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In response to Al-Houthi sources allegations on Saudi fighters raids

Saudi Arabia refutes claims of involvement

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a statement to Yemen Times Tuesday, a Saudi diplomatic source at the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Sana'a categorically denied any involvement of his country in the ongoing events in the governorate of Saada near the Yemeni-Saudi borders, between Sheik Al-Houthi and the Yemeni government forces. The source also described as groundless the allegations that Saudi warplanes bombarded Yemeni villages in the area of Mran and areas nearby to it.

The Saudi diplomat said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would not accept interference in others' internal affairs, adding that was one of the pillars of the Saudi foreign policy and said, "We wish that peace and stability would prevail in Yemen."

A source close to Sheik Al-Houthi had earlier claimed that two Saudi air

force planes had on Monday 19 July bombarded the villages and mountains of Mran, alleging that the Saudi flag painted on the attacking planes was clearly seen.

According to the Houthi source, the joint Yemeni-Saudi bombings of "Melha" village on Monday afternoon had caused the destruction of 80 homes over the heads of their inhabitants. And at Mran Mountains and Plateaus, 95 homes were leveled down over mostly children and women and three mosques were shelled during noon's prayers, resulting in the death or wounding of 20 worshipers. The source added that because the bombings were very indiscriminate, the citizens in the area were not able to reach a more precise count in the destruction and the number of the killed or wounded citizens.

The source concluded his statement

regain control of "Al-Thabit" area and that the number of causalities on both sides were very high.

Other political sources stated that Sheikh Al-Houthi receives large financial support from Shiites in United Arab Emirates and Kuwait and that an Arab prince is implicated in offering intelligence information, military and logistic support to Al-Houthi followers through some influential

Yemeni forces killed around 90 armed supporters of the rebel Muslim cleric in north Yemen last weekend, military sources said. The recent clashes brought the official death toll up to around 300 as fighting between government soldiers and followers of Hussein Al-Houthi has lasted for a little over a month.

"Almost 90 supporters of Houthi have been killed in violent battles with that Al-Houthi followers were able to army forces over the past three days,"

said a military source last Sunday.

" Dozens were killed and wounded among the armed forces, who, since Thursday have launched an offensive to take control of the last hideouts of Houthi, whose supporters continue to put up a tough resistance."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared that Yemeni forces will stay the course until the militant group is defeated.

"We will never give up, whatever our sacrifices were," Saleh accused "foreign intelligence" of backing Al-Houthi while addressing veterans of Majlisul Shaab Al-Taaseesi, the body that elected him to power in 1978. during the 26th anniversary of his

" What is happening in a patch between 3-4 kilometers in Saada is but a collaboration, and not incited by sectarian thought," said Saleh. "It is the work of foreign intelligence."

The president did not identify which foreign intelligence, but added that "the signs have started to become clear and they will be made public."

France Press quoted military sources on Sunday July 18 as saying that Al-Houthi was hiding behind his last protected areas and that the armed forces had tightened their grip around the valley he and his followers were bunkering inside.

Regarding mediation to contain the situation, sources stated that an Arab leader had offered to host Al-Houthi, but the Yemeni authority said that it was too late. As well, tribal dignitaries and politicians had tried to mediate to settle the crisis peacefully and the Yemeni authority preferred to militar-

Al-Houthi, in an interview with BBC, accused President Saleh of lying and that President Saleh receives orders from the United States of America to demolish whomever is an enemy against Israel and US policy in the region. Al-Houthi said that President Saleh was using force instead of dialogue to settle a dispute that was mainly a political one.

Some are expressing concern over the climbing number of casualties and how long the struggle would last. ' Yemenis did not expect clashes to escalate as far as they did," said a Yemeni political analyst.

"They also feel that peaceful methods before resorting to the use of force should have been utilized."

Amnesty International asked the Yemeni government last week to investigate the possible killing of civilians caught up in clashes. In a letter to the Minister of Interior, the organization states that innocent Yemenis are said to have been killed resulting from heavy artillery fire and

Criticism of US accusations against al-Zindani Islah warns of Sa'ada

events consequences

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Islah Party has warned against the consequences of the ongoing fighting between the supporters of the renegade cleric Hussein al-Hawthi and government troops for the social peace of the country.

A press release issued by the Islah Central Committee, headed by cleric Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, stated that the events in Sa'ada are "a threat to the internal social peace", demanding that "the authorities, political parties and clerics take swift steps to stop the fighting." The statement called for

abiding by the law and constitution which "define the peaceful ways and means of expression." It called for the rejection of violence in propagating views or settling differences. It demanded that the parliament should play an active role in finding the truth and reporting it to the public. The statement criticized the performance of the state-run media, which it said should convey the truth to the people so that they can take a stand with regard to these events. The Islah statement re-emphasised that the government should deal with security issues in a more transparent way, without politicization.

The Islah Central Committee demanded the immediate release of cleric Mohammed al-Mouyad and his companion Mohammed Zaid who

were arrested last year in Germany and were turned over to US on charges of fund-raising for al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden. The statement stated that they were kidnapped on false charges and information and in a way that violated international law and human

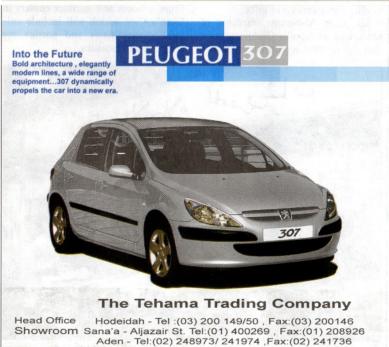
The statement also hailed the stand of President Ali Abdullah Saleh who rejected the US accusations against cleric Abdulmajeed al-Zindani. US accused al-Zindani for collecting money for terrorist activities and Bin Laden. It called on the US to stop casting accusations against "the clerics of the nation". It also demanded the release of those people who were put in jail without legal warrants and holding the perpetrators of such acts accountable.

The Islah statement further called for an end to the government's control over NGOs and harassment of party and independent newspapers. The statement warned against the "serious consequences of extremism and all forms of fanaticism, which are the major reason behind the civilizational decline and backwardness of the Muslim nation. It calls on the Yemeni people to stand united and firm against extremist ideas or attempts to instigate intolerance. It urged the people "responsible for mosques, education and guidance to act according to their responsibilities in producing young-

Islam and moderate principles, protecting them against the thought invasion that targets the nation, its religion and ethics.'

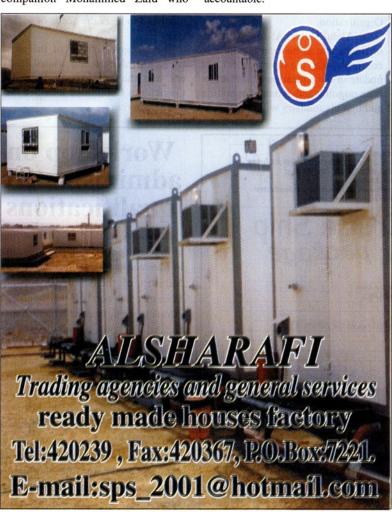
With regards to the economic situation, the statement criticized the deteriorating economic situation, warning of a real economic and social disaster due to the prevalence of corruption and inflation. It demanded that the government take "serious steps to stop the waste of public money." It also criticized "the irresponsible and indifferent response of the authorities towards the statements issued by political parties", indicating that this position leads to

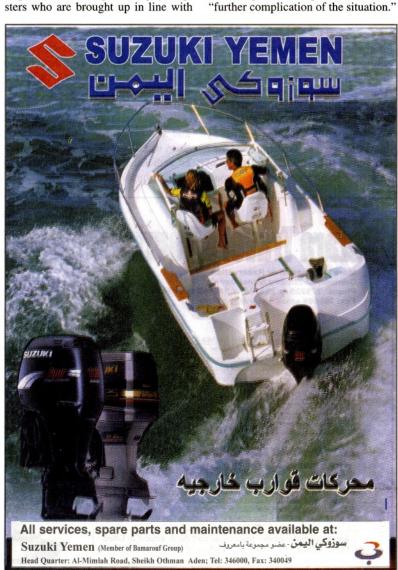




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New leadership for Lawyers Syndicate Sana'a Branch

Within the activities of the forth general conference of Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate, which commenced on Wednesday July 14 with the participation of more than 600 lawyers from a number of governorates affiliated with Sana'a branch, a new leadership was elected.

Dr. Mohamed Jafar, undersecretary at the Ministry of Justice, confirmed in

The National Museum has accomplished the recroding and documenting

of 17 thousand historical artifacts, in

The museum has also completed the

renovation of one thousand wooden

pieces and 27 bronzes, which required

detail and with photos.

precision and hard work.

his opening statement the importance of activating cooperation between the syndicate and the judicial apparatuses with the aim of activating and strengthening the defence of liberties and human rights principles. He also emphasized the importance of implementing the rule of law, democratic values, justice and peace and sticking to the texts of laws and the spirit of

The museum will soon open a tem-

porary wing to display 1600 pieces,

coinciding with the celebration of

Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital

2004. The artifacts date back to the

pre-Islamic era and subsequent eras.

Pieces reflecting Yemeni folklore will

also be displayed.

cooperation. "This would effectively contribute to the judicial reform operation", said the undersecretary.

Dr. Jafar confirmed the importance of including lawyers in official and public meetings and to reflect the independence of the legal profession through the behavior of syndicate's members and lawyers and in the legal texts that regulate the legal profession.

Howais prepares for his third photo exhibition

Renowned Yemeni photographer Abdullah Howais is busily preparing to hold his third national exhibition. The photos contained in the exhibition will consist of 70 of his most distinguished pieces of work.

Despite the length of his career in photography, Abdullah Howais's ingenuity and creativity, does not seem to have a limit. He is always trying to bring new aspects to photography, and is deservingly considered the dean of Yemeni photographers.

Delegation of International Pencak Silat Federation visits Yemen

The delegation of the International Pencak Silat (Indonesian traditional martial arts) Federation (PERSILAT) will pay a visit to the capital of the Republic of Yemen, Sana'a headed by Indonesian National, Mr. Eddie Mardjuki Nalapraya between 20th-24th July, 2004.

During the visit, a selection of PERSI-LAT teams will present demonstrations of Pencak Silat between 11:00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday July 21st 2004 at 22 May Sports Hall and on Thursday July 22nd 2004 at 7.15 p.m. at the Martyr Al-Dhurafi Stadium, Al-Qasr

Stree

The delegation, which is the first of its kind in the Republic of Yemen, comes after Sana'a has been selected as the Arab Cultural Capital for the year 2004, and aims at developing the fraternal relations in various field between Indonesia and Yemen, especially in the field of Pencak Silat.

It is worth mentioning that Pencak Silat is a self-defense sport innovated by the Indonesians a long time ago, just like Kung Fu by the Chinese and Karate by the Japanese.

Training laboratory officials on mental support to Aids patients

A special training session regarding the training of laboratory officials on how to provide psychological and mental support and assistance to patients infected with the Aids virus is currently underway.

The 3-month training session is organized by the National Center for Combating Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases with the coopera-

tion of the World Health Organization and International Development Cooperation Agency.

12 medical health workers from 5 governorates, Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hadramout and Hodeidah are participating in the workshop. They are all laboratory officials at central hospitals and related authorities

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think there are prospects in the offing of settling Saada battles peacefully?
- Yes, I think so.
- NO, I don't think so.
- I don't know.

last edition's question:

Do you think that the recent Yemeni government decision of granting entry visas at Sanaía International Airport could boost tourism in Yemen?

- Yes, I think this is a very good facility boosting tourism
 62%
- No, I don't think this is enough 38%

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

Taiz University celebrates graduation

The National Museum documents

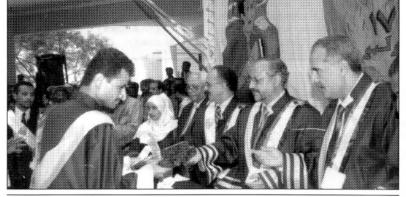
17 thousand pieces electronically

TAIZ BUREAU

Taiz University held a graduation ceremony on July 18 on the occasion of the graduation of the latest group of students from various faculties at the university.

Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajry, mayor of Taiz, who attended the ceremony said that the celebration coincided with the Yemeni celebration on the anniversary of July 17.

The mayor and the president of the university presented certificates to the top 10 students in each faculty at the university



Administration development skills session concluded

Discussion of

situations of expatriates

TAIZ BUREAU

Taiz Branch.

A celebration was held at the Faculty of Administrative Sciences at Taiz University on July 18 on the occasion of the conclusion of the special administration development skills training session that was organized by the Federation of

The weekly meeting of the

Information Center organized in Taiz

governorate, was this week attended

by Abdulwahab Al-Twaihe, Director

General of Ministry of Expatriates -

The meeting was dedicated to the

discussion of the attention exerted by

the Ministry of Expatriates - Taiz

Branch - towards the citizens of

Yemeni communities living abroad.

Occupational and Vocational Associations with the participation of 25 trainees.

Mr. Shawgy Hayel, chairman of the Local Councils Planning and Development Committee, praised the efforts of the association and emphasized the importance of developing administrative skills in the workplace.

The meeting reviewed the branch's

plan to keep in contact with Yemeni

expatriates abroad. The branch has also

established a channel to receive their

complaints and to resolve them and to

facilitate opportunities for their invest-

The office has received about 280

complaints and investment requests

and the office has been processing

them with the cooperation of the relat-

ed authorities as well as following up

on their implementation.

Coordination mechanism between private and public health institutes

The workshop concerning coordinating and developing relations between public and private health institutes concluded on Sunday July 18 in Sana'a with the participation of directors of and officials at public and private health institutes.

The 2-day workshop, organized by the Higher Institute for Health Sciences with the participation of 40 participants aimed at finding a mechanism for coordination between the institute and private health institutes in order to unify curriculam, policies and future visions.

Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Kuhlani, dean of the institute, praised the efforts of the participants in order to reach a draft project.

Egyptian delegation meets mayor of Taiz

Monday, July 19, Taiz- A delegation of the Egyptian Federation of Labor Unions, headed by Mr. Abdul Menam Al-Ghazali, vice president of the federation, met with the mayor of Taiz, Judge Ahmed Al-Hajry, for discussion of bilateral relations, the means to

enhance them and how to benefit from Egyptian expertise in the field of labor unions.

The meeting was attended by the vice president of Yemen Federation of Labor Unions and a number of officials in the governorate.

Education for all by 2015

Saturday, July 17th, Sana'a- A special discussion ring regarding the educational curriculum and its development was organized by Curriculum and Guidance Division of Ministry of Education with the cooperation of UNICEF Organization.

Dr. Abdul Sallam Al-Jofi, Minister of Education, in his opening speech, confirmed that the development and update of the educational curriculum is an ongoing and dynamic operation and that his ministry will continue to

achieve and to develop as part of the ministry's plan to improve the educational operation and to provide education for all by 2015.

The Minister expressed his keenness to develop the educational curriculum to meet the world's development and to meet the needs of society.

The Undersecretaries of the ministry, a number of educational leaders, and the members of Supreme Curriculum Committee attended the discussion ring.

Water reservoir in Sana'a dropped 20 meters due to qat

The water table in Sana'a City has dropped by 20 meters in less than 20 years. This is an alarming indication that Sana'a City could encounter a serious shortage of water in coming 20 years. The primary consumers of water in the area are qat plantations.

In an official report published recently, the rate of water consumption in Sana'a City and it surroundings is very alarming considering there are more than 5000 water wells and 200 drilling equipment.

The report points out that annual water consumption is 3.4 billion cubic meters, whilst the renewable quantity is only 2.5

billion cubic meters. This implies only 133 cubic meters allotted for an individual in Yemen, in comparison to 1250 cubic meters in other Middle East countries and 7500 cubic meters on average in the rest of the world.

The report warns of a serious deterio-

ration of the water situation if current consumption levels are maintained based on the exploitation of underground water reservoir.

