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Sa'adah scholars plead: Enough bloodshed!

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of prominent scholars in Sa'adah governorate released a statement last week in which they pleaded with President Saleh to prevent more bloodshed by stopping military forces in Sa'adah from attacking Shi'ite cleric Hussein al-Hothi and his followers. They also demanded action to lift the siege of citizens of the area and help the area recover from the devastating impact that resulted from the use of military power to crush the hideouts of the cleric.

"After extensive discussions, consultations, and after realizing the horrendous conditions that resulted from the ongoing confrontations in Sa'adah, we, the scholars and clerics who signed this statement, have come to conclude that all this bloodshed, destruction of homes, and assaults on people are truly regrettable and fill us with sorrow."

The clerics also denied earlier reports published in the local media



...that they agreed on the use of force against al-Hothi. "We have found that the first and sole reason for sending this military might to Sa'adah is the call for hostility to the USA and Israel, and all the military assaults talking place in those areas have never been approved or legitimized by us," the said.

"President Ali Abdullah Saleh must stop the military assault and lift the siege... We call upon all members of

our nation to unify their words and stance so as not to be a prey to its enemies who had declared a crusade against us," the statement concluded.

Al-Hothi aide killed
 Meanwhile, official sources confirmed that Yemeni forces killed the deputy leader of an anti-U.S. rebel group on Tuesday after talks to persuade them to surrender failed.

Zaid bin Ali al-Hothi was deputy commander of "The Believing Youth", whose leader Hussein al-Hothi and supporters have clashed with police in a mountainous area in northern Yemen since last week.

At least 51 supporters of Shi'ite cleric Hussein al-Hothi have been killed by government troops besieging them in Sa'adah province since June 20. More than 50 have been arrested.

The number of casualties however varied according to source as al-Hothi sources put the death toll from the clashes at about 200. Security sources say seven policemen have also died and five have been wounded.



Military tanks in attack positions in Sa'adah.

Meanwhile, a prominent and leading member of the Zaidi sect said that there are certain elements within the country eager to cause unrest and clashes between the different religious factions in the country. The figure, who asked to remain anonymous, accused the government of attempting to sabotage any negotiations. "I believe the situation could worsen and spread to other parts of the country if the government insists on using the strategy of excessive force against a respected figure such as al-Hothi," he said.

Continued on page 2

After denouncing the Sa'ada campaign and calling it unjust: Sana'a mosque preachers arrested

Yemen Times Staff

Reliable sources told Yemen Times that the government has launched a campaign to arrest any sermon preachers who speak out against Israel or the American occupation of Iraq, or for speaking out against the government in general.

Arrest in Rawdha

The people of Rawdha, a suburb of Sana'a 5 km to the north and midway to the airport were surprised to learn that the Friday sermon preacher at the Grand Mosque in Rawdha has been arrested for speaking out against the large military campaign against Hussein Badr Al-Din al-Hothi. Mohammed Miftah, a vocal advocate of human rights and anti-corruption issues, as well as a strong campaigner for genuine Muslim causes, was said to have given a strong sermon denouncing the use of heavy force to apprehend al-Hothi and his followers in Sa'adah, in which many civilians have been killed needlessly.

The speaker was urging the government not to be deceived by those who exaggerate the claims against al-Hothi and his followers. He said that the real reason for the campaign against al-Hothi and his followers is that they were vocal in their outrage at what is happening to their brethren in Palestine and Iraq. The people of Rawdha contend that Mr. Miftah was also strongly opposed to terrorism and is not in any way affiliated with any organization that has any violent inclinations.

The Grand Mosque in Rawdha has been the platform from which Mr. Miftah has been delivering his sermons for almost ten years and the 400 year old mosque is always packed on Fridays (capacity about 4000), because of the popularity of Mr. Miftah's sermons.

Mr. Miftah has never called for any violence against the government and has always preached restraint and non-violent means of protest, and has secured the approval of the government for any protest marches he has participated in. The people of Rawdha

and the many people from outside of Rawdha who come to hear him speak urge the Government to release Mr. Miftah, since he is a strong critic of those movements that advocate terrorism and misconceptions of Islam.

They are worried also that the public will interpret the arrest of Mr. Miftah as bowing to American pressure to arrest all those who speak against Israel and the United States and fear that the arrest of Mr. Miftah is a warning to all preachers who speak out against the United States or Israel. They are also surprised that the government has done very little against preachers who are known for their extremist renditions of Islam and who were very active in supporting and preaching their dogmatic inclinations and the call for violent jihad.

Ishaq Mosque preacher in custody

At least one further arrest of a well-respected religious preacher and scholar took place last week. The sermon preacher of Ishaq Mosque, Abdullah Mohammed Qati' was the second to be arrested for similar reasons. Locals in the neighborhood of the mosque said that they were outraged and surprised at the arrest which for them signals an infringement of human rights and a violation of public freedoms.

Arrests not helpful

People are also worried that such arrests signal a retraction in the government's approach towards democratic rule and are aimed to clamp down on any outspoken speakers calling for government reforms and policies that coincide with the nationalist and religious sympathies of the people.

In fact, many people see the arrest of Mr. Miftah and Mr. Qati' as proof that their initial guess was right and that it is possible that the real cause for the campaign against al-Hothi and his followers is their vocal anti-American and anti-Israeli attitude.

They argue that there is no unusual theme followed by Miftah and Qati' in their interpretations of Islamic dogma as they were well known for their adherence to moderate teachings of Islam.

An initiative to create bridges of understanding and solve global problems such as terrorism: Reform comes from within

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In an initiative to support dialogue among world nations and with the objective of developing peaceful methods in solving global problems such as terrorism, injustice, conflicts, etc., Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani inaugurated the first session of the Cultural Brides Forum activities on Sunday 27 June in Sanaa with a session on reform. In the



A view of the panel including -from left to right- Dr. Raufa Hassan, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani and Jamal Al-Awadhi

roundtable discussion held at the Taj Sheba Hotel, tens of prominent personalities representing Yemen and various countries of the region and the world attended to endorse the idea of dialogue and to seek solutions together.

The session entitled "Reform between international initiatives and national objectives" was considered by participants an opportunity to exchange ideas between Yemeni intellectuals and senior representatives of the participant countries about the right ways for reform. As a conclusion, all participants agreed that reform should come from within and not be imposed from outside.

Among those attending and participating in the discussion were the ambassadors of Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and other countries along with representatives of the World

Bank, the European Union, and the Yemeni parliament, plus several intellectuals.

"This is an attempt to express our desire to reach out to the rest of the world to say we want dialogue and we need to share ideas and respect each other to live in a world of tolerance and understanding," Dr. al-Iryani said.

At the end of the event, the General Secretary of the forum, Mr. Jamal Al-Awadhi told Yemen Times that the event received overwhelming attention, especially by representatives of the diplomatic community who expressed desire to participate in other activities related to the topic of discussion. "We have come to conclude that each of the main topics of the first session could indeed have its own roundtable discussion. We are eager to hold similar activities in the near future to promote the ideas of tolerance, dialogue and understanding," he said.

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In Brief

Study on the needs
of the handicapped

The Arab Human Rights Corporation, in cooperation with the World Bank, held on Wednesday a celebration to mark the launch of its first study regarding the needs and demands of the handicapped and the extent of coverage of these needs and demands by the related authorities.

The celebration was held at Sana'a International Hotel and was attended by a number of officials at related authorities.

Choco Nuts ... latest chocolate
bar manufactured

TAIZ BUREAU

The promotional department at Hayel Sayed Group, in press release no. 22/2004, dated 21 June, announced the introduction of a new chocolate bar under the brand name "Choco Nuts" by the subsidiary Filling and Variety Industries Company, specialized in the manufacturing of chocolate products.

The new candy bar comes in a box of 8 pieces, 8 boxes per carton. Mr. Mohamed Al-Basha, the Marketing Director, asserted that the introduction of the bar would strengthen the "Made in Yemen" slogan as an indication of high quality products.

Father kills son

TAIZ BUREAU

Osafira neighborhood in Taiz City witnessed on Thursday June 24 the tragic death of Mr. Farhan. During a family feud, his father shot him in the head with a pistol, killing Mr. Farhan instantly.

The security forces have begun interrogating the father to determine the circumstances and true motives behind the incident.

It is worth mentioning that similar intra-familial killings have been taking place in recent times.

German embassy
bids farewell to
two of its active
diplomats

In a reception held on Sunday June 27, the German embassy bid farewell to two of its active and dedicated diplomats. Deputy Head of Mission Mrs. Gudrun Ispording along with Cultural and Press Attaché Dr. Tobias Tunkel were greeted after successfully completing their term at the German embassy in Sana'a. In the farewell dinner, several Yemeni figures along with German colleagues and other diplomats were also present to say goodbye.

A US-funded regional museum in Marib

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A memorandum of understanding was signed at the Social Fund for Development on June 27 between the US and Yemeni governments to construct the Yemeni Civilization Museum in Marib at a total cost of approximately US \$3 million. The agreement comes within the framework of cooperation and the development assistance provided by the US government to the Republic of Yemen.

The US government will cover the cost of the construction and equipment of the museum and support the training and capacity building required. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism will provide capabilities, manpower and the running costs and the Social Fund for Development will be responsible for the follow-up, design and implementation of the project. The museum will help preserve the thousands of artifacts that now lay scattered at makeshift warehouses in Marib.

The US Ambassador in a statement

following the signing of the memorandum said that this project would play a vital role in explaining Yemeni civilization not only to Yemeni citizens but also to tourists and visitors to Yemen. It will also assist in the promotion of tourism in Yemen and in creating new job opportunities for local citizens in Marib governorate. The project constitutes an example of cultural partnership between the peoples of Yemen and America. He cited that this support came as part of the US support to remote governorates such as Sadaah, Marib and Al-Jouf. He also announced that the medical equipment for "The President" Hospital, funded by the US Government, would arrive soon.

The deputy governor of Marib, Sheikh Mohamed Al-Fatemy expressed astonishment at naming the agreement as a memorandum of understanding, since the designs of the project were already prepared and established at a cost to the governorate of nearly 2 million Yemeni Riyals.

The minister of social affairs and labor, on his part, valued the efforts



During the signing ceremony

being exerted by the US government to support Yemen. He confirmed that the Social Fund would do what it could to accomplish the project.

The memorandum was signed by the US ambassador in Sana'a Edmund J.

Hull, the minister of social affairs and labor, the executive director of the Social Fund for Development Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, the director of Yemeni antiquities Dr. Yousef Abdullah and the deputy governor of Marib.

Cultural corner for
students at Faculty of Law

The Arab Sisters' Forum on Human Rights in cooperation with UNDP and United Nations Human Rights Commission - Geneva, has organized a project to provide a cultural corner for students at the Faculty of Law, concerned with human rights issues. The project consists of three activities as follows:

1- Training 27 students on the use of computers and various programs, the use of the internet and electronic mail and to connect them with local, Arab and internal addresses concerned with human rights issues.

2- Presenting internet services free of charge at the forum for three days a week for some selected students.

3- Organizing regular training sessions on the definitions and understandings of local, regional and international monitoring mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

The training session targets some senior students from the Faculty of Law and recent graduated students.

It is worth mentioning that the forum will participate in the UN conference in Beirut during the period 8-10 of July under the slogan "Ten Years since the Beijing Conference" (The Fourth International Women's Conference). The conference aims to evaluate the accomplishments of the past 10 years.

Lawyers' Syndicate demands
probe into arrest case

The Lawyers' Syndicate in a statement issued on Monday June 28 indicated that it had received a complaint on Sunday June 27 that Attorney Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Qubati was unlawfully detained at "Al-Hasaba" police station. When the syndicate appointed a number of colleagues to head to the station, it was very clear that the chief of the station detained the lawyer because the latter was defend-

ing one of his clients in a civil case. Moreover, the police chief had insulted the lawyer and defiantly expressed his refusal to recognize lawyers or their syndicate.

The syndicate's branch in Sana'a condemns such practices and the attitude of the police chief who should represent the Ministry of the Interior and the judicial authority that are bound to the constitution and law. This should be considered a notice to the Minister of Interior. The syndicate also demanded that measures ought to be taken against the police chief.

It is expected the branch would call for a broad meeting of lawyers to discuss and study the next steps in the light of the outcomes of the investigation. The syndicate's branch is considered in session until due respect is expressed for the colleague.

Journalists Syndicate denounces assailment

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate on Tuesday denounced the impudent assailment and threat of death addressed Monday on phone by an unknown person to the Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, the Deputy Chairman of Arab Journalists Federation Mahboob Ali.

The YJS denunciation came in a letter addressed to the minister of interior Dr Rashad al-Aleemi, the prime minister and some ministers and Arab and foreign organisations specialised in rights and freedoms. The message demanded conducting due investigations to identify the source of threat and attack and to face the legal punishment.

The message mentioned that the incident took place after the YJS chairman meeting at the Syndicat's headquarters with the emissary of the American State Department for Democracy and Human

Rights Affairs Ms Lisa Caplan on Monday 28 June 2004 and following his statements to Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya satellite channels after storming the latter's office in Sana'a.

Farewell party for
the British ambassador

Yemeni British Friendship Association held on Sunday June 27 a farewell party to bid farewell to the British Ambassador Francis Guy. A large number of diplomats accredited to Yemen and a number of businessmen and media people were invited to the party.

The British ambassador expressed

her joy to have served in Yemen, which she considered a very important period of her life, and stated that she really enjoyed working with the diplomats in Yemen. She also valued the efforts of the association in developing and strengthening friendship between Yemen and the United Kingdom.

Problem of intermediaries in Japanese
trade with Yemen discussion ring

Saturday, July 3- The Independent weekly newspaper will organize a discussion ring to discuss the problem of intermediaries in Japanese trade with Yemen. Yemen represents a market of products from more than 150 countries while Japan does not have a clear assessment to the situation of the Yemeni market.

The ring aims to determine the feasibility of sales of Japanese products to Yemen directly without having to use intermediaries, usually based in the Gulf states.

The Japanese ambassador in Sana'a, the Undersecretary of Customs and Excise and representatives of the Public Investment Authority and a number of agents of Japanese products will participate in the discussion ring.

Members of Hizb ut Tahrir arrested

Yemen Times Staff

A press release coming from Hizbu ut Tahrir, a peaceful unregistered political party aiming at re-establishing the caliphate in the Muslim world, said that some of its members in Yemen have been arrested.

According to the release, five of the organization's members were arrested in Sana'a, Mukalla, Ibb, and Amran. The statement affirms that the members were arrested by the Political Security Office (PSO), an investigative unit directly linked to the President. It also claims that the PSO had ensured the secrecy of the arrests, which were supposedly carried out to prevent the party from continuing its efforts in campaigning against the proposed sales tax law that is planned to be

issued this year.

The statement called upon the press, the parliament, and citizens of the country to not stay silent while plans to 'spread fear and hunger' are on the horizon.

The organization has been somewhat active lately in distributing press releases opposing the sales tax law to the press and various establishments in the country. The party had received some official recognition when they organized a meeting in Sana'a attended by some prominent figures including Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar. However, they have been subject to several arrests and interrogations throughout the years in Yemen and other Arab countries.

Continued from page 1

"I believe this is only an attempt to divert the public's attention from other more important issues such as reforms, the inheritance of power, etc." he stressed.

"Firm & swift" action

The Yemeni cabinet in its weekly meeting on Tuesday stressed the need for a "firm and swift" crackdown on the group. "These acts of strife are acts of war and terrorism," the cabinet said in a statement carried on Saba.

Yemeni authorities believe al-Hothi, a leader of the Zaidi Shi'ite sect, also heads the rebel group which has staged violent

protests against the United States and Israel.

The government has accused al-Hothi of setting up and training militia in secrecy and attacking mosques and preachers in Saada, 240 km (150 miles) north of the capital, Sana'a.

Anti-U.S. sentiment is high in the region over the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some clerics in Yemen preach hatred of America and the West.

Yemen is also fighting to root out militants linked Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda group. Al-Hothi has not been accused of links to al-Qaeda.

Results of the 2003 Demand Labor Force Survey

By MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of Prime Minister, Mr. Ba Jamal, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor celebrated on Wednesday, June 23 the announcement of the results of the 2003 Demand Labor Force Survey, conducted by the Ministry, in cooperation with the Central Statistics Apparatus, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Regional Office of the International Labor Organization in Beirut, after a period of 7 months of field work.

During the celebration, the Prime Minister pointed out that the gap between the supply of and demand for

labor was attributed to mismatch between skills demanded and supplied. This problem has social, economic and psychological dimensions and it is connected with the awareness level of general public of the definition and value of labor. He described the value of labor in our mentality remains at a low level, and subsequently affects the type of specialty needed for the labor market.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, on his part, said, "The increase in the number of workers demanded each year is 42,277, whereas the average annual increase in the labor supply is estimated at 180,000 workers".

The minister, at the conclusion of his

speech, highlighted a number of solutions and suggested proposals to develop and to align demand and supply in the labor market. He emphasized the need to increase training opportunities for bearers of qualifications, and skillful technicians and specialized workers to supply the labor market. He also confirmed the importance of swift responses from training centers to the demands of the market place in order to create and to sustain a balance between the skills demanded and supplied.

Mr. James Rawley, the UNDP Resident Representative said, "As Yemen seeks to increase its annual economic growth over and above the population growth, to create jobs in a sustainable manner and to alleviate pover-

ty, it is critical that an accurate picture of the labor force be painted. This is why this survey, and the results it has produced, are so important".

"Indeed, the Labor Force Demand Survey results suggest that the Government of Yemen and Yemeni society at large need to pay particular attention toward job creation and employment generation, not least because nearly 50 percent of the Yemeni population is under the age of 15, implying that large numbers of new jobs will have to be created in the near future and that action needs to be taken now", said Mr. Rawley.

A number of ministers and state related officials also attended the celebration.

