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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Yemen urges countries to assist Sudan

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government encouraged other countries to support Sudan to increase security and bring stability to its western Darfur region.

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi called on the world to "help Sudan achieve the needed steps and not limit its role to only demanding that Sudan quickly restore security and stability in Darfur."

The Foreign Minister's announcement came during his meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament last Sunday in Sana'a.

Al-Qirbi's remarks came after the UN Security Council passed a resolution last Friday that put pressure on the Sudanese government to disarm the Janjaweed militias within 30 days.

Sudan rejected the 30-day deadline and claimed the resolution was merely a step towards a United States invasion.

"The Security Council's resolution about the Darfur issue is a declaration of war on the Sudan and its people," said a Sudanese General Mohamed Beshir Suleiman. "The Sudanese army is now prepared to confront the enemies of the Sudan on land, sea and air."

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General view of a part of Bredjin camp in eastern Chad where new arrived Sudanese people had settle in General view of a part of Bredjin camp in eastern Chad where new arrived Sudanese people had settle in July 2004. Aid groups gave out emergency supplies of food, plastic sheeting and blankets on Thursday to thousands of refugees from Sudan's Darfur region stuck outside an already overcrowded camp in eastern Chad. REUTERS

## Mediators face difficulties in Sa'ada

By MOHAMMED BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A member of the mediation committee entrusted with exploring means

of settling the Sa'ada events and who declined to be identified, had in a phone conversation with Yemen Times on Tuesday praised the President for giving strict directives for facilitating mission of the committee to prevent any attempts by some influential military men to set obstacles in their way and let the committee move smoothly according to its program meant for putting an end to

the fighting between the Yemenis. "Today we are more optimistic than two days earlier about settling the crisis between the government and Sheikh Al-Houthi. We have found a great difficulty to convince some influential people to stick to rules and conditions we had prescribed after receiving the President's directives to speed up resolution of the problem," said he.

The committee member had further said that the president had responded to the committee chairman Abdulwahab al-Anisi's complaint about difficulties facing their task and gave his orders to provide the committee with a helicopter to facilitate their travels between Sa'ada and

Mran mountain where al-Houthi is taking it as his headquarters. At the end of his statement, the source expressed his regret over the killing of eight troops and wounding of 11 others on August 2nd in the area, due to a breach on the truce between the two sides.

A source close to Sheikh Al-Houthi said on telephone on Tuesday that the committee, consisting of prominent military, social, political and religious personalities, was moving earth and heaven to reach a solution to the 50-day crisis between the government and Sheikh Al-Houthi who is entrenching with his followers in Mran mountains.

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**Extremists Threaten Journalists with Murder**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni journalist was reported to have received death threats from a terrorist suspect. In a message dated August 3rd, Naif Hasan informed the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) that, through some friends, he received death threats because of his writings against Osama Bin Laden and the Islamic religion. "I was informed by some friends including

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Mohammed Hasan Sha'ab that somebody called Mareb al-Amir, one of the terrorist suspects who was released after dialogue with the clerics committee, pledged to kill me because of an alleged attack on Bin Laden and the Islamic religion."

He added that according to reliable sources, suspected terrorists in the intelligence prison have pledged to the security investigators as well as the clerics committee for dialogue with them, to kill a number of politicians and journalists including himself. "That I inform you of such threats, I hold the security apparatus' accountable should anything bad happen to me or any journalists," he said. He also said that the YJS is responsible for conveying the message to the General Prosecutor as well as the Minister of Interior.

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## Meeting to discuss illiteracy and elderly education

There should be curricula for basic skills, traditional handicrafts and preparation of trainers as well as learning lessons from successful parallel and foreign experiences in this field, recommended the third consultative meeting for general managers of illiteracy eradication and elderly education programs, which concluded on the 2nd of Augusts

in Sana'a. The recommendations of the 2-day meeting included a call for conducting a field study on the opting out of female learners and finding out suitable solutions. They stressed the importance of training and qualifications for women, their involvement in all activities, and applying the teacher law to teachers

working in the field of illiteracy and elderly education. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Ahmed, head of the Illiteracy and Elderly Education Organization, indicated that the results of the meeting address a number of problems facing branches of the organization in different governorates across the country

## Census of poor families in Aden

Field visits by social researchers are to be launched Saturday August 7, to all Aden districts to count poor families so that they can be given monthly benefits from the Social Care Fund (SCF), announced Nasser Ulaiwah, Manager of the SCF.

These visits come after a count that has been conducted by the districts, which reported 232 cases.

The SCF has organized a 15-day course for social researchers to show them new research methods and so as

to learn from previous mistakes.

"The new mechanism focuses on reaching the poorest families, and compare the results with those attained already by other districts," added Mr. Ulaiwah.

He said the SCF has supported many Aden charitable societies which have been training women in handicrafts so that they are able, after finishing courses, to practice these professions and earn money to reduce the number of poor families in the region.

## Training course on handicapped integration

A specialized course on integrating the handicapped into public schools was commenced Monday, 2nd of August, in Aden, by the Society for Qualifying the Handicapped in cooperation with the Social Development Fund. 20 participants received theoretical and practical lectures on the concept of integration, its objectives and the special education's definitions of types of integration, their planning and pros and cons.

## Unemployment, its policy in the spotlight

It is anticipated that an international meeting will be held in Sana'a from Sept. 27th-31st, 2004, to discuss unemployment and policy for its eradication in Yemen so as to come out with some opinions necessary for solving the critical problem existing amongst laborers.

The meeting is to be organized by the Confederated Union of Yemen Laborers in collaboration with the International Laborer's Organization, the UNDP in Sana'a and the World Bank at courtesy of Arab & International organizations and the

donor countries.

The meeting will discuss the impact of unemployment on the poverty phenomenon in Yemen and the means to lessen the same and the support that needs to be offered by the donor parties to restrict this problem.

Also, the meeting aims to form strategies that will stem labor problems in Yemen that are relevant to the poverty phenomenon, most significant of which is widespread unemployment and the formulation of a nationwide strategy on how to mobilize and direct the labor force.

## National epidemics surveillance guide discussed

Ministry of Public Health and Population has organized a training course to manage epidemic surveillance. Some 50 participants, representing all public and private metropolitan hospitals, took part in the course.

Infectious diseases have in the past spread quickly in Yemen, making it necessary to have epidemics surveillance and reporting from hospitals the

cases of diseases such as polio, and viral hepatitis, especially with the fact that Yemen is going to declare by next year its being a polio-free country. Also, the international surveillance of cerebrospinal meningitis has been introduced into Yemen.

The course focused on discussing the national epidemics surveillance guide, and taught participants how to fill in surveillance forms.

## Al-Shuja'a presents dissertations to Al-Sa'eed Establishment

Professor Mohammed Al-Shuja'a of the Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, presented 118 different scientific theses and researches done by Yemeni researchers for M.A. and Ph.D fulfillment.

Mr. Faisal Sa'eed Fare', director of Al-Sa'eed Establishment, praised this kind gesture which will make valuable research accessible to researchers and

specialists, especially as the research material presented has not been published before.

In his statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Fare' urged institutions to follow this model as an example which has great implications and noble meanings.

On the other hand, ceremony is to be held on Thursday, August 5, at Al-Sa'eed Cultural Forum to sign the book

"Globalization: world trade agreements and their impact on the developing countries." A lecture will be given on the book and its contents by its author Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Rashid.

This is part of the cultural activities of the Al-Sa'eed Establishment done within its exceptional program devoted to Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital.

## Yemeni students in Iraq hold sit-in

Yemeni students in Iraq began a sit-in at the headquarters of the Yemeni embassy in Iraq, on Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>, appealing to the Yemeni government to quickly settle their problem. It is said they may go on hunger strike if their demand is not answered.

Yemeni students over there are at the final stages of their study, and about to graduate. Most of them were given free-of-charge seats, and get a monthly income from the Yemeni Ministry of Higher Education (MHE).

But on the coming of occupation, Yemeni students were asked to pay fees.

They could only sit in for their exams last year after the government and the MHE exerted considerable pressure. Some of the students are eligible for exemption from fees also. But, there still remains a group of students, currently at the sit-in, who are being asked to pay fees because they were dwelling in the outer districts of Baghdad.

They could not get similar exemptions because the minister had changed late June 2004.

Students who did not pay have been given neither their results nor their authenticated documents.

## First course for juvenile lawyers completed

The first specialized course for juvenile case lawyers was concluded on Monday August 2nd. It was organized by the Ministry of Justice and the Higher Jurisdiction Institute in cooperation with the UNICEF organization.

At the end of the course, judge Yahya Malik, director of the institute, urged all the participants to apply what they have learned in the course about juvenile delinquency since it is a dangerous phenomenon that harms the community socially, morally and economically.

## Japan extends support to the National Center for Archives

A Cultural Grant agreement was signed today at the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation between H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, and Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Yemen.

In accordance with the agreement, the Government of Japan will extend a grant of up to US \$450,000 to the National Center for Archives in Sana'a, to procure equipment for the preservation of historical documents.

The grant aims to help the Government of Yemen move forward with its economic and social development while preserving its proper cultural heritage. The equipments under the grant will be made available next year.

## Private schools committee begins work

The committee responsible for surveying and evaluating private schools, and Qura'anic teaching and religious education centers, began its mission on Saturday, July 2004 to develop a database.

The Minister of education, Dr Abdul Sallam Al-Joufi, in a meeting with the Minister of endowments and guidance, Hamoud Obad, urged the committee to make haste, and conduct the survey according to the government's decisions.

He also told the committee to maintain accuracy, and form a comprehensive database that can be used as a reference for decision-making.

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## Cancer threatens camera department in Aden Channel

Most of the staff at the camera department of Aden T.V. suffer from asthma and cancer due to hazardous chemicals emitted by old films and oxidized acids, which are threatening the lives of the personnel.

The hazardous chemicals filling the department has caused dangerous diseases to a number of employees especially after retirement, such as asthma and cancers, said a member of the staff.

They emphasized that six of their colleagues have died for that reason, the latest of whom was Ahmed

Mohammed who died due to a larynx cancer.

They said the management of the T.V. station realizes the menace of the films, but they have done "nothing".

They only moved the hazardous materials from one place to another, while the chemicals are still emanating.

They called on the Minister of Information and the leadership of the Yemeni Radio and T.V. Corporation to find solutions to safeguard against this, since the whole T.V. station depends mainly on the Camera Department.

## US Embassy in Sana'a bids farewell

Dr. Nabil Al-Khouri, the Charge d' affairs at the American Embassy held a large reception last Sunday, August 1, 2004 to bid farewell to Ms. Mary Brett Rogers, the chief of the Political and Economic Section at the Embassy and to Ms. Cathy Westhey, her Deputy, who have completed their terms in

Yemen. A large number of politicians, members of parliament, businessmen and journalists attended the reception, in addition to Arab and Foreign Diplomats and representatives of regional and international organizations accredited to Yemen.



Dr. Nabil Al-Khouri,

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## Chinese in Yemen celebrate anniversary of national army

The Chinese Military attaché to Yemen, Brig. Gen. Zhao Yin Fanj, held a large reception last Sunday, the 1st of August, 2004, to commemorate the annual anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Peoples Liberation Army.

A large number of Yemeni officials, both civil and military, several Arab and Foreign Diplomats and representatives from regional and international organizations accredited to Yemen, in addition to representatives of local and foreign media agencies working in Yemen.





# Iranian ambassador reviews Yemeni-Iranian relations

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Iranian ambassador to Sana'a held on Sunday 1st August a press conference on the occasion of the first anniversary of his taking the position of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Sana'a. He began the conference with a general review of the Yemeni-Iranian relationships.

"The President Mohammed Khatami always mentions that Yemen is an Arab country with a bright and ancient history, and that it is a greatly significant, civilized and cultural country. He always remembers his pleasant visit to Yemen," said the ambassador.

"Yemen has a distinctive status in terms of our relations with the other countries and the countries of the region," he added.

The ambassador stated that his prime responsibility here in Yemen is to follow up the execution of agreements signed by the two countries, and to which he receives cooperation and support from Yemeni officials.

In the realm of political cooperation, the ambassador said: "we maintain good relations, and there is mutual confidence in this respect. Last year, letters were exchanged between officials by presidents and speakers of parliaments."

He said they have a program to



H. E. Iranian ambassador Hussein Kamalian

enhance the future of mutual relationships and that is through an exchange of visits by officials.

"We are waiting impatiently for the visit of Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul-Kadir Bajamal in response to an earlier invitation from Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Arif Bahwan," said the ambassador.

"When examining relationships

between the two sides, I would like to stress that there is no unclear point or any lack of transparency between the two countries."

"In addition to economic and commercial exchange, we are interested in making use of experiences of engineering companies and companies involved in implementing projects in Yemen. We have encouraged Iranian

companies to come to Yemen and execute development projects including energy, electricity networks, cement, bridges and road projects. We have also encouraged them to invest in small and medium sized industries in Yemen."

"We have tried to provide facilities necessary for this trade movement and investment activity at the seventh meeting of the joint committee held recently in Tehran which endorsed an agreement that facilitates commercial exchange and cooperation between Yemen and Iran. One of the prominent projects resulting from that agreement is a large hospital to be established soon in Sana'a."

"In regard to cultural cooperation, I'd like to point out that we have a cultural program on the occasion of Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital. It is expected that an Iranian Cultural week will be held in Sana'a in the next few months comprising a variety of activities and shows."

"We will also hold specialized symposiums to discuss historic relations

and links between the two countries."

In response to a question about unimplemented projects, such as building a housing city for limited-income people, he said "these projects have been presented and await negotiations between the two sides. After all, the Yemeni market is based on competition."

Concerning some newspapers' allegations that Iran supports Sheikh Hussein Al-Houthi, the ambassador answered: "I want to refer to the stance mentioned in the statement of the official spokesman of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which said these allegations do not reflect actual relationships, for there are no ambiguous points."

"Actually, newspapers should be committed to saying the truth honestly, and disseminate news to people in the right manner. They should make things clear and illuminate public opinion in a way that serves relations among countries, and not damages them."

"Briefly, the news stories published

in some newspapers are false and distorted. They do not express our right and fundamental stance, and we are contacting the officials regarding this issue."

Concerning accusations that Shiites in the UAE and Kuwait of financially supporting Al-Houthi, the ambassador replied: "As you know, Shiites are available in all countries and regions. They are not necessarily related to Iran."

At the end of the press conference, the Iranian ambassador expressed his belief that those allegations rumored by some newspapers to harm Yemeni-Iranian relationships would not affect the distinguished mutual relations.

"The relations between the two sides are strong and stabilized by the resolution of the two countries' leaders. What is important is that no other party should be given the chance to disturb them from such a condition. These rumors may disturb public opinion, but they will never harm the traditional original historic relations between the two countries."

## Sheikh Mabkhout Hathal to Yemen Times:

**"Marib tribes have conformed to the president's conciliation, and he should fulfill his pledge"**

Interviewed by Hassan al-Zaidi

The Marib province is considered as the historical and economic depth of Yemen. It contains archeological remains, and agricultural wealth as well as oil. The local councils experience has come to give Marib's people a chance to participate in managing their own affairs.

We interviewed Sheikh Mabkhout Hathal, member of the Sirwah district's local council, responsible for services and projects, to learn the conditions of Marib province.

**Q: Have local councils provided citizens with new services, and how do you evaluate their performance?**

**A:** Local councils in Marib are suffering from deprivation. They do not have resources. They wait for centralized support. In such a situation, they can not achieve anything. I call on donors to help these councils, which could lessen the corruption rate in the public sectors such as education and health.

**Q: Marib is privileged with certain sources that represent huge income suppliers?**

**A:** Actually, Marib is the land of milk and honey - it is the state's artery, presently and the past. Yet, its people have not seen prosperity. Oil has brought them nothing but pollution and devastation.

**Q: What about agriculture?**

**A:** Marib is an agricultural land. It is called "ardh al-Janatin," as you know, and has the Marib dam, which was built at the expense of Zaid bin Sultan (Zaid Al-Khair) to whom every Maribi is grateful.

Lands are fertile, but people do not have the necessary conditions for agriculture, and the government do not encourage farmers. Thus, the dam has turned out to be a problem as it is home to malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

**Q: But there are channels running from the dam to irrigate farmers' lands?**

**A:** The channels built in the past have been closed due to technical shortcomings. We have heard that there is aid from the UAE to build new channels, but it seems that officials will gulp down all the loans and donations, for there is no one to hold them to account.

**Q: What about the general recon-**



Sheikh Mabkhout Hathal: the visit of the US ambassador gave us projects, and nothing fishy about it.

cilement that the president called for tribes - have they conformed to it?

**A:** Marib tribes have answered the call of the president. So far, nothing wrong has happened since tribes committed themselves to the conciliation terms, by tribal conventions more than by law. People of Marib now are awaiting the promise of the president, that is, that the provision of services and projects which the province lacks.

If development prevails and jobs are available, people would forget feuds, revenge and sabotage, which result from unemployment and the sense of deprivation.