It is expected that the current quota for a Yemeni citizen will drop to 70 cubic meters in 2025 as the drop of underground reserved water in Sana'a alone reaches 6-8 meters per annum.

The third children forum continues

Taiz Bureau

The activities of the third children forum continues at Arwa High School in Taiz city. The forum, organized by the Children Forum Association, involves 12 boys and girls from Al-Qahera and Salah Al-Modhafur Provinces. The children are being taught how to draw and sculpt, they

receive lessons on how to use computer, recite verses of the Holy Quran and enjoy playing some sports.

Ms. Amat Al-Rahman Jahaf, Chairman of Children forum Association, in her opening speech praised Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce Limited, the French DIA organization for their cooperation with the forum.

Summer Festival at Sana'a Expo Center

Coinciding with Yemeni Celebration of Democracy on July 17, Summer Festival 2004 will be held at Sana'a Expo Center during the period 20-31 July.

More than 400 local, Arab and international companies will be participating to meet various needs and demands of Yemeni citizens in the fields of home and office furniture, cloths, accessories and gifts.

Mr. Omr Al-Nehme, director of marketing at Apollo Company, said that the festival would be organized annually during the summer vacation. He added the company always takes into consideration very carefully the selection of participating companies to ensure the availability of consumer goods wanted and needed in Yemen.

Part of this year's summer festival will be the first family summer carnival with the participation of associations, schools and summer centers in Sana'a City, which will include cultural competitions and parties for children and families.



Dreams' Furniture Corner was inaugurated at the exhibition. The corner consists of high quality towels, blankets, bedspreads, accessories and other household accessories at prices affordable to Yemeni consumers.

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7nd dep 18Aug 8nd dep 25Aug
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limited - confirmation upon availability.

More Information or Reservation Contact: Al-Zubairy Street Sana'a Phone: 279235 or 286364 or 285865 or 295699 Fax: 289568 email bazara@y.net.ye

Summer Cruise Ship ten-day package

Wednesday	Departure Sanaa for Cairo - 5star hotel bed & breakfast.
Thursday	Cairo hotel free stay. Friday morning Cairo Alexandria by bus.
Friday	Cruise schedule departure from Alexandria at 16:00 hours for MARMARIS
Saturday	Arrival MARMARIS port at 18:00 hours
Sunday	Departure from MARMARIS at 18:00 hours for ANTALAYA
Monday	Arrival ANTALAYA 08:00 hours evening departure ANTALAYA at 19:00 hours for BEIRUT
Tuesday	Arrival BEIRUT at 20:00 hours
Wednesday	Departure from BEIRUT 20:00 hours at ALEXSANDRIA
Thursday	Arrival in ALEXSANDRIA at 22:00 hours overnight
Friday	07:00 hours breakfast disembarkation ship. End of cruise program

Round trip ticket Sanaa Cairo Sana'a O'2Nights Cairo + One week cruise. Including all entertainment

STARING from \$ 845 per person share in double cabin

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02Nights Cairo accommodation 5star hotel bed & breakfast
Full board accommodation onboard cruise starting dinner on Friday
End with breakfast on the following Friday. Transfer to Cairo flight to Sanaa
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Rates are not include: transfer airport hotel airport in Cairo Optional tours in Turkey or Lebanon, any extra on cruise



Workshop on administrative qualifications

Sana'a- A training program aiming at improving administrative standards in state corporations, organized by the Ministry of the Civil Service and Insurance as part of the ministry's efforts to strengthen the administrative capabilities at corporations was launched on Monday, July 19. This initiative falls under the framework of ongoing administrative reform efforts.

The training program will for one year and involves 700 administrative employees working at the Ministry of Civil Service.

The institute is considered the national center for the training of employees in the state's administrative apparatuses.

Population high growth rate diminishes resources

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

conomic development is considered an important factor in improving living conditions and in developing resources for the future. There is a complex and inter-connected relationship between population growth and the economic development on one hand, and between economic development and population character-

In Yemen, the problem of low-levels of natural resources and falling economic capabilities, are worsened by the population growth, which devours a large proportion of available resources.

Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Asbahi, in a working paper explained that Yemen ranks 64th amongst 94 developing countries in the human poverty guide.

42% of the Yemeni population live Nations Human Resources Report indibeneath the poverty line, which means that almost one out of two citizens lives under the poverty line (which is an expenditure rate averaging one US dollar per day). Despite this situation. Gross National Product, dropped from US\$8,953 million in 1990 to US\$5,494 million in 1995, although it had been expected to increase to US\$9,222 million. This change was not significant, as it is connected mainly to oil prices which constitute 30% of local GNP. with 4.6% from foreign assistants. It does however mean a drop in the average income per capita from the GNP.

There is an uneven distribution of income and consumption. The 1998 family budget survey indicates that the poorest 20% of the population consumed only 7.4% of national income, while the richest 20% of the population, consumed 41.2%. The 2003 United cates that the investment flow in Yemen is recorded at -2.2%.

In the light of these conditions, the effect of a high population growth rate would very highly tax the already limited economic growth and further stretch the provision of primary services such electricity, water and sanitation, education and health.

The flagrant unemployment rate, which currently constitutes about 11.5% of the labor force, represents another face of the relationship between population growth and economic growth. The size of the labor force will continue to change in accordance with the population growth that in Yemen, is heading towards a record level. Unemployment would consequently increase if development opportunities do not increase in line the population increase.

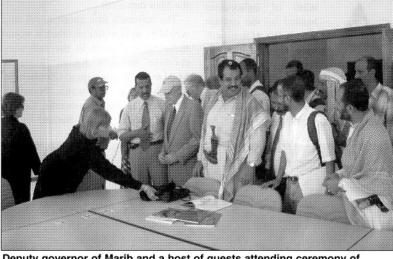
U.S. Ambassador lays the foundation stone to the Yemen Civilization Museum in Marib

By Yemen Times Staff

he Ambassador of the United States of America H.E. Edmund Hull, with the accompaniment of Deputy of Marib Governor, laid the foundation stone to the Yemen Civilization Museum, which will be built and equipped with the assistant of the US government. The estimated cost of the museum is US\$3 million.

The Ambassador presented Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Khaledi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for technical and planning affairs, with the first batch of equipment for "The President" Hospital worth US\$5.7 million.

The US Ambassador also presented the sum of US\$40,000 to 36 farmers in Marib who are working in the plantation and growing of fruits and vegetables with the aim of improving the irrigation methods and extending pipes



Deputy governor of Marib and a host of guests attending ceremony of aying the museum's foundation stone

from water wells to arable lands.

The US Ambassador with the accompaniment of Undersecretary of Marib Governorate Mr. Ali Mohamed Al-Fatemi and Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-

Khaledi, held a press conference at "Belguis Hotel" to reply to the questions of some journalists.

In replying to Yemen Times' question about what has been circulating about the interference of the US and other parties at Saddah Governorate and the rebellion of Al-Hothi, the Ambassador said, "I think that Al-Hothi case is a Yemeni internal matter and we do not have any specific information about foreign interference or about Al-Hothi's relations with foreign parties. But I think it is very important that the Yemeni government control all parts of Yemen and protect the unity of Yemen".

Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Khaledi, on his part reaffirmed commitments to equip the hospital with the modern equipment and to operate it with either Yemeni qualified cadre or to hire foreign medial staff until a Yemeni medical cadre can take their place. He also confirmed that the Ministry of Health bore the responsibility to take care and to provide maintenance to the medical equipreceived from the US Government.

Self-evaluation seminar and Academic Sufficiency

YT TAIZ BUREAU

nder the auspices of H.E. Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Education Academic Training and Development Center organized a seminar on self-evaluation and academic sufficiency. The seminar was held during the period 3rd -5th July at the Faculty of Literature in Taiz University.

The aims and the objectives of the seminar, as reflected by several working papers presented and discussed at the seminar, were to shed more details on the definition of self-evaluation and academic sufficiency in terms of principles, strategies, measures and standards, based on the practical experiments of some Arab countries in these fields. And to determine the required skills, measures and methods used to achieve self-evaluation, and to come out from the seminar with a vision for future implementation.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Sofi, President of Taiz University and Chairman of the Center, coordinated by Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Dhaifany, Director of the Center and Dr. Najah Abdulrahem, Director of self-evaluation and academic sufficiency unit, was the rapporteur of the seminar.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Deans of faculties at Taiz University and a number of intellectuals and academics attended sessions during the three-day seminar.

National Seminar on Intellectual Property concludes

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he National Seminar on Intellectual Property, organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the cooperation of World Property Protection Intellectual Organization (WIPPO) was held during

The seminar was concluded with the issuance of a number of recommendations confirming the importance of reaching a legal formula to confront the challenges imposed by information technology and the information revolu-

The participants recommended conducting a serious discussion by the related authorities on WIPPO treaties regarding author's rights and verbal recording towards developing legislation that would take into consideration modes of transmission, such as through the internet and digital equipment, available today. They urged accession to the Bern and Paris agreements concerning the protection of art and literature works and industrial property respectively, and to benefit from the advantages the two agreements facilitate and from the technical and technological assistance WIPPO presents.

The participants emphasized the roles of the judicial, security and customs authorities in confronting imitated and fake works through enacting strict meas-



ures that would protect authors' rights and industrial property. They recommended encouraging the private sector to invest in research in order to develop the national economy.

The participants also recommended supporting national industries and inventions and to always take into consideration at the time of enacting legislation the protection of plant life, folklore and traditions with the objective of developing the agriculture sector and to protect national heritage. They also recommended including intellectual property in the Yemeni university curriculum, updating the related departments at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and continuing disseminating intellectual property awareness and education at the related authorities. This would take place at specialized courts, the public prosecution, judicial police and customs.

The participants confirmed the need to formulate a national strategy to be concerned with intellectual property

Mr. Igbal Bhader, undersecretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. Hisham Ali Bin Ali, undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Dr. Samr Al-Trawneh, Economic Division counselor at WIPPO's Arab office attended the closing ceremony of the seminar.



US Ambassador at ceremony of laying foundation stone of the museum

Support of Yemen's Accession to WTO





Project funded by European Union

Ministry of Industry and Trade **Communication and Coordination Office** with the World Trade Organization **Project Management Unit**

P.O. Box 8278 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Tel: +967 1 561113/4/5 Fax: +967 1 252456

Local Open Tender to supply Office Equipment

Ref: PMU-WTO/04

Project Management Unit The Communication and Coordination with World Trade Organization Office intends to award a supply contract for Office Equipment "Server, Workstations, Photocopiers machines etc..." in Sana'a with financial assistance from the ALA program of the European Communities. The tender dossier is available from Ministry of Industry and Trade, Sana'a Al-Hassabah, 2nd Floor CCO-WTO office. The deadline for submission of tenders is August 24th 2004, at 3:00 pm Sana'a Local Time.

Bohemian Trio at The Taj Sheba

he Taj Sheba Hotel's fine dining restaurant - The Golden Oasis - has steadily evolved in concept over the years and in its new form promises to make any evening memorable.

The Bulgarian trio of Kamlen Kuley, Ivelina Staykova and Iva Ivanova who together comprise Bohemian Trio" have performed in Norway, Turkey and in India and now will be playing for you at the Golden Oasis every night (except Monday's).

The trio are professional musicians with a vast repertoire that covers country, rock 'n' roll, latino, pop and topped up with some jazz as well!!! On account of their vast exposure to people from all over the world, the band in addition to performing in English also sings in six other languages namely Italian, French, Turkish, Arabic, Russian and Spanish!

Go ahead and indulge yourself !!! Call 272372 extn 138 or

157 for reservations !!!



Yemeni journey around three continents

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

team of balloonists headed by the captain Wagas Bin Hatem will soon begin a momentous trip in a hot air balloon. The balloon will launch from Sana'a and arrive at Taiz, where they would stop for two days, before continuing their trip to Aden. After eight

days of rest in Aden, the team will begin their trip abroad going through the Man dub strait.

The balloon's first international stop would be in Djibouti and then it would make regular stops in the following countries Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Democratic Congo, Central Africa, Chad, Sudan, Egypt.



Captain Wagas Bin Hatem

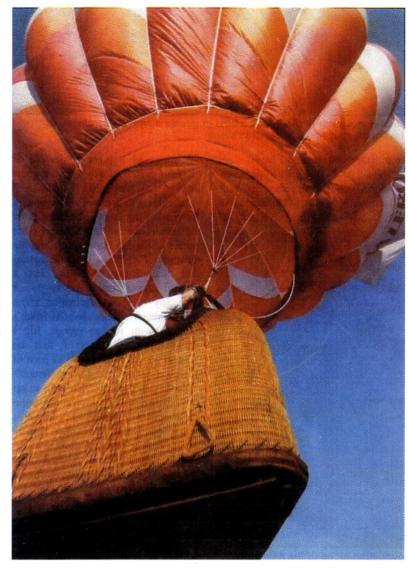
Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The balloon would then cross the African continent to Europe. The first stop in Europe would be Madrid, Spain, then the team would make stops at Paris, Geneva, Vienna, Berlin, Warsaw, Slovak, Czech, Bucharest, Budapest, Ankara, Iran, Dubai, Masqat, Riyadh, Doha, Kuwait, Jordan, back to Saudi before returning to Yemen.

In many of the countries and cities visited by the team, exhibitions would be held promoting tourism in Yemen. The team's main objectives are:

- 1- to promote investment in Yemen 2- to encourage sports in Yemen par-
- ticularly ballooning
- 3- to establish a route for the trip, which could be traced as to the benefit of the major destination points.
- 4- to conduct study and research during the journey to be given to Yemeni universities, and research centers in Yemen and abroad.
- 5- to study the climate and weather conditions from different dimensions above sea level.
- 6- recording any developing phenomenon the team may encounter during this long journey.

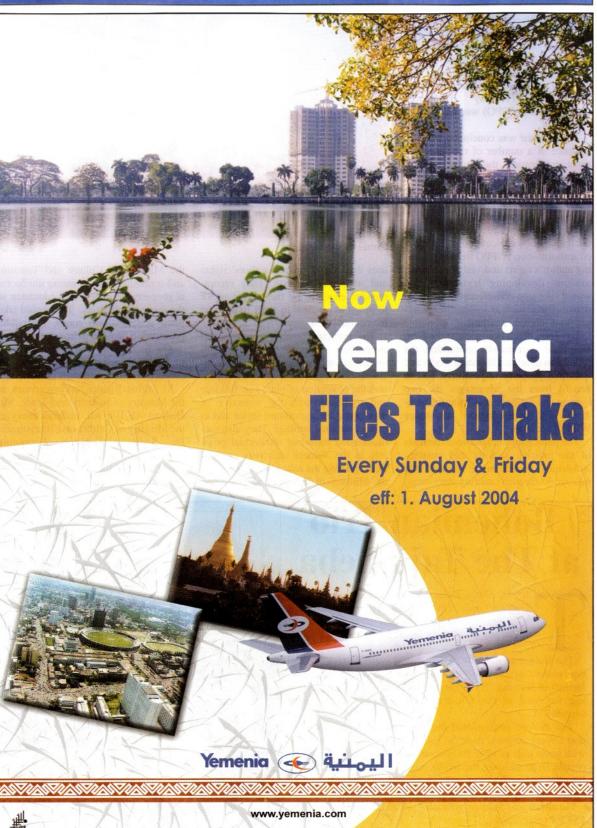


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الحديدة تلفون ٢٠٥٨٥٥ -٣٠ - (٤٩٦٧) حضرموت تلفون ٢٠٤٦٢٢ -٥٥ - (٤٩١٧)



Israeli missiles wound two as Arafat faces crisis



Palestinians sit on the rubble of their house after it was hit by a missile from an Israeli helicopter at Shati refugee camp in Gaza July 20. Israeli helicopters wounded two Palestinians in a missile strike on a Gaza militant's home on Tuesday as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sought to head off unprecedented unrest challenging his leadership. REUTERS

GAZA, July 20 (Reuters) - Israeli helicopters wounded two Palestinians in a missile strike on a Gaza militant's home on Tuesday as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sought to head off unprecedented unrest challenging his leadership.