UK & UNDP co-fund Yemen's
2nd household budget survey

An agreement was signed on 28 June 2004 between Yemen, the United Kingdom and the UNDP to open a programme to support the Central Statistical Organization to conduct the second Household Budget Survey. The survey is scheduled to start in January 2003 and will be funded by a US \$ 1.1 million contribution from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and a US \$ 350,000 contribution from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Household Budget Survey is the second component of the UNDP - funded programme to support the Government of Yemen in its efforts to monitor and follow-up on the Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives.

"The survey will provide vital assis-

tance to the government's efforts to develop an effective system to monitor the impact of the Millennium Development Goals-based Poverty Reduction Strategy and to further improve the capacity of existing structures and mechanisms to achieve a more relevant project", said H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) at the signing ceremony.

The Household Budget Survey will provide economic, social and demographic data to meet users' needs and assist in policy formulation, follow-up and evaluation. The objectives of the survey, inter alia, include: providing up-to-date information on family income and expenditure, analyzing any existing discrepancies, assessing

poverty trends at the governorate level, and presenting demographic information related to the educational, social and environmental status of the population to enhance understanding of their living conditions. Other objectives include gathering information on services available to local communities, and providing a digital picture of family consumption patterns and discrepancies therein.

Moreover, the survey is meant to update necessary databases related to the prices of basic consumption items, the labor force and child labor trends, as well as the family food basket, all of which will strengthen the poverty information system and its contribution to sound and accurate national statistical projections and assessments.

The total estimated cost for the

Household Budget Survey is US \$ 2.4 million, of which Britain will contribute US \$ 1.1 million and UNDP US \$ 350,000. The World Bank has also committed US \$ 281,000 and the remaining amount of US \$ 669,000 represents a Government of Yemen contribution. The agreement was signed by H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E. Ms. Frances Guy, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Yemen, and Mr. James W. Rawley, UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Dominic O'Neill, DFID Country Representative, as well as a group of senior government and UNDP officials.

Seminar on safe usage of mobile phones



Some of the audience attending the seminar (Photo by Yasser Al-Mayassi)

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Abdulsallam Al-Dally, President of the Addali Center for Development, in his speech at the conclusion of the seminar on mobile phones organized by the centre at Technology City in Sana'a on June 23, highlighted the potential dangers of mobile phone usage.

Mr. Al-Dally said that the high average time spent on a single call was 15 minutes and 66% of those included in the survey did not talk for more than an hour a day. Only 4% of them exceeded 3 hours of conversation time on mobile phones. The survey showed that 25% of taxi drivers with mobiles encountered hazards while talking on mobile phones, such as being obliged to make an emergency stop, a light collision, passing red lights or driving of the road.

Mr. Al-Dally said that in the survey conducted by the center many of the negative social, cultural and health effects associated with the use of mobile phones were due to lack of knowledge of the safe use of mobile phones, which led the center to conduct this survey to examine the behavior of mobile users and to highlight the safe practices for the use of mobile phones.

Dr. Talah Haider, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a University, chaired the session on the radiation and medical aspects of mobile phones. Dr. Saad Al-Khair, Director of Labs at the National Atomic Energy Centre pointed out in his working paper that low energy and long wave radiation, similar to mobile phone radiation, is harmless.

Dr. Hussein Al-Joshai, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Science and Technology pointed out that the objective of many research papers and studies on mobile phones was to enhance the use of mobile phones.

During the second session, chaired by Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Tarb, Administration Development Expert, and Dr. Al-Dally, the first working paper was presented by the Police Traffic Department. It dealt with the restrictions on the use of mobile phones by taxi drivers. Col. Mohamed Al-Ghadra, Chief of Police, reviewed the distractions to the driver when dialing or answering a phone call. Answering a call could take several minutes, whilst a traffic accident would

only need seconds. The lack of any binding legislations in Yemeni law until now is behind the absence of restrictions on this behavior.

A second paper, presented by Mr. Adel Yasser, Director of Development at SpaceTel Company, the sponsoring company of the seminar, dealt with mobile telephone technologies and the company's policy and duty to serve society better.

Mr. Waleed Akawe, representative of SpaceTel, confirmed that the company is sponsoring the seminar as part of the company's efforts to inform and update consumers on relevant issues and to follow up recent studies on the safe use of mobile phones and the possible side effects.

The seminar reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1- Participants praised the Ministry of Telecommunication for sponsoring such seminars for the benefit of mobile phones customers.

2- The participants also commended Space Tel for its activities and support for scientific research.

3- The participants confirmed the importance of avoiding making phone calls while driving, near medical equipment, fuel stations and at in enclosed areas.

4- The seminar confirmed that there is not until now any convincing scientific evidence of health risks from using mobile phones or from living near base stations, as they comply with the relevant international regulations and specifications.

5- The seminar confirmed rights of the users to know any new information in relation to any issue of concern to them.

6- The seminar recommended the intensification of awareness campaigns through the various media organizations on the proper and safe use of mobile phones.

7- The participants suggested that Ministry of the Interior ought to prepare legislation that would declare talking while driving a traffic offence to be implemented after the Ministry launches an awareness campaign.

8- The participants confirmed the importance of mobile phones as a technology that would contribute to increasing the skills and abilities of society and in developing work practices.

9- The participants urge all drivers to avoid making phone calls while driving for their safety and the safety of others.

Yemen Times hosts the fifth media forum

Wednesday June 16, Taiz- Yemen Times organized at Taiz governorate's building the Fifth Media Forum. The forum hosted Mr. Abdul Sallam Al-Hazme, Director General of the Office of the Ministry of the Civil Service in Taiz, and Mr. Saeed Mohamed Amer, Vice Director of Accounting Unit and representative of the Finance Ministry in the governorate.

Mr. Emad Al-Saqqaf, Director of Yemen Times' office in Taiz and Hodiedah and Editor-in-Chief of "Family and Development" magazine, Mr. Mohamed Ali Saad, Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Jumhoreyah" newspaper, and Mr. Abdu Bakr Al-Aze, President of Information Center also attended the forum.

The forum's session was chaired and effectively administered by Mr. Mohamed Ali Saad.

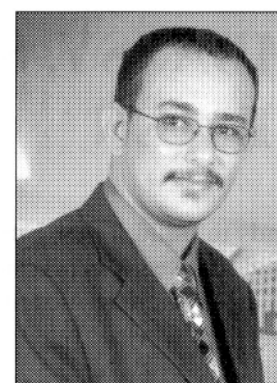
At the beginning, the director of the civil service ministry office reviewed the issues and cases related to the implementation of Republican Decree No.1 related to finger printing and digitized photo for state's employees in order to prevent double employment.

Mr. Al-Hazme indicated that his office had received 13443 job requests competing for 569 job openings in the city, including 3 at "Al-Jumhoreyah Publishing Corporation", 15 at "Al-Hayat Corporation" and 74 administrative jobs at Taiz University.

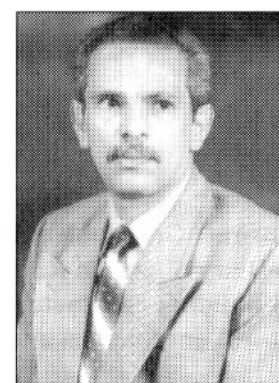
He said, "The availability of jobs depends on strict standards centrally set by the Ministry regardless of the number



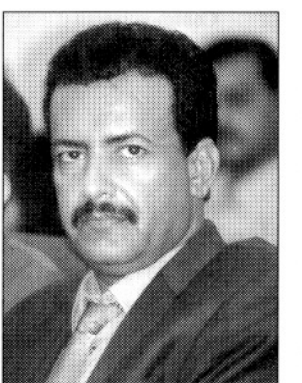
Mansour Al-Salahi



Emad Al-Saqqaf



Mohammad Saad



Abu Bakr Al-Ezi

of graduates in each governorate. Despite the high number of graduates for example in Taiz, more than other cities of the Republic, there are only 500 new state job openings for Taiz city next year. Each new job is granted to a citizen based only qualification, year graduated and the necessity for a new employment at any region, similarly to the mechanism used by the Ministry of Education."

With regards to rumors that new jobs are actually sold before they are distributed, the director of the civil service office rebuffed such a practice. He assured them that the rumors are baseless as the jobs are granted to merited individuals no matter how some try to cheat the ministry by obtaining identification cards from designated areas for new employment. The ministry also checks place of residence and place of birth. In short, there are specific meas-

ures to allow the ministry to ensure equal access to available vacancies. Moreover, the names of the newly hired citizens would be published in official newspapers to confirm the fair distribution of new vacancies offered by the state every year.

"There is absolutely no chance to grant anyone a new job based on a phone call, a recommendation letter or a behest from any person or state official, not even from a minister, a governor or anybody. New jobs are granted only according to qualifications and other standards set by the Ministry of the Civil Service", said Mr. Al-Hazme.

Mr. Saeed Mohamed Amer, Vice Director of Accountant Unit and Representative of Ministry of Finance in Taiz Governorate, on his part, highlighted some of the difficult problems normally and consistently facing the Ministry of Finance and its branches in

the governorates of the Republic. He referred to the high number of state employees for example at the Ministry of Education that could be attributed to the slow process at the Finance Ministry in handling the financial matters of the Education Ministry and alike.

An open discussion session followed that could be categorized as sincere and more transparent, as depicted by the director of the civil service, in examining some of the administrative bureaucracy and problems that usually hinder the development of administrative procedures in order to serve society. To overcome many of these problems requires the collective efforts of all state officials, citizens and civil society organizations in order to achieve the ultimate objective that the state's various corporations are corruption-free and more sincere in the implementation of their duties and missions.

A picture is more than a thousand words:

Diary of a Yemeni boy

By ADAM TAHA
adam_taha2000@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The market is busy today; the sun as usual is blazing with its heat while the men shout at the tourists who can afford to choose any one of the stalls that are filled with fruits, vegetables and meat. I stared at a tourist bartering with the keeper of carpets. I sometimes wonder why does anyone need to barter when they have enough money to buy at least ten of these hand crafted colourful Yemeni carpets. I suppose it's also the way with the Yemeni's. They love to have their customers to barter with them and make life a little interesting. If you don't barter then he won't sell you the hand-made Yemeni frame or the clothes his wife made, weaving in the night.

I got bored watching them and walked straight ahead, through the hustle and bustle of life and as I dodged the crowd my eye caught a woman with red hair. She was rushing, dodging the crowd and shouting at them to move aside, I pushed harder passed the crowd to follow her. I was so close, about five steps behind when a man pushed a large trolley filled with meat in front of me and I had to wait until he passed through.

By the time I could continue the chase, she had disappeared. I turned my head to look around, jumping up down to see whether I could get a glimpse of her red hair, but nothing. She was gone. I walked straight ahead and left the market place.

The voices of the market holders and the life of the market grew distant. There was nothing much for me to do that day but to do what I always do; walk wherever I wanted to walk, like an Arabian stallion, free. After an hour's walk I reach some houses and thought I had just walked through the village. There was no one around. Everyone was either at the market or inside their homes, sleeping, due to the heat. I was just about to walk back towards the market when I heard a female voice singing. It was the most beautiful voice I have ever heard in my life and the words touched me:

*My loved one
Only time has separated us
Only time will bring us together
To laugh about the worries we had
And I, dance with time, praying
We meet again*

I followed the words to a small house that was at the end of the vil-

lage. I reached the house and cautiously walked towards the window to see who it was. I had to be careful because if anyone saw me doing that I would get beaten and people would think I am a thief. I was now standing in front of the window and to my amazement I saw the red hair woman singing.

I listened as she kept on singing and plating her red hair. Her back was turned towards me and I forgot about the world because her voice and her words touched me and as I forgot about the world I also forgot to keep quiet. I started humming with her. She turned round and stared at me and I didn't know what to do. She smiled and with her hand ushered me to go round and step into her small house, and that's what I did.

I pushed the door open as my heart beat so hard that I could feel it in my throat. I was scared. She saw the fear in my eyes and said:

"Why do you fear when it was you who followed me?"

"I don't know. I'm just a little nervous that's all," I replied.

"It is all right to be nervous. It is a human thing. Now come and sit with me."

I walked nearer to her and she reached out her hand and gently pulled me towards her. She looked up at me as I stood in front of her. She stroked my hair and then my cheek, and lifted my chin up with her hand and said:

"You have a great journey ahead of you."

"Can you read people's lives?" I asked

"My mother years ago could and that gift is now with me and I see you want to ask me a question. Ah! I see! Am I crazy?"

"How did you know what I was thinking?"

"It is never about thinking son, but feeling, and your heart, which is beating so hard also speaks and it asks this question. I am no more crazier than the world itself."

"So why do people say you are crazy? Why do you run in street screaming?"

She let go of me and lowered her head and I sensed that I might have hurt her feelings and wished I never asked those questions. And yet, she looked up at me again and answered:

"It is a long story my son but I am not as crazy as the world that hides behind their own closed doors and I know much of what happens behind their closed doors. Now, you must be hungry. Come and sit down for a while as I get the food ready."

I did as she said and watched her

cooking fasoolia (beans) and baking khubs (bread). An hour went by and the food was ready and we sat down to eat as if we had known each other for years. As she went to get some water from the other room, I saw a photograph on the wall. It was of a young man soldier, standing so proud with his rifle. She came back with a jug of water and I asked her about the photograph.

"He...he was my son."

"Was?" Again, I regretted asking this question because she lowered her head again like an old white swan, and I felt her sadness. But I needed to know more about this woman, and we ask questions without thinking. We are innocent and we mean no harm.

I was married years ago to a handsome Yemeni. We were so in love but his mother just wouldn't let go and would cause us to argue with each other when we come home from visiting her. I saw her as nothing more than a witch but I never showed her any disrespect, because I loved my husband. After five years my husband died in a car accident. It happened when he went to Sanna on a job for the army. He was a proud corporal. He died and I was pregnant but no one knew but he and I...

She stopped for a while and took a deep breath and gave out a sigh of sadness and sipped some water and carried on.

"His mother started to stir some trouble by saying I had an affair and people believed this was not my husband's baby..."

"But why would she do this?"

"Because her only son had died and my son was the only the lineage of his father. A history walked with him and now passed onto my son. She wanted to take away my son. No matter how much I told the truth, the people wouldn't believe me and his mother was a powerful woman. I was nothing but a commoner to them because her husband married me and I was from a poor family. He came from a rich family that had power. Rich and powerful people were on their side."

"But they can't do that. What about what my grandma said about Islamic Law. You know, God's law?"

"People, my child, follow it when they want to and they have corrupted it. That is why our country is the way it is now."

"What happened next?"

"What happened next was a crime she will pay for when she meets our Lord. They took me to court and the court ordered my baby to be taken away and I was imprisoned instead of

being stoned to death. They knew they couldn't stone me to death because I didn't do anything."

"How long were you in prison?"

"I was left to rot and was let out only when he became a man. He learnt from his grandmother that his mother died in the same car accident. I planned to take back my son, telling him everything but then the war happened it divided our country even more and I lost him."

"He died?"

"Yes. He died in a war and they wouldn't let me go to his burial and I had to watch from a far. Only then did I lose my patience, only then did the world go so dark that I could feel no more pain. I dyed my hair red and walked the streets at night shouting my sons name and cursing his grandmother. The day I made that curse was the day she died and people saw me as witch and let me be."

She got up and took the wooden plates and food away as I stared at the photograph of her husband. I thought what a waste of lives. So much joy could have come into their lives. How can such evil work happen? Why are people so cruel? I just couldn't understand it.

She came back to sit in the same place and started plating the right side of her hair and started singing. I listened and hummed away so we can move away from the story and uplift her spirit. I started singing her words and she stopped, turned round to face me and said:

"You have a great journey ahead son, and you will make your mark one day in this world but not in Yemen."

"Make my mark? What you mean?"

"You love to sing don't know?"

"Yes, I seem to grow in love with it more each day," I replied.

"That is because it is a gift from God but with it comes a price."

"I don't understand."

"The price is leaving Yemen and have a dream that no one will believe in except you but if you keep to your dream you will make it but it won't be easy. Now, sing with me."

She sang the words and I would hum at first and then sing. For a moment in her life there was joy and later on she told me some folk stories. As she told the stories, she stroked my head gently and I drifted to sleep and awoke later to find she had left.

I woke up and stared at the photograph again and only later in my life, at the age of 35 years old in England, did I realize what people mean when they say "a picture is more than a thousand words."

فيلا للبيع أو الإيجار

فيلا للبيع أو الإيجار في مدينة عدن - مديرية البريقة، كود النص، مكونة من ٣ أدوار ونصف. الدور الأول غرفتين وصالة ومجلس عربي وحمام. الدور الثاني من ٣ غرف وصالة كبيرة وحمامين ومطبخ. الدور الثالث من ٤ غرف وصالة كبيرة وحمامين ومطبخ. إضافة إلى حوش وجراش للسيارات.

للإستفسار يرجى الاتصال على تلفون: ٣٤٠٨٧٦ سيار: ٧٣٧٩٥٩٠٩، ٧٣٧٩٠٩٧٤





Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PREQUALIFICATION BRITISH EMBASSY, SANA'A, YEMEN

Her Britannic Majesty's British Government intends to build a new Embassy in Sana'a, on a 10,000 m² site on the Al-Diary Sheraton Ring Road and seeks expressions of interest from Class 'A' (or Equivalent) building contractors (or constructors) wishing to pre-qualify to tender for the civil, structural, mechanical and electrical works.

The new Embassy will be approximately 1200m² (gross internal floor area) on two floors and will include extensive external works within the site boundary comprising perimeter walling, roads, pavings, terracing and landscaping.

Tender documents including detailed design drawings and bills of quantities will be released to pre-qualified Contractors later this year (September/October) and construction is intended to commence early in 2005 following a short period of mobilisation. The construction programme will be 12 months, and completion is anticipated early in 2006.

Only contractors who have recent previous experience of constructing similar high quality projects in Yemen or neighbouring countries acting in the capacity of main contractor are invited to apply.

