

Following Sheikh al-Ukaimi death,

Al-Jawf tribes reach a year-long reconciliation

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tens of thousands of al-Jawf, Mareb and Sa'ada tribesmen on Tuesday escorted the deceased Sheikh Yahya Bin Ali al-Ukaimi, member of the Consultative Council to his final resting place. Sheikh al-Ukaimi died while he was chasing some thieves who had stolen a car belonging to a citizen from the same governorate.

The elder son of Sheikh Yahya told Yemen Times that after a citizen came to his father asking his help for chasing some thieves who had stolen his car the Sheikh immediately started his chasing of the thieves. When the late Sheikh was about to capture them and was shooting at them they left the car and ran away but they took the car keys with them. The late Sheikh al-Ukaimi was forced to follow the thieves on foot and that forced him to run for a long distance in a rugged mountainous area, but he managed to catch them and took the car keys from them.

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On his way back and while he was driving the stolen car to its owner the



Thousands of mourners gather in Jawf to express condolences to Sheikh Yahya Al-Ukaimi. Most of the tribesmen present at the site were fully armed with various weapons and have always been supporters of the late sheikh. Photo by Hassan Al-Zaidi, Yemen Times

Sheikh began to cough very severely and blood began to come out of his mouth, and suddenly he collapsed. He was immediately transferred to Sana'a but he died before he could be hospitalized.

Tribal sources denied reports of some media that the Sheikh was shot

dead by the thieves.

During the gathering for the burial of the deceased Sheikh at the graveyard in the village where he was born in Jawf governorate, 150 km to the east of Sana'a, Sheikh Amin al-Ukaimi brother of the deceased Sheikh, a Member of Parliament,

appealed to the tribes chiefs who were gathered for the funeral to conclude a truce for one year between all Jawf region tribes to stop bloodshed resulting from vengeance fighting and tribal wars, to which they agreed and concluded the truce among them.

Continued on page 4

Man charged in helicopter attack

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni authorities have arrested the person who fired at a military helicopter in al-Hadda, Dhamar governorate, 120 km to the south of the capital Sana'a.

There were conflicting reports over the cause of the emergency landing of the hit helicopter. While sources at the local authority of the governorate said the plane caught gun fire coming from party celebrating a wedding, a security officer at al-Hadda district said that the arrested man, Amran Saleh Saad, 24,

was firing his gun and when he saw the helicopter he shot it causing damage to the fuel store.

Eyewitnesses said that the pilot, who was flying not far from the land, was able to make an emergency landing which caused no casualties or serious damage to the helicopter.

The sources said the attacker surrendered himself to the authorities after a massive arrest campaign against suspects in the area. A security official confirmed that there is no political motive behind this incident.

A team of pilots belonging to the air force went to the spot and were able to repair the damage and flew the helicopter back to Sana'a.

A political analyst said that it is usual that the authority denies any political motive behind similar incidents.

French Cultural Center closed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The French Cultural Center and School in Sana'a were closed Saturday for security reasons, a French embassy diplomat said Monday.

He said that the embassy received instructions to tighten security measures around French interests, and that after consultations the embassy decided to close the French cultural center and school while the embassy and the

French center for Yemeni studies remained open.

A security officials showed surprise at the news and said that the French embassy did not ask for any intensified security measures around the embassy or other French interests in Yemen.

Continued on page 4

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للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:
على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كيون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم قص الكيون وإرفاقه مع كيون الأسئلة وإرسالها إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩ ، صنعاء). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي يتقصها أي من الكيونين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية ناقصة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.
ستستمر المسابقة حتى مارس ٢٠٠٤ ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك أكثر من مرة، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢٦٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظا موفقا للجميع....
المصداقية هي شعارنا، ونفتكم هي غايتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماءكم من بين الفائزين.....

The theater play performed in Sana'a

Al-Quds will not fall

As part of the activities of Sana'a Arab Cultural Capital 2004, the Egyptian National Theater presented the play "Al-Quds will not Fall", acted by Arab star Nour Al-Shareef and actress Afaf Radhy, written by Shareed Al-Shobash and directed by Fahme Al-Kholy. The performance took place on Sunday at Al-Zubairi Hall, Sana'a Cultural Center.



Actor Nour Al-Shareef

The play was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Khaled Al-Rowaishan, the Egyptian Ambassador in Sana'a H.E. Dr. Mohamed Bader Aldeen Zaid and hundreds of citizens who are interested in culture and art.

Pakistan minister of commerce visits Sana'a

A three-member Pakistani delegation led by Mr. Humayun Akhtar Khan, Minister for Commerce will be arriving in Sana'a on 1 March 2004 to participate in the 4th Session of Pakistan - Yemen joint Ministerial Commission Meeting (JMC) being held in Sana'a from 1 - 2 March 2004. A six-member business delegation will also accompany the Minister for Commerce. During the 4th Session of the JMC the Yemeni side will be led by Dr. Khalid Rajeh Shaikh, Minister for Industry & Trade. The 3rd session of Pakistan - Yemen JMC was held in Islamabad in May 1999 during which 10 areas of bilateral cooperation including trade, commerce, industry, investment, culture, taxation, labor & manpower and health were identified. During the 4th session to be held in Sana'a a whole range of bilateral relations would be discussed by the two sides. The two Ministers will also sign three agreements i.e. (i) Trade,

(ii) Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on income and (iii) Cooperation in the field of Health. The Minister for Commerce, Humayun Akhtar Khan will meet President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Abdul Kader Bajamal, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, Ahmed Mohamed Sofan and Foreign Minister Dr. Abubakr Al-Qirbi. He will also meet the members of the Sana'a Chambers of Commerce & Industry. Pakistan and Yemen have a history of close and brotherly ties based on common outlook and interests. The forthcoming visit of the Minister for Commerce as a leader of Pakistan delegation will provide an opportunity for high-level interaction between the two countries. The visit reflects both sides' desire to improve bilateral relations in multi-farious fields.