Arafat hastily shuffled security chiefs on Monday after a spate of violence by militants in his Fatah movement demanding reforms to root out corruption. But his prime minister said his resignation in protest over inaction on reforms still stood.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the Palestinian Authority was in deep crisis and it must act fast to overhaul its security apparatus, discredited by graft and internal feuding, if it hoped to stop increasing chaos in Gaza.

The missile attack in Tuesday's early hours was the second in less than a day to target the house of Abu Youssef al-Quka, head of a militant umbrella group, the Popular Resistance Committees, in the Shati refugee camp outside Gaza City.

Palestinian medics said the two wounded were treated for shrapnel injuries while a third person was treated for shock. Smoke billowed up from the house.

Israeli helicopters also targeted the twostorey house on Monday afternoon, wounding three people.

It was not known whether Quka had

Palestinian security sources said Quka's group was suspected of involvement in a February bombing that killed three U.S. security guards in a diplomatic convoy passing through Gaza.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment on either raid.

Israel has carried out many aerial attacks on wanted militant leaders in Gaza, killing dozens during an almost four-yearold Palestinian revolt in territories captured by the Jewish state in the 1967 Middle East war.

Arafat under pressure

Arafat, 75, is facing his stiffest challenge since Palestinians obtained limited self-rule from Israel in Gaza and the West Bank a decade ago. Some fear the strife could eventually escalate into civil war.

It is shaping up as a power struggle between Arafat's old guard, who returned from exile abroad after the self-rule deal, and a younger reformist generation staking out turf before Israel implements a plan to evacuate settlers from Gaza in 2005.

Arafat, under public pressure to overhaul a jumble of competing security services, on Monday named Abdel-Razek alMajaideh to the new post of overall West Bank and Gaza security chief.

He would outrank Moussa Arafat, the cousin widely seen as a symbol of entrenched cronyism whom he appointed on Saturday, only to be met with an explosion of violent protests by Fatah militants in Gaza that left 18 people wounded.

Annan's remarks echoed unprecedented criticism voiced by his main Middle East envoy that infuriated Palestinian officials.

"They are facing a serious situation, a serious crisis, and they have to take steps and measures to bring it under control because without that, it is going to be very difficult to see any progress and the way forward," Annan said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie submitted his resignation Arafat over the lawlessness but Arafat rejected it.

Annan urged Arafat to "take the time to listen" to Qurie and carry out the reforms international mediators have called for as a condition for advancing a "road map" peace plan promising Palestinians a state in Gaza and the West Bank.

U.N. envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said Arafat's Palestinian Authority was on the verge of collapse and security reforms were crucial to restore law and order and its credibility abroad.

Hizbollah man, two Israelis said killed in clash

EITA AL-SHAAB, Lebanon, July 20 (Reuters) - Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group said it killed two Israeli soldiers and lost one of its own fighters in border clashes on Tuesday, a day after accusing Israel of killing a top Hizbollah member.

Witnesses said Israeli helicopter gunships and tanks fired on at least two Hizbollah positions. Artillery fire rang out as helicopters hovered overhead.

The Israeli army declined comment on whether its soldiers were killed, citing censorship rules, but said Hizbollah snipers had opened fire on its troops.

The fighting was the most serious since May, when Hizbollah killed an Israeli soldier and wounded five others in a disputed area elsewhere on the

A bomb in Beirut on Monday killed a senior Hizbollah member,

Ghalib Awali. Hizbollah accused Israel, which assassinated Hizbollah leader Abbas al-Mussawi in 1992, of carrying out the attack. Israel declined comment.

There were conflicting accounts of Tuesday's clash. Iranian and Syrianbacked Hizbollah said it began when Israeli forces shelled its positions by the town of Eita al-Shaab and that one of its fighters was killed.

Israel said Hizbollah had started

"This was a premeditated sniper attack on one of the outposts," Captain Jacob Dallal told Reuters. "We responded with fire toward the Hizbollah position."

A spokesman for UNIFIL, the United Nations force monitoring the Lebanese-Israeli front, said: "We don't really know who fired first."

Hizbollah played a key role in forcing Israel to end its 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in May 2000. Hizbollah guerrillas took up positions on the border after the Israeli withdrawal and fighting has flared sporadically since then.

Hizbollah killed an Israeli soldier and wounded five others in May in fighting in the Shebaa Farms, an area which Lebanon and Syria say is Lebanese territory. The United Nations says it is Israeli-occupied Syrian land.

Tuesday's hostilities occurred well away from that area, closer to the Mediterranean coast.

Hizbollah abducted three Israeli soldiers from Shebaa Farms in October 2000 and earlier this year traded their remains in a swap for Lebanese detainees in Israel and hundreds of the Jewish state's other Arab prisoners.



Shtula July 20,. Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group said it killed two Israeli soldiers and lost one of its own fighters in border clashes on Tuesday, a day after accusing Israel of killing a top Hizbollah member. REUTERS

Turkey EU entry still long way off, says France in post for now, officials



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) talks with French President Jacques Chirac at the Elysees Palace in Paris, July 20. Erdogan is on a three-day visit to France where he will hold talks focussing on Turkish membership of the European Union. REUTERS

PARIS, July 20 (Reuters) - Turkey is making progress towards European Union membership but entry is still a long way off, France said before talks on Tuesday between Turkey's prime minister and French President Jacques

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told business leaders Turkish membership would benefit the Union, adding he was convinced France "will give us the greatest support" at a December summit that will decide whether to open entry

France is seen as the only large EU member state still harbouring reservations over Turkey's admission and Foreign Minister Michel Barnier was careful not to raise expectations. "We have to be truthful - Turkey is not going to enter the European Union tomorrow," he told Europe 1 radio. "The road is still long, but it is on this path and has been making progress for some time."

Erdogan, who was to discuss Turkey's candidature at a lunch with Chirac, briefed French officials on Monday about Turkey's progress in bringing its laws into line with EU rules.

France's political class is deeply divided over admitting its NATO ally to the European Union, with critics citing Turkey's poverty and human rights record as barriers.

Chirac, who told a NATO summit in Istanbul in June that Turkey's EU drive was "irreversible", faces opposition on Turkish entry from within his governing conservatives.

Alain Juppe, a close Chirac ally and former head of the conservative UMP party, has said the entry of a Muslim nation of 70 million would distort the 25-nation European Union.

The opposition Socialists support Turkish membership in principle, but party chief Francois Hollande has linked the start of entry talks to Ankara's recognition of the 1915 killing of Armenians by Ottoman forces as

France is home to a significant Armenian population. Pro-Armenian groups were to demonstrate in Paris later on Tuesday against Erdogan's three-day visit.

Trade and reform Erdogan, who is accompanied by a trade delegation, met top French employers' association, MEDEF, on Tuesday morning. During his visit he is expected to

discuss the possible purchase of jets from Airbus <EADS.PA> for the

national carrier Turkish Airlines <THYAO.IS>. The state-run airline, which is slated for privatisation, has said it is talking to both European-based Airbus and to U.S. rival Boeing Co. <BA.N> amid a boom in Turkish air travel. Turkey's ruling centre-right AKP party, which has its roots in political Islam, has introduced a flurry of liberal political and economic reforms ahead of December's decision.

A top Turkish diplomat told CNN Turk television only two major pieces of EU-linked legislation still awaited parliament's approval - a revised penal code bringing criminal law closer to EU norms and a law easing limits on freedom of association.

The diplomat, Murat Sungar, said he hoped parliament would approve them at a special session in September. Turkish financial markets are closely watching the run-up to December, fearful that a 'no' could trigger a fresh economic crisis, unseat the government and perhaps reverse some reforms.

Britain, Germany, Italy and Greece have pledged strong support for Turkey's EU bid.

Diplomats expect negotiations to start in 2005 but say full membership is a

Palestinian PM to stay

GAZA, July 20 (Reuters) - Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie agreed on Tuesday to stay in office for the moment, three days after resigning over President Yasser Arafat's inaction on widespread demands for reforms, officials said on

A senior official close to Arafat said Qurie had withdrawn his resignation at a crisis cabinet meeting in Arafat's office. But others at the meeting said Qurie had agreed only to run a caretaker government, signalling he would not remain for

Qurie quickly departed after the cabinet adjourned, refusing to take questions from reporters.

It was not immediately possible to reconcile the apparently conflicting accounts of his status.

Qurie convened the cabinet to consider ways out of the crisis touched off by unprecedented unrest in the Gaza Strip demanding democratic reforms in a Palestinian leadership widely seen as corrupt and out of touch. Participants in the cabinet meeting said the main issue was Qurie's demand that Arafat "empower" the interior minister to reform a jumble of

graft-tainted security services that answer to the president.

Arafat has balked at this in the past. Arafat, a 75-year-old ex-guerrilla leader, hastily shuffled security chiefs on Monday after a spate of violence by militants in his Fatah movement demanding moves to purge corruption. He is facing the stiffest test of his leadership since Palestinians obtained limited self-rule from Israel in Gaza and the West Bank a decade ago. Some fear the strife could eventually escalate into civil war.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the Palestinian Authority was in deep crisis and it must act fast to overhaul its security apparatus, discredited by graft and internal feuding, if it hoped to stop increasing chaos in Gaza.

Gaza missile strike

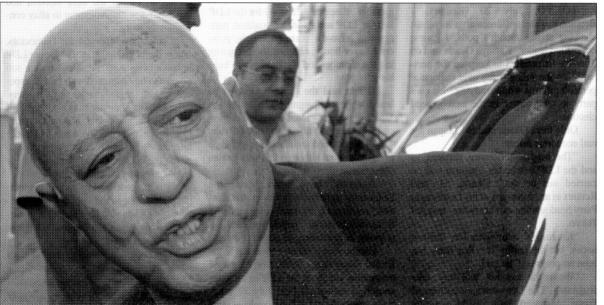
In the early hours of Tuesday, Israeli helicopters wounded two Palestinians in a missile strike on the home of Abu Youssef al-Quka, head of a militant umbrella group, the Popular Resistance Committees, in Gaza's Shati refugee

Palestinian medics said the two wound-

ed were treated for shrapnel injuries. It was not known whether Quka was hit.

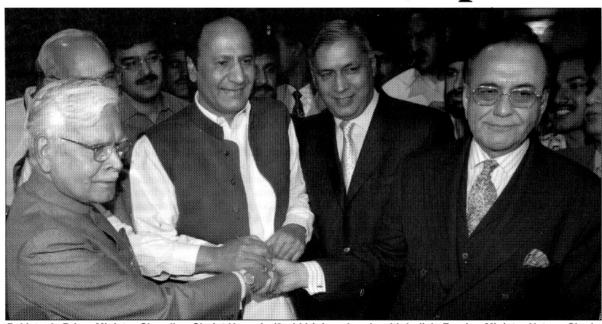
The Israeli army had no comment. Israel has carried out many aerial attacks on wanted militant leaders in Gaza, killing dozens during an almost 4-year-old Palestinian revolt in the territories captured by the Jewish state in the 1967 Middle East war. A power struggle has erupted between Arafat's old guard, who returned from exile abroad after the selfrule deal reached with Israel a decade ago, and a younger pro-reform generation in Fatah staking out turf before Israel implements a plan to evacuate Jewish settlers from Gaza in 2005. Arafat, under public pressure to reform his security services, on Monday named Abdel-Razek al-Majaideh to the new post of West Bank and Gaza security chief - outranking a cousin of Arafat whose appointment on Saturday was seen as an example of deepseated cronvism.

Annan urged Arafat to "take the time to listen" to Qurie and carry out the reforms international mediators have called for as a condition for advancing a "road map" peace plan promising Palestinians a state in Gaza and the West Bank.



Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie enters a car in front of his home in the West Bank town of Abu Dis July 20. Israeli helicopters wounded two Palestinians in a missile strike on a Gaza militant's home on Tuesday as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sought to head off unprecedented unrest challenging his leadership.

committed to India peace



Pakistan's Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain (2nd-L) joins hands with India's Foreign Minister Natwar Singh (L), Pakistan's prime minister-in-waiting Shaukat Aziz (2nd-R) and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri (R) at the inauguration of the 25th session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) council of ministers in Islamabad July 20,. Pakistan's new prime minister vowed on Tuesday to pursue peace with rival India and resolve their decades-old dispute over Kashmir.

ISLAMABAD, July 20 (Reuters) -Pakistan's new prime minister vowed on Tuesday to pursue peace with rival India and resolve their decades-old dispute over Kashmir, at the heart of hostilities between the nuclear armed South Asian neighbours.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, who became prime minister last month for an interim period, told a seven-nation regional meeting of foreign ministers that the resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India augured

Pakistani and Indian diplomats have held informal talks on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) economic forum being held in Islamabad.

"I want to assure all members of SAARC and indeed the world that Pakistan is committed to pursuing peace with India," Hussain said.

"I am happy to report that with the

vision and the will Pakistan has under the leadership of President (Pervez) Musharraf, we have embarked upon a meaningful effort to resolve all differences and disputes with India including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri said peace with India was key to unlocking the region's economic potential. The SAARC countries, with a population of around 1.4 billion, form one of the world's poorest regions. Besides India and Pakistan, the group also includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. "The vision of South Asia joining the Asian mainstream with fast economic growth and development can only be realised if there is peace and harmony," Kasuri said.

Kasuri is expected to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh on Wednesday to push forward peace

Later this week Singh is due to meet Musharraf, who along with former Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee is the main architect of a peace process aimed at ending decades of enmity over Kashmir, which they both claim.

Political analysts say they do not expect major breakthroughs this week and view the talks as another opportunity to build trust between the old foes.

They have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir which both coun-

The neighbours came close to a fourth conflict in 2002 after an attack on the Indian parliament by Pakistanbased militants.

Tens of thousands of people have died in a 15-year rebellion in Indian Kashmir that New Delhi blames on Pakistani militants but which Islamabad says is a struggle against Indian occu-

Pakistan new premier says | Filipino hostage freed in Iraq after troops leave

Filipino truck driver held hostage in Iraq for two weeks was freed on Tuesday, a day after Manila withdrew its troops in response to demands from kidnappers who had threatened to behead him.

The United States, Australia and Iraq's interim government have accused Manila of caving in to terrorists, but Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo defended the decision and said the father

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an Islamic militant with suspected ties to al Qaeda warned Japan it should now do the same and pull its troops out of Iraq or face attacks.

The kidnappers of Filipino Angelo de la Cruz dropped him at the United Arab Emirates embassy in Baghdad on Tuesday morning, a source at the mission said. A Reuters correspondent later saw him arriving by car at the Philippine embassy.

Reuters television footage from inside the UAE embassy showed de la Cruz, 46, sitting with Philippine and UAE officials, wearing a grey sports shirt. He looked tired but in good health and fidgeted with a handkerchief in his hands.

Arroyo said she decided to withdraw a small military contingent early because of the importance of looking after some eight million Filipino workers abroad.

Militants threatening to behead de la Cruz had set a July 20 deadline for Philippine troops to leave Iraq. They had been previously due to depart on August

Zarqawi said in a statement posted on an Islamist Web site that Japan now should do the same as the Philippines.

"This message is directed to the Japanese government. Do what the Philippines has done because no one else can help you ... Your fate will be like that of the Americans and others," read the statement posted on a Web site that has carried previous comments from Zarqawi.

Overjoyed

Relatives at de la Cruz's home town in Buenavista, 90 km (55 miles) north of Manila, were jubilant.

"Thank you for saving Angelo to

beloved Gloria and God Almighty ... Thank you, Philippines," said his sister

Kidnappers have seized dozens of foreigners since April to press demands for foreign troops to leave, to deter foreigners from working with U.S. forces or to extract ransoms.

Many hostages have been freed, including an Egyptian released on Monday, but at least four have been killed.

Egyptian driver Mohammed al-Gharabawi was freed after the Saudi firm he worked for met kidnappers' demands by promising to stop doing work in Iraq.