**Q: How do you evaluate the condition of tourism?**

**A:** Tourism has subsided. But we urge all tourists of different nationalities to visit Marib, the Governorate of peace, security, civilization, and history, especially to visit the ancient and first capital, Sirwah, the city of the garden, which is just 40 km to the west of the city of Marib.

We also thank the German expedition which excavates in Sirwah, and has unearthed the secrets and characteristics of this famous city.

Tourism does not form any income for local councils. We call on the government to involve locals in the tourist business.

**Q: How do the people of Marib look at the frequent visit of the**

**American ambassador especially with some newspapers warning of his socializing with tribes?**

**A:** The visits of former US ambassador Mr. Edmund Hull and his meeting with people did not invite skepticism. On the contrary, his visits brought good services to Marib. He could understand the situation in Marib and perceived the deprivation of the Governorate.

He presented projects from the US which will positively affect development and to some extent alleviate the hardships of citizens in certain areas. Most important of these projects are the President Hospital in the city of Marib, which is modernly equipped at the expense of the US government, and Marib Museum on which work is continuing along with other projects.

Yet, Marib is still in need of many projects and for donors in the fields of education, health, dam building, agriculture, etc. The citizen needs tangible projects that can raise his standard of living.

**Q: Are there development projects in Marib presented by the KSA?**

**A:** So far, we neither know nor see anything in reality. Saudi Arabia has provided hundreds of projects in many fields to Yemen, but non of them have been given to Marib. Marib is waiting for more projects, and as the proverb says "It is mandatory to help your neighbor."

## Workshop on linking labor market with technical education

A special workshop on linking the labor market and technical education establishments (Cooperative Training) was held from 1st-2nd August at Al-Sa'eed Forum and Alsa'eed Vocational Training Center's hall in Taiz.

The course was organized by the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational training in collaboration with the UNESCO, and attended by 120 general managers of chambers of commerce, the ministry's governorate offices, and human resource employees from the private sector.

The workshop aimed at discussing the regulations of Cooperative Training, the role of local councils, commerce chambers, and the private

sector in it, and in matching the output of technical education with the needs of labor market.

The 120 trainees discussed four themes, and six papers were presented at the workshop.

The participants, in groups, reviewed, analyzed and discussed their remarks. Observations and recommendations were forwarded at the end of the activity, which was under the auspices of the Minister of Technical Education Dr. Mansour bin Safa'a, and the Governor of Taiz Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was attended by Mr. Mohamed Al-Haj Secretary General of Taiz local council, deputy governor, Eng. Abdul-Wahab Al-Aqil, deputy ministry of technical educa-

tion, sheikh Jabir Abdullah Ghalib, head of the GPC's Taiz branch, and Eng. Faisal Mujahid, general manager of Taiz technical education office.

Lecturers included Eng. Ahmed Al-Sana'ani, Eng. Faisal Mujahid, Dr. Ahmed Hadi, Mr. Khalid Al-Faqih, Eng. Ali Hamoud Tahir, and Eng. Ahmed Al-Mahdi.

A speech was delivered at the ceremony, indicating Taiz's specialty, since it holds industrial potential, a large population, and a high unemployment rate. "This necessitates intensive poverty alleviation efforts," said the speech.

It underscored the significance of the private sector contributing to the improvement of the technical education so that the output meets the market needs.

# VACANCY

The European Union is funding a project in the water sector, to 'Support the Aden NWSA Restructuring'. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been established to implement the project, under international consultant supervision, in partnership with the Aden Local Corporation for Water and Sanitation.

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For the attention of Mr. David Hardman



# Folk dresses in Yemen



BY ISMAIL ALI AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The folk dresses in Yemen vary; every Governorate's original citizens have their own uniforms according to hot and cold weather, and which form the dresses of Yemeni folklore. Yemeni dress is a simple feature but with beautiful color and decorative design reflecting the roots of its origin. The Yemeni people, since ancient times, used to put on dresses as a protection for the body.

They used to make it with cotton and silk materials to protect the body from the heat or the cool of the weather. Thenceforth, the Yemeni people innovated in developing clothes with colored silks, sea corals and artificial pearls; beads and drawings were used in embroidering the dresses. It is noted that the Yemeni people suffered in making and decorating their dresses, in which they expressed emotions, choices and meanings - the dress is an important means of clarifying the ethics of the society. The folk dresses are of historical importance, and distinguish the civilization of each governorate of the Yemen Republic according to its climate. For example, the people in Aden incline to put on cotton and soft silk dresses as a result of much heat from the sun. In the colder



northern areas, the people put on al-zannah which is a women's dress made up of wool, cotton and silk, and the men put on long Arab qamees, made up of cotton in addition to putting on their janbiah in the middle of the body which has become the symbol of popular traditions. The folk uniforms acquire an historical depth within society due to the evidences of folklore and history they contain.

### Variety of Folk Dresses in Yemen

There are a multitude of folk dresses in Yemen, which exist due to the climate variations from one governorate to another, and according to geographical undulations and different raw materials found or grown in the governorate. Yemeni women were interested in jewels such as gold, silver and diamonds to ornamenting the breasts, the ears and the hands.

### Yemeni textiles

The most important source for the fabrication of Yemeni textiles is long-seed cotton, natural silk, artificial silk and wool. In addition to good fabrication of textiles, is the marvelous

decoration and perfected embroideries.

Yemeni fabrication is of closely related to the history of Yemeni customs and traditions. Thus, Yemeni society is distinguished in originality by the preservation of culture in Yemeni dresses that make them proud to be worn and striking to wear. The Yemeni people hate imitation and

do not look to outsiders as models. And the women, as a complement to their clothes, put on different titled jewels, which is a custom extended from historical folklore of the Yemeni civilization in which clothes were ornamented by rings and precious stones such as corals, onyx, corundum, pearls, amber and emerald.

### Popular dresses and uniforms embroidering in Yemen

Yemeni women are famous for embroidering and decorating women and children's dresses. There are also special workshops for drawings on men's dresses such as al ma'waz, kooifah (hats on men's heads) as well as on men's belts, and shoe fabrication. In embroidery, they use the sepa-



ration and the colors. But, as regarding the embroidery and its types, there are two ways of fabricating and embroidering dresses: traditional fabrication, which is set up in homes, and modern industrial, which is in factories connected with yarn and textiles. So, embroidery has grown in a way extracted from the natural and geographical Yemeni environment.

### Technical specifications in manufacturing Yemeni textiles

The type of textile materials used in the manufacturing of men's and women's clothing varies from one city to another depending on the type of weather and local tradition. In hot spots such as Aden and Hodiedah, for example, clothes are usually made of cotton and silk, while in much cooler areas, they are made of thicker materials such as wool. The design also depends on the condition and type of climate.

## Qatar Airways celebrates second anniversary of flights to Yemen

BY ADEN BUREAU

The Qatar Airways held celebrations on the 21st and 22nd of July, 2004 to commemorate the second anniversary since the commencing working in Yemen. A large number of politicians, social dignitaries, businessmen and media people attended the celebrations that were held at the Sheraton, Gold Mohur, in Aden.

Mr. Irfan Tungekar, Sales Manager in Aden, reviewed in his speech the activities and development that Qatar Airways had witnessed and its fleet that covers most parts of the world. He valued the cooperation Qatar Airways, represented by its General Administration Office receives in Yemen. He pointed out that the celebrations came to commemorate



the second anniversary since establishing an office here in Yemen.

Following that, the guests were mingling and getting acquainted. The Representatives of travel and tourism agencies in Aden attended the celebra-

tions. Everyone expressed their joy to the successes Qatar Airways has achieved. At the end of the celebrations, valuable prizes, provided by Qatar Airways were drawn and handed out to the winners.

## Morocco celebrates anniversary of Coronation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Kingdom of Morocco celebrated on July 30, 2004, the fifth anniversary since King Mohamed VI succeeded his father as king of Morocco in 1999.

The celebration "EID" is a national event that reflects the solidarity between the people and monarchy in Morocco. This year's celebration came with Morocco achieving many accomplishments, either in terms of reform on governance that now permits political pluralism or on the building of country that respects human rights, strengthening stability and economic improvement.

Morocco is one of the least developing countries whose industrial exports represent more than 70% of total exports abroad. Its industrial exports rank at an advanced position among such countries.

The tourism sector plays also an important role in revitalizing the Moroccan economy due to the histori-

cal heritage and the fascinating and breath-taking sites that are considered to be very popular tourist attractions around the world.

The country attracts millions of tourists from all over the world annually. The Moroccan government has been able in recent years to overcome the obstacles that have hampered the development of the tourism sector and it has provided all necessary facilities to ensure the increase in the number of tourists. The tourism sector contributes annually about 7.8% of Moroccan local GNP despite the terror incident Al-Dar Al-Beidha encountered on May 2003.

The agricultural sector also plays a distinguished economic and social role towards the development of the country. It contributes, in addition to the fish and animal wealth, about 70% of local GNP.

### Yemen-Morocco relations

The relations between Yemen and Morocco are characterized to be built on mutual respect, understanding, a principle of dialogue and non-interfer-



ence in the internal affairs of the other. The relations between the two countries have witnessed practical transitions since joint committees were founded and more than 53 agreements and protocols have been signed between the two countries in all economic, social, youth and cultural, scientific, investment, tourism, trade and industrial fields.

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على جميع الملابس  
اغتنم الفرصة مع  
معارض خالد المنبياري للتجارة  
صنعاء - شارع الجزائر - تلفون: ٤٠٨٤٧٠

**أنت بيتك ...**

**من أبوولاد ٢٠٠٤**

يتم السحب كل اسبوعين  
السحب الأول الأثنين ٢٠٠٤/٨/١٦  
السحب الثاني الأثنين ٢٠٠٤/٨/٣٠  
السحب الثالث الأثنين ٢٠٠٤/٩/١٣

إجمع عشرة أغلفة علوية واحصل على كوب زجاجي أبوولاد وكوبون المشاركة في السحب على أثاث بيت متكامل

أنت بيتك ... من أبوولاد



# Insurgents in Iraq kill 7 Iraqis, 4 U.S. troops

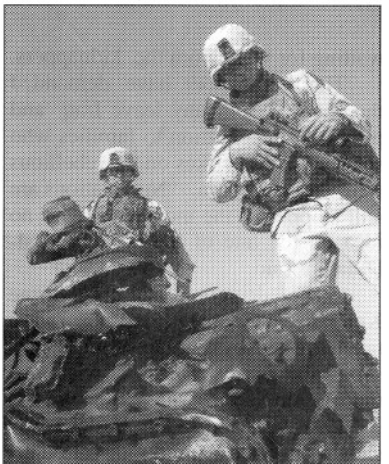
BAGHDAD, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Insurgents launched a fresh wave of attacks in Iraq, killing six Iraqi national guardsmen in a suicide car bombing and four U.S. soldiers in separate incidents in Baghdad and the volatile west of the country.

A roadside bomb on Tuesday also killed a local police chief in Baghdad, just hours before interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi was due to return home after trying to win support from neighbouring countries to stabilise Iraq.

The suicide car bomb blast at a checkpoint outside the town of Baquba wounded six other Iraqi guardsmen, said National Guard Lieutenant Mohamed al-Dulaimi at the scene.

Major Deborah Stewart of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division said the wounded had been evacuated to a nearby hospital.

Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, has been the scene of numerous insurgent strikes in recent months,



U.S. Army troops of the 1st Infantry Division stand over an automobile engine thrown by the blast of a suicide car bomber, where six Iraqi National Guardsmen were killed and six wounded at a checkpoint outside the town of Baquba August 3. REUTERS

including a suicide car bomb last week that killed 70 people, many of them young men lining up to join the police force.

The U.S. military said two American soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb blast overnight on Baghdad's western outskirts.

And two U.S. marines were killed in action in the violent Anbar province in the country's west. One died on Monday from wounds and the other on Tuesday, the U.S. military said.

The four deaths raise to 681 the number of American troops killed in action since the start of the war to oust Saddam Hussein in March last year.

Besides attacking U.S. soldiers, insurgents often target Iraq's fledgling security forces, accusing them of collaborating with some 160,000 foreign troops in the country.

They have also assassinated a number of senior officials as part of efforts to destabilise Allawi's government, which took over from U.S.-led occupiers on June 28.

Early on Tuesday, a roadside bomb in Baghdad's upscale Mansour district killed the head of a local police station and wounded two of his bodyguards, police said.

The bomb exploded as Colonel Moayad Mahmoud Bashar, chief of the Mamoun police station, was driving past.

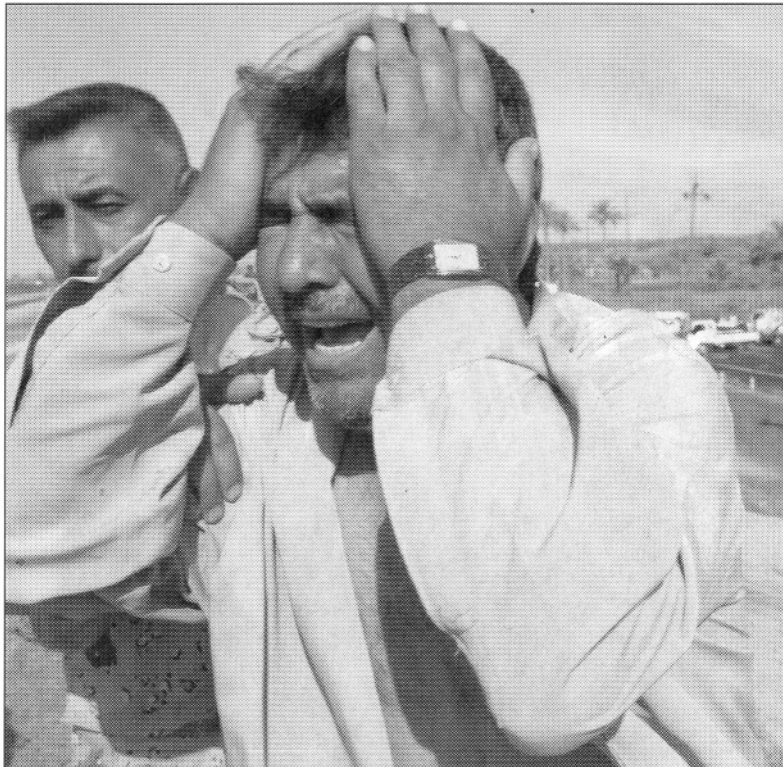
Allawi has spent the past 10 days visiting Iraq's Arab partners to shore up support for his government and seek help in stemming an insurgency that has disrupted reconstruction.

A government official said Allawi would arrive back on Tuesday afternoon.

One of his most pressing security challenges is a spiralling hostage crisis, which has forced the Philippines to withdraw troops and at least two foreign firms to pull out of Iraq.

### Truckers still held

Talks to free seven foreign truck



An Iraqi man returning to the scene cries after his son, a National Guardsman, was killed with five other comrades in a suicide car bomb blast at a checkpoint outside the town of Baquba August 3, 2004. Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, has been the scene of numerous insurgent strikes in recent months, including a suicide car bomb last week that killed 70 people, many of them young men lining up to join the police force. The blast also wounded six guardsmen. REUTERS

drivers threatened with execution have stalled since Monday, mediators said.

The three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian were seized last month.

A tribal sheik trying to win their release said on Tuesday he was waiting to hear from the kidnappers, who have demanded their Kuwaiti employer leave Iraq and compensate families who suffered in U.S. air strikes on the rebellious city of Falluja.

Some of the kidnappings have been carried out by groups linked to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has claimed responsibility for some of the

biggest suicide attacks in Iraq and the killing of several foreign hostages.

Islamist websites on Monday showed militants loyal to Zarqawi shooting dead a Turkish captive. In response to the killing and a wave of kidnappings of Turkish drivers, a Turkish truckers' group said it would stop transporting goods to U.S. forces.

Al Jazeera television said on Monday a Somali held by militants linked to Zarqawi would be freed after his Kuwaiti employer agreed to halt operations in Iraq. However, there has been no word on his fate since.

## Jordan says Palestinians making too many concessions

DUBAI, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Jordan's King Abdullah said on Tuesday the Palestinian Authority had made too many "surprise" concessions in peace talks with Israel and needed to take a clearer stand to enlist the support of Arab states.

Abdullah's rare criticism comes amid growing frustration with President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, both at home and abroad, over its failure to reach a peace agreement to ensure local order and end widespread official corruption.

Expressing concern about Abdullah's comments, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie said he knew of no change in the Palestinians' basic terms for peace.

"We wish the Palestinian leadership would clearly specify what it wants and not surprise us every now and then with some decisions and the acceptance of what it refused in the past," Abdullah told Dubai-based Al Arabiya satellite television.

Jordan, which signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994, has in the past encouraged Palestinians to reach a final accord.

Amman has been a firm backer of the "road map" peace plan as the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But peace talks have been stymied by further violence and the failure of both sides to take promised confidence-building steps.

"At the start, talks were on regaining 98 percent of occupied Palestinian land and are now about regaining less than 50 percent and we don't know what it will be in a year or two," Abdullah said.

Palestinians originally hoped to prevent Israel's creation but now seek a state on land captured by the Israelis in the 1967 Middle East war. They fear unilateral Israeli plans drafted recently might leave them with barely half of the West Bank.