Yemeni commits suicide

Abdulkhaleq Al-Haify, 60 years old, from Al-Aroug, Taiz city, burned himself to death using gas because he felt stupid and frustrated after attempting to prevent sons of Shaif Qassem, his neighbor, building a disputed wall. Efforts were made to treat him at the Republic Hospital in Taiz, but to no avail. The man had filed a

case at the Housing and Public Works Office in Taiz but the decision came in favor of his adversaries, who were able to build the wall.

The Public Works Office in Taiz, chaired by Mr. Mansour Al-Alwe, is to investigate the suicide to determine whether there are other actual motives.

Workshop on Early Childhood Development

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Higher Council of Childhood and Motherhood, UNICEF, the Social Fund for Development and the World Bank, a workshop focused on Early Childhood Development (ECD) was held on Sunday 1 March 2004.

Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Mr. Saleh Basraa, Rector of Sana'a University, Mr. Solof Ramarason, Senior Program Officer at UNICEF, Dr. Nafessa al-Jafi, Secretary-General of the Higher Council of Childhood and Motherhood, attended the opening ceremony of the workshop.

Al-Arhabi stressed on the importance of holding such a workshop, as part of the concerted effort of the Government to improve the status of childhood in Yemen. "The childhood issue has become the top of the Government agenda. The children of today are the generation of tomorrow. So we have to



pay considerable attention to this sector"

Al-Arhabi finally wished the workshop success and fruitful results.

Dr. Nafessa al-Jafi also delivered a speech in which she welcomed the participants "Yemen is one of the first countries that signed the Child Rights Convention (CRC) in 1991. Yemen cares that the child should grow up in a convenient atmosphere and comfortable circumstances to enable them to build a

prosperous society."

She added "The most important aim of this workshop is to come up with a clear vision of ECD to enable us to develop a cooperative work-plan to improve the circumstances of children in Yemen as well as benefit from the latest international and Arab experience in this field"

The participants enriched the workshop with their comments and suggestions through the working-groups

Oddly enough

That's a long call!

A reliable source told Yemen Times that a bill of one of the ministers of the current cabinet has received a GSM telephone bill amounting to around YR 240,000. According to the source, which refused to give the name of the minister in question, the amount will be paid to the GSM company from the public budget.

So far, this is the highest ever telephone bill to be received by any Yemeni minister in the history of the country. According to basic calculations, the amount could have only been registered if the owner kept on talking in local calls for up to 15 days continuously.

Stricter measures to issue Insulin cards....

Quantities not available

Health and population office in Taiz has adopted strict measures in order to receive their insulin medicine. New cards have been issued according to place of residence throughout the provinces of the city following a medical-check up at the General Republican Hospital. The diabetics will be able to get their insulin shots

after their cards are signed by doctors and certified by the Health and Population Office, which in turn will order the release of the doses from a nearby hospital in or near the place of the residence of the diabetic. However, these measures come during the period of restricted supply of insulin.

Diabetics have called on the relevant health authorities, the Health and

Population Office in Taiz, the regional office in Aden and Ministry of Health and Population, to provide the patients with the medicine regularly, including the new cards holders, and to supply the medical centers directly in order to deliver them to diabetic patients who now have cards but without ability to obtain the medicine.

BY THE YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

Teacher students protest in Taiz

Around 300 students of the Higher Teachers Institute organized last week a demonstration that started from the Institute's headquarters and ended at the headquarters of the Taiz governorate office.

The demonstration was against the decision of the new management of the institute to have those students take their exams.

The protesting group was composed of students who were accepted by the old management of the institute, paid the fees, and have been enrolling in classes and studying lessons at the institute for a full year, but

who were then kicked out of the institute by the new manager Yahya Qunbur along with officials at the Ministry of Education in Taiz.

In justifying his action the manager said that the students were not registered or had some of their files incomplete and were allowed to continue under the management of the former manager.

This demonstration comes at a time the Governor of Taiz Qadhi Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri had already ordered the new management to allow the students back to their classes, especially once graduated.

Those graduates will work in private schools in remote areas, which causes the government nothing.

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Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you have hope in that Yemen will join the GCC?

- I believe that will happen in the coming few years.
- I think it will happen but after a long period.
- I don't think it will happen at all

last edition's question:

The Yemen government says it may resettle the Ethiopian protesters outside of Yemen. Do you think that

- They should be resettled outside the country 51%
- They should stay in Yemen, with better rights 38%
- They should stay in Yemen, with no change in their refugee status 12%

Go to our website and vote at: yementimes.com/#poll

Can do more than many think

Handicapped celebrate

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The international union of Yemeni handicapped association organized a 7-day cultural and sport camp that started last Wednesday on the occasion of crowning Sana'a the capital of Arab culture for 2004, as well as the National Day of Handicapped with 300 participants.

