





Monday, 9 August 2004 • Issue No. 762 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi to Yemen Times: 'We want to share experiences with Yemen and the world"

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF MALAYSIA

His Excellency, the recently elected Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told the Yemen Times that Malaysia is willing to share experiences with Yemen and the rest of the world, especially the developing world. He asserted to the Editor of Yemen Times Walid Al-Saqqaf, during a meeting with participants at the Malaysian International Visitors Program in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, that Malaysia's means to develop the

country and make it progressive were no secret and that the country was willing to share it. "We are willing to share our experiences, not only with the Muslim countries, including Yemen, but also with others. Our system of running the country's affairs is based on law enforcement that preserves the rights of citizens while applying the law in a proper and adequate manner."

Malaysia: an example Concerning whether Malaysia can be an example for other countries, Mr. Badawi said that it could provide



Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

that for every country and also would ensure that it would take what is best suitable for its economy and development from Malaysia. "It is not a matter of copying our country's system, but rather of sharing and establishing common grounds for cooperation." he said. Among the positive attributes of Malaysia is, according to Mr. Badawi, "economic growth" which reached more than 7% in the first quarter of 2004. He attributed this substantial growth to the private sector. "The private sector is the driving engine of the economy." he affirmed. Continued on page 15



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Court bans journalists from attending tribunal Weak judge cripples progress in trial of 15 al-Qaeda suspects

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Criminal Court concerned with crimes of terrorism ordered that media should be banned from attending the 10th hearing of the tribunal of the 15 alleged suspects of al-Qaeda without giving any reason, while



advocates continued to boycott the tribunal. Members of the Media who went to

the court in the early morning were surprised to be told by court guards that they are banned from attending the hearing that was also boycotted by the advocates appointed by the court. Relatives of the suspects said that the hearing lasted for some minutes only as lawyers did not attend. The defendants were, as usual, indifferent to the judge court Ahmad al-Jermozi who looked very weak and failed to run the tribunal in a firm way. There was even talking inside the bar during the hearings. This forced the judge to adjourn the hearing until next Saturday while the prosecution again demanded that the tribunal hearings should be upheld for the final hearing.

The prosecution in the first hearing held May 29th charged the fifteen suspected terrorists, one still at large, with blowing up the French Oil Tanker in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several explosions in Sana'a, killing one soldier and plotting to blow up five



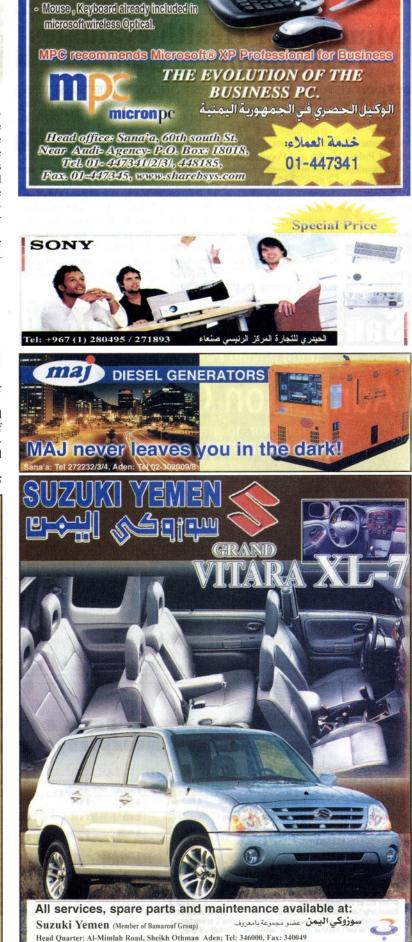
Judge Ahmed al-Jermozi (right) at the court panel

embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting to kill the then US ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull.

In its fifth hearing Saturday 19th June, the court banned journalists from attending the hearing. The journalists denounced the harassment and staged a protest to the office of the minister of Justice Dr. Adnan al-Jefri; they protested the discrimination between state-run and independent media. The minister

responded positively and told the journalists it was their right to attend the sessions, as the law does not make the hearings closed to the media. He ordered the court judge to let journalists in. However, when journalists returned to the court; they were let in, but the judge Ahamd al-Jemuzi said the hearings should not be published, except for the decisions taken by the court.

Continued on page 15



WHITE HOUSE STORES

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military operations

Government

declares end of

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ZIGO

Sheikh Al-Houthi's rebellion will be fully annihilated within 12 hours, also state forces have conquered all of the Mran area though there remain a few pockets of resistance in villages, said

na'a (441575/441571) Fax: 441579, E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye,

Army Chief of Staff Brigadier Mohammed Al-Qasimi.

He said there are a number of armed groups in the northeastern outskirts of Sa'ada, which have been given a warning to surrender, otherwise "they should expect an attack of similar ferocity."

Continued on page 15 FAGOR شركة زبين للتجارة والصناعة **Zubayen Trading & Industry Company** اختر لمنزلك من أفضل الصناعات الأسبانية Select the best of Spanish Products

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2 9 August, 2004

Local News



President orders release

"HOOD" came to know that Jamal Ali Salem al-Madari was released, in light of the President, Ali A. Saleh's instructions. The release came as a result of a letter to the President addressed by "Hood" on 25^{th} July 2004 protesting the arrests carried out to the above-named, Radfan Ali Salem al-Madari , Aref Ali Salem al-Madari and Fadhle Ali Mansoor, as hostages to pressure on the citizen Yasser Ali Salem al-Madari, to surrender himself.

On the one hand, "Hood" appreciates the response of the President and his instructions to releasing the detainee, meanwhile, it is hopefully anticipating to follow up the release with the release of the other detainees: Radfan Ali Salem al-Madari, Aref Ali Salem al-Madari and Fadhle Ali Mansoor. "HOOD" appreciates all the positive efforts to end all arrests which taken place by the security authorities, beyond the form of the constitution and law.

Yemeni-Lebanese agreements signed

At the end of the deliberation session held by both countries' prime ministers, a set of agreements and protocols were signed on July 28 between Yemen and Lebanon to boost mutual cooperation in the coming period.

In the press conference Lebanese Prime Minister said that the memorandums and agreements signed relate to cooperation in customs, finance, taxes, marine transportation and affairs, land transportation and health.

A hideous crime was committed

Wednesday August 4, in Wadi Alariq, a

suburb northeast of Taiz, when a man

detonated a hand grenade immediately

killing him and his wife and wounding

They also cover promotion of exports, agriculture and irrigation. He pointed out that the visit confirmed the similarities of the two countries' stances on the conditions in Iraq and Palestine

"It is necessary that UN resolutions regarding the Palestinian cause be applied. We call for the unity of the Iraqi nation, its stability and withdrawal of occupation forces from Iraq," he added.

GCC tourists invited to Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Interior announced last week that it made it easier for travelers for members of the Gulf Cooperation Council to come and visit Yemen.

Tourists from the GCC are now allowed to enter the country without a visa or any other permit. They are also exempted from paying a \$60 fee at the airport, and the Ministry of Interior was quoted as saying GCC nationals can enter Yemen "just like Yemeni citizens without any pass.'

The GCC countries include Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Last month, the Yemeni government

made a decision to encourage tourists to visit Yemen by allowing travelers from 30 countries to receive a visa at the airport and other points of entry. Previously, the tourists had to get a visa from a Yemeni embassy abroad and join a tour group or come for business.

"This latest decision by the government is a very good step to help attract

more tourists and create growth in the tourism sector," said Taha Al-Mahbashi, Executive Director of the Tourism Promotion Board. "It will be easy to attract people from the Gulf countries, especially during the summer since Yemen has the best weather in the Gulf region and there are many places to visit. This will also encourage the private sector to go to the GCC countries and draw tourists to come to Yemen."

The Ministry of Interior is also working towards eliminating tourists having to get permission to travel outside the capital and having to be escorted to visit a number of areas across the country. According to Al-Mahbashi, the government will make it easier for tourists to travel in the country within the next couple of weeks.

According to Al-Mahbashi, the government is committed to implement important changes to assist Yemen's tourism industry, which has suffering since the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. The fighting in the north of Yemen between government

forces and armed supporters of the Muslim cleric Hussein Al-Houthi has also had a negative effect on the number of tourists deciding on coming to visit the country.

According to the Tourism Promotion Board, even though there have been setbacks, over 80,000 tourists came to Yemen in the first half of this year. In 2003, Yemen took in a little over 150,000 tourists

Another obstacle is travel warnings about Yemen issued from a number of other countries. Last month, the government of Great Britain lifted its warning on British citizens wanting to travel to Yemen. Whilst last week, the US State Department dropped its danger warning for Americans traveling to Jordan. The US government continued its travel warning for American citizens traveling to Yemen, recommending them to consider the risks of visiting Yemen.

The US travel warning also included Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Libya, Indonesia, Somalia, Algeria, Sudan and Iran.

2004 on occasion of operating Yemenia's

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question: Do you think al-Houthi's insurgency has come to its end? Yes, I think it has almost come to its end No, it has not I don't have a definite answer last edition's question: Would the ongoing negotiations

settle the conflict between the government and Al-Houthi on the fixed period of time? No, it may need more time

| | | 66% |
|---|--------------------|-----|
| • | I'm not quite sure | 23% |
| • | Yes, they would | 11% |
| | | |

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

Capt. Abdul Khaleq Al-Qadhi

Chairman of the

Abdul-

Yemenia flies to Bangladesh **Course for school** A celebration took Yemenia حوالي اليمنية

laboratory keepers kicks off

A course was started on Monday, Saioon city, August 2nd, in Hadramout, to train the laboratory keepers of Saioon, Tarim, and Al-Qatn areas.

Some 35 participants from basic and secondary schools took part in the course, which aims at giving information on laboratory safety, storage and the preservation of live animal and plant samples. This is alongside instruction in the duties of a laboratory

keeper including the preparation of solutions, making use of the local environment, and operating devices for physics experiments.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Junaid, deputy governor for valley and desert affairs, pointed out, at the opening the significance of such courses, which will be reflected in the educational conditions at schools, increase the knowledge of laboratory keepers, and raise the quality of experiments carried out by students.

Water recourses of Sana'a to be finished by 2008

BY ARMIN GRAF FOR YEMEN TIMES

Austria is supporting the Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation because of this fact.

Thru the Ministry of Water and Sanitation Vienna, a delegation of 10 Austrian Experts where examining the situation at the Sana'a Waste Water

Sana'a Waste Water Treatment Plant

to the foreign - local Joint Venture. AMRO Industrieanlagenabu GmbH www.amroind.at Austria Al Towaity NCEC www.towaity.com.ye Yemen.

Through this step, now the Austrian leading Contractor in the field of Water and Wastewater has been selected to solve the rising Water Problems of the Sana'a City.

new route to (Dakka-Bengladesh) where the Yemenia Air Bus will flew for Dakka on the second flight, after the first flight had gone last Sunday.

This route is being functioned within the framework of the company's plan, which aims to expanding its operational network, looking for more sources of income, as well as offering distinguished services for passengers. Dakka is the fifth station in East Asia where Yemenia reaches to.

Board of Yemen Airways, said that the company have clearly decided to operate the destination to Dakka, after having conducted comprehensive studies of the routes economical potential, which were performed by the concerned department of Yemenia. He added, "The operation of this route assures the company's commitment towards further possible expan sion and covering as many areas as pos-The operation of this route will be car-

ried out Sunday and Friday of each week

Olympic Committee General Assembly holds its meeting

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Friday the 6th Aug.

The Common Association of the Olympic Committee held on Sunday 2 August its 2nd annual meeting at the Olympic Center headed by Mr. Abdualrahman AL-Akwa'a, the minister for Youth & Sport and the head of the Olympic Committee.

The Common Association members started their meeting by honoring Mr. Mutahar AL-Ashmori, a prominent sport writer, and awarded him the International Olympic Committee Prize "Sport& Media 2004".

istry's intention to keep on honoring the pioneers and distinguished people who had given much and served the sport in all fields with humble facilities

retary of the Olympic Committee, in a statement to Yemen Times said, "The today's meeting is to evaluate what has been accomplished in the mid-term of the last year. For which we have submitted a detailed report about the activities completed since the first meeting, as well as discussing the large events and foreign attendance. For example today we are going to discuss our par-

Hussein AL-Ahgari, the general-sec-

Al-Akwa'a, confirmed the min- ticipation in the Arab Round in Algeria. The Staff of the Universal Group would like to congratulate Waleed Yaseen Abdulrab Thabet the son of our long time employee

The man was on the police wanted list for killing another man from that area one year ago for which he had escaped arrest. However, he was recently reported to be present in the Wadi Al-Ariq area and an obligatory seriously.

Suiciding man kills his wife

Ministry of Health evaluates vaccination activities

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

four Taiz policemen.

Under the patronage of Mr. Mohammed Yahya AL-Nemi, the minister of Public Health and Population, a 3- day workshop was held to discuss the first evaluation of care and vaccination, as well as preparation to implement the activities of the second-term of 2004.

A host number from different health branches in various governorates as well as from international and local organizations attended the opening ceremony

Majed Al-Juniad, the deputy of the

arrest warrant was issued by the Attorney General to bring him before court. After having arrived in the area to

arrest him the Police besieged his home, but he contrived to dress in a woman's gown and sneak out with his wife, but, with the policemen tried to catch him, he detonated the grenade that killed him and his wife, and injured four policemen, two of them

Health ministry, told the Yemen Times

"Today is an evaluation meeting for the

first stage of activities of rapid vaccina-

tion in the selected governorates.

Planning for the second stage is com-

pletely based on the evaluation of the

previous one. We are going to focus on

the accomplishments of the first stage, and identify the strong and weak points

that we can benefit from and avoid in

the next period. The meeting also

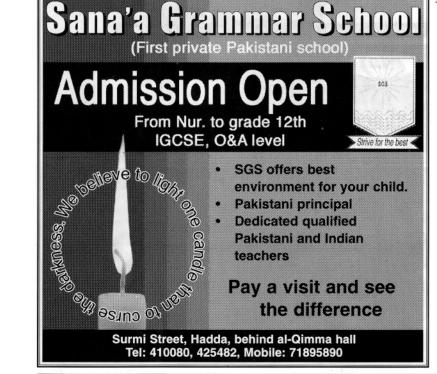
focused on the planning for economic

activities of the first-aid medical servic-

es so as to concentrate on vaccination

activities. This activity is expanded in

the beginning of this year."



Treatment Plant.

Two experts will be shortly sent from the Austrian Government. First Contract awarded to Austrian

Experts:

Water The Sana'a and Sanitation Local Corporation, Ministry of Environment and Water has awarded the first Phase of the Upgrade of the

420 medical establishments shut down

The Sana'a health office has closed down some 420 medical facilities in the campaign searching for private medical establishments, centers and pharmacies as well as those flouting regulations and technical standards.

The establishments have been completely or partially closed.

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As known, Austria is the worldwide most about the environment caring Country through the support of the Vienna Ministry, and the Austrian Contractor AMRO

Industrieanlagenbau GmbH, a good progress on the Water management in Sana'a, in near future can be expected.

Inauguration of Coastal **Protectorates** management

In Mukalla, the inauguration of training program on the management of coastal protectorates took place on Sat. 31st July 2004, in Bir Ali, Broom, Shermah, Guthmoonm. Both of the governorates, of Hadhramout and Shabwah were represented at the inauguration. The program was organized by the Management of the Land and Coastal Protectorates Project, of General Authority for Environment Protection. Participants included 47 persons representing related authorities in addition to the Local Authorities in these areas. During this three day program, the participants received a number of lectures on the vital, economic and social perspectives, as well as on legal and environmental awareness. The program comes within the framework of the Land and Coastal Protectorates Project, that aims at providing the authorities concerned in the protected areas with the information and scientific knowledge to participate in the sustainable management of these protectorates.

Yaseen Abdulrab

Manager of our Airport office on his son's recent marriage. We wish him and his bride much happiness in the future. Universal Staff

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Community

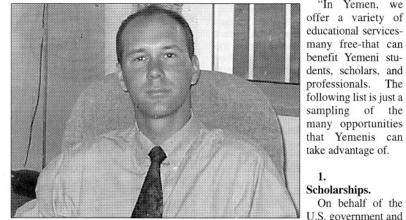
3 9 August, 2004

AMIDEAST, Much More than a Language Institute

MIDEAST'S in Sana'a and Aden are already wellknown in Yemen for providing high-quality English language training. Our graduates go on to successful careers in business, are able to obtain the high TOEFL sources needed for international scholarships as well as the EL Teachers of Yemen's future.

Also well known is that AMIDEAST is the official and only TOEFL test center in Yemen. Our two offices are licensed and certified by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the maker of the TOEFL test. You can only take the real TOEFL test or the ITP TOEFL TEST at AMIDEAST...nowhere else! In addition to the TOEFL test AMIDEAST administers several other official tests which are needed for professional certification or study at universities in the United States and many other locales. These tests include the TOEIC, GRE, SAT, GMAT, and CLEP.

According to Edward Prados, Director of AMIDEAST's Aden branch, AMIDEAST's activities have expanded tremendously in the past year. Mr. Prados says, "AMIDEAST is much more than an English language institute and official testing center. AMIDEAST is an international, non-profit organization established in 1951 to help promote understanding between Arabs and Americans. We accomplish our mission through educational, training and development assistance programs. We have



Edward Prados, Director of AMIDEAST's Aden branch

offices in eleven countries in the Middle East and North Africa - including the West Bank and Gaza, and our offices are operated by teams of Arabs and

Americans working together in partnership. In Yemen. AMIDEAST have been operating since 1981 almost 25 years, which is longer than almost any other NGO or language institute in the

Scholarships. On behalf of the U.S. government and other donors, AMIDEAST administers and announces a variety of scholar-

ships for Yemeni students and scholars from the high school to the post-doctoral levels. These scholarships are open to

"In Yemen, we Fulbright grants available for scholars offer a variety of who wish to teach or research in the U.S.

English Language Scholarships

A strong command of the English language is an essential prerequisite for many of these scholarship programs. Unfortunately, some find tuition fees for high-quality training too expensive. The good news is that AMIDEAST offers a variety of funded scholarships for locally-enrolled students who are unable to pay for full tuition themselves. These scholarships include EL training for professional women (Royal Netherlands Embassy), EL training for needy secondary school students (U.S. Embassy), and EL training for recent law graduates (Law Offices of Sheikh Tariq Abdullah).

2. Training Programs

AMIDEAST offers local and U.S.based training programs for everyone from students to experienced professionals. All of these programs are com-

petitive in nature and require an application process and personal interview.

Internships

AMIDEAST gives students enrolled in its EL program the chance to gain valuable work experience real-world and English practice in a variety of fields, including reception duties, administrative work, lab. supervi-

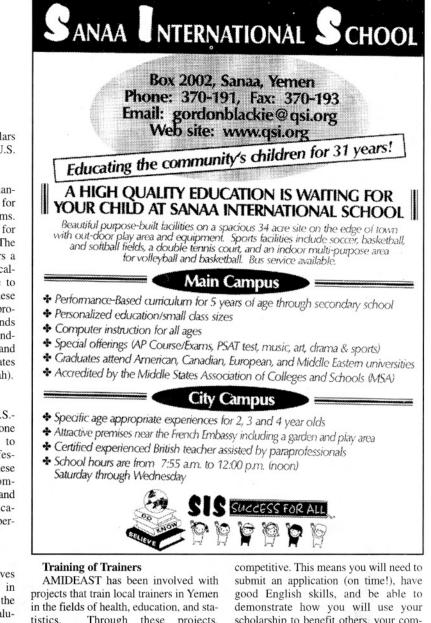
sion and tutoring.

Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women

This program, which is funded by the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative, is funding over forty women from throughout the Middle East to participate in MBA-level academic training and work in an internship with a major US company for three months. Candidates should have a degree in business or any undergraduate degree with a minimum of three years' work experience. Participants will gain valuable experience and knowledge and all relevant program expenses are paid for by the U.S. Government.

Middle East Entrepreneur training in the U.S. (MEET U.S.)

This program offers participants shortterm training and internships in the U.S. Participants in this program should be more senior-level professionals with 5 to 20 years of experience in business and demonstrate entrepreneurial capacity. All programs related expenses are cov-



Through these projects, AMIDEAST has trained over 800 trainers, who in turn have trained thousands of Yemenis to help with their nation's development and population capacity building. According to Mr. Prados, "These

scholarships, training, and development assistance programs are just some of the resources that AMIDEAST offers to qualified Yemenis. Many of these programs are free...but that doesn't mean that you don't need to work to get them. In fact, because they are free, they are scholarship to benefit others, your community or company, and your country."