"In the beginning, in the first few days, I was threatened," Gharabawi said at the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad late on Monday. "It was a real threat to me; they were shouting at me and pushing me with

Senior official shot dead

The United States, which led the invasion that ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last year, has said its coalition

sion to follow Spain, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Honduras in pulling out.

A member of the regional council of Basra, Iraq's second biggest city, and two bodyguards were assassinated on Tuesday. a council spokesman said. He said Hazim Tawfiq al-Anachi was shot dead at a checkpoint in the southern Iraqi city.

"At the checkpoint, there were some people wearing police uniforms who asked the driver to stop. Then they opened fire," the spokesman said.

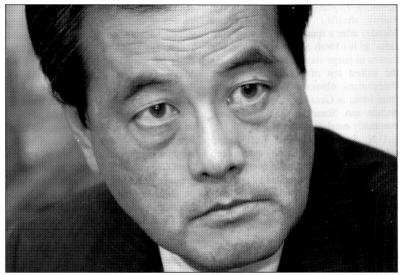
A roadside bomb exploded near the restive town of Baquba north of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing four Iraqi civilians in a minivan, a survivor of the attack and hospital officials said.

A suicide bomber blew up a fuel truck near a Baghdad police station on Monday, killing at least nine people. The bombing was the latest of at least five suicide attacks over the past week.



A television grab shows a jubilant Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo after hearing that Angelo Dela Cruz, a Filipino truck driver who was held hostaged in Iraq, was released during a meeting at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila July 20. REUTERS

Japan opposition chief aims for power in next poll



Katsuya Okada, head of Japan's biggest opposition Democratic Party, listens to a reporter's question during an interview at the party headquarters in Tokyo July 20. Brimming with confidence after a robust showing at this month's polls, Okada said on Tuesday that he planned to keep up the pressure on the ruling camp over unpopular pension reforms while readying his own party to take power in the next general election. REUTERS

TOKYO, July 20 (Reuters) -Brimming with confidence after a robust showing at this month's polls, Japanese opposition leader Katsuya Okada said on Tuesday he planned to keep up the pressure on the ruling camp over unpopular pension reforms while readying his own party to take power in the next general election.

Only then, Okada said, will Japan see real economic reform.

"The biggest difference between us and the LDP is whether reform will be carried out or not," Okada, 51, told Reuters in an interview at his Democratic Party headquarters as a heatwave gripped

"Koizumi's administration defines issues, but the reality is that there has been no progress," he said.

"We are the ones that will truly make progress. The Democrats outperformed Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in a July 11 upper house election, winning 50 of the 121 seats being contested in the 242member chamber against 49 for the LDP. But the LDP and its junior coalition partner, which have a firm grip on the powerful lower house, retained their majority in the chamber and Koizumi got to keep

Okada said the loudest message he heard while campaigning was that the Japanese people wanted a change in government after a half-century of LDP rule.

"They wanted us to achieve a change government although this was just an upper house election." Analysts have said that the

Democrats' impressive strides in the election confirmed a trend obscured by Koizumi's personal popularity: the LDP is losing its unchallenged grip on power.

Okada, who is off on a short trip to the United States next week, said he would resume his attack on the LDP in an extra session of parliament from July 30, especially over reforms to the creaking state pension system that cut benefits and raised premiums and which more than 70 percent of voters want revised.

Policies and personnel

A brewing scandal over undeclared political contributions to the LDP's biggest faction by the powerful dentists' association could also seriously hurt the LDP. Okada said.

Public support for Koizumi is hoverat around 40 percent, according to a weekend survey by the Mainichi newspa-But the percentage giving the once wildly-popular premier the thumbs down rose five points to 44 percent, the first time non-supporters have exceeded backers since he took office.

"I don't think there will be a general election for at least a year or so," Okada said. "Koizumi does not have the strength to dissolve parliament and call an elec-

"So what we have to do is to boost our strength and create a force that can definitely take power in the next election." To achieve that, Okada said, his party would strive to make its policies easier to understand, speed up the selection of candidates to run in the next election and improve party management to allay concerns over unity

Critics have charged the Democrats, whose membership includes former LDP lawmakers as well as socialists, are too diverse to be entrusted with power, especially with regard to security matters. "The LDP says we are divided but that is not the case," he said, adding the party had broadly agreed on the need for reforms to Japan's pacifist constitution to clarify the military's right to participate in U.N.-sponsored multinational forces.

His image as a serious man of principle played well in the upper house election, but Okada still lags Koizumi in surveys when voters are asked who is more suited to be premier.

That doesn't seem to bother him

"It's only been two months since I took the party chief position so that's only natural," he said.

"Awe, the Democratic Party, as a whole get stronger, I think that will

Arrested Rwanda genocide suspect to stand trial

DAR ES SALAAM, July 20 (Reuters) - A key Rwanda genocide suspect has been handed over to U.N. prosecutors, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said late on Monday.

Gaspard Kanyarukiga, 59, accused of a horrifying attack on a church in which Africa on Saturday. Charges against him include genocide, complicity in genocide, and conspiracy to commit genocide.

Kanyarukiga was a businessman in Rwanda's capital Kigali during the 1994 genocide that saw 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus massacred by extremist Hutus in 100 days in the tiny central African state.

He is accused of transporting police and militia known as Interahamwe to attack a church in which Tutsis had taken refuge. The attackers poured fuel through 2,000 people died, was arrested in South the roof and set the church ablaze then killed about 2,000 Tutsis using grenades

> Prosecutors say he held meetings with both religious and political leaders in which they conspired to kill Tutsi civil-

The ICTR was established in 1995 to bring to justice the military and political masterminds behind the genocide.

The tribunal, based in Tanzania's northern town of Arusha, has arrested 69 people for genocide-related crimes. It has indicted 81, convicted 20 and acquitted

The court jailed former Rwandan minister, Emmanuel Ndindabahizi for life last week after he was found guilty of leading a campaign of extermination against civilian Tutsis in Kibuye in western Rwanda.

U.S. diplomat Bolton cites Libya lesson for N.Korea

SEOUL, July 20 (Reuters) - Libya holds useful lessons as the United States and South Korea pursue their shared goal of peacefully eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes, the top U.S. disarmament diplomat said in Seoul on Tuesday.

U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton, one of Pyongyang's harshest critics in Washington, began talks in South Korea as part of the George W. Bush administration's renewed drive to resolve a 20-month-old nuclear standoff with North Korea.

South Korean President Roh Mohyun and Bush are "very eager to have a peaceful diplomatic solution to this problem", he told Foreign Minister Ban Kimoon. Bolton said he hoped his visit would forge a coordinated approach to disarming Pyongyang.

"We've had some successes in that area in the case of Libya renouncing the pursuit of weapons of mass destruction in a very significant step forward," said

"As we prepare for the next round of six-party talks, it's important to keep all those lessons in mind," he added, referring to six-way nuclear talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and China. Three rounds of talks have already been held.

Libya consummated years of efforts to repair ties with the West with an announcement in December that it was scrapping its nuclear and other unconventional arms programmes.

The North African state also vowed not to trade arms with Iran, North Korea, Syria or other states accused of arms pro-

North Korea's official reaction to Tripoli's move was a foreign ministry statement in January dismissing hopes that it might emulate Libya as the "folly of

North Korea, a key provider of missiles to Libya and other Middle East states, was named by U.S. President George W. Bush as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iran and pre-war Iraq.

Busy Diplomacy

Ban said Bolton's trip to Seoul and Tokyo was auspicious because "the countries around this region are making some important moves'

He cited Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to North Korea

in May and summit talks with Roh this week, as well as North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun's recent talks with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and visits to Seoul by senior Bush administration figures.

Koizumi's two-day visit from Wednesday will take place amid signs the United States is moving closer to the approaches of Japan and South Korea in resolving the lengthy impasse with North

The United States laid out a plan for North Korea in six-country talks last month that would extend energy aid from other countries as part of a solution to the

If North Korea agrees to dismantle its nuclear programmes, Washington is expected to provide Pyongyang with security assurances. Other negotiating parties such as Japan and South Korea are expected to offer energy assistance.

A fourth round of six-party talks is due before the end of September, with a lower level working group likely next

Pyongyang may have at least one and perhaps as many as eight nuclear weapons, U.S. officials say.

Global AIDS fund warns of deep shortage

LONDON, July 20 (Reuters) - The world fight against AIDS is facing a cash crisis, the head of a fund created to battle the global pandemic said on Tuesday.

Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said it had so far received pledges of just \$1 billion towards its one-third share of the expected total \$12 billion anti-AIDS budget for 2005.

"That means our contribution will be very difficult to achieve," he told Reuters on the margins of a news conference to announce a doubling in British money for the fund.

"This is a strong signal of financial and political support from Britain," he said. "Not only is a doubling good news, but it also sets a strong lead for others to follow."

Britain also set aside 150 million pounds (\$278 million) on Tuesday for African AIDS orphans.

Feachem, whose fund was created in 2002 as the brainchild of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan but is not part of the United Nations bureaucracy, said the only other country to declare a doubling of its contribution so far had been Canada.

He said the United States, heavily criticised at an International AIDS conference in Bangkok last week for dragging its feet, had paid up its share in 2004 but was still negotiating about future pledges.

The British funds are part of 1.5 billion pounds set aside to battle AIDS in three-year spending review announced by the government last

Britain has pledged to put AIDS, which has so far killed 20 million people, at the heart of its presidency of the Group of Eight next year.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who sponsors an 11-year-old AIDS orphan given the pseudonym "Mary" in Cape Town, said there was no question of giving up the battle.

"Ignoring the issue of AIDS is simply not an option. This is a tragedy that spans personal and global scales," he told an earlier meeting.

Spain's Borrell becomes European Parliament head

Spanish Socialist Josep Borrell, a strong opponent of the war in Iraq, was elected president of the European Parliament on Tuesday, propelled to office by a deal between the two largest political factions.

"In a Europe with nine percent unemployment and 50 million poor people, we need to make sure people understand the importance of (European) policies," Borrell told the assembly after winning an absolute majority on the first ballot.

The low-key former transport, public works and environment minister will head an assembly of 732 members drawn from the 25 states of the newly enlarged European Union.

The 57-year-old Catalan won 388 votes thanks to a deal between the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) and Party of European Socialists (PSE) to share control of the EU legislature over its five-year term.

Liberal former Polish foreign minister Bronislaw Geremek, an intellectual hero of the fight against communism, won 208 votes and French communist Francis Wurtz won 51.

Parliament's powers range from approving EU laws in areas such as finance, transport and energy, to approving the new European executive Commission and vetting the EU budg-

Borrell stressed in his inaugural speech the importance of working for peace in the Middle East.

"We will have to look at countries close to us, in the Euro-Mediterranean ambit in particular," he said.

"There are many points of international policy which are going to be requiring our attention, particularly situations close to us, in the Middle

REBUILDING CONFIDENCE

Political sources said Borrell's smooth election should clear the way for parliament to endorse EU leaders' choice of centre-right former Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso as Commission president on Thursday, although the two votes are not formally linked.

Borrell faces the uphill task of rebuilding confidence in EU institu-



The new President of the European Parliament, Spanish Socialist Josep Borrell Fontelles (R) receives flowers from the German President of the Socialist group of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz (L), after his election July 20, in Strasbourg. Borrell was elected in the first round with 388 votes beating his Polish Liberal challenger Bronislaw Geremek with 208 votes and French Communist Francis Wurst with 51 votes.

tions after a historically low turnout at the last parliamentary poll in mid-June, which brought in deputies from 10 new member states in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

"We need to build this institution ... speaking a language people can understand," he told the assembly.

Under the EPP-PSE deal, Borrell is expected to step down halfway through the five-year legislature to make way for a president from the centre-right, expected to be EPP group leader Hans-Gert Poettering of Germany.

The European Parliament, initially a mere consultative body, has steadily extended its powers and can now

amend and reject legislation. Described by those who know him well as a no-nonsense politician, Borrell is likely to diplay a less ebullient style than his predecessor Pat Cox, an energetic Irish liberal.

Borrell left school at 10 and finished secondary education at home while working in the family bakery in his village in the Catalan Pyrenees.

He obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering, a doctorate in economics and two master's degrees in the United States and France.

He joined the Spanish Socialist Party in 1974 and was twice minister for public works, transport and environment between 1991 and 1996.

"Europe is more than a political experience to me, it's a vital project. I am a European, a Spaniard and a Catalan. But I am not from the old or the new Europe. I am just an ordinary European," Borrell said.

YUKOS core production unit heads for fire sale

Russia plans to sell oil major YUKOS' main operating unit, the justice ministry said on Tuesday, launching a muchfeared move that would rip the heart out of a company pumping a fifth of the country's oil.

The threat of a fire sale of assets has hung over YUKOS since it last month failed to pay \$3.4 billion in back taxes for 2000, but bailiffs had been expected core spare subsidiary Yuganskneftegaz. "After valuation, the share stake in Yuganskneftegaz will be handed over to a special organisation for sale," the justice ministry said in a state-

Analysts said the worst-case scenario was coming true for YUKOS, now apparently destined for dismemberment as its main shareholder and former CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky undergoes trial on charges of tax evasion and fraud.

"It's like performing a heart transplant on a man with a cough," said Maxim Shein, an analyst at BrokerCreditService.

"The sale of Yugansk will destroy the integrity of the company and its opera-

YUKOS's shares fell 12 percent on the news and their trade was suspended on Moscow's MICEX exchange for an hour. The broader market shed three percent. "It seems excessive. They've gone right to the heart of YUKOS - it almost seems like a preemptive strike to destroy the company," said Stephen O'Sullivan, co-head of research at UFG.

KNOCK-DOWN SALE

YUKOS said it expected whollyowned Yugansk to be sold by July 30 to a designated buyer for \$1.75 billion,

MOSCOW, July 20 (Reuters) - even though an independent audit it had commissioned valued the unit at over

> Analysts put a firesale auction price of \$12 billion on Yugansk, which pumps over a million barrels of west Siberian oil a day - 60 percent of YUKOS' entire production.

"The government has virtually complete control over the auction/sale process," said Paul Collison at Brunswick UBS, tipping Surgutneftegaz, which has close Kremlin ties, and state-owned gas giant Gazprom as likely buyers.

But Russia's State Property Fund said it would not be possible to conduct a quick sale, saying it had not yet received any official instructions to do so.

"From today it could take no less than a month," the fund's spokesman Vladimir Zelentsov said.

YUKOS has said it could be bankrupted by a total tax bill which has swollen to nearly \$7 billion for 2000 and 2001, and is expected to top \$10 billion after audits of 2002 and 2003.

RETRIBUTION

It has taken just a year to turn YUKOS from Russia's leading listed company into spoils ripe for the picking, with Khodorkovsky paying a huge price for daring to oppose President Vladimir

Khodorkovsky, arrested last October, is on trial with partner Platon Lebedev for fraud and tax evasion and both could go to jail for 10 years if convicted.

Prosecutors on Tuesday began what is set to be a lengthy presentation of their case, after the defendants' denunciation of the trial last week as politically moti-



Russian oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky stands in the dock during his trial in Moscow, July 20. Khodorkovsky, the main shareholder in oil major YUKOS, is standing trial for fraud and tax evasion amounting to a billion dollars. REUTERS

Blast kills 25 in Ukrainian coal mine

KIEV, July 20 (Reuters) - An explosion ripped through a Ukrainian coal mine, killing at least 25 miners and trapping 11 more in a blazing pit in the country's biggest mining tragedy in two years, the Emergency Ministry said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, former governor of Ukraine's coal-producing Donetsk region and a major contender in a forthcoming presidential election, was due to visit the pit later in

The accident at the Krasnolimanska mine, 50 km (30 miles) west of Donetsk, was the latest in a long series of tragedies plaguing the industry. Some 250 miners died last year in Ukraine.