Mohammed al-Kahlani, the Minister of State, attended the opening ceremony in which he stressed the key role of the disabled people can play in developing their society.

He also asked all the society organizations to give a chance to this important sector. "The handicapped has proved that they are highly-qualified and have an ability to do anything as equal as any citizen. The society has to cooperate with this class," Al-Khalani said.

He added, "We give orders to the technical departments in all govern-

mental institutions to pay attention of those of "special needs." We want to establish a park for them sport clubs for practice their hobbies and social activities."

Dr. Mohammed Nasser Homaid, the head of national union of the Yemeni handicapped association, told the groups that "We were supposed to celebrate the National Day of the Handicapped on 9th December, but it was deleted to be coincident with proclaiming Sana'a as capital of Arab culture 2004."

He added "Many handicapped from various governorates are invited and will show their talents and creative works and how to receive Sana'a culture and they will sing, play on the theater and write symphonies to show their happiness on this occasion"

A number of officials from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs as well representatives of the donor organizations attended.

HRITC organizes training course for journalists

As part of its special program, the Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) is to organize a two-week training course for journalists beginning from early March 2004. It will focus on human rights and how to convey principles of human rights via media instruments, especially television and radio.

The course will also concentrate on the use of technical techniques such as short videotapes, using experts from Italy and Yemen.

The course also aims to teach partic-

ipants how to use video and produce short films to be used to spread principles of human rights. There will be twenty participants from the media.

The course is considered as a development of information and human rights programs that have been presented by the HRITC since 2000 and included many courses especially for journalists. The course is to be held in coordination with The Institute for Information Training and Qualification and Democratic grants Program (NED).

The Embassy of the United State of America announces for immediate job opening with its organization

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Children's Parliament elections to be held

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The General Manager of Democracy School, Mr. Jamal Abdullah Al-Shami told Yemen Times that the upcoming elections of the Children's Parliament will take place on April 11 in Sana'a and will have 30,000 voters distributed throughout the country. Mr Al-Shami said the procedures of children electors' registration would begin on the 9th of this month and would cover all the governorates of the republic.

Elections will be held in 35 schools, 20 of them for male students and 15 for female.

According to Mr. Al-Shami, the names of candidates who will be participating in the elections will be announced soon. Candidates will have to be between 12 and 15 years old and will be nominated for a two-year term in the parliament.

Mr. Al-Shami added that the organizers have been working hard to avoid the problems that occurred in earlier elections, including the fact that earlier elections were only limited to the capital, but this year's Parliament will include students from all over the country.

"Our objective is to implant the ideas of democratic awareness in Yemeni children so they can be ready to handle their affairs in a democratic manner when they grow," he concluded.

What will next census show? Yemen keeps growing ... and growing



With an annual growth of population reaching 3.79%, Yemen is indeed the fastest growing country in the world

BY YASER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Keeping population statistics in Yemen are still a recent phenomena, as they have come into existence only in 1990s.

Estimates prior to the statistics have indicated that the Yemeni population was around 4.3 million inhabitants in 1950, reached 5.2 million in 1960, 6.3 million in the 1980s, and 12.2 million in 1988.

With the census conducted in 1994 the number has reached 15.8 million inhabitants.

The number is estimated to have grown to 16.5 million by the end of 1997.

From these numbers it could be deduced that Yemen has seen a giant leap in the number of inhabitants in the last quarter of the 20th century, because while the growth percentage between 1965 and 1975 ranged between 1.6 per cent and 2 per cent, in the period between 1988-1994 growth reached 3.7 per cent.

This increase is attributed to two facts, the first is the decrease in the mortality rate and the other is the increase in the fertility rate which reached 7.4 per cent recently.

And it is of no doubt that this demographic explosion would increase the pressure on economic resources especially that the food production increases at a small rate.

Following are the most significant demographic indicators since 1997;

Administration boundaries

Yemen is divided into 19 gov-

ernarates in addition to the capital secretariat. Each governorate is subdivided again to a number of districts so that the total number of districts in the republic reaches 226 districts. There is also an inclination towards creating new districts totalling the number of districts in Yemen to 285.

Population distribution

Naturally the population distribution around the republic is not even and that is for economic and natural reasons. For example the most populated governorate in the republic is Taiz followed next by Sana'a then Ibb and Hudaida respectively.

These four governorates together include about half the population of the republic. Whereas governorate of al-Mahara, al-Jawf, Marib are considered of the least populated governorates in the country as their inhabitants form 3.9 per cent, 1.2 per cent and 1.2 per cent of the total population respectively.

As for the population in towns and villages it is characterised as small gatherings in different congregates. Perhaps this is because of the hard nature of the rural areas which comes against the settling of large masses in one area. An the same time statistics indicate that more than 70 per cent of the population lives in the rural area in towns of no more than 500 inhabitants in each.

Population density

The population density overall is of an average of 294 inhabitants per square kilometre. Yet this number varies from one governorate to another as it reaches 4385 inhabitants per sq. kilometre in the capital secretariat.

As for the governorate levels then it is Ibb that leads the line with 299 inhabitants / sq. km. Then comes Taiz of 196 inhabitants / sq. km, followed by al-Mahwait. It is known that these three governorates enjoy the highest rainfall average in Yemen.