Responses, in English should be submitted by the Company or Joint Venture (hereafter referred to as 'the Company') strictly in accordance with the following criteria, which will be used by the Selection Panel in the UK to assess suitability for pre-qualification. In the event of a Joint Venture response it shall be clearly stated which Party's documentation is being adopted by the Joint Venture:

- Name of Trading Company or Joint Venture making the request for pre-qualification.
- Copy of company Registration/Trading Certification in Yemen.
- In the event that the Company is not currently registered in Yemen, what action will be taken to register and by when.
- In the case of a Joint Venture, a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement signed and dated by all parties and endorsed for this specific Project.
- Previous similar projects in Yemen and surrounding countries completed within the last 10 years given Contract Value, Date of Commencement and Completion, Client contact details (for taking up references) and photographs if possible.
- Copy of last three years' audited Financial Accounts including Balance Sheets and Profit/Loss Accounts signed by the company Secretary and Auditor. (In the case of Joint Ventures, this information will be required by all Joint Venture parties).
- Statement of Current Capacity to undertake the work in accordance with the quality and completion requirements detailed below.
- Copy of Quality Assurance Certification or Company Quality Control method Statement.
- Copy of Company Operational Health and Safety Procedures.
- Method Statement detailing how you would ensure that high quality construction will be achieved whilst maintaining contract completion within the stipulated period (12 months) without compromising health and safety standards.
- CV's (limited to maximum of two A4 pages for each CV) of the following personnel who will be assigned to the project.
 - Contracts Manager
 - Site Agent (Manager)
 - Site Engineers (Mechanical, Electrical and Structural)
 - Quality Control Supervisor
 - Health and Safety Supervisor
- Relevant Corporate Literature (Note: irrelevant literature will be disregarded).
- The pre-qualification submission should be signed by the authorised signatory of the Company or Joint Venture and their role clearly stated.

The British Government's foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will be the Employer under the terms of their Standard form of Contract (GC/Works). The FCO will provide a full time Clerk of works for the entire duration of the project including the Mobilisation Period and Post Completion Client Fit-out Period.

An Assessment Panel in London comprising (inter alia) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Project Sponsor, the project manager and the Design Team Leader will assess the expressions of interest submitted in response to this pre-qualification advertisement.

The Assessment Panel may disregard respondents who do not comply strictly with the above criteria, or who provide excessive superfluous pre-qualification material or who do not provide all information requested.

One Original and one Authenticated Copy in A4 format of the Expressions of Interest should be submitted to:

Her Britannic Majesty's Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Estate Strategy Unit
Apollo House (17th Floor)
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR0 9 YA
United Kingdom
Attn. Mr. K. Hutchings (Project Sponsor)

To arrive not later than 12.00 noon on 28th July 2004

Any queries during the preparation of the Expression of Interest should be sent by email to the Project Manager, Gleds; alan.turner@gleds.co.uk



Oxfam

JOB VACANCY

Oxfam GB in Yemen is looking for dynamic candidates to work in a community based health care project funded by the European Union to improve the health status in remote villages of Sayoun and Sah districts in Hadramout through strengthening district health management, community involvement, health education/promotion, quality of health services; training of health providers and midwives, rehabilitation of facilities, and community pharmacies/DRF.

Job Title: Project Coordinator for the Community- Based Health Care Project in Sayoun, Hadhramout.

Key Competencies

- University Degree in medicine, social sciences and/or development.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in district health system and community based development projects that strengthen district health management, community involvement, quality of health services, training of health providers, and rehabilitation of facilities, health education/promotion, and community pharmacies/DRF.
- Work experience with international organization is an advantage.
- Experience of managing, monitoring and coordinating all aspects of project operation; effective planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project, resource allocation and management, human resources management, information management, participatory methodologies, and the impact of activities on community groups, women, children, poor and marginalized groups.
- Excellent written and verbal communication (English and Arabic) including representation skills; report writing skills; negotiation and influencing skills (essential)
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time and to work at the community level.
- Knowledge and skills in computer usage
- Ability to work within a team and at an individual level (essential).

Job Title: Capacity Building Coordinator for the Community Based Health Care Project in Sayoun, Hadhramout.

Key Competencies

- University Degree in social sciences, health, development, or related field.
- An understanding of and experience in development sector.
- An understanding and sensitivity to gender and equity issues.
- Preferable to have experience in district health system and community based development projects with direct hands on experience in community development and health education/promotion.
- Experience in conducting and/or organizing participatory trainings and its follow up especially for health providers.
- Work experience with international organization is an advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication (communication in English will be an advantage) including representation skills; report writing skills; negotiation and influencing skills (essential).
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time and to work at the community level.
- Knowledge and skills in computer usage.
- Ability to work within a team and at an individual level (essential).
- Understanding of the organizational and financial procedures.

Job Title: Project Accountant – based in Sayoun, Hadramout.

Key Competencies

- Financial and accounting skills
- Ability to implement office and finance systems
- Procedural and legal knowledge on various administrative and finance functions especially pertaining to the NGO sector
- Ability to handle administrative and finance matters and work to deadlines
- Ability to work with others and as part of the team
- Fluency in Arabic and English and writing skills
- Knowledge and skills in computer usage
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time
- Willingness and eagerness to learn about organizational and financial procedures

The post-holders of the above 3 posts will be based in Sayoun, Hadramout.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 15th July 2004 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

The Country Program Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Fax no: 01 445 650 Or email:
Tbagash@oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organization dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.



Oxfam

JOB VACANCY

Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. We work in partnership with CSOs and government. Oxfam's program in Yemen has expanded which requires new areas of work with new specialization. We are looking for dynamic people to work as part of the Oxfam Sana'a team. The Staff member appointed will be based at the Sana'a office

Job Title: Policy Advisor

Key Competencies

- University degree in economics, or relevant discipline and higher education is an advantage (M.A or PhD).
- At least 3 years experience of NGO work preferably in an INGO as development professional (desirable)
- Relevant knowledge, experience and good understanding of development, information and advocacy work (essential)
- Experience of academic research within the area of economics (essential)
- Commitment to all aspects of equal opportunity and diversity and strong commitment to the aims of Oxfam's work (essential)
- Analytical thinking and ability to present difficult information to all levels of people (essential)
- Excellent written and verbal communication (English and Arabic) including representation skills; report writing skills; negotiation and influencing skills (essential)
- Able to travel within Yemen and if necessary outside Yemen. (essential)
- Good organisational skills with an ability to work under pressure and to deadlines (essential).
- Ability to work within a team and at an individual level (essential)
- Ability to use IT systems – databases, Microsoft office (desirable)

Job Title: Campaigns Officer

Key Competencies

- University degree in social science or relevant fields.
- Proven knowledge, skills and experience in campaigning on issues for social change related to ideas, attitudes and practices and preferably in gender related issues
- Understanding and sensitivity to development issues and context
- Well developed management skills to support, develop and build capacity of staff and partners in campaigning
- Ability to mentor and support national staff to build local capacity
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrable creative thinking, and problem solving
- Flexibility, responsiveness and sensitivity to the needs of the local context and culture and listening and supportive attitude
- Experience of working with media and sound understanding of messaging and public positioning and adapting it to the needs of the local context.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 15th July 2004 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

The Country Program Manager, Oxfam GB

Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax no: 01 445 650 Or email:
melsanousi@oxfam.org.uk
for Policy Officer & Campaign Advisor posts

Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organisation dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.

Legal custody of Saddam to transfer to Iraqis

BAGHDAD, June 29 (Reuters) - The U.S. military will transfer Saddam Hussein to Iraqi legal custody, but not physical control, on Wednesday, two days after Iraq formally regained sovereign powers it lost when the dictator was deposed in April 2003.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Tuesday that Saddam, with up to 11 others, would appear before Iraqi judges to be charged on Thursday, a day after the legal transfer.

"This government has formally requested the transfer of the most notorious and

high profile detainees," he told a news conference. "These people...will face justice before the special Iraqi court created in January to try members of the former regime for crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes."

Saddam, accused by Iraqis of ordering the killing and torturing of thousands of their compatriots during 35 years of Baathist rule, has been held as a prisoner of war since U.S. forces found him hiding in a hole near Tikrit in December.

Allawi said the U.S.-led multinational force would keep physical custody of Saddam and the other 11 until Iraq's nascent police force was capable of detaining them securely.

The special tribunal would give them a fair and open trial, but it would not start for several months, Allawi said.

Once Saddam is in Iraqi legal custody, he will cease to be a POW. The formal end of U.S.-led occupation on Monday also marked the end of international conflict in Iraq. At that point international law says POWs must be released or charged.

International conflict may be over, but there was no let-up in the violence gripping Iraq.

Three U.S. Marines were killed and two wounded in eastern Baghdad in a roadside bomb blast that wrecked a Humvee vehicle escorting a convoy carrying engineering equipment.

"I don't know why the terrorists want to kill us. We just want to help Iraqis," said a Marine at the scene.

Since the start of the war last year at least 632 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq and at least two have been captured by guerrillas.

An Arabic television station aired a video tape on Monday showing what militants said was the execution of a U.S. soldier.

Three Turks freed

While uncertainty shrouded his fate, three Turkish hostages walked free after their release by a group led by Jordanian

militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a suspected al Qaeda ally.

His group had previously threatened to behead the Turks on Tuesday unless their government told companies to stop dealing with U.S. forces in Iraq. Ankara had rejected the demand.

"Jama'at al-Tawhid and Jihad announces the release of the Turkish hostages for the sake of Muslims in Turkey and their demonstrations against (U.S. President George W.) Bush," a masked man said on a video tape aired by Arabic Al Jazeera TV.

A three-day visit by Bush to Turkey for a NATO summit has been met by widespread protests against his policies in Iraq.

A Turkish government official confirmed the three men had been freed. Another two Turks seized in Iraq three weeks ago have told their families they are well and will return to Turkey within a week, Turkish media reported.

Kidnap groups have also threatened to kill a U.S. marine and a Pakistani. The Pakistani's captors said on Sunday he would be beheaded within three days unless Iraqi prisoners were released.

The U.S. military freed dozens of prisoners from Baghdad's Abu Ghraib jail and a detention centre at Umm Qasr in the south. It was the latest of several releases since a scandal over prisoner abuse by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib broke in April.

"We were just taken from our houses with no explanation," said Ayad al-Azzawi, among those released from Umm Qasr. "I was in prison for nine months and they never charged me."

Hostage-taking and violence are among the many challenges facing Allawi's interim government sworn in on Monday.

Outside Iraq the handover helped drive world oil prices to their lowest level in more than two months on traders' hopes of less sabotage and steadier exports. The benchmark Brent crude was down 50 cents at \$33.20 a barrel in early trading.

The low-key handover ceremony, brought forward partly to foil any guerrilla



The Stars and Stripes flies at half mast, after a dawn ceremony in which the Iraqi flag was raised for the first time at a base in south eastern Baghdad June 29 which the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry division shares with Iraq's National Guard. The United States handed over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on Monday, formally ending a 14-month occupation two days earlier than expected to try to forestall guerrilla attacks. REUTERS



Iraqi National Guardsmen prepare to raise their country's flag above U.S. Army troops of the 1st Cavalry division's 2nd Battalion during a dawn ceremony, in which the Stars and Stripes was lowered to half mast, at a base in south eastern Baghdad June 29. The United States handed over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on Monday, formally ending a 14-month occupation two days earlier than expected to try to forestall guerrilla attacks. REUTERS

plans for a spectacular attack, took many by surprise and the day passed in relative calm.

But there was anguish for the family of the man identified on the video footage shown on Al Jazeera television as Private

Keith Maupin, 20, a U.S. soldier seized by guerrillas in April.

A gunman was seen firing a shot at the soldier, wearing greenish overalls and seen only from behind. The body fell into a hole. There was no confirmation Maupin

was the man killed.

Since April militants in Iraq have seized dozens of foreign workers and soldiers. At least four have been killed, including a South Korean and an American beheaded by Zarqawi's group.

Palestinians question wisdom of rocket attacks

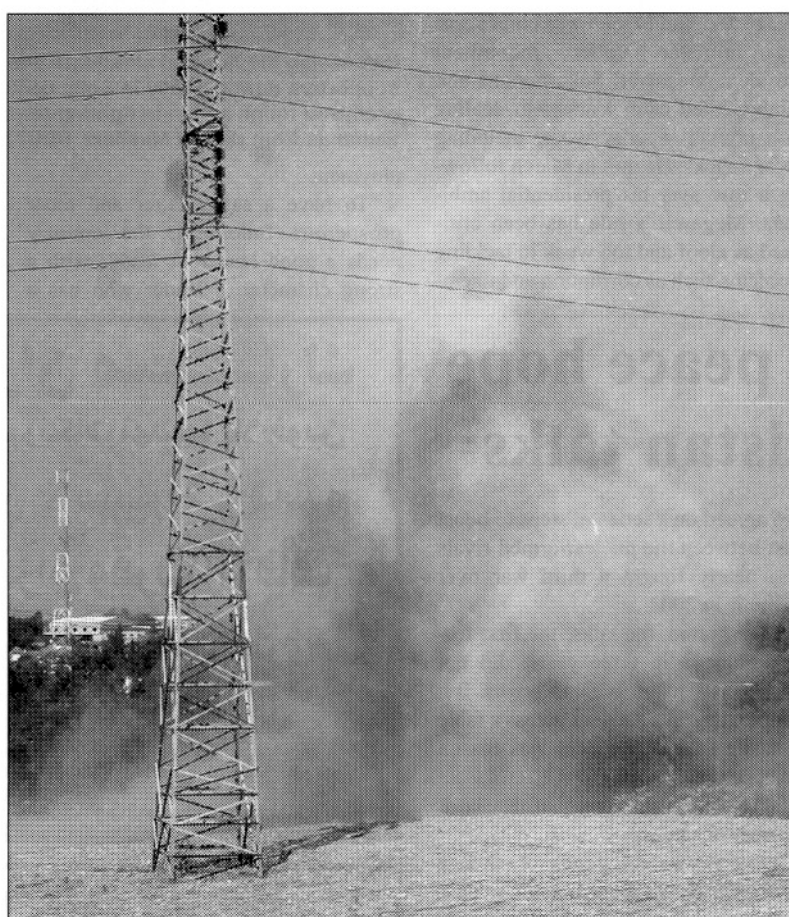
BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip, June 29 (Reuters) - As Israeli armour set siege to Beit Hanoun on Tuesday, Palestinian residents questioned the wisdom of firing rockets into Israel from their Gaza Strip border town. Beit Hanoun, near the Gaza-Israeli border, has often been the launching pad for rocket attacks into Israel such as one on Monday which killed a three-year-old boy and a grandfather outside a kindergarten in the Israeli town of Sderot.

It was the first time the homemade Qassam rockets had caused fatalities in Israel since Palestinian militants began launching them at the start of an uprising in 2000. The rockets have usually landed harmlessly in fields or caused minor damage. But Israel, which sees the rockets as a strategic threat to its towns and cities, has frequently sent its military into Beit Hanoun to search for militants behind the attacks. Palestinian residents complain the raids punish innocent civilians.

"Our fighters need to reconsider these rockets. While they almost caused zero losses among Israelis, they have been causing daily suffering to Palestinians in areas like Beit Hanoun," said a Palestinian man, who identified himself as Abu Abdallah. "We are not against attacks against Israelis. We support them but we need to select methods that would not be used as a pretext by Israel to sabotage our lives," the father of five said as he bought vegetables from a donkey-cart peddler.

Residents of Beit Hanoun stocked up with foodstuffs in preparation for an expected military raid of their town which they feared could last for weeks as happened last year when 25 people were killed in a month-long occupation by the army.

Streets have been repaved and electricity grids rewired since the last raid. But Palestinian residents predicted the Israeli operation would devastate their town once again.



Smoke rises as a Palestinian rocket hits a field in the outskirts of the Israeli southern town of Sderot June 29. Makeshift missiles of the kind that killed two Israelis on Monday wounded two people in Israeli southern towns on Tuesday, intensifying the upsurge of violence ahead of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned pullout from occupied Gaza. REUTERS

Militants, often from other parts of Gaza, come to Beit Hanoun to fire rockets from fields and orchards near the border.

For many Palestinians the rockets are a symbol of their ability to strike deep into the Jewish state from isolated Gaza.

But weary residents of Beit Hanoun suggested militant groups could carry out more effective attacks against Israel instead.

"Let them infiltrate settlements everyday and let them carry our martyrdom attacks (suicide bombings) everywhere in Israel, but not these rockets that rarely hit the target," said a 32-year-old man, who identified himself as Mahmoud. "We understand that rockets scare the Israelis but in the end they continue to live," he said.

New U.S. ambassador to Iraq presents credentials

BAGHDAD, June 29 (Reuters) - New U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte presented his credentials to Iraqi leaders on Tuesday, a day after the formal end of the U.S.-led occupation.

"I have just had the privilege of presenting my credentials to President Ghazi al-Yawar, who graciously welcomed me to his country as U.S. ambassador," a statement from Negroponte said.

"Yesterday's restoration of full sovereignty to Iraq cleared the way for

establishment of normal diplomatic relations between two free, independent nations."

Negroponte, the first U.S. ambassador to Iraq since ties were severed in the 1990 build-up to the Gulf War, arrived in Baghdad on Monday, hours after the U.S.-led occupation authority gave way to an interim Iraqi government.

Negroponte was previously Washington's ambassador to the United Nations. He was named as envoy to Iraq in April.

Australian Ambassador Neil Mules and Danish Ambassador Torben Gettermann also presented their credentials at the interim government building in the renamed International Zone that also houses the U.S. and British diplomatic missions.

Negroponte said his embassy would aim to help Iraq "defeat the terrorists and criminal elements who oppose a free Iraq", aid reconstruction and economic development and foster democracy and the rule of law.



The U.S. Ambassador in Iraq John Negroponte (L) meets with the Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawar in the capital Baghdad June 29. Ambassadors from the United States, Australia and Denmark presented credentials to President Ghazi al-Yawar on Tuesday, marking the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the three coalition countries. REUTERS

Philippines says arrests militant bomb plotters

MANILA, June 29 (Reuters) - Philippine security forces arrested several suspected Muslim militants who were planning bomb attacks to disrupt the inauguration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, police and military officials said on Tuesday.