"Twenty-five people are dead. Their bodies are being recovered now. Rescuers are still looking for 11 coal miners," said a duty officer at the Emergency Ministry. A ministry official in Donetsk said

more than 50 rescue teams had suspended work after temperatures in the pit soared to 1,200 degrees Celsius (2,200 Fahrenheit).

Krasnolimanska, built almost 50 years ago, is one of Ukraine's most productive mines, but has been struck by deadly accidents. In January 2001, nine miners were killed, with four more dying in the following two years.

Forty-eight miners were working when the methane explosion occurred late on Monday nearly a kilometre below ground in the heartland of the Donbass coalfield. Twelve managed to

Ukraine's accident rate, the worst in



Ukrainian rescuers take a rest after searching for missing miners in the pit of the Krasnolimanska coal mine, 50 km west of Donetsk, July 20, 2004. An explosion ripped through a Ukrainian colliery, killing at least 25 miners and trapping 11 deep in a blazing pit in the country's biggest mining tragedy in two years, the Emergency Ministry said on

Europe, is blamed on obsolete equipment, lack of funds and shoddy safety

Miners crouch in small, damp seams up to 1,200 metres (3,800 feet) below the surface. Stories are rife of miners wrapping clothing around methane detectors to disable them as safety stoppages mean interruptions in pay for impoverished communities with no

alternative employment.

Yanukovich, incumbent President Leonid Kuchma's choice to take over from him after the October election, has promised to pay vast wage arrears and other benefits to miners.

The prime minister, who takes on liberal opposition standardbearer Viktor Yushchenko and others in the contest, faces a hard task to overhaul an industry

employing about 450,000 at 193 mines in the ex-Soviet state's eastern regions.

Before Monday evening's accident, the death toll this year in Ukrainian mines had stood at about 100.

Energy-poor Ukraine says it needs coal to feed power stations and steel mills, the biggest export industry and major driver behind the country's current economic growth.

Czech coalition takes step toward forming govt

vowed on Tuesday to act quickly to form a new government after leaders from three parties in parliament took a key step forward by agreeing a deal to cooperate.

The leftist Social Democrats, centrist Christian Democrats and rightist Freedom Union are looking to form a coalition similar to that of ousted Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla.

Spidla resigned as prime minister and Social Democrat chief after his coalition's poor showing in last month's European parliament election.

Gross, who took over the Social Democrats and was asked by President Vaclav Klaus to try to form a government, said Tuesday's agreement paved the way for the coalition to write a government manifesto to guide it up to a general election in 2006.

"Today we achieved one of our ambitions, to lay out a procedure that ensures

Prime Minister-designate Stanislav Gross will be a majority government and function with unity," he told a news confer-The coalition will have a one-seat

majority in the 200-seat lower house. A deal was crucial to keep the government from having to rely on opposition parties to get proposed legislation through parlia-

Coalition leaders will discuss the manifesto on Friday.

"I do not want to have in my curriculum vitae that I was a designated prime minister for a few weeks and then it ended," the 34-year old former train tech-

State budgets, changes to tax laws, household rent deregulation and foreign policy are among key items the coalition is looking to agree on.

Gross is also keen to calm financial markets which fear he will not stick to the previous government's spending cuts.

Words of Wisdom



many of our senior officials are rather well-educated, but they have mostly ended-up as mere puppets as they are routinely ordered around, many times to do wrong things. Character strength would not allow this phenomenon. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)

Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Services: vital for a strong economy

t is important to note that Yemen, along with most developing countries, is suffering from a very weak services sector. Our countries have been depending on natural and regular sources of governmental income to run our countries. But in such a rapidly changing world, we look more and more isolated and alone when not adopting policies that utilize the services sector The situation in which our economies are standing today is a clear example that we are missing the race.

The dependency of Yemen on oil, taxes, donations, loans, and other regular sources of income has created systematic stagnancy in the local economy. Today, Yemen is lagging in the services sector which includes banking, insurance, tourism, industries, etc. Furthermore, with an unbelievable annual population growth rate of 3.7%, the conventional sources of income failed to cope with the increasing

On the other hand, countries that lack natural sources such as Japan have become the most productive nations on earth. In my recent visit to the second largest economy of the world, I have been impressed by a massive service sector that is several folds larger than Arab countries' total services sector put together and has depended on the services sector to grow with the country's economy. This sector not only stimulated the economy and employed millions of people, but it also served in utilizing the country's sources in a way that promotes the country's economy and international image and produces strong reputation for its services and products.

For various reasons, the Yemeni authorities have unfortunately given little attention to the service sector, and in particular, that of the private sector's services. This has consequently resulted in a very week infrastructure that discouraged investors to start service projects in the country. The reason is probably due to the fact that the successive governments were not aware a successful services sector could do in helping the economy in a time they were quite happy with the income from the country's national resources.

On the other hand, the lack of high quality service providers in the country resulted in low awareness levels of the public in knowing what is offered to them and hence in using those services effectively. In fact, some companies have developed a habit of unconcern about the customers' satisfaction or demands. "Either take it or leave it!" became the main belief of individual companies, making citizens feel unimportant for the companies, and hence not valuing services offered to them.

In the ideal case, service oriented companies should seek all ways to ensure customers are satisfied about their services and establish a hot-line for customer care and feel their responsibility in tackling their concerns.

One good example is the day when I called for an appointment with the Suzuki Motors Company in Japan, I was shocked and quite impressed to know that a whole meeting was arranged for me to get my input and ideas. The director of boards of members of the company came specifically for the meeting to know my impressions about the company's customer and public relations in Yemen. I then realized one of their factors of success in the international market, i.e., paying individual attention to all their clients. This is the very thing that we lack in Yemen.

Of course, we still have a very long way to go until we have a productive service sector, but I assert that our governments should realize the importance of this sector and should take Dubai and other service oriented cities and countries to know how to survive amid the challenges of the twenty first century.

The Editor

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief: Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf

Head office: Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a



Email: yementimes@yementimes.com Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches: Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596; Fax: +967 (2) 347-056

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (4) 217-156 Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157 Email: vttaiz@v.net.ve

Hodeidah Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Telefax: +967 (3) 206-886

Email: ytaden@y.net.ye **Regional Distributors**

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Time to reform

HASSAN A. BARARI JORDON TIMES

n a bid to gain or maintain legitimacy, most Arab regimes tend to identify their interests with those of their countries. This thinking has hardly helped these countries face genuine challenges. Take the most recent example of the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the just Palestinian cause. The view that ìArafat is not a partner for peaceî is gaining ground. This should prompt genuine reform within the Palestinian polity. Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership appears disinterested in

The Palestinian people, suffering from the last colonial occupation on earth, are struggling to achieve liberation and national independence, but the allegations of corruption among the leadership only helps the anti-peace government in Israel to shirk its obligations towards peaceful resolution of the

It should be emphasised that reform is in the best interest of the Palestinians. The argument that reform is demanded by Israel and the United States should not deflect the Palestinians from seeing the benefits of reform. Instead of appreciating the recent comments by United Nation envoy to the Middle East Terje Roed-Larsen as candid, constructive criticism, the Palestinian leadership rejected a ifriendî of the Palestinians. Larsen was on record for criticising Israel's lethal use of force against the Palestinians, so his credibility and professionalism are beyond doubt. Furthermore, he was widely seen in Israel as pro-Palestinian. Therefore, it is bizarre to see the Palestinians waging a campaign against a man who really helped them in different ways.

The last thing the Palestinians need is to clash with the United Nations, the only international body that backed them in all possible ways. After all, what Larsen said reflects the thoughts of many Palestinians. The only difference is that the UN envoy is free from fear as he is independent.

It is also terrifying to see that the level of tolerance on the part of the Palestinian leadership is very low. What would Arafat have done if these sharp remarks had come from a

Palestinian? Would he have sanctioned his liquidation? This mind-set is selfdestructive.

Understandably, in times of crisis, the nation should be united behind its leadership. Indeed, Israel presents a classic example of a nation united behind its leadership in times of distress. Yet, when the leadership systematically fails to deliver, people should look for a viable alternative. The Palestinians should not insist on defending a failed leadership while they keep on losing their land. Now that the International Court of Justice has ruled against the separation wall, they should capitalise on the success and feel strong enough to introduce reform.

The Palestinians cannot afford to lose this time. Implicit in Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza is the design to force the Palestinians into anarchy, thus proving that the Palestinian state would be a failure. This would only support his claim that the Palestinians do not deserve their own state.

What is at stake is more important than leadership; it is the Palestinians' right to self-determination and an independent state on their land.

The problem of cheating

BY SHAFEEK ABDULLAH QASSEM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he education system plays a major role in any society. It aims at bringing up better and smarter generations. It is the back-bone of the development of any community, without which development and advancement become impossible. However, the education system in Yemen seems to be flawed. A few days ago, students were concentrating on exams. Most of them were studying hard to attain good grades. But what happens, when their class fellows, who are educationally very weak, obtain better grades than them by cheating?

It is really discouraging for the hard working students to know that their weak peers have obtained good grades just because of cheating in exams. It is wretched that hundreds of thousands of secondary school students all over the Yemen are sitting their exams amid rampant cheating. Isn't it a disaster, when you realize that the students' main concerns in education are to perform well by cheating?

In fact, cheating has great impacts on the students' personalities. They feel that this is a widespread phenomenon and then have no motivation or aptitude for acquiring knowledge by exerting efforts and hard work. As a result, they depend entirely on cheating. I am really wondering who is responsible for this deteriorating policy, which allows our future generations to decay. Another question that puzzles me is why students are allowed to cheat.

If we seriously want to achieve progress and keep pace with developments like other countries, why then do we damage upcoming generations?

I suggest that there is a real decline in education, which requires honest, responsible scrutiny to diagnose its points of weakness.

Unfortunately, nobody is paying attention to this growing crisis. The Ministry of Education spends hundreds of millions on education, but all are of no avail. We are spending more but gaining less.

We are wasting time and money on failing outputs. This is the top reason for spreading the cheating in exams.

Another factor for poor education and cheating are the teachers. Teachers are deemed to be the core of education, and their role is negative within schools. Some teachers wriggle out of the schools and more often never attend schools for weeks. They help students succeed in exams by cheating, not by helping them acquire knowl-

Teachers have to point out the shortcomings and limitations of the students' performance. The absence of proper upbringing is considered to be part of the problem. Parents spend a lot of money to provide their children with a good education. At the same time, parents follow their children's progress neither at schools nor at

Don't know where their children interests lie?

As a result children start neglecting their studies and finally go to exam halls unprepared. Families should motivate their children to do their best towards gaining knowledge. They should ask their children not to rest on their laurels by cheating but to strive for still greater achievements.

To sum up, every one should take it upon him to do something, to do his part of the bargain. I hope that we will wake up and do something to stop destroying our future. Will we do so? I

COMMON SENSE By Hassan Al-Haifi

Singing the Iranian threat song, again

ith so little successes to latch on to, President George W. Bush and the neocons are seeking a new-old threat to latch on to, in order to maintain a sensation of fear, especially among the American electorate. Needless to say, this observer has touched upon the issue of Iran as a regional power, and the obvious disfavor this is looked upon by Israel and many of the traditional regimes in the region – and I might even add the likes of Bin Laden. So, one is bound to wonder to what are the latest "suspicions" concerning Iran's link to the 9/11 attacks. which are based on very remote circumstantial evidence that can hardly stand in any sort of genuine investigation are alluding? The suspicions are said to arise from "visits to Iran by 10 of the perpetrators of 9/11 in 1991 (Back then most of the alleged perpetrators were adolescents or in their early teens).

It is obvious that Iran stands high on the neo-con-Zionist

agenda, for the simple reason that Israel unquestionably

views the Islamic Republic of Iran as its ideological anti-the-

sis. This would surely have considerable weight in policy formulation by the present White House Administration. Much of the past strategy of this Administration has tremendous subtle linkage to Israeli and Zionist prodding, including the provision of earlier misguided intelligence on Iraq, which paved the way for the war, as reported on several hidden news reports in many an American newspaper. However this latest subtle hinting that Iran could be another wrong target for the American unilateral offensive on terror, is no more than a carryover of the Iraq misadventure. That Iran was not on the minds of those who diligently pursued the Iraqi invasion, would be a misinterpretation of the neo-con-Zionist agenda for the region. Anyone who has not tied these two institutional demagogic conglomerations is surely not reading beneath the newsprint correctly. To add weight to this supposition, let us look at recent developments. Iran has withstood the anti-nuke blitzkrieg and has managed to steer away from any direct confrontation with the United States, although it is literally surrounded by American forces or American operational stations in all the countries surrounding Iran. In other words the intimidation did not drive Iran to any reckless action that would fall into the trap being laid out by the neo-cons. Even with the Iraqi invasion, which was meant to really insure that a barrier is put in place between Israel and Iran, did not cause panic in Iran. This self-confidence is even more scarier to the neo-cons and their Zionist allies. They actually want Iran "to do something", which Iran could have done, as Iran is not exactly sitting there like an idle duck, with the significant regional weight that Iran has. But, Iran has continued to apply a very cautious policy of wait and see and let events reveal the true inimical nature of this very uptight coalition that has caused havoc on the international theater. This is further frustrating the neo-con Zionist clique and their computer simulations have once again failed to harmonize with their agenda. To get things moving along this front, the Israelis came back to intimidating Hezbollah in Lebanon last week by having one Hezbollah officers killed through Lebanese agents (they are a dime a dozen). The Israelis hoped this would spark Hezbollah to take revenge. Israel can again then declare that Hezbollah, under prodding from Iran and Syria has attacked Israel. Hezbollah of course reacted and hit the Israelis painfully killing two or more Israelis, which the Israelis probably never imagined occurring. But then, Hezbollah always makes sure that its moves are calculated to remind the Israelis that they are at par with them. That the timing of this incident should coincide with the latest allegations of Iran's involvement with 9/11 lends credence to the strong assertion of the harmony between the neo-cons and their Zionist allies in the International Zionist Establishment. Furthermore, there have been increasing "reports" of alleged Iranian activity in Iraq and elsewhere in the region, meant to add fuel to the "threat" signals that this coalition is seeking to disseminate. One wonders if perhaps, a security situation in Yemen that has blown way out of proportion falls along the same context. An article in the Christian Science Monitor seemed to suggest that Iran could find reason to defend the Shiite community in Yemen. Nothing is further than the truth. One does not really find any strong political activity that leans towards the Islamic Republic in Iran in Yemen. As far as the anti-Israeli and even anti-American rhetoric that one comes across this really emanate from natural and fraternal ties to the Palestinians and Iraqis. In the case of the former, this fraternal sympathy has been around since the displacement of the Palestinians by the Zionist movement in the first half of the last century. In the case of the Iraqis, this sympathy comes out of the folly of Bush's invasion of Iraq and the chaos that came out of it. Iran need not do anything to arouse this sympathy. Yet, we are seeing an increasing trend towards instilling Iran as the real enemy of the United States and one should not be surprised if the same series of diatribes and innuendos unleashed against Iraq before the invasion are unleashed against Iran, in the hope of leading to an eventual confrontation. The neo-con-Zionist clique is addicted to confrontation. The Bush Administration needs this to cushion all the failures that have placed the Administration in an unequivocally unsure political position in the forthcoming US Presidential Elections and Israel needs this to ensure that if the neo-cons are not in power again, at least the groundwork for keeping Iran at bay would be set, so that any other White House Administration would not be able to pull back so easily. In spite of all this, the unusually strong ability of Iran to deal with developments may prove again resourceful in ensuring the survival of the Islamic Revolution and controlling the unrest in the region. This is still the overwhelming desire of most of the Iranian people. The latter would never compromise their loyalty to the Islamic Revolution and they have not been unfailing in reflecting this loyalty amidst far worst challenges, which confronted the Revolution in the past.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Genital mutilation

The human body is made in the image of God. Muslims and Christians agree on this. Yet many presume to correct God's work by female genital cutting. This is not mentioned in the Koran or the Bible. Most Muslim cultures do not

practice it, nor do Christian communities outside of Africa. It is simply an ancient tradition, like slav-

ery, whose time has passed. Female genital mutilation is based on fear of woman's

sexuality. This is a natural quality that should be edu-

cated through love, not crippled by violence. Most African government

are trying to eradicate this harmful custom. They realize that a country develop if half of its people are deliberately maimed.