"As for refugees, discussions were first about their return and compensation and now talks are on the return of a small number," Abdullah added. "It is unfortunate that what was rejected as betrayal has to some become now a

demand and great achievement."

He did not elaborate. The channel broadcast excerpts of the interview which will be aired later on Tuesday.

### King's comments "worry" Palestinians

"His majesty does not talk out of thin air. (So) we take very seriously what he is saying ... We have serious worries about such comments," Qurie said in the West Bank, adding that he hoped for clarification from Amman.

He said Palestinians continued to demand a state in the West Bank and Gaza along 1967 borders with Israel, the right of return of refugees to what is now Israel or obtain equivalent compensation, and a capital in East Jerusalem.

But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, saying he has no negotiating partner, plans a unilateral pullout from Gaza and from four of 120 Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Palestinians fear that will cost them more land than they might have obtained through talks and deny them a viable state.

Jordanians are concerned that prolonged Palestinian turmoil or failure to establish a viable state could send a new wave of refugees over its border, destabilising a country whose population is already more than half Palestinian.

Abdullah also urged the Palestinian Authority to carry out reforms after an explosion of unrest in Palestinian areas over inaction on measures aimed at curbing violence and corruption.

"The Palestinian leadership is called upon now more than any other time to realise peace through the road map and rectify some mistakes which the world is using to place blame on them."

"The world today says there are too many Palestinian parties, security bodies and lack of institutions," he said.

U.S.-led mediators have said Palestinian corruption and disorder pose a big obstacle to reviving peace talks.

## Three Palestinians killed in Gaza explosion



Palestinians gather around the body of Maysara Abu Sneima during his funeral in Rafah refugee camp southern of Gaza Strip August 3. A bomb planted by Palestinian militants killed three people in the southern Gaza Strip during clashes with Israeli troops and tanks on a raid to find weapons-smuggling tunnels. REUTERS

RAFAH, Gaza Strip, Aug 3 (Reuters) - A bomb planted by Palestinian militants killed three people in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday during clashes with Israeli troops and tanks on a raid to find weapons-smuggling tunnels. Witnesses and Israel's army said the Palestinians had been trying to detonate the bomb against the troops in Rafah when it blew up as an Israeli armoured bulldozer rumbled across a pile of rubble.

Two of the dead were militants. The third was an off-duty policeman who owned a shop in Rafah, a militant stronghold near the Egyptian border which has been the scene of frequent clashes. At least 15 people were

wounded, including a Reuters cameraman, who was hit in the hand by shrapnel.

"I was next to the border and suddenly there was a big explosion," said cameraman Bassam Masoud. Violence has surged in the Gaza Strip ahead of a planned Israeli pullout next year from the territory it captured in the 1967 Middle East war. Militants want to claim a withdrawal as a victory, while Israel is determined to smash the armed groups.

The situation in Gaza has been further complicated by a wave of unprecedented internal unrest spearheaded by gunmen demanding anti-corruption measures and reform of the security forces by Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat.

Clashes broke out in Rafah overnight when Israeli tanks and troops moved in to look for tunnels used to smuggle arms from Egypt during nearly four years of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"During the operation, four bombs were detonated towards the troops," Israel's army said.

"There was helicopter and tank fire earlier ... but not at the time of the explosion." Several buildings were destroyed during the raid. Palestinians said they were houses. The Israeli army said they were uninhabited and had been used by militants to launch attacks.

## UN's Annan warns Sudan to protect Darfur civilians

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned the Sudanese government on Tuesday to comply with a Security Council resolution threatening sanctions and believed Khartoum was getting the message "loud and clear."

The 15-member council last Friday adopted a resolution giving Sudan 30 days to disarm and prosecute marauding militia or it would consider unspecified sanctions against Khartoum.

"I think the resolution is very clear, that if they do not perform, there will be consequences, and I think the government of Sudan has got the message loud and clear."

You can tell by their reaction," Annan told reporters. Annan, who returned over the weekend from West Africa, said that despite protests from the Sudan government over the sanctions threat, "I think the recent com-

ments from Khartoum indicate that the government will comply, would want to cooperate with the Security Council." Annan a month ago signed an agreement in Khartoum, in which the government pledged to provide security to uprooted African villagers, chased from their homes by Arab militia, called Janjaweed, with the aid of the Sudanese military.

The Janjaweed are accused of murder and rape, leaving 1 million herded into camps and 2 million people in need of shelter, food and medicine. "The council is insisting that they just protect their own population," Annan said. "They must show demonstrably that they are determined, they are serious, and they are protecting the people, and this has to be seen by the people and felt by the people, not just public declarations."

Annan said there was some confusion between the 30 days given Sudan by the Security Council and a 90-day

humanitarian plan for massive assistance in Darfur devised by U.N. agencies. Sudan was to expedite visas and equipment for international relief organizations.

"That was a separate issue from the government's responsibility to protect its people," Annan said.

His special envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, said on Tuesday security in Darfur camps had improved, although there were still militia around and opposing African rebel groups.

But in New York, Francis Deng, a Sudanese who is the U.N. envoy for internally displaced persons, said Darfur was beset by "persistent insecurity and human rights violations." Deng, who just returned from the Darfur region, said people remained afraid to return to their homes because of continued attacks by the Janjaweed. Khartoum, he said in a statement, was pressuring them to return before it was safe to do so.



Members of the United Nations Security Council vote during a meeting at U.N. headquarters in New York, July 30. The Security Council voted 13-0 on Friday for a U.S.-drafted resolution that threatens to impose sanctions on Sudan in 30 days if it does not disarm and prosecute marauding militia in Darfur. REUTERS



# Malaysia PM reassures priests over Islamic state

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Malaysia's Muslim prime minister broke new ground in national race relations on Tuesday, appearing for the first time at a Christian gathering to dismiss the notion that his country was governed as an Islamic state.

In an emotional speech, which followed a moving Christian prayer for his cancer-stricken wife, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wiped away tears in front of dozens of priests and nuns as he appealed for religious dialogue and moderation.

"As prime minister of Malaysia, I am not a leader of Muslims but a Muslim leader of all Malaysians," the former Islamic scholar told a conference of the World Council of Churches (WCC), an umbrella group of most Christian denominations.

"Therefore I have a responsibility not just to my fellow Muslims but also to Malaysians who profess other religions as well," he added, before finishing his speech with a call for religious unity, citing a passage from the Bible.

Abdullah took the leadership of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) last year and has tried to galvanise a group speaking for a fifth of humanity into more effective positions on Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But at home, he runs a secular government ruling over a population where Muslims are a slim majority and the state religion is Islam. Almost half the population, with big ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities, follow other faiths or beliefs.

At times, ethnic minorities and moderate Muslims alike chafe against Islamic injunctions, which recently included a ban on the use of mobile-phone text messaging for marketing competitions.

"I do not want to claim that there are no problems among the different ethnic and religious communities in



Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (L) meets church leaders during the opening of Faith and Order Plenary Commission Meeting of World Council of Churches in Kuala Lumpur on August 3. The Muslim prime minister broke new ground in national race relations on Tuesday, appearing for the first time at a Christian gathering to dismiss the notion that his country was governed as an Islamic state. REUTERS

Malaysia," he said.

"I do not want to claim that there are no latent tensions and frustrations. There are still very many things that we need to work on, but if the world ever needed a lesson in diversity and making it work, I am confident Malaysia can be a showcase."

#### Only for christian eyes

With the aim of keeping some of these tensions under control, Malaysia's film censors recently decided to bar Muslims and other non-Christians from seeing "The Passion of The Christ", Mel Gibson's graphic film

about Christ's crucifixion.

The ruling that the film was only for Christian eyes upset the WCC. Its visiting general secretary, Kenyan Methodist minister Samuel Kobia, said anybody should be able to see it.

Asked about the screening restrictions, Abdullah said he had merely granted a request by Christian groups. "The approach made to us was to allow for the picture to be shown to specific audiences...I said we have no problem with that," he said.

"The Passion of The Christ" breaks Islamic taboos on flesh-and-blood portrayals of holy figures. It is being

shown in parts of the Middle East, the heart of Islam, largely thanks to a Jewish outcry over the film. It is also screening in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, on general release.

Asked after his speech why he had shed a tear, the prime minister said his mind had turned to all the suffering in the world. But it was clear the prayer for his wife, led by a Malaysian bishop, had moved him before he rose to speak.

Abdullah's wife has been undergoing breast cancer treatment in the United States.

# Indian hostages in Iraq in good condition: minister



A frame grab taken from video footage given to Arabic satellite channel Al Arabiya July 21, shows masked gunmen reading a statement in front of hostages at an undisclosed location in Iraq. A guerrilla group, calling itself the "Black Banners" said on Wednesday it had seized three Indians, two Kenyans and an Egyptian and threatened to behead the captives unless the Kuwaiti company they worked for pulled out of Iraq. The guerrillas also demanded that India, Kenya and Egypt withdraw their citizens from Iraq. REUTERS

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Reuters) - India said on Tuesday that three Indian hostages held by Islamic insurgents in Iraq were alive and in good condition.

The Indian truck drivers were part a group of seven foreign drivers — who worked for the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company that operated in Iraq — seized 13 days ago by anti-American rebels.

"We have learnt from the Kuwaiti transport company that they are in good physical condition," junior Indian Foreign Minister Edappakath Ahamed said.

Earlier on Tuesday, a tribal sheik, Hisham al-Dulaymi, who is the main mediator in the crisis, said he did not know the fate of the hostages and was

waiting for word from the kidnapers.

The kidnapers have demanded the Kuwaiti company leave Iraq and provide compensation to families who suffered in air strikes on the rebellious Iraqi city of Falluja. "Negotiations are still stopped at the moment. I have no idea on the fate of the hostages," al-Dulaymi said.

The drivers, including three Kenyans and one Egyptian, were taken hostage by a group calling themselves the Black Banners Division of the Islamic Secret Army.

Last week, an Indian hostage was shown on video with a militant pointing an M-16 rifle at his head, sparking outrage in India and panic among family members of the Indian hostages.

# Bangladesh braces for postflood trauma, awaits aid

DHAKA, Aug 3 (Reuters) - South Asia's worst floods in 15 years are receding after killing more than 1,350 people across the region and should soon be over, weather officials said on Tuesday.

But tackling the devastation left by the flood waters and meeting the cost of rehabilitating people and infrastructure will be a daunting task for the authorities, officials and aid agencies said.

The flooding in mid-July caused damage in Bangladesh alone worth about \$7 billion, the U.N. World Food Programme said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The floods wiped out people's household food stocks and effectively removed all other sources of nutrition and income. Fish farms are gone, poultry is drowned, fodder is unavailable for livestock so the animals are being sold at rock-bottom prices," the WFP said.

"Day labour jobs are gone too, as quarries and brickworks are submerged by water. The next rice harvest in Bangladesh is now nine months away (April-May)," said the statement, quoting the WFP's country representative in Dhaka, Douglas Casson Coutts.

"WFP has mobilised its existing in-country food supplies to distribute rice and high-energy biscuits to 1.8 million people, while calling on donors to support the agency's steadily mounting relief campaign," Coutts said.

"We are getting strong indications that donors are prepared to be generous," he added.

Bangladesh's minister for food and disaster management, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, said on Tuesday: "Bangladesh is effectively managing the flood situation by distributing relief and medicare across the country."

"We have sufficient food and medicine to tackle the situation. We have taken measures to feed 20 million people free of cost until next March," he



Bangladesh capital Dhaka August 3. Emergency medical teams in India and Bangladesh battled on Monday to save thousands of people taken ill after drinking polluted water and rotten food as South Asia's worst floods in 15 years eased after killing more than 1,350. Nearly 5,000 medical teams have fanned out across Bangladesh, many in boats, to try to contain diseases as flood waters continued to recede after submerging two-thirds of the impoverished country for the past month. REUTERS

told foreign journalists in Dhaka.

Coutts sounded a warning that, while the flood waters were now receding, "Bangladesh may well be in for a cataclysmic flood in mid-August, when the next monsoon rains will be unable to drain into the waterlogged ground."

"We have to be vigilant," he said.

Coutts said unexpected "flash floods" in April had largely destroyed rice crops in Syhlet and Sunamganj districts in the northeast of Bangladesh.

"Not only was the crop much reduced, the rice was of very low nutritional value because it had rotted from the water and mud. Nevertheless, hungry Bangladeshis ate it anyway, many of them contracting diarrhoea as a result," the WFP said.

The WFP is coordinating the over-

all emergency response to the floods by the United Nations and the NGO community, the donors and the government of Bangladesh, the statement said.

Britain has offered \$9.1 million in immediate flood aid. UNICEF and the Federation of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have made a global appeal for aid to save Bangladeshi flood victims, especially women and children.

Minister Yusuf said that, "if a third flood of the season occurs in August, it might cause a colossal loss to our food production. Currently we are also fighting enormous cases of diarrhoeal attacks, but it is still within manageable proportions."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said on Monday: "This year's

flooding was much more devastating than those in 1988 and 1998, in terms of losses in every sector of economy and infrastructure.

"We have a much harder task ahead for rehabilitation of the people affected by the floods and of economy and infrastructure," she said as she handed out relief goods in a Dhaka suburb.

"But we will do it successfully with the help of our people and friends everywhere," she added.

The 1988 floods killed about 3,500 people in Bangladesh, and more than 500 were killed in 1998.

The current floods and accompanying diseases have so far killed more than 1,350 people across South Asia, 660 in Bangladesh and the rest in India's Assam and Bihar states.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها لآخ  
المحامي / شائف اليوسفي  
بمناسبة إرتزاقه المولود الجديد الذي أسماه  
(وجيه)  
فالف ألف مبروك  
المهنتون:  
سلطان الجرادي، محمد بن سلام، وجميع الأصدقاء

نقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات للشباب  
عبدالرحمن سعد جميل  
عبدالخالق سعد جميل  
محمد يحيى جميل  
بمناسبة زواجهم المبارك  
الف مبروك وبالرفاه والبنين  
المهنتون:  
زيد الحداد، يحيى الجبني، محمد وهبان،  
وليد صولان، عبدالمجيد ضافر، أحمد حذيف

نرف أجمل آيات التهاني والتبريكات للشباب الخلق  
ابراهيم الجروري  
بمناسبة زواجه المبارك  
الف مبروك وبالرفاه والبنين  
المهنتون:

مصطفى المنصور، ياسر المنصور، محمد على المنصور،  
وهيب الشرعبي، وجميع موظفي عالم الهندسة والتجارة



# U.S. soldiers abused Iraqis 'for fun,' court told

FORT BRAGG, N.C., Aug 3 (Reuters) - U.S. soldiers who abused Iraqi prisoners at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison did it for fun, a military investigator testified on Tuesday at the start of a hearing in the case of a female soldier photographed holding a naked Iraqi on a leash.

A military court at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, convened to decide whether Pfc. Lynndie England will be tried for the prisoner abuse that outraged the Arab world and embarrassed the Bush administration as it sought to stabilize Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer Paul Arthur, the lead criminal investigator into the abuse at Abu Ghraib, was the first witness to take the stand in a red-brick judge advocate's building in Fort Bragg, where the pregnant England has been stationed since her return from Iraq.

Arthur told the military court that England said in a sworn statement in January that one of her superiors, Spc. Charles Graner, told her to pose for the infamous photograph of the naked Iraqi prisoner on a leash, one of a series of pictures.

U.S. media reports have said Graner, who has also been charged, is the father of England's child.

"(She said) Graner suggested she pose in a photograph with him (the prisoner). And pose for the picture as if she was dragging him," Arthur said, repeating several times that England and other soldiers said they were just joking around.

Asked if he had determined why the U.S. soldiers had abused the prisoners, Arthur said: "Basically it was just for fun ... and to vent their frustration."

England, dressed in camouflage uniform, black boots and beret, entered the courthouse moments before the hearing began, ignoring dozens of media cameras and reporters.

Inside the courtroom, she answered "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am" to a series of simple questions from Col.



Pfc. Lynndie England (C) walks with her mother Terri England (R) and her attorneys Kristin DiDonato (L) and Lori Hernandez after a hearing at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, August 3. A military court at Fort Bragg convened to decide whether England will be tried for the prisoner abuse that outraged the Arab world and embarrassed the Bush administration as it sought to stabilize Iraq. U.S. soldiers who abused Iraqi prisoners at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison did it for fun, a military investigator testified on Tuesday.

Denise Arn, the investigating officer, about the charges she faces.

#### POLICE RESERVISTS

England, 21, was charged along with six other U.S. military police reservists

in a scandal that prompted an apology from U.S. President George W. Bush, who placed the blame on a small group of soldiers.

England has said she was following orders when she appeared in the pic-

tures, which also included one in which she pointed at a prisoner's genitals, a cigarette dangling from her lips.

Addressing that, Special Agent Warren Worth, a military crimes investigator, said he found no evidence that orders came from further up the chain of command than Graner and Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick, another of the seven soldiers charged.

"If we're talking about persons higher ... I had no indication that anybody knew," Worth told the court.