The arrests come as security forces boost their presence in the capital to guard against threats to Wednesday's ceremonies and to control protest marches planned later on Tuesday by opposition groups who say Arroyo cheated in May 10 elections.

"We got them with the PNP," a military intelligence official who took part in the operation told reporters, referring to the Philippine National Police.

Four men were presented to media in the afternoon. The police initially said they had information the suspects were members of the Jemaah Islamiah militant network, but later said they were still investigating the link.

"We still have to evaluate," said PNP spokesman Joel Goltiao.

Jemaah Islamiah is believed to be the Southeast Asian arm of al Qaeda and is blamed for the deadly 2002 bombings on Indonesia's Bali island as well as other attacks in the region.

Police said in a statement the men were in a group of about 30 suspected militants who had arrived in Manila two days ago from southern Mindanao island with the aim of setting off bombs on Wednesday to disrupt Arroyo's inauguration.

The arrests came a day after the United States gave the Philippines an extra \$4 million to boost intelligence-gathering against al-Qaeda-linked militant groups.

Security forces in Manila are on alert after a group suspected of links to the political opposition planted three explosive devices last week, adding to security headaches surrounding Arroyo's inauguration.

Police used batons, teargas and water cannon on Tuesday to disperse several thousand opposition supporters protesting Arroyo's victory over film star Fernando Poe Jr.

Mindanao link

The military official said the suspects were arrested in Taguig in east Manila, but gave no further details. Troops also recovered five kg (11 lb) of explosives, four petrol bombs, and a notebook containing bomb-making

diagrams, he said.

On Sunday, U.S. Pacific Command head Admiral Thomas Fargo said the United States remained concerned by the presence in the Philippines of Jemaah Islamiah members.

Fargo is visiting the Philippines as part of a tour of Southeast Asia and to attend Arroyo's inauguration.

The U.S. aid to the largely Catholic Philippines comes on top of \$114 million in security assistance pledged by Washington last year, including \$30 million for counter-terror training in Mindanao, where the state is fighting four Muslim rebel groups.

A small group of U.S. special forces have been training Philippine troops in counter-terror tactics in Mindanao, but the government has had little success in rooting out members of the Jemaah Islamiah or the home-grown Abu Sayyaf militant group.

The country's largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, says it has cut its links with Jemaah Islamiah and al Qaeda, but military officials suspect it still harbours Jemaah Islamiah militants despite a ceasefire and peace talks with the government.



A Filipino reporter interviews one of four suspected Muslim militants who the police said were planning bomb attacks in the capital during a press conference at the police headquarters in Manila June 29. The arrest came as security forces increased their presence in Manila to guard against possible threats to Wednesday's inauguration ceremony of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. REUTERS

Mongolia elections mired in dispute



A Mongolian policeman (R) monitors supporters of the Motherland Democratic Coalition during a protest in front of the General Election Committee in Ulan Bator June 29. Mongolia's opposition democrats claimed what would be a victory Monday in parliamentary elections is being disputed by Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar who accused his rivals of widespread vote rigging. The official result from the election committee has not yet been released. REUTERS

ULAN BATOR, June 29 (Reuters) - Mongolia's parliamentary elections were mired in dispute on Tuesday before any official result has even been announced.

Opposition democrats demanded that the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) accept that it had lost power after preliminary results showed the MPRP and the opposition Motherland Democratic Coalition (MDC) had 36 seats apiece, with the democrats gaining support from three independent candidates.

But the MPRP, which held 72 of the parliament's 76 seats before Sunday's poll and had been confident of overwhelming victory, is contesting the outcome in some constituencies in the vast grasslands, claiming voting irregularities.

"The MPRP accepts the outcome of the June 27th parliamentary elections," the party said in a statement, citing party secretary Otgonbayar, Vice Minister Munkh-Orgil and Vice Minister Batbold.

It did not concede defeat.

"The MPRP secretary also confirmed that several candidates from different parties have appealed to the General Election Commission to call for investigations into election irregularities at specified polling stations."

The commission must hear the results from constituencies within five days of the election. If it approves the results, including suggestions re-elections should be conducted, it must carry out the new elections in those districts within seven days of the election — that is by Sunday.

"Fifteen or 16 complaints are hanging in the air," Deputy Minister of

Justice Moenkhorgil said.

Once the commission has given a final result, the president will call parliament. Then parliament will discuss who will be prime minister.

The MPRP governed the country, about half the size of Western Europe, for most of the 20th century, mostly under one-party rule as a Soviet satellite.

"People's choice"

The opposition MDC, for its part, demanded the MPRP accept the people's choice.

"We demand the MPRP recognise and respect the new choice made by the Mongolian people by democratic elections," it said in a statement.

The problem lies with constituencies being so widespread in a country where half the 2.7 million people are nomads and many voters travelled to polls by horseback or camel.

"Because of the dispute in three constituencies, there will probably be no official results coming out today," commission official Oyuumaa said.

Outside the election commission, scores of MDC supporters waved flags urging the commission not to bow to any MPRP demand for a re-election.

MPRP chairman and Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar, a big fan of Tony Blair's New Labour, called on the General Election Commission to investigate "irregularities" in several constituencies.

"The MPRP is particularly concerned with the organised movement of large numbers of non-residents into constituencies where their employers are candidates for the Motherland Democracy Coalition," he said.

Indonesia's Yudhoyono campaigns for safer nation

SOLO, Indonesia, June 29 (Reuters) - Indonesia's presidential favourite on Tuesday brought his message of building a safer nation to a Java city famous as home to an Islamic boarding school where some of the militants who bombed Bali studied.

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has promised tough action in fighting terrorism, and a senior aide travelling with the former general told Reuters in the central Java city of Solo that he would not bow to demands from radical Muslims.

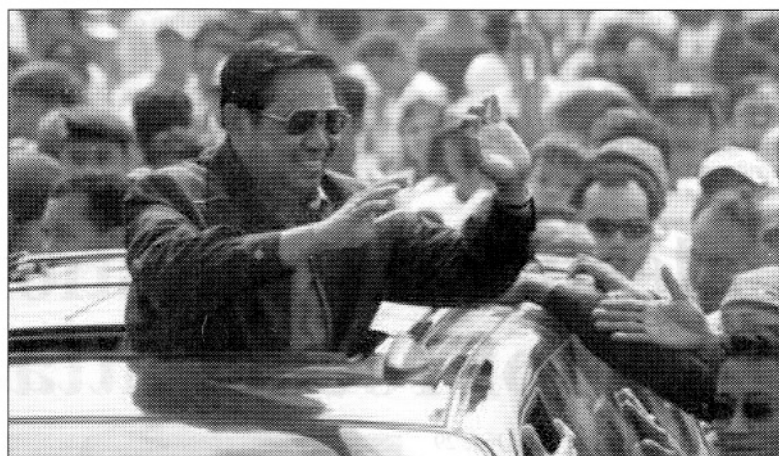
Islamic militants blew up two nightclubs on the resort island of Bali in October 2002, killing 202 people in an attack that thrust the world's most populous Muslim nation into the front lines of the war on terror.

Some of the bombers studied at the austere Al-Mukmin school, co-founded by Abu Bakar Bashir, a radical preacher under detention in Jakarta and accused of leading the al Qaeda-linked

Jemaah Islamiah network blamed for the Bali attack.

Against such a backdrop and ahead of Indonesia's first direct presidential election on Monday, Yudhoyono drew thousands to a rally where he delivered his "Safer Indonesia" message and crooned his trademark pop song "Rainbow in Your Eyes".

"Our country must remain intact and should never be divided. The situation in Indonesia must be harmonious, peaceful and safe," said Yudhoyono, whom opinion polls show has 40 to 46 percent of voter support, way above his four rivals. Yudhoyono was chief security minister under incumbent President Megawati Sukarnoputri and demonstrated calm leadership dealing with myriad security woes, including terror attacks. He quit in March following a row over his presidential ambitions. Megawati's rule has been criticised as aloof and too weak in tackling problems such as corruption and unem-



Indonesian presidential candidate Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono waves to his supporters during a rally in Solo, central Java on June 29. Yudhoyono has promised tough action in fighting terrorism and said he would not bow to demands from radical Muslims. REUTERS

ployment. "To have a safer, fairer and more prosperous Indonesia, the country needs a good leader. A leader with a strong character, a leader who has a

vision, a leader who wants to work hard and is willing to be close to the people," Yudhoyono told the cheering crowd, most wearing T-shirts emblazoned with his face.

Kashmiris see peace hope in India, Pakistan talks

SRINAGAR (Reuters) - Hopelessness made way for cautious optimism in Kashmir on Tuesday, a day after India and Pakistan pledged to continue discussions to resolve their half-a-century dispute over the Himalayan region.

People across the revolt-torn region largely hailed the outcome of the two-day talks between top diplomats of the South Asian neighbours as a good start to end a row that has triggered two wars and claimed thousands of lives.

"If there was a high point in politics and diplomacy in the subcontinent, it was this," said Mufti Mohammed Syed, chief minister of Indian Kashmir, referring to a joint statement issued by the two nations on Monday that vowed to pursue a peaceful, final settlement to the Kashmir dispute through talks.

"All sections should respond to it positively including those who still see merit in using violence as a means to achieve political ends," Syed said in a statement.

Indian Foreign Secretary Shashank, who uses only one name, and his Pakistani counterpart, Riaz Khokhar,

also agreed on a series of steps to boost trust between the nuclear-armed rivals who nearly fought a third war over Kashmir in 2002.

As expected, the talks, the first formal dialogue in three years, did not produce any major breakthroughs. But that the longtime foes sat across a table to tackle their differences was reason for hope, analysts said.

People on the streets of Kashmir apparently agreed.

"I can now feel winds of change across the subcontinent," said Mohammad Sadiq, a shopkeeper in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir and the nerve centre of a nearly 15-year bloody revolt against New Delhi's rule.

"I am sure that the two countries are heading towards a breakthrough over Kashmir. Our fate will change, peace will return to Kashmir," he told Reuters.

Moulana Abbas Ansari, chairman of the moderate faction of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Kashmir's main alliance of political separatists, was sceptical.

عقد قران مبارك

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها للأخوين

سهيل محمد شمسان & بشير أمين قاسم

بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف

الف الف مبروك وعقبى للفرحة الكبرى

المهنتون:

فادي عبدالله، أحمد عبدالله الذبحاني، علي القاضي، وهيب العرعزي،

أحمد أمين الذبحاني، نصري السقاف، وكافة موظفي الضلك.

الف مبروك

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهدبها للأخ

أكرم بيعة الشامي

بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوده الجديد والذي أسمي

حسام

«جعل الله قره عين والديه وألبته نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيه»

يحيى الشامي، فؤاد الشامي، نشوان حسن الشامي، مطيع أحمد الشامي،

سامي شرف الدين، إبراهيم الدعيس، عبد الجليل الضاعني،

وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

Karzai presses NATO to boost Afghan peace force

ISTANBUL, June 29 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai pressed NATO on Tuesday to rush troops to his country to secure September elections, embarrassing alliance members reluctant to provide the forces for the mission.

NATO agreed on Monday to add roughly 1,500 troops to its 6,500-strong peacekeeping force for the polls, but it has drawn criticism for restricting its deployment to Kabul and the relatively stable north of the violence-plagued country.

The alliance trumpeted its Afghan operation as proof it has transformed itself from a Cold War defence machine into a force for combating modern security threats such as terrorism and instability far beyond its European and North American borders.

But the mission's credibility has been strained by troop shortages, and the summit in Istanbul exposed other shortcomings within NATO, which agreed only in principle to train Iraqi security forces amid echoes of old rifts over the Iraq war.

"I would like you to please hurry, as NATO, in Afghanistan: come sooner than September...", Karzai told alliance leaders.

U.S. President George W. Bush had hoped the summit of 26 leaders would showcase renewed transatlantic unity to combat domestic criticism in a presidential election year that he took his country to war in Iraq without international backing.

But France spoiled the mood, insisting the deal agreed on Monday to train the forces of Iraq's new interim government should not mean a formal role for NATO within Iraq itself.

The Iraq training deal is much more modest than the troop deployment Washington had initially sought from the alliance, which was scotched by French and German resistance.

French President Jacques Chirac, Europe's fiercest critic of last year's U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, also criticised Bush's support for Turkey's bid



(L-R) Prime Minister of Denmark Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Estonian Prime Minister Juhan Parts, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma (front), German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis line up for a family photo during the second day of the NATO summit in Istanbul, June 29.

to join the European Union, saying it was none of his business.

FRENCH OPPOSITION

Undaunted, Bush said in a speech before leaving the Bosphorus Strait city that Turkey's EU entry would be "a crucial advance in relations between the Muslim world and the West". Turkey, a secular democracy, is the only Muslim member of NATO.

Chirac also vetoed a U.S. proposal to deploy NATO's new strike force for the Afghan elections, a move one U.S. official said had infuriated U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Chirac told a news conference the elite NATO Response Force, set up last year with a heavy French contingent but not due to become fully operational until October 2006, should only be used when there is a security crisis, not for routine operations.

The Afghan president put a brave face on the limited expansion of NATO's peace force for elections that Taliban militants have vowed to disrupt and which the United Nations has warned could be derailed by a lack of foreign troops.

"If I stood here and said I was dissatisfied, it would be ungrateful," Karzai told reporters.

But there was less diplomatic nicety in Kabul, where Defence Ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimy told Reuters: "It's up to...NATO, but this is not sufficient, we expect more".

LIMITED REACH

NATO hoped to announce it would operate in west Afghanistan, but this was thwarted by members' reluctance to offer costly kit such as transport planes, helicopters and medical facilities.

But the alliance argues that security in the restive south and east is provided by a 20,000-strong U.S.-led combat force pursuing the Taliban and their al Qaeda network allies.

This force has stepped up operations to protect the polls, which many analysts say U.S. President George W. Bush wants to see held on time in the hope of a policy success to balance against Iraq in the run-up to his November re-election bid.

An explosion in a plane at Istanbul airport injured three people, hours before Bush was due to fly out from the same location, the latest in a series of small blasts in the run-up to the summit blamed on anti-NATO leftists.

Security remained tight around Turkey's commercial capital as NATO wound up its two-day summit with meetings between leaders of the 26 allies, 20 partner nations and Karzai.

France's Chirac opposes isolation of Arafat

ISTANBUL, June 29 (Reuters) - French President Jacques Chirac, clashing with U.S. foreign policy for a second day running, said on Tuesday the isolation of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat would hinder Middle East peacemaking.

U.S. President George W. Bush has called for Arafat to be sidelined, saying Palestinians deserved a leadership untainted by terror. France's foreign minister was due to meet Arafat on a trip to the Palestinian territories starting on Tuesday.

Chirac, who already had clashed with Bush at the NATO summit in Istanbul over Turkey and the Atlantic alliance's role in Afghanistan, said the U.S. policy was "not very prudent or compatible with a strategy of restoring peace" in the region.

"People can have whatever opinion they like of President Arafat or any other president," Chirac said on the sidelines of the NATO summit. "But legitimacy cannot be contested if a different legitimacy is not proposed."

He said it was normal for France to have contacts with the Palestinian leader who was "probably the only person who could impose compromise on the Palestinian people." U.S. officials do not meet other Palestinian officials but not Arafat.

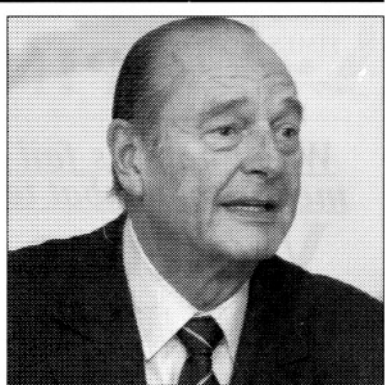
French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier left the NATO summit in Istanbul on Tuesday for the Palestinian territories. He was scheduled to meet Arafat in his compound in Ramallah, where the veteran leader has been holed up for around two years.

Israel says Arafat is free to leave but would risk not being allowed back if he did so.

"PART OF THE PROBLEM"

"We have reiterated our policy that basically meeting Chairman Arafat is counterproductive as he continues to be an obstacle, a part of the problem and not part of the solution," an Israeli Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

"We recommend not to meet him, and most European foreign ministers have



French President Jacques Chirac speaks at a news conference at the NATO summit in Istanbul, June 29. REUTERS

basically respected Israel's policy. But every country is free and entitled to act as it sees fit," said the official, who was speaking in Jerusalem.

Barnier had been due to visit Israel after meeting Arafat but Israel scheduled a separate visit by the French minister for September instead.

Senior Palestinian official Yasser Abed Rabbo said Barnier's visit reflected the view in Europe that the key to peace was an Israeli-Palestinian partnership — not security measures.

"The Israelis use the issue of Arafat and accuse him of being an obstacle (to peace) as a pretext to impose their unilateral solutions."

"The whole world understands this and the French foreign minister's visit is a clear message to Israel," he said.

France has sought to heal ties with Washington strained by its opposition to the Iraq war. But in a sign of continued tensions, Chirac on Monday criticised Bush for urging EU leaders to give Turkey a firm date to start entry talks with the bloc.

On Tuesday Chirac blocked moves to send NATO's newly formed rapid reaction force to Afghanistan to safeguard elections.

Washington is Israel's closest ally and traditionally the main power broker in

Belgian court asked to dismiss Cresson case

BRUSSELS, June 29 (Reuters) - A public prosecutor on Tuesday asked a Belgian court to dismiss a case against former French Prime Minister Edith Cresson on embezzlement charges for lack of evidence, describing the case as political rather than criminal.

The charges were related to business trip costs when Cresson was a member of the European Commission between 1995-1999.

The court is expected to rule on Wednesday.

"There is no proof," Public Prosecutor Marianne Thomas told Reuters. "I think that the Belgian justice system was used to settle scores. This is a political, not a criminal, case."