Sexism is as degrading as racism. Every year about

two million Africa girls are terrorized by the ritual mutilation of their most sensitive parts. They have no possibility of informed consent. I respectfully ask that you speak out to help end this very painful and damaging

Tom Falvey



Business

After parliamentarians failure to curb it,

Would junior MPs succeed in combating child labour?

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he children parliament has placed the child labour phenomenon, which spreads among children of ages ranging 6-14 year old and is growing at an annual rate of 6.4%, at the top of its priority issues agenda for the coming

The parliament has formed four committees, including a committee for discussion of the child labour phenomenon and following it up with the concerned parties, in its bid for working out a strategy curbing the leaking of schoolchildren from school and go to labour market.

The question, however, is whether the junior parliamentarians could succeed in resolving a problem the adults have so far failed to resolve, especially under data of official figures confirming that the expansion of the phenomenon of poverty and its acuteness is aggravating the problem of child labour. It is because of the need of their families for financial resources coming through employing their children in the labour market and in jobs exposing them to dangers and acts of violence.

These parliamentarians say their parliamentary committee, set up for dealing with combating this phenomenon, has discusses with representatives from the ministries of social affairs and labour and human rights as well as the higher council for motherhood and childhood, the causes motivating the child labour. They also added that the committee would prepare its recommendations and decisions and place them before the officials of the state so that to guarantee their being put into force as part of intensive efforts meant for solving the problem in a radical

The committee's plans are concentrated on attracting the attention of the concerned parties in the effort for dealing with and tackling the causes of child labour, mainly the encouragement of families for urging females to attend the basic education stage. Figures in this regard mention that 51.4% of females under the banner of child labour have never before attended education institutes. The task of the committee seems complicated in the face of an issue involving working children totaling about 500 thousand, 95% pf them working in the countryside with their families in agriculture and without getting wages. This matter necessarily means there must be a driving of government efforts towards enrollment of children in basic educa-

The national strategy for combating poverty had diagnosed reasons behind child labour phenomenon as ascribed to assisting the family by a rate of 71%. The cause of family poverty and the father unemployment or death forms 15.3%. Among other reasons of child labour is the children's abstention from joining schools and their non-desire to do so and their failure in schools at a rate of 19.4%. Other reasons occupy a percentage of 3.3%.

Academics say the formation of committee concerned with the effort of fighting child labour by the children parliament actually comes as part of a media campaign reminding the concerned sides about the importance of following up the phenomenon and curbing it because the problem needs continuous government efforts.

According to the report issued by the higher council for motherhood and childhood, families of street children are known of the large number of their members amounting to 7 to 9. In addi-



Curbing child labor phenomenon, adopted as top priority be junior parliamentarians in Yemen

tion, some families' members exceed 12. Statements indicate that fathers of children working on labour market are from marginalized segments of the society; most of them are unemployed,

while 63.5% of mothers of those children do not work and 13.6% works in agriculture and 9.3% at cleaning work

members of children parliament members stress they would devote all their efforts towards fighting child labour through discussions and dialogues the

the concerned sides in an attempt to reach a clear-cut mechanism limiting the phenomenon in future and help protect children against dangers of Despite of those complications, juvenile committee would hold with work at labour market, at an early age.

The role of media in development

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ll media instruments have a remarkable role in engaging the society development process and implementation of plans and programs at both national and local levels. But this role would be complete with content of the constructive media messages and credibility of their harmony with requirements and needs of the society.

Realization of media message requires professional and technical skills and the use and direction of media tools to various segments of the society in order to attain the goal of actively engaging them in the implementation of development and services projects. It is therefore the media messages require taking care of the targeted people and development of their potentials for execution of the development objectives. The matter needs upgrading the condition of those working in information field to enable them convey clear and undistorted messages as well as stable which would not get influenced by psychology and circumstances of information messages makers.

Here lies the significance of qualification of media cadre the parliament has recently recommended in a manner commensurate to the big volume of the role shouldered on the media people especially those holding the responsibility of engaging the society in implementation of development

According to the relationship between media message makers and their recipients the developmental information does connect between the central plans of the state and their execution at th3e national level and the local development plans pertaining to the governorates and districts taking into consideration clarification of the aspired for integration in the general performance of the administrative

The programmed media message can elucidate to the people the volume of the benefit they would get by building a road or the installation of dams, barriers or power generators in their areas. This would urge them to interact and positive cooperation in the implementation of those projects and participate in funding them and also bear any burdens necessitating from them to contribute to meeting them. This can be achieved through media awareness campaign according to their various specialties.

Contrary to that the absence of media message may push some people to obstruct the building of roads across their territories or could harm their properties. It is not enough to take a decision without informing the citizens about the nature of its development and services goals, and this is a role to be played by the media in this

The role of the media is not confined to awareness about dimensions of economic and development plans and projects but rather engagement of the society in finding mechanisms convenient to their execution.

In this respect paying attention and taking care of the media cadre and improvement of their living situation is very significant as well as working for their psychological stability to perform their required role in the process of entire development in the country.

Increase in total amount of investment, improvement in sources of funding

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

fficial efforts are heading for increasing the proportion of total investment within the current prices by a big average estimated at a rate of about 11.5% until the end of the year 2005. This is expected to result in the increase of the proportion of gross domestic product to

The strategic plans in this area aim at rising and improving the infrastructure of the economy and services as well as increasing productive capacity for providing new job opportunities and activating the role of the private sector in investment. The goal is to raise that role to about 69% out of the total amount of investment and an 18% of the volume of the gross domestic product.

According to the strategic plans, it is expected that the proportion of government would drop by 4.3% at

the end of next year against a simple increase for funding the non-governmental sector including the public institutions by 19%.

The end of next year is a date fixed by the governments strategy for alleviation of poverty and implementation of investment projects along with evaluation of its findings with regard to providing job opportunities and the resulting problematic, if any.

The government had defined the total cost of investment projects to be executed during the period 2003-2005 by around YR413.4 billion, of which YR18.9 billion the cost of new projects against YR394.7 billion for projects and programs under construction. The government also mentions that its effort for achieving goals of the human development millennium, it has worked for providing support by donors of the new investment projects but says its efforts have not met with full success. The private sector, on its part, complains of sluggishness of procedures necessary for the investment process due to some prevalent administrative complications in managing work and granting investment licenses.

Exchange Rate for

the Yemeni Rial

Currency Buying Selling 184.6900 US Dollar 184.8700 Sterling Pound 345.8400 346.1800 Euro 229.9900 230.2200 Saudi Rial 49.2500 49.2900 Kuwaiti Dinar 626,4700 629.0800 50.2800 50.3300 Egyptian Pound 29.8400 29.8700 Bahraini Dinar 490.3600 Qatari Rial 50.7400 50.7900 260.4900 260.7500 Omani Rial 480,2000 479,7300 Swiss Franc 150.5600 150.7100 Swedish Crown 2499.0000 25.0100

1.7000

Japanese Yen

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Newborns in Yemen

BY RANIA ABDULLAH AL-SHARABI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ach country probably has its set of unique traditions and customs for various social occasions. Yemen has a variety of very distinctive traditions, customs and rituals. In particular, Yemen has unique practices or rituals on the occasion of celebrating a newborn baby. Celebrations differ totally or slightly from one geographical area to another.

In the Sana'a area:

From the first day of childbirth to the fifteenth day, the newborn's mother stays and sits in the same room, where she receives intermittent visits from relatives and close friends, especially in the afternoon. During these first two weeks, she does not expect too many visits from relatives, friends, acquaintances or first-time congratulators. The first two weeks are considered recuperation time for the mother who has just delivered a baby. Each first-time congratulator normally presents a gift for the baby or juice or some money. The amount of money varies from one well-wisher to another. It is primarily a symbolic

Anyway, the mother of the newborn baby stays alone during the first three days after delivery before the visitors are permitted to sit in her room. The guests are escorted to another room where they would socialize with each other until it is time to leave. The third day, when guests can stay in the mother's room is marked by the distribution of candy and tea or coffee. The seventh day, Benan Day, is marked by drinking tea and eating cake.

After two weeks have elapsed, the mother moves to another larger room because more guests are expected to attend frequently. The mother's sitting, with her newborn baby, is elevated higher than the rest of the room and is wider so she can lie down. The sitting is normally decorated with a distinctive-smelling, plant "Shadhab", and the mother is dressed up in traditional dress.

On the fortieth day, the final ceremonial day, the mother has special decorating drawings, "Nagsh", drawn on her hands and legs. Almost all of the relatives, close friends and acquaintants who frequently paid courtesy visits are invited to attend this party, "Al-Arbaeen". Tea, coffee, juices and cakes are distributed to guests. A traditional signer has to be hired to perform songs. Qat, packs of cigarettes, drinks have to be furnished by the family of the newborn baby.

As for the celebrations by the men's side of the family, they are usually marked only if the newborn baby is a boy. On the day the newborn baby gets circumcised, male relatives and friends are invited to a feast, and a qat chewing session follows the lunch.

In the Al-Mahweet area:

The mother of the newborn baby stays in one room where she receives the guests and their gifts. After one week, a peacock is slaughtered and its blood is buried to cast away envy and demons. This action is repeated after another week.

In the Hodiedah area:

The celebrations begin after one week has elapsed. On the morning of the eighth day, a sheep is slaughtered, especially when the newborn is a boy. Relatives and close friends are invited to lunch and a qat chewing session, which begins after four o'clock in the afternoon.

The female congratulators begin visiting the newborn's mother and present "Rafd" to the mother, an amount of money between 100-1000 Riyals. Giving money is considered a reciprocal treatment, therefore, the amount of money is expected to be returned when the guest delivers a

Tea, "Sheesha", "Mada'ah" and edible seeds are provided to guests during the remaining days until the fortieth day when the celebrations end. Celebrations in Hodeidah usually last until midnight and sometimes

The above are just examples of the various traditions and customs in Yemen. It must be noted that they vary from one governorate to another and from one village to another within the same governorate, and they differ from having a newborn girl to having a newborn boy.

However, it must be noted also that the celebrations in Yemen include some rituals and practices of no apparent meaning, but are followed as traditions and customs that must not be breached.

Also, due to the high illiteracy rate among Yemenis, especially in rural areas, many mothers are not fully aware on how to react properly to meet the demands and needs of the newborn baby. This is particularly true of first-time mothers. They may inadvertently harm their newborns by feeding them inappropriate food, in addition to breast-feeding milk, and in giving them or using on them drops of oils and honey in their ears, noses and throats. Some women who want to go with the trend introduce "Shesha" smoking in rooms where infants are also present.

Religion and receiving newborn:

Religious Sheikh Abdulrahman Qahtan, with reference to some conceptions that accompany the celebration on the occasion of having a newborn baby, said that they are merely the creation of people and are not implemented because there is a religious stipulation requiring them. Islam enacted the donation of money or gold that is equivalent to the weight of the newborn's hair when it is first cut to be donated to the poor and the needy, and to slaughter two heads of sheep and a head of sheep on the seventh day to commemorate the newborn boy or girl, respectively. It is preferred for the father to recite the call to prayer quietly in the left ear of the newborn baby immediately after the baby is born.

Of course, we did not ignore the scientific view towards some of the nasty habits associated with caring for newborns. Dr. Najeebah Al-Mahdi, a pediatrician, said that cutting the umbilical cord with an unsterilized tool could lead to the infection of the newborn with tetanus, and probably to death. Giving the baby sugary water during the first three days reduces the effectiveness of the baby's immune system, therefore making him susceptible to infections. Adding "Kohl" (a preparation of pulverized antimony used for darkening the edges of the eyelids) to the baby umbilicus (belly button) in order to stop bleeding may lead to inflammation, tetanus or poisoning the baby.

A strange habit is sticking one's finger, usually the grandmother's, inside the baby's throat to moisten the baby's throat or to put drops of oil, honey or ghee inside the baby's throat. This could lead to indigestion, diarrhea or infecting of the baby with acute pulmonary inflammation and subsequently to death.

Dr. Al-Mahdi said that the best methods to care for the newborn baby are first to cut the umbilical cord with something sterilized, to feed the baby from the mother after birth so that the baby gain immunity from his mother's milk, to avoid kissing the baby too much during the first three months to prevent the baby from getting a contagious disease, and to clean the baby and direct him to sunlight at sunrise to assist his bones to grow properly, to reduce the risk of paralysis. The newborn should sleep on his left or right side or on his stomach and the parents should check that the baby is still breathing.

Dr. Shdha Odai, on her part, said that the baby commence living outside his mother womb by a scream that must take place during the first minute. Otherwise, the baby could encounter a permanent disability due to damage to brain.

Protection of the birds of Socotra Island

By ALI AL-SHARIF FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

y heart moved at seeing the incredible vegetation of Socotra Island, and I only wished that tree choppers would not be tempted to axe more of those unique plants, than is absolutely necessary to supply fire for domestic consumption and house roofing. However, in the wake of the remarkably fast development in many sectors of the Island following unification, coupled with the population growth which is on a dramatic rise, increasingly large quantities of fire wood as source of energy, are needed to meet the demands of the populace.

Having mentioned that, I including the necessary wonder whether the authoribuilding materials. In ties are focusing on trees and the long term, proplants, which have a direct impact on the eco-system of rare birds on the island. We should well know that one of the consequences of trees disappearing is to lead to t h e

extinction of some types of bird. Therefore the environmental protection authorities should put its weight more heavily on this particular issue. Readers, 'environment' is a vast field, my emphasis in this context is to have this particular sector attended to urgently, objectively and seriously. Rare birds play an important part in attracting tourists to the spot and we are obligated to act now and not to wait for the future to protect them. It would most probably be impossible to restore the damaged part of this fascinating and precious environment unless the concerned authorities act now! But then how? Let me put the following proposal to the decision markers: make available butane gas to all corners of the Island at a subsidized price

> tecting the welfare of the people of the island will evidently result in the generation of an income for the state from tourism provided energy is availed soon. If these steps are taken, environmental protec-

tion can be meaningful, possible and practical.

In the mean time, the technique of using other sources of energy: Bio Gas and Solar Energy, should be made known to the people of Socotra, as they are environmentally friendly and cost effective.

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER FOR THE SECOND TIME

The Maritime affairs authority announce the general tender No. 1/2004 for the construction of its Hudeida Branch building (Government funding).

Contractors, categorized as class 1 and class 2, who are interested in participating in this tender may apply to the head office of the Authority of Hada street, nearby the Yemeni - German Hospital, Sana'a, to procure a copy of the conditions and specifications against a nonrefundable amount of US\$ 500.

For submission of bids, the following conditions should be observed:

- 1. Enclosing a bid bond in favor of the authority at 2.5%. at least, of the total bid price in accordance with a payable check or an unconditional bank guarantee letter issued by an accredited bank in the Republic of Yemen, valid for 90 days as of date of opening the envelopes.
- 2. Enclosing a copy of the tax card, renewed for the year 2004, and presenting the original for tally-up purposes.
- 3. Enclosing a copy of the classification certificate, Renewed for the year 2004, and presenting the original for tally-up purposes.
- 4. Enclosing a copy of insurance card.
- 5. Enclosing a copy of the profession Exercising License.
- 6. submitting the bid in an envelop sealed with red wax.
- 7. no bid that violates any of the conditions above shall be entertained.
- 8. the authority is not obliged to accept the least price.

Closing date for purchasing the tender documents shall be at the end of official work time on Saturday 21/8/2004 and the deadline for the submission of bids shall be 10.00 A.M of the Saturday, 28/8/2004.

Envelopes shall be opened at 11.0 A.M of the same day in the head office of the authority in Sana'a.