The hearing is called an Article 32 investigation. Arn will decide whether the case should go to trial. It has been delayed since June as the military filed new charges and England's defenders made changes to their legal team.

She is charged with conspiracy to mistreat Iraqi prisoners, assaulting prisoners, committing acts prejudicial to good order, committing indecent acts, disobeying an order and creating and possessing sexually explicit photographs. Some of the charges were not related to prisoner abuse.

Maximum penalties include a dishonorable discharge and up to 38 years in prison if convicted.

England's lawyers, who have called their client a "poster child" for flawed U.S. war policies, will be allowed to call witnesses at the hearing. But their request to call U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the witness stand was denied, the lawyers said.

England, a member of the 372nd Military Police Company, returned to the United States from Iraq after becoming pregnant.

Lawyers for some of the accused say intelligence officers told them to soften up prisoners for questioning. The Pentagon has denied sanctioning rough treatment to make inmates talk.

# EU set to help Syria out of isolation

BRUSSELS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The European Union is set to help Syria out of its diplomatic isolation next month provided Damascus agrees to renounce weapons of mass destruction, an EU diplomat said on Tuesday.

The source said Syria was poised to accept tougher wording on preventing the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons than it had originally negotiated with Brussels in exchange for a landmark trade and aid pact.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara said last month the 25-nation EU appeared to be having second thoughts about requiring that Damascus accept the controversial clause which he called an Israeli demand.

The diplomat said that comment appeared to be for domestic consumption, since EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana gained the impression from meeting Shara in Cairo that week that Syria was keen to sign the agreement with Brussels in September.

"The Syrians are very eager to be rescued from isolation. They are in a hole," the diplomat said. "The EU is the hook to get them out of their hole."

The United States imposed economic sanctions on Damascus in May and has made known its concerns to the EU about Syria's support for Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups, security at the Iraq-Syria border and its alleged pursuit of unconventional weapons.

The Europeans contend that economic and political engagement with Syria will do more to promote reform,

human rights and responsible international behaviour than isolating it.

#### "OLD GUARD"

EU governments want to help President Bashar al-Assad overcome the resistance of an entrenched "old guard" of associates of his late father, President Hafez al-Assad, to modernising and liberalising the Arab state.

Syria is the last full member of the EU's Euro-Mediterranean partnership, known as the Barcelona process, with which the bloc has not yet concluded an association agreement.

The executive European Commission negotiated a text with Damascus last December but four states — Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark — objected that it fell short of the EU's commitment to make the fight against WMD a major plank of its ties with third countries.

The diplomat said Syria had also shown goodwill by agreeing to cooperate with the new Iraqi interim government on border security in a bid to disarm U.S. charges that it has allowed militants to infiltrate across the 600-km (375-mile) desert frontier.

"We think there is an opening. Now it's the clinch moment," the EU diplomat said. A senior European Commission negotiator was expected to visit Damascus in the first half of September to wrap up the deal, which could be symbolised by a high-profile meeting between Shara and EU foreign ministers at the United Nations later in the month.

## Greek opposition's Papandreou recovering: doctors

ATHENS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Greek socialist opposition leader George Papandreou was recovering in hospital on Tuesday from a respiratory infection doctors said was receding.

Papandreou, 52, a former Greek foreign minister, was admitted to hospital in Athens on Monday with a high temperature and doctors diagnosed a mild form of pneumonia.

Medical staff said he was responding well to antibiotics and there had been a significant improvement in his condition.

"He will be out of the hospital in

two or three days with a clean bill of health," said Health Minister Nikitas Kakkalmanis.

Heir to a political dynasty that includes two previous prime ministers, earlier this year Papandreou took the helm of the PASOK party which his father Andreas founded.

PASOK lost general elections in March, ending 11 years of socialist rule. A party congress is expected around the end of November.

Papandreou has no known health problems but he lost considerable weight during the election campaign.

## Paraguay fire death toll rises to 423

ASUNCION, Paraguay, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The death toll from a supermarket blaze in Paraguay jumped to 423 on Tuesday and officials said a guard received orders by radio during the fire to lock the exit doors, apparently to stop people leaving without paying.

The state prosecutors office, which announced the death toll, said another 139 people were reported missing in Sunday's fire and 451 people were injured.

A judge grilled the owner of Ycua Bolanos, his son and four guards on whether the doors had been locked immediately after the fire broke out to stop people leaving without paying. He was due to decide later on Tuesday whether to bring murder charges.

Many survivors said the doors were locked, and in one case welded. State prosecutor Edgar Sanchez said one of the guards had said he received orders to close the doors over radio, but did not know who had given them.

"The guard ... said in his statement that he received the order by radio to close the doors and this he did," Sanchez said.

The supermarket owner had denied that they ordered the doors closed.



Paraguayans attend a funeral mass, as the coffins of friends and relatives who died in a supermarket fire one day earlier, lay in front of the Santisima Trinidad church, in Asuncion, August 2.

"For the last three days I have been searching for my mother among the bodies," said 29-year-old Carlos Montiel, weeping as he talked.

"We saw corpses stuck to each other. They made us enter a refrigerated lorry where the bodies were in black bags. It's killing me to be able to find my mum."

Officials say a gas explosion near the food court caused the blaze that

swept through the packed supermarket in a working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of the capital, packed with Sunday shoppers.

Authorities had asked that relatives hand in dental records of their disappeared families to help identification.

Paraguay, a country of 6 million, called the fire its worst tragedy since a 1930s war with Bolivia that killed thousands.

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**Words of Wisdom**



The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a handshake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times

**OUR OPINION**

**An America that is respected in the world**

In his democratic convention speech last Thursday, Democratic Presidential nominee John F. Kerry said that he will make sure that America is strong at home and respected in the world.

I took those words with optimism and hope that he will, if given the chance, work his best to fulfill his promise. It is indeed a desire for millions of people throughout the world, to see the only superpower in the world respect international law and not behave like a bully. It is important for USA's own interests to become a model for its principles of equality, justice and freedom. Terrorism will continue to thrive unless the USA implements steps to be respected not feared.

Kerry said "We need to make America once again a beacon for the world. We need to be looked up to and not just feared." Those words bring some hope to people across the world who have been disappointed and angered by the unilateral decision making and recent policies of the USA under the right-wing administration of George W. Bush. They are hoping for a change to bring the US closer to international public opinion and to the allies of the past.

Kerry's mission, if he becomes president, will be quite difficult. Restoring the respect of the international community for the USA will require a lot of work and time. It is said that destroying is easy but rebuilding is difficult. It is amazing that in those last four years, the image of the USA has fallen tremendously in the eyes of millions of people across the globe. It is almost impossible to bring change to this reality in the near future.

On the other hand, there are some good points that the Bush administration has which, if noted and built upon, could yield positive results in realizing greater respect for the USA, in the eyes of the world. This includes the promotion of freedom in the long-oppressed Arab countries. Steps taken in this direction need to be complemented and built upon to realize a more stable middle east with less radicalism and hatred to the USA, which for so many decades supported dictatorship regimes that thrived on the bodies of their citizens.

In short, it is possible for the USA to regain its place as a leading nation in the world, not by its military might, but in vision, justice, freedom, and good deeds. It is possible for the USA to reestablish its role in supporting freedom in other countries and looking at smaller and weaker countries with respect and appreciation, not in disgust and discredit.

It remains to be seen whether Kerry will fulfill his promise and deliver his words to the international community, which seems to have accumulated distrust and contempt for the current US administration, especially as the justifications for the war on Iraq fell apart. The International community is probably hoping not only for a change of face in the White House, but also for policies that would promote a United States that is deserving of the respect of the world. **The Editor**



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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**A word about our governments & Yemeni immigrants**

By ALI SALEH ALIZZANI  
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I noticed that whenever there's some news regarding expatriates of any country (for example the Philippine government's decision to withdraw its troops from Iraq in order to save the life of one of its citizens, or the Lebanese outreach to the expatriates in north and south America), a Yemeni government entity appears, decides to meet, and to show some activity that is supposed to indicate that Yemen too cares about its expatriates. I discuss the issue, establishes a committee to study the matter, and in reality nothing comes out of the excursion.

This has been the pattern for many years and I am speaking from experience, due to my involvement in the Yemeni community in particular and the Arab community in general.

Prior to the establishment of the national association of Yemeni immigrants in the late seventies, the Yemeni community in California established the Yemeni association in San Francisco for the purpose of organizing the community to look after itself and we were very successful. We developed bylaws that governed every aspect of the association's activities - educational, social, athletic and other relevant activities. It was not too long before we were visited by a government committee headed by brother Abdulhatah Albaseer who urged us to rename our association to national association of Yemeni immigrants, which was approved by most of the membership. We were promised assistance especially in solving many of the problems faced by immigrants' families back home and government help in assisting immigrants via the embassy and consulates. Some of the promises were met

for a while. Later on consulates were established in San Francisco and Detroit, but whose main objective was not the service of the community but information gathering and finding out who belonged to what party or organization.

Slowly but surely the community's educational, social, athletic and other activities stopped functioning. Those young immigrants who were attending colleges and universities, technical and language schools gradually dropped out.

If the Shoura council or anyone else is really concerned about expatriates, they need to send an interested committee composed of educators and specialists in community affairs to study the situation and come up with recommendations to be implemented.

Education is the most available and affordable resource in the USA. How come the expatriates are not utilizing it?

**Somalis' suffering: until when?**

By ENG. MUKHTAR HARUN OSMAN  
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Does the Somali two years peace conference in Kenya put an end to the sufferings of the Somali people?

The catastrophic situation in Somalia for more than a decade has engulfed the lives of thousands of Somalis and caused more than a hundred thousand Somalis to become refugees in neighboring countries.

Since 1991, Somalia has had no national administration with practical authority, no internationally recognized polity, and during this time its entire infrastructure has been destroyed by civil war.

In order to heal the wounds and halt the deepening crisis in Somalia, there were international and regional attempts to resolve this dreadful situation.

More than fifteen conferences have been held, starting from the first Djibouti conference to the third Djibouti conference in Arta.

But most of these efforts were fruitless, apart from the third Djibouti conference which was a really well organized conference, attended by more than two thousand Somali delegates, including civil society organizations and foreign delegates like OAU, IGADD, the Arab league and representatives of some other friendly countries.

Undoubtedly, the president of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelle wished to see an end to the Somali civil war and chaos.

After very difficult obstacles faced during that conference, at the end, the Somali representatives signed an agreement, elected members of parliament, then a transitional national government was formed, led by Mr. Abdiqasem Salad.

After this, the government was faced with some obstacles inside and outside of the country.

To complete the outcome of Arta conference, IGADD offered to mediate and bring the different groups and parties of Somalis to the negotiating table.

Kenya was elected to host this conference. The conference was opened at 15-10-2002 in Eldoret Kenya.

In fact that there was no option for any of the Somali parties other than to participate in the reconciliation conference in Nairobi to establish a broad based government.

Now the Nairobi conference has entered its phase three, and the peace process in Somalia is at a critical point. Talks that began two years ago are in danger of collapse unless the mediators, the international community and the Somali factions themselves provide stronger compromises.

The Somali leaders and Somali civil society are required to show improvements in the negotiating process to tack-

le and overcome all difficult outstanding issues.

On the other hand the international community has remained reluctant to throw its full weight behind the peace talks, to take a tough line with those who are undermining, it or generally to express a unified position on preferred outcomes.

This in turn has exacerbated the many deep divisions within both the warring Somali factions and Somali civil society.

I will like to say to both the faction leaders and civil society representatives at the talks, that the most important matter is not who deserves to sit at the table, but rather who possesses authority and legitimacy in sufficient measure to implement an agreement and deliver a lasting peace. Unless this is resolved, there is a real risk that the current negotiations will produce another government in exile, which is unable to provide a working administration inside the country.

Finally, I will remind all the Somalis that we have suffered more than a decade of war and lawlessness, which has destroyed our infrastructure and hurt our dignity and sovereignty. To go back again the straight path, I think its time that we worked closely together as one strong team, to draw our country's vision and future direction and to continuously face challenges and act intelligently in that way we can succeed, and grow along the way.

**Letters to the Editor**

**The culture of blaming others**

Why do we always blame someone else for our problems? If it's not the Western regimes or the Masonry, it's the fault of our Arab regimes. ... How about, trying "it's the fault of the majority of the Arab people"? Arab leaders are Arab citizens of the countries they come from. They are ordinary Arabs who simply became powerful. Do you think that if you dispose of the current regimes and put others in place, they will be better? The bottom line is, most of them are all the same. The attitudes and mentality that is exhibited by our leaders are the same as shown by the majority of Arabs. ... For God's sake, the same mentality and negative attitude is even prevalent in the so-called "Western Educated" Arabs!

Unless each and every one of us millions of Arabs change, there will be no change in the state of affairs. Refer to Western history, and you will find that it was "people" who changed first - with the changed people came new changed governments.

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**Great memories of Yemen**

My name is Ian Macdonald, a citizen from Canada who lived in Yemen, Taiz City for almost five years. I taught English

**Letters to the Editor**

at Mohammad Ali Othman School for one year then I moved to the National University where I taught for four years. During my stay in Taiz City, I came to know a lot of Yemenis who were very hospitable, kind, friendly, easy going and helpful. Certainly, Yemenis are unique; they are unlike other Arab people. I have almost been to all Arab states, but never found people like you, Yemenis. In fact, Yemenis, especially adults used to treat me like their father with respect and dignity.

I really missed them and missed Yemen, too.

I also remember your, Taiz bureau Chief, Imad Al-Saqqaf who was a nice guy and who chewed Qat with me at Alhakimi's house. Both Imad and Alhakimi were nice and good.

I hope to visit your country again and to meet my beloved friends.

Through your wonderful newspaper, I would like to convey my best regards to you and my beloved friends in Yemen, Taiz City.

Ian Macdonald  
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**The only way for Iraq is to look ahead**

Agreeing it is too late for blame and accusations, I think the productive route is in looking to the future. In thinking in Iraq's future 2,3,5,10 years down the road I don't see the overshadow of unanswered

**Letters to the Editor**

questions. I see a country having already been deeply scarred persevering, fighting new battles with scrapes and bruises. To compare old wounds to new wounds and what goes deeper..... What is hope? Do you think it better to live with none? Is it better to have to believe the dreams you have for yourself and your family are a foolish fantasy? Does the opportunity to make life better for yourself and future generations have any value?

WMD's, faulty intelligence, manufactured intelligence whatever it was, will never change what is now. The only positive productive focus for the Iraqi's is to look ahead. Unanswered questions will take a back seat and fade away as they always do. The beauty of time is it makes things fade. What the world will see is unwanted extremists standing in the way of a new democracy and the country they thought they were standing up for, turning on them. As Iraqi's go off to the voting poles year after year they will be making their own laws, policies and future. Will they ever forget what was gained during the American occupation? No. Will they forget what was lost? No. Will they remember what they gained without Saddam Hussein? Yes. Will they remember what they lost with him in power? Yes. Who do you

think will cast the biggest shadow?

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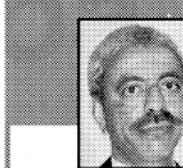
**Qat disease needs to end**

Originate from a district in Yemen renowned for its Qat, as there are no other sources of income there. Our authorities cannot continue to ignore the huge escalation in the planting of Qat. Yes! I agree that this plant is the livelihood of hundred's of thousands of people. I believe that there has to be alternatives offered to people before the Government can even think about putting plans into place to solve the problem. But there needs to be a starting point, Qat farmers need to be engaged in reform, through education, workshops, and media.

Other options need to be highlighted positively and maybe subsidized to enable change to commence. The negative aspects of Qat clearly outweigh the positive aspects, in terms of health issues, poverty, the disregard for priceless water resources and diverting the younger generation from basic education. Sweeping this issue under the carpet will not solve the problem. The whole nation is a victim of this semi-narcotic plant that causes misery and disruption to people of all walks of life in all corners of the Yemen.

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**COMMON SENSE**



By Hassan Al-Haifi

**Liberation or chaos?**

With all the contrived justifications for the anxious invasion of Iraq now proven as untested lies, the Bush administration is still hanging on to the last string in its list of bogus reasons for hastily putting all of America's firepower and might in Iraq. While not fully abandoning the questionable connection of the American Expedition in Iraq with the "War on Terror", the White House has struck firm to the alibi of "bringing freedom" to the Iraqi people and "instilling a model democracy" that will eventually roll over to all the other states of the region with the speed of a tropical hurricane. Of course, these justifications will not be subject to any hard nosed probing on the intelligence behind it and all the other means of investigation that can be easily undertaken for the justifications with tangible substance (like the Weapons of Mass Destruction, ties to terrorism, etc.). So, President George Bush and most of his team are latching on to the "liberation theme" and thus comforting themselves with the notion that this is something everyone will certainly find little objection to.

Most Iraqis and most outside observers will certainly have no qualms about the removal of Saddam Hussein, but is that in itself a palatable quest, that makes up for all the dire consequences that this "liberation" has brought on Iraq, in particular, and on the region as a whole.