Thomas also asked the court to dismiss the case against six former Commission aides on the same grounds.

Cresson, who was in charge of education and research in the European Union executive, was at the centre of allegations of cronyism and mismanagement that

forced the entire Commission to resign in 1999 under threat of parliamentary censure.

A Socialist who was France's first woman prime minister in 1991-1992, she had always denied any wrongdoing.

Lack of evidence had earlier led Thomas to drop efforts to charge Cresson with forgery and conflict of interest, leaving her to focus on alleged embezzlement for authorising 7,000 euros (\$8,419) worth of business trips.

RUMOURS AND FALSE WHISPERS

Cresson, the first former Commissioner to face questioning over possible criminal offences, expressed delight at the prosecutor's apparent vindication of her.

"I am particularly happy at what was said today," she told reporters after attending the hearing with her lawyer.

"The prosecutor did an extremely thorough job. She dismantled all the rumours,

all the false whispers, all the lies and slanders that were spread not only about me but about the whole Directorate. Some of my staff were prosecuted unjustly."

Cresson said she saw no reason why the Commission had to resign en masse in 1999.

She is due to be questioned by her successors in the Commission on Wednesday over administrative proceedings against her under the EU treaty obligations that could lead to a case in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Commission spokesman Eric Mamer said the EU executive would decide afterwards on the basis of the facts and evidence in its possession whether to take further steps such as bringing the case to the Luxembourg-based court.

"If it is felt that her explanations are satisfactory then (we) will just bring the procedure to an end," Mamer said.

He declined to comment on the Belgian case, saying the Commission's investigation was completely separate.



Former French Prime Minister Edith Cresson is surrounded by reporters while leaving the justice palace in Brussels June 29. The Brussels public prosecutor asked a Belgian court on Tuesday to dismiss a case against Cresson on embezzlement charges due to lack of evidence. REUTERS

Canada Liberals to keep power, need help from left

OTTAWA, June 29 (Reuters) - Canada's ruling Liberals hung onto power after Monday's federal election, but lost their comfortable majority in Parliament and cannot now govern without the support of the left-leaning New Democrats.

The Liberals of Prime Minister Paul Martin, in power for a decade, did better than many had predicted. But they paid the price for voter fatigue and a scandal over government spending and won just 135 of the 308 seats in Parliament.

The result gives Canada its first minority government for 25 years — a potentially unstable scenario that could lead to another election within a couple of years.

The preliminary tally, reported by Elections Canada, gives 99 seats to the opposition Conservatives and 19 to the New Democrats.

This means the Liberals and New Democrats, who have cooperated in previous minority governments, are just one seat short of the 155 needed for a majority. But the close vote means recounts are likely in several districts, so the final tally could change.

"We as Liberals have lost votes, we have lost good members of Parliament... Canadians expected, and expect, more from us," Martin told supporters in Montreal.

"As a party and as a government we must do better and we will. I pledge that to you tonight... This is the first minority government in a generation. It's unfamiliar terrain, but we are up to the challenge, and we will embrace it."

Market reaction was muted and the Canadian dollar barely moved.

"With the Liberals remaining, one would assume that the same kind of fiscal policy will stay in place," said Carlos Leitao, chief economist at BLC Securities in Montreal.

The Liberals promise balanced budgets and more money for health care while the New Democrats want more social spending and higher corporate taxes.

"Over the last week Paul Martin made many commitments to Canadians that he would protect public health care...that he would start a national child care program," said New Democrat leader Jack Layton.

"My commitment to Canadians



Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin celebrates with supporters at party headquarters in Montreal June 28. Canada's ruling Liberals will stay in power after Monday's federal election, but will lose their majority in Parliament and need support from the left-leaning New Democrats to govern. CBC television said the Liberals, in power for a decade, would not win the 155 seats they needed to control the 308-seat parliament, although they would win more seats than the Conservative opposition. REUTERS

tonight is that we will hold him to it with every ounce of energy we have."

The Liberals won 36.7 percent of the vote, down from 40.8 percent in the 2000 election. The Conservatives won 29.6 percent with the New Democrats on 15.7 percent. Voter turnout was 60.3 percent, the lowest since 1898.

The separatist Bloc Quebecois, earlier tipped as a kingmaker, won 54 of the 75 seats in French-speaking Quebec, but was eclipsed by the New Democrats.

The results were a blow for Martin, who replaced Jean Chretien as prime minister in December, but who never recovered from a February report which showed C\$100 million (\$75 million) in government funds had found its way to firms with close ties to the Liberals.

Opinion polls indicated voter anger was so great that the Liberals would end up level with the Conservatives.

But the party defied gloomy predictions to pick up 75 of the 106 seats in Ontario, the powerful central province that has overwhelmingly voted Liberal since 1993.

The main losers were the Conservatives, who got far fewer than

the 120 seats many had predicted. Officials said voters had been influenced by Martin's portrayal of Conservative leader Stephen Harper as a right-wing extremist.

"What it comes down to is that they wanted to punish the Liberals, but they didn't want to defeat the Liberals," said spokesman William Stairs.

The Conservatives won 24 seats in Ontario, up from four in the previous Parliament but nowhere near the 45 they expected. They lost half a dozen seats in British Columbia, one of their strongholds.

Harper put a brave face on the result. "We've increased our seats and broadened our base across this nation," he told supporters. "I congratulate you for this remarkable achievement and remember: until someone someday achieves a majority, the fight is not yet won or lost."

Four senior Liberal cabinet members, including Defence Minister David Pratt, lost their seats.

(Additional reporting by Randall Palmer, Gilbert Le Gras, Jeff Jones, Robert Melnbardis and Emily Bowers) (\$1=\$1.35 Canadian)

Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

When nations fail to learn means to combat terrorism:

Violence can only result in more violence

Many of our readers may have learned that statistics revealed lately indicate the increase of terrorism incidents and threats globally since the so-called 'war on terrorism' started. This is a clear indication that the alleged war in fact had a reverse effect despite assurances and confirmations by supreme military commanders that they would 'crush' and 'destroy' terrorism wherever it is.

'Utter failure' is the best expression to use in such circumstances.

Polls indicating that Americans are now slowly realizing that the war on terrorism has not gone as expected. In fact, more than half – according to a recent poll – say that the war on Iraq was a mistake. With thousands of deaths in Iraq, one can only wonder how such a war would create more love for the USA and prevent terrorist ideas from developing.

In short, the US administration seems to have made a serious error in thinking that the use of force and its superior military might would help make the world a better and safer place. This conclusion has made Americans and the world pay a heavy price through so many violent incidents, some reported in the press, others not.

The idea behind all of this is that violence can only result in more violence. It is a pity that the sole superpower of the world, the USA, had to prove this the hard way. What is also of major concern is that some other countries have started applying the same means to allegedly fight terrorism, but instead have oppressed freedoms, detained innocent civilians and caused more outrage and hostility towards their governments and the USA.

There is an urgent need to come back to logic and common sense, put aside vengeance and hatred, and start all over again by knowing the cause of terrorism, its sponsors, and try to understand those terrorists in order to determine how to deal with them.

If a person is willing to sacrifice his life for his beliefs, then there is little once can do by force to stop him. It is rather wise to look into his case and whether we agree or not agree with his conclusions, we must approach him with peaceful means and seek ways to change his mentality through persuasion rather than oppression and destruction.

Only then will we come out of the current cycle of violence, and only then will we start the real war on terror.

The Editor



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Jihad or terrorism in Saudi Arabia?

Fahmi Mohamadsaeed
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What is going on in Saudi Arabia? Is it terrorism or jihad to kill, murder and slaughter foreigners, especially Americans in Saudi Arabia? Is Islam urging and inciting Muslims to kill civilians, whether Americans, Europeans or from elsewhere? The answer simply 'no, never'. In fact, Islam has nothing to do with terrorism. Islam is a word of love, peace, security, tolerance, stability, mercy and respect. Islam is derived from the word for 'peace'. Islam respects all mankind, regardless of their religion, sex, color or language.

In the early stage of Islam the leader of the Islamic army along with his followers were obliged to follow the following commands: "You shouldn't kill women, children, old people and people who are busy praying in churches and temples. You shouldn't even damage trees". Certainly, Islam has nothing to do with terrorism, killing, murdering, etc.

Back to what has been going on in Saudi Arabia for the past two years. In my humble perspective, I think what Al-Qaeda members are doing in Saudi

Arabia is retaliating for the Iraqis and Palestinians who are being killed, tortured and humiliated by Americans.

Of course, Al-Qaeda members are totally wrong and their actions are unjustified, because they are killing civilians who have nothing to do with what is going on in Iraq and Palestine.

They are killing civilians, not soldiers, who are working in Saudi Arabia and who came to the kingdom with the official permission of the Saudi authorities.

Regrettably, they are killing the wrong people whose only mistake is being Americans or Britons.

Yes, I am with Al-Qaeda members that the American policy is anti-Arab and hostile towards Islam and Muslims.

However, I am not with them in killing American and British civilians who are in Saudi Arabia.

If we have to follow Al-Qaeda members' theory and strategy, we in Yemen have to kill all Yemeni Jews, in retaliation for the massacres committed against Palestinians by Jews. It is nonsense.

My simple advice to Al-Qaeda members is to go to either Iraq or Palestine to fight, kill and slaughter Americans and Israelis because that would be a real Jihad and they would be labeled as real freedom fighters and martyrs and because the Americans in Iraq and

Israelis in Palestine are undoubtedly occupiers, killers, criminals and aggressors.

The second point Al-Qaeda members may have as an excuse for killing Americans and Britons in Saudi Arabia is based on a hadith stating that you have to eject the disbelievers from the Arab Peninsula.

Again Al-Qaeda members are totally wrong and their actions are unjustified. First, the hadith, if correct, urged Muslims to eject the disbelievers, not kill them. Second, Al-Qaeda members don't have the right and not entitled to decide who should or shouldn't stay in the kingdom, because they aren't responsible for running the kingdom. Third, killing foreigners (disbelievers) randomly in the kingdom will certainly lead to chaos and destabilization to the detriment of the national interests of the kingdom.

To conclude, Al-Qaeda members fully believe that they are right in committing and perpetrating such acts against foreigners, but the reality is the contrary. They are wrong. Therefore, non Muslims don't have to blame Islam for the wrong actions committed by misled people (Al-Qaeda members). Once again, Islam has nothing to do with such unjustifiable actions done by such misled people.

Response concerning 'Abyssinia'

PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN MEGALOMMATIS
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I would like to thank Mr. Wossen Gabriel ("Comments on Africa-related article") for his good words and nice comments for my article. And I want to agree with his understanding about the regional need for peace, common work and mutual, multilateral progress.

Mr. Wossen Gabriel asks why I use the term Abyssinia for that country. Well, the answer is simple: it is the only one correct! I would like to suggest in this regard a more careful reading of my text, particularly the part dedicated to this subject, where I explain that "Ethiopia" is Sudan, the ancient kingdom of Kush or Meroe, at the southern border of Egypt. The ancient Greek term Aithiopia refers to this kingdom, not Abyssinia!

Yes, King Ezana invaded Meroe (today's Bagrawiyah in Sudan, nearby Atbara) around 370 CE and attached that part of Sudan to his kingdom, but Abyssinia did not control Meroe – Aithiopia for more than 100–150 years. A little bit after 500 CE emerge in Sudan the three Sudanese Christian kingdoms:

1. Nobatia in the North with Faras as capital, between Abu Simbel and Wadi Halfa on the modern Egyptian – Sudanese borderline.

2. Makkuria in the central part of what was Sudan – 'Ethiopia' in antiquity,

with Dongola Agouza as capital, in the south of the modern city of Dongola, around 600 km in the south of the modern Egyptian – Sudanese borderline, and

3. Alwa or Alodia in the area of today's Khartoum.

So, the entire area of what the Ancient Greeks called 'Ethiopia' belong to local Khammitic and Nilo-Saharan peoples and to their states during medieval – Islamic times. Abyssinia controlled 'Ethiopia' for 100 – 150 years! That is all!

Of course, it was a matter of political propaganda of the Christian Abyssinian state of Axum to use the Biblical expression that Aithiopia (in the Greek translation of the 70 Alexandrian scholars) 'will extend its hand to the Lord' for signaling the Christening of Abyssinia. But we cannot afford to take this means of 1600-year old royal propaganda at face value today. Even more so, since Aithiopia in the Greek biblical text corresponds to Kush in the Massoretic Hebrew text; and Kush is certainly Sudan, 'Meroe', not Abyssinia.

What I believe personally in this regard is that Habasha, Abyssinia, is a very beautiful name, and Abyssinians need not to think that they may shine to the Western eyes more impressively through use of the term Ethiopia. And – that too – is up to the modern state of Sudan to

a. get rid of the negative and counter-productive assimilation with Egypt, and the ensuing de-personalization of the

Sudanese historical past,

b. to disentangle itself from the lethal embrace of dictatorial, pan-Arabist, and Islamist radical and extremist ideologies and groups, and then

c. to demand the exclusivity of the use of the term 'Ethiopia' by Sudan.

Saying this, I want to stress that I have nothing against either our honourable reader, or Abyssinia itself, a beautiful, and historically rich country. Simply, I believe that in a frank cooperation focusing of great potentialities all the countries of the region have. But if working together, truth must prevail.

And, last but not least, I do not favour Eritrea above Abyssinia. On the contrary, I already stressed in my article that Adulis, the rich port in the area of today's Massawa / Massikha, belonged to and was controlled by the King Zoscales of Axumite (pre-Christian) Abyssinia, according to the 1st century CE text of the Periplus of the Red Sea.

Why do I line up Eritrea with all the other modern countries? Well, one should ask the United Nations! Eritrea is now a reality. One must show to the government of Asmara the correct way for regional cooperation. Rejection is not the way. And the fact that Eritrea was part of Abyssinian forms of state in the past says nothing! Iraq belonged to both the Ottoman Empire and Iran. But today's realities, especially when many different peoples coexist within a country, emanate from the concept of human rights, and are based on the many steps of progress mankind has made. One who forgets this always fails.

Letters to the Editor

Save Yemen's educational future

As a Yemeni who began his education in (Almilmah) in Izzan – Rada – Yemen, completed his secondary school in Khartoum Sudan, his higher education in the USA and later became a college dean in the USA, the article by Mr. Aloffi regarding the true corrupt status of education in Yemen upset me beyond descriptions.

Even though I do not agree with some of his remedies, I appreciate his frankness and his accuracy in describing the corruptions that not only affect the primary and secondary system but damages the higher educational system too.

How is it possible for Yemen to join the 21st century if its educational system is in such a miserable state of

deterioration? Does anybody care? Or is the country in such a state of corruption that no one really cares about the future any more?

Ali Saleh Al-Izzani
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'Akhdams' are not Somalis

It is unfortunate that Mr. Al-Sharay has assumed for Somalis. It's even more unfortunate that you have assumed that he was correct without making the necessary research in order to give out such critical information. I wonder what made your reader assume that Akhdams were Somalis.

I have lived in Yemen before and I am completely aware of how uneducated some Yemenis are when it comes to dealing with people of color. I remember many incidents in which when a

Letters to the Editor

Kareena A.

Save Yemen before it's late

Yemenis all seem to be so very happy, but why? There is not much to be happy about. We may be enjoying the temporary pleasures of qat and a laid back society, but in reality Yemen is losing ground fast. The United Nations recently published an apocalyptic report on Yemen's future that simply reaffirmed my former prediction of a steadily degenerating Yemen.

Yet Yemenis are happy. We will not be so happy when Yemen's lack of an economy and infrastructure allows the outside world to sweep in and exploit the country's culture and resources. My fellow Yemeni brothers: Save our Yemen before it is too late!

Ali Jubani
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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The future of the Moslem world Can America play a positive role?

One would think that after close to four years of dealing with the Moslem World in a somewhat extraordinary negative way, the United States will find more constructive avenues towards handling its foreign policy in the region. Needless to say, this would involve a truly objective assessment of how Moslems think in general and what their hopes and aspirations are for the future of their own countries, in particular and the Moslem World in general. It is clear that so far US policy towards the Moslem World can be assessed as having been a failure, for the simple reason that even the most moderate of Moslems are convinced that American foreign policy does not look with favor upon Moslems of any dogmatic persuasion and tends to regards the causes of most Moslems as not worth the effort of even closer scrutiny let alone sympathy. On the other hand, Moslems in general from Malaysia to Mauritania tend to think that American policy towards Islam is often dictated by a blind inclination to fall into the misconceptions about Islam disseminated by a pro-Zionist literary and journalistic establishment in the United States that often portrays Islam as the enemy of western civilization and culture.

Of course, the Moslems have to share some of the blame for this. Their governments have been slow in catching up to trends in western attitude towards Islam and in understanding how this conflict of civilizations is emerging. Moreover, there are many Moslem regimes that tend to worry about their own survival in the light of the collapse of Saddam Hussein, and tend to rush into placating American viewpoints, even if it means cutting into the legitimate rights of free speech and civil society advocacy of genuine national and religious causes. Thus, we will see Moslem governments ready to avail themselves for carrying out the interrogations of those Moslems apprehended by the Americans, who could be subject to arrest without due process and may become the victims of torture, so as to minimize the criticism that the United States is subject to in its violations of human rights as ordained by the Constitution of the United States and the international treaties and conventions governing human rights in general or the handling or mishandling of prisoners of the current American White House Administration's "war on terror" in particular.

Furthermore, it should be very clear that the Palestine issue is a problem that is dear to all Moslems and not just the Arabs, because of the place that Jerusalem has in the hearts of all Moslems and because the religious affiliation of the majority of the Palestinians imposes upon all Moslems to give as much assistance to their brethren in Palestine that will ensure that they are not continuously subjected to the humiliating treatment under a cruel occupation that aims to eliminate them from their indigenous homeland.