اعادة اعلان مناقصة للمرة الثانية

تعلن الهيئة العامة للشؤون البحرية عن رغبتها في انزال المناقصة العامة رقم 1/ 2004 م لإنشاء مبنى فرع الهيئة بالحديدة (تمويل حكومي)

فعلى الأخوة المقاولين المصنفين من الدرجة الأولى والثانية الراغيين في دخول المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الي المركز الرئيسي للهيئة بشارع حدة جوار المستشفي اليمني الألماني - صنعاء والحصول على نسخة من الشروط والمواصفات مقابل مبلغ وقدرة (500) دولار خمسمائة دولار أمريكي لاترد.

ويشترط لتقديم العطاءات مايلي:

- 1. ارفاق تأمين أبتدائي لصالح الهيئة لايقل عن نسبة (5،2٪) من أجمالي قيمة العطاء بموجب شيك مقبول الدفع أوخطاب ضمان بنكي غير مشروط صادرمن أحد البنوك المعتمدة في الجمهورية صالح لمدة (90) يوما من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
 - 2. ارفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة للعام 2004 واحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ارفاق صورة من شهادة التصنيف مجددة للعام 2004 واحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
 - 4. ارفاق صورة من البطاقة التأمينية.
 - 5. ارفاق صورة من ترخيص مزاولة المهنة.
 - 6. تقديم العطاء داخل مظروف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
 - 7. لن ينظر في أي عطاء لم يلتزم بالشروط المحددة أعلاه.
 - 8. الهيئة غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الأسعار.

علما بأن أخر موعد لشراء وثائق المناقصة سيكون نهايه دوام يوم السبت الموافق 2004/8/21 وسيكون اخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات في الساعة العاشرة من صباح يوم السبت الموافق 2004/8/28 وسيتم فتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من صباح نفس اليوم في المركز الرئيسي بصنعاء.

Opium threatens Afghanistan's security

BY PETER WILLEMS YEMEN TIMES STAFF

his month Afghanistan's interim government made a decision that should bring democracy to the war-torn country. Even though the elections have been delayed, the presidential election is scheduled to be held in October, followed by parliamentary elections next spring. Many Afghans see the elections as a positive sign for their future after going through 25 years of warfare and three decades of having no power to vote.

But there is a menace growing in Afghanistan that will be difficult for the new government to handle and might continue to be a threat to the country's stability. Opium production has flourished since the Taliban regime was ousted in late 2001. In 2003, over 80,000 hectares were used for poppy cultivation and the country produced 3,600 tons of opium - up from 185 tons in 2001 - taking up 75% of the world market. It is estimated that the drug trade accounted for half of the country's gross domestic product.

According to the United Nations, opium production has jumped even higher this year.

"Our assessment of poppy cultivation es not been completed, but indicators show that cultivation continued to rise in 2004," said Alexandre Schmidt, Crime Prevention Expert of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Afghan government took initial steps to fight the drug business this year by implementing an eradication program. Syed Alamudin Atheer, Deputy Director of Counter Narcotics Directorate, said that the government has destroyed 25,000 hectares of poppy fields in over a half-dozen provinces. But critics say that the government was late starting the eradication program.

"The government went and destroyed what was left late spring and early summer after the poppies had been cultivated," said an Afghan government official. "I think it was just a show to make it look like they had done something."

The government will have problems getting farmers to follow the eradication program in the future. To convince farmers to stop growing poppies, what is needed is a profitable alternative crop. Up until now, no program has been implemented to help the farmers find a substitute.

"There has been an immediate focus on eradication with little focus on what happens after eradication," said Schmidt. "September is the time to plant poppies again. If nothing happens by September, what are people going to There is no other choice but to plant poppies."

Many farmers say they are not against changing to another crop but are angry that they are left with no assistance after losing their best source of

"The government destroyed what we can cultivate and did not bring us anything," said Abdul Samad, a farmer in the Herat province where poppy fields were destroyed last month. "If we do not have an alternative, I will not be able to do anything but grow poppies."

Rebuilding Afghanistan is also vital for the farmers to be able to move away from cultivating poppies. After years of ongoing warfare, roads have been left in shambles which has made it difficult for farmers to ship produce to a market. Irrigation facilities have been destroyed, so farmers rely on poppies that require less water than most other

But reconstructing Afghanistan has been slow. President Hamid Karzai requested \$27.5 billion over a sevenyear period to rebuild the country soon after he took office in 2001, but money coming in from donor counties has not kept up with the amount needed each year. The Bush administration has diverted military and financial resources from Afghanistan to the war in Iraq. To rebuild the two countries, the United States has come up with \$2.2 billion for Afghanistan and \$18.6 billion to go to Iraq. A large part of funding for Afghanistan will be for military projects and emergency relief, not longterm development.

Drug trafficking in Afghanistan now supports a number of factions struggling for power. The remnants of the Taliban fighting US forces in the south use opium to finance their insurgency. Over a dozen warlords, who filled the power vacuum since the interim government was put into place, exploit the drug trade to pull in money and help build their power base.

"Some groups have their own armies and need money to support them," said Atheer. "Warlords, druglords and religious militants have become involved in the drug business because they cannot get money through legal forms of business. We can also say that these groups are responsible for the increase in violence with an aim to destabilize

To help stabilize the country, the Afghan government started to disarm the mujahedin, soldiers who fought against the Soviet Union and the Taliban and their loyal warlords. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program aimed to collect

do while they need to earn a living? 40,000 weapons by mid-summer, but only a few thousand have been seized. Powerful warlords, who control vast areas outside Kabul, the capital, have refused cooperating to handover weapons.

> While the US soldiers have concentrated on the Taliban in the south, NATO has headed the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide security throughout the country. The ISAF has had only 6,500 troops stationed in Afghanistan, mostly patrolling the streets of the capital. Last month, NATO promised to send another 1,500 and expand its operations outside Kabul to help stabilize the country during elec-

The government also has plans to expand on the Afghan National Army (ANA), which has only 8,300 troops. According to Umer Daudzai, Chief of Staff for President Karzai, the government aims to double the amount of soldiers this year. The US goal is to train 10,000-12,000 each year to help create an Afghan army of 70,000 soldiers by

Azizullah Lodin, President of General Administration of Anti-Bribery and Corruption, argues that if the two governments had done this sooner, Afghanistan could have kept the emergence of warlords and the drug trade in check.

"They should have strengthened the national army from the beginning because if the power had been with the central government, warlords and druglords wouldn't have filled the vacuum," Lodin said.

Until recently, Afghanistan was a supplier of opium as a raw material that was exported to neighboring countries. Now sophisticated labs to produce the lucrative end product, heroin, have emerged. Organized crime groups have also set up shop which will make fighting drug trafficking more difficult.

'With more organized crime groups, drug trafficking more complex and heroin being exported instead of raw material, dealing with the drug business is going to be difficult," said Atheer.

This month it was reported that the surge in poppy cultivation has flooded the market which has pushed the price of opium down. In the last few months, prices dropped by around 65%. Some say that it might force farmers to seek alternative crops next year. But others argue that the glut in the market will not last forever and will only be a short-

"For the long haul, Afghanistan needs to implement a comprehensive program to control the production of opium," said Atheer. "Without it, we will not be able to tackle the drug business."



An Afghan farmer in his poppy field in north Afghanistan (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



Soldiers of the Afghan National Army responsible for securing the unstable country (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Employer: Elcome International LLC. Aden branch office

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Yemeni Press,

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- Opposition arbitrates to the constitution and the law
- Observers warn against serious consequences of deepening vengeance and conflicts among tribes
- Al-Atwani: Who has authorized chairman of parties' affairs to assess opposition parties stands?
- Parliamentarians pursue children and women trafficking gangs
- India exports disasters to Yemen
- 43 Iraqi ambassadors to be appointed soon
- criticizes Beirut Declaration condition of the Arab woman
- Kerry accuses Bush of deceit
- Al-Houthy and remnants of his gang live a state of despair
- Saleh: Security President apparatuses have to develop their capabilities to control those violating security
- Yemen recovers the sites defined in Jeddah Border International **Treaty**
- Al-Houthy and his followers target their weapons to the citizens in the area
- Announcement of establishment of a party for the liberation of the south on "Al Hurra" satellite channel, dangerous indicator of the American conspiracy
- American ambassador Edmond Hull confirms the American support for the government efforts to terminate al-Houthy, calling the citizens for exterminating him
- Political Security arrest Mr Yahya

- Salem Azan, founder of the "Believing Youth" on his return from Beirut
- In Iraq: American recognition of escalation of confrontations
- Fierce battles in Saadah
- Saudi Arabia denies termination of confrontations with terrorists
- The president: There is no place in the homeland for seditionists and abhorred racism
- In reply to Amnesty International on Saadah events: Yemeni government asserts its keenness on sparing blood, taking to force was necessary
- America deports Yemenis because of traffic violations
- Dialogue sessions with those suspects of links to al-Qaeda begin
- During his visit to Sana'a Radio. president stresses upgrading information address, gives directives for building local radio stations
- Commission Yemeni-Sudanese meets in Khartoum beginning of August
- In a Yemeni-Jordanian meeting: PM Bajamal and al-Fayez emphasize enhancement of relations and cooperation
- Al-Houthy followers fanatics, refuse getting convinced with others opinions
- **Endowments minister: rectification** of religious schools statuses, no leniency with teaching methods and curricula inconsistent with constants

- Social Welfare Fund's performance
- Because they contradict the law, violate the president's directives,
- Bajamal cancels information minister decisions on appointments in the television

Columnist Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in an article that every day passes after the catastrophe of Iraq occupation confirms a new cause of those the aggressors aimed to achieve. Among the main reasons that have been revealed and made clearer in the passage of time is that the occupation of Iraq has preoccupied the Arab and world public opinions with what is going on Iraq of events and aggressions to cover up what happens in the rest of the remainder of Palestine. What happens there is no less in ferocity than what is happening in Iraq. There are

By Samer A. a daily killings and public liquidations of active Palestinian leaders as well as demolition of houses and indiscriminate shelling. It can be said that the assassination of the two martyrs Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Dr Abdulaziz al-Rantissi would not have taken place had not Iraq had become an open arena and all Arab attention was directed to Iraq, following up what is going on its land in panic of the developments taking place in that great country that had fallen in the hands of occupation. Since the occupation of Iraq Palestine has lost more than it has lost over tens of years.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 15 July 204.

Main headlines

- President Saleh receives a letter from king Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the crown prince
- The special criminal court holds the second trial sitting for the suspects of Cole blast
- Transport ministry begins naval inspection of foreign ships
- Archaeological discoveries in Nashan al-Jawf
- 52 infiltrators arrested in Hadramout and 60 Somali infiltrators in Sana'a

Columnist Faisal Jalool writes saying away from fathoming the past and its complications and the circumstances surrounding the Yemeni-Saudi relations it can be said that the Yemeni territories regained by virtue of several

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has categorized the issue of borders among his urgent priorities especially after the 1994 war and more particularly following the Yemeni unity. The unity declaration was accompanied by statements by unity officials announcing Sana'a wishes of solving issues of borders with neighbors by dialogue, peaceful ways and direct bilateral dialogue without external mediations. The rule in Yemen has reached to formulation of large-scale international relations and used those relations in pressing for resolving the issues of borders with the neighbours whether through international arbitration, as was the case with Eritrea or by direct dialogue as what happened with other Yemen's neighbours. Yemen has depended on reference to international law for settling disputes without squandering the historical rights as what happened in Taif Agreement. Former Yemeni regimes had insisted on adhering to the historical right alone. Yemen, on the other hand managed to make the issue of borders as part of international betting in the region. Previous eras had confined the questions to issues concerning Yemen and the related states. The former Yemeni eras were suffering from instability and intestine wars, depriving them of orienting efforts to

In other word president, Ali Abdullah Saleh could block the way to external interference in the country's

resolve major national issues.

Workshop for improvement of internal affairs utilizing the question of lion and extinguishes the sedition as borders, narrowed before them the margin of maneuvering, and forced them to sign border agreements based on compromise and exchanged inter-



Al-Balagh weekly, 13

Main headlines

- American ambassador to Sana'a realized danger of al-Houthy stands against the American policy in the region
- Military units break through a Salafi group hideout in Al-Kaidah town
- In an attempt to damage the fish wealth, Poisonous material discovered on Aden beach
- Hassan Nassrallah: All American politicians and military commanders support Israel
- After scandals of Abu Ghraib prison, Guantanamo scandals anew

The editor in chief of the newspaper says in his article that the president Ali Abdullah Saleh is known by taking his courageous decisions always. It is known that the decision to go to war needs a big courage and the decision of stopping the war needs a bigger courage. We have always known the president as courageous in defending the national unity and courageous in preserving the unity. Had it not been for his bravery and insistence on the war in 1994, the decision of secessionism would have been his tragedy and Yemen would have returned divided. Thus, the president was courageous in insisting on continuation of the battle until the unity had been preserved.

Nowadays continue the sounds of projectiles, tanks and airplanes in the events in Saadah and continues the bleeding of the Yemeni blood of our military and civilian sons. These bloods are very dear and expensive for the president and we are certain he feels sorry and pained of shedding it.

The president has always been courageous in his war and peace decisions, courageous in his pardon and taking the decision of his pardon for the group of 16. Thus, we hope he would stop the bleeding of blood in Saadah and he would always be courageous by this decision.



Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Socialist Party, Yemen regional leadership, 14 July 2004.

Main headlines

- Pitched battles in Saadah
- Political Security organisation violates the law
- Teachers Union condemns sacking some educationists
- Lawyers Union, Sana'a branch holds its conference
- An appeal to Social Welfare Fund UNICEF holds training course for mothers in Lahj governorate

Dr Abdulhafidh Nouman says in his article that the Baath Party issued a statement on the events in Saadah governorate calling the Yemeni government to bear its constitutional and legal responsibilities for ending the rebel-

well as restoring security and stability to the areas of events. The national parties have to shoulder their historic responsibilities in abandoning their differences, proceeding from the keenness on safety and security of the Yemeni society.

The writer maintains that the force alone is not enough for producing an alternative achieving social cooperation guaranteeing and preserving social stability and security unless it is associated with dialogue capabilities stemming from a great sense of responsibility towards what are going on on the Yemeni arena. The attempt to visualize what s happening as a product isolated conspiratorial act being not related to the reality is something reflecting a state of ignorance of this reality. The present events in Yemen are not instantaneous product but rather a generation of a long series of economic, and marginalization policies of certain Yemeni areas and far from the care and supervision of the state. Some of them came to believe they are affiliate of another state or another world.



Al-Wahda weekly, 14

Main headlines

- Siege tightened against al-Houthy
- Customs retains properties of expatriates back from Saudi Arabia
- Eight residential schemes to tackle
- cases of nationalized houses in Aden
- 5 water and sewage tenders in Taiz
- Strategy for environment protection, prepared
- The second session for trying Cole blasting suspects
- Italian experts to prepare a plan for Sana'a preservation
- At the symposium ona intellectual property, Call for effecting legislations keeping pace with information revolution

Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in his article no day passes without large numbers of Palestinian martyrs and demolition of tens of houses, a number ranging between 3 to six martyrs every day despite of the presence of the four-party committee in occupied Palestine at the hands of the notorious terrorist Sharon.

The Jewish state was always using

as an excuse that the Arabs wanted to destroy its existence, and continued to allege so even after the Palestinian authority signed with it the Oslo accords and after the convening of Madrid conference. Sharon had then came to abrogate every thing and outflanked even the road map produced by the American president Bush. It is quite certain that Sharon would not withdraw from the Zionist settlements in Gaza Strip and some areas of the West Bank until achieving his goal of destroying the Palestinian people. The regrettable thing is that his allies and protectors react to all those practices with silence on such crimes though they might not realize that such a stance means taking part in the responsibility for every drop of blood shed from the Palestinian body.