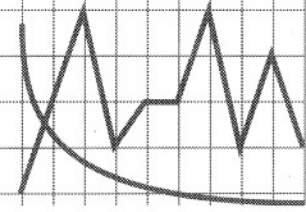
In assessing the dubious claim of fighting terror, the American invasion of Iraq has been actually a blessing to terror that came on a silver platter. Notwithstanding the existence of a force of 150,000 of the finest geared military personnel, Iraq has become an open and free field for terrorists, which everyone agrees would never have been available under Saddam Hussein, regardless of how one may view his autocratic regime. That simply means that most of the fatalities and wounded Iraqis, the majority of them civilian and had nothing to do with the Saddam regime or with terror or even with the American invasion, would still be alive today. So, where is the freedom gained by these tens of thousands of innocent casualties?

On the other hand, the theater given to the terrorists in Iraq helped to provide a vast field for dubious contractors of death, disguising themselves as "Jihadists", or "insurgents" fighting the occupation, while in reality their victims have mostly been the supposed beneficiaries of their "struggle". Because of this, the suspicion that the ongoing madness and reckless bloodletting is actually planned for and expected by the sponsors of this misguided American adventure is not at all far fetched. This is reinforced by the almost minuscule casualties that the "insurgents" have inflicted on the occupying force, and the almost zero result achieved by such a large force, with all its sophisticated hardware and other resources, in finding even the slightest clue as to the origins of these murderers (and this is how Islam could, with absolute certainty, describe them), or the constituency of these fly by night groups. In fact, their ferocity and savagery seems to be on an incline. When one adds the rather easy access these death squads have to international communications links and the media, and generous funding at their disposal, as well as the rather free tactical leeway at their disposal the conclusion that the liberation achieved in Iraq has been solely for these sadistic mobs becomes inescapable. Is that then the liberation that Washington wants to spread throughout the region? God forbid that the entire region should have to be blessed with such liberation, and most people in the region will simply take a rain check from Mr. Bush and ask him to pack up his boys and bring them back to the States. There are some observers who also add that the claim that the continued presence of American forces is actually hindering progress for stability to reign in Iraq. With the Iraqis, not enjoying any real semblance of sovereignty, they are unable to direct their full energy towards ending the reign of terror brought on by these merciless mercenaries of death, as they would be if their hands were untied from the tight controls that are still in place by the occupier, regardless of the theatrical "handover". To add to the tragedy of chaos, which is the real fruit of this uncalculated for invasion and continuing occupation, the lot of the "liberated Iraqis", in any manifestation is for the overwhelming majority of the Iraqis depressing to say the least. The occupiers have spent a mere fraction of the already minuscule amount they allotted to the reconstruction of Iraq. Thus, the conditions of Iraqis in the cities and rural areas has reached catastrophic levels in some areas, because of the poor health and sanitary conditions arising out of the destruction of existing infrastructure, let alone the lack of any significant additions thereto.

The ongoing demise of any semblance of normal life surely cannot be viewed as liberation by any means, especially when the haunting menace of sudden death and destruction is looming in the horizons. Many Iraqis that one has come to talk to or hear interviewed in television all paint a horrible picture. Lawlessness, poor or non-existent services, high unemployment, poor and inexcusable health and sanitary conditions and fear of an occupying force that is lacking in its own regulatory frameworks. These are just a few of the consequences of "liberation". One should add that the latter is creating another element of terror that the Iraqis have to confront, albeit under an official. Accordingly the liberation claim is not substantiated by any of the real dismal conditions the Iraqis must be forced to live on. If that is the liberation Washington wants for all the states of the region, one can imagine how states that are far less endowed than Iraq would fare out under such a venue of mayhem and despair. Freedom does not go hand in hand with chaos and ill contrived ideological adventures, which are contrived by selfish plunderers, who stand to be the only real harvesters from such malevolent and investments of ill intent.



# YT Business



## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7000	184.8700
Sterling Pound	336.1000	336.4100
Euro	221.8900	222.0900
Saudi Rial	49.2500	49.3000
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.6300	627.2100
UAE Dirhem	50.2900	50.3300
Egyptian Pound	29.7400	29.7600
Bahraini Dinar	489.9200	490.3700
Qatari Rial	50.7300	50.7800
Jordanian Dinar	260.5100	260.7500
Omani Rial	479.7700	480.2100
Swiss Franc	144.1000	144.2300
Swedish Crown	24.0700	24.0900
Japanese Yen	1.6569	1.6584

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

*A strategic vision for,*

# Qualification of trained labor dealing with modern technology

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of technical education and vocational training has worked out a strategic perception for qualification of Yemeni labour and making it acquire skills of knowledge according to a timetable extending to 2012 and during which 15 thousand technicians and vocationally trained labour are to be graduating annually rating a proportion of 15% of outputs of university, secondary and basic education.

The plan aims at engaging the private sector and vocational training fund for implementation of technical and vocational training programs. The goal is to achieve equality of opportunities for national labour and to destroy unemployment on the labour

market, providing opportunity for the working Yemeni woman for training and joining available jobs for her in various areas with government and private sector institutions.

The ministry works for building 137 technical centers and institutes during the period extending to the end of the ongoing second 5-year plan due to expire in December 2005. The centers and institutes are distributed over the country's governorates to accommodate around 32864 students from both sexes from the basic education graduates, 17 thousand of whom from institutes of vocational training after the stage of basic education and 8000 from graduates of technical institutes and colleges after secondary stage education.

### Preparing specialized labour

Specialties of technical education

and vocational training focus on industrial, agricultural, trade and technical fields, all of which deal with modern technology, information technology and electronic machines. This means keeping pace with the labour market needs and opportunities available with government and private sectors and in meeting with requirements of investors for skilled labour. Therefore the strategic scheme has oriented its attention to let trainees acquire modern scientific skills for the aim of obliterating knowledge illiteracy which is spread among the national labour.

### Development of education curricula & training programs

The national strategic perception in this area of the ministry included a plan for developing curricula of technical education and vocational train-

ing to meet needs of labour market through modernization of infrastructure of educational and training institutes and centers by further qualification of the human cadres supervising qualification processes. According to this trend the ministry of technical education and vocational training has worked for rebuilding curricula through combining theoretical education and applied education to enable the student to choose specialty in one field such as mechanics, general branches of electricity and other fields.

To achieve those goals aspired for from developing curricula and training programs, the ministry has engaged the private sector and employers in amending curricula and setting up future plans aimed at qualification of the national labour.

### Opportunities special for woman

Due to the low level of woman participation in the labour market and concentration of her activity in agricultural farms, the plan is keen on having the woman present at programs of technical qualification and vocational training to make her able to join labour market. The ministry has for this purpose given attention to involve the woman in training courses in important fields, such as food industries, household management, running small projects, embroidery and sewing and many other handicrafts to contribute to improvement of family income and take part in advancing development process and reduce average of unemployment among women.

The strategic perception of technical education and vocational training has its future plans for realization of balance between outputs of education

in general and requirements of the labour market in a manner leading to raising the proportion of outputs of technical education from 3 out of one thousand of the total national labour to 15% until the year 2012. The plan also intends to improve quality of production and develop its fields as well as active contribution to implementation of investment projects, meeting requirements and needs of the private sector and investors for skilled labour, in addition to equality of opportunities among trained workers.

To sum it up, this plan is considered a forward step for upgrading conditions of the national labour according to scientific means and studied training programs that would work for preparing skilled labour handling modern technology and using it in its work with success provided this plan is well implemented.

# Tourist production, great ambitions

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Arab Organisation for Tourism holds its first conference in Sana'a next September. The meeting aims at invigorating situations of inter-Arab tourism, activation of the organization's role for the realization of Arab tourist integration, raising the ceiling of joint investment among tourist sectors as well as activation of movement of tourism among the Arab countries in order to raise and

develop tourist services.

The meeting acquires its significance from its being held under tourist circumstances requiring Arab joint action and investment of the wealth and constituents the Arab countries possess for improvement of tourism and investment in its various services sectors.

It is therefore imperative to emphasize the constituents and factors attracting tourism in Yemen as well as the various opportunities for investment in this regard and the facilities granted by the law in Yemen to Arab investors,

with the aim of activate this field. The Tourist Promotion Council should not stop at talking about taking part in foreign tourist activities but rather intensify its work and to study feasibility of building multi use and-service tourist projects to be submitted to participants in the first meeting of the Arab Tourist Organisation and the committee on the private sector at the Council of Arab of Tourism Ministers for marketing them and putting them into actual investment.

The Yemeni tourist sector possesses

all factors of strength for tourist attraction but is in need of translating words into studies of feasibility to be marketed, not only in the coning meeting of the Arab Tourist Organisation but also in regional and international tourist markets and festivals. In consideration of official data on the Yemeni tourist situation one find that there are no feasibility studies for investment projects but rather the printing of 400 copies of tourist posters, maps and brochures on Yemen, all of which are costing and achieve little publicity to the Yemeni tourist product. Thus the flourishing of Yemeni tourist sector could not be achieved unless it is associated with feasibility study for tourist investment projects to offer high-quality services which would add financial value to the tourist heritage and tourist landmarks as well as the diversity available for Arab and foreigner tourists.

Added to the negative reflections and impact of the events taking place in the Arab region, plans for tourist promotion was supposed to attract at least 50 thousand tourists during the first half of this year. As for announcing about attraction of 7212 Arab and foreign tourists in six months of this year it is deemed a negative indicator for our ambitions and compared to the volume of the great Yemeni tourist constituents. It is to be stressed in this regard that the security situation is stable and encouraging for attracting various types of Arab and foreign tourists except for those coming from Israel. The main absent aspects are tourist services and weakness of tourist agencies activities at a time efforts of concerned authorities continued to concentrate on traditional activities of Sana'a Capital of Arab Culture, a matter that shrank the avail of tourist promotional activities as an industry and national product.

Our ambitions are to have the number of Arab and foreign tourists to Yemen to reach a number whose revenues could be regarded as a new addition to the national income, worth millions of dollars, to contribute to pour in the national revenues from a non-inflation source and then it could be talked of noticeable progress in the Yemeni tourist sector.

## Yemen-WTO negotiations begin November

# Hindrances impeding development of national exports

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is expected that negotiations between Yemen and the World Trade Organisation would begin following the convening of the first meeting of a joint working team of the organisation scheduled on 30 of next November. The meeting comes amidst questions by industrialists and tradesman in Yemen who express their fears of acceding the WTO and the negative impact of that on their domestic products.

In preparation for inauguration of negotiations between Yemen and the WTO, the UNCTAD program has recently organized a workshop in Sana'a in which there has been a training for the negotiating team on how to prepare and work out national mechanism for documents of accession, the material contained in the document and submitting offers on merchandise and services required by the negotiating team before embarking on negotiation with members of the Organisation, the major partners in trade with Yemen.

The UN expert in the field of joining the WTO Thomas Mathew announced that the organisation was offering Yemen threadbare technical assistance for joining it by holding such a work-

shop, calling the Yemeni government for exerting intensified efforts to benefit from the opportunities the organisation grants to less developed countries.

However, many businessmen and industrialists of Yemen assert that Yemen's accession to the WTO would not yield positive benefits for Yemeni agricultural exports owing to its small volume of production, its quality and the limited surplus.

Economic studies stress that Yemeni exportation to external markets faces hindrances precluding development of exports. More important of such hindrances weakness of production potentials, non-availability of raw materials, weak infrastructure, absence of credit institutions and standard criteria and specifications regarding quality as well as degraded services of packaging, transport and storage and the low level of technical and marketing experiences.

The government appears, however, as determined to negotiate with the WTO and confirms that it has set up mechanisms and plans necessary for overcoming impedances of exports in the foreseeable range, especially after it has passed an important distance in the field of liberating its external trade and is endeavouring for benefiting from privileges of joining the WTO.



A spectacular view of Shibam skyscrapers

**تحت إشرافنا**  
أجمل التهاني والتبريكات مكللة بأريج الفل والياسمين نهدبها للاخوة  
**محمد الثلايا، طارق الثلايا،**  
**عارف الثلايا**  
**بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف**  
**الف الف مبروك وعقبى للفرحة الكبرى**  
**المهنتون**  
مدير المعدات الأرضية عبدالله اليميني،  
مهندس/كمال الفقيه، مهندس/سامي سلطان الأديمي،  
وجميع موظفي المعدات الأرضية بمطار صنعاء



# The fifth commemoration of Al-Baradouni

Poet Abdullah Al-Baradouni (1929-1999) is considered one of the Arab poets who endeavored to alter the language, without affecting its external form.

Yemenis knew him as a poet by the end of the 1940s, although it was not until the mid 70s that the Arab cultural arena recognized him. That was at the Mirbad Festival, when he recited his very famous poem (Abu Tamam and the Arabism of Today). This poem opened to him the doors of fame with its revolutionary connotations, and caustic criticism reaching tearful ridiculousness.

Poignant ridicule is one of Al-Baradouni's poetic and artistic characteristics, and one of his revolution's pillars that distinguished him as a human being and a poet from the nation surrounding him.

One of the stories about him is that he sent, in 1948, a letter to Imam Yahya Hamid Al-Din, ruler of Yemen at the time, which led him into prison. When the Imam learned that he was blind, he released him and beckoned him to his palace. When he got out of the palace, natives from Dhamar, asked him how was the Imam's hand when he kissed it. "It was flesh on bones," he ludicrously answered. The laity regarded the Imam as someone holy and supernatural, so were annoyed by Al-Baradouni's answer. They placed him over their shoulders and roamed the streets of Dhamar chanting "Flesh on blood, you Jew."

Though simple, the situation

reveals the revolutionary and confrontational approach of Al-Baradouni, which accompanied him till the end of his life

He took the side of the masses, translating their sighs and pains, and philosophizing their aspirations. The crowds loved him profoundly when they realized his caring for them.

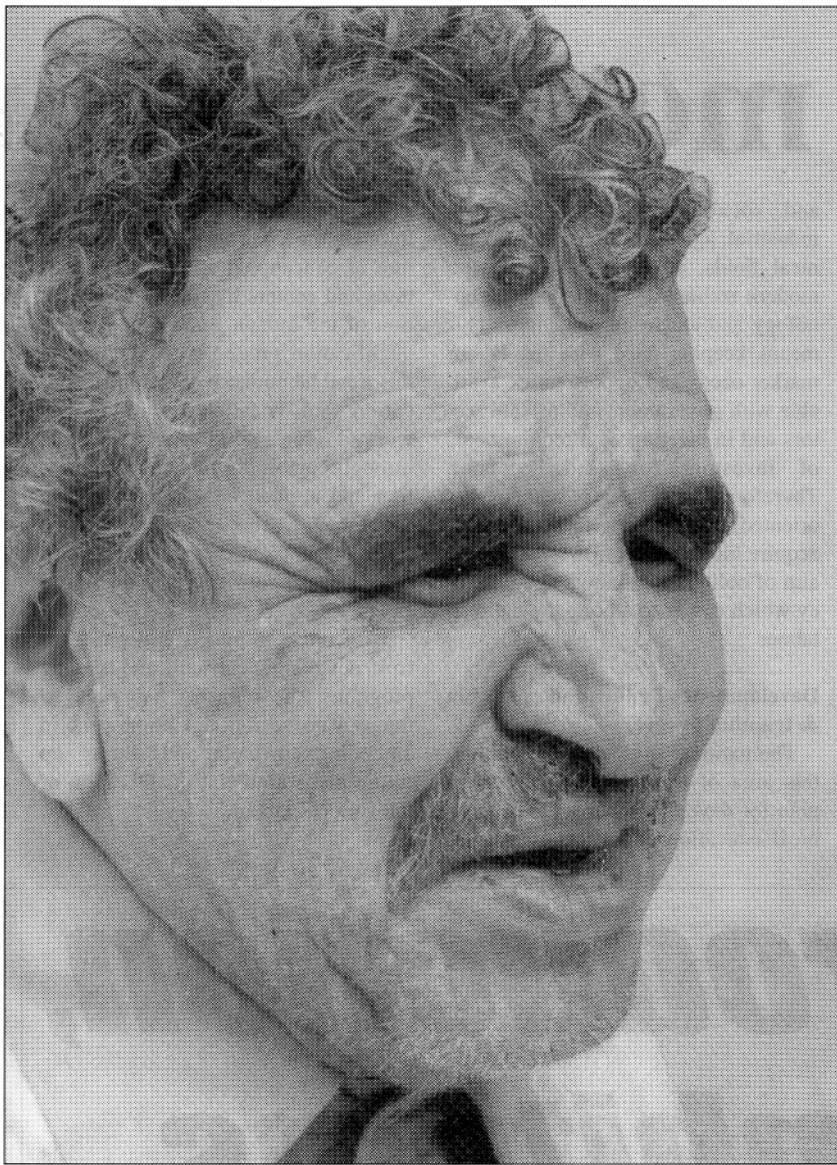
Al-Baradouni rebelled against the social and political reality, giving vent to his rebellion through the classical poetry with its view of reality, its style and construction resurrecting its glorious spring in the Abbasid Caliphate and the Arabic Renaissance.

