, including poultry.

Participants in the symposium stressed the importance of the ministry of agriculture and irrigation adoption of a program for fighting animal diseases, limiting their spread, implementing regulations and curbing dangers causing the perishing of very young animals, as well as undergrown chickens.

The symposium reviewed important research papers focused on the epidemic situation of the jambouri disease in Yemen, and a diagnostic study on the disease itself.

The symposium recommended concerned authorities for speeding up the taking of measures and researches for protecting the animal wealth and increase of it national production



Fears of potential spread of bird flu diseases in Yemen has driven authorities to exert greater efforts to prevent rather than remedy, and that is done through symposiums focusing on preventive measures. Photo by Ayed A.

While Yemen's oil production drops slowly:**Gas investment opportunities await**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's natural gas reservoir is estimated at 16.34 trillion cubic feet, and its reservoir of liquefied gas at about 43 million metric tons, according to officials.

In an interview to the magazine Oil and Minerals, Najeeb al-Aouj mentioned that there were many opportunities for investment in the area of natural gas.

The deputy director-general of the Yemeni company for gas said opportunities lay in four areas:

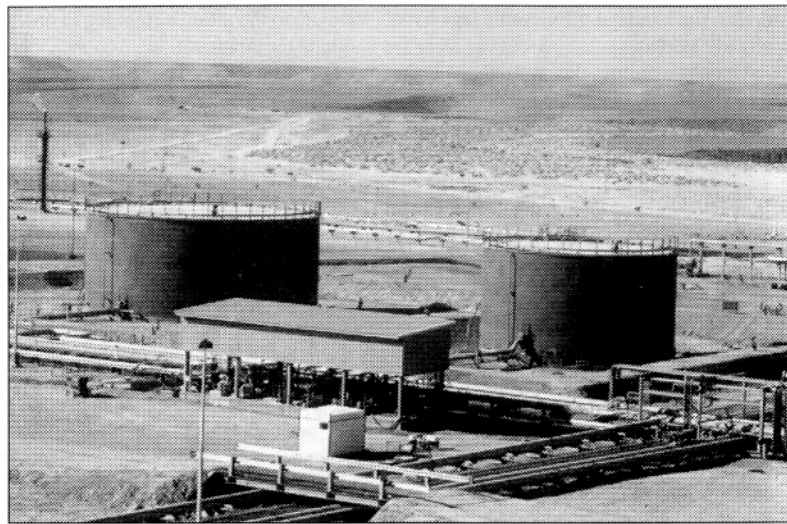
-exploitation of the natural gas locally as fuel for factories, means of transport and energy generation,

-investment of the natural gas as fuel for cooking and heating in some cities,

-investment of natural gas as raw material in petrochemical and fertilizers industries,

-development of infrastructure for the building of industries that depend on gas, by the establishment of natural gas network of pipelines throughout the country.

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals encourages investment in the petroleum, presently being produced at sector 18. Its daily productive capacity is 1,630 tons under the supervision of the



Yemeni company for gas.

Official figures state that the average local consumption of gas is increasing due higher demand because of the rise in population while the production of petroleum is decreasing year by year.

A study conducted by a New Zealand company expected that the increase in consumption during the years 2004 till 2022 would be around 4 per cent.

A quantity of gas has been provided for the project of natural gas estimated at about 10.20 trillion cubic feet. The project that is composed of a unit for

liquefaction is situated in Beljaf seaport on Aden Gulf with a production capacity of 3.1- 3.45 million metric tons per year.

The project is also designed to have two major operative units for each production line.

It has gas pipelines including the main pipeline from Mareb to Beljaf with a capacity of 150 million cubic feet per day and to the branch line from Mareb to Sana'a with the capacity of 100 million cubic feet per day.

The project's cost is estimated at \$2.2 billion.

10-year elapse of financing funds**Figures won't make Yemen an ever-green meadow!**

BY FAROUK MOQBIL  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Since 1990, a nationwide economic regeneration has resulted in emergence of 14 financing funds during these 10 years long.

The talk of the development of those funds can be resembled to the talk of the democracy with a closed narrow hole of sealed wax.

**Talk of disaster**

Loans estimated at billions of US dollars have been passed by the state to the Parliament.

"Those loans have increased the state's foreign indebtedness estimated at USD 4, 900,000,000 which constitutes a heavy burden for the coming generations," Ahmed Mohammed Qatabi, the Vice Chairman of the PGC told the Al-Ayyam on March 26, 2003.

"There are some influential figures at the state exploiting loans for their own interests," Ahmed Salem Bin Taleb, (Islah) said in a symposium organized by the al-Ayyam paper, (an independent daily newspaper).

Those imaginary amounts of loans have range from USD 1 million to 4 millions.

The two aforementioned people talked about corruption as if nothing had happened.

But, let us now suppose that Yemen's foreign indebtedness has totaled USD 4, 900,000,000. From, where all those debts have come from? It is a very difficult question which is need of immediate answer.