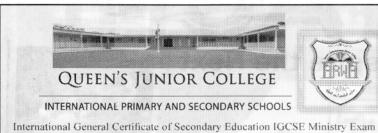
"Although I am leaving shortly to continue higher studies in the U.S. I am sure that our new director, Mr. Frank Underhill, will continue and expand our activities in Aden. Mr. Underhill has a doctorate in Education and has lived and worked in Yemen before. He is looking forward to returning and helping AMIDEAST in its mission of administering scholarships and exchange programs, and providing high-quality English language training for citizens of Yemen.



▶◀



Dr. Nabil Al-Khouri, the Charge d' affairs at the American Embassy hands over scholarship during his visit to AmidEast, Aden



Dr. Nabil Al-Khouri gives a brief account about AmidEast

everyone who has the proper qualifications, in fact, many of the scholarships programs actually look for people who might not have the same opportunities as those who live in the major cities. Among the scholarships offered are :

Youth Exchange and Studies (YES)

This program enables secondary students between the ages of 15 and 17 to study for one full academic year in the United States. All expenses are paid for and students receive a monthly stipend as well. Students return with excellent English skills and self-confidence.

Partners for Learning Undergraduate Studies (PLUS) Scholarship

This grant enables college students to spend the last two years of university study in the United States. Eligible students are those who are studying in the faculties of arts and education. They complete bachelor degrees in the United States and the program also funds up to six months of English study in the U.S.

Year 11 (IGCSE) Ministry Exams for Year 12 Preparation for TOEFL in Year 11 & 12 six from college for A'levels (2 Year Study). in addition to Arabic 10 - 12 section.

The College Where Children are Groomed

Website: www.queenscollege.edu.ye / E-mail: Info@queenscollege.edu.ye Sana'a, Fajj Attan, Near Arwa University, Assetteen Al-Janoubi Street. Tel: 00 967 1 444 269, Fax: 00 967 1 444 268, P.O.Box: 11586, Sana'a Yemen.

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for students who need to work on their language skills.

Canadian Nexen Scholarship

This program funds up to ten Yemeni students to earn an undergraduate university degree in petroleum related fields in Canada

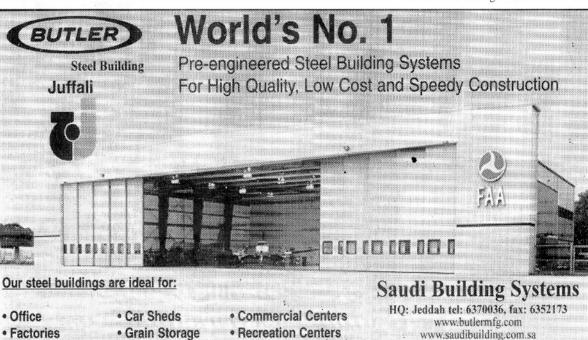
Fulbright Scholarship

Sana'a Office: tel: 275336, fax: 271638

www.yementrading.com

email: sales@yementrading.com

The Fulbright student scholarship enables Yemeni university graduates to obtain a Master's Degree in the U.S. It fully funds up to two years of study and includes allowances for transportation, books and living. There are also



Showrooms

Warehouses

ered by the U.S. Government 3. Development Assistance and

Technical Training.

AMIDEAST has supported and implemented a number of development assistance and technical training programs. A sample of these programs includes :

E-Learning Project

With a grant from the U.S. government, AMIDEAST has implemented the establishment of ten Internet classrooms - five in Aden and five in Sana'a. Each classroom is equipped with ten networked computers, a server, laser printer, and multimedia projector and offers students enrolled in government schools the chance to access the Internet and the limitless resources that it offers for research and study. Schools equipped with elearning classrooms will also build partnerships and bridges with schools in the United States, offering their students the chance to work on their English and develop new cross-cultural friendships.

Community Colleges

As part of a World Bank project, AMIDEAST helped with the establishment of two community colleges - one each in Sana'a and Aden. AMIDEAST provided EL training for future community teachers, helped administer their USbased training, and fielded American consultants to work on curriculum design for the colleges. AMIDEAST continues to help support the colleges in a number of ways, including book donations and the joint coordination of a U.S.-Government funded in English language teacher and fellow.

Year 11 (IGCSE) Ministry Exams for Year 12 Preparation for TOFEL in Year 11&12 Six from **College for A'levels (2 Year Study)** ▶◀ ▶◀ ▶ ◀

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Turkish International Schools' student Nour Ali Shaban & Marwan Sami Zaid represented Yemen at the 2nd International Computer Project Olympiad & won Bronze Medals. The 2nd 'ICPO' in Turkmenistan was a great success with the participation of 46 projects from 29 countries during the five

day event (25th- 29th April)

4 9 August, 2004

Community



Political parties vs women

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Amat AL-Aleem Al-Soswa, the minister of Human Rights, the Sisters' Arab (SAF) organized on Thursday 5th August the first democratic forum about Women and Political Parties, that took place at Sana'a International Hotel.

Ms. Amat AL-Aleem delivered a speech in which she firstly congratulated SAF for choosing such a sensitive topic that would help to vividly crystallize the position of women in the agenda of political parties and aid its reality. "It is considered that political parties' support for the participation of women in political life, is one of the basic human rights and terms of public freedom. We, in Yemen, live in a particularly democratic atmosphere. However, the political parties have unfortunately not responded to the repeated calls for allocating a percentage of their nominations to female candidates. This consequently supports the negative idea that Yemeni women haven't succeeded and are not qualified."

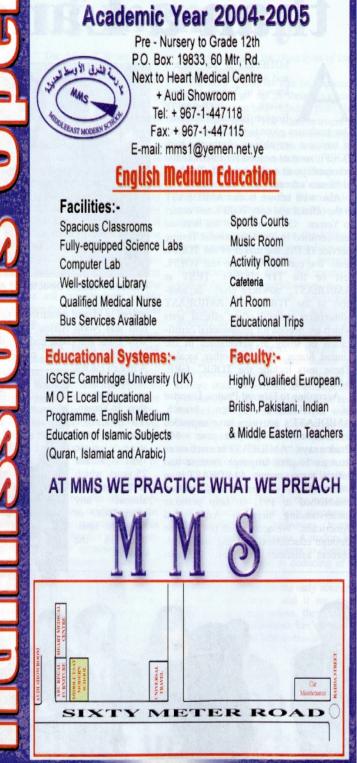
Amat AL-Aleem further said "All the parties' programs call for a positive, effective and understanding atmosphere for female participation in democratic nation building. However, most of the parties, if not all, show the opposite, and strongly stress that policy is confined to men. The results of the last parliamentary elections are a proof that women have no place in parties agendas"

Al-Soswa concluded "Everyone has to realize that Yemen cannot achieve progress unless political participation is expanded to include all citizens without segregation. We should work together to eliminate the gap between men and women to fulfill the desired development. Depriving and marginalizing the role of women will negatively affect political life generally, and democracy in particular."

Ms. Amal AL-Basha, the head of SAF, on the other hand, delivered a welcoming speech in which she said "As a matter of fact our topic today is within a program of empowering women politically, in the Gulf states and Arabia Felix. Woman and Political parties are our topic, through which we will highlight the importance of the political parties as a means of change. We will try to open a door for dialogue. Together, we want to review the role of those parties and their effectiveness, as well as the relationship those parties have with women. A close and objective observation of the current situation of Yemeni parties since the beginning, makes us realize that they have failed to attract women to organizing political work and they have only use them as chess pieces."

Members from the parliament and the Shura Council, along with a number of diverse political parties, attended the first democratic forum.





MIDDLE EAST MODERN SCHOOL







Arab / Middle East

5

Fighting rages for third day in Iraqi holy city

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 7 (Reuters) - U.S. marines battled Shi'ite militiamen in the holy city of Najaf for a third day on Saturday as the death toll mounted in the worst bout of fighting in Iraq in four months.

The U.S. military says it has killed some 300 enemy fighters in the fighting, while statements on Friday said two U.S. marines were killed in action in Najaf and one soldier died of an attack in Baghdad.

The fresh fighting marks a major challenge for U.S.-backed Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and has destroyed a two-month-old ceasefire between U.S. forces and the Mehdi Army, a militia loyal to radical Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Allawi was set to announce later on Saturday a series of measures aimed at containing the insurgency raging since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

The handover of power to Allawi's interim administration in June has failed to ease the wave of bombings, kidnappings and attacks against Iraqi and U.S. forces. The latest upsurge of violence also throws into doubt a conference set for August 15 to choose a 100-member National Council to act as parliament.

Residents in Najaf said the combatants exchanged machinegun fire, shells and mortars into the early hours of Saturday. There was a lull for several hours but then fierce fighting erupted again around midday, residents said.

Hundreds of Mehdi militiamen roamed the streets around the city's holy shrines, ignoring an ultimatum by the U.S.-appointed governor to quit Najaf by the evening.

Shops and businesses remained closed as residents stayed indoors. Some of the few who ventured out were clearing rubble of badly damaged shops and buildings.

Hundreds of casualties

The U.S. marines said on Friday they had killed 300 fighters of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in two days of fighting in Najaf. But a militia spokesman said only



Iraqi Shi'ite militiamen watch area during fighting in Holy city of Najaf Iraqi Shi'ite militiamen watch for U.S. Marines and Iraqi security forces in the Holy city of Najaf August 7. U.S. Marines said Friday they had killed 300 fighters loyal to a firebrand Iraqi Shi'ite cleric in fierce clashes that pose a stern test for an interim government struggling to stamp its authority over the country. REUTERS

36 militiamen had died in several Iraqi cities from clashes that have fuelled fears of a new rebellion of radical Shi'ites.

A Health Ministry official said 35 people had been killed and 180 wounded in fighting in mainly Shi'ite districts of Baghdad since Thursday. He said eight more were killed and 18 wounded in the southern city of Nassiriya and one person died and two were wounded in the nearby town of Amara.

But the official could not give casualty figures from Najaf.

"We don't have accurate figures of the total dead or wounded from Najaf because ambulances are being attacked or seized," he said without giving further details.

Much of the fighting has taken place around the mausoleums and small caves of Najaf's ancient Shi'ite cemetery, the largest in the Arab world and a popular sanctuary for Mehdi fighters.

In Baghdad, insurgents fired projectiles at hotels used by foreigners and a number of government buildings. The missiles missed their targets and hit civilian headquarters. At least two Iraqi civilians were wounded.

Tension had been rising in Najaf since Iraqi security forces surrounded Sadr's house earlier this week.

But U.S. officials said fighting escalated when marines came to the aid of badly outgunned Iraqi police who were attacked by insurgents wielding heavy weapons early on Thursday.

Truce with Italians

British and Italian troops have also fought the Mehdi militia across Shi'itedominated southern Iraq — in Basra, Amara and Nassiriya — while fighting has raged in Sadr City and Shoula, two Shi'ite districts of Baghdad.

Ettore Sarli, spokesman for the Italians in Nassiriya, said al Rumayad asked Italian troops to move behind their lines to allow the Sadr militants to leave the city.

Sarli told Reuters by telephone: "At

the moment we are waiting for the militants to respect the accord, seeing as how it was them who requested it."

The flare-up of tension with radical members of Iraq's majority community comes after Shi'ite militants rose up across south and central Iraq in April and May with hundreds of Iraqis and dozens of U.S. troops killed.

Yet Sadr, a young cleric with an ardent following among poor, disaffected youths, appeared keen to stop the latest fighting. Via another spokesman in Baghdad, he called for a resumption of a truce struck in June.

While Sadr may be popular with frustrated young Shi'ites, many of Iraq's mainstream community follow Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most influential Shi'ite cleric in Iraq who has carefully and quietly tried to keep a lid on Sadr's agitating.

Sistani, a 73-year-old Iranian-born cleric, flew to London on Friday for treatment for a heart problem. His condition was not immediately clear.

Two Palestinian ministers say resigned amid unrest

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Aug 7 (Reuters) - Two Palestinian cabinet ministers have tendered their resignations, political sources said on Saturday, in a new blow to a government beset by militants demanding reform in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I have reached a point where I can do nothing amid all this ongoing chaos and unrest.

Unfortunately, the situation is deteriorating by the day,"Justice Minister Nahed Al-Reyes told Reuters, saying he tendered his resignation on Wednesday and was awaiting confirmation from Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie.

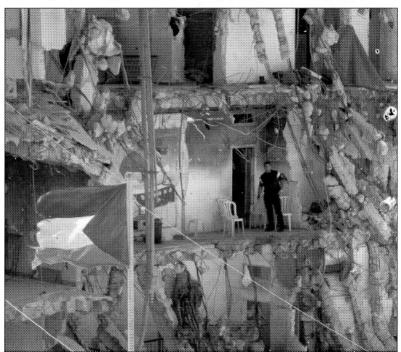
Senior Palestinian political sources

said Planning Minister Nabil Qasis had also resigned after accepting an offer to become president of a West Bank university.

Qasis and Qurie did not immediately comment.

Palestinian areas have been rocked by upheaval in the past few weeks, including kidnappings, street protests and gun battles between militants and security forces — the gravest internal challenge yet to President Yasser Arafat and Qurie.

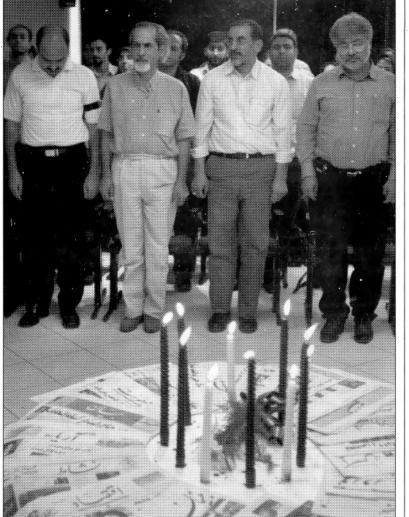
The Palestinian leadership is under intense international pressure to clean up corruption and reform its security apparatus, which it accuses Israel of destroying during four years of conflict.



Palestinian security officers guard destroyed part of Palestinian President Arafat's compound in Ramallah Palestinian security officers guard destroyed part of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah August 7. Two Palestinian cabinet ministers have tendered their resignations, political sources said on Saturday, in a new blow to a government beset by militants demanding reform in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. REUTERS

Iran reporters mourn closed reformist newspapers

TEHRAN, Aug 7 (Reuters) - Some 150 Iranian journalists, some wearing black armbands, attended a mourning ceremony on Saturday for reformist newspapers closed in a press crackdown by the hardline judiciary. Copies of closed-down newspapers were laid out on a table, surrounded



Iraq shuts al-Jazeera Baghdad office for a month

BAGHDAD, Aug 7 (Reuters) -Iraq's interim government ordered Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite television network to close its Baghdad office for one month on Saturday, a move criticised as unjustifiable by the channel.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, confirming the decision at a news conferNaqib said this week that Arabic satellite channels were encouraging kidnappings by showing images of hostages threatened with executions. Another government official at the press conference said the station had "encouraged criminals and gangsters" in Iraq.

Al Jazeera's Ballout denied the charge.

group linked to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi saying it had released two Turkish drivers because their company agreed to stop working in Iraq.

Scores of hostages from two dozen countries have been seized in the past four months.

Most have been freed but at least 10

by black candles. Two liberal dailies and a monthly magazine were shut by the judiciary last month.

"I send my condolences that pens do not enjoy safety in our country," leading academic dissident Hashem Aghajari told the reporters who had gathered on Iran's "Journalists' Day". A freer press was one of the main achievements of moderate President Mohammad Khatami after he came to office in 1997, but more than 100 publications have now been banned and many writers jailed for "spreading lies" and "acting against state security".

There is now little left to show for Khatami's efforts after hardliners took over parliament in May and began to unravel his reforms, particularly on economic liberalisation. "Is not the closure of more than 100 publications enough?" read one banner.

The meeting room was decked with photographs of Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi who died in detention in Iran last year, and of imprisoned journalists Abbas Abdi and Akbar Ganji.

Abdi was jailed for publishing a poll suggesting that three-quarters of Iranians favoured patching up relations with the United States.

"Today is meant to be a day for journalists to celebrate, but when we have pressure on the media, colleagues in jail and periodicals are banned ... it is not a day to celebrate. It is a day to mourn," said journalist Zhila Bani-Yakoub.

Issa Saharkhiz, head of the

Iranian journalists stand up in silence in infront of candles lit next to copies of banned Iranian reformist newspapers during a ceremony in Tehran August 7. Some 150 Iranian journalists, some wearing black armbands, attended the mourning ceremony on Saturday for reformist newspapers closed in a press crackdown by the hardline judiciary. REUTERS

Association for Press Freedom, said attention also needed to be given to the non-print media that were under attack, such as Rouydad, the Web site affiliated to Iran's main reformist party.

"From now on we have to remain accountable to Internet-based journal-

ists in addition to print," he said. Iran authorities regularly block Web sites they regard as spreading political and social messages that oppose the strict moral codes of the Islamic Republic.

Internet use is widespread in Iran and is the preferred forum for voices of dissent. ence, said a commission had been monitoring Al Jazeera for the past four weeks to see whether it was inciting violence and hatred, and that the decision had been taken "to protect the people of Iraq".

"It's regrettable and we believe it's not justifiable," Al Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said. "This latest decision runs contrary to all the promises made by Iraqi authorities concerning freedom of expression and freedom of the press."

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-

"We are not a political organisation that is for or against anybody.

We display what happens on the ground as objectively as possible and in a balanced way," he said. Ballout said the television would continue to cover events in Iraq despite the closure.

"I'm not going to say it will be easy, but again a creative journalist will try to get a comprehensive and balanced story out there," he said. Earlier this week, the station reported a videotaped statement from a militant

have been killed, and at least 20 are still being held in Iraq.

Last month, Al Jazeera, accused by the United States of graphic and anti-American conflict coverage, unveiled a code of ethics it said would ensure balanced and sensitive reporting.

Jazeera won over millions of rab viewers before and during the U.S.-led war on Afghanistan in 2001 after airing exclusive footage of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden following the September 11, 2001, attacks on U.S. cities.



Correspondent of AI Jazeera satellite television network watches television as Iraq's PM announces closure of AI Jazeera office in Baghdad Atwar Behjat, a correspondent of Qatar-based AI Jazeera satellite television network, watches on television Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's live announcement that the station's bureau in a Baghdad hotel will be closed for one month August 7. Iraq's interim government ordered Qatar-based AI Jazeera satellite television network to close its Baghdad office for one month on Saturday, a move criticized as unjustifiable by the channel. REUTERS

Asia / Africa





port city kills two



Pakistani police investigate the site of a car bomb explosion in Karachi Pakistani police investigate the site of a car bomb explosion in Karachi August 7. A bomb exploded in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on Saturday, killing two people and wounding three others, police said, REUTERS

KARACHI, Aug 7 (Reuters) - A time bomb exploded in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on Saturday, killing two people and wounding three, police said. The 3-kg (6.6-lb) bomb blew up outside a car rental shop in an affluent southern neighbourhood, a Karachi police spokesman said. "We are trying to determine the motive behind the bombing.'

The explosion, which occurred at around 6:30 a.m. gouged a 2-ft (0.6-meter) deep crater in the pavement and damaged three cars, wit-

nesses said.

Police and paramilitary rangers by building, said he was cordoned off the site, they said. All the victims worked at the car rental shop which counts government officials among its customers, shop owner Mohammed Akram said.

All three wounded were in serious condition, doctors said.

"I lost control of my car and hit another vehicle because of the explosion," said Mohammed Nasir, an engineer who was driving to his office.

Abdul Karim, who lives in a nearoffering morning prayers when he heard the "deafening blast".

"I became almost deaf for a few moments," he said. "The explosion smashed windows in my flat.'

A spate of terror attacks has rocked Karachi, a teeming city of more than 14 million people, since Pakistan joined the U.S.-led war on terrorism in 2001.

Police blame Islamic extremists and al Qaeda-linked militants for most of the attacks.

Bomb blast in Pakistani Taliban fighters kill two **Afghan election workers**

KABUL, Aug 7 (Reuters) - A band of Taliban fighters attacked a small convoy of election workers in central Uruzgan province, killing at least two people, officials said on Saturday.

Uruzgan Governor Jan Mohammad Khan told Reuters the Taliban attacked the election workers Friday evening as they left Charchino district to register voters at another district.

"A group comprising at least 70 to 80 Taliban attacked their four vehicles, killing two registration team officers."