Simultaneously Hadramout (176 / sq km), Marib (6 / sq. km), Shabwa (5 / sq. km), al-Jawf (4 / sq. km) and al-Mahara (2 / sq. km) are of the least populated in the republic.

Types of inhabitation

Three types of inhabitation could be found in Yemen

- Condensed inhabitation; where the population density is high in a small area such as in the mountain areas where 3/4th of the Yemeni population resides, and especially in the Southern region such as in Ibb, Taiz and this is attributed to the high rainfall rate and fertility of land.

- Scattered inhabitation, this is the kind in which small sized assemblies of people are found in remote distances from each other such as in the Eastern Plateau region and this is because of the low soil fertility and the high temperature as well and scarcity of rainfall. Exceptions of this is the valleys of al-Jawf, Hadramout, and Huraib which enjoy seasonal rainfalls.

- Line inhabitation, this is the one which is found along the sides of the main roads and valleys such as that in Tihama and some of the valleys in which fall into the Arabian Sea and along side the Red Sea such as the sea ports and fishermen villages.

The death of oldest Sheikh in Jouf Governorate

Last Monday, Sheikh Yahya Al-Okaime, one of the prominent Sheikhs of Al-Jouf tribes passed away as a result of a heart attack. The Sheikh was also a member of Al-Shoura Council.

Yemeni teachers protest

HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The General Secretary of the Arab Teachers Federation Council held its periodic meeting in Sana'a last Saturday amid calls by the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate to nullify the representation of the Yemeni teachers in the federation.

The syndicate also called to unify educational syndicates in Yemen.

In a press release published by the supreme administrative committee of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate, the syndicate called the representative of the Yemeni delegation in the meeting

"illegal."

It also confirmed that it had tried to work hard with all sides to unify membership of Yemeni teachers but to no avail.

Furthermore, the press release also called for a protest sit in front of the building where the meeting will take place to demonstrate against the meeting which they claim will not tackle the actual issues of Yemeni and Arab problems.

Observers believe that the protest is aimed at finding solutions for the syndicate, which is seen by the government as a pro-Islah organization working against the government's interest.

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13/03/2004 - 31/03/2004

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Banking & Finance

Continued from page 1

Al-Jawf tribes reach a year-long reconciliation

Sheikh Amin Ali al-Ukaimi, brother of the deceased Sheikh Yahya, who is Member of Parliament representing the opposition Islah Party had asked the tribes to accept his appeal on Tuesday evening after his return to al-Jawf, coming from Saudi Arabia where he had took refuge. He was set free under directives of the Republic after a month in detention following

his victory in the parliamentary elections of May last year. Sheikh Amin was expelled from his command of border guard following his imprisonment in 2002 on charges of failing to cooperating with the government to capture terrorist elements, mainly Abu A'sem and Abu Ali al-Harithi.

deceased's good deeds and contributions to solving many issues and disputes in the area, considering him an example of the sincere patriot.

Meanwhile the tribes gathering in the area warned all elements that commit crimes of theft and highway banditry, whether they were from the governorate of Jawf or from outside it.

The tribes have also asked the government to build services and development projects in the area and to provide civilian and military job opportunities to sons of the area in order to help curb unlawful acts.

French Cultural Center closed

The French cultural attaché reports of the news agency Saba that French interests offices were closed.

He said that journalists can visit the embassy premises to make sure it is open. However, news reports did not say that the French embassy was closed.

YT journalist harassed

Meanwhile, while trying to take a snapshot of the French center in Sanaa, YT journalist Mohamed bin Sallam was harassed by police standing right by and was prevented from taking a photo of the building.

He was told that such action is against the law, and some attempted to confiscate his camera. He was held for some time before he could be released after extensive calls to the ministry of interior, police authorities, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS), and others. "I cannot believe that police forces are still harassing journalists while on duty. Where is freedom of the press?" bin Sallam said.

Mr. Mahboob Ali, chairman of the YJS expressed anger and outrage at the action of the police and said that he would meet with the Minister of Interior and request immediate investigation into the case and would ask for a solution for this phenomenon once and for all, especially as most Yemeni police forces still believe they have the right to stop anyone holding a camera in any place for any reason.

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أنتق مياه صحية في اليمن

إنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بتعبئة المياه
في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

Abdullah Ali al-Dahi al-Kazimi is head of Democratic Movement

What's the future of this new, visionary political party?

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There is not, in my opinion, a thorough definition to the concept of democracy, whether in our Yemeni society or in the world at large. Concepts of democracy have developed and changed throughout the past centuries with the emergence of various theories and through the practice by the European countries that we call democratic countries. In a nutshell, there is not only one theory called the democratic theory, but rather many theories for democracy.

Amidst this multitude of democratic thoughts and theories a new political party managed to learn from all democracies experiments. Via this new party, Yemen can witness new thought and visions pertaining to the concept of democracy in harmony with the Yemeni reality and its peculiarities.

Yemen Times has recently conducted a dialogue with Abdullah Ali al-Dahi al-Kazimi, the son of one of revolutionary warriors from the south and north of Yemen, the Secretary-General of the Yemeni Democratic Movement. Mr. al-Dahi was born in Abyan governorate in 1962. He is married and has five children and works in the private sector.

Q: Can you tell us an outline about the Democratic Movement and its goals?