**Funds**

Since1995, the emergence of development funds have alternated together with huge financial budgets which enable them to generate nationwide human social and economical development.

Since that span of time, a number of financing funds are listed as follows:

- 1- Social Fund for Development
- 2- Fish & Agricultural Production Support Fund
- 3- Social Care Fund
- 4- Bridges & Roads Maintenance Fund
- 5- Youth & Young Care Fund
- 6- Armed Forces Retirement Fund
- 7- Interior Ministry Retirement Fund
- 8- Vocational Training Fund for Qualifying Workforce
- 9- Tourism Promotion Fund
- 10- Civil Service Fund
- 11- Qualifying Handicapped Care Fund
- 12- Medicine Fund

13- Funds for Cities Improvement  
The number of funds doesn't end here, there are also other funds for building maintenance and schools preparations, funds related to antique preservation and micro-start financing.

**Bitter reality**

What has been established so far by those funds? Such question haunts the minds of the majority of people.

We can say that most people are not familiar with what have been done by most of those funds. Their achievements are restricted only to outlay reports and nothing else. They are away from real ultimate goals that could really serve the community. They are above hankering after their own self-interests.

Some of those funds have achieved tremendous revenues, while others have lost the game.

About YR. 138,000,000 has been recorded as a loss on the part of the Tourism Promotion Fund.

While its revenues had been totaling only YR. 30,000,000.

Despite the State paying more attention to tourism, considering it as a permanent source and inexhaustible wealth, there are still some hindrances that block its progress.

Antique smuggling, abuse of manuscripts and random excavations of archeological sites have become a norm on the part of some citizens in most of governorates in the republic.

Those who are in charge of those funds blame such losses on global events such as the September 11 attacks in Washington DC which resulted in a negative impact on tourism in the world.

Yemen in general is endowed with rich archaeological sites. Look for example, in Lahj governorate, one can see a host of ancient palaces belong to Sultans which are need of repair and support.

The question which poses itself is "Where is the Tourism Promotion Fund?"

In Aden, there are a lot of ancient buildings which are exposed to dust, ignorance and abandonment.

The budget of Fish & Agricultural Production Support Fund has been estimated at YR.5 billion and a half. At the same time, projects that have been financed by the fund has been totaling YR. 32 million. Besides, the budget affiliated to the Bridges & Roads Maintenance Fund has been totaling YR. 4.693 billion and the number of projects financed have reached 76.248.000.

Look at our streets, a clear testimony to ignorance and on the brink of destruction.

**Crossing red lines**

Social Care Development is one of the most active funds.

Financial allocations for water economy during Phase I have reached USD 180 millions for three years.

The fund gets about USD 90 million for three years also. Its financial allocations have been doubled during the Phase II in order to reach USD 175 million.

During the upcoming years, Phase III is to start from 2004 to 2008 and at the cost of USD 400 million.

Taiz alone has undergone severe water crises and water depletion. It has become the talk of the town these days. About 6 artesian wells have been paralyzed between Taiz-Ibb areas.

Only USD 6 millions is added to the coming generation's balance.

A study has been recently conducted by a national cadre to solve the water problems, including that come from Saber Mountain which overlooks the city.

There is a possibility that the project will save the city from a water crisis till 2050.

At the same time, the project's cost don't exceed USD 4 million and have not been completed, because of the 'red lines' of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the largest world donors.

According to sources, the marginal thought of the project is about to suspend loans granted to preservation of the Taiz from floods.

With regard to the agricultural aspect, the overall support granted by the Fish & Agricultural Production Support Fund has been estimated YR. 570 million.

Such figures will not make Yemen an ever-green meadow. It will not make Yemen flow with water. Realities alone can speak than anything else.

No specific policy has been determined and the absence of an agricultural policy has resulted in just one product and absence of others.

**Women & funds**

Such funds have made positive strides in terms of expanding women's participation in economical fields as well as implementing basic infrastructural projects, water, electricity and roads. A number of essential services have been rendered and training programs for the poverty-stricken families have been held. All these has been detected through 655,155 cases sent to the Social Care Fund.

Are all these enough to fight poverty and getting rid of begging? Perhaps, what we see with our own eyes in the main cities is a clear testimony. The number of the poverty-stricken families is on the rise.

Exchange of expertise in oil and minerals fields**Ethiopian-Yemeni trade partnership boosted**

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A group of businessmen from Yemen, Ethiopia and Sudan is to meet in Sana'a in April to boost trade and investment relations.

During a recent visit to Sana'a by Ethiopian Minister of Mines, Yemen and Ethiopia agreed to consolidate cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of oil, gas and minerals as well as some industrial products.

The meeting that included Minister

of Oil and Minerals of Yemen, Rashid Barabah, and his Ethiopian counterpart, Mahmoud Dureir, discussed the possibility of the two countries benefiting from their expertise in oil and minerals, and helping Yemeni companies invest in Ethiopia, to in turn provide Yemen with technical expertise in the field of minerals.