In the artistic worlds of his poetry, Al-Baradouni appeared as a revolutionary against reality, as well as a soothsayer, implicating in his poetically artistic worlds, signs of hope in the future.

"He is a mysterious poet. Nay, he himself is mysterious," said Dr. Izzadin Ismail, in the oldest study tackling Yemeni poetry. Al-Baradouni entered his creative world, with his first collection "The City of Tomorrow," which came after Izzaddin Ismail, who rightfully found a peer in Al-Baradouni for the Renaissance, who stands out matchless in Arabic history of the 20th century.

#### Al-Baradouni, rebellion and time problems:

Abdullah Al-Baradouni was obsessed with the love of the homeland. He perused the past, and derived his identity from it. His



Poet Abdullah Al-Baradouni

poetic talents came into existence in a time of monotonous rhythms and rituals separated from the present by vast distances. Therefore, his attention was mainly drawn towards a trinity with overlapping dimensions, and inseparable interconnections. That trinity is "time", "space" and "man". By perusing his poetic heritage, space connotations are present in the titles of the following collections:

- From the Land of Bilquis, 1961.  
- For the Eyes of Bilquis's Mother, 1972  
A Sandy Translation of Dust Festivals, 1983.

The man signs are represented by:  
The Creatures of the other Yearning, 1986  
The Dodge of Lanterns, 1989.  
The Return of Wise Ibn Zaid, 1996

The time signs are manifested in two titles:  
On the Path of Dawn, 1966  
The City of Tomorrow, 1970  
The Travel to the Green Days, 1977  
Smoky Faces in the Night's Mirrors, 1979.  
Time without Quality, 1979  
The Answer of the Age, 1991

It is obvious that about 50% of the collections have taken the temporal dimension as one of the factors of the desired revolutionary change.

"Space" occupies along with "man" the other 50%.

People used to believe in stability, and change was seen as infidelity. This was reflected in the stance of

the authorities, who unsheathed their swords in the faces of callers for change, brandishing that they would shed the blood of modernists. Change and modernism was originated in the heart of the modernist mindset, of which Al-Baradouni was the architect.

The static is a law inherent in the traditional mindset. Hence, if change is an essential doctrine of the modernist mindset, stability is very vividly present in the traditionalist mindset.

With the eruption of the 1962 September 26th Revolution in Yemen, Al-Baradouni got two conflicting cultures, one of which was dynamic and flexible. Its elements are able to move, propagate and spread beyond their time and space frame. They are able to convince, challenge, confront, and meet individuals' needs as well.

The poetry of Al-Baradouni was characterized by an excellent knowledge of human nature, and an expression of man's love for power and subjugating others. It is an historical fact that does not only relate to the contemporary, but also to the past as an identity. Man is his tribe in miniature, by means of the customs, concepts and conventions, hoarded in the unconsciousness.

Al-Baradouni set off from one historical fact, attempting to resurrect man so that he can reform his reality and create his civilization by himself according to a poetic vision that fights to strike a balance between reality and vision.

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For more information call Hertz on Tel: 440 309 or Emirates on Tel: 444 442

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Skywards members in Yemen can take advantage of 15 per cent discounts available from Hertz Yemen as the car rental company joins forces with emirates airline.

Valid during the months of July and August, the promotion also entitles skywards members renting vehicles from hertz to 500 Skywards Miles towards free flights as well as free car upgrades.

In addition, the offer gives skywards members the chance to win one of two economy class tickets from Sana'a to a destination in Europe or the Middle East and is available from the car rental company's three locations in Sana'a, at Sana'a International Airport and in Aden.

"This promotion represents a wonderful opportunity for Skywards members to get the best vehicles at the best prices," said Badr Abbas, Area Manager, Emirates Airline, Yemen.



A photographic session on the release of the Joint Promotion leaflets

"If you are not a Skywards member, this is a perfect moment for you to join in by simply registering with us when you hire your vehicle at any Hertz location in Yemen," he said.

"Partnerships like this one are part of our overall marketing strategy, which aims to capitalize on the economic growth that Yemen has been experiencing for some time," said Saleem Sheikh, General Manager of Universal Rent A Car, the Hertz international franchisee in Yemen which is part of Universal Group, one of the major players in Yemen's travel and tourism industry. Hertz Yemen operates from Sana'a and having a branch in Aden and extending its service coverage through Universal offices in Yemen. "The response to this promotion is massive and the skyward members have been told by Emirates airlines mailing campaign and the non-members are becoming instant member at the Hertz Counters in Sana'a and Aden to be able to participate in the raffle" Saleem Added.



Mr. Badr Abbas, the Area Manager of Emirates Airline shaking hands with Mr. Saleem Sheikh, General Manager of Hertz Yemen



# The water crisis in Yemen



BY ISMAIL ALI  
AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Water forms a major factor in the operation of socio-economical development, as there will be no possibility of agricultural development or expansion nor the achievement of agricultural and industrial development without the availability of sufficient water. Currently however, it is not possible to provide the necessary reserves of clean water, fit for human consumption, and plentiful enough to meet the increasing needs of socio-economical development during the coming years. Despite the fact that water is an essential condition for life, and the inevitable increase in the need for water, vital for any socio-economical development.

## Yemen and the Water

Yemen depends on two main sources to obtain water firstly the rain and secondly underground reservoirs. Yemen has an increasing need for water as a result of the increase in its number of inhabitants, the different socio-economical developments and what the expansion imposes on the volume of planted areas (in need of watering and irrigation) to respond to the food needs of the population.

## Rains

Yemen is considered as one of the poorest countries in terms of water because of its geographical location, which is situated within the semi-arid countries. The average rain fall ranges between 50 mm annually in the coastal line and less in eastern areas, to 500-800 mm, in the mountainous heights. The total

annual rainfall ranges from between 11-12 billion cubic meters to 92 billion cubic meters in a year.

The Western and Southern Western slopes and the higher plateaus possess the biggest proportion of these rains which gradually lessen in the eastern and north eastern directions until the desert weather shows on the Rub-al-Khali where the percentage of rain fall reaches to evaporation quantity approximately 0.03 to 0.25. This percentage distinguishes that weather is changing to dryness.

## Underground Water

Underground water reaches to approx. 10 trillion cubic meters; 1 trillion cubic meters out of which in Al Masila basin, 2.5 trillion cubic meters in the Tehamah basin and the rest of the underground reserves are distributed among the rest of the area. The quantity being drawn from the reserve water is 1.5 trillion cubic meters yearly, utilized by 55 bore wells. So, pumping of 3400 million cubic meters is taking place from these waters, of which most goes towards agricultural activity. Thus, 90% of the same being utilized in the agriculture and 8% goes to households, and the rest 2% goes to the industrial sector. This quantity of consumption exceeds the underground feedback by 900 million cubic meters which causes a growing decrease in the underground water level, as the decrease level in some cases reaches between 2-6 meters yearly. This status became worst by the late seventies and early eighties of last Century when the deep well drilling began increasing and the water draining started heavily when farmers found out that there is a quick income from using these waters in agriculture.

## Surface Water

The agriculture is a significant



Wadi Bana cascades

water consumer in Yemen as its consumption ratio reaches to 90% of the water. The rain is the main source for irrigating what is equivalent to 53% of the grown areas which is an estimated 687 thousands hectares whereas farm owners

relying on rain waters reach to 795 thousand owners in the different areas of the Republic of Yemen. As well, agriculture is considered as the most heavy consumer of

underground water since it irrigates agricultural areas estimated at 384 thousand hectares i.e. reaches up to 30% of the total grown area in Yemen.

The number of the owners of these waters from different sectors and ends goes up to 87 thousand farmer owners.

The water coming from the wadis after seasonal rains as well irrigates an area of agricultural land equivalent to 12% of the total grown area. Further, the water sources in upper wadis irrigates an area estimated at 64 thousand hectares i.e. equivalent to only 5% of the planted areas, and the number of owners of these waters reaches to 81 thousand of farmer owners.

## Challenges

Due to the circumstances, the location, nature, geological formation and natural factors (represented in the limitation of re-fed water which does not exceed 2500 million meters yearly - as a result of Yemen's dry location, or for reasons of the temperature rise that leads to increased evaporation averages, which leads to increased demand for water, or due to the topographic most steep in the heights) - all of which factors have collectively lead to a lowering level of 130 cubic meters for each person in a year, and up to 127 cubic meters in our current year - 2004, which represents one tenth of the water poverty line approved in the world which is limited to 1000 cubic meters yearly.

## Inhabitants Challenge

Supposing inhabitants growth in Yemen is only 3%, despite that the real average is 3.7% the highest average of delivery in the world, the

number of the inhabitants in the 2025 A.D. shall be 36 million inhabitants approximately. In the light of this increase, the number of town inhabitants will raise to 15 million people and rural inhabitants shall also reach 21 million people. In such circumstances, the coverage for the inhabitants needs of water for households use only, upon the following percentages, will cover 90% of the towns inhabitants by hygienic water, and 70% will be covered by health sanitary services. As for the rural areas, the water coverage will reach to 80% of the inhabitants and the health sanitary services will cover only 30%. Eventually, the future status represents one of the water problem challenges.

## Water Challenge

Solving the severe water problems, as the scientific studies show, will be necessary for providing the food needs of growth areas which will increase to double the currently available areas i.e. between 8900 hectares and one million, three hundred thousand hectares which areas shall be determined by rain-falls water. It is necessary to impose more efficiency in irrigation, by using modern devices of irrigation up to 60% on top of what is currently existing that doesn't exceed 37%. Finally, to provide the agricultural water needs and household use as well as to secure the industrial needs and other services, it is necessary to provide approximately 4,628 million cubic meters of water, out of which 359 cubic meters will be for households consumption and 419 cubic meters for industrial use and other non-agricultural services whereas the total re-feeding sources is 2500 million cubic meters i.e. the water insufficiency for 2025 will reach to 2128 million cubic meters.

## Environment Protection Media Role



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Environmental Media Organization is one of the basic pillars of specialized media, since appearing along with the growth of environmental problems in the world. The environmental media has undertaken the responsibility of carrying out an awareness operation related to environmental issues.

Environmental problems result from the deterioration and destruction caused by human beings bad attitudes towards the environment and its natural resources, which leads to causing damage to its basic components and disturbing the environmental balance.

Since environmental studies ascertain the interest in environmental issues and the protection of natural resources which started about three decades ago with the first environmental conference in Stockholm in 1972. Environmental protection was crystallized on the agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, by the Summit on the Earth, held in De Janeiro in 1992, where it ascertained the significance of public contributions to achieve sustainable development.

The summit increased the awareness of society's individuals towards environmental issues and their contribution to protecting and

preserving natural resources. A seminar on expertise exchange and specific environmental awareness media programs was organized by the Yemen National Tribunal for Education, Culture and Sciences in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Education, Culture and Science. The seminar focused on these discussions, and on papers submitted by several contributing Arab countries on environmental media and the methods of activating its role, in addition to coming up with scientific programs to raise the profile of environmental media in the Islamic world and to serve sustainable development and the environment.

The seminar confirmed the significance of the environmental media at local, regional and international levels and its role in creating community awareness of the risks of environmental deterioration, the threat to natural resources and their impact on the lives of human beings on this planet now and in the future.

From the scientific papers and several studies, a scientific paper was presented on the most significant means to spread environmental awareness which also determined the most significant social groups that ought to be addressed by awareness messages in environmental media.

Another represented paper ascertained the importance of different media means - readable, visual and audible and their effect and role in building awareness of environmental issues and drawing the attention to the risks which

threaten it such as the spoiling of soil, air and water.

Further to that, the media draws attention to advanced countries and to how to utilise modern technology to treating environmental problems, in addition to pointing out the benefits which natives can attain by improving their environments and protecting them from damage.

The media should describe truth so as to become effective, impressive and capable of facilitating the required changes and help growing new customs and conducts better for the environment. The studies assured the growth of environmental education aiming to build understanding from childhood via including it in school syllabi for the various subjects in all the educational stages, particularly, in natural science and social subjects and more clearly in Islamic education subjects, the languages, and the home economics.

This should lead to the creation of environmental awareness and the preparation of a generation knowing its environment and being aware of its problems and willing to participate in solving them.

The seminar also focussed on the role women play in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. If women are considered as one half of the community and are able to use their creative capacities and as many rights and freedom as they are granted, women can take care of their children in addition to gathering the family members in a way fortifying her role in building and improving the community.

## “ Re-announcement ”

### The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood Child Development Project

Higher Council for Childhood and Motherhood (HCMC) invites applications from interested Yemeni citizens to be enrolled for a distance education Diploma course on Early Childhood Development. It is a one year course organised by University of Victoria, British Columbia Canada.

The applicants must have the following minimum criteria:

1. Either have passed a bachelor course in English medium instruction or have obtained TOFEL certificate (or the equivalent)
2. Must have a bachelor degree in any field
3. Be interested in the field of Early Childhood Care and Development
4. Be able to work in expansion of Early Childhood Development Programme in Yemen after completion of the course
5. Be able to participate in Early Childhood Development related research activities after the completion of the course
6. Be able to work independently in promoting the ECD philosophy in Yemen
7. The applicant should be under the age of 35 years
8. Be able to afford the time required for the study (which involve assignments)
9. Applicants from different govern orates is encouraged.

Interested applicants, please send a copy of your CV along with copies of your certificates to the following address:

**Project Manager**  
**Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood**  
**P.O.Box: 16939 - Sana'a ROY**  
**Closing Date: 10 days from the day of advertisement.**  
**All costs related to the course will be born by HCMC.**  
**E.mail:- HCMC1@y.net.ye**

**Note:** Applicants who have applied earlier need not apply again.



# Yemeni Press, A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

## Main headlines

- Enlarged mediation to end fighting, JMP welcomes peaceful solution
- Threats of blasting the Aqsa Mosque,
- Misha'al calls for comprehensive reform
- JMP: al-Houthi another fishhook
- UNICEF calls on Yemen to encounter danger of child trafficking
- Lebanese prime minister on a visit to Sana'a
- Gist behind leakage of some parts of 9/11 events report
- Mediators: Ceasefire condition for moving from war to dialogue in Sa'ada
- Mediation committee adheres to full authorities, its role not confined to convey message
- 9000 children trafficked to Saudi Arabia during the last year
- Eritrea retains 106 Yemeni fishing boats
- Aden hosts the biggest summer gathering for youth and students
- Expatriate investors willing to implement cement project
- On conclusion of Yemeni-Lebanese talks,
- Nine agreements signed, a joint council for the two countries' businessmen
- Receiving PM al-Hariri, president Saleh extols Yemeni-Lebanese relations
- FM: No justification for imposing sanctions on Sudan, foreign powers behind Darfur issue
- Yemeni team heads for Guantanamo to visit Yemeni detainees
- Accusations of violation of ceasefire,
- Mediation committee expresses optimism, al-Houthi sets condition of army troops withdrawal
- American project for connecting Yemeni schools to American schools

Al-Sahwa weekly, 29 July 2004.

### Main headlines

- "al-Shoura" before appeals court and "Al-Wasat" before prosecution
- Regarding the case of Works office in Taiz,
- Members of the local council threaten of resignation
- In one week, 4 cases of AIDS in Hudeidah
- A 13-year old child subjected to torture at the Criminal Investigations in the capital
- Female Media Forum training course on press reportage concluded

Columnist Tawakul Karman wrote in her article commenting on remarks made by the prime minister on the necessity of reforming the conscience of the officials as an essential condition for success of economic reform, saying it has been a behindhand discovery. Many and for a long period have said that before.

Since the first day of the beginning in application of the program of the economic reform opposition people and with them many of the reasonable and thinkers in this country remained calling for the necessity that the economic reforms have to be associated with financial reforms by the government and a comprehensive administrative reform. They have argued that without that and in confining the reform to approval of doses and lifting subsidies from food basic stuffs and oil products, that process would be of no value and no impact on life of the citizens. Would not be more than a means for levying properties and embezzling them. The failure lies in those in the government institutions harbouring corrupt consciences and the remedy lies in carrying out a comprehensive administrative reform dictating the ousting of those corrupt persons.

Al-Isbou weekly, 29 July 2004.

### Main headlines

- Flour crisis in Socotra because of a merchant
- A criminal court accused detained Judge Mohammed Lukman of fomenting armed insurgency
- A workshop on social incorporation for private associations in Taiz

On the crisis of opposition in Yemen the newspaper published an editorial saying the opposition is seeking for a role and then waits for

from a presidential decree. Since the beginning events of Sa'ada events that feeling seemed behind its tough-worded stance. The opposition leaders have requested a meeting with the president of the republic to discuss about what has been going on, as they expressed it then.

As part of a routine measure representatives of the JMP are to play a mediator role within a mediatory committee including political personalities, sheiks, MPs, Shura members to be headed by Mr Abdulwhab al-A'nisi who strongly opposed the JMP statement. According to information, the JMP asked to be a player in a role whose endeavors have failed beforehand. If those endeavors succeed, the opposition would devote them for convincing the president about its effectiveness in the events of destiny, but under a presidential decision. What would the opposition add as part of a mediation committee to change what has been a reality the authorities have exceeded? Perhaps their presence could form a legal cover.