Afghan forces hunted for the assailants in the rugged mountains, but no arrest have been made so far, he said.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack in Uruzgan, around 350 km (210 miles) southwest of Kabul.

Roozi Khan, Uruzgan's police chief, said the Taliban fired rocket propelled grenades and assault rifles at the convoy

An election worker and two Afghan soldiers were missing, while a Taliban suspect was arrested, he said. Afghanistan's presidential elections are due on October 9 and parliamentary polls in April.

Islamic militants have vowed to disrupt them, launching a series of deadly

attacks on poll workers and registrants in the volatile south and east of the country in recent weeks.

Militants have repeatedly attacked electoral workers, U.N. staffers, aid workers and reconstruction firms, as well Afghan and U.S.-led forces.

Despite threats from the Taliban, nearly nine million people have registered to take part in the voting - about 90 percent of the estimated eligible electorate - far exceeding expectations.

U.S.-backed Afghan President Hamid Karzai is the frontrunner in the presidential elections.

Indo-Pak talks descend from mountains to marsh

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Reuters) -After two days of talks aimed at resolving a border row over a remote northern glacier, India and Pakistan turned their attention on Satuday to demarcating their frontier in a salty patch of marshland further south.

The nuclear-armed neighbours are holding a series of talks on outstanding disputes as part of a comprehensive peace process after nearly six decades of hostility.

But progress has been slow with the two sides still far apart over the main bone of contention, control of the Himalayan region of Kashmir. Bureaucrats began talks on Friday to resolve a dispute over their boundary in the Sir Creek estuary, a salty and inaccessible marshland in the Rann of Kutch, between India's western state of Gujarat and Pakistan's southern Sind province.

India claims that the boundary should lie in the middle of the 100-km (60-mile) estuary, basing its claim on accepted practice as well as pillars built down the middle of part of the channel during British colonial rule.

Pakistan says the border should lie on the southeastern bank of the creek, basing its claim on a line shown on a map drawn up by the British governor

of Bombay in the early 20th century. The dispute has prevented the two sides agreeing on their maritime boundaries and hampered offshore exploration in an area thought to hold oil and gas deposits.

"It is hurting both countries economically and in international prestige," retired Indian admiral J.G. Nadkarni wrote in a recent article. "Both are unable to explore for oil in the vicinity of the undemarcated border and fishermen stray across the line quite unaware of where the boundary lies."

The two sides must submit their maritime boundaries to the United Nations by 2009 in order to claim exclusive economic rights over waters 350 km (217 miles) offshore, as part of international efforts to demarcate the continental shelf.

India and Pakistan have held six rounds of talks on Sir Creek since 1969. the last in 1998. But Indian border security forces said the area had never been a conflict zone.

"Even if we cross one of their patrol boats, we just give way to them or vice versa," one officer told Reuters. Earlier on Friday, India and Pakistan wrapped up two days of talks over a 20year-old conflict on the remote Siachen glacier in disputed Kashmir, where more soldiers have died due to harsh climatic conditions than warfare.

The discussions failed to produce a breakthrough but the two sides did agree to keep talking and maintain a ceasefire on the glacier which has held since late last year.

The two countries teetered on the brink of a third war over Kashmir in 2002 but ties have warmed since then. Foreign ministers of India and Pakistan are due to meet early next month to review the peace process and are likely to publicise any agreements between the two sides.

Survey shows most support Lee as next Singapore PM

SINGAPORE, Aug 7 (Reuters) -Eight in 10 Singaporeans believe Lee Hsien Loong, son of modern Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, is the best person to be the next Prime Minister, a survey by a local newspaper showed on Saturday. Singapore's prime minister of 14 years, Goh Chok Tong, officially hands power to Lee on Thursday in the city state's second leadership change.

The survey showed 74 per cent of the pondents said they have confidence in Lee, 52, as prime minister. About the same number believe he is going into the have a tougher time than Goh as Prime Straits Times must be approved by the office because he is capable and deserves Minister, while 13 per cent thought his government.

ment Straits Times newspaper said. The telephone survey of 402 Singaporeans aged 15 and above was commissioned by the paper.

It was conducted by Singapore Press Holdings' Marketing Planning and Development (Research) Department on July 28. The survey showed a sizeable group of Singaporeans think Lee and his team face tougher challenges than the past.

the top job in Singapore, the pro-govern- task will be easier. Another 35 per cent thought there would be no difference in difficulty. The high level of confidence in Lee nearly matches the 75.3 per cent level of support the People's Action Party Government received at the last polls in 2001, the paper reported.

But about 47 per cent believed that being Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's son is one reason why Lee got the top job, while 53 per cent disagreed, and 6 per cent strongly so. The media in Singapore Forty-seven per cent think he will is tightly controlled and the editor of The

Threat of dam overflow eases in flood-hit India



S.Africa's Buthelezi says **AIDS kills second child**

IOHANNESBURG, Aug 7 (Reuters) - South African politician Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Saturday AIDS had killed his daughter, his second child to die from the disease this year, and slammed the government's handling of the pandemic.

Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), is one of the few high profile figures to talk candidly about the disease that affects 10 percent of the population.

"Tragically, Mandisi's untimely death should have been averted, for she also succumbed to the disease that is unmercifully mowing down many of

Natal province.

"As you know this is the second child that I have lost this year to this dreadful disease, the pandemic of AIDS. When will our nation and government comprehend that we have no greater calling and mission than to deal with this terrible emergency?" Buthelezi's son died of AIDS complications in April at the age of 53.

His daughter was 48. South Africa has the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world - one in nine of the population.

our people," he said at his daughter's illness, and political leaders have come ANC in national government.

funeral in Mahlabathini in KwaZulu- under fire for failing to tackle the disease head on.

Some of the sharpest criticism has been directed at President Thabo Mbeki, whose government is accused of dragging its feet over the distribution of AIDS drugs.

Mbeki has said he does not know anyone who has died of AIDS, and at one time questioned the link between the illness and HIV, the virus that causes it.

Buthelezi was left out of Mbeki's cabinet after the April general elections, drawing a line under an uneasy 10-year But much stigma still surrounds the relationship between the IFP and the

village of Bhayal Dhakrol in the western Indian state of Gujarat, August 7. More than 1,700 people have died in South Asia, mostly in Bangladesh and eastern India, in weeks of flooding. In the past week the monsoon rains have moved westwards to wreak havoc in many Indian states. REUTERS

AHMEDABAD, India, Aug 7 (Reuters) - Fears of a controversial giant dam overflowing in western India receded after South Asia's worst monsoon flooding in 15 years showed signs of easing, officials said.

More than 1,700 people have died in South Asia, mostly in Bangladesh and eastern India, in weeks of flooding.

In the past week the monsoon rains have moved westwards to wreak havoc in the Indian states of Gujarat, Punjab and Harvana. Authorities had been preparing to evacuate thousands of residents from more than a dozen villages downstream from the 110-ft (34-metre) Narmada dam in Gujarat on Friday after it began overflowing due to torrential rains in its catchment areas.

But a crisis appeared to have been averted on Saturday after rains eased and officials said they had successfully diverted some water from the dam into "The inflow of water into the canals. dam is not alarming any more.

But the alert will continue, as we are still releasing water from the dam," said Rajiv Topno, chief of Bharuch district, where the dam is located.

The Narmada Valley project is India's biggest dam scheme. About 3.200 small, medium-sized and large dams are to be built on the 1,300-km (800-mile) long river and its tributaries to generate electricity and provide water to millions of people. Environmentalists and other critics, led by Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy, say the scheme is unsafe, is causing massive ecological damage and will displace a million people without providing adequate compensation.

"We are relieved now. But nobody is fully sure whether the rains will make a comeback and force us out of our homes," said Sabu Vala, a resident of Bharuch.

A major power plant had to be shut down in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh because of the high silt content in the floodwater, officials said. The Naptha Jhakri power plant supplies nearly a third of the power used by northern India.

In the northern state of Haryana, 40 villages were submerged after the River Ghaggar burst its banks in two places overnight.

Troops distributed food and fodder in Haryana and neighbouring Punjab to hundreds of marooned villages.

In Bangladesh and eastern India the flood waters were slowly receding, but

hundreds of thousands of homeless were confined to camps facing the spectre of an epidemic due to inadequate drinking water, food and medicine.

Fourteen more people were reported dead in Bangladesh in the last 24 hours from diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, raising the flood-related death toll there to 683. "All types of diseases are spreading quickly and may take an unmanageable turn as the flood waters recede and millions of people in shelters return to their ravaged homes," said Doctor Sajjad Hossain in Bangladesh's northern Sirajganj district.

He said many hospitals and clinics were short of saline solution and medicines.

"The government, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and social and political groups should do much more for the flood victims," said one northern district official. Weeks of incessant rains have also destroyed crops in large parts of the farm-dependent region and forced the closure of industrial units, causing hundreds of millions of dollars of losses.

The floods have disrupted rail and road links as well as communications and power networks.

Truck collision in Malawi kills 27 - police

BLANTYRE, Aug 7 (Reuters) -At least 27 people were killed on Friday night when two trucks collided in central Malawi.

police said on Saturday. Maigwa said 13 people were injured, four of them seriously.

Traffic accidents are common on Police spokesman Kelvin Malawi's narrow roads, most of which are in an extreme state of disrepair following decades of neglect.

World

Russians seize tonne of Afghan heroin in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE, Aug 6 (Reuters) -Russian guards in Tajikistan have seized more than a tonne of heroin from neighbouring Afghanistan in the biggest drugs haul intercepted on the border, the guards said on Friday.

Prosecutors also arrested the head of the Tajik drugs control agency on unspecified charges, although there was no immediate indication the two incidents were linked.

Afghan opiate drugs flow into Russia via vast but sparsely populated Central Asia and then on to western Europe. In the West, the latest stash could have fetched up to \$300 million.

A spokesman for the guards said they found 1,009 kg (2,220 lb) of heroin and 72 kg of opium on Thursday by the Pyandzh river, which follows the border. The record haul doubled this year's heroin seizures by Russian border guards.

The Russian success comes after a



Russian border guards stand by burning 1,000 kg (2,200 lb) of heroin they seized near the Tajik-Afghan border, August 6. Afghan opiate drugs flow into Russia via vast but sparsely populated Central Asia and then on to Western Europe. In the West the latest seizure could have fetched up to \$300 million. REUTERS

recent spat between Russia and Tajikistan, who both independently combat drugs smuggling in the country, about the presence of the Russian border guards.

Russia keeps thousands of border guards and other troops in Tajikistan, who help safeguard the peace after a 1992-97 civil war and patrol most of the mountainous Afghan border.

Tajik Prosecutor-General Bobodzhon Bobokhonov told Reuters Gaffor Mirzoyev, head of the Tajik drug control agency, was detained along with four of his officers. He gave no reason but said they would be charged later on Friday.

Mirzoyev's appointment to the drugs agency earlier this year was seen as a compensation for being stripped of his position as head of the presidential guard. Sudden falls from grace in Tajikistan are often accompanied by criminal accusations.

Afghan drugs are smuggled into

Tajikistan most often by rubber dinghy or in inflated car tyres, said Lt.-Col. Vladimir Reshetov, deputy spokesman for the Russian border guards.

9 August, 2004 7

This year the Pyandzh is only waist high due to the summer heat, and drug couriers can wade across it, he said.

Russia's border guards were due to leave next year, but Moscow and Tajikistan agreed in June to extend their stay until 2006. Western diplomats in Dushanbe back Russia's view that its troops are likely to do a better job than Tajik ones.

"Taking into account their equipment and salaries, Tajik guards are unlikely to cope with the task they are facing," a diplomat from a European Union state said in a recent interview.

"We fear that corruption may have deplorable consequences on the border where drug trafficking is so intense."

San Franciscan confesses to beheading video hoax

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug (Reuters) - A tech-savvy young San Francisco man who staged his own mock beheading on the Internet duped international media on Saturday into believing Islamist kidnappers had executed an American hostage in Iraq.

The video, which appeared on a Web site used by Islamic militants, showed a man who identified himself as Benjamin Vanderford appealing to the United States to leave Iraq. The Web format was that used by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and was introduced by a headline that said it showed Zarqawi killing an American.

"If we don't (leave Iraq), everyone is gonna be killed in this way ... I have been offered for exchange for prisoners here in Iraq," the terrifiedlooking man said, rocking back and forth in his chair, his hands tied behind his back.

The video showed a hand with a large knife apparently slicing through the neck of a limp body.

But it was all a hoax. The blood was dye, the setting was a friend's garage, the Koran reading was a tape and the knife was held by a friend. Mutilated bodies and sound effects were edited in from photos on Web sites and the video was purposefully blurred to make it seem even more amateur. Vanderford said. A major motivation for his action,



of an American hostage on August 7, but the man shown in the video was quoted as saying it was a hoax. Benjamin Vanderford of San Francisco, California, told the Associated Press that he had faked the video at a friend's house. Reuters

an unrepentant Vanderford told drop-out, he was a candidate for the

Reuters, was to see how the world local city council earlier this year but media would react and to see if they had since dropped out of the race. His would be fooled. "It really illustrates Web site also says he is a video game programmer and works with a local record label.

He said the video parody of actual beheadings of hostages in Iraq posted on Islamist Web sites was made and posted on the Web about three months ago, intended as an experiment into how quickly videos spread on the Internet. He was surprised at how long it took.

"It is unfortunate that it had to be the type of video that was offensive and shocking, but it was necessary to see how quickly this kind of thing would spread," he said.

Local police and FBI officials arrived at his door early on Saturday, but had no immediate comment as to whether he would face criminal charges. A police official said it was a matter for the city's special investigations unit.

Vanderford said he distributed the staged video on Kazaa and other Internet peer-to-peer networks which are popular swapping forums for films, music and software. He said if his staged death appeared on any terror-related Web sites it was the work of others who found the video on the peer-to-peer networks.

Scores of hostages from two dozen countries have been seized in the last

Bush warns Americans they are 'still not safe'

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Aug 7 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush on Saturday warned Americans this week's terrorism alert was another sign the country was still not safe but said he was taking steps to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Alert levels were raised earlier this week for specific locations in New York City, Washington and New Jersey after a top-level review of information that al Qaeda may be plotting to attack financial institutions including the New York Stock Exchange, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"We're doing everything we can in our power to confront the danger," Bush said in his weekly radio address. 'We're making good progress in protecting our people and bringing our enemies to account."

The administration has been facing tough questions after it became known that some of the information that led to the elevated alert was three years old. Bush said new information gleaned from arrests in Pakistan and other new intelligence suggested that al Qaeda had recently updated information on those potential targets.

"We're still not safe," said Bush, who was spending the weekend at his family's oceanfront compound in Maine to attend the wedding of his nephew, George P. Bush, the son of best secure our country," he said.

Under political pressure, Bush said this week he would name a national intelligence director to coordinate information collected domestically and abroad, a key recommendation by the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Bush, initially cool to the idea of a new intelligence chief, overrode the advice of some top advisers in agreeing to appoint one, but decided to make the office independent of the White House, counter to commission's proposal.

His opponent in the race for the White House, Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John Kerry, has urged quick adoption of the commission's recommendations and said Bush should call Congress back from its summer break to adopt the reforms.

Kerry has also criticized his opponent's policies, saying they have failed to make the United States as safe as it could be and potentially encouraging the recruitment of terrorists to the cause against the nation.

Refuting the criticism about the latest terrorist warning, Vice President Dick Cheney said it was irrelevant when al Qaeda had collected information on possible targets because such plots can take years to carry out.

"If it takes years, they're prepared to wait for years to do it," he said at a

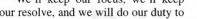
the potential that this kind of thing would happen," he said. Vanderford, 22, said he worked at

branch of Wells Fargo bank. A college Internet experiment

tour months. Most have been freed but at least 10 have been killed, and at least 20 are still being held in Iraq. Vanderford expressed the hope that his stunt would not affect his bank job.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. "We'll keep our focus, we'll keep

town hall meeting in Minnesota on Friday.





John Kerry as he arrives at a campaign rally in La Junta, Colorado, August 7. Kerry and his running mate Senator John Edwards were making campaign stops in Colorado on the third day of the train portion of the "Believe in America" tour which is taking them to key midwestern and western states with less than 100 days until the presidential election. REUTERS



A blamed for Spanish resort bombs, no injuries

MADRID, Aug 7 (Reuters) - Two small bombs exploded in tourist towns on Spain's northern coast on Saturday without causing injuries, in what appeared to be a return to violence by Basque separatists ETA after a long silence.

The explosions took place around midday in the popular coastal resorts of Ribadesella and San Vicente de la Barquera after a warning to Basque separatist newspaper Gara from a caller claiming to belong to ETA.

Spanish authorities warned on Friday that ETA, weakened by scores of arrests in France and Spain, could be planning a summer tourist season bombing campaign.

The explosions awoke painful memories of the March 11 commuter train bombings by Islamic militants in Madrid which killed 191 people and shook the whole of Spain.

"All indications point to ETA: both the explosives used and the way in which the attacks were claimed," Miguel Angel Revilla, the northern province of Cantabria's president, told Reuters.

Officials said a small bomb in a lunchbox exploded on the seaside promenade of the picturesque fishing port of San Vicente de la Barquera in Cantabria, damaging only shrubberv.

Minutes earlier, a similar bomb blew up in Ribadesella, in the neighbouring



Spanish police and explosive experts look at evidence gathered at the site of an explosion in San Vicente de la Barquera, in the northern Spanish region of Cantabria, August 7. Two small bombs exploded in tourist towns on Spain's northern coast on Saturday without causing injuries, in what appeared to be a return to violence by Basque separatists ETA after a long silence. REUTERS

region of Asturias. The device damaged the wall of a hotel in the coastal resort, packed with tourists this weekend for a traditional canoeing championship.

"They are trying to harm our economy and today they have won, because people have had to abandon the restaurants," Revilla said.

The Spanish government published pictures on Friday of six suspected ETA members it said might be planning an attack.

ETA, which has conducted a violent 35-year campaign for an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain, has attacked Spain's key tourist industry in the past.

In February, ETA sent warnings to travel agents saying foreign tourists were at risk of violence this summer.

That was before the March train bombs, believed to be the work of al Qaeda-linked Islamic militants, which helped to usher the Socialist party into power in Madrid. The previous Popular Party government had cracked down on Basque separatists but angered many Spaniards with its support for the Iraq war.

ETA, which the United States and European Union consider a terrorist organisation, has not carried out a fatal attack for more than a year.

9 August, 2004

Opinion

Words of Wisdom



The atmosphere in Yemen is ripe for change real change. The country needs reform, and the political leadership seems willing and able to introduce the needed change. Political, economical and military changes have taken place & on a massive scale. But the acid test for the transformation will only come if & when economic change occurs. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times

OUR



Misconception about our pride

t is amazing how different people interpret the reasons for pride and factors to be proud of. I have been trying to work t out myself. Can someone be proud for having the most luxurious automobile? Or can someone be proud because he succeeded in portraying an image of himself that is greater than him in reality?

I tried to understand the difference between deserved pride and assumed pride. They are and should remain different. But when looking at the way many of us in the Arab world think, realize that we are misleading ourselves by misunderstanding the real factors that could make us proud.

I see on our local public TV station many projects that are supposed to be a source of pride and inspiration. Among them are projects of installing machines donated by other countries. "This is a great and huge achievement that we should be proud of!" said one of the Yemeni officials at the site of the project, which is still to start. "The machines are to be donated to us during the project, which will be implemented by --- country, it is a great accomplishment for our government under the leadership of our President." This is one of many similar statements we Yemenis hear on TV and radio and read about in public newspapers.

But when trying to analyze this logically, I think that there is no reason to be proud of this project. First because it was not to be implemented by us, we did not buy the machines, we did not pay a penny. All we did is make propaganda out of the project, even before it started. We made our people think that such a thing is a huge accomplishment that should make us sing the national anthem day and night. What nonsense is this?

On the other hand, countries that did donate and install the machines in the project are not making a big thing out of it, merely watching our government get all the credit for the project. It may well be that those machines are also manufactured by the donor country. Yet, they take it as normal and get on with their lives. Aren't they the ones who should be proud for first producing such sophisticated machines, then providing them as a donation to our country, and finally installing them and running the project? I wonder!

I have just recently returned from a trip to Japan, in which I was shown the most advanced technology on the planet. They showed me stages of manufacture, installation and when the machines were up and running. They also showed me the way they market and sell products. They then expressed their ambitions, and sincerely felt quite far from the completion of their objectives, and humbly expressed their desire to move faster and produce better. On the other hand, we as Arab countries, bring foreign countries to dig our own oil, and with our share we buy luxurious cars and products from countries such as Japan, then promote it as an unimaginably gigantic achievement us and our people.