Chairman of the General Union of Yemeni Commercial Chambers Mohammed Abdeh Saeed emphasized the Ethiopian idealistic investment climates and their geographical proximity to Yemen, pointing to the privileges of investment laws in both countries.

Commissioner of the Ethiopian investment commission said the depth of Yemeni-Ethiopian relations would help develop investment and trade relations of the two countries.

The Ethiopian commissioner said his country would offer Yemeni investors facilities and various and distinguished trading opportunities covering marketing, customs exemptions and cheap skilled labour.

The two parties agreed on taking common steps, and the two sides also stressed their keenness on developing trade relations and exchange of technical expertise in various areas.

**When inexperienced inefficient doctors carry out operations that lead to severe consequences:**

# Victims of medical errors demand justice

By YEMEN TIMES  
TAIZ BUREAU

**Y**emen's hospitals are indeed in a deplorable state these days. The peoples' lives have been underestimated by both the public and private hospitals and this has been accompanied by huge financial burdens and expenses paid by the vulnerable patient.

An usual phenomenon has become apparent in our day-to-day reality specifically here in Taiz and some medical doctors have turned themselves from 'angels' that are supposed to relieve patients from pain and agony to mere 'devil' who cause nothing but damage.

The reasons behind this can be attributed to the absence of the state's monitoring and executive role for some inhuman practices which have overstepped all bounds of logic.

It represents an ugly reality which has become an uncivilized conduct on the part of some of those who don't have any sense of human mission in their lives.

## A Recent victim

A middle-aged man at his prime life called Abdullateef Ahmed Mohammed Mansour was injured because of traffic incident that resulted in damage to his legs. He was then taken to one of the establishments calling itself a 'hospital'. His shanks were already broken when he arrived for treatment. He was received not as a patient, but as a new customer, whose money seemed to be the objective and only objective of the staff.

He was asked to pay unaffordable amounts of money before anything can proceed and before he could get any emergency treatment.

From a distance, a doctor is seen walk-



Severe consequences have resulted from medical mistakes committed by a doctor leading to a walking handicap for this patient. Photo by YT Taiz Bureau

ing towards him. He looked delighted to have received a new customer, who had no idea what was awaiting him at the operation room.

The injured victim was then taken to a closed operation room without even being informed about what will be done to him. He was laid on bed surrounded by

different kinds of tools that looked closer to those used for carpentry, smithery and sewing rather than medicine.

Oscillations on wavering screens can be seen. Medical oxygenating apparatus and masks have been fixed.

It was a few moments before the victim became unconscious. The doctor used the



Raad, is another victim whose toes were deformed and were lost due to medical mistakes committed by doctors in Taiz. Photo by YT Bureau

tools he had in hand to cut the skin deep to unveil the bones and start his so-called operation.

The yielding victim is not aware of what is going around him. A few minutes later, the operation was over.

The victim is then taken to another ward.

Little by little, the victim regains consciousness thinking that his life was saved. He felt so grateful to the doctor and believed in that what was carried out would indeed help him recover.

Days have passed and the time to detach the bandage off victim's legs have already started.

Upon unveiling the wounds, all the

dreams of returning to his fullest health fell apart. Weeks of suffering and pain were followed by more pain and misery as the unimaginable had happened. How this happened was still a mystery.

Medical report No. 215 (21/5/2003) was issued by the Taiz-based Al-Thowrah Hospital, identifying the grave mistake made in the operation done by the doctor working for that private hospitals. It was not one or two, but three medical operation mistakes were committed during the operation of the poor patient:

1- Wrong procedures resulted in shortening the right limb up to 8 cm as a result of the operation.

2- The movement of the right leg joint was much limited and there was no inability to bend the right knee.

3- The operation also resulted in a curved shape in the left knee.

This new victim was added to the encyclopedia of the medical miracles in Yemen. Operations performed were in most cases fatal or almost lead to death or permanent physical deformities.

This remains as an endless issue in our day-to-day reality as the concerned bodies have turned their backs to its poor people, unaware of their sufferings. Peoples' lives have been neglected in the absence of law and order.

Mr. Abdullateef is still demanding compensation and prosecution of the careless doctor who committed this crime. His calls always fell on deaf ears, and justice has never been served till date.

## Infant's toes lost

In another tragic story about medical errors, a newly born 7-year-old infant had all his toes cut off in a weird yet unbelievable medical error.

Raad's father come to the Yemen Times headquarter in Taiz along with his infant to explain their misery.

"Just one week after his birth, the infant had a fever and had to be taken to a private hospital. He was diagnosed as having the tetanus disease," Raad's father said.

There, doctors have decided to fix a cannula to the infant's right leg in order to administer treatment.

The infant's legs have remained cov-

ered during the whole period of receiving treatment. This resulted in having infant's legs atrophied

This was mentioned by legal medical experts who concluded that the infant's toes' loss was due to medical ignorance which resulted in the infant's toes' deformity.

The infant's father then lodged a complaint against the hospital and demanded compensation.

He appealed to the Health Ministry, which should have acted swiftly in punishing those responsible and launching preventive measures in other hospitals.