July 2004.

organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 13

Main headlines

- Battle in Saadah not in favour of government forces
- 5 people killed, 7 houses demolished in Radda'a
- NUO Secretary-General:
- Saving the country would be realized by dialogue only
- Al-Houthy inflicts rising human losses on government forces, forcing them change their plans
- Plundered properties under free disposal of security director, Citizens in Haijah hold interior minister responsible for destruction inflicted on them

Writer Aness Sinnan says in an article that the obstacle of domination and control on trade unionist work remains a problem that is hindering unions' performance and rendered tem into weak entities. This is the situation of most unions in our country, bit it is rather the major problem that malfunctioned most of civil society organisa-

What happens in the students union of Sana'a University is not far from what is mentioned above, it is part of the series of domination and the policy of containment that has hindered its action and changed it into a partisan propaganda voice or an official cover for policies that exhausted strength of the students.

Since its foundation in the eighties of the last century, the General Union of Students in Yemen remained under the control of two certain sides that took turn in controlling it and sharing its leading bodies. The state continued even after the Yemeni unification. The

Al-Wahdawi weekly, students remained without a union representing them and failed in unification of the students' movement through founding an entity representing all Yemen's students. Due to the importexts in this regard are playing a role tance of what the students sector represents of vitality and importance as one of the active segments of the society, it has represented an axis of conflict and competition among various political forces in an attempt to influence it and polarize it among their circles.

Many factors, mainly the policy of containment and control, have impeded the establishment of a unified student entity and resulted in the formation of several student entities. Al of them failed to offer services to the student or to defend his interests and develop his skills.



RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen Party, 13 July 2004.

Main headlines

- Human Rights minister al-Sousawa remarks on official comments on human rights in Yemen
- Information ministry issues a new newspaper bearing the name of "Al-
- Shoura" Official reports mention about 3500 children smuggled to neighbouring

Columnist Faisal Sultan al-Soufi says in his article the talk on human rights in Islam is going on strongly but there are well-reputed intellectuals refusing categorically to recognize the human rights mentioned in international agreements and also in the name of Islam. One of them Mr Mahmoud Sultan says the Islamic stance from the world declaration of human rights does not tolerate hesitation because the ref-

erence of the declaration is the western

culture, claiming that the Islamic thinkers trying to find concord between principles of human rights in the international law and the Islamic more dangerous on Islam than the secularists.

As for the Islamic thinkers, the source of their danger stems from their role in speaking in the name of Islam. One of them recorded in one of his books a condemnation of all that is related to human rights and refusal of the principle of the people as the source of human rights and named elections and parliaments as blasphe-

mous councils. The writer adds that organisations working in the area of human rights in the Arab and Islamic countries are secular and intelligence organisations funded by foreign ministries in Europe and America and supported by churches. Human rights are secular and the evidence is that those organisations sum up the human rights to those of the leftists, communists, seculars and non-Muslim minorities in the Islamic countries, utilizing thought and art for promoting blasphemy, and permissiveness. Women and human rights are security embodiment of western secular thought.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the People's General Congress, 12 July 2004.

Main headlines

- 7th of July opened for our people spacious horizons of progress and development, our people capable of aborting all conspiracies
- Dr Al-Asbahi: Hoisting the Yemeni flag on the Empty Quarter, significant step for excavating wealth of this area for its development

ضیضان جدیدان فی بیت یعیش أجمل التهاني والتبريكات مع باقات من الورد والياسمين نهديها للأخوين بمناسبة إرتزاقهما المولودين الجديدين والذي أسمياهما احمدوليد، وعهد جلال الف الف مبروك يا أبا أحمد ويا أبا عهد

«جعلهما الله قرة عين والديهما وأنبتهما نباتاً حسنا وبارك فيهما» المهنئون: د. مراد صادق عبدالقوي، أحمد الهلالي، الشيخ حسين على الحماقي، أ. رياض الذرحاني، رضوان عبدالحق، عبدالله قاسم الرماح، ماجد الصريب، أ. فضل حمود حسام وعبدالحكيم الطويل.

Unemployment

BY AZZADEEN AL-AMERY FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

alking about unemployment means talking about an administrative cancer which increases crime rate and gives rise to the slogans: "Hunger is an infidel", and "Free time kills".

Economists define unemployment as a group of individuals who - due to an equilibrium deficiency between demand and supply - lost their job opportunities. The following reconnaissance sheds some light on the effects of unemployment on society.

Types of unemployment:

Zeyad Tawfeq, a student at the National Administrative Sciences Institute, defines the types of unemployment as follows:

1-Disguised: is connected to gradual drop of productivity of an employee until it reaches point zero.

- 2-Seasonal: describes the effect of seasonal fluctuations of agricultural production on the labor market. This is particularly apparent in developing countries where arable land is limited comparable to the high number of labor force.
- 3-Structural: is caused by introducing technology in a productive process to replace man power.
- 4-Temporary: until individuals gain required expertise and experience.
- 5-Emerging unemployment due to economic changes and market's swings: this type of unemployment usually takes place in industrial nations.
- 6-Flagrant unemployment: it usually happens when supply exceeds demand
- 7-Voluntary: when qualified individuals do not want to seek job opportunities. However, this kind of unemployment rarely occurs in Yemen.

Causes of unemployment: There are many sociological symptoms associated with unemployment such as the drop of demand; low capital; meager wages (which forces many to prefer being unemployed); the increased proportion of graduates in comparison to available job opportunities; corruption (in that available jobs are granted to certain individuals, relatives and acquaintants and to those who have special connections and liaisons to state and private officials); governmental policies which only exacerbate the situation; the absence of effective measures towards 'Yemenization' of jobs at several state's and private sector's corporations; the arrogance to obtain foreign assistance and practical consultations on how to better create job opportunities; and the monopolization, by some, of some occupations and vocational jobs that could, otherwise, assist in

reducing the number of the unemployed.

Mr. Nabil Abdulhaleem Thabit, also a student at the Institute, said the term "unemployed" is commonly used to refer to the status of a male or a female who does not have a job. But, to be labeled as a person suffering from flagrant unemployment, he or she has to meet the following conditions:

- 1-The person has to not have had a job for a period of time.
- 2-The person must be ready and able to work when he or she finds a job, or when a job is afford to him or her.
- 3-The person is willing to accept to work at the current market wage rate, even if it were lower than normal standards, but he or she were able to sustain a basic living condi-

A countries unemployment rate depends largely on its economic situation, however, the phenomenon of unemployment represents a social and economic condition that all countries of the world suffer from to varying degrees, despite all the exerted efforts and policies to ease or to eradicate it. International reports, including that by ISCWA, indicate that the world's unemployment rate is rapidly growing, in parallel with population growth rates that in some countries have reached very high levels. Yemen is one of those countries that suffers from unemployment and rapid population growth, with their negative and seriously dangerous impact on society. The population growth rate is expected to remain at 4% during the period

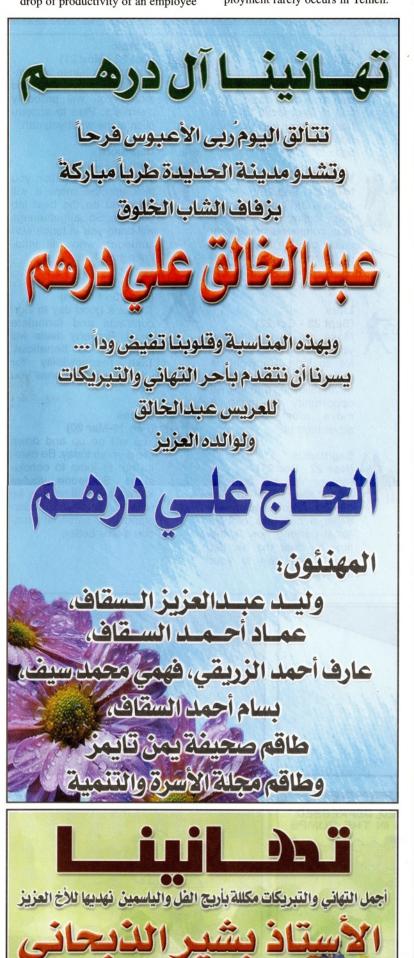
The unemployment rate reached 9.1% according to population census implemented in 1994, and it was 7.7% based on the household survey in

1995-2025.

"New policies and measures must be taken towards education particularly in vocational and technical education in order to meet market demands", said Sami Abdulwasa, a student at the

Unemployment is a problem that all countries of the world have to deal with from time to time, said Mr. Mohamed Abdulhabeeb, another student at the Institute, whether rich or poor countries.

"I graduated from the National Administrative Sciences Institute in 1994 and until now, I have not found a job", said Mr. Mohamed Najeeb Ghalib. "I am so desperate that I have begun to talk to myself and I would not mind working at a bakery store or a restaurant. Ironically, I did not learn or acquire the experience to work at those places, if any opportunity existed". Really unemployment must be reexamined attentively in order to create job opportunities, otherwise, through desperation, Yemenis youths could turn into criminals.



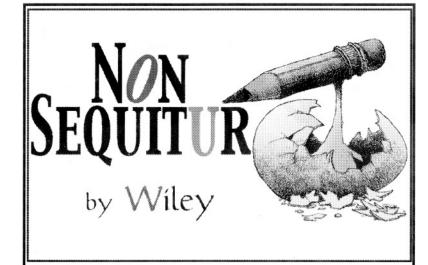
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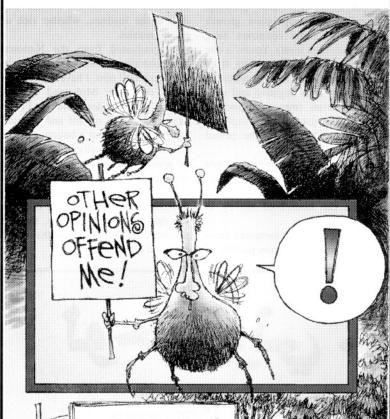
شير طيوي ميروك مع تمنياتنا له بحياة زوجية سعيدة...

موظفى الجبل للأدوية، نصري السقاف،

عزيز عتيل السقّاف، خالد الزريقي وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء













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THE LAST **WORD IN ASTROLOGY**



BY Eugenia



(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Take advantage of what's being offered today and do your best to get ahead. Money can be made if you are quick to make a career



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Shopping should be on your list of things to do bargain hunting for special items. A chance meeting with someone you haven't seen in a long time is like-



Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Hold off on any changes you've been thinking about making, especially if they will affect other people as well. Don't be surprised when opposition surfaces.



Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

This is the perfect day to mull over the past and look to the future. You are likely to come up with a pretty decent idea for your next vacation or even a prosperous venture.



(Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Everything will be connected to what you do and how well you do it today. You can make moves that will help you earn more money and bring you greater pres-



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

You will find it hard to keep your feelings to yourself. Your comments could very easily change the dynamics of any relationship you are in. Choose your words



Libra

(Sept 23 - Oct 22) Make all the changes you've been talking about for so long. Someone is going to accuse you of never following through. An opportunity to make a move must be taken advantage of.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Partnerships will be in a high cycle, so if you are having problems with either a business or personal partner, now is the time to clear the air. Let your talent lead to your success.



(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Don't take offense at comments made by colleagues today. You will probably overreact. Plan to accomplish alone what you can.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The more information you pick up, the more it will help you do the best job possible. Social gatherings will bring you in touch with someone who will influence your future.



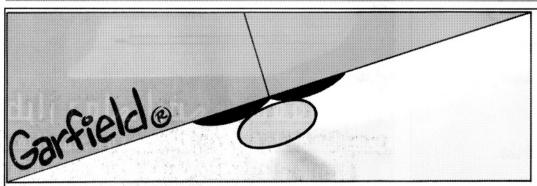
Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

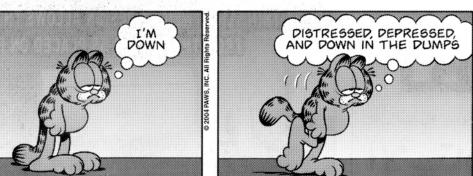
This is a good day to sign contracts and formulate deals. Property deals will prove to be beneficial. Take responsibility for yourself and the ones you



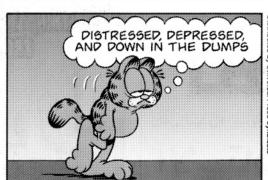
Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)

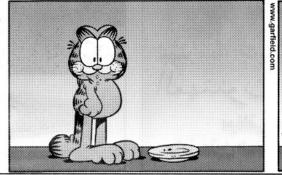
You will be up and down like a yo-yo today. Be careful not to jump to conclusions. Someone you've known a long time may be able to help you understand your personal situation a little better.

















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كلوريوس محاسبه ودبلوم كمبيوتر، للتواصل: ٢١٠٢٧٠ تعز ، ٧١٦٥٤٣١٢. مرضات اجنبيات وعربيات ويمنيات

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■ مطلوب: طباخ ، محاسب ، مباشرین مطعم (٧/٢٢) سائق، عمال نظافه، للعمل في مدينه سياحيه

> وكذلك فيز حرة قابله للتحويل. للتواصل:۷۳۰۳۰۶، ۳۶۰۳۰۷.

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مجزى ، للتواصل :٧٣٢٠٨٢٨٨.

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ومطبخ (عائله).. ■ للأيجار: شقة مكونة من ٣ غرف ، مطبخ ، للتواصل: ٧٢٢٨٠١٩٠، ٢٦٣٦٢٢. (٦/٢)

بحانب الجامعة القديمة. للتواصل:٧٢٨١٢٢٤٣ ، ٧٢٨١٢٢٤٣ ■ للبيع : دار دورين بمساحة لبنتين

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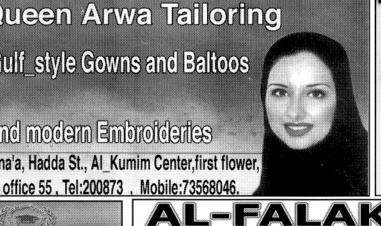
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الإستعلامات ۱۱۸، حوادث (المرور) ۱۹۶، الشئون الخارجيه ۲۰۲۵۶۶۷، الشئون الداخليه ۲۰۲۷۰۱/۷

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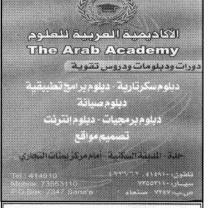
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friend of the YT sent the above photo, stating that this was a discovery in the Rubía Al-Khali (Empty Quarter) Desert (Saudi Arabia). While YT is unable at present to confirm or deny the authenticity of the photo, one would

find, if true, would have made world headlines. To avoid any possible misrepresentations, in the event that the photo is ifixedî, we hope the Saudi Oil Company, Aramco will enlighten the public of the facts behind the picture, which could be used erroneously if it is a manipula-Aramco is undergoing

exploratory work for gas in the area (to the east and north of Yemen). There are assertions that the photo is of a giant corpse of one of the Aad people, an ancient powerful tribal nation, believed to have lived in Southern Arabia. While the Quran does not state categorically that the people were of large physiques, traditional inherited tales has it that

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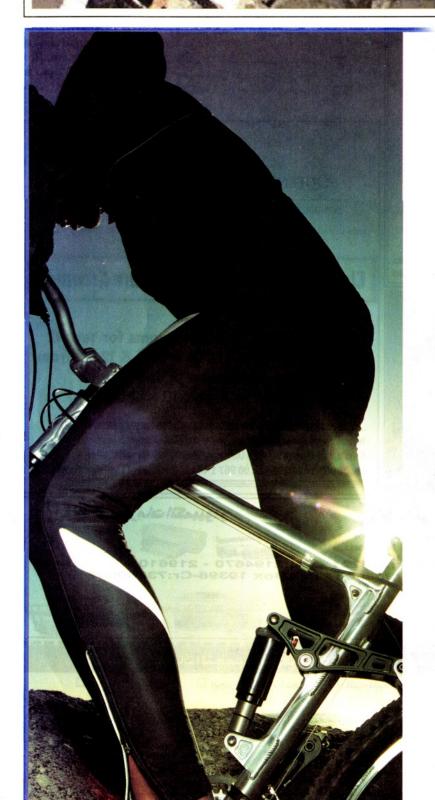
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