I am not sure how long this illusion will continue, but it is damaging our own culture and the way we think about what we should do and where we should be. Such actions have already yielded negative consequences, such as in having rich boys buy the most advanced cars, computer games, mobile phones, and escape classes to make test-drives of each others' vehicles. They are proud of the new and advanced things they buy, claiming that it is a great achievement. They simply reflect the way their fathers measured themselves and thought about achievement. Hence, the whole generation becomes ess productive and believes in showing off and doing little. I believe that as Arab nations, we are far from having reasons to be proud of our actions. We could justify being proud of our past and ancient civilizations. Though I am sure our ancestors would be ashamed at the level of weakness we have reached, especially when we think that we should be proud of what we buy and not what we produce or achieve with our own hands. It is important to understand that pride cannot be bought, it must be earned! The Editor

Change or mend? The important question "where are reforms?" (8)

BY PROF. DR. ABDULAZIZ AL-TAREB FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ince May 2004, the ambitions of citizens for reform and change have increased regarding the implementation of programs to achieve a higher growth rate, to decrease prices and inflation, and to create more job opportunities

Will the political leadership allow the government to continue its two-year term, or is it determined to make changes in the light of the recommendations from the Tunisia Summit, and the outcome of the G-8 Summit?

The monitoring reports confirm deficiency, corruption, financial and administrative violations, the failure to implement projects, and setbacks aimed at curtailing the price hike on commodities and consumer goods, before even effecting the latest publicized pledge to increase wages.

Where is the change and what is the strategy on wages, which is considered an essential element of reform?

In the midst of that, there are calls for a new government to take up the social and political agenda and preparations for the next elections, while there is still sufficient time.

We need to crystallize the economic and political reform plan. And we need to activate the role of political parties and civic society organizations, to crystallize this notion, so that the change of the government would be a transition in accordance with what was agreed. The government would then form mechanisms and plans for the social, political, cultural and economic aspects. The four plans can then be combined to constitute a comprehensive reform program. The government would then be able to ensure the implementation of the reform program and at the same time begin preparations for the next fair, honest and just elections.

The people's approval of the President's speech concerning reforms and fighting corruption is by itself a referenda. The general public, burnt out with high prices, frustration and disturbed by what has happened of security incidents that hamper investment, is now waiting for something that is not an illusion to justify their hope. The general public hopes for the birth of a government that is capable of drawing the right paths for its long awaited future.

Will the state and its various corporations respond and react to the cries and demands of the general public? Or will it ignore their chanting and wait for the imposition of reform from the outside?

As I am writing, I wish from the bottom of my heart that the President would soon declare an integrated program to be implemented before the end of the current year. So that the year 2005 would, from the beginning, be the year of administrative reform and the year of fighting corruption and corrupts at all levels. I hope that next year will be a continuous workshop on translating and implementing reform programs and assessing their progress on a regular basis.

If I could humbly conclude this article by presenting the following foci that I hope would receive the attention and interest of the concerned authorities so that they may consider integrating them into the recommendations and proposed working agenda, to be presented to H.E the President of the Republic:

1- believing in the scientific methodology in life:

to have strong faith in knowledge and scientific research and that any construction not established or based on them would inevitably collapse, similarly to the collapsing of buildings that are not constructed on a professionallyengineered design structure.

2- believing in democracy, dominance of law and order, human rights, the peaceful transition of power and the governance according to the will of the people and by the people, not rulers.

3- to seriously commence translating words into deeds once and for all. Enough has been said of glorified slogans. Let's all truly begin and let bygones be bygones

These are the three must-adopt foci, if we wish to be seen on the world's map. Yemen has the resource of manpower, which is willing to extend an assisting hand to a political administra-tion that is not reluctant to accept change and reform.



Jerusalem Declaration

October 12-14, 2003, the International Zionist Movement and their neo-conservative friends from Israel, the United States and elsewhere got together at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem to lay out their vision for the world over the next era. Needless to say, it is now Israel that is actually determining the course of the world and what American foreign policy and the policies of many other states should be based on, as our friend Richard Melson of the United States stated in his editorial contribution to Al-Jazeera English version on the Web on August 1, 2004, and who was kind enough to send us the text of the "Jerusalem Declaration".

The conference, which included speakers from the United States, Israel and other countries, all of whom are well known for their sympathy to the Zionist cause or their advocacy for the Zionist cause in the United States and elsewhere, dealt with a number of topics. Many are significantly well placed political dignitaries or academicians. All the themes discussed were meant to show that the International Zionist Movement is in a position to dictate to the world the course that the international community should follow. In addition the declaration that came out of the so-called "Summit", the "Jerusalem Declaration" unabashedly ensured that such course fully corresponds with Zionist goals and aspirations, irrespective of the impact on the others that should follow along with this hate filled agenda. (Full text could be obtained in Al-Jazeera web site (Archives of August 1, 2004)

The overriding tone of the Jerusalem Declaration is that the world should brace itself for the war against what it calls "Radical Islam", and actually equates "Radical Islam with the "challenges" confronted by the "civilized" west, namely Communism and Fascism, which the West has defeated before. (Zionists view all forms of institutionalized or politicized Islam as radical). Moreover, the Declaration sets out a new world order, which, for all intents and purposes does away with the United Nations, all the international organizations that advocate for human rights and humanitarian behavior (including the Red Cross / Red Crescent, though not citing names outright but the implication is clear) and even all the international conventions and tribunals that have been painstakingly set up to bring some semblance of international regulations: "Existing international organizations provide virtually no effective moral compass" According to the Declaration, a new world "Council of Civilizations" is to be set up which includes only the "principal civilizations" (Europe, the United States, Latin America, etc) It is not clear why Latin America should be given this The UN should only concern itself with prominence. "humanitarian functions", and leave everything else to the COC is what the Declaration says.

On the other hand, the key to the harmony for this new COC should be, guess what? Israel, of course! "Israel's unique spiritual experience enables it to find a golden mean between the fault of lines dividing civilizations: between tradition and modernity, religion and science, authority and democracy". In fact, if Israel is destroyed by "Radical Islam", says the declaration, "... there will never be peace, and Western civilization will fall to Jihad as well"

On the practical side, the declaration has done away with Palestinian state altogether: "Supporting the creation of a PLO state in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank and Gaza have no existence in Zionist literature) is a historical injustice of colossal proportion". The Declaration therefore calls on the COC to "Encourage Israel to establish full sovereign ty throughout the land of Israel".

In possible anticipation of Mr. George W. Bush no longer leading the world in the "War on Terror" or, if elected, give someone else a try. "We call on the government of Israel to provide moral leadership to the world in the struggle against rror" (Mind you major speakers at the Conference includ ed Mr. Richard Perle, member of the Defense Policy Board and a neo-con icon!). Can you imagine Israel actually being the source of moral guidance to the world? If that is not the biggest farce, both from a historical perspective (Israel's history is less than sixty years) and its horrendous track record of continuous persecution of an entire indigenous people it has uprooted from their domicile for thousands of years, then what is? Amidst a number of meaningless general phrases, clichés and justifications, the declaration sets out the right directions the world should take in various fields, political "the ideology of Jihad must be declared a form of racism and genocide (i.e. there is no legitimacy to resistance to Israeli occupation)]", military (collateral damage is sanctioned if it means wiping out terrorists in the midst of civilians); economical [oil money should be used towards "dismantling the so-called refugee camps, which are currently the hotbeds of terrorists (i.e. for relocating the Palestinians that are in the West Bank and Gaza, most of whom are or will be living in refugee camps, as Israel continues its ongoing systematic ethnic obliteration of the Palestinian communities); media ("We are appalled by the media attempts to establish moral equivalence" between the blood of innocents murdered by terrorists and the casualties among civilians used by terrorists as a protective shield"); academia "we must reject moral relativism and confront "anti-Zionism" on Western campuses). Zionist advocates are now insisting that anti-Zionism is synonymous with anti-Semitism. In conclusion, the Declaration stresses that the West's Defense of Israel from "radical Islam is the West's only hope for survival, otherwise Jihadists will prevail and the West will be doomed". While much of the Declaration lacks any real valid arguments and elaborations as to how this War against "Radical" Islam is to be waged, it nevertheless does emphasize that Israel should provide the guiding light. It also suggests the right of the COC to foment revolution in Islamic countries "to do away with dictatorships", etc, while this would not be so imperative for non-Moslem dictatorships, including those of Africa and Latin America. So brace yourself world, as Jerusalem becomes the operations room for a new era of international chaos. The International Zionist Movement need not work behind the scenes ior through its network of powerful lobbies in determining the "Games Nations Play". For all intents and purposes the Road Map to Peace is over and done with, and the world will just never be the same again!

Damaging consequences of non-coordination

BY ABDULWAHAB A. AL-SOFI Abdulwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com FOR YEMEN TIMES HODEIDAH

cannot but wipe my tears and trust that Allah's will be done. Allah will never forgive those officials who toy with our country's wealth. If Allah forgives them, history will not. I am not the only one who notices that brand new asphalted streets are broken to making new sewage networks. A foreign company was contracted by the ministry of planning to dig roads and destroyed the streets. New streets that were asphalted six months ago are being destroyed. Certainly in Hodeidah city and perhaps in other cities. At the beginning of this year 2004, we are as citizens settled at Hodeidah, sensed clear improvements in making asphalted roads. This presaged us welfare and optimism. Unfortunately, this impression was converted into pessimism soon, when many of these new channels. They have remembered the sewage channel recently. I think the bad smell of overflowed sewage water may have reminded them. Despite that, donkeys never hate the bad smell of other donkeys. They repair some things at the expense of destroying other things. This is because we have a big ministry called the ministry of development and urban planning. This ministry cannot coordinate with other service sectors. After sewage channels are finished mending, streets, again will be asphalted. Then they will be destroyed for repairing telephone cables. After that the electricity corporation "destroyers" will start digging up the streets next year. It is a closed circle of destruction. I don't know who are the beneficiaries? I am sure there are beneficiaries. Otherwise, why do those responsible keep silent? Are they deaf or blind? I can simply say that they demolish homes and seize native's rights for their advantage. This is actually a policy of drain (exhaustion).

streets were dug up to making sewage The citizens who pay taxes, and should receive services and city improvements are the only losers. How much does it cost to asphalted a short street? The answer is hundreds and thousands if not millions. These amounts surely exhaust the national economy. All of the overt tenders are usually awarded to certain contractors pertaining to governmental officials, who exploit their positions to badly exploit the country's income. Thus, officials ensure their share. The next of kin assaults our country. Consequently, we need sincere loyal and faithful officials. In addition to that, it is a must to fight those corrupt people in our country and replace them as soon as we possibly can. We have to say a big 'no', even if they have a high position in the government. Otherwise, what is the use of democracy? It is our right and we demand it. We should all try to be ideal citizens humanistic in our approach and always working towards developing and strengthening our country not exhausting it.



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International law at stake

BY ABDULKARIM AL-HUBAISHI Al-hubaishi22@yahoo.com FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he recent unanimous verdict of the International Court of Justice, and the subsequent unanimous U.N. General Assembly resolution calling upon Israel to stop building and to remove its illegal apartheid wall in the occupied Palestinian land, has brought Israel's long Diplomatic poly to ultimate

dead end; leaving for Israel no further space to maneuver. It has to comply, or be outlawed by the international community. At the same time however, the event has brought the UN and its universal charter to a decisive cross-junction that puts its credibility at stake, if Israel refuses to comply. The test on which success and failure will depend, is on what steps the UN and the International community will take to persuade - I will not say enforce Israel - to comply, since the final authority to decide is with the Bush administration, (at least according to the strange statement of the Israeli Ambassador in the UN after the resolution was passed 'thanks god this is not the place where Israel's destiny is decided'. He wished that the voting had been in the US congress who would have unanimously voted in favor of Israel, with a long standing ovation, which is nothing more than an ugly show of hypocrisy). Danger is looming in the closely coordinated, commonly shared, policy of

extremism of the two hard-core radical administrations of Bush and Sharon, jointly directed against the Arab world which is clearly reflected in the ruthless destruction, disproportionately large use of force, against unmatched (unarmed or lightly armed) occupation resistance fighters in both the west bank and Iraq.

The UN leadership has so far stood firmly against Sharon's shameful threat, outraged by the EU voting in favor of the removal of the illegal wall, he threatened

A Reply to Mr. Samawi

BY HASSAN AL-HAIFT make the outside world understand the general YEMEN TIMES STAFF public mood vis a vis the policies of the United Dear Br. F. Samawi States, which have a hank you very strong influence on the much for your interest in the YT regional scene. Needless and the regretfully declinto say, Mr. Bush has done quite a lot that has shaken ing interest in my column. No harm done, one the stability of the region cannot please all. and created a lot of uncer-However I would like to tainty about its future. point out that the "free-There are a lot of dom of the press" is quite American readers who have expressed an eagerrestricted as it does not allow us to mention ness to know the views of names or specifics, as the people in the region, including those of much as we would certainly like to. From time Yemenis, from both the to time, Common Sense pro Bush camp and the anti-Bush camp. For your still does look at domestic matters pro and con, as information, I can cite well as other themes other two American regular opthan Mr. Bush. However, ed columnists of the New it is imperative that we York Times. Paul

that Europe will never have any part in any future negotiations. He feels that Europe and the whole world has sided with the Palestinians alienating Israel, failing to grasp the fact that, the vote has come because of global sympathy for the Palestinian plight, that involves every possible human rights violation - assassinations, the demolition of houses and farmlands without compensation, torture and mass arrests on a daily basis - all of which is globally watched in the news.

> Krugman and Maureen Dawod, and all they ever write about is George W. Bush and his domestic and international fumbles. I can assure you "press freedom' in Iraq is not all that free either (remember Bremer's order to close down the Hawza newspaper of Muotada Al-Sadr and I am not at liberty to discuss the extent of press freedom in Palestine, but I could imagine it to be more freer than most of the Arab States. Thanks for your feedback anyway (By the way, a direct response was sent to address you gave, but it came back saying addressee unknown!) Regards.



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HYUNDAI advances to the front in Automobile Industry

The National Trading Company (Natco) - extends its congratulations to Hyundai Motor Company for receiving the J. D. Power & Associates 2004 Quality Award for the best automobile company of the year.

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"The fact that Hyundai is now outperforming even perennial quality leaders like American and Japanese Manufacturers —and in a relatively short amount of time—is nothing

Ð

ANTEA P



The Hyundai Accent is ranked 2nd in .the midsize economy range of cars

The Hyundai Sonata received the J.D. Power & Associates ISQ Car of the year award

short of remarkable". "This kind of improvement simply cannot be achieved without a serious commitment to quality over the long haul." J.D.Power statement

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.The Hyundai Santa Fe is ranked 2nd in the 4x4 range

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National Bank Of Yemen Condensed Interim Financial Statements For The Six Months Ended 30 June 2004

Dahman RSM Accountants · Auditors · Consultant

REVIEW REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed interim financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen ("The Bank") as at 30 June 2004 comprising the balance sheet and the related statements of income, cash flows and changes in owner's equity for the six months then ended set out on pages 2 to 13. These condensed interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Bank's management. Our responsibility is to issue a report on these condensed interim financial statements based on our review

We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing applicable to review engagements. This Standard requires that we plan and perform the review to obtain moderate assurance as to whether the condensed interim financial statements are free of material misstatement. A review is limited primarily to inquiries of the Bank's personnel and analytical procedures applied to the financial data and thus provides less assurance than an audit. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying condensed interim financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the significant accounting policies used in preparing the condensed interim financial statements described in note (3) to the financial statements applied on a consistent basis. We also confirm that the significant accounting policies followed in preparing the condensed interim financial statements are the same as those followed in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

Kabam Dahman Awadh Dahman, FCCA Registered Licensed Accountant No. 384 of Dahman, RSM

Aden, Republic of Yemen

BALANCE SHEET

| | | 30 June 2004 | 31 December 2003 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Note | YR' 000 | YR'000 |
| ASSETS | | | |
| Cash in hand and reserve balances with the | | | |
| Central Bank of Yemen | 4 | 7,612,738 | 7,468,727 |
| Due from banks | 5 | 12,654,440 | 13,056,019 |
| Treasury bills, net | | 22,284,869 | 19,649,346 |
| Certificates of deposit with the Central | | | |
| Bank of Yemen | | 5,480,000 | 5,380,000 |
| Loans and advances to customers and | | | |
| banks, net of provision | 6 | 3,150,270 | 2,202,653 |
| Available for sale investments, net | 7 | 20,734 | 20,734 |
| Debit balances and other assets | | 301,009 | 254,192 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net of | | | 22 |
| accumulated depreciation | | 1,665,655 | 1,668,257 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 53,169,715 | 49,699,928 |
| LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Due to banks | | 43,006 | 35,605 |
| Customers' deposits | 22.00 | 47,059,992 | 44,497,218 |
| Credit balances and other balances | | 1,517,675 | 978,550 |
| Income tax payable | 8 | 262,807 | 390,392 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 48,883,480 | 45,901,765 |
| OWNER'S EQUITY | | | |
| Capital | 9 | 2.100.000 | 2,100.000 |
| Surplus on revaluation of property reserve | 9 | 639,762 | 639,762 |
| Reserves | 9 | 1,038,868 | 1,038,868 |
| Cumulative changes in the fair value reserve | 9 | 19,533 | 19,533 |
| Net profit for the period | - | 488.072 | |
| TOTAL OWNER'S EQUITY | | 4,286,235 | 3,798,163 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S | | 1,200,200 | 0,100,100 |
| EQUITY | | 53,169,715 | 49,699,928 |
| CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net | 10 | 10,891,051 | 10,502,331 |

Manager

Abdul Rahman Mohammed. Al-Kohali Chairman and General

Sami Abdul Hami Mackawi First Deputy Genera

Manager



Khaled Ali Khaina

Deputy General Manager

13 July 2004,

| | STATEMENT | OF | INCOME |
|---|-------------|------|--------|
| Г | STATEMENT (| F IN | COME |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME | | June 2004 | June 200 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | Note | YR'000 | YR'00 |
| Interest on loans and due from banks | | 409.822 | 386,97 |
| Interest on treasury bills | | 1,412,997 | 1,045,45 |
| Interest on certificates of deposit with | | | |
| the Central Bank of Yemen | | 376,719 | 379,84 |
| | | 2,199,538 | 1,812,26 |
| Less: Cost of deposits | | 1,261,055 | 1,021,38 |
| Net interest income | | 938,483 | 790,88 |
| Commissions and fee income on | | | |
| banking services | | 176,055 | 151,02 |
| Gain on foreign currency transactions | 1 | 4,353 | 52,56 |
| Other operating income | | 50,615 | 2,11 |
| NET OPERATING INCOME | | 1,169,506 | 996,58 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | |
| Commissions and fee expenses on | | | |
| banking services | | 8,941 | 10,44 |
| General and administration expenses | | 344,219 | 310,47 |
| Provisions | 11 | 45,467 | 36,84 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | | 398,627 | 357,76 |
| NET PROFIT BEFORE ZAKAT | | | |
| AND INCOME TAX | | 770.879 | 638,82 |
| Zakat | | (20,000) | (17,500 |
| NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR AFTER | she had been | | |
| ZAKAT AND BEFORE INCOME TAX | | 750,879 | 621,32 |
| Provision for income tax | 8 | (262,807) | (217,464 |
| NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD | | 488,072 | 403,86 |
| Forningo por oboro | 10 | VD 020 | YR 21 |
| Earnings per share The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integra | 12 | YR 232 | Y |

January/ January

January/ January/

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| | June 2004 | June 2003 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 8 | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Operating profit before changes in working capital (1) | 386,426 | 310,899 |
| Net (Increase) in Assets (2) | (2,466,374) | (604,359) |
| Net Increase in Liabilities (3) | 3,112,100 | 3,584,892 |
| Net cash flows (used in) investing | | |
| activities (4) | (19,662) | (14,903) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash And Cash | | |
| Equivalents (1+2+3+4) | 1,012,490 | 3,276,529 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January | 36,859,343 | 32,859,884 |
| Cash And Cash Equivalents At 30 June | 37,871,833 | 36,136,413 |

STATEMENT OF CHANCES IN OWNED'S FOURT

| | Capital | Re valuation Reserve | Statutory Reserve | General Reserve | Cumulative changes in fair value Reserve | profit for the year | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| At 31 December 2002 | 1,850,000 | 639,762 | 368,131 | 453,233 | 18,923 | - | 3,330,049 |
| Restatement in accordance with IAS 39 | - | - | - | · . | | - | - |
| Realised profits from the disposa of available for sale investments | | | | | - | | |
| Net movement in fair value for the year | | | | | 610 | 1. A. | 610 |
| Net profit for the year | | - | - | | - | 725.015 | 725,015 |
| Transfer to statutory reserve | - | | 108,752 | - | | (108,752) | |
| Transfer to general reserve | | - | - | 108,752 | - | (108,752) | |
| Government's share in net profit | - | - | - | - | | (471,260) | (471,260) |
| Transfer to capital | 250,000 | - | - | - | - | - | 250,000 |
| Employees' share in net profit | - | - | - | - | | (36,251) | (36,251) |
| At 31 December 2003 | 2,100,000 | 639,762 | 476,883 | 561,985 | 19,533 | - | 3,798,163 |
| Restatement in accordance with IAS 39 | 1.00 | - | | | 1 . · . | | |
| Net profit for the period | - | - | - | - | - | 488,072 | 488,072 |
| At 30 June 2004 | 2,100,000 | 639,762 | 476,883 | 561,985 | 19,533 | 488,072 | 4,286,235 |

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements

1 INCORPORATION AND ACTIVITIES

The National Bank of Yemen (the Bank), which was incorporated in Aden, in 1969, is wholly owned by the Government of Yemen. The Head Office of the Bank is at Arwa Street, P.O. Box No. 5, Crater, Aden, Republic of Yemen and is registered under Registration Number 1748. The Bank undertakes all banking activities through its head office and 27 branches most of them are spread all over the Southern and Eastern Governorates including two branches in Sana'a, and one in Hodeidah. The Bank had 596 employees as on 30 June 2004 (31 December 2003: 588 employees).