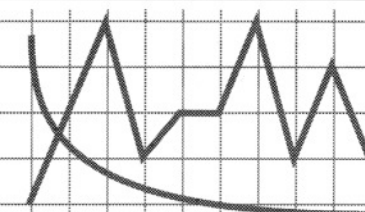
Needless to say, the United States is viewed as a very important cause d'être of this suffering by the Palestinians and are probably the only force in the world that can immediately change the "facts on the ground" towards a more humanitarian outlook that recognizes the rights of all people to peace and freedom and not just favor the so called rights of Israelis, which are based on mythology and misrepresentations of God's teachings of justice and equality for all mankind.

In addition, the United States has been involved long enough in the region to understand what the real issues at stake are and to have a clear view of the obvious sufferings the Palestinians are undergoing that Moslems throughout the world perceive.

While no one underestimates the powerful influence of the Zionist lobby in the domestic policies in the United States, it should be borne in mind that Moslems are hoping that even American politicians would think that long-term American interests could never be served by the alienation of a sizable portion of the population of the world (well over one billion), just to placate 6 million voters or so and the pro-Zionist establishment which has even been able to engrain in evangelical thought the idea that Israel is part and parcel of evangelical teachings.

It is no secret that underneath the Islamic World is a vital resource that is essential to the vitality of western economic interests and moreover the Islamic World sits on the most strategic location on earth crossing three continents and dominating most of the navigational lanes of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, not to mention the sizable Moslem minorities that exist in most western countries including the United States (probably six million voters also). While at this stage, this geopolitical factor may not play an important role in the design of US foreign policy, no thanks to the appalling weakness of most Moslem governments in recognizing their own strengths, one should not expect that overtime the situation will remain static. Moslems are increasingly becoming more vocal in their anti-American feelings, coupled by their disenchantment with their governments' management of both foreign and domestic affairs. Rather than to let such potent disapproval of American foreign policy become the excuse for all the ills that Moslem countries are facing now, American policy makers would be wise to consider the danger of this disenchantment falling into the terrorist establishment that has been allowed (ironically thanks to US support at first) to grow and spread) to nurture and grow throughout the Islamic world. Giving lip service to Moslems by American politicians on Islamic holidays has become insufficient in convincing Moslems that the US does not seriously seek to undermine the rights and feelings of Moslems throughout the world. For Moslems, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan (not necessarily in a pro-Taliban posture) are what are interpreting American policies towards most Moslems. Unless there is a real fundamental change in US policy, where Moslems do not appear to get the short end of the stick, there is really no telling how this interpretation will become unhealthy for all concerned.

YT Business



29.7% of installations need technical professions and assistants

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Results of a field survey targeted 7113 installations throughout Yemen have revealed that the net demand for workforce during the period 2004-2006 amounts to about 44468 requests.

The Minister for Social Affairs and Labour Abdulkareem al-Arhabi has made it clear that from among 6450

institutions that responded to the survey, 29.7% are facing a deficit and shortage in technical and assisting professional skills and 25.2% of those installations are facing a shortage in specialized professions and that the number of workers in need of training and employment are 42277 workers forming 16.4% of the total workers included in the survey.

The minister added that the estimated average annual increase of workforce is 168 thousand persons per year.

He has confirmed the importance of activating the relationship inside the labour market and organizing it between supply and demand by increasing opportunities of training and qualification for those bearing qualifications and also finding skilled labour.

According to directives of the Yemeni government the Yemeni labour market is facing strong pressures from official and private university education outputs that are described as ran-

dom and unstudied. It is therefore the government is working, through the ministry of vocational and technical training, for intensifying programs of qualification for graduates from the secondary school in specialized areas needed by productive sectors, whether in government establishments and companies or those of the mixed and private sectors.

Depending on indicators of the workforces' survey, it seems that the productive establishments want techni-

cal and vocational and specialized skills and this necessitates that the concerned parties have to coordinate among themselves in order to attain qualification of human cadres and employing them.

Hence, we are of the view of the necessity of achieving balance between the government policy aimed at development of higher education fields and associating its outputs with needs of development and the labour market.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.5700	184.8000
Sterling Pound	337.2200	337.6400
Euro	224.5900	224.8700
Saudi Rial	49.2200	49.2800
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.0900	626.8700
UAE Dirhem	50.2500	50.3100
Egyptian Pound	29.7500	29.7800
Bahraini Dinar	489.5800	490.1900
Qatari Rial	50.7200	50.7800
Jordanian Dinar	260.3200	260.6500
Omani Rial	479.4300	480.0300
Swiss Franc	147.5300	147.7200
Swedish Crown	24.5200	24.5500
Japanese Yen	1.7071	1.7092

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

A workshop on developing Coffee production

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Fifty specialists are to gather in a workshop in Sana'a on 12-14 July to study available potentials for the development of coffee growing, marketing and necessary methods to improve chances of competition of this product in external markets.

Premises of the workshop, to be sponsored by the college of Agriculture of Sana'a University, would be focusing on gathering accurate information on present reality of coffee cultivation in Yemen with regard to volume of production, ways of marketing and drawing up an five-year plan, implementable during the next years.

Discussing will also touch on deepened study of the major impediments precluding increase of Yemeni Coffee production based on studies conducted in this field in previous years.

The workshop is the product of efforts exerted by many parties, among them the "Coffee administration" at the ministry of agriculture and irrigation, the centre for genealogical origins at the college of agriculture, Sana'a University, the Social Fund, and Adas project for self-assistance and rural that is interested in developing coffee plantation and marketing.



A view of a coffee tree with beautiful clusters among its branches

Since 1995,

What has the private sector benefited from economic reform?

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Nine years after the beginning of the economic reform program in Yemen the private sector finds itself face to face with a host of government measures implemented in the country and in order to assess what it has gained during that period and where it has failed in addition to reasons that led to the foundering of many investments an finally the necessary factors for the achievement of the economic reform goals.

Businessmen harbour the view that the program of economic reform in Yemen has achieved for the government many objectives. The main of those objectives are the re-control over the proportion of inflation, growth of saving, stability of monetary situations and halting the deteri-

oration of the national currency. But the program was confronted with impediments such as the emergence of corruption in the administrative machinery at the state institutions and those dealing directly with investors.

But the program am of the economic reform has achieved a progress in the area of legal legislation encouraging private sector investment, allowing the sector to realize the following goals:

- re-organization of its institutions, particularly the chamber of commerce and industry and its general federation,

- Some private sector establishments have re-reformed their situations,

- The private sector has accommodated part of unemployed scientific skills.

The private sector, However, had during the period 1995-2004 s faced with difficulties and challenges hin-

dered its development due to the slowness in granting licenses, administration bureaucracy and routine and the emergence of a sector claiming investment at the expense of the private sector activities. Hence was born a group hampering the principle of realisation of justice concerning the state tenders system and complicating taxation laws. It also works for delaying the reform of customs system and sluggishness in the process of privatisation of floundering establishments and installations. Thus the elements of judicial reform and commercial judiciary have doubled activities of the private sector, a matter that necessitated reconsideration of the judiciary condition and also that of customs and taxation, in addition to offering additional facilities for encouraging investment. The law of investments has been amended for several times. Nevertheless, those measures were not enough for there

still the private sector, after about nine years since the implementation of the economic reform program, suffering from backwardness and lagging behind the realisation of its goals. Moreover, many of the investment projects have not been implemented yet.

According to businessmen, activities of many institutions in the private sector are still inactive or semi-open. What has made it worse is the government direction towards imposing the general tax on sales.

If the law pertaining the sales taxes was implemented in the next period, the conditions of the trading sector would get worse. And hence its confrontation with financial and administrative reforms and rejecting them would increase. That means the economic reforms were in interest of the government and the goals aspired from them for the private sectors have not been realized.

World companies win oil investment contracts

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Chinese oil company Sinopec has won investment contract in the sectors of 69 and 71, the Norwegian company DNO in sector 73 and the British company DOVE in sector 72 while. Preliminary results mentioned the availability of oil in the sector 41 run by the OJNC Company.

Those companies have been chosen from among 19 companies tendered for competition for obtaining concessions of oil and gas exploration in six fields included in a tender by the Yemeni Establishment for Exploration and Production of Oil and competition between the companies was confined to world criteria. According to agreements on investment contracts, an amount of \$28 million would be spent during the first and second stages of exploration, digging 13 exploratory wells in addition to conducting 2 and three dimension seismographic survey estimated at around 3250 square

km.

Engineer Nabil al-Qawsi, president of the Yemeni Establishment for Exploration and Production of Oil said that evaluation process used in selecting the winner companies was completed according to world criteria and bases.

Al-Qawsi also said there would be studies and necessary tests for getting sure about capacities of the sector 41 before the commercial announcement ad that would confirm the latest explorations the sector no. 29, pointing that during the coming period there would be negotiations to be held with the winning companies in the tender about participation in production as a prelude to signing the agreements and referred to be endorsed by the government and the parliament.

The Oil Establishment would in the next period join with productive and exploratory companies working in both basins of Maseela and Shabwa with the aim of strengthening the productive capacities and exchange of information and ideas about characteristics of the basins potentials.

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Yemen

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Yemen:

Claiming the future



IRENA KNEHTL
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In the first part of the serialization of her essay 'Yemen: claiming the future', Irena Knehtl provides an historical perspective on economic development in Yemen and the Arab world.

Sanaa was born in September so as to die in November...then to be born again in May or in October.

Do you know how this dead Sanaa died?

*And when it will live again?
Like an apricot tree it died standing.
So as to prepare for its green birth.
It continues to die so as to live better.*

Abdalla Baraduni, Yemeni poet

Economics is about everyday life, and development is about people, their hopes and dreams, how to make difference and stand by the world. The challenge is to follow through and nurture the abundance that has a life of its own.

Human creativity cannot be measured in numbers and or statistics only. But if released it is the most important vehicle for human development.

The Arab Peninsula

The inhospitable, inaccessible area we know as the Arabian Peninsula can justify the claim to be the cradle of civilization. Its very inhospitability meant that within the limits of available technology it could support no more than a limited number of people. When that number was exceeded migration became inevitable. The migration, however, of peoples who were accustomed to fighting and struggling for their existence in a harsh environment and made a considerable impact on their new, less austere, surroundings.

The inhabitants of the peninsula had, for as long as can be remembered, referred to it as "Jazirat al-Arab", the Island of the Arabs. The tribe of Kinda with its origin in mountainous Hadramawt in Yemen played a decisive role in cultural history of the Arabian Peninsula in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. This was the tribe to which the famous Amra Al-Qais belonged, the greatest poet of pre-Islamic Arabia. It was under the impetus of the latter and of the Kinda that the Arabs were united for a century, and that Arabic developed a more united form – the language of the entire community. It also meant the first step

towards unification that reached its heights with advent of Islam. From the womb of the Arab Peninsula gushed forth a spiritual force that carried the bounds of the Arab lands to five million square miles, one-eleventh of world's surface, and accounted for one thirtieth of mankind. It was the Islamic impetus that carried the Arabs from their home to historic greatness, and it was the Arabs who gave Islam its earthly success.

When after their long journey, the Banu Hilal, the tribe of tribes, whose origin is probably between ancient Marib and the Barati mountains, shook off the dust from their boots. The dust piled up and became the hill known after them. This dust also became covered with seeds that grew into trees in whose broad branches birds sang about faraway lands: the Arab Empire stretched from Persia in the east and to Spain and Morocco in the west

Yemen - The Setting

Secluded behind its mountain barriers, protected by its sheer lack of physical communication, Yemen maintained a reputation for mystery – even for Arabia. But Yemen has not always been isolated from the outside world. Unlike Oman, it is one of the few regions of the Peninsula to have regular rainfall. The soil is therefore fertile and valleys are green. Yemen was renowned for its walled cities, fruit gardens, spices, textiles, coffee, and cotton. To the Romans with its flourishing agriculture Yemen was Arabia Felix, or Happy Arabia.

History of Economic Development

Yemen has a long history of civilization and economic development. It has experienced several kingdoms and states through its long history.

The first kingdoms historically documented as political units were Mainians, Sabians, and Himyars which during the eighth century B.C. existed simultaneously for 500 to 500 years. At height of their power they dominated much of Southern Arabia and controlled the incense trail.

In addition Marib held a commanding position for the transportation of frankincense on the important caravan route that ran from the areas on the Indian Ocean to the shores of the Mediterranean. The route wound along a chain of watering places on the edge of wadis, between the mountains and the desert. Here the riches of Arabia traveled by caravan through the Yemeni landscape. Herbs, spices, and incense were coveted throughout the ancient world. More than 3,000 tons may have been exported annually to Greece and Rome. It used to be giant



Green terraces

industry. The whole civilized world craved incense and South Arabia controlled the source. It developed a powerful cartel, a kind of OPEC of its time. The "pipeline" began at Qana, the present day Birr Ali, east of Aden. During the Middle Ages, Al-Mukalla, replaced Qana as the chief port of Hadramawt.

There rose a river of incense that in ancient times flowed north in caravans from Arabia Felix – Happy Arabia – to distant Greece and Rome. Along the route a succession of kingdoms prospered for nearly two millennia: fabled names like Main, Hadramawt, Sheba, Qataban. They forged their own languages and alphabets, laws, and religious art and architecture, and engineered dams to farm hundreds of thousands of acres of desert before slipping into the dust of history.

Ancient Marib was the largest of the incense cities. The ancient Marib dam was built to harness runoff water from the high Yemeni mountains to the west. The dam and its canal network irrigated thousand of acres around the ancient Sabean capital. Upstream from the ancient site of the dam is the new dam. The new dam is meant to double the area the ancients used to cultivate and also make electricity.

Flourishing agricultural activity supported prosperous trade. The agricultural system reflected its owners' high skill, as demonstrated by the terraced fields and dams. Beside the incense route are high mountains and cool fertile valleys to the west, what perhaps was Saba's fairest province, and where

majority of Yemenis live today. There coffee beans ripened on the green slopes. Yemen invented the beverage that took Europe by storm in the 1600s. The richest variety grew on Yemeni hills, although it took its name from the Yemeni seaport Mocha.

In the sixth century, however, the great Marib Dam, on which much of Yemeni farming was based, broke down. The wadis and forests disappeared, and Yemen entered a period of a long and slow decline. Further discovery of the sea route around Africa shifted most of the traditional trade from the incense trail.

The ruling dynasty of royal Imams which was to last for eleven hundred years, was founded in the ninth century. The following social, political and economic isolation prolonged economic stagnation and prevented initiatives for economic growth and development. The 26th September 1962 and subsequent 14th October 1967 Yemeni revolutions meant the most radical change experienced to date in the social, economic, political and cultural life on the Arab Peninsula.

Economic Development during the Eighties

Important structural changes took place during eighties in the area of trade, payments, investments and capital flows resulting in the formulation of a Yemeni national economic policy. Two main issues dominated the economies of the Arab Peninsula, namely food and energy. It was also during the eighties that the trend 'less food for more people' emerged. On the other hand the Arabian Peninsula emerged for industrial countries an important market. The region itself was very much on the crossroad.

A new division came into being:

The Arab Rich with material financial resources but no physical wealth, such as human resources, agricultural land, and rain water; and

Arab Poor with limited financial resources but physical resources, such as human resources, agricultural land, rain water.

The Arab rich cover their food requirements out of their petrol profits from imports from non-Arab countries. Further Arab speaking peoples depend on rivers and water flowing from non-Arab countries. Many Arab countries tap ground water. This may be a justified use for now but cannot continue indefinitely. Local drainage, flood control and river training facilities should be incorporated within the responsibilities of an irrigation scheme or urban or regional utilities.

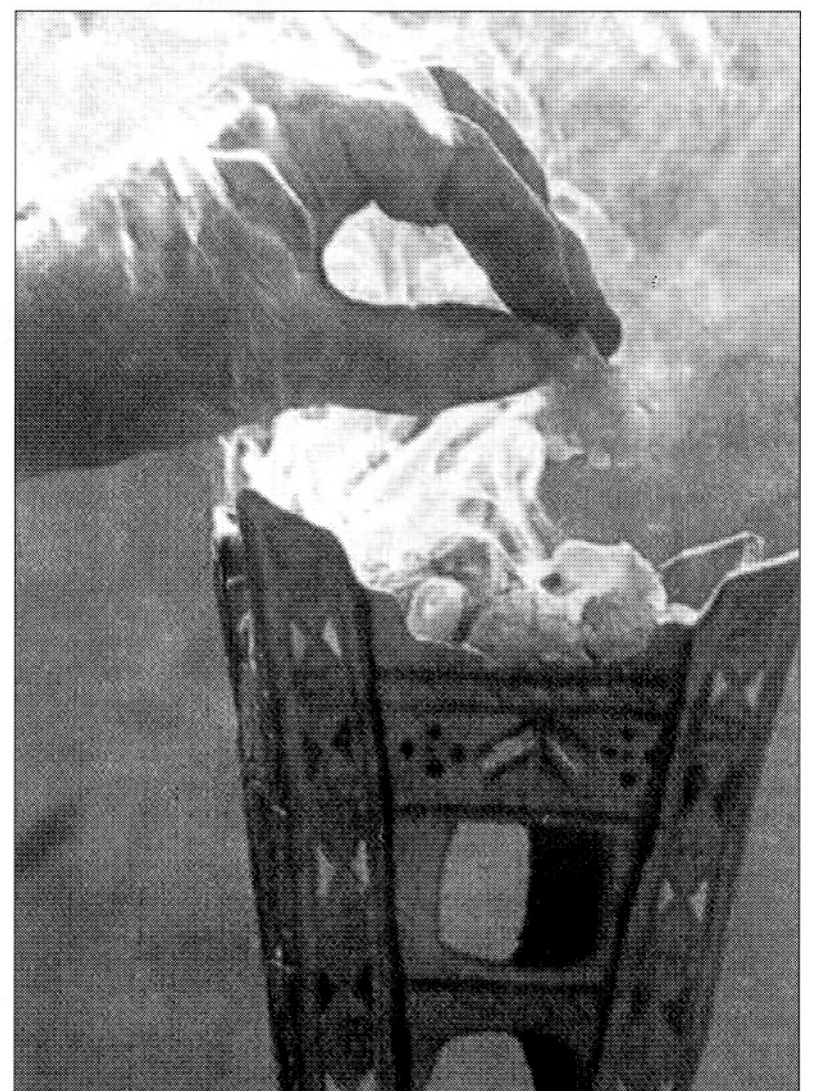
The majority of Arabs live in poor Arab lands. Southern Arabia is the

most populous part of the Arabian Peninsula. The social differences and challenges here are sharper. Their development is being further handicapped by different factors, such as

lack of financial resources, education, poor technology, poor development policies and uncoordinated pan-Arab policy.