A: The movement was established in August 1986. Talking about background of the democratic movement foundation in 1986 and the months that followed the 1986 misfortune, we were talking about a war. Thus we had in the first place put our trust in the word not the gun.

We had found it too difficult to accept that one party imposes its viewpoint by violence and therefore we had called for the pure democracy. As for our goals they are in brief calling for: political sovereignty for the people, governance accepted by the governed, rule of the majority, minority rights, protection of basic human rights, free and honest elections, equality before the law, following approved legal procedures, constitutional restrictions on the government, political, economic and social pluralism and values of tolerance and cooperation.

Q: Do those mean circumstances of the 1986 war helped creation of the Democratic Movement?

A: No, not in this sense, but the situation in general, whether in Yemen or in the region. Both of them created a situation made it inevitable to think in another way. Even the changes must be in a different method. We thought the changes in the south should be for altering the situation there to open a chance for possibility of realizing the unity, which was then a kind of impossibility.

Q: Were you calling then for democracy in the south only?

A: No. The Democratic Movement was founded to include the entire Yemeni map and dialogue on the unity project was held in Sana'a and then extended to include various governorates of the republic. The Democratic Movement members are now from most of Yemeni governorates.

Q: Why was the declaration of the Democratic Movement Party waited that long?

A: I think it has not been delayed but the movement was in the process of natural maturity. We did have an active contribution in the unity agreement, inside and outside Yemen.

Before the unity agreement we used to call for the necessity of creating high level of trust between the then two ruling regimes in Sana'a and Aden.

Q: Why didn't you register your party with the Parties Affairs Committee in 1990?

A: From the beginning we had certain reservation concerning the Parties Affairs Committee performance and formation, and we see it as not in agreement with aspirations of the people standing at the threshold of the 21st century. The alternative is to update and develop the committee.

In the past period we were working in full independence from the committee and we had our precautions and we had been working up the broad lines for "resistance" and when we got finished with that we announced the leading members names of the Yemeni Democratic Movement. Parties Affairs Committee is basically an authority-related entity and would not welcome newcomers or at least would surround them with skepticisms.

Q: What do you mean by resistance?

A: Resistance is in the sense of defending continuation of the idea. In other words, the committee could have in the past get in touch with leaders of the democratic movement in an attempt to dissuade them from their idea, either by temptation or by threat.

Q: How many members have so far joined the democratic movement?

A: All those who joined the movement from the beginning maintained their membership, except for those who assumed state posts. The general leadership is composed of 39 members, 33 of them have already been announced, the rest are reserved for the sides not yet represented in the general leadership, 11 members of the general secretariat, the general assembly is composed of 610 members; each eleven represent 250 members and so the total members of the movement is 11330.

Q: Has the party affairs committee granted you lately a permit for officially practicing your activity?

A: We began our dialogue with the committee in 2000 but were intermittent. On December 2003 they asked us to hold a meeting for our constituent assembly. Here we had draw their attention that the measure was beyond authority of the regulation of the parties committee work and that would be an additional burden on our limited resources.

Nevertheless we had accepted that in the hope of creating a transparent climate between the parties committee and political organisations and the judgment is left to the public opinion regarding the committee's performance and parties activity.

On January 20, 2004 we held our first session of the general assembly, which was a meeting of both the constituent assembly and the general assembly. We had invited the press and Yemen Times newspaper was represented.

In that session we had announced names of the democratic movement leadership, read out the movement's documents and approved them for the second time; this time before the media instruments. After the session of the general assembly we maintained our contacts with the committee and told us there would be an invitation of political forces and parties and we would be among the invitees.

Q: Did the committee fix a certain date for granting you the permit?

A: No, they didn't. We have sent them a complete file, but instead of



Mr. Abdullah Ali al-Dahi al-Kazimi

considering it according to the regulations, they proposed the idea of holding the constituent assembly.

Q: Why do you think they hinder granting you the permit? Are there any objections against you?

A: Absolutely not. Till now there is no party that has followed the regular and procedural steps that we have done. All of them come with recommendations either from political security or some power centers to get permission easily. For parties affairs committee considers those recommendations as enough to issue its permit. But we did not ask for any of such recommendations.

We are almost the only party to whom they apply the rules. We are proud of implementing the laws and rules regulating registration of political parties. Through your newspaper we renew our demand for effecting changes in the party affairs committee.

We want the committee to be a factor for organizing the parties activity, not to hinder it. It should be a national body in which political parties do participate and to be granted an entity, including all parties activities and the government should not leave the parties depend foreign projects.

Q: You mentioned that guaranteeing the right to ideology as one of your party's goals, what do you mean by that?

A: Anyone who has an ideology he has the right to keep it and practice its rituals and life according to his own ideology and this is guaranteed by the law and rules.

Q: What about education?

A: The education system prevalent in Yemen is bad. It does not link education outputs to the need of society and particularly neglecting teaching the society's individuals the skills leading to raise the level of the society's material production and its creative energies.

Q: How do you define democracy?

A: It did not happen that a concept has been emptied from its meaning as that of democracy. No political regime but has claimed democracy till it reached the extent that even tyrant regimes and oppression to claim their being democratic. Democracy in Yemen is completely absent. What happens is that the 22 political parties practically avoid any real issues for

the present changes. In 1986 we believed of that the changes we had to create in the south to change the Marxist regime should be through a new way. We had a vision that the socialist regime could not fall by an attack from abroad, it would fall from inside when mistakes are disclosed and the people would be the proper judge. Thus the movement has certain concepts for democratic life to take root inside the political parties.