2 PREPARATION BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These condensed interim financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard No (34), interim financial reporting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the interpretations of the Standing Accounting Committee of the IASB, the current local prevailing laws and regulations and the rules and instructions issued by the Central Bank of Yemen.

There are no significant differences between International Financial Reporting Standards and those required by the Central Bank of Yemen except for the following:

i) The adoption of minimum fixed percentages for losses on loan and advances in accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen circular no. (6) of 1996 and Gross non-performing loans and advances at 30 June 2004 amounted to YR circular no. (5) of 1998;

ii) The inclusion of the general provision for risk calculated on the performing loans in the general provision for loans and advances rather than including it

within the owner's equity. The effect of these deviations is immaterial on the financial statements of the Bank as on 30 June 2004 according to the International Financial Reporting Standards.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies followed are the same as those followed for the vear ended 31 December 2003 as well as those followed in the full set interim financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2004.

4 CASH IN HAND AND RESERVE BALANCES WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN

| | 3 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| | Ŷ |
| Cash in hand | |
| - In local currency | 49 |
| - In foreign currencies | 28 |
| - Cheques purchased, net | 22 |
| Total cash in hand | 1,00 |
| Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen | |
| - In local currency | 2,98 |
| - In foreign currencies | 3,63 |
| Total reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen | 6,61 |
| Total cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen | 7,61 |

In accordance with the Yemeni Banks Law, the Bank is required to maintain statutory deposits with the Central Bank of Yemen at stipulated percentages of its demand. time and other deposits (local Currency 10% and foreign Currencies 20%). Deposits in local currency carry interest at rates determined by the Central Bank of Yemen.

5 DUE FROM BANKS

| | 30 June 2004 | 31 December 2003 | and contingencies including watch loops at the rate of 20/ (2002:20/) | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | | | | | |
| Due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other | | | (c) Suspended interest | | | | |
| local banks | | | This represents interest on non-perform | ning loan | s and advar | nces in acco | rdance with |
| Current accounts with Central Bank of Yemen | | | the Central Bank of Yemen regulation | is and wh | hich is reco | gnised as re | evenue only |
| - In local currency | 422,412 | 711,037 | when collected. | | | 0 | • |
| - In foreign currencies | 269,737 | 309,659 | men concettu. | | | | |
| Total current accounts with the Central Bank | | | | | 3 | 0 June 31 D | ecember |
| of Yemen | 692,149 | 1,020,696 | | | | 2004 | 2003 |
| Less: Provision for outstanding reconciling items | (18,115) | (18,115) | | 1 | 1 | /R'000 | YR'000 |
| Net current account balances with Central Bank | | | Balance at 1 January | | | 16,033 | 16,130 |
| of Yemen | 674,034 | 1,002,581 | Amounts written off during the period/y | /ear | | - | (328) |
| Current account balances with local banks | 821 | 1,194 | Recovered during the period/year | | | (297) | (568) |
| Total due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other | | | Suspended during the period/year | | | 628 | 799 |
| local banks | 674,855 | 1,003,775 | Balance at end of period / year | | | 16,364 | 16,033 |
| Due from foreign banks and other financial institutions | | | | | | | |
| Current and demand account balances | 1,464,810 | 1,614,133 | 7 AVAILABLE FOR SALE INVE | STMEN | VTS, net | | |
| Less: Provision for outstanding reconciling items | (24,025) | (27,894) | | | | | |
| Time deposits | 10,538,800 | 10,466,005 | These comprise investments, available f | for sale, i | n the follow | ing foreign | companies |
| Total due from foreign banks and other financial | | | · · · | | | 0 0 | 1 |
| institutions | 11,979,585 | 12,052,244 | | | No. of | | |
| Total due from banks | 12,654,440 | 13,056,019 | | vnership | shares of | 30 June | 31 December |
| | | | Per | centage | US \$ 1 each | 2004 | 2003 |

Time deposits includes a) An investment-linked deposit made with a foreign bank for US \$ 1,000,000 (YR 184,690 thousand) to be held for five years and carries a fixed interest rate of 5 % for year two.

b) An investment-linked deposit made with a foreign bank for US \$2,000,000 (YR 369,380 thousand) to be held for five years and carries a interest rate of 5.50 % for year one.

Thereafter, the interest rate is indexed to LIBOR and is calculated based on a predetermined formula which has an upper and lower barrier.

6 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS AND BANKS, net

| | 30 June 2004 | 31 December 2003 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Loans and advances to private sector customers: | | |
| Overdraft facilities | 1,562,129 | 1,039,590 |
| Term loans | 2,352,429 | 1,830,546 |
| Commercial papers discounted | 95,600 | 204,656 |
| Total amounts due from private sector customers (i) | 4,010,158 | 3,074,792 |
| Loans and advances to Banks | | |
| Subordinated loan to UBAF - US\$ 588,094 (note - a) | 108,615 | 108,386 |
| Total amounts due from Banks (ii) | 108,615 | 108,386 |
| Total loans and advances to customers and banks (i) + (ii) | 4,118,773 | 3,183,178 |
| Provision for losses on loans and advances (note - b) | (952,139) | (964,492) |
| Suspended interest (note - c) | (16,364) | (16,033) |
| Total provisions for losses on loans and advances and suspended interest | (968,503) | 980,525 |
| Net loans and advances to customers and banks | 3,150,270 | 2,202,653 |

1,022,344 thousand (31 December 2003 - YR 1,048,218 thousand).

|) June | 31 December |
|--------|-------------|
| 2004 | 2003 |
| 000'F | YR'000 |
| 5,561 | 518,277 |
| 1,595 | 479,779 |
| 3,717 | 247,797 |
| 1,873 | 1,245,853 |
| 0.783 | 2,608,198 |
| 0,082 | 3,614,676 |
| 0,865 | 6,222,874 |
| | |

2,738 7,468,727

(a) Subordinated loan to UBAF

The loan of US \$ 588,094 represents the Bank's participation in a subordinated loan extended to UBAF (Paris) by its shareholders and carries an interest rate of LIBOR +1%. Although the interest on this loan is being paid regularly on time, a portion of the principal amount had recently been rescheduled to 4 June 2007 and the remaining part to 3 March 2008. The Bank management decided to approve the request of UBAF (Paris) to reschedule the loan with the same previous conditions. As a result, the Bank's management, taking a conservative and prudent view, has

fully provided for the principal of the loan. The balance of the loan as of 30 June 2004 was stated at the exchange rate prevailing at that date.

(b) Provision for losses on loans and advances

In accordance with Article (85) of the Banks Law No. (38) of 1998, which came into effect on 27 December, 1998, and Article 9 (j) of the Income Tax Law No. (31) of 1991 as amended by Republican Decree Law No. (12) of 1999, any provisions for losses on loans and advances made by a bank in compliance with the regulations of the Central Bank of Yemen in this respect, are not subject to the provisions of any income tax law and are allowable as a deduction in arriving at the taxable income. In accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen, these allowable deductions also include suspended interest.

Details of movements in the provision for possible losses on loans and advances during the year were as follows:

| The Decision | | 30 June 20 | 31 D | ecember 2 | 003 | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Specific YR'000 | General YR'000 | Total YR'000 | Specific YR'000 | General YR'000 | Total YR'000 |
| Balance at 1 January | 921,462 | 43,030 | 964,492 | 841,335 | 35,292 | 876,627 |
| Revaluation of opening balance in foreign currencies | 321 | 64 | 385 | 4,892 | 656 | 5,548 |
| Amount utilized during the | | | | | | |
| period/year. | (19,306) | - | (19,306) | (7,671) | - | (7,671) |
| Adjusted opening balance | 902,477 | 43,094 | 945,571 | 838,556 | 35,948 | 874,504 |
| Amounts recovered of | | | | | | |
| loans previously written off | (38,055) | - | (38,055) | (41,630) | (9,589) | (51,219) |
| Provision for the period/year (note 11) | 39,747 | 4,876 | 44,623 | 124,536 | 16,671 | 141,207 |
| Charged to the income statement | 1,692 | 4,876 | 6,568 | 82,906 | 7,082 | 89,988 |
| Balance at end of period/year | 904,169 | 47,970 | 952,139 | 921,462 | 43,030 | 964,492 |

ida fan tha

| | | No. of | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| | Ownership | shares of | 30 June | 31 December |
| | Percentage | US \$ 1 each | 2004 | 2003 |
| | % | | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Unquoted investments in UBAF Group | | | | |
| UBAF – Curacao - A Shares | | | | |
| of US \$ 1 each | 0.788 | 1,497,200 | 17,982 | 17,982 |
| UBAF – Curacao - B Shares | | | | |
| of US \$ 1 each | 0.783 | 234,650 | 2,818 | 2,818 |
| UBAF – Curacao - C Shares | | | | |
| of US \$ 1 each | 1.371 | 528,250 | 6,344 | 6,344 |
| Total investment in shares | | | | |
| in UBAF Group | | 2,260,100 | 27,144 | 27,144 |
| Other unquoted investments | | | | |
| Arab Banking Group–Bahrain | 0.344 | | 2,067 | 2,067 |
| Arab Financial Services | | | | |
| Company-Bahrain (note-a) | 0.167 | | 20,734 | 20,734 |
| Total other unquoted | | | | |
| investments | | | 22,801 | 22,801 |
| Total available for sales | | | | |
| investments | - | | 49,945 | 49,945 |
| Less: Provision for | | | | |
| impairment (note-b) | | | (29,211) | (29,211) |
| Net book value of investments available for sale | | | 20,734 | 20,734 |

(a) Arab Financial Services Company - Bahrain

The fair value of the investment in Arab Financial Services Company-Bahrain was calculated based on the net present value of the estimated future cash flows represented in the dividends received from the company on a consistent basis and using a discount rate of 3%. The fair value of the investment in Arab Financial Services Company - Bahrain as of 30 June 2004 amounted to US\$ 11.25 per share (31 December 2003: US\$ 11.25 per share).

(b) Provision for impairment

Since no dividends were received from the investments in UBAF-Curacao and Arab Banking Group-Bahrain during the last few years and no dividends are expected to be received in the next few years, a full impairment provision was taken for the balances of those investments because their net present value is nil.

8 INCOME TAX PAYABLE

| | 30 June 2004 | 31December 2003 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Amounts due to the Tax Authority | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Balance at 1 January | 390,392 | 367,967 |
| Charged for the period/year in the | | |
| Statement of Income (note a) | 262,807 | 390,392 |
| Total amounts due to the Tax Authority | 653,199 | 758,359 |
| Amount paid during the period/year | (390,392) | (367,967) |
| Total income tax payable | 262,807 | 390,392 |

a) Charge for the period

The charge for the period has been calculated on the basis of the net profit for the period. In accordance with the letter of H.E. The Minster of Finance to the Tax 14 MATURITIES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Authority dated 17 April 2000, the tax assessment of the Bank for each year shall be based on the results determined in the Bank's financial statements audited by an external auditing firm.

b) Prior year tax assessments

The Bank received on 13 June 2004, the final tax clearance for the income tax liability for the financial year ending 31 December 2003.

9 OWNER'S EQUITY

a) Authorized, declared and paid up capital

The authorized, declared and paid up share capital amounting YR. 2,100 million (2003 - YR 2,100 million) consists of 2,100 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each. (2003: of 2,100 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each).

b) Net profit distribution

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Corporations and Establishments Law No. (35) of 1991, the net profit after income tax shall be allocated as follows: 15% to statutory reserve.

- 15% to general reserve.
- 65% to the Government for its share of profits. 2% to employee's incentives.
- 3% to employees' social fund

c) Surplus on revaluation property reserve

This represents the difference between the revalued amounts of the freehold land and the buildings and their net book value as at 31 December, 1999.

d) Cumulative changes in fair value reserve

In accordance with the provisions of IAS 39 Financial Instruments - Measurement and Recognition, the differences between the fair values and the book values of the available for sale" investments are recognised in the cumulative changes in fair value until they are sold, collected, disposed off, or until they are determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised is included in the statement of income for the year.

10 CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net

| t 30 June 2004 | Gross Commitments | Covered by margin | Net commitments | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | |
| Commitments on behalf of customers for which there were corresponding liabilities by the customers concerned: | | 9 | | |
| Documentary letters of credit | 4,400,241 | 1,582,158 | 2,818,083 | |
| Letters of guarantees - customers | 2,956,279 | 802,892 | 2,153,387 | |
| Letters of guarantees - | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | | | ī |
| correspondent banks | 5,411,986 | - | 5,411,986 | |
| Customers' acceptances | 493,743 | - | 493,743 | 7 |
| Credit cards | 26,780 | 12,928 | 13,852 | |
| Total contra accounts and other commitments | 13,289,029 | 2,397,978 | 10,891,051 | |

| At 31 December 2003 | Gross Commitments | Covered by margin | Net commitments |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Commitments on behalf of | | | |
| customers for which there were | | | |
| corresponding liabilities by the | | | |
| customers concerned: | | | |
| Documentary letters of credit | 3,995,538 | 919.123 | 3.076.415 |
| | | | |
| Letters of guarantees – customers | 3,734,687 | 982,783 | 2,751,904 |
| Letters of guarantees - | | | 1 |
| correspondent banks | 4,505,447 | - | 4,505,447 |
| Customers' acceptances | 160,271 | - | 160,271 |
| Credit cards | 20,273 | 11,979 | 8,294 |
| Total contra accounts and other | | | |
| commitments | 12,416,216 | 1,913,885 | 10,502,331 |

11 PROVISIONS

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Provision for losses on loans and | | |
| advances (note 6 - b) | 44,623 | 25,412 |
| Provision for off-balance sheet items | 844 | 11,430 |
| Total provisions | 45,467 | 36,842 |

| | January/June 2004 | January/June 2003 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Net profit for the period | 488.072 | 403,862 |
| Weighted average of number of shares | 2,100,000 | 1,850,000 |
| Earnings per share | YR 232 | YR 218 |

January/June January/June

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

| | 30 June 2004 | 31December 2003 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Board members and parties related to them | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Loans and advances, gross | 4,303 | 2,510 |
| Customers' deposits | 3,318 | 3,509 |
| | January/ June 2004 | January/ June 2003 |
| | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Interest income for the period | 126 | 207 |
| Interest expense for the period | 197 | 150 |

| | | | From 6 | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| ASSETS | Less than | From 3 to | months to | Over | |
| | 3 months | 6 months | 1 year | 1 year | Tot |
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'00 |
| Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central | N 15 | | | | |
| Bank of Yemen | 7,612,738 | - 1 | - | - | 7,612,73 |
| Due from banks | 9,105,091 | 2,348,864 | 277,035 | 923,450 | 12,654,44 |
| Treasury bills, net | 22,284,869 | | - | - | 22,284,86 |
| Certificates of deposit | 5,480,000 | A. | - | - | 5,480,00 |
| Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision | 976,829 | 249,173 | 620,086 | 1,304,182 | 3,150,27 |
| Investments available for sale | | i i anti-se | - | 20,734 | 20.73 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 45,459,527 | 2,598,037 | 897,121 | 2,248,366 | 51,203,05 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Due to banks | 43,006 | - | - | | 43,00 |
| Customers' deposits | 27,608,920 | 6,544,606 | 12,691,327 | 215,139 | 47,059,99 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 27,651,926 | 6,544,606 | 12,691,327 | 215,139 | 47,102,99 |

b) The distribution of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2003

| ASSETS | Less than 3 months | From 3 to 6 months | From 6 months to 1 year | Over 1 year | Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 | YR'000 |
| Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central | | | e ser the | | |
| Bank of Yemen | 7,468,727 | | - | | 7,468,727 |
| Due from banks | 10,634,244 | 2,237,475 | | 184,300 | 13,056,019 |
| Treasury bills, net | 19,599,246 | 50,100 | | | 19,649,346 |
| Certificates of deposit | 5,380,000 | | | · . · · · · | 5,380,000 |
| Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision | 779,934 | 346,306 | 364,291 | 712,122 | 2,202,653 |
| Investments available for sale | | | | 20,734 | 20,734 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 43,862,151 | 2,633,881 | 364,291 | 917,156 | 47,777,479 |
| LIABILITIES | 1.1.1 | 1. 1. 1. | | 121/4 | 12 Z |
| Due to banks | 35,605 | | | - | 35,605 |
| Customers' deposits | 25,071,540 | 6,385,980 | 12,824,200 | 215,498 | 44,497,218 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 25,107,145 | 6,385,980 | 12.824.200 | 215,498 | 44.532.823 |

15 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Bank has filed a number of legal cases with the Public Funds Court and the Commercial Preliminary Court against former employees and customers of the Bank relating to irregularities and default in settlements of amounts due respectively. Where there are legal cases filed against the Bank at the respective courts, management fully and/or partly provides for such cases in the financial statements.

16 SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN CURRENCIES' POSITIONS

The Central Bank of Yemen circular no. (6) of 1998 establishes limits for positions in individual foreign currencies as well as an aggregate limitation for all currencies. The limits are 15% and 25% of capital and reserves. The Bank had the following significant net exposures denominated in foreign currencies:

| | 30 June 2004 | | 31 December20 | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | % | YR'000 | % | YR'000 |
| United States dollar | 9.29 | 352,943 | 2.96 | 112,423 |
| Pound sterling | 7.46 | 283,433 | 5.51 | 209,337 |
| Swiss Franc | - | - | 0.01 | 295 |
| Euro | 3.66 | 138,914 | 5.91 | 224,595 |
| Saudi Riyal | 1.62 | 61,514 | 3.16 | 120,065 |
| Other | 0.30 | 11,760 | 0.02 | 823 |
| Aggregate foreign currency positions | 22.33 | 848,564 | 17.57 | 667,538 |

17 CAPITALISATION OF THE BANK

As part of the Government financial and administration Reform Programme and the preparation of the Bank for capitalization, the Council of Ministers issued in its meeting held on 25 July 2000, resolution No. (175) of 2000 which stipulated the capitalization of the Bank to be according to the Bank's latest financial statements and on the basis of 60% for a strategic investor, 20% for public subscription and 20% for the Government.

The Minister of Finance has subsequently issued a Ministerial Decision No (486) dated 4 September 2000 in which he appointed a committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Finance, and entrusted with it the responsibility for taking the necessary steps to implement the Council of Ministers' resolution.

18 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the current period.



Advertisement







BY PETER WILLEMS YEMEN TIMES STAFF

any are still wondering when fullfledged economic reform will be put into place whilst Yemen's economy continues to be stagnant. Analysts ask if there will be a reduction in \$600 million annual oil subsidies and if other measures will take hold to give the economy a boost.

Many believe, however, that Yemen's quickest and most effective way to get the economy out of the doldrums is to focus on the tourism sector.