On its part, the hospital management said that the reason behind the loss of the infant's fingers was due to the umbilical cord while the legal medical report says that it was a result of medical ignorance.

## Role of the media

In presenting those cases to readers, authorities and persons concerned, we want to expose such wrong doings and help in pointing to the problem so as authorities would work on finding solutions.

The file of medical errors in Yemen is, whether in diagnosis, prescriptions, or operations is one of the most notorious files that need to be dealt with swiftly and strictly.

The health problems existing in Yemen and in many other developing countries is demonstrated in the governments' inability to appropriately monitor and control quality of service and qualifications of doctors and nurses. This is widely seen in both public and private sector hospitals.

Moreover, the expenses of training cadres are also very expensive. However, we believe that such countries can deal with all these problems if they had the will to do so.

Private hospitals are a good initiative that could be positively utilized if they are established within a framework of regulations and agreed upon conditions, particularly that relate to government monitoring and quality control.

The policy of reward and punishment is to be applied to both the owners of hospitals and to Health Ministry employees monitoring these hospitals.

Continued from page 1

## Yemen denounces Madrid bombings

The statement was allegedly signed by Brigades of Hafis Al-Masri and said that "the secrecy of death succeeded to sneak into the depth of the European crusaders and hit one of the pillars of the crusader alliance (Spain) painfully."

The statement was also in part directed to Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, by telling him that when Al-Qaeda "hit the Italian forces in Nasseria, we sent a warning to you and to agents of America to withdraw from the alliance against Islam, but you have not received the message, now we have put it straight and I hope you understand this time."

The statement went further, according to the Daily, to threaten

other countries it claims have cooperated with the US war on terror. The statement said that Yemen would be the "third qamgire for this era's Satan, the USA." And it threatened to hit US interests in the country, according to the paper.

The paper also unveiled that the alleged statement described the preparations for the so-called upcoming hit against the USA as 90% complete. "God willing, soon and at the appropriate time for the Mujahideen, all faithful Muslims will celebrate Allah's victory." The statement also purportedly warned Muslims not to get close to "civil and military establishments of crusade America and its allies."

## PSO's actions condemned

A big crowd of journalists including the Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) Mahboob Ali and its board, politicians, MPs and other human rights activists were there to show support for the journalist who works as a reporter for the London-based Quds Press agency.

The lawyers criticized the intelligence agency and prosecution and demanded that they should be held accountable for kidnapping and detaining a member of the YJS board.

Saeed Thabet was snatched by agents of the PSO on March 5th from the street when he was going home with his 3-year old child. He was detained at the PSO for two days and after the journalists carried out a sit-in at the PSO premises on Sunday, he was returned to the prosecution. The prosecution interrogated him and ordered he should be put in jail before he was taken to court the other day.

Advocate Abdulaziz al-Samawi said in his defense before the Sana'a Western Court that "the arrest and detention of Thabet by the PSO cannot be described as a reluctance of the state in performing its constitutional duty in ensuring freedom for the people but using it as a means for abusing this freedom." He demanded in the pleading signed by over 50 lawyers that "those people involved in kidnapping and arresting Thabet either from the PSO or the prosecution should be punished and the journalist should be acquitted."

Al-Samawi considered the refusal of the prosecution to release the journalist immediately on Sunday evening to be "a justice denial crime" which punishable either by sacking or a fine. The advocates showed surprise how the prosecution can depend on the report of the PSO in sending the journalist to court despite

the fact that he denied in that report that he sent the piece of news to his agency in London. Saeed said it was he who told his agency that the news of the assignation attempt was untrue. Quds Press even sent a letter supporting the journalist's claims. It even authorized advocate Mohammed Allow to file against the perpetrators of its reporter's arrest without any legal warrant. According to reliable sources, the agency intends to document the incident in a book both in Arabic and English; it would contain all the reports and statements written on it.

Muttasem, the 3-year old child of Thabet was brought before the court as a victim of the kidnapping, as he was with his father when he was arrested. The PSO officers refused to let Thabet take the child home, leaving him alone for one of Thabet's neighbors to care for. This show stimulated the anger of the audience at the court against the perpetrators. Yemen Times learnt that the child is suffering a sort of phobia to let his father leave the house alone and wants to accompany him all the time.

The advocates warned that if the perpetrators are not held accountable for this act, such behaviour would make the country a jungle. The prosecutors were dumbfounded and asked the court to delay the hearings until Tuesday, March 23 so as to be able to refute the pleading.

Reporters Without Borders urged the court judge last week that the charges against Thabet should be dropped, and stated that his arrest and detention for 72 hours was an unacceptable violation of press freedom. It also demanded that the prison terms of press offences should be abolished. Of course, the journalists intend to sign an appeal to President Saleh to take an action in this regard.

## Marketing Executives needed

A Yemeni establishment is in need for **marketing agents** (nationality not important) to work fulltime in doing the following:

- Visit potential clients to present services and offers
- Preparing databases for customers
- Preparing daily and periodic reports
- A reasonable remuneration will be given.