Q: How do you perceive the existing ruling authority?

A: To talk about the political leadership, represented by the president Ali Abdullah Saleh, it has a sincere orientation as it is dealing with history. The president should work out his final perception and expectation on how to solve the problem of the transfer of power easily and flexibly, as it is done in other democracies. We are not speaking about a homogenous ruling system but of multi-lateral, some good and some not. In the opposition there are good and vicious elements. I blame the opposition, sometimes more than the authority.

Q: Does the present authority work for the good of the citizen and is it working in accordance with the goals of the September and October revolutions?

A: Not as it should. There are many things the authority is not doing. But generally the authority is trying to preserve the general interest, whether it meant for maintaining it stay in power or to preserve the country's stability and safety. In a way, most of the revolution goals have been achieved.

Q: Are there any internal or external sides supporting you or stand by you?

A: So far there are not nay sides that claim to have offered us their material or moral support.

Q: The Arab regimes object the western approach to democracy and demand a democracy adopting peculiarities of the Arab homeland.

A: We respect all of the Arab regimes but the Arab regimes and the Arab political order have for the past 50 years leading us from mistakes to other mistakes. The essential idea the Arab regimes and rulers adopt is how to continue in governance and authority more than anything else and it does not matter whether to pursue the dem-

ocratic pursuit or other. Internal changes in the Arab homeland are generally the responsibility of the ruling elites controlling management of its affairs. These elites in general do not want real democracy but rather the democracy adaptable to their interest and modify it to their own interests.

Q: You have declared the establishment of your democratic movement at a time Yemen is living difficult economic circumstances, have you chosen this time to contribute to tackling this situation?

A: As a political movement we believe our presence has come in the nick of time for our task is to raise the level of the people's living by expanding the society's capitalist base, I mean there must be equal opportunities. The problem of the Arab backwardness is attributed to low level of material production and creative potentials of the Arab man. The political parties tasks lie in helping the people to discover their potentials and to work at their productive capacity.

Q: Do you have a program that might accelerate the process of reform and tackling with corruption?

A: All those perceiving changes and reforms look at them from above. We look at them from the base. Part of the political parties tasks is to communicate with the people, their broad base and to offer their practical examples. Our movement participation would be through defending the rights of individuals and groups and minorities as well as defending the public right and protection of the coming generations future.

Q: What are the activities you have so far made to show your role as an active party on the arena?

A: Yes. For example some people whose rights and houses have been violated, we have in the past period worked for making Aden and example area where he project is implemented and our ambition is to have it applied to other governorates of the republic. After nine years of building examples we have formed an idea of this orientation. Therefore our party has been the first one to demand for forming a ministry of human rights and public right in 1999 and actually what we aspired for has been realized. We are now planning for demanding a ministry for the citizen rights.

Meeting show frustration over poor-orphan treatment

Is Yemen in the Gulf family or not?

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies on 25 Feb. organised a seminar titled "Trends of Yemeni Politics Towards Regional Groupings." It dealt with the Yemeni stand towards regional groupings such as the Arab League, Gulf Cooperation Council and Sana'a Grouping.

Regarding Yemeni-Gulf relations, participants were unanimous that the attitudes adopted by the two sides towards each other showed anger and retaliation.

According to political analysts this policy can be focused on the GCC countries' latest conference by not inviting Yemen and ruling out its joining the GCC, alleging that it is not

prepared or that it is not overlooking the Gulf.

That stand caused astonishment among observers and decision-makers of both sides. They held the ruling elites responsible for that stand and attributed that to those elites stay in power for more than 20 years without change.

On conclusion of their meeting, the participants came out with an agreement on exerting efforts for achieving security integration between Yemen and the Gulf and protecting it as one of the main pillars for the Yemeni-Gulf relations and one of the major goals those countries have to work for, particularly to the strong connection between Yemen's security and stability and that of the Gulf states.

The GCC countries' security is directly related to the security of the Arabian peninsula of which Yemen is

part, and that Sana'a has to take care of the Arabian peninsula at the same level of its security and stability.

On the Sana'a Grouping, the participants confirmed that it was considered a vital grouping and useful for Yemen economically and strategically, adding that the aspired for benefit would not be complete without the joining of other countries overlooking the Red Sea in addition to other adjacent countries.

Concerning the Arab League, the participants criticized that some Arab regime are trying to keep Yemen from playing any role in modernization of the Arab League. The participants then recommended that the Yemeni government has in the first place concentrate its efforts on reforming Yemen before launching its efforts for the reformation of regional organisations.

WRAPUP 4-Attacks on Shi'ites kill 143 in Iraq's bloodiest day

BAGHDAD/KERBALA, Iraq, March 2 (Reuters) - At least 143 people died in a wave of coordinated attacks on millions of Shi'ite worshippers in Baghdad and Kerbala on Tuesday in the bloodiest day in Iraq since Saddam Hussein's fall.

The U.S. military said three suicide bombers killed 58 people in Baghdad around the Kadhimiya mosque, and a suicide bomber and mortars combined to kill at least 85 in Kerbala, a Shi'ite holy city 110 kms (68 miles) south of Baghdad.