Al-Shoura weekly, 28 July 2004.

### Main headlines

- Prosecution demands secrecy in the trial of judge Lukman
- The poor of the central prison in Ibb exceed double their punitive sentence
- Resignations in Jabal Jubair local council due to tampering with electricity connection
- Four new infections with AIDS in Hudeidah governorate
- Financial violations at civil service office and hindering teachers' rights in Ibb
- Enhancement of women role in development of local societies

Columnist Alawi al-Ashwal says in his article since the declaration of Yemen unity in 1990 up today the people have been suffering from successive disasters because of the regime's tendency aiming at impoverishing and humiliation of the citizens via various ways of oppression and practice of corruption. The regime has become open adversaries of the society. They do not hesitate from committing the ugliest acts which they call as achievements. The most recent of these is the implementation of the formerly postponed dose in the form of a tax law on sales which does not differ much from the previous killing doses. The only difference this time is covering it with a legal robe in avoidance of

as if the situation is a continuous improvement but indicators show this would not be the last of doses, especially that there is an intention of raising the prices of fuel and other oil products.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 29 July 2004.

### Main headlines

- In a press conference before al-Hariri departure from Yemen,
- Bajamal and Hariri confirm identical viewpoints of the two countries versus the situations in Palestine and Iraq
- Members from the mediation committee express their appreciation of the president's stance in dealing with al-Houthi insurgency
- Reactivation of the free zone and completion of the second phase development projects
- A lawyer ordered out of court in the trial of the Cole suspects
- New discount of insurance on ships

The writer Mohammed Khamees Amtheeb writes saying after those pressures made by the American administration on the Arab states to make them interact with the initiative it had launched about the Middle East the American administration seemed to begin to show some elasticity and understanding of the nature of the region's countries' internal situations and began to deal with the Arab countries accordingly. This change in attitude is especially so may be because of the angry reactions the American initiative was met with by those countries.

With this simple change in the way the American administration is dealing with the Arab countries there emerge some queries on the nature of reasons that pushed it to this stand. Is the new American stand was in response to the angry responses by the Arab countries, or was it in response to demands by the Arab countries? Does this American change bear some other American dimensions of an alternative vision enabling to dominate the region in another form?

Analytical reading of the reasons of this change in understanding and elasticity confirms that the American administration did not neglect dealing with Arab angry reactions towards imposing reforms on the region's states from abroad. Maybe America has realized that continuing its practice of pressure on Arab countries in this way would only increase complications in the region and also raise the level of enmity towards it, especially after positive response shown by the

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

Arab regimes regarding the effecting of reforms.

Al-Shumou weekly 31 July 2004.

### Main headlines

- YSP and Shoura parties seek to internationalize Sa'ada insurgency
- Western media sources: Some Yemeni opposition parties practice suspicious political games
- Could Iraq change into an American-Iranian conflict arena
- More than 100 people killed in attacks in Iraq

A front-page editorial of the newspaper says it seems that the sedition of al-Houthi rebel is heading for the military decision of this crisis as the data on the ground have repeatedly indicated that all efforts of peaceful solution were almost leading to partition the homeland and the society in a frame of a criminal scheme targeting the homeland integrity and its political system.

If we consider indicators and reality of Sa'ada crisis and what was designed for it ideologically, culturally and militarily, it would be natural to conclude that there is an attempted coup against the political regime and its freedom, democracy and unity and it has failed to reach its goals.

On the peaceful initiatives for solving the Sa'ada insurgency the editorial mentions that it seems those endeavoring the solution have exceeded their illusion and realisation and danger of the events against the homeland. It also seems that it has been removed from their memory that they are still targets to ideology and culture of reactionary of this age hiding behind black cloaks covering the American conspiracy against the entire Arab nation. If those peaceful initiatives have halted the military settlement of the insurgency of al-Houthi, it has represented indirectly a logistic support for al-Houthi and his followers based on re-arrangement of their cards and ranks in addition to leaving political chances for those seeking to internationalize the crisis.

The Daily News weekly 3 August 2004.

### Main headlines

- Amidst weak prospects of surrendering himself, indicators of dissidents from the insurgency for targeting mediators helicopter
- New gang for forfeiting currency, captured
- Communications establishment operates CDMA mobile telephone system beginning of next month
- Iranian narcotics seized in Yemen
- Iraqi government accuses al-Zarqawi of churches blasts
- Demonstrations in the West Bank in support of Arafat

Salah Dhulfiqar says in his article calmness has prevailed a few days ago the security apparatuses in the

governorate of by arresting those persons who took part in the abortive attempted assassination by the Believing Youth group against members of the mediation committee that represents the government. On the other hand al-Houthi has accepted to meet with members of the committee in an attempt of entering into a new political manoeuvre. Upon consequences of the crisis it seems that there is a change in stands of insur-

gent al-Houthi because after putting a condition of receiving only three of the mediation committee members he afterwards accepted all members of the committee, maybe in response to the pressures of sheiks and religious scholars of Sa'ada governorate and its notables in order to avoid more bloodshed. It is thought that the reason behind this manoeuvre is to obtain more guarantees for standing a just trial.

## وظيفة شاغرة

تعلن الشركة الوطنية للتجارة المحدودة ؟ ناتكو-مركز بورشه اليمن عن وجود وظيفة شاغرة لمبيعات سيارات بورش كيان على أن تتوفر في المتقدم الشروط التالية :-

- أن يكون يماني الجنسية (الأولوية)
- أن يكون لديه خبرة سابقة في هذا المجال لا تقل عن خمس سنوات
- يفضل من يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابته ونطقاً .
- يفضل من يكون لديه مؤهل
- أن يكون لديه القدرة على العمل في مختلف المواقع والظروف
- أن يكون لديه قابلية للتطور .
- أن يكون لديه القدرة على التفاوض والحوار

وستقوم الشركة بتقديم راتب مجزي لمن تنطبق عليه الشروط أعلاه، فعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة والكفاءة لشغل هذه الوظيفة عليه تقديم وثائقه على العنوان التالي :-

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في أوراكل (9I)

والأستاذ / طارق العيشي

لإجتياز إختبار (CCNA) بنجاح



Continued from page 1

## Yemen urges countries to assist Sudan

The Sudanese government holds that it will stick to the agreement it made with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, last month in which the government would be allowed to disarm the militias in three months.

"The Council of Ministers condemned the time period and views it to be illogical and difficult to implement, especially since the agreement we reached with the United Nations gave a 90-day implementation period," said Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail after a Cabinet meeting last Sunday.

Under pressure from members of the Security Council, the United States dropped the word "sanctions" from the resolution; economic and diplomatic "measures" will be taken if Sudan does not follow through.

Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria's President and Chairman of the African Union, traveled to Khartoum,

Sudan's capital, to discuss a solution to the ongoing violence. The African Union is putting together plans to send a peacekeeping force to Sudan.

The Arab militias are accused of killing over 30,000 and driving at least one million people from their villages since fighting began 18 months ago in the Darfur area. Refugees have reported that the Janjaweed fighters have slaughtered men, raped women and have looted their villages during assaults.

According to World Vision, an Australian aid organization, refugees fleeing their villages continued this week and camps have continued to receive people beyond capacity.

The Arab League has expressed opposition to the UN resolution. "Many would say that the US administration, as well as some European countries, have found in the Darfur crisis a long sought pretext to put the government under the sword of inter-

national sanctions," said Arab League spokesman Hossam Zaki.

Zaki accused Australia, which is considering sending in troops, of working with double standards on human rights: Australia, along with the United States, voted against the UN General Assembly resolution to order Israel to pull down the wall it is building in the West Bank.

The British and Australian governments have said that they are ready to send troops if necessary to stabilize the Darfur region, while the US government said that it is too early to discuss sending in soldiers.

According to an analyst in Yemen, the most important thing to do is to find a solution and end the violence in the Darfur area.

"It seems that there are a lot of parties now involved in this, but while there are accusations, people are still suffering," said the analyst. "The best thing is for a solution to be found."

In June, the Yemeni government said that it would be willing to send troops to Sudan as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force if the Sudanese government had reached a peace deal with the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Last Monday, Al-Qirbi headed for Khartoum for the Yemeni-Sudanese joint ministerial committee to discuss economic, health and education cooperation between the two countries.

## Extremists Threaten Journalists with Murder

Another journalist Arafat Mudabesh received similar death threats from associates of al-Hawthi. The threat letter that was sent to Mudabish, a reporter of Sawa Radio, via email, said if he does not stop reporting the fights of Sa'ada between Hussein al-Hawthi's supporters and government troops, he would be killed. Mudabish informed the YJS and interior ministry of the threats.

## Mediators face difficulties in Sa'ada

Al-Houthi has consented to all conditions forwarded by the small committee last Saturday, but he put a condition that the committee should firstly search for facts and reveal to the Yemeni people who is actually responsible for death of hundreds of Yemenis, though the problem was merely political and could have been resolved through dialogue, and not with warplanes, missiles, and tanks.

The source added: "AL-Houthi does not object to settling the crisis between him and the state in order to spare Yemenis' blood. But there is a group of military influentials and others who want it to remain aflame to serve their own interests and their malicious aims."

The source concluded saying, "If the government is really serious to settle the problem, it should not engage the army, and authorize the mediators to resolve it in a way that does not go against jurisprudence and the highest national interests."

Another small committee, consisting of 12 personalities, flew aboard a helicopter Tuesday morning to Sa'ada and met with Sheikh Al-

Houthi to complete negotiations with him under government's conditions.

Among member of the committee were Cleric Mohammed Mohammed Al-Mansour, cleric Ibrahim Al-Wazir, Sheikh Ismail Al-Houthi, Cleric Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shami, leader of Al-Haq Party, Mr. Mohammed Qahtan of the Islah Party, Mr. Mohammed Ghaleb of the YSP, Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, Sheikh Saleh Al-Wajman, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khawfi of the Al-Shura Council, Yahya Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, MP and brother to Hussein Al-Houthi.

A tribal source, spoke under condition of unanimity, expressed his anger at demolishing a religious school in Razih area adjacent to Saudi borders by a military group, under pretext that it spreads the Zaidi sect's teachings.

"The Tatars in the past did not do such things. This misdeed does not show goodwill on part of the government. Instead, the building of the school could have been used as a government department, hospital, or even a police station," added the source.

# Rusedski proves his point with Cincinnati win

CINCINNATI, Ohio (Reuters) - Greg Rusedski, the centre of a contamination controversy which brought speculation about changes in tennis' anti-doping programme, has hit out at his critics after winning at the Masters Series.

Rusedski was forced to qualify because his ranking plummeted while he was fighting his innocence, and after beating the 2000 champion Thomas Enqvist 3-6 6-3 6-2 in the first round claimed he had something to prove.

"The nice thing is coming into press conferences and talking about winning matches. You could pick anyone in the locker room with the same situation as me," Rusedski said on Monday, referring to the risk of contamination causing a positive drugs test.

Rusedski also said: "I think I have something to prove. A lot of people had written me off and I think I have answered them pretty well in the last three or four weeks."

"Some people said I would be on the Challenger circuit every week or even playing Futures tournaments," Rusedski said, later adding: "Every time I have had a problem in my career I have come back."

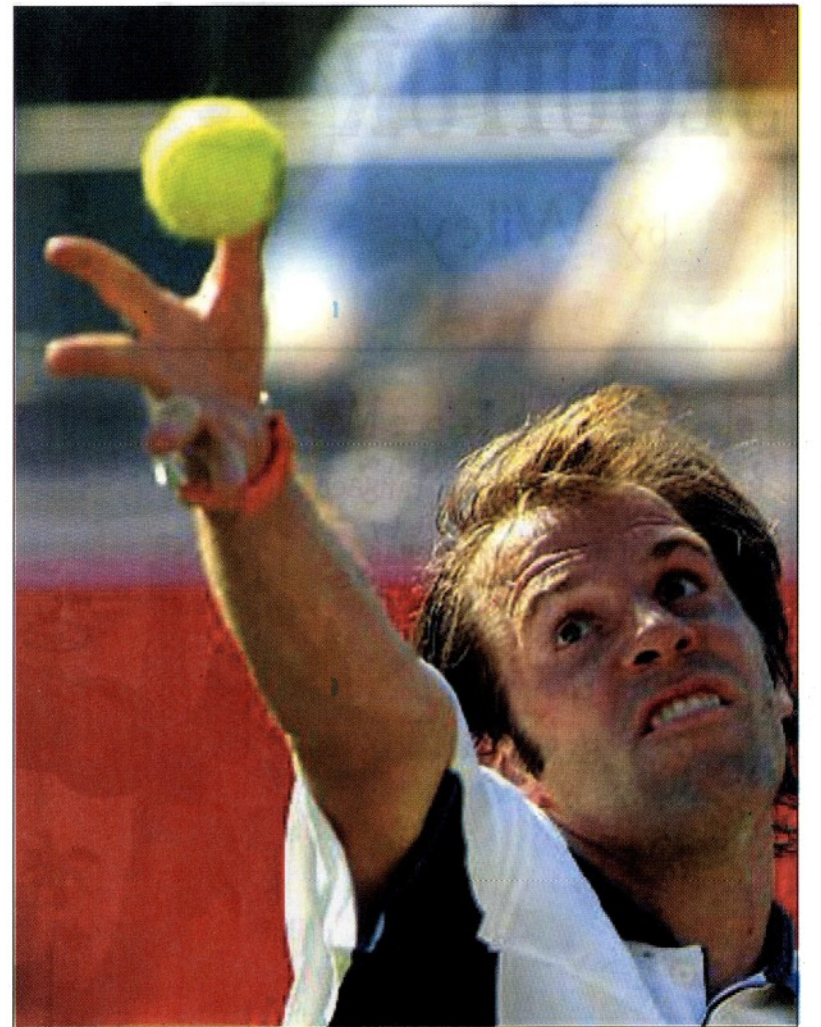
Rusedski is doing just that despite a lack of the wild cards which he had hoped the ATP's recommendation to tournaments would secure for him, following a successful appeal against a positive test at a Montreal tribunal earlier this year.

Since then the former world number four has won the Campbell Hall of Fame title in Newport, Rhode Island, risen from outside the top 100 to 88 in the world, and ensured himself a place at the U.S. Open where he was a finalist in 1997.

"I proved a lot to myself by winning Newport after everything I have been through," he said.

"And this week I have proved that I deserve a main draw place."

Rusedski's next opponent is Argentina's Gaston Gaudio, the French Open champion and ninth seed, who may struggle to live up to his ranking on hard courts.



Greg Rusedski, the centre of a contamination controversy which brought speculation about changes in tennis' anti-doping programme, hit out at his critics after winning at the Masters Series. Rusedski is shown in a file photo. REUTERS

Earlier, two other former champions, Carlos Moya, the 2003 winner, and Andre Agassi, a winner in 1995 and 1996, narrowly survived first round scares.

Moya was a set down and a break of serve down at 2-3 in the second set against another British qualifier, Arvind Parmar, before winning 3-6 7-5 6-3.

Agassi was within a handful of points of defeat in the second set tie-breaker against Mardy Fish, before

winning 4-6 7-6 4-1 when his fellow American pulled out with a bad back.

It was a measure of revenge for Agassi's emotional loss to Fish in San Jose in February.

"I am just trying to get my game back to where I know it can be," the 34-year-old Agassi said, making an oblique answer to retirement speculation.

"I hope I can see my best tennis again. But you know only time will tell."