### Requirements:

- Ability to write and communicate in Arabic, and preferably in English too
- Excellent convincing skills
- University degree preferable but not a must
- Commitment to duty at all times
- Experience is not essential

Those who wish to apply can inquire about how to do so by contacting (73810416) as soon as possible.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَاللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ  
وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ  
يَتَقَدَّمُ الْأَسْتَاذُ / وُلَيْدُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ السَّقَافِ  
رئيس تحرير جريدة «يمن تايمز»  
وَالأَسْتَاذُ / خَلِيلُ غَالِبِ الْجَبَلِ  
رئيس مجلس إدارة «مجموعة الجبل»  
وَالأَسْتَاذُ / رِيْدَانُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ السَّقَافِ  
وفريق سمارة  
بخالص العزاء والمواساة  
لِلأَسْتَاذِ / مَصْطَفَى الْبَرْكَانِي  
بوفاة المغفور لها ياذن الله تعالى والدته  
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون .

Old City of Sada'a:

# Unique heritage needs to be preserved



BY KAMAL HAGLAN  
ARCHEOLOGY EXPERT

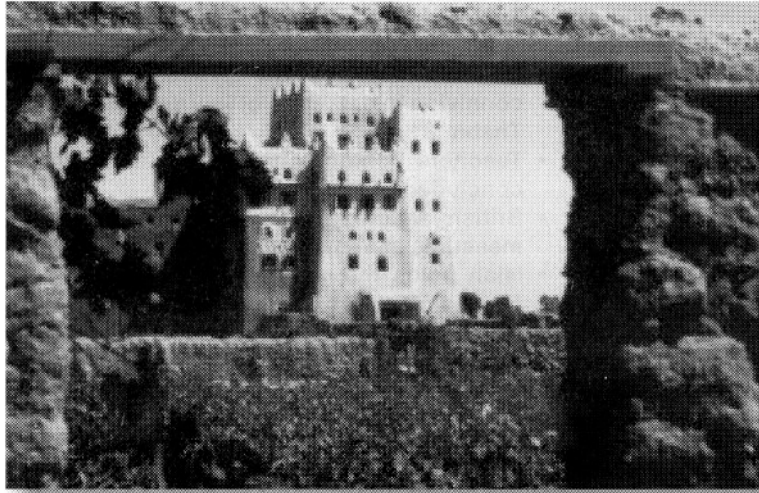
Yemen has a unique and distinguished cultural heritage, and the three Yemeni cities listed on the World Heritage List are the proof of the significance value and importance of this heritage and the need to preserve it not only for Yemen but for the entirety of humanity. It is worth mentioning that in addition to these three cities, many other cities in Yemen have historical value. In this paper I will try to present a brief summary of the importance and value of the city of Zabid, as well as the current situation and the efforts made for its preservation.

The city of Sada'a is one of the oldest and most important cities in Yemen, still maintaining a good condition to date compared with other historic cities in Yemen. It still preserves its unique architectural pattern and historic mud buildings and monuments. It still functions as a living city up to the needs and requirements of the city and the inhabitants in all its social, economic, cultural and residential fields.

The history of the city goes back to the third hijri century (Ninth century AD). It was planned by Immam Al-Haddi (Yahyah Bin Al-Hussein Bin Al-Qassem) and is 3 kilometers from the location of the ancient Sada'a at the top of Tamlass mountain with all its remains and ruins. Since the establishment of the city of Sada'a, it witnessed a lot of urban development giving it the characteristics of an Arab Islamic city with all its architectural and urban planning and main divisions represented in the form of markets, caravansaries, castles, old public bath, schools, mosques and the wall surrounding the city. Despite these developments, the city still maintained its Arab and Islamic authenticity. It also flourished as a city of science, religion, culture, trade, industry and agriculture along with its main role in the events of the Islamic era that went through a lot of clashes and wars in the Arab region and specifically in Yemen.

The city's importance lies in the fact that the city represents another symbol of the history of Yemen, and another chapter in its evolution and development. It is a living witness to Yemeni history thousands of years ago.

The city of Sada'a reflects the architectural skills and capacities lying there for thousands of years. The current urban fabric and planning, the markets, services, walls and the gates reflect its regional importance and the vital role in the economic, defensive, social and commercial aspects. It, at the same time, reflects the impact of Islamic regulations on the lives of the inhabitants and their deep commitment to these regulations and rules clearly noticed in the city pattern and the social relations existing till the very moment.



A visitor to Sada'a feels when entering the city that he has moved back in time. There are four to five story buildings very rich in architectural and ornamental characteristics, doors and windows can be found in the inside. Tourism, for many years, represented one of the most important development sides since the city was one of the most important stations for tourists and was a source of income. But tourism in Sada'a like any other city in the country was negatively affected in the last few years. Despite the great importance of the city, it was for so many years not paid attention and its preservation and conservation as a historic city against the negative impact enforced by development was not highlighted, and that was not systematically implemented on the city in all the living fields such as the political, social and economical sides. All the above mentioned negatively affected the city and its historical pattern and resulted in changes in the urban fabric of the city.