The near-simultaneous attacks devastated an annual ritual — banned under the Sunni Saddam — during which Shi'ites beat their heads and chests and gash their heads with swords to honour a

revered figure killed in battle 1,324 years ago.

In Kerbala, where two million worshippers had gathered, rescuers raced through the streets with bodies laden two or three high onto wooden vegetable carts, desperately searching for a doctor or an ambulance.

Shi'ites who earlier had gashed open their heads with swords queued up to give blood to the wounded.

Many corpses were missing body parts. A man's scalp and ear lay alongside rotting fruit and a muddied pool of water.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks. Leaders of Iraq's 60 percent Shi'ite majority accused the attackers of trying to ignite civil war.

Several members of Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council blamed the attacks on Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian whom Washington suspects of working for al Qaeda inside Iraq.

In a separate attack in Baghdad, guerrillas threw a bomb at a U.S. military vehicle, killing one American soldier and seriously wounding another, the army said. The death took to 379 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action since the start of the U.S.-led war in Iraq nearly a year ago.

It was the deadliest day since Saddam fell last April 9.

In the bloodiest previous attack, on February 1, two suicide bombers walked into the offices of the two main Kurdish parties in Arbil, northern Iraq, and blew themselves up, killing at least 101 people.

Shi'ites also were targeted in southwestern Pakistan where at least 37 people were killed and more than 150 wounded on Tuesday in an attack by suspected Sunni Muslim radicals, hospital sources said.

WHO TO BLAME?

Unsure who to blame, survivors in Baghdad hurled stones at U.S. troops

who arrived on the scene.

In Kerbala, enraged Shi'ites turned on Iranian pilgrims after the blasts — even though an Iranian Interior Ministry official said 40 to 50 Iranians were among the dead and wounded in the attacks on the two cities.

U.S. forces in Iraq said last month they had intercepted a computer disc with a letter from Zarqawi urging suicide bomb attacks on Shi'ites to inflame sectarian tension in Iraq.

"The civil war and sectarian strife that Zarqawi wants to inflict on the people of Iraq will not succeed. Zarqawi failed, his gang and their evil plans have failed," Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, a Shi'ite Governing Council member, told a news conference.

"Sunnis, Shi'ites, Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, all Iraqis are determined to move forward," he said. "United we stand and we go forward to build a new Iraq."

The U.S. military said in a statement that "those initiating these attacks are cowards and terrorists". Officers said they had no information on who was behind the attacks.

"The people behind this act are what remains of the regime, backed by people like al Qaeda with the goal of igniting civil strife, but we and the rest of the Iraqi people are aware of this danger and will not succumb to it," said Hamid al-Bayati, a senior official in the Shi'ite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

On Monday, the competing religious and ethnic groups in the Governing Council forged an interim constitution, putting aside differences over the role of Islam, representation for women and Kurdish demands for autonomy.

The Shi'ite ceremonies on Tuesday mark Ashura, which according to tradition commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, Prophet Mohammad's grandson.



Iraqis, carrying the wounded, run from the second of the series of explosions in the holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala March 2. Multiple explosions tore through crowds of Shi'ites marking a religious ceremony in Baghdad and the holy city of Kerbala on Tuesday, scattering body parts and wreckage and causing widespread panic. REUTERS



Iraqi Shi'ite man walks past a pool of blood at the site of an explosion at the Immam Kadem mosque in Baghdad, March 2. Four explosions at Baghdad's holiest Shi'ite mosque on Tuesday killed at least 75 people, officials at a nearby hospital said. REUTERS

Iraq Governing Council agrees interim constitution



Members of the Iraqi Governing Council (L-R) Samir Sumaidy, Dr. Rajaa Al-Khuzai, Mowaffaq Al-Rubaie, Adnan Al-Rachachi and Younadam Kanna take part in a joint newsconference in Baghdad March 1. Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council put aside its differences on Monday and agreed an interim constitution, a pillar of Washington's plan to hand sovereignty back to Iraqis by June 30. REUTERS

BAGHDAD, March 1 (Reuters) - Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council put aside its differences on Monday and agreed an interim constitution, a key pillar of Washington's plan to hand sovereignty back to Iraqis by June 30.

"Early this morning the Governing Council unanimously approved the Transitional Administrative Law after weeks of intensive discussions," the Council said in a statement. The document will be officially signed on Wednesday.

Agreement was finally reached at 4:20 a.m. (0120 GMT). The 25-member Council had previously missed a February 28 deadline to strike a deal because of divisions over the role of Islam, quotas for women in government and Kurdish demands for autonomy.

Officials and participants in the talks said the law recognised Islam as Iraq's official religion and said it would be a source of legislation but not the primary source, as had been demanded by some Shi'ite Muslims, the sect that makes up 60 percent of Iraq's population.

A senior coalition official said the compromise "strikes the right balance" between the Islamic identity of most Iraqis and the need to enshrine freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Such freedoms are covered by a bill of rights included in the transitional constitution.

"The language on Islam and the state

effectively says that this won't compromise individual rights or democratic principles," the official said.

Another controversial issue had been whether there should be guarantees about the representation of women. The senior coalition official said the document ensured a share of 25 percent for women in a forthcoming legislative assembly.

"It mandates an electoral system that strives to represent all segments of Iraq, with specific and explicit reference to women and a percentage goal," he said.