"Tourism could be the strongest driving force in Yemen's economy in the future," said Mohamed Qaflah, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The tourism industry saw promise between 1995 and 1998 as the number of tourists increased by 35%. But after the incident in Abyan where tourists were killed after being kidnapped in 1998, tourists coming to Yemen started to drop. The attack in America on September 11th 2001, and the war on terror that followed, also put a lid on the growth in tourism.

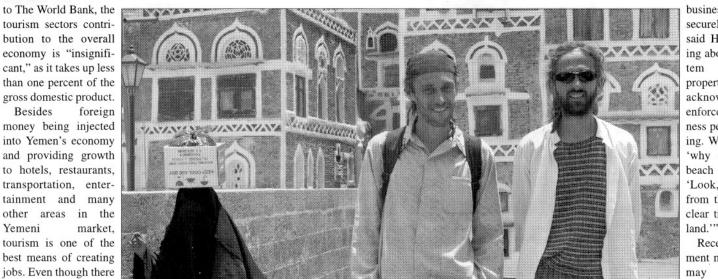
"Because of Yemen's image and security issues, the tourism industry has been hit badly," said Naji Abu Hatim, Senior Rural Development Specialist at The World Bank based in Yemen.

Even though there has been a jump in foreigners coming to visit Yemen in the last couple of years - from 76,000 in 2001 to 155,000 last year – the numbers still don't amount to much. According

bution to the overall economy is "insignificant," as it takes up less than one percent of the gross domestic product. Besides foreign money being injected into Yemen's economy and providing growth to hotels, restaurants, transportation, entertainment and many other areas in the market, Yemeni tourism is one of the best means of creating jobs. Even though there are different figures on unemployment, some have calculated that between 25% - 30% of the Yemeni population is out of work.

The pillar of Yemen's economy is oil. Over 70% of the government's revenue and around 70% of the country's export revenue comes from oil. More than 30% of Yemen's GDP depends on the flow of oil. However, oil production generates very few job opportunities.

"The oil industry does not create jobs. It creates income, but not jobs," said Robert Hindle, Country Manager at the World Bank in Yemen. "Unless you can use oil royalties in ways that will create jobs for Yemenis, you will always have this surplus of labor. What you need to do is bring in tourists. One thing that is great for this is that it creates a huge number of jobs. If you think about what would happen in terms of



Tourists visiting Old Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

employment generation, if you begin to have beach resorts here, if you begin to have companies taking tours through the mountains, you would create an enormous amount of jobs."

It is also argued that tourism can be a prime mover in reducing poverty. 42% of Yemen's population lives below the poverty line, with 25% living just above poverty.

"If there is a big increase in tourists, jobs could be available far and wide in cities, in rural areas and on coastlines," said one economist. "People would have new money to better their living conditions and would have increased purchasing power that could help the overall economy."

According to Qaflah, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has put together a

strategy, train human resources to improve the quality of tourism businesses, promote the country to attract tourists and encourage private investment

Qaflah said, "The government is seriously considering supporting the Ministry's plan."

Many in the tourism industry want to see is the government develop a fullscale promotional campaign. Last year, around a half million dollars came out of the government's budget for promoting the country.

"This is very little," said Abu Hatim. "You cannot promote a country with this amount, especially when you look at the potential of this sector. With oil revenue going down, the government must diversify into other sectors, and the starting point is tourism. The country has so many features, like landscape, mountains, coastlines, and cultural heritage, so tourism could easily boom. It's so simple: advertise."

And as a salesman at a travel agency put it, "Yes, there are clashes in Saada, but that is an isolated conflict. We have had skirmishes here and there, but every time I have spoken to a tourist, they always told me that this is a safe securely and honestly," said Hindle. "I'm talking about a judicial system that functions, property rights that are acknowledged and enforceable, easier business permits and licensing. When I ask people

'why don't you do a beach resort,' they say, 'Look, we can't get from the government a clear title to a piece of land.""

Recently, the government made a move that indicate that changes are on the way. Last month, travelers

from over 30 countries were allowed to get visas entering Yemen at Sana'a International Airport or other places of entry. Before, travelers needed to join a tourist group or come for business and get a visa at embassies

abroad. According the to Tourism Promotion Board, the government is also thinking about getting rid of tourist restrictions such as having to get permission, and being escorted, to reach certain areas of the country. This will make visiting Yemen more attractive since it will be easier to travel once they are inside the country. Travel

184.8700 336.4100 222.0900 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 |

have had an effect on travelers deciding not to tour Yemen. According to one travel agency, many travel companies abroad have decided not to include Yemen in their travel programs in 2005 following warnings.

Last month, the British government stopped warning its citizens against visiting Yemen, which might lead to other countries following suit in the near future. And security in Yemen has improved since the attacks in September 2001. Hundreds of suspected terrorists have been rounded up, including key members of the Al-Qaeda network. It has been three years since a foreigner has been kidnapped in Yemen.

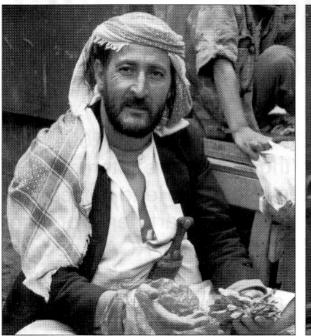
But according to some in the tourism industry, if the government does not act soon to boost the sector, many may go out of business.

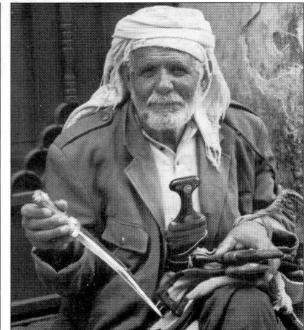
Lutf Al-Sonidar, owner of Taj Talha Hotel and Restaurant in the middle of Old Sana'a, said that in the nineties, he had an average of 80 cus-

tomers per day. It is now down to five and the hotel has reduced its staff from 23 to only three.

> "What we want from the government is to y push this sector forward, by promoting tourism and attracting investments," said Al-Sonidar.

> > "Tourism could be the biggest business in the country, bigger than oil."





plan to help the sector grow. The plan includes establishing an institute to supervise development, upgrade the master plan and the short to long-term

A vendor selling qat in Old Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by A vendor selling jambiyas in Old Sana'a (Yemen Times Peter Willems)

photo by Peter Willems)

country. Right after the bombing in Bali that killed many a couple of years ago, the country immediately promoted itself and tourism went straight back up again."

Another goal is for the government to develop a more investor-friendly environment. This could attract domestic and foreign investment that could be pumped into tourism.

"It is necessary to insure that private



and the second second

One of the most popular tourist sites in Yemen, Dar Al-Hajar (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Providing job opportunities with preserving architectural style, **Towards investment in available** resources in local environment

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he concerned parties in the field of providing job opportunities they work for implementation of plans creating those opportunities, improvement of poor families' incomes and securing the population needs in investment of available potentials and resources in the domestic environment, given that they would not need high costs for their investment. They would depend on available traditional means in many

areas in Yemen.

In the context of government efforts for preserving and protecting identity of the Yemeni distinguished architectural art and the human heritage of world-important heritage of Sana'a, Shibam Hadramout and Zabid, the concerned parties in the government encourage production of construction materials f4rom local raw materials and on condition the architectural building should preserve its engineering, construction and decoration originality.

According to the policy towards development of non-inflation self-rev-

enues or oil revenues, the government importing stones is increasing espeauthorities are offering all facilities to those working in this field.

Investment sources say production of stones and employment in the Yemeni architectural art and exporting them to neighbouring external markets would yield high amounts of revenues and profits because working in such production would not require advanced technological means of production but rather traditional equipment and workers qualified and skilled in making them according to their artistic shapes.

Sources assert that demand for

cially from India and that Qatar has expressed its desire for investment in this field. This means there are local raw materials motivating investment and exportation. Sites fore stones excavation are found in all governorates of Yemen but spread in various colours and sizes and dug out with simple tools. Those stones are used in building huge palaces rising to 12 storeys; nowadays those stones are bound with cement instead of clay. Areas where stones are massively found spread in Taiz, Ibb, Sana'a, Shabwa and Baidha'a where some establishments

are built for production of stones and they undertake marketing them locally or exporting them to external markets.

Revenues of investment of construction stones helps create job opportunities for thousands of unemployed and also assist in improvement of their and their families living circumstances. This is reflected positively on the life of needy families and contributes to alleviation of poverty cases.

With the rise in prices of iron in Yemen to more than 112 thousand Yemeni riyals for a ton, many employers and real estates owners prefer the use of stones as a major element in building and contacts, a matter which increased demand for stones and heading for investment in this area.

Moreover, stones, with their green, white, violet and red colours, have become demanded for outward decoration of houses and buildings for the purpose of preserving the architectural style, especially in the city of Sana'a.

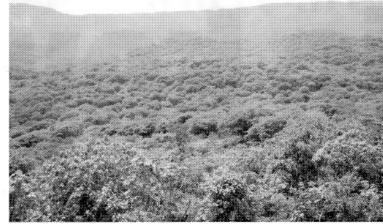
It is therefore, the concerned parties do encourage more workers in the production of stones and the work for exporting them as they constitute a source of income and provide job opportunities for increasing numbers of those who are unemployed.

Health/Environment 14 9 August, 2004 Yemen, rich in flora & fauna biodiversity

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ccording to an initial survey, the country contains more than 2810 plant species, which are belonging to 1006 genera and 173 families. Out of these plant species, 415 are endemic and do not occur elsewhere. The richness of Yemeni biodiversity may be attributed to the following reasons:

Yemen has a unique position in the Arabian peninsula where a mixture of flora of the tropical Africa, as well as plants from the Sardinian geo-



graphical region, have taken root. The large diversity of species is the result of the considerable cli-

taken place over time. This has enabled different species to survive in the large variety of habitats matic changes, which have offered by Yemen and characterized by some steep mountains dissected by narrow

wadis thus creating some highly isolated habitats that favor the formation of endemic species.

The large diversity is also the result of the large climatic variation found within Yemen, varying from desert conditions to sub-humid tropical conditions.

Hawf background

Hawf is a 30,000 ha mountainous area, with a maximum elevation of 1400 m, running parallel with the Gulf of Aden coast and extending for about 60 km from Ras Fartek in the west of Yemen to the border with Oman. Due to its unique orograhic position - included climate the area is covered by a lush, monsoon forest, and is surrounded by an arid ecosystem in the rain shadow. It is only forest of its type in Yemen and also, along with the contiguous area beyond the Omani border, is the only forest of this type in the region. It is the habitat



for a number of unique and threatened species of plants and animals. The area as a whole including Dhofar region in Oman and Hawf region in Yemen has been described as a center of plant diversity, and as a "Fog oasis" in the Arabian Peninsula which is predominantly arid.

Within Yemen, the Hawf pilot area constitutes one of the largest areas with a high tree cover and a high plant and animal diversity. Current threats mainly result from rapid population increase in the area and the absence of alternative income opportunities other than expansion of intensified of agriculture and pastoralism in the area itself.



Tender announcement for the Second time

General Corporation for printing School Books announces about re-put of the tender No 10/2004, for importing Electric Generator, those who are interested to enter this tender may proceed to the Head Office for Finance Affairs - Procurement Department of the Corporation located in GARAF - AIRPORT ROAD near to AlKibssi Martyr School, for receiving the Book of terms and specifications against an amount of (10.000-00) Ten Thousand Riyals not refunded.

The candidate should fulfill the following conditions:

- 1- Attach Bank Guarantee or Certified Check by 2.5% from bids value valid for not less than 60 days.
- 2- Attach copy from the Tax Card for the year 2004.
- 3- Attach copy from the Commercial Registration Card for the year _2004.
- 4- Offers are submitted sealed with the sealing wax.
- 5- Attach copy from the Insurance Card for the year 2004.
- 6- Last date for submitting bids is Wednesday corresponding to 1/9/2004 at 11.00 the same time the envelopes will be open in the presence of the Importers or the representatives with the stipulation that each representative should bear a written authorization from the Company he represents.



Fish oil helps some cancer **Fear of terror may raise** patients with wasting

Loss of weight and muscle mass. common among people with cancer, may be improved with fish oil supplements, according to a new report.

Intestinal upsets make high-dose fish oil capsules difficult for many people with cancer-related wasting to tolerate, but those who are able to take the supplements regularly may be able to stabilize their weight or even gain pounds, according to Dr. C. Patrick Burns of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City and colleagues.

Animal studies and some clinical investigations have suggested omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oils may protect against cachexia, as weight loss related to a chronic disease is called. There are three mechanisms by which omega-3s may have this effect, Burns noted in an interview with Reuters Health.

Omega-3s inhibit secretion of inflammatory compounds. Tumors may promote cachexia by releasing factors that stimulate production of these substances, he explained, so the fatty acids would block this process. Also, he added, omega-3 fatty acids may slow protein degradation and fat breakdown.

In the current study, in the medical journal Cancer, 43 patients with moderate to severe malnutrition were prescribed high doses of omega-3 fatty acid supplements. The dose depended the individual's weight. For example, a person weighing 70 kilograms (about 150 pounds) would take eleven 1-gram capsules per day.

The capsules were divided into two doses, taken with breakfast and lunch. The researchers began the study with twice the dosage, but reduced it because many patients were unwilling or unable to take so many capsules.

Among the 36 participants who took at least some capsules, six were able to gain more than 5 percent of their body weight or achieve their

normal weight. Twenty-four other patients stabilized their weight, meaning they gained or lost no more than 5 percent. Six other patients lost more than 5 percent of their body weight.

Side effects were common, and included nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, and the size of the capsules made them difficult for some patients to take.

Nineteen patients stopped treatment early due to side effects, but some other participants tolerated the regimen with few problems, the researchers note.

"It did not seem that gender, age, or ethnicity predicted intolerance, but the study was not powered to test that question," Burns told Reuters Health.

Future studies of fish oil for cachexia that begin when patients are less severely ill, and last for longer than 30 days, may have more positive results, the researchers conclude.

heart disease risk

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) -Israeli women who are extremely afraid of terrorism appear to have higher levels of a marker of blood vessel inflammation, a sign they may be at risk of cardiovascular disease, researchers report.

The investigators found that women who said they were particularly afraid of attacks such as suicide bombings were 70 percent more likely to have high levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), linked in several studies to an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, sudden cardiac death and artery disease, among other conditions.

"This study demonstrates for the first time, in a sample of apparently healthy workers, that the psychological reaction of chronic fear of terror has a negative impact on health in women," Dr. Samuel Melamed of Tel-Aviv University in Israel and colleagues write in the

Medicine.

"International studies are needed to explore the extent of fear of terror in other countries, and the relative risk of physical morbidity in women," they add.

This is not the first study to link mental state to inflammation. Previous research has shown that repeated episodes of acute or chronic stress can culminate in chronic inflammation, leading to cardiovascular disease.

To investigate whether the same pattern occurs in people living under the threat of random acts of violence, Melamed and his team surveyed 1152 healthy, employed adults living in Israel, which "has been subject to a continuous threat of terror" since September 2000.

The investigators asked the participants if they had a deep concern for their personal safety, whether they got particularly nervous in medical journal Psychosomatic crowded places, and if they were

very afraid that an attack will hurt themselves or their families.

The authors found that women tended to have more fears related to terrorism than men. More than 26 percent of women exhibited a high state of fear, most of them for at least one year, compared with 11 percent of men.

Women who reported a high fear of terrorism were more likely to have high levels of CRP, even after removing the influence of general anxiety, depression and other factors that can influence CRP.

Men's fears appeared to have no relationship to their levels of CRP.

These gender differences appear consistent with previous research, Melamed and his colleagues write, which has also shown that women show more signs of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health problems after a terrorist attack than men.

Parkinson's drug linked to heart valve damage

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) -Heart valve disease appears to be relatively common in Parkinson's disease patients treated with pergolide (Permax), according to results of a new study. Evidence suggests that the degree of damage correlates with lifetime dose of the drug, but the effects may be reversible.

Pergolide belongs to a class of drugs called dopamine agonists. It is derived from ergot, a substance obtained from plants, and works by acting in place of dopamine, a natural substance in the brain needed to control movement.

Several cases of valvular heart disease associated with pergolide treatment have been reported recently, but the prevalence of the condition is unknown, Dr. D. G. Baseman of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, and colleagues report in journal Neurology.

Using the clinical database of the Clinical Center for Movement Disorders at their institution, the investigators identified 82 patients who were confirmed to be currently taking the drug.

Forty-six of these patients underwent cardiac evaluation, and scores for heart valve regurgitation, or backward flow of blood, were compared with those from a comparison (control) group of patients of the same age participating in the Framingham Heart Study.

Baseman's team observed some degree of valvular regurgitation in 89 percent of the patients. The risk of abnormal valves was up to three times that observed in the control group, and there was an estimated 14-fold increased risk of regurgitation of heart's the tricuspid valve. Valve scores increased with increased duration of pergolide use, the authors note.

In three patients with disabling heart disease, cessation of the drug was followed by improvements on cardiac tests.

"We believe that dopamine agonist therapy should be initiated with a nonergot drug," Baseman's group concludes. "In those currently taking pergolide, consideration should be given to switching to a nonergot agonist until the safety of pergolide can be firmly established."

Continued from page 1 **Malaysian Prime Minister...**

He also added that Malaysia was successful after boosting the income of citizens in rural areas by focusing on industrializing agriculture and providing new and better sources of income for hundreds of thousands of families throughout the country. It is worth noting that Malaysia is the largest producer and exporter of palm oil in the world. More than 2 million people benefit directly from this massive industry.

Fighting corruption: A priority

Mr. Badawi has also been admired by his nation and people around the world for his strong and stiff measures taken, in dealing with corruption. "Corruption is something I cannot tolerate. I have made sure that Malaysia's fight against corruption should be elevated, but that doesn't mean coming after suspected officials for no reason, but rather by taking the correct and appropriate measures against those found, by undisputed evidence, to be corrupt." Mr. Badawi said.

Mahathir has a different style

Yemen Times then asked about the style of Badawi in running the government. "In a meeting conducted with

former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed, he said that you have in mind the same objective and strategy,

but have your own different style. What is this style?" was the question to which Mr. Badawi replied, "As a country, Malaysia has short and longterm plans, and it is logical to conclude that I would continue the different plans set up before for the country's development. It must be asserted here that even though our styles are different, we are equally committed to develop the country in all aspects. I was told that I am calmer and take things more quietly. I, however, believe that as a Muslim leader, I have a responsibility to showcase Malaysia that practices moderate Islam, which is a religion of peace and love. Everything we have achieved as a nation should not be attributed to one person, but rather to the many people who worked for this country since it was first established. We as Malaysians like to have our leaders an example for the people. They should be the most respected, elite, and hard working individuals who can be followed by others. We resembled this with our founders who emphasized unity and tolerance between religions. I believe in this too and will be dedi-

cated to maintain this way of governance."

Concerns of Malaysia

The Malaysian Prime Minister, however, mentioned that there were several issues that concerned his country. Among them was the issue of terrorism and events in the Middle East. "There is progress in Malaysia concerning combating terrorism in the country. We are thankful to all those who contributed to making Malaysia a secure and peaceful country that has not been greatly affected by the ongoing war on terrorism." he said.

"But we are concerned about the situation in the Middle East. We have come to see that there may be plans to demolish the holy Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem or part of it. We believe that such a thing would be a serious miscalculation that could lead to negative consequences. Such action would result in an even greater hatred and enmity of Muslims, not only in Palestine but throughout the world because Al-Aqsa Mosque was the first 'Qibla' for Muslims and is an extremely holy site for them." The Prime Minister said.

He also added that US-Malaysia relations are getting better especially

after his latest visit to the USA in which he exchanged views with President George W. Bush and conveyed the opinion of Muslim nations concerning the unilateral decision on the war on Iraq and the biasness towards Israel. "We also discussed Malaysia's potential participation in building the infrastructure of Iraq and said that Islam should not be associated with terrorism." he said.

Badawi added that US-Malaysia cooperation will continue to grow in all fields, despite some political disputes about US policies in the Middle East. As for US elections, Mr. Badawi said he cannot predict the winner in the upcoming US elections which is a local event that cannot be predicted. "No one can ever predict who will be president in the USA! But no matter who becomes president, Malaysia's willingness to cooperate will continue." he added.

Wishing to come to Yemen

At the end of the meeting, PM Badawi expressed his desire to come to Yemen and visit the country, where the ones who spread Islam to Malaysia (and Southeast Asia) came from (Hadhramout).