On of the most important factors leading to the above mentioned situation was economic and commercial development, because of the needs and requirements of commercial development that usually include the expansion of shops and markets. The impact of that development is very much present in the changes that took place in the market area that went through huge changes where many traditional commercial buildings in harmony with the general fabric of the city and the special fabric of the market area were demolished, replaced with new commercial buildings constructed with new building materials and different architectural designs. They are in no way in line with the city architectural design, since their forms and designs stress on their detachments and prove to causing deformities to the beauty of the city and the pleasure of shopping.

In addition to all mentioned above, the size of these new buildings kill the spirituality and privacy of the historic city. The commercial development has also resulted in a general increase in the number of cars inside the city, and specifically in the market area where traffic jams are caused all the time because heavy loaded vehicles enter the city causing deadly traffic jams, let alone that there are a lot of roaming

venders and shop owners who started using the spaces in front of their shops to sell their goods. This continuous circulation of vehicles into the city threatens the safety of many buildings due to daily vehicle circulation, in addition to pollution since most of the cars used diesel.

On the other hand, the social and population growth has also resulted in many changes in the building pattern of the city. Many new residential buildings were constructed using new building materials and different architectural patterns to that of the city, especially in the eastern area (Harat Al-Mam). In all the neighborhoods there are additional stories or rooms added onto historical buildings due to a natural need for expansion and more space, and most of these additions or expansions were randomly made with the use of violating materials despite the fact that there is a law prohibiting that. Several other buildings collapsed as a result of the negligence and lack of maintenance, while many other buildings are in bad constructional conditions, walls wrecked due to water leakage and the absence of sewerage systems. This resulted in the deterioration of the living and environmental conditions especially on rainy days when the streets and alleys turn into mud causing diseases. The historical monuments are in no better condition, and many of them are in bad and deteriorating conditions for a very long time such as the (Qaslah, the only caravansary, the wall and several mosques).

Lately attention was drawn to the importance of taking care of this city and its cultural and historical heritage, and the importance of preserving it and its monuments. This attention was the result of the increased awareness of official and public concerned parties regarding the importance of the preservation of historic cities in Yemen in general, including the city of Sada'a. It also reflects the general attention and tendency to preserve our human heritage, culture and unique civilization.

A number of practical steps were taken in this direction, such as the restoration of Bab Al-Yemen and some mosques. The first phase of the restoration of the city wall and the rehabilitation of a number of Migshamas is under implementation funded by the SFD. It is also worth men-

tioning that preparation is made for a strategic action plan for the preservation of Sada'a city as well as a development plan for the district of Sada'a, implemented by the UCHS&MP funded by the Government of the Netherlands, in collaboration with the MoCT & GOPHCY and in Coordination with the Leadership of Sada'a Governorate and the Local Council of the City of Sada'a.

These plans aim at recording the current condition of the city and all its buildings, and then set an overall vision and integrated strategy on how to preserve the city and its monuments. It also works on setting the implementation mechanisms for restoration, maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

Despite these positive indications, there is a need for more efforts and the provision of required materials for the sustainability of the city preservation and stop any new constructions or additions violating the city pattern. It is of prime importance to present regulations for restoration and maintenance activities, especially in the mosques and historical monuments, through coordinating with other concerned authorities to avoid causing any damage or harm to the sculptures, arts and Islamic ornaments and also to avoid randomness in restoration that might result in the demolition of these arts.

Strict procedures should be taken against anyone who breaks the law, and currently all required procedures to control and limit the damage should be taken, trying to maintain the present situation as it is, since carelessness in this side will only harm the city. It might be useful to point out the importance of collaboration and joint efforts by all concerned parties (official, public, or NGO's), even at the personal level. All is working for the same cause, aiming at the same objective, and that is the preservation of the city and its urban heritage belonging to all. At the top of this come the inhabitants of Sada'a themselves.

## Conclusion of course for Journalists on Human Rights

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The training course for 22 journalists on human rights concluded on Saturday 13 March, 2004 at Sana'a International Hotel. It was organized by HRITC as part of its program on the role of information, especially the visible media, in spreading human rights principles, in cooperation with Information Rehabilitation and Training Center and

readers.

The course aimed at enhancing the abilities of the information sector in the production of documentary movies related to human rights and the vital role the media could play in spreading and strengthening the human rights culture. In spite of the course's short duration, some felt results covering some concerns related to human rights were produced.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Humady, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of



View from the panel

the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The course, the first specialized in how to direct short TV movies and how to utilize them in spreading awareness of human rights principles, lasted two weeks and consisted of lectures on human rights principles, how to write scripts, to direct and to select the contents of TV movies. The participants were given a practical opportunity for TV directing, selecting the appropriate scenes and montage. The participants, representatives of various local, official and private media organizations, news agencies and satellite TV correspondents prepared scripts dealing with real life situations and cases related to human rights and played them out. Another team of participants worked on the role of newspapers in human rights issues and how to present principles of human rights and democracy to the

Information for the television and radio sectors, praised the efforts exerted in the documentary movies, which were developed irrespective of the recent experience of the participants in this field. He confirmed that such works enhance the complementary relations between the work of the Ministry and Yemeni Government and the information authorities, in one hand, and the active organizations in the field of human rights.