# MURANO

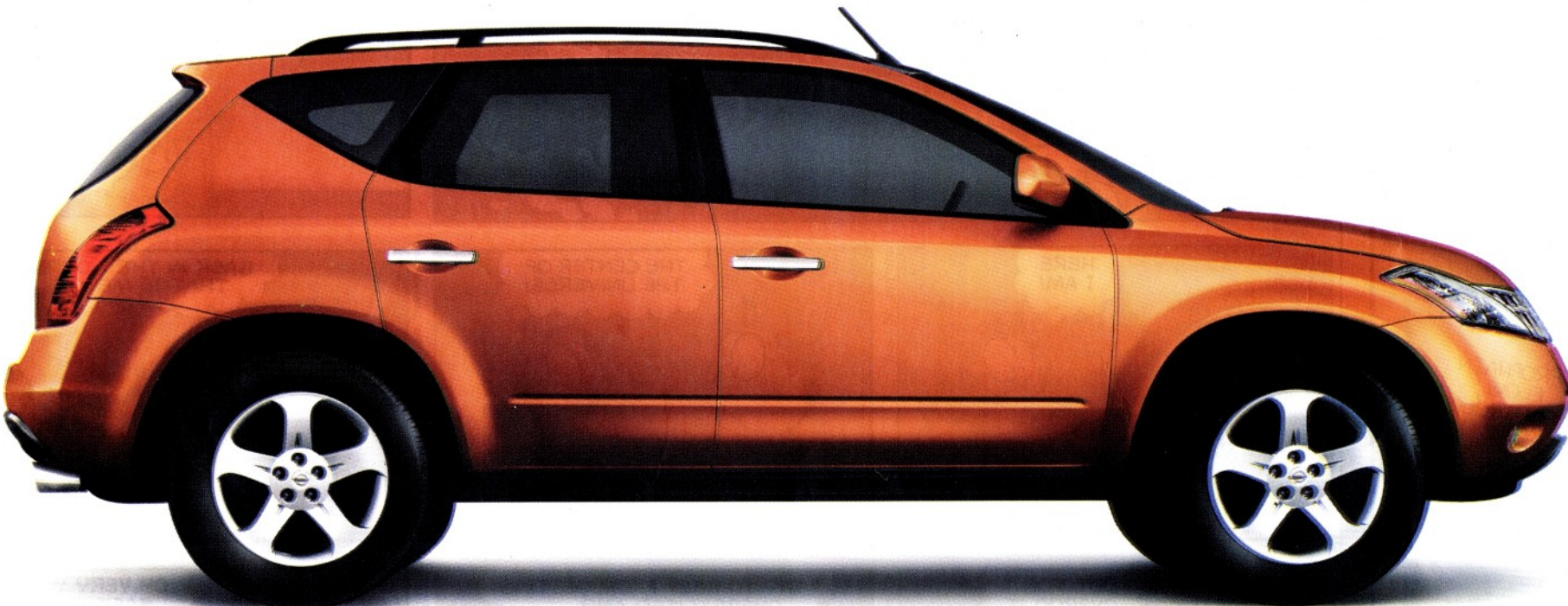
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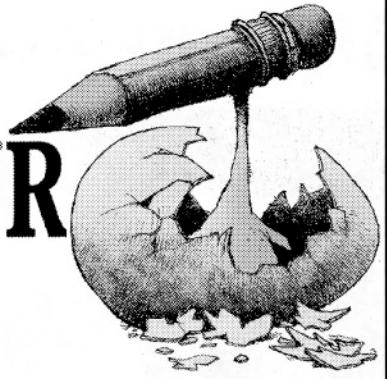
لقد أعطي مصممو نيسان مورانو الحرية الكاملة لرسم خطوط خارجية عصرية وطلبية، فلم يرتكز التصميم على الشكل الجميل وحسب بل جاءت مورانو عملية وأمنة إلى أبعد الحدود.. فمحرك السيارة ذو الاسطوانات الست وبسعة ٣,٥ لتر بقوة ٢٤٥ حصانا يوفر أكبر قدر ممكن من القوة والعزم مع إبقاء عامل استهلاك الوقود في حالته الدنيا.. وكل هذه القوة واكبتها جوانب السلامة فمع أكياس الهواء الجانبية والأمامية إضافة إلى الستائر الهوائية الأمامية والخلفية المدعومة بأحزمة أمان ستمتص الصدمات المباشرة. أما التجهيزات الداخلية للسيارة فقد بلغ إبداع مصممو نيسان حد الترف فمقصورتها الواسعة والعملية وكثافة الأماكن المخصصة للتوضيب وبالأخص في الخلف حيث أسهم نظام التعليق الذي يعتمد مبدأ الوصلات المتعددة في زيادة حجم مقصورة التحميل.. كل هذه التجهيزات ستقضي مضاجح السيارات المنافسة.. لقد وصلت نيسان مورانو... وبدون منافس

شركة تهامة التجارية



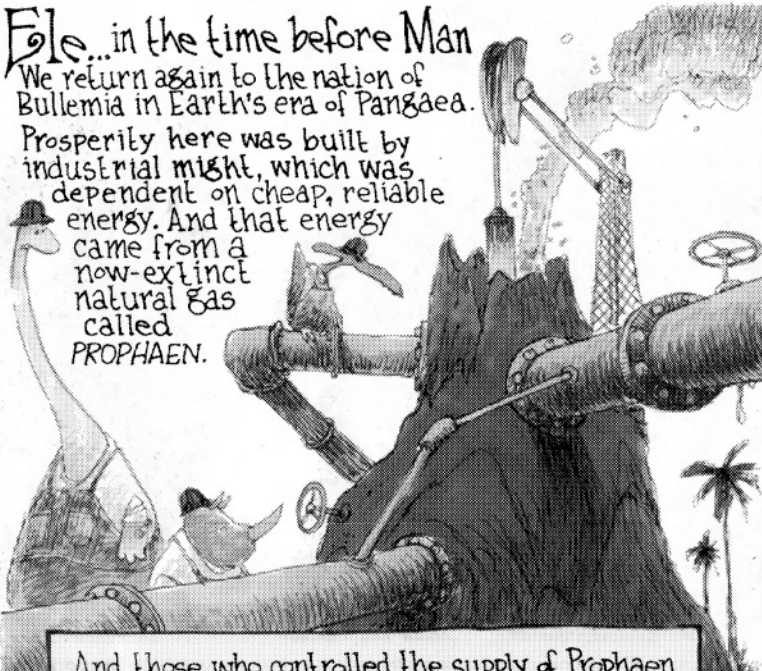
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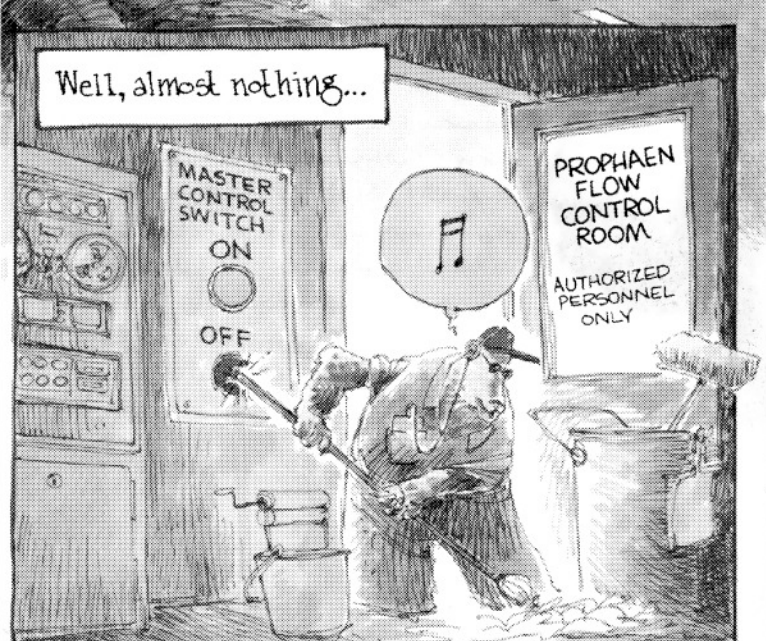
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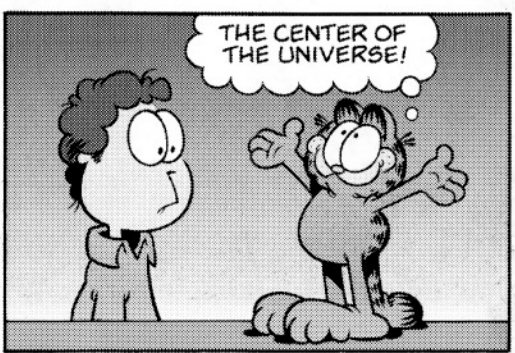
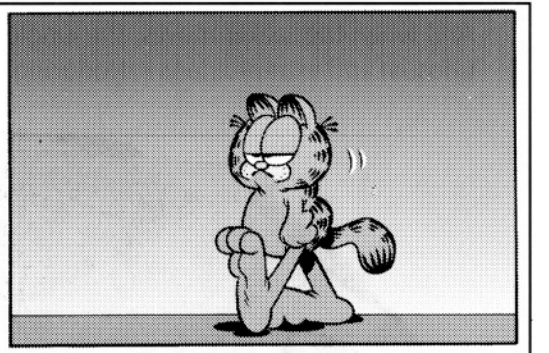
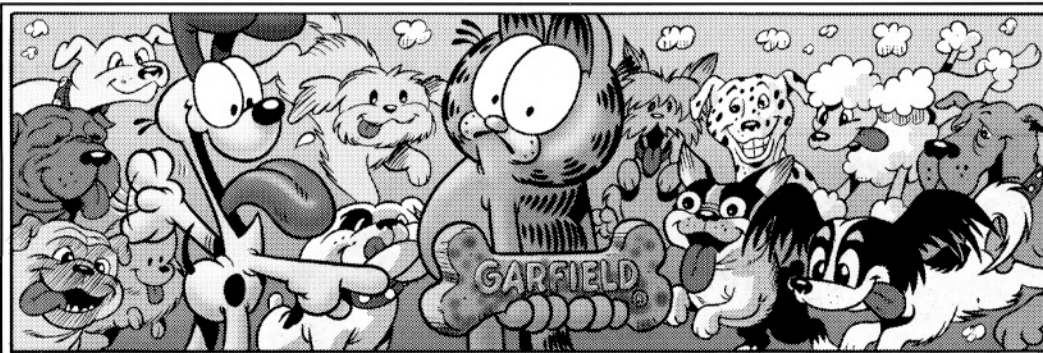
أقطع كوبون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بياناتك كاملة. (معهد الفاروق صنعاء - تلفاكس ٢١٣٧١١ شارع هائل المدخل الفرعي مقابل مجوهرات الجابري) \* آخر موعد لاستلام الاجابات هو يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia

- Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You may find it hard to contain your anger today. Don't get too emotional about matters that are out of your control. You will be far more effective if you bide your time.
- Taurus** (Apr 20 - May 20)  
You can raise your earning power today. Approach headhunters or agencies that deal in the type of work that you are interested in pursuing.
- Gemini** (May 21 - Jun 20)  
The conversations you get into today will lead to interesting prospects both personally and professionally. Travel will be in your best interest.
- Cancer** (Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
Watch how you handle your coworkers. A colleague may not have your best interests at heart. Take cover if someone tries to push you into a heated argument.
- Leo** (Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
You really owe it to yourself to get out and have some fun. Every once in a while it helps to appreciate who you are. Love will be highlighted today.
- Virgo** (Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
Someone may need your assistance today. An older relative may not know how to take care of important issues that are due for renewal. Do what you can.
- Libra** (Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Don't sit around waiting for someone to entertain you. Do something that will get your blood flowing. Exercise will help you avoid other aggravations that will crop up.
- Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
You can count on things going rather well where work is concerned. Take matters into your own hands to get things moving. Follow through with your creative plans.
- Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
Take on any competitive challenge that comes your way. You can and will be a tough candidate to beat. Romance will be accented today.
- Capricorn** (Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
Don't trust what others tell you today if you don't want to be disappointed. You may be left dangling should you leave things up to others to complete.
- Aquarius** (Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Although you may not always do what's best for you today, you should be able to make headway by following your heart. Let your past mistakes go.
- Pisces** (Feb 19-Mar 20)  
Your mind should be on your future and reaching your goals. You can make changes if you refuse to be defeated by a lack of confidence in yourself.



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## Iraqi Kurds return from Iran to uncertain future

Haj OMRAN, Iraq, Aug 3 (Reuters) - At a mountainous border crossing point between Iraq and Iran, Daoud Khuder waits to meet relatives he has not seen for 14 years since they fled the country to escape Saddam Hussein's army.

As the convoy bringing Iraqi Kurd refugees from Iran appears and Daoud catches sight of his brother's family, the emotion of the occasion becomes too much for the 62-year-old former Kurdish militia (peshmerga) fighter.

"My brother swore he wouldn't return until Saddam was finished — I never had the chance to see him again before he died in Iran," said Khuder, tears rolling down his cheeks as he embraced young nephews he had never met.

"I'm so happy they are back, but it also makes me sad because if they don't get money or help there will be problems."

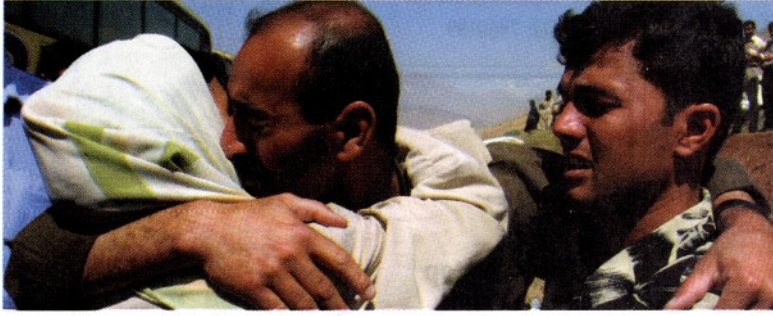
For the 32 Kurdish families returning to Iraq in the convoy — the second since

the programme was initiated by the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) following June's transfer of sovereignty — returning to their homeland brings mixed feelings.

"I wanted to come back because I never felt I could call Iran my home, but I'm apprehensive about our future — we have very little money," said Khuder's eldest nephew Dehil, a 32-year-old labourer.

Saddam is gone, but as Iraq's ethnic and religious communities jostle for power, the issue of Kurdish returnees has become politicised — and the international community does not want to be seen taking sides.

In years gone by, Iraqi Kurd returnees would have received money and other assistance to rebuild their lives. Now each family gets \$20, a kerosene stove, two water containers, some blankets, and a tent.



Rauf Mohamed (C), hugs his sister and family who have been separated since 1991, after he arrived from Iran with a refugee convoy of 143 Kurds who crossed the Haj OMRAN border post into Iraqi Kurdistan, in this picture taken on July 28.

They are provided with transport to the destination of their choice — but only if this is above the so-called "green line" separating Kurdish territory from the rest of Iraq.

### REFUGEE POLITICS

Thousands of Iraqi Kurds fled to neighbouring Iran to escape campaigns of persecution by the former government. Many returned during the 1990s but 61,000 are still there, according to Kurdish officials.

The UNHCR does not promote returns to Iraq because of continuing instability and the lack of services in the country. Kurds accuse the U.N. of dragging its feet on facilitating Kurdish returnees for political reasons.

Under the latest scheme, the UNHCR has agreed to organise voluntary repatriations for just 2,000 refugees over the next 6 months through the Haj OMRAN crossing-point.

"They told us this was just an experiment," said Shakir Yaseen, director of the Refugees Registration Committee.

"We said Kurdistan is becoming a big laboratory for experiments — first chemical weapons and now refugees."

Yaseen, whose organisation is funded by the local Kurdish government, complained that the small scale of the current scheme meant families were forced to return illegally — making it difficult to register them.

"They will cause us a lot of trouble because the numbers are so big," he said, adding there had been twice as many unofficial returns as official ones since the scheme started on June 15. "Our borders are open. People are just coming back anyway."

There is already a problem with internal refugees in Iraq's Kurdish zone — under Saddam's "Arabisation" policy thousands were displaced from strategically important areas like Kirkuk and their properties given to Arabs brought from the south.

Kurds have been trying to reverse this process by moving refugees back to Kirkuk to change the demographic structure of the oil-rich city — more than 100,000 Kurds now live in camps in and around Kirkuk.

Some families returning in the convoy from Iran said they were originally from Kirkuk and were coming back to take advantage of schemes funded by Kurdish political parties to resettle Kirkuk Kurds. "Kirkuk is Kurdish and it's our legitimate right to go back," said Bakir Ahmed, 53, who was forced to leave Kirkuk in 1988 along with his mother, father and four brothers.

Ahmed's family of seven has now increased to 25 members.

"We've been told our family will get



Men reload a truck with their life possessions after arriving with a refugee convoy of 143 Kurds from Iran, who crossed the Haj OMRAN border post into Iraqi Kurdistan, in this picture taken on July 28.



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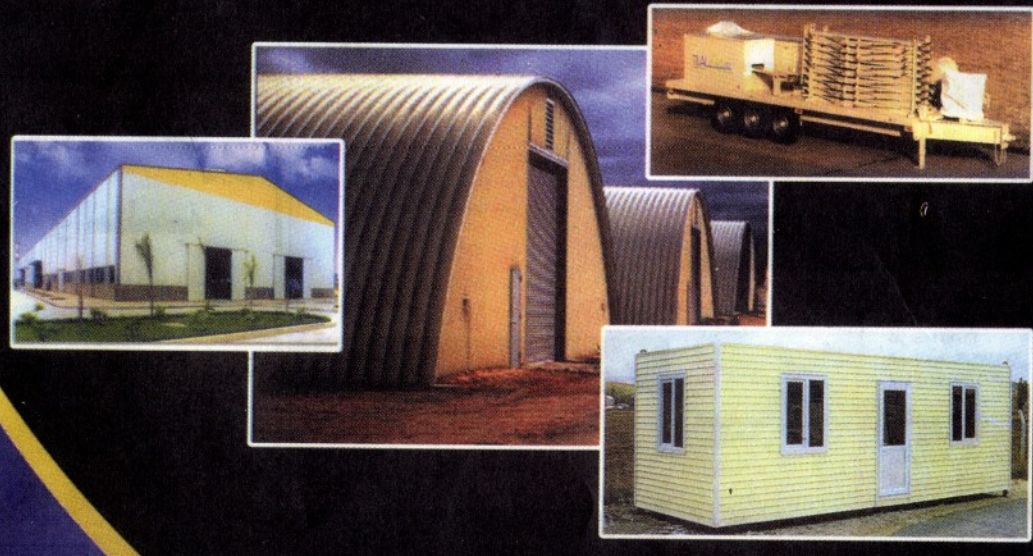
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