Rich culture



Incense burner



Village on mountain

Elections in a hostile environment

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Joint Electoral Management Body in Afghanistan has shifted into high gear. Responsible for registering Afghan voters for elections expected to be held in September, the joint UN-Afghan electoral authority got off to a slow start last December: Only 1.8 million out of 9.5 million eligible voters were registered at the beginning of May. But at the end of June, registration reached five million.

"Voter registration sites and teams have been increasing on a daily basis, and the coverage area has been expanding," said Said Mohammad

Azam, Media Relations Officer of the Joint Electoral Management Body. "We register more than 100,000 people daily all over the country. It used to be only 50,000 people."

But many are wondering if Afghanistan, which has experienced a quarter of a century of ongoing warfare, is ready to carry out elections in the near future.

Last week, Taliban fighters killed up to 16 Afghans after the militants learned that the victims had registered to vote. The Taliban bombed a bus killing two female election workers and wounding 13 others while traveling to a registration site.

In June, violence erupted in north Afghanistan which had remained calm since the Taliban regime was over-

thrown in late 2001. Dozens of foreign aid workers and civilians were killed by terrorist attacks, including a raid on Chinese railway workers that left 11 dead.

The Taliban, fighting US forces in the south, has been carrying out new attacks to destabilize the country and derail the upcoming elections. Some believe, however, that it is not only the Taliban trying to create more instability.

"Extremists, the Taliban and drug dealers all have an interest in destabilizing Afghanistan," said Lutfullah Mashal, Special Assistant to the Minister of Interior in Afghanistan. "Factions and irresponsible armed people have also created a lot of problems, not only for aid workers but also for the central government and the international community."

Last month, NATO, which leads the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, gave a warning that instability and violence has risen dramatically this year. "The security situation is far from being stable. It is deteriorating," said Major Jacek Ciszek, Acting Chief of Public Information for NATO based in Afghanistan.

To help improve security, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has vowed to disarm militias - groups that fought against the Soviets in the eighties and the Taliban a few years later - before the coming elections. But powerful commanders, such as the governor of Herat Ismail Khan and the heavily armed Abdul Rashid Dostem, have been reluctant to cooperate. Only a few thousand out of 100,000 weapons have been collected up to now.

"Any force not part of the Afghan National Army is a challenge," said Umer Daudzai, Chief of Staff of President Karzai's administration. "But this is reality, so we ought to deal with it diplomatically and peacefully. I hope we will succeed."

According to Mashal, warlords that have control of militias may have the power to undermine the elections by intimidating voters.

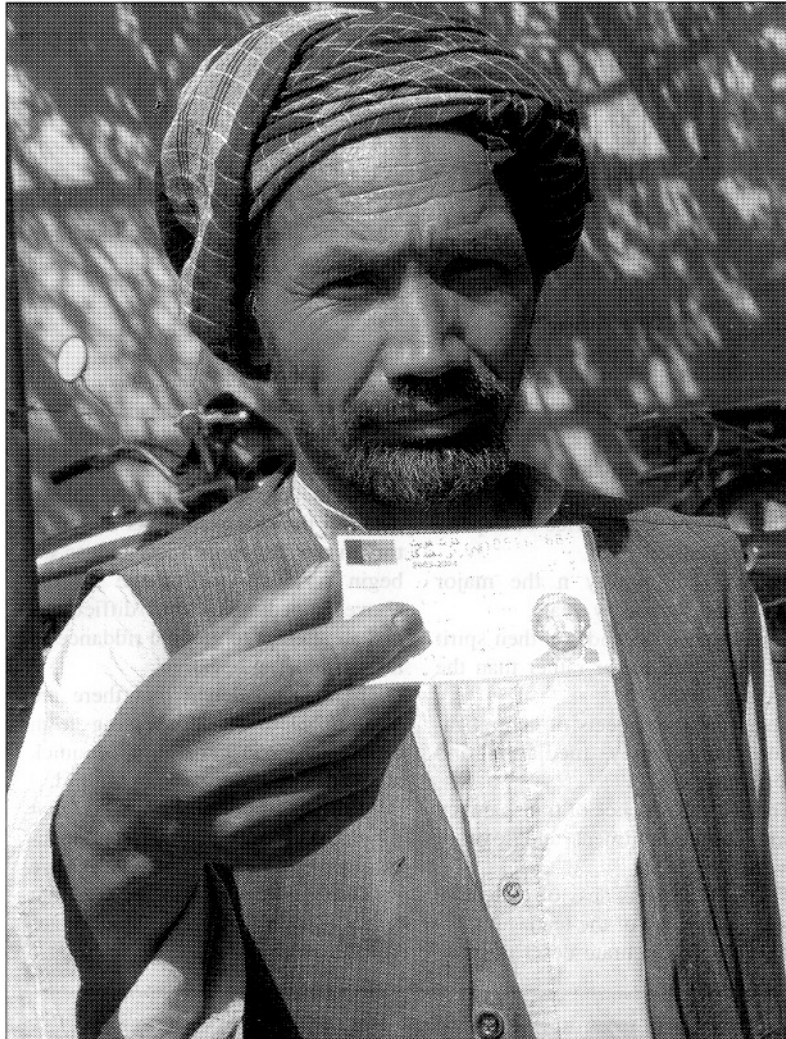
"We fear that the warlords will send their own people by influencing the voters to vote for who they want," said Mashal. "Representatives from their areas will be their own men, work for the warlords and always do what is best for the interests of the warlords."

It was agreed in Bonn in late 2002



Afghan militants who follow a warlord in north Afghanistan

(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



An Afghan in Kabul displaying his new registration card that will allow him to vote in the upcoming elections (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

that members of the cabinet would be replaced in six months, but Karzai has stalled. According to Azizullah Lodin, President the General Administration against Bribery and Corruption, 80% of the cabinet is made up of militia leaders, put there by the United States for their help toppling the Taliban.

He added that if the cabinet remains the same "all the help from the outside and the chance for the country to be democratic would come to nothing. Afghanistan would remain the way it has been in the last few decades: A backward country that lives in the dark ages."

Some believe that even if the situation in Afghanistan is not suited for holding elections in September, it is important that they be carried out, especially after Karzai postponed the elections scheduled to take place in July.

"We face a lack of security, the presence of guns and warlords bullying the voters, which makes it appear that we are not ready for elections," said Abdul Latif Rahmani, Professor of

Law and Political Science at Kabul University. "But it is necessary that we have elections in September. If the elections are delayed again, it will hurt the credibility of the interim government. I believe that we have no choice: Carry out the elections to make the government legitimate to the people."

At a NATO conference in Istanbul earlier this week, member states promised to boost the number of peacekeeping troops in Afghanistan to help stabilize the country during the elections. Until now, the International Security Assistance Force, led by NATO, has been made up of only 6,500 soldiers to protect the capital, Kabul. US forces have been preoccupied in the south trying to destroy the remnants of the Taliban and hunt down Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the international terrorist network Al-Qaeda. NATO plans on increasing the number of troops to 10,000 and broadening its operations outside the capital.

But some still have doubts about the elections, even with a greater presence of a peacekeeping force. They hold

that Afghanistan is being pressured by the United States to hold elections too early so that President Bush, whose support from US citizens has dropped resulting from continued violence in Iraq, will gain votes next fall by showing that he has brought democracy to Afghanistan.

"I don't think Afghanistan is ready for elections," said an Afghan political analyst. "It's probably better to secure a country before holding elections. It looks like Bush wants Afghanistan to have elections despite the lack of security because he wants to show something good to his people before the US elections next November."

And as the elections get closer, the increase in violence may have just started.

"We are expecting violence to increase between now and the elections," said Mashal. "It is difficult to predict by how much, but there will be more attacks to try and stop us from holding the first elections since the Taliban regime was ousted."

Unplanned construction on Mount Aden

BY NAZEEM ABDULLAH
FOR YEMEN TIMES

The volcanic Mount Aden, primarily overlooking Seira Province is 74 square kilometers and twice the size of the province. Visitors to the hill are usually astonished at the magnificent works of ancient Yemenis during previous centuries in designing and establishing water barriers, flood deterrents and water wells and cisterns. They utilized rocks with a rare substance called, "Bomis", discovered nearly 1500 years ago, as shown in the fascinating architectural designs of their homes and about 77 water wells scattered in the surrounding areas including 54 in Crater City alone. It is similar to modern cement. The majority of old homes in Aden were built of this material.

Nowadays, the hill constitutes a major threat to the inhabitants and residential neighborhoods in Seira province, especially during rain seasons. Some residents have begun establishing unplanned constructions on the passageways of floods and blocking the flow of rainwater.

Historical testimonials confirm that Crater Town is one of the oldest towns in the Aden Peninsula, dating back thousands of years. It flourished because of its natural harbor at the "Ramzeet" Gulf, Seira region. The harbor was transferred to "al-Moala" area during the British era. The town witnessed the eruption of the famous Aden volcano thousands of years ago according to the seismic studies conducted by the Royal British Science Team in 1964, headed by Mr. Albroft Ayahas, the founder of Open University in Great Britain.

Mr. Marouf Okbah, a geologist, indicated that Mount Aden is composed of bionic terraces consisting of three mountainous chains. The first chain is composed of hilly areas at approximately 550 feet. They surround Shamasan Mountain in the shape of a horseshoe in the north

east, followed by the Mount Aden which is connected by streambeds and water cisterns. The hill's average height is around 220 meters. It also contains volcanic openings. The third chain consists of steep downward slopes is situated in the residential area. Its average height does not exceed 30 meters.

Mr. Marouf added that the increased activities and movement towards the slopes threatens the housing and residents during periods of rainfall.

He claimed that a comprehensive report on Mount Aden was submitted to Aden's governor with the emphasis on the historical, economic, and tourist importance of the hill, such as the "Bomis" caves that reflect a highly advanced mining system. The "bomis" substance is far more distinguished than cement of nowadays. "Bomis" was discovered 1500 years ago, a more advanced material than Portland's cement, which was first manufactured in Britain's town of Portland in 1830.

"The submitted report points out the imminent danger to residents of these caves that requires their evacuation, especially during the rainfall seasons", said Mr. Marouf. He added that the report recommends the integration and preservation of these caves.

Danger to residents in Aidrous and Khusaf

Studies indicate that Aden witnesses heavy rains after a span of 10-20 years, resulting in the formation of massive floods, similarly to those in 1982 and 1993, which resulted in the destruction of homes and deaths of several people.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Saif, Office Director of the Aden branch of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, claimed also that a study was made by the ministry about Mount Aden, including the Aidrous and Atawelah areas, which confirmed the presence of water barriers and dams since ancient times. They were commonly called "The Seven Gateways". The

British in the 19th century integrated them to holdback waters before moving them into underground cisterns.

Dr. Saif asserted that renovation work on the seven dams was launched in 1998 but was suspended after the completion of only five of them in 2000. Special renovation work is still required for the remaining two dams in order to ensure prevent damage during rainfall.

However, danger looms around the newly established residential areas due to two factors. The first is the ongoing destruction of the eastern part of the hill by the rock-demolition machinery, affiliated with Public Works Office. The second is due to the western slopes of the hill.

The lack of a wide area for collecting waters makes it very difficult to establish dams and water barriers, and therefore, the floods will have to go through residential areas instead.

Dr. Said added that some measures have been taken to ameliorate the situation in Khusaf, such as to suspend the demolition activities on the eastern side of the hill and to establish water barriers in order to prevent the flow of floods. On the western side, in Aidrous, a drainage system needs to be constructed to reduce potential flood damage to housing that was built without proper planning permission and is situated in the path of floodwaters.

Mr. Jamal Alyamany, Director of Seirah province, confirmed that the housing constructed in the path of floodwaters remain in danger. We hope that the citizens who reside in the floods' way will move to another safer and more suitable area.

Mr. Alyamany alluded to future projects in the province. To ease the flow of traffic, a bridge will be built behind the National Bank, in addition to setting up a cornice near Seirah mall and a number of other services and development projects for the convenience of citizens in the province.

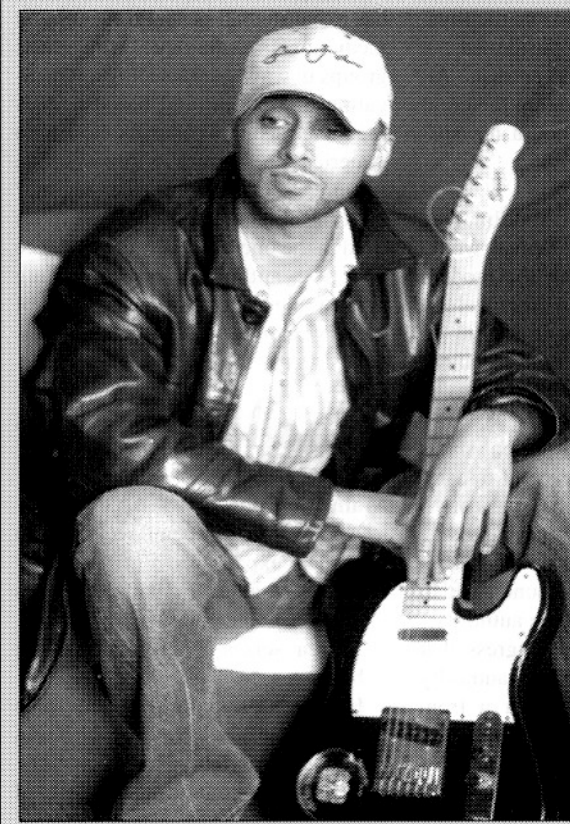
"I know where I want to be, I just don't know how to get there"

Yemeni Rhymes

CONTRIBUTED TO YEMEN TIMES

Yemeni Rhymes is a full-colour newsletter based in England, in a city called Sheffield. It was born and inspired by seeing an example of the Yemen Times. It is a tool to inspire the Yemeni youths in Sheffield but development is already on the way to create a website for Yemenis all over the world to download the newsletter.

Yemeni Rhymes sole objectives is to engage the Yemeni youth and build a forum in the future for Yemenis to meet and inspire each other towards business enterprises, training in the fields of the creative and performing arts and leadership programmes. Such programmes will provide the opportunity for Yemeni youths to meet established entrepreneurs, designers, producers, magazine editors, or those successful in whatever field the Yemenis aspire to step into one day.



KEEP THE FAITH

Yemeni Rhymes

Sheffield Only Up the Gable

SKILLZ

www.sheffieldrhymes.co.uk

SKILLZ is a national talent show to test your skills and win prizes. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent.

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT!

<http://www.yr.co.uk/>

If you want to create a debate or chat and connect with Yemenis from all over the world, then you need to check out the Yemeni Association Sheffield branch link. You will get to meet with Yemenis from UK and all over the world. It's great if you're networking, share your skills or come up with a challenge, and need help with some questions for your assignments/essays.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/blast/>

If you are into music, art, writing, dance and need some advice and tips or want to ask the experts, then this site is kind of cool for 14-18 year olds. It has all the info when you need it back home!

YSAA

Yemeni Students Association

YSAA is a national talent show to test your skills and win prizes. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent. We do it to inspire a new breed of talent.

By bridging these worlds, Yemenis can say, "I really don't want to be an doctor, but an engineer, because I can see myself doing it." They say it because they have been physically shown around such a world. This is true sustainability, a positive, pro-active approach for them to see where they can be or what they need to do to get to where they want to go, and be inspired.

It will celebrate the rich history, culture, and way of life of Yemenis, providing information on what the Arab/Muslims have contributed to the world to inspire the youths. Such knowledge will raise the youths' self esteem and give them a sense of ownership, belonging and become aware of where they come from.

It starts by producing Yemeni Rhymes, and it has to be consistent. At the moment Yemeni Rhymes is funded, written and designed by the One Dark Angel. The first issue is out and the response has been astounding.

Yemeni Press

A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- American embassy: The ambassador's visit to Al-Jawf has no relationship with military campaign in Saddam
- A bomb discovered before a judge house in Seiyoun
- Verdict on the case of killing colonel Jalal on Sunday
- Fighting resumed, al-Hothy accuses mediation committee of blasphemy
- Hadramout physicians hold their conference
- Chinese doctor discovers a piece of cloth inside a Yemeni patient
- Elections Supreme committee begins preparations for by-elections for two parliament seats
- In Aden, a citizen kidnaps the brides in the night of her wedding
- Al-Hothy insists on continuing his insurgency
- Investigations prove that al-Hothy forced the Jews to support his rebellion
- Transport undersecretary: The ministry officially received all documents pertaining to the container port in Aden
- Al-Iryani: Middle East reform must take into consideration peculiarity of the region and support of its countries
- The army sets siege to areas of al-Hothy followers, prevent food to reach them
- Dr Sael: It is significant to criticize the past mistakes and confidently look forward to future
- Big fire destroys passports and sensitive documents at Hardh border crossing
- Gulf race and Saudi pressure to enter Yemeni markets
- Yemen accuses Eritrea of daily provocations in the Red Sea
- ILO expects Yemen's failure to alleviate poverty by 2025
- Air and land shelling continues, on Marran, Saddam
- US ambassador Hull accompanied by a minister and media men in a visit to Al-Jawf
- Iran release the British soldiers
- Eritrea seize Yemeni fishermen
- Bombardment of Saddam by artillery and planes
- Political Security Organisation summons al-Thawri newspaper editor in chief
- The president lauds security efforts for keeping security and stability
- In Arab Information Ministers meeting, media intensive support for the Arab issues discussed
- The Zionist entity refuses to give Cairo any guarantees on not maintaining its aggression on the Palestinians
- Civil Service minister: No back down from dispensing the increment in employees salaries
- Yemen signs a contract with Rotterdam Company for naming operator for Aden port



Annas weekly, 28 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Signs of alleviation in Saddam confrontation after the arrival of mediators
- The president refuses to meet the JMP to discuss the events in Saddam
- In Ibb unidentified persons tear up the Koran
- Members of the local council in al-Hadda threaten of collective resignation

Writer Ali Ahmed Ali says in an article the sedition of Saddam is about to be extinguished by virtue of resolution with which president Ali Abdullah Saleh has been dealing with it. We regret the big number of the Yemeni victims from both sides. Undoubtedly, negotiation and dialogue are the best and safer solutions for ending the crises but in certain situations taking the difficult decision of deterrence becomes an inevitable one. The president's keenness on the republican regime, the constitution and the law was the impetus behind moving the armed forces to nip the sedition in its bud. His same keenness is he feeling that made him give his directives for holding negotiations with the rebels to surrender themselves so that to give negotiations a chance besides the military operations.