During the closing ceremony, seven short movies were selected for reproduction, with titles: "Broken Dream"; "The Sin"; "Broken Melody"; "Freedom"; "Unemployment"; "Tires' Children" and "Life in the Margin".

The participants express their gratitude for the experience and valuable expertise, which will enhance their informative duties in general and in human rights in particular.

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### 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

الخميس الموافق 18 مارس 2004، وعلى المشاركين عبر البريد

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لمزيد من الاستفسار، يمكنكم الاتصال بالصحيفة على

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# برعاية وزير التعليم العالي

## جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا تعقد مؤتمرا علميا حول استخدام التكنولوجيا في التعليم

### د. راوح وزير التعليم العالي يشيد بدور جامعة العلوم في هذا المجال.. ويشدد على ضرورة تنفيذ توصيات المؤتمر



مثل هذه الفعاليات العلمية الهامة، داعين جميع الباحثين ومؤسسات البحث العلمي إلى الإسهام بأبحاثهم العلمية في مجال استخدام التكنولوجيا وسوائل الإعلام ومؤسسات المجتمع المدني إلى تبني برامج نوعية وتثقيفية باهمية تكنولوجيا المعلومات وإخالها ضمن مقررات ومناهج المؤسسات التعليمية. كما أوصى المشاركون مختلف المؤسسات التعليمية بتبني برامج مشتركة في مجال استخدام التكنولوجيا في التعليم وتبادل الخبرات فيما بينهم والاستفادة من خبرات الدول المتقدمة في هذا المجال. كما أوصى المشاركون في المؤتمر الجهات المعنية بتشجيع المؤسسات التعليمية المختلفة على استخدام التكنولوجيا في المراحل الأساسية في التعليم، وتدريب المدرسين على استخدام التكنولوجيا في التعليم داعين الجهات المعنية في الحكومة لتشجيع القطاع الخاص للاستثمار في مجال تكنولوجيا التعليم والمساهمة في توفير متطلباته. ووجه المشاركون دعوة إلى الجهات المانحة بدعم كافة البرامج التي تخدم هذا المجال.

3-1 مارس شارك فيه عدد من رؤساء الجامعات وممثلي السفارات العربية والأجنبية والمنظمات الدولية وموجهي ومدراء المدارس الثانوية العامة وعدد من المهتمين والمختصين بتكنولوجيا التعليم.

بصنعاء قد حضر افتتاح المؤتمر والتي كلمة اشاد فيها بجهود جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا وانجازاتها في مجال تكنولوجيا التعليم مشيرا إلى أوجه الدعم التي تقدمها الحكومة الأمريكية لبلادنا في هذا الجانب. في ختام المؤتمر خرج المشاركون بعدد من التوصيات اشادوا فيها بالجهود المبذولة من قبل الحكومة اليمنية ممثلة بوزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات، كما اشاد



المشاركون بدور جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات واقامتها

برعاية وزير التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي نظمت جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا الأسبوع الماضي المؤتمر العلمي الأول حول استخدام التكنولوجيا في التعليم والذي استمرت جلساته لمدة ثلاثة أيام من الفترة

ماليزيا في هذا المجال. وأضاف : حيث صارت ماليزيا رابع دولة في العالم في صناعة الالكترونيات وهي تجربة من دولة إسلامية تقدرها وتعزّز بها وتعمل حاليا على إرسال بعثات إلى ماليزيا للاستفادة من تجربتهم. كما ألقى الدكتور طارق سنان أبو لحوم رئيس مجلس أمناء الجامعة كلمة في حفل اختتام المؤتمر اثنى فيها على الدعم المقدم من وزارة التعليم والبحث العلمي ووزارة التربية والتعليم مضيفا: "وقد لسنا التشجيع المستمر والدعم المتواصل من الأخ د. عبدالوهاب راوح وزير التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي للجامعات ولأي مبادرة لتطوير التعليم وتقديم المعرفة".

معتبرا الدولة هي الشريك الأول، بينما تعتبر مؤسسات التعليم والبحث العلمي هي الشريك الثاني مبرحا عن امه أن تقوم بدورها في تطوير التعليم والبحث العلمي. وقدم د. طارق الدعوة للجامعات

وقدمت في المؤتمر عدد من أوراق العمل التي ركزت على استخدام التكنولوجيا في التعليم ونظم إدارة المعلومات بالإضافة إلى واقع استخدام التكنولوجيا في الدول المتقدمة وواقع التكنولوجيا في الدول النامية وتجربة جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا اليمنية والجامعات الماليزية في هذا المجال.