"I will be looking forward to visiting Yemen once I tackle the other priorities that we have in the country." he concluded.

into the faces of the present suspects, as well as the photo of the prime sus-



Weak judge cripples progress

Last week, advocates quitted the tribunal. The 11 advocates authorized by the Advocates Syndicates at the request of the court, repudiate that the court continue probing into evidence presented by the prosecution, before they have had a chance to copy the investigation reports. The prosecutor refused their demand and said the court had already decided that no copies are to be given to the defense; the court judge continued listening to the prosecution as showing the evi-

dence, which made the advocates burst out in anger and leave the courtroom. This is the third time in which the failure of the judge has compelled advocates to quit the oribunal. The hearings have been characterized by messy proceedings. The advocates of the defendants complained from the beginning that their presence was meant to be just a decoration for the trial.

On the other hand, the suspected al-Qaeda operatives charged with bombing the USS Cole demanded in the fifth hearing last Wednesday that they should be released on bail.

The court judge Najeeb al-Qaderi, who seemed more controlling and influential, ordered the prosecution to present the rest of its evidences next Wednesday. During the hearing, the prosecution presented two witnesses to deliver their testimony; one of them is Saeed Salem who said the perpetrators set the boat used in the suicide attack in the yard of his house. However, when he was asked to look

pect Abdulraheem al-Nasheri, in the US custody, the witness could not. The second witness Mohammed Abdu Ismael who took the boat from Hodeidah to Aden, said the same thing. Advocate Abdulaziz al-Samawi refuted the testimony and said it was full of contradictions and meant nothing to his clients, as the witnesses could not even recognize the suspects. The hearing was not attended b Jamal al-Badwi who is in the hospital for treatment for his injured leg, due to the gunfire when he was arrested last March.

Government declares end of operations, Houthi's followers put up heavy resistance

"Bloody battles are continuing between Al-Houthi's militants and government troops in Mran and Hamdan areas. The army now controls a huge area because of superiority in numbers and resources- they used warplanes, regularly bomb Al-Houthi followers," said a source close to Al-Houthi on Saturday night in a telephone conversation with the Yemen Times.

Eyewitnesses confirmed to France Press that the army used tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery, as Al-Houthi's followers displayed violent resistance from their positions, sniping and targeting government troops with heavier weapons such as machine guns and missile launchers.

The army went on the offensive after the failure of mediations. Previously President Saleh had

ordered, on July 27, a committee to be formed consisting of 26 leading figures including opposition party leaders, ministers, parliamentarians and clerics.

The mediation yielded no results. The committee returned to Sana'a having two opinions, one of them disapproved the army's breaching the truce suggested by the committee whilst others approved of a military assault backed by high ranking army officials.

The committee, after returning from Sa'ada had held a meeting with the president, in which he asked them to sign a statement that approved of a military solution to the problem. But the majority of the committee members refused to sign the way the President wanted. The committee has been holding meetings till the writing this article and is

expected to issue a statement, which has been delayed due to the majority of the committee members abstaining from Saturday's meeting.

The supporters of Al-Houthi had been increasing in number, reaching recently 3000 men in comparison to 15000 government troops. Bloody clashes had started on June 18 and were continuing upto the writing of this article, claiming the lives of over a thousand civilans and troops, while the number of the wounded is much more. Losses in property and homes have not been estimated yet. Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, a former member of Parliament, fol-

lows the Ja'afari school of religion, and is leader of a Shiite group named the "Believing Youth", which similarly cherishes the Ja'afari school so popular in Iran. The group was established in 1997 with the

support of the government to block the Wahabi school in Saudi Arabia to influence the northern part of Yemen, basically inhabited by Zaidis and Ismailis. Many Shiite schools were established along the Yemeni Saudi borders. The Yemeni government recently turned on Al-Houthi, accusing him of proclaiming himself as a Commander of Believers (ruler), calling for restoring the Imamate and threatening the wider peace.

Al-Houthi denies this. He told the BBC in an interview from his stronghold in the Mran area that the state's allegations are "groundless." "I call for reciting the holy Koran, disseminating it among people, and hating America and Israel," stated he

He said the dispute with the government is political in nature and could have been solved through peaceful negotiations and not through military might and acts of killing and destruction.

16 9 August, 2004

A letter To the **Ambassador of the United States of America**

BY MOHAMED AL ASRI ALNADERAH, YEMEN

do like to write and share with you some thoughts about the current situation or rather conflict between Islam, and the west. This is to you, to read and to convey to both houses of the United States Senates, and the house of congress

Firstly, I'd like to make it clear that I am not qualified to speak for either side, but for three reasons I'd like to try and be useful and help both sides better understand one another, and heighten awareness of their common interests, these three reasons are:-

- 1-I am a human being, and would like all humans to live in peace, and with understanding.
- 2-I am an ordinary Muslim, and a Muslim who knows his religion, and has a strong faith in Allah, and who does not want any harm to come to any people or any of Allah's creation.
- 3-I am a Yemeni American, and do not want to see any Muslims oppressed (or any other people for that matter), at the same time it would, and will, make me sad to see America as less then what it is today. In this time and age, a person or a nation must be careful whom he or she associates, and acknowledge that a persons behavior can reflect positively or negatively on the behavior of others. I believe we all agree that we all want to be good, but our actions can make others react either way - good or bad, in speech or actions

Going to the matter (or the conflict) between the Muslims and the west, lets talk about the Muslims first. The Muslims are just human beings, who believe in the one and only God -Allah. And that Allah teaches them in the Ouran (the Book of Allah) that a person must be good in every thing he or she does - even to the point of a thought, because Allah says that every body will be accounted for all their actions, and who ever does not do good, even to the point of a thought, Allah will punish.

The teaching of Islam is a vast subject, but this is a summation. You see, a Muslim is not a complicated person to understand, in fact, if a non-Muslim needs to know a Muslim, he does not need to investigate him, he merely has to read about his Islamic teachings.

Because a Muslim bases his life on his Islamic teachings, he or she is an open book for every one to see. The Muslim thinks that if he can hide something from others for some reason he or she can not hide it from

years, whilst the world went back to the dark ages in its way of thinking, thus, it is sad to see that this in this modern age, where humans have learned to conquer outer space, they can not find ways to peace. Instead we see the oppression of people, and nations invading other nations, and using the blessing of modern technology to aid in killing other human beings in Palestine, and now in Iraq.

I should advise Israel that it is better for them (and the whole world as well) to correct their behavior against the Muslims starting with the Muslims in Palestine and in Iraq. Again it is partly because of them (as some U.S. officials stated very falsely that Iraq was a threat to Israel, and to the whole world) that Iraq was invaded.

And now the Jews are using the power of the U.S. as boxing gloves to settle old disputes as they think. As I stated in my 3rd reason previously, I will advise the U.S - and the whole west - they should restudy the terms of their relations with the Jews because the Muslims do not worry about Islam, Islam is God's-Allah's religion, and whoever thinks to erase Islam from the face of this earth, they have to declare the war against Allah.

And as a Muslim, I deeply think there is no match to his power. The Muslims are now the weakest nations in the world, and carrying out a war against them by the Jews by the help of or by the west is no match. It would be a carnage that should be avoided if we use open minds in this new age of knowledge. What we all have today is many different kinds of blessing, I believe this is a test from God-Allah to see if we use it for the benefits of humanity or against it.

As a Muslim with other Muslims, we all agree that Islam does not threaten any one, we like to live up to its teachings, and we deeply believe that it is a mercy from God-Allah to mankind, living up to its teachings is very satisfying and rewarding to us, nothing in the whole universe will make us compromised it, and that's how we feel about it. We like to share this great bless with non-Muslims, but however, it goes back to them, they the only ones who decide to choose it, on their own free will, we can not force any one in any way possible. Jews, Christians, and others, are just people like us, and we should like one another. It is our actions in life that make us dislike one another, for example, a person who drinks Alcohol or takes Harmful drinks which cause him to do unwanted acts that cause harm to himself and others, people dislike this person because of his life's habits and his dangerous behavior. This is only one example, the Muslims do not hate the Jews but, like I said, we hate their behavior and the crimes they commit against us, and that's the essence of all disputes among all people, even between family members from the beginning of time. We as humans today have to educated people more than they ever have been, also we have the means of communicating in many ways, to understand our differences and base our agreements on the common good for mankind, not for individuals or selfish personal gains. We the Muslims, are willing to face non-Muslims in any way they choose, we prefer peaceful-We are very weak, and at the same time we see you unaware of your own weakness. As marshal arts experts say, if two people fight, one with a weapon his opponent bare handed, the bare handed, they say, is the stronger because the one with the weapon is only thinking of the weapon to fight with, when it is out of his hand his strength goes with it. This is one example, and here is a famous saying from the Muslims to whomever can understand it, "if you know your own ability over others, remember Allah's ability over you". We Muslims, are really weak in many ways nowadays, and under continued threat from the Jews, with the help of the west. However we can strengthen by just one thing - faith in Allah. This is all we need, and it is getting away from the path of Allah that has lead to our current weakness. I will say this for the love of America

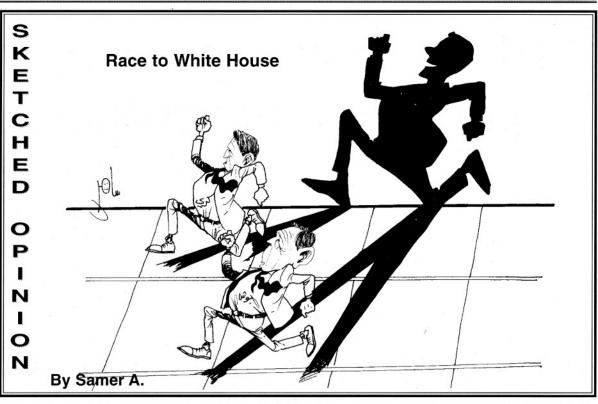
out into the open in the past several now, and I will give an example, I will be very sad to see America one day thrown needlessly out on the waste ground of history as a discarded worn out old boxing glove, that was used by a group of opportunists to fight for injustice, and against freedom for all. Because I do not see today what I

saw about thirty years ago, when I went to school and said the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. before becoming a U.S citizen. When I said it, I begin to think about the words and I thought that these were good words, and should be said by everyone in the whole world, not just American citizens.

Who does not want freedom and justice for all? Only corrupted people, these kinds of people need to be stopped in their tracks any time and any place. About twenty years ago, in Sanantonio, Texas, the Alamo city, I made my pledge of allegiance officially in a front of a judge and others. Here is my example, I think some of you might have heard it. It says 'a dull rock can cut off a tight robe', it does not matter how long it takes.

This is the strategy of the Jews and their blind followers in the U.S. government. Do they know how long it takes to erase some say a billion Muslims from the world? Do they think the whole world will close its eyes and ears, like it has done over Palestine and the invasion of Iraq, when the whole world was against it? Despite the wishes of the world, the U.S. and England propagated their false reasons and went on against the whole world and invaded Iraq.

More over, they said with their false intelligence that the Iraqi people would meet the invading forces from the U.S and England with welcome songs and bouquets of flowers. None of all that took place, and now history will tell, and the future will come. The Muslims say that they would like to see Mr. Bush remain in office some more, so that the sleeping Muslims can wake up. At the same time the Iraqis like the presence of the American forces and their Allies in Iraq, so that they can continue to take out on them as much revenge as possible for the children who died because of the U.S. sanctions which were imposed on Iraq for over a decade. For the common good of both sides I say Wake up America, the Muslims of Islam are not your enemy, or an enemy to any one. If the plan is to wage war on the Muslims, and their religion and you think you going win, I am going ask you first, are you truly wining in Palestine? Are you truly wining in Iraq? Please think, and stop all this, please recalculate your figures



gions, you thought you do not need religion, it is not useful for your societies, and most western nations, including the former soviet union, reject religions teachings and practices. However, this false thinking, as if 'nature' is the creator of all, did not solve your problems, and truly it will not. Now you are in the process of forcing us to do what you did - to do away with our religion of Islam.

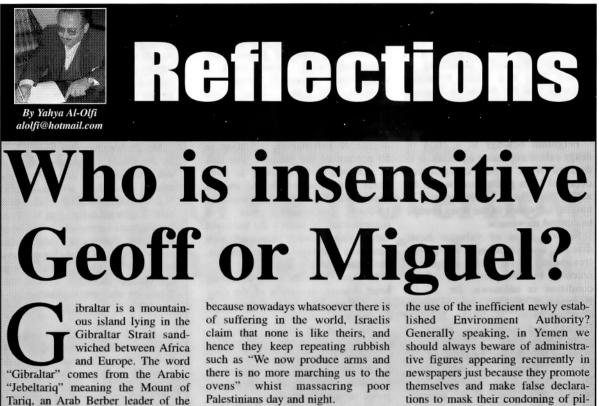
I will say that you are wrong if you think that we will follow you, at the same time, we are stupid if we do. We are not forcing you to accept Islam, therefore what gives you the right to force us to reject it? This is not fair! If you reject your faith and do not want to go by your religions teachings, it is your own mistake, but we will be fair with you, we merely offer Islam to you, on your own free will, without any pressure. It is only for love of you, that we will share Islam with you. Knowledge does not decrease, and we have more than enough for all humans to use and benefit from.

Regarding your unfair conditions to us, we could say to you - you played with your religion, it is your fault, and it is true, we know your religion has been damaged by you and lost, Allah gives you a second chance by accepting Islam. This is not like what you try to do to us, this is not fair, even common sense can tell you that, if you have it. If you try to provoke us to do some thing against our faith, I repeat, we the Muslims love to give you peace, and your civilization needs

peace, and love from one another. We can help you more then we can harm you

We can help you wipe out aids, eliminate alcohol and drug addictions and unwanted teenage pregnancies which increase every year. We will help you build strong bonded, loving family units.

I can go on and write some more, but take this one more saying from the Muslims to you. it says "show the forbearing the point not the whole path."! The whole path might be too long, and not the right time for it, though I hope that this makes as much sense to you as it does to me. I also pray to Allah, that he will give good sense to all of us to know and act for common good, for peace all over the world, all the time!



O.K understood, but that does not give you the right to rebuke Joseph Lepid just because his conscience awoke for a while, when he declared that seeing an elderly Palestinian woman lying dead on the ground, reminded him of his grandmother whom the Nazis massacred. Furthermore, setups perpetrated by Israelis in France in order to arouse French Public anger towards Arabs have miraculously failed. Insincerity and roguishness on the part of Israel and its Mosad secret service, e.g. "carrying out criminal missions" with Canadian and NZ counterfeited passports attest to such misbehavior and how Israeli accusations in the future must be, scrupulously and meticulously examined, taking into consideration the recently discovered setups, like the one recently committed at a Parisian Subway.

tions to mask their condoning of pilferage.

Allah. At the same time he or she does not fear any thing, except Allah, because no one can give punishment nor reward like Allah. Therefore that's it. For the common good a Muslim can be controlled or kept a friend but on the other hand, with selfish aims or unjust provocations, he or she can give his or her life - and that's the philosophy which he bases his LIFE on. Other words in defense of the "right" they have two choices, either victory or martyrdom.

Now about the west, the Muslims are very frustrated with the west (the head of which is the U.S. - although the whole world can be held responsible for forgetting the Palestinian Israeli conflict) for shutting their eyes and turning a DEAF EAR to the Palestinians and also now in Iraq.

At this time in history, no nation on the face of the earth is openly colonized except Palestine and Iraq. At the same time, the west keeps promoting the way of Democracy, freedom and human rights. How can it be believed when the saying - democracy, freedom, and human rights whilst doing the opposite?

This is very hard to understand or believe. Can we ask the west to put themselves in the shoes of the Muslims? George Washington told the British 'no Taxation without representation', and the early Americans fought the British until they gained their independence.

Israel does to the Palestinians what in the name of humanity, no other people could do, and at the same time. speaks the rhetoric of democracy, freedom and human rights. This can not be accepted. Things have come and formulas.

I've heard some rumors recently about a big program for the middle east from the west, and its leader is the U.S., I will ask, are you aware of what you do? Do you know where you are going?

To get to it, your command to us to compromise our religion and faith is not accepted by any of the Muslims of any of the Muslims countries. You might get your commands granted from the leaders of all Muslims nations, only because they timidly want to avoid your trouble - as you know your own behavior.

I think the world we live in at this time in history is a very cowardly world, because like I stated before, we have more educated people, but sadly injustice still prevails. I know for sure that all the Muslim nations cannot stand up to correct your behavior, even though they all feel the conspiracy today against them. Going back to the big program, I will say this, we the Muslims have many good common sayings this is one of them; it says, "take the advice of the one who takes the rock out of your hand (for attack), at the same time do not take it from the one who gave it, to attack.!" You know the number of Muslims all over the world, some say as many as a billion people. I repeat Islam and the Muslims are not any ones enemy. As human beings, all of us, are the common enemy of Satan. He swore to Allah, that he will make all humans sinners to God -Allah, except for a few who have faith, and guidance from God-Allah.

You people of the book - Jews and Christians - have rejected your reliIberian peninsula and thereafter started the illumination of Europe, which at the time was under the mercy of religious hierarchies, feudal states and their vassals, which merely spread suppression and backwardness - just as our Islamic movements harbor nowadays for their respective coun-

Islamic forces which invaded the

Talking about this subject is instigated by a nonsensical declaration made by the Spanish Foreign Minister "Don Miguel Angel Moratinos" in that festivities commemorating 300 years of British presence and the visit of a British official are insensitive, considering that both countries are now members of the EU etc.

An Arab proverb says, "Do not forbid a manner which you yourself excel in practicing" because if you do, you are committing by that a gross monstrosity. Spain has occupied the Moroccan cities of Ceutha and Melila for a long time now and does not intend to return them back to Morocco. So it is unbefitting for the Spanish to preach moralities which they themselves do not stick to, and just remember how they occupied a small rocky Island near to a Moroccan Fishing village (Perijil) far away from the Spanish Mainland.

Premier Zapatero seems poised and composed, and shall certainly drive Spain away from such a "Spanish Inquisition Mentality" in that any concessions to be made by the British shall be more forthcoming when Spain sets the example, or is it because the others are Arab non-members of the EU?

Actually I wanted to speak about Israeli Monopoly on Suffering,

Wadi Bana is one of Yemen's most prominent seasonal rivers, it starts around Alqafr Directorate, passing through the districts of Alsaddah, Alnadirah, Rabiatain, Alshaib and other bordering villages. It is divided into two tributaries upon arrival in Abyan, one of which is named Hassaan while the other retains the original name i.e. "Wadi Bana".

Both tributaries pour their excess waters into the Arabian Sea in the South where the British, during the occupation, encouraged agriculture namely Cotton and were followed by the Soviets at the time of the PDRY. Nowadays, people all along the Wadi connect their sewage systems to this Wadi and likewise chemicals and oils are being disposed off in the same manner.

A question is raised here, what is

I still remember how a minister gave an exaggerated statistical figure to invited foreign journalists, who immediately knew that he was lying because the booklet within their hands told otherwise (albeit those figures were exaggerated too). So the more an administrator is seen in papers, the more the evidence that he is one of the renowned self-promoting public money pilferers.

The theological megalomaniac "Al-Houthi" under the guise of his incitement Slogan "Death to USA and Israel" (exactly like the famous Iranians' "Mard Part Amrica" slogan), has refused to surrender himself, and his ill mind has made him consider himself as an equal party vis a vis the state and the president, or else what is the meaning of his answers to the mediators like:

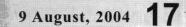
"......We cannot receive more than three mediators in our country!....We do not permit bodyguards as our country is secure If you want a solution go to Ali Abdullah he is the aggressor!?.