What we hope for is to see an end to the these events with least losses and that the insurgents would resort to reason and admit their wrong and be subjected to the law, benefiting from the spirit of forgiveness shown by the president for sparing the Yemenis blood.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 28 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Abolishment of all contracts with the Arab teachers,
- Al-Jawfi: 1300 Yemeni teachers replace Arab teachers this year
- GPC calls its organizations to stand against al-Hothy insurgency
- Minister of water and environment says the new water strategy is more realistic as the party in charge of its implementation is one
- More than 540 health institutions closed, destruction tens of fake and expired medicines
- Al-Kuwait residential town in Hudeida to be built

The newspaper's editorial says the strict dealing, by order imposition and

protection of the constitution authorities against any violation, with al-Hothy and his followers is the treatment that the groups of sedition deserve. No individuals or groups have the right to establish armed groups or civil organizations based on sectarian or racial bases and calling for violence. That is prohibited, constitutionally and legally. That is what al-Hothy and his group have done to the extent that they adopted slogans and calls contradicting our national constants, including the republican system.

The have embarked on attacking government institutions, storming mosques and fomenting on sedition and violating the constitution and the law. Therefore it was necessary to deal with them in a resolute manner to be a lesson for others. The eye-catching thing is that against such a dangerous sedition, the opposition parties known for talking about many small things have not uttered a word regarding this great event and some of the opposition newspapers even did not hide their sympathy with this insurgency. We think this reflects a dangerous failure in the opposition parties nature of role.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 24 June 2004.

Main headlines

- In his first interview after his return home, Muhsin : The authority has to take the initiative to call on others to re-construct the homeland
- Political security summons Salaman, trial of Saad and the Ihya' Al-Arabi newspaper postponed
- Journalists syndicate entrusts Al-Bukari with following up the complaint against the Shoura newspaper

Columnist Hussien Abdulmajeed says in an article that Yemen would not attain to achieving the modern state, a state of law and order as long as the ruling authority is staying in power and he says he thinks that the more important matters help it stay in power are:

- the constitution in its present status does not allow the peaceful transfer of power because it has the condition that the presidential candidate should gain approval of the parliament and the shoura council which are in fact affiliate of the authority,
- the general people's congress that has been formed by the authority and gathered members for it from among the citizens and granted it the status of a political organisation, is not considered a political party

because it has not been born through the people but rather one of the authority apparatuses, -the opposition parties: it has become a common sense that the genuine democracy necessitates the establishment of a ruling authority and a strong and effective opposition. Opposition parties shed light on work of the authority and criticize it and push it to rectify its course.



Al-Umma weekly, organ of Al-Haq party, 24 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Yemen's army destroys Saddam
- Amnesty International Organisation links increase in human rights violations to the war on the so-called terror

The political editor of the newspaper writes that there are inside and outside the government apparatus those who thrive on fabricating crises and tensions just to appease their sectarian or racial complexes. The follow a policy of divide and rule. This situation at least explains part of what is going on of events in the governorate of Saddam that had begun on Monday 20 June 2004. It is a military campaign headed for the area of Miran, Al-Hamzat and other places led by the governor Yahya al-Amri and general Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar. The goal of the campaign is the capture of Hussein Badrudin Al-Hothy who leads a group of the slogan calling for death to America and Zionism.

The question is whether the state has exhausted all peaceful means and mediations in dialogue with those groups in ways guaranteeing the instigation of sedition and bloodshed. Is the mere raising of slogans hostile to America and Israel a great crime forming sensitivity to the regime? Isn't the amount and type of weapons used in the operation forming a stance by the authority discriminating against the scholars and citizens of the governorate?



Al-Wahda weekly, 23 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Application of social securities to Yemeni expatriates
- House of a security officer comes under sabotage blast
- Eritrea seizes 35 Yemeni fishing boats
- Human Rights minister: Joint plan with local administration in issues of human rights
- Efforts to contain the crisis of

SKETCHED OPINION

By Samer A.



Yemeni community in Saudi Arabia

- 70% of medicines sellers are not pharmacists
- Communications ministry receives the Container port

Columnist Ahmed Abdrabe Alawi says in his article that the success of any project always begins with the idea of a study dealing with all its aspects and dimensions in depth. The project depends on the strict and wise administration that is considered as the backbone the team in charge of the project depends on. The writer then goes to impediments of administration in Yemen and summing them up in some points.

- Absence of concept of administration in the minds of large number of managers,
- They do not seek advice of experts and specialties,
- There is ambiguity in the major goals and secondary goals.
- Performance depends on then spirit of the public sector rather than the private sector.
- There are the aspects of centralization, bureaucracy, mediation and formalities.
- There is the absence of transparency and non-commitment and love of work.
- There is the weakness of collective work and spirit of the team.
- There is no accurate description of

jobs and weakens in distributing responsibilities.

This means we would not be able to develop the establishments and sectors in our Yemeni society unless we begin seriously to remove all the above impediments and difficulties and an attempt to gradual riddance of all surrounding negatives.

There is no denial that there are Yemeni elements possessing high efficiency and capability of quick adaptation to the situation required.

Another important point is that high-ranking administrative and technical posts in advanced countries are not assumed by ordinary persons but rather acquired through long stages of experience.

CANADIAN nexen

VACANCY

Communication Technician (Code - 001)

Yemeni Nationals

Location: Sana'a
Department: Information Technology
Schedule: 8:00am to 3:00pm on Saturday to Wednesday
8:00am to 12:00pm on Thursday

Job Duties:

- Performs planned maintenance on the Sana'a communications equipment. Includes checking and testing equipment to manufacturers' specifications, using a variety of tools and specialised test equipment to effect required maintenance.
- Maintains necessary records and reports such as service reports, telephone cable records, site logs etc.
- Installs and maintains UPSs, Power supplies and Battery chargers.
- Provides equipment and user support for video conferencing system..
- Maintains PABX and voice mail systems including PABX and voice mail programming, user maintenance, MACs for phone sets.
- Provides support for the use of Inmarsat terminals.
- Performs other related duties as assigned by Supervisor.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications engineering or related field
- 3 years experience working with communications systems.
- Excellent understanding of communications software and PC based applications.
- Excellent knowledge of written and verbal English, with a strong technical orientation.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address. **NOT later than July 17, 2004**

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources
Sana'a Republic of Yemen
Attention: Human Resources, Recruitment Section
E-mail: recruiting_sanaa@nexeninc.com

Application Criteria:

- Please make sure that your CV contains all the needed personal, **contact** and qualification information, **no need** to attach any certificates unless we request them.
- Please **don't** call us, we will call you if you are selected for test and interview, which will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Please **mention** in your application the **job** you are applying for and the **code number**.
- Preferable to send CVs via the **E-mail** address. Faxed CVs **will not** be considered
- Unclear and untyped CVs **will not** be considered, use normal font and **do not** decorate the CV.

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

For the execution of the project "Support of Yemen's Accession to the WTO", funded by the European Commission, GTZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Services) will employ a team of 3 Yemeni specialists for a duration of up to 52 months. The posts are described as follows:

Job Description for: Specialist in International Trade Issues - Intellectual Property Rights

1. Qualification and Profile

- Law graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree;
- Specialisation in intellectual property law;
- Understanding of Yemen's intellectual property regime (Laws, regulations, Policy, Economics);
- Experience in the administration of IP protection is a plus;
- Understanding of TRIPS Agreement and other international IP agreements;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English
- Excellent research skills in both Arabic and English

2. Description of Work

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term international and local experts in all activities related to intellectual property protection (Law, Economics, Policy) covering certain sub-activities of the project.

The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as interaction with government agencies and other stakeholders' representatives, including Private Sector.

The candidate will help prepare briefs and training materials, assist in translation activities and liaise with various parities.

It will be part of the candidate's role to inject a "Local perspective" in the various project implementation activities where needed.

Job Description for: Specialist in International Trade Issues - Trade in Goods

1. Qualification and Profile

- University graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree in Economics, Foreign Trade, Business Administration, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's import and/or export trade, relating to more than one commodity, preferably including knowledge of the agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- Understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (Laws, regulations, Policy, Economics);
- Understanding of WTO agreements relating to trade in goods (GATT1994);
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English
- Excellent research skills in both Arabic and English

2. Description of Work

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term international and local experts in all activities related to trade in goods (Law, Economics, Policy) covering certain sub-activities of the project.

The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as interaction with government agencies and other stakeholders, especially private sector representatives.

The candidate will prepare briefs and training materials, assist in translation activities and liaise with various parties.

It will be part of the candidate's role to inject a "Local Perspective" in the various project implementation activities where needed.

Job Description for: Specialist in International Trade Issues - Trade in Services

1. Qualifications and Profile

- University graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree in Economics, Foreign Trade, Business Administration, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's services regulation, preferably relating to more than one service sector (core areas: financial services, telecoms, transportation, professional trade-related services);
- Understanding of Yemen's services regimes (Laws, Regulations, Policy, Economics);
- Understanding to the GATS;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English;
- and
- Excellent research skills in both Arabic English

2. Description of work

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term international and local experts in all activities related to trade in services (Law, Economics, Policy) covering certain sub-activities of the project.

The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as interaction with government agencies and stakeholders, including private sector representatives.

The candidate will help prepare briefs and training materials, assist in translation activities and liaise with various parities.

It will be part of the candidate's role to inject a "Local Perspective" in the various project implementation activities where needed.

The posts require specialists equipped with professional standards, the ability and enthusiasm to work in a dynamic international team and the readiness to invest their time and energy into a project of national importance. In exchange, successful candidates will enjoy a competitive financial compensation, additional training where needed and very good exposure. Specialists of all age groups are encouraged to apply. Younger candidates may offset limited experience through better qualifications.

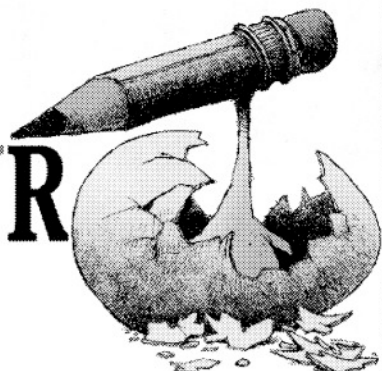
Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their application both, in Arabic and English, prior to 21 July, 2004 at the following address:

Coordination and Communication Office with the World Trade
Organization / Project Management Unit
c/o Dr. Achim Seiler, GTZ
P.O. Box 8278, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel.: (01) 561 114 103, Mobile: 73777398

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed as of 3 August, 2004.

Non Sequitur

by Wiley



WE'LL RETURN TO THE ADVENTURES OF SNIPPY AND SKIPPY, OR WHATEVER THE NAME OF THE STUPID FEATURE IS, AFTER THIS DISCLAIMER BY THE PUBLISHER OF THIS FINE NEWSPAPER.

IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT SURREPTITIOUS EDITORIALIZING HAS BEEN APPEARING IN A GROWING NUMBER OF COMIC STRIPS LATELY, AND WE DON'T LIKE THAT ONE BIT! I THOUGHT COMICS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SILLY!



WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU, OUR VALUED READERS, THAT THESE UNAUTHORIZED COMMENTARIES DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THIS NEWSPAPER OR OUR IMAGE!

SERIOUS EDITORIALIZING IS BEST LEFT TO SERIOUS PEOPLE, NOT JOURNALISM'S EQUIVALENT OF SNARKY MALCONTENTS SITTING IN THE BACK OF THE CLASSROOM MAKING RUDE BODY FUNCTION NOISES



IN FACT, I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THE "GENIUS" WHO PRODUCES THIS DIMWIT FEATURE BARELY MADE IT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, AND IS...UM...



...A REAL HORSE'S PATOOT!!



WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT? I HAVE A RATHER CUTE PATOOTIE

HEY, I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE OF US IS SNIPPY OR SKIPPY...



20 easy Lines from Spacetel for winners

Spacetel

for winners

خط تعبئة من سبيستل

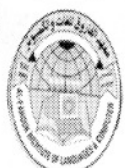
جوائز للفائزين

مسابقة رقم (18) Contest No. (18)
إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer
الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز أكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا
The Sole Representative of Oxford L.C & ST.Giles Colleges UK&USA

شهادة من بريطانيا معتمدة دولياً
إختبر في معهد الفاروق واحصل على شهادتك من بريطانيا



ليس هناك فائز واحد في هذه المسابقة بل ان جميع المشاركين والمشاركات باجابات صحيحة يعتبرون فائزين بخط كروت من سبيستل



Spacetel



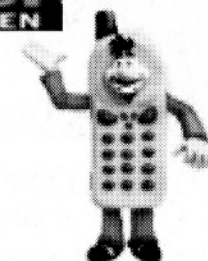
Ans. Cont.17

consent - cure - made
cat - go - money - best
blind

Make your own words

S.....(food)
P.....(transportation)
A.....(relative)
C.....(weather)
E.....(job)
T.....(furniture)
E.....(environment)
L.....(juice)

Spacetel



الاسم:

المدنية:

رقم التلفون:

أقطع كوبون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بياناتك كاملة.
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر صنعاء-تلفاكس ٢١٣٧١١

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Adventure or travel will help you develop many of your ideas. Having a good time while experiencing different cultures and traditions will lead to a great imagination.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
An agreement you have with someone may not be fair with regard to what you are being offered. Consider going ahead by yourself. Have confidence in your own capability.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
You may exhibit some of your fickle traits today. Give yourself a break. The added pressure you put on yourself will lead to trouble. Be honest or don't say anything at all.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
The time to push forward is now. You don't have to settle for less professionally than what you know in your heart you can handle. Take control of your situation.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Make the physical and mental changes required to build your confidence and raise your self-esteem. Success will be the end result.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Take a very good look at the people around you before you decide to let anyone influence or control your life. You yourself will have the best and most practical solutions to any problems you face.



Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
You are right on target and, if you are patient, you will see results. The charming way you deal with others will ensure you receive the help you need.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Love and romance should be on your mind. The more you do to help others and to develop your skills, the more attention you will receive. Stick by the people you love.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You may not have the smoothest way of dealing with others today. Your emotions will be hard to control, and you are likely to say things you shouldn't.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Hidden matters are likely to surprise you. Try not to show your feelings. Pay extra attention to detail and you will prevent disaster.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Don't believe everything you hear and you'll do just fine today. You will have plenty of people who make you promises, but rely on yourself to make things happen.



Pisces
(Feb 19-Mar 20)
Things may backfire on you today if you have been embellishing the truth. Take a long, hard look at what you've been focusing on and change your game plan.

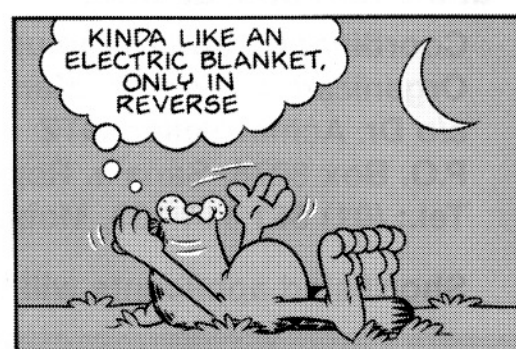
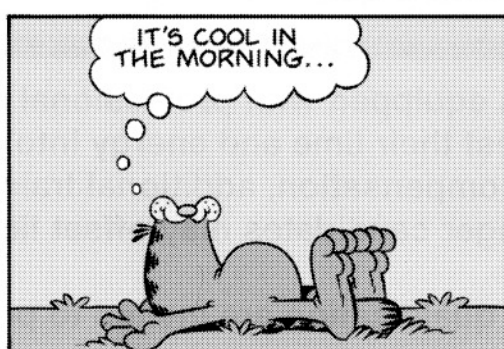
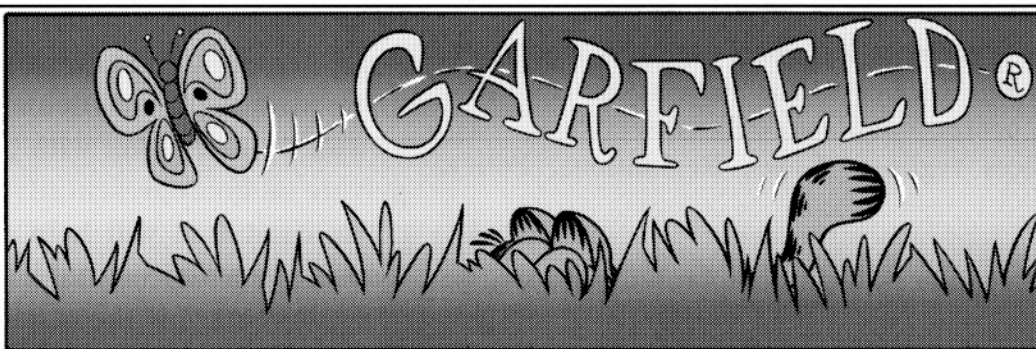


Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was significantly higher than the number of incorrect responses in all cases. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean.