وفي ختام المؤتمر ألقى الدكتور عبدالوهاب راوح وزير التعليم العالي كلمة اشاد فيها بالدور الذي قطعتة جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا في هذا المضمار مشمنا دورها في إرساء التقاليد الأكاديمية وأضاف قائلا: " (حيث تأتي جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا مواكبة لهذه التطورات في سوق التكنولوجيا بما يجعلنا على اطلاع بهذه التطورات ( مشيرا) الى ان التكنولوجيا نافعة وسهلة للتعامل مع المعرفة (مضيفا) فالمعرفة أصبحت حقلا استثماريا بحد ذاتها، ويعرف

بمجال اقتصاد المعرفة والجامعة التي تحتتم اليوم مؤتمرها رغم حداثة عهدها إلا أنني أشير بعينها إلى أنها استطاعت أن تلقت أقدانها وصارت موضع تقدير الحكومة. مؤكدا على أهمية وجود آلية فعلية لتنفيذ التوصيات التي خرج بها المؤتمر كما رجب في كلمته بالوفد الماليزي الذي حضر المؤتمر وجاء بخلاصة المشاور الذي قطعته



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## Debates may be a factor to becoming future President of the United States: Kerry-Bush debates expected soon

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, visiting the site of one of the most famous political debates in U.S. history, planned to challenge President Bush on Saturday to a "real discussion about America's future" in a monthly series of debates.

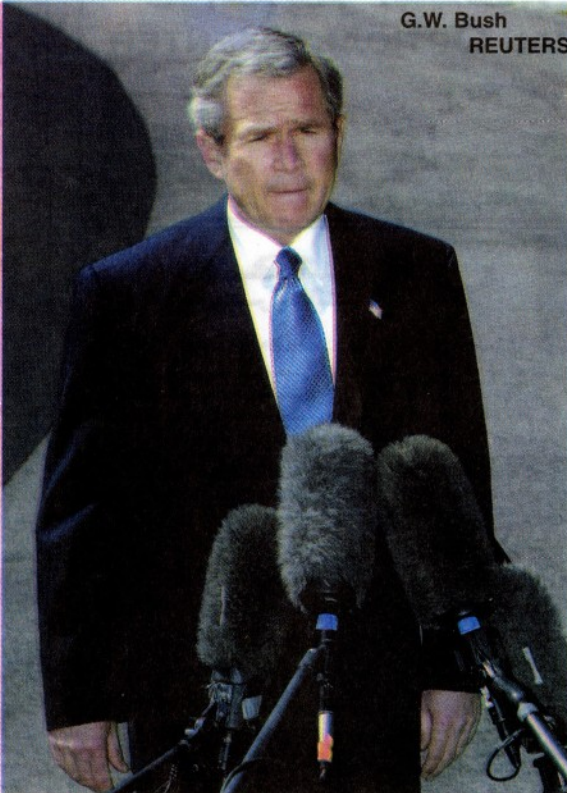
vating crucial issues like slavery and states' rights to the front of the U.S. political agenda.  
 "Surely, if the attack ads can start now at least we can agree to start a real discussion about America's future," Kerry said in remarks prepared for delivery in Quincy, Illinois, later on Saturday.

health care.  
 "2004 can't be just another year of politics as usual," Kerry said in the text. "The challenges we face are just too grave and too great."  
 "We confront big issues — as big as any in our history — and they call for a

real issues and treats voters with respect," Kerry said.  
 After the Quincy rally, Kerry planned to travel to Pennsylvania and Ohio on Sunday as he continues



Kerry calling Bush to monthly debates. REUTERS



G.W. Bush REUTERS

Kerry, already engaged in a running exchange of negative ads with Bush eight months before the November election, planned to deliver the challenge at the site of the historic Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas debates in Quincy, Illinois.  
 That series of 1858 senatorial debates between Douglas and Lincoln, who lost the Senate election but won the presidency two years later, is legendary in U.S. political history for

Bush and Kerry have exchanged negative ads in the past few days, with Bush criticizing Kerry by name for planning to raise taxes and threatening to weaken U.S. security and Kerry firing back at his "misleading" accusations.  
 Kerry challenged the Republican president to monthly debates on the "great issues" of the day, including the war on terrorism, the loss of U.S. jobs and the plight of Americans without

new and historic commitment to a real and informed exchange of ideas."  
 Quincy was the site of the sixth of seven Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, with 20,000 people - double the town's population — gathering to hear the two men, who shared a river steamer to their next debate.  
 "Maybe George Bush and I won't travel on the same boat or the same airplane, but we can give this country a campaign that genuinely addresses our

appearances in states with upcoming primaries, even though he has clinched the Democratic nomination.  
 After a brief vacation next week, Kerry will embark on a 20-city fund-raising tour at the end of the month to try to close the cash gap on Bush, who had \$100 million more on hand at the end of January. Kerry has raised more than \$10 million on the Internet since he effectively clinched the nomination on March 2.



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