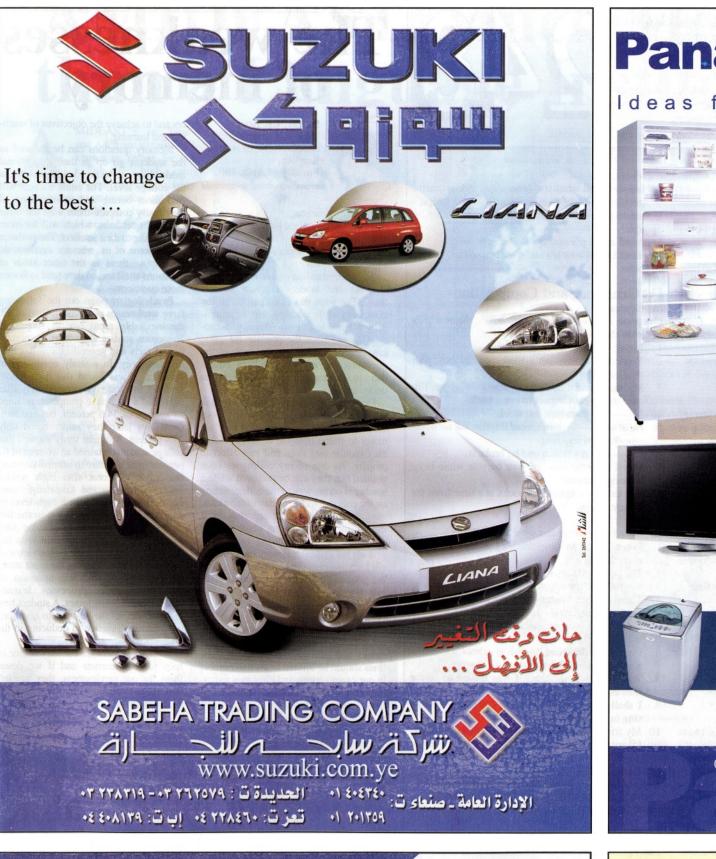
This mentally retarded bogus figure, considers himself an equal and reduces the status of the State to the status of his band of brainwashed idiots. There should be no remuneration for this criminal and his followers ever, because a religious based insurgency is far worse than any crime and if remunerated or concessions are given it shall surely lead to grave consequences.

Such hard headed and blind theological movements must be met by extreme penal measures and unrelenting force to wipe them out so as to set the record straight.



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18 9 August, 2004

Education Presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu





I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (69) Get well wishes

◄ olace to sick is a sacred service. Get well wishes infuse in the sick much-needed cheer, a robust optimism and hope that goes a long way to usher in speedy recovery and rehabilitate the inner well-being to the indisposed.

Relax till the time you are back on your feet. A little wish for you to get well soon. Warm wishes fondly come your way to hope that you recover soon and be at your best.

Hoping for your quick recovery. Thinking of you and hoping good health and good times are right round the corner. Get well soon.

Thinking of you and wishing you well. If we plant good deeds on sunny days, their beauty will remain in spite of clouds and rain. Remembering all the nice things you have done, the things that make you so dear, and hoping these rainy days will pass and sunshine will reappear. Please get well soon.

- Wishing you a speedy recovery. To let you know you're thought of in a very special way and to 3. hope you feel a little better each and every day. This comes warmly to say that all the understanding and warm encouragement are with you as you rest. May you return to good health as fast as possible and remain so, always. Get well soon!
- Get well soon. Hope you're taking care of yourself and getting lots of rest; so it won't be very long before you're feeling at your best.
- This brings a bit of sunshine to brighten up your day, to let you know you're thought of in a very special way. When you're not feeling well, sometimes it's easy to start feeling a little lonely too. That's why I just wanted you to know that now, more than ever, you're in my mind and in my heart. And hope tender love and indulgent care will boost your sense of inner wellbeing and put you back on the road of recovery. Take care, Sorry, you're sick. Wishes for you to hope the
- days are few until you're feeling strong again and just as good as new. Get well soon.
- As you recover in the hospital, hope this little message will make you aware of how often you're thought of and how much others care.

II. How to Say it Correctly

- Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences 1. The Government promised that the loyal workers should be given promotion.
- 2. When I shall go to London, I shall meet my brother.
- You are one of those who helps others. 3.
- 4. Each of the clerks in this office are loyal and efficient.
- 5. The Dean said the students to go away at once.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Athletics is very popular in our college. 2. The peasantry are not content with the government's decision.
- He has been teaching poetry in the school. 3. 4. He takes rest daily for two hours lest he should be
- ill once again.



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu Associate Professor College of Education,

fences.

5.

8.

- movers and shakers (energetic and powerful 4. people who make changes or get things done): It's the movers and shakers who can usher in a new
 - mind one's p's and q's (to be very careful): You should mind your p's and q's when talking to your boss.

IV. Grammar and Composition (A) Grammar

Complete the sentences using 'lend', 'borrow', or 'loan' in the correct form

- money from a friend. 1. Never -
- 2. You could always get a bank ----- to buy your new car.
- 3. My mother said the money was a -----, but I'm sure she doesn't expect to get it back. 4.
 - \$20 from him last week
- 5. He always ------ things from Raydan but he never Raydan anything. - him my watch and he broke it.
- 7. May I have the of your bicycle while mine
 - is being repaired?
- You can upto three books at a time from the library.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- When I was in hospital, they allowed visitors everyday.
- The police officers made him sign the confession. She advised me to complain to the manufacturers.
- The fisherman warned us not to swim in the sea
- as it was dangerous. 5. I know my brother wants me to go on holiday
- with him. I was taught to read English at school.
- Khalid's parents let him smoke at home. When I was in the army, I was forced to go for runs every morning.
- I shall never forget the night we heard Eshrag
- sing in a concert. 10. My friend encouraged me to telephone Walid as
- I wanted to see him again.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim 74: LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU, WEEP AND YOU WEEP ALONE

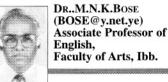
Answers to last week's questions

Janet got married to Pedro last Saturday, and we went to the wedding, which was wonderful. The bride wore a beautiful white dress, it had a long train made of silk, and it was carried by the two bridesmaids, who were her eight-year-old cousins. At the start of the ceremony, her husband-to-be the groom was waiting for her at the front of the church. After the ceremony, photographs were taken, and then everyone was invited to the reception in a hotel, where we all had a meal. Afterwards they set off on their honeymoon, which they were going to spend in Bali.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



A letter to the teachers of English: 55 The weaknesses of memory



f I ask a hundred teachers 'which is

better to develop in your learners,

memory or understanding?', I am

sure, ninety of them will say

'understanding' (this is what my

students and student teachers say, at

least). But what most of them do in the

classroom while teaching orin the exami-

nations while testing is to develop memo-

ry. This has been the practice for ages;

knowingly or unknowingly, most of the

questions we ask our students enable

them to sharpen their memory rather than

One of the obvious reasons why we ask

'memory questions' more often in our

classes and examinations is that they are

easier to frame than the other questions;

they require less time and less effort to

prepare. As one of my colleagues once

pointed out, they can be prepared while a

teacher is on his way to the college sitting

on the college bus on the day of the exam-

ination. But how good are they as a

means of achieving the objectives of

all: I am aware of the benefits of develop-

ing good memory in our students and the

role played by these questions in this

process. On the other hand, I am definite-

ly against 'memory questions only'.

There is a place for memory questions,

for instance, to test the facts, definitions.

values and generalizations. These ques-

tions should be limited to a small number

in our examinations and questions requir-

ing other kinds of thinking such as trans-

lation, interpretation and evaluation ques-

tions should find a place in our examina-

tions, if we want to do justice to our learn-

I am not against 'memory questions' at

teaching and learning?

Dear Fellow teachers,

understanding.

ers and to achieve the objectives of teaching and learning.

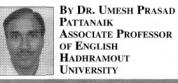
Memory questions can be reduced as the students go up in their educational ladder; they can be avoided, if possible, at the college level. The adult learners will find them boring and uninteresting, if they really compare them with the other kinds of questions, which will be more challenging to their intellect. The problem is that some of us, who are careless, do not expose them to the other kinds of questions at all and so they tend to favour these questions.

Psychologists point out the following three weaknesses of memory. First of all, the inevitably rapid rate of forgetting. Numerous studies show that memorization of facts and generalizations has limited longevity. In a study conducted in America, it was found that high-school students, in a test given immediately after they read a four-page pamphlet, retained an average of 54.6 percent, but one hundred days later they remembered only 23.4 percent. A similar study showed that college students retained an average of 62 percent from a lecture in immediate recall but only 24 percent after eight weeks. Secondly, memorized knowledge does not necessarily represent a high level of understanding. This is evident in the fact that most of our students who get very good marks on memory-based tests fail miserably when they face interviews or similar situations. Thirdly, the more attention on memory, the less attention on other intellectual processes learned through practice in classes. A student best learns to deduct the answers to questions only through practice in deducing in the classroom.

We, the teachers are the only source of help for our learners and if we desert them by our carelessness, they are left with no one to help them. Let's think for a while and do the best to our learners.

Yours fraternally, Dr.M.N.K.Bose

An unforgettable evening in Mukalla



t was Friday, around 7.30 in the evening. After spending some time with the internet at the Friend on Line (Fowa), I was walking back to my flat at Bawazier. On the way, opposite the majestic mosque, a familiar voice greeted me in the hazy lights of the street. When I turned round, I saw Mohammed, a level 3 student of Computer Sciences. He was smiling at me meaningfully. His smile reminded me of what I hadn't cared to remember. Actually Mohammed and his friends had invited me for dinner that evening. I was ashamed of my strange forgetfulness. So, I begged apology and promised to be at their place by 8.30 pm. Exactly at 8.30 pm I was at their place, which was hardly two furlongs away from my place. I didn't have to knocks on the door. They were all there waiting for me. I was led to the first room, where we all sat together on the floor and began chit chat-

ting in a friendly and lively atmosphere. For about 45 minutes we talked about many things ranging from cinema to religion. While talking, I answered many of their questions relating to the Indian ways of life and their prospects of getting admissions in India. On their part, they provided me with recitations from the Holy Quran. It was an evening well spent, I felt.

Around 9.30 pm the food was ready. The boys excused themselves and went to the kitchen. After some time, two boys returned holding a very big plate between them. The plate was too big for a small party like that, I felt at that moment. When they put the plate in the middle of the room, I saw all kinds of delicious sweet neatly arranged in the plate. For the main course, they had bread, butter and omelets, properly placed on the far side of the plate Soon everyone came in and we began eating from the same plate, sitting round it in a circle. The food was really good and I enjoyed myself to the full. After dinner I took leave and returned to Bawazier. On the way I kept thinking to myself: "Can there be better ways of fostering the sense of unity and equality than the simple practice of dining from a common plate?

e following 6. habit Suggested answers to last week's questions

- actuate (vt) (cause to act): In all my efforts, I have been actuated by best of intentions. activate (vt) (make active): After lying dormant
- for some time the scheme has been activated. 2. remarked (vt) (said something by way of comment): The supervisor remarked that my classroom performance was satisfactory. re-marked (vt) (mark again): The students' exam
 - scripts were re-marked by a team of examiners. coarse (adj) (material that is rough): The texture of this cloth is coarse.
- course (n) (forward movement in space and time): The course of true love never runs smooth. willfully (adj) (intentionally): He willfully 4. absented himself from the party.
- willingly (adv) (done readily): He willingly came forward to offer help. considerate (adj) (thoughtful of the needs of 5. others): It was very considerate of you to have come to my rescue at a critical juncture. considerable (adj) (deserving to be considered):

We bought this house at considerable expense. (D) Idioms and phrases

- Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences 1. the burning question
- strike while the iron is hot

Suggested answers to last week's questions A word made up from the first letters of the name of something: acronym (n) A person who is skilled in something: adept (adj) Something that is added to something else, but is

- not a necessary part of it: adjunct (n) A man employed in advertising: ad-man (n)
- A person who believes that one can only have
- knowledge of material things: agnostic (n)

(B) Literary terms of foreign origin Give the source of origin and meaning of the

following 1. pseudonym 2. Renaissance 3. rhapsody

- 4. rhetoric 5. rhythm
- Suggested answers to last week's questions
- plagiari (Lat. 'plagiarius': kidnapper, literary thief): 'Wrongful appropriation and publication as one's own. poem (Gk. 'poiema': something made, created.
 - Thus a work of art): A composition, a work of verse, which may be in rhyme or may be blank verse or a combination of the two.
 - press (Lat. 'pressare': to press): The term denotes variously printing; a publishing house; news papers and periodicals collectively.
 - prologue (Gk. 'before speech'): The opening section of a work, a kind of introduction which is part of the work and not prefatory. protagonist (Gk. 'first combatant'): The first or
 - principal actor or character in a play.

(C) Words commonly confused

| Bring out differences | in meaning of th |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| pairs of words | |
| 1. virtual, virtuous | 2. custom, |
| 3. doubt, suspect | 4. fair, fare |
| 5. social, sociable | |

5. The student's dues have been paid by the assistant of his master. Note: since there are two possessive nouns, the second apostrophe should be replaced by 'of' form.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- 1. An unhealthy fear of open spaces.
- 2. The continued and habitual drinking of alcohol in great quantities.
- 3. A local government officer having various duties.
- The act of forming or arranging into a line.
- 5 A substance that forms chemical salts when combined with acids.

3. look on the bright side 4. throw cold water on 5. pull one's weight

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. have a weakness for (someone/something) (to have a liking for someone or something): Many in Yemen have a weakness for Hindi films. the villain of the piece (the person responsible 2.
- for doing something wrong): It turned out that he was the chief conspirator and the villain of the piece.
- mend fences (to put things right after a 3. misunderstanding): After a brief spell of misunderstanding, the two friends have mended

VI. Food for Thought

"I live as I please, I wander where I like; I go in and out each day according to my pleasure; I move where my inclination leads me; I assume all the forms which it pleases me to assume; I hold in my right hand the Lapis stone; I wear in my right ear the flower of Ankham for ornament; I am flourishing, I am prosperous; I am a perennial youth in the garden of immortality."

-Egyptian Tradition

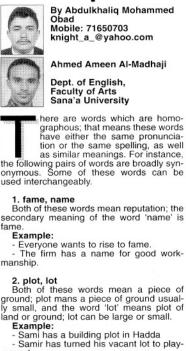
by DAVID OUELLET WONDERWORD,

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

| | | CLUES | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|---|
| Access | Cruise | Hotel | Photos | Steak | |
| Airplane | Deals | Ideas | Pictures | Stickers | |
| Brand | Demonstration | Import | Professional | Stock | |
| Buyers | Dentist | Itemize | Records | Store | |
| Candy | Diner | Jacket | Repay | Study | |
| Capacity | Disks | Juice | Replace | Suit | |
| Center | Dress | Lawyer | Restaurants | Teach | |
| Certification | Drink | Lesson | Robes | Thrive | |
| Change | Email | Letter | Seat | Ticket | |
| Christmas | Emergency | Machines | Secret | Tire | |
| Cities | Export | Market | Shoes | Today | |
| Clinic | Goods | Meeting | Shops | Tools | |
| Clothes | Grades | Massage | Simplified | Trade | |
| Coats | Grain | Numbers | Slashed | Trip | |
| Contract | Grocery | Nurse | Soap | Urgent | |
| Cook | Guest | Office | Spend | Video | |
| Course | Home | Pencil | Stamps | | |
| AN | ISWER NEXT WEE | EK Last W | /eek's Answer: Ur | ban Planning | _ |

| GET IT ON BARTER Solution: 8 letters | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Ν | 0 | S | S | Е | L | Е | С | А | L | Ρ | Е | R | R | Е | Ρ | Α | Y | Е | R | |
| 0 | U | Е | S | S | Е | D | S | 1 | М | Ρ | L | 1 | F | 1 | Е | D | Х | С | E | |
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Some homographs and their proximity in meaning



around.

3. hostel, hotel, motel

Both of these words indicate the same place, but there is a slight difference

between them. **hostel:** a building in which board and lodging are provide (with the support of the authorities concerned) for students, work men in training, etc Ex. He is in the Youth

hotel: building where meals and rooms are provided for travelers. Ex. When we went to Aden, we stayed at a hotel. motel: motorists' hotel (with cabins self-

service restaurants, service stations.) Ex. I like to a bide at a motel

4. prattle, rattle, tattle

Both of these words indicate the same action, but there is a slight difference.

prattle: to talk continuously about silly things. Ex. What is Salim prattling on about

rattle: talk, say, or repeat something quickly in a thoughtless way. Ex. The boy rattled off the poem he had memorized.

tattle: chatter, gossip, utter word idly. Ex. John is tattling about Muna.

5. rough, tough Both of the two words are adjectives,

they can be understood separately. rough: not calm or gentle, moving or act-ing violently. Ex. He is a rough child. tough: (of person) rough and violent. Ex.

A tough customer.

6. convoke, invoke Both of the words indicate the same action; they can be comprehended sepa-

convoke: to ask people to come togeth-er for formal meeting. Ex: The president is going to convoke parliament. invoke: to ask help from someone more powerful than you, especially from God. Ex. Believers invoke the mercy of God.



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Japan beats China in tense Asian Cup final



Japan's captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto (C) raises the Asian Cup as he celebrates with teammates their win of the Asian Cup final match in Beijing August 7. Japan beat China 3-1 to take the cup. REUTERS

apan won its second straight Asian Cup, beating China 3-1 Saturday in a tense final overshadowed by Chinese nationalistic passions and fears of anti-Japanese violence.

Koji Nakata put Japan ahead 2-1 in the 65th minute and Keiji Tamada sealed the outcome with a goal during injury time against a much-improved Chinese team in the continent's most important soccer championship.

"From beginning to end Japan showed maturity, quality and experience, and was well prepared," Japan's Brazilian-born coach Zico said.

China's Dutch coach Ari Haan accused Kuwaiti referee Saad Al Fadhli of making wrong calls on all three Japanese goals

and boycotted the awards ceremony. "I'm feeling very disappointed and feel sorry for the beautiful fans of China to lose a game one should not lose," Haan said

Peter Vellapan, Asia's top soccer official, said Haan showed "great disrespect" to the teams and fans.

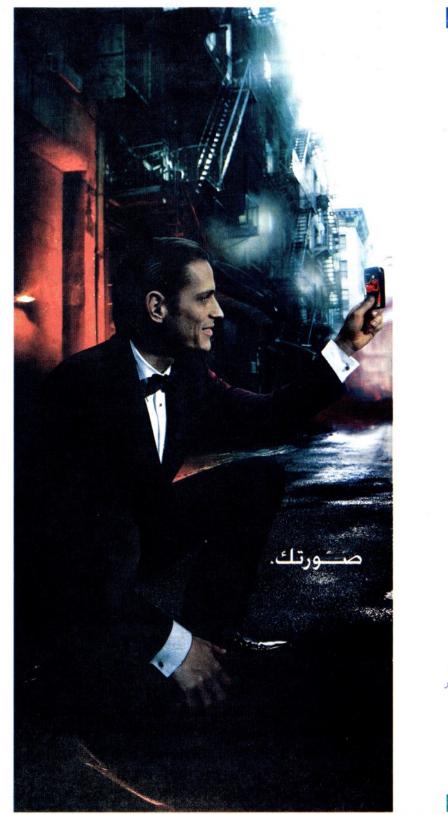
"As the national coach of China he should demonstrate a more sporting spir-it and be a sporting loser," Vellapan said.

With Japanese players and fans harassed at previous games, thousands of police, including riot troops in black body armor and shotgun-toting special tactical units, stood guard outside Beijing's Workers' Stadium.

This rivalry has given vent to anti-Japanese sentiments over Japan's World



Japan's national soccer team players celebrate after the Asian Cup final match in Beijing August 7. Japan beat China 3-1 to take the cup. REUTERS





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After the game, crowds chanting anti-Japanese insults broke bottles and exchanged kicks and punches with police outside the stadium. At least three men were seen being taken away by officers, but it wasn't clear if anyone was injured.

Japan opened the scoring in the 23rd minute on Takashi Fukunishi's close-range header. China's Li Ming tied it in the 31st with a left-footer from the top of the penalty area.

Nakata's goal came off a corner kick by Shunsuke Nakamura. The ball skipped off Takayuki Suzuki's head and appeared to hit Nakata's hand. In the 89th minute, Japanese goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi made two excel-lent saves as Chinese attackers swarmed

Tamada completed the scoring in the first minute of injury time, sending a hard, low shot past goalkeeper Liu Yunfei and silencing the flag-waving crowd of 65,000.

Japan has lost only twice to China in their last 10 meetings and has won all four of their Asian Cup matchups. China, which downed Iran and Indonesia en route to its first Asian Cup final, moved up 13 spots to No. 51 in FIFA's world rankings. Both Japan and China appealed for

calm before the game after Chinese fans booed the team in previous appearances and pelted fans with garbage. The Japanese Embassy cautioned Japanese

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in China not to wear their blue national team jerseys or carry firecrackers or banners with provocative slogans to the final. The Embassy building was sealed with barbed wire barriers.

Although the crowd booed through the Japanese national anthem - something Japan's government and coach had complained about earlier — there was less abuse inside the stadium than in Japan's previous games. Several hundred Japan fans — many displaying Chinese as well as Japanese flags — sat in a separate

section guarded by scores of police. The harshest sentiment on show was a banner reading "This time, the Chinese people get to be the bullies" — another reference to Japan's wartime record.

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