AGREEMENT ON FEDERALISM

The interim constitution's backing for a federal state also recognises the northern zone Kurds have run since wresting it from Baghdad's hands after the 1991 Gulf War, one element of a bid for autonomy that some Arabs fear will split Iraq.

Rowsch Shways, who represented Kurdish Council member Massoud Barzani in the talks, said the language on federalism met Kurds' demands that their "peshmerga" militias remain as a Kurdistan national guard rather than as part of a national army.

"There is a paragraph that prohibits any armed forces not under the Iraqi command, except as provided by federal law. It's a space to regulate the peshmerga out of this law," he said.

But the document leaves until a permanent constitution the status of areas which

Kurds argue belong to the Kurdish north and were gerrymandered into neighbouring provinces by Saddam Hussein's government under a form of ethnic cleansing.

"The timetable starts as soon as possible and ends after the permanent constitution for addressing these injustices. We recognise that this ought to be done in an airtight way. It's a good law and we have no major complaints," Shways said.

The document says elections should be held by late 2004 or early 2005. Washington's initial plan was for elections by the end of 2005 but Iraq's most revered Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, demanded polls be held sooner.

Sistani initially said the provisional sovereign government due to take power on June 30 should be directly elected, but after a U.N. team ruled this was not feasible, he softened his stance and said elections must be held by the end of 2004.

During discussions on Friday, several Shi'ite members of the Council walked out, angered by the cancellation of a previous ruling that would have made divorce and inheritance subject to the rulings of religious law.

With U.S. presidential elections nearing, President George W. Bush's administration says it is determined to stick to plans to hand sovereignty back to Iraqis on June 30. But the mechanism for selecting the provisional government has yet to be agreed.

Hizbollah slams US reform plans at Ashura ceremony

BEIRUT, March 2 (Reuters) - Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah berated U.S. and some Arab leaders alike on Tuesday, telling Shi'ite Muslim worshippers U.S. reform plans for the region would simply replace dictator with dictator.

He also told 100,000 Shi'ites commemorating Ashura, which marks the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson Imam Hussein more than 13 centuries ago, that the slaughter of 143 fellow Muslims in Iraq blasts could stir religious strife among Muslims.

"We don't need to analyse too much to say that whoever the perpetrator, whatever the hand behind these crimes and massacres, what is intended in the first place is sedition among Muslims," he told the black-clad crowds.

Men and women — as well as child Hizbollah scouts in red headbands representing Hussein's blood — marched through the streets of Beirut's predominantly Shi'ite southern suburbs to the Iranian and Syrian-backed guerrilla group's anthems.

The United States wanted hegemony over Iraq, Nasrallah told them, and would be the number one beneficiary of sedition there.

He said Iraq's Shi'ites could be stirred up: "So that blood boils in veins, then calls for revenge are heard."

"Agitation will rule over reason, and passion over consciousness and we will be trapped and step on the mine the enemies of the (Islamic) nation have laid for us."

On Washington's proposals for Middle East reform, which have met Arab hostility, Nasrallah was critical. "The U.S. reforms in the Arab



Hizbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah addresses a rally of about 100,000 people in Beirut's southern suburbs to mark the Shiite Muslim ceremony of Ashura March 2. REUTERS

and Muslim countries will only replace tyrant with tyrant, oppressor with oppressor and collaborator with another collaborator," he said.

Washington plans to put its Greater Middle East Initiative, which promotes democracy and human rights but also openly protects Western interests, to the G8 group of industrialised nations in June.

Nasrallah said the United States preached democracy and human rights despite the fact it had "established dictatorships in the Middle East for decades and still supports the ugliest dictatorial regimes".

Hizbollah, which drove Israel out of southern Lebanon after a 22-year occupation, is on a U.S. list of terrorist groups.

France says supports Japan for seat on UN council

TOKYO, March 2 (Reuters) - France on Tuesday backed Japan's quest for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, with Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin calling for an increase in the council's membership.

Touching on a topic that also came up in United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's visit to Japan last month, Villepin said he discussed reforms of the world body with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi.

"We think the U.N. Security Council should be given more weight, and that it is necessary to expand membership of both permanent and non-permanent members," Villepin, speaking through an interpreter, told a joint news conference with Kawaguchi.

"We support Japan becoming a permanent member from that point of view," he said.

Japan has long sought a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, whose five members with veto power — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — have held their seats since they emerged victorious from World War Two.

Tokyo contributes nearly as much to the United Nations as the United States and more than the other permanent members of the Council, which can make decisions on war and peace that are mandatory for U.N. members to follow.

Kawaguchi stressed that Japan was qualified to be a permanent member based on contributions it has made at the United Nations, including the fact that it pays almost 20 percent of the



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (R) welcomes visiting French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin at his official residence in Tokyo Mar. 2. De Villepin is in Tokyo to discuss Iraqi post-war reconstruction aid with Japanese leaders. REUTERS

U.N.'s budget.

She added that if Japan were to become a permanent member, its actions would be conducted in line with its constitution.

Japan's pacifist constitution renounces the right to go to war and prohibits the nation from having a military, but has been interpreted as allowing Japan to have forces for self-defence.

The two ministers also discussed cooperation on aid for Iraq, the political process in the Mideast nation, and their bids to host the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

Japan and France are discussing cooperating on cultural, medical and sports-related aid for Iraq, Kawaguchi said.

"We also agreed that it was important for the United Nations to play an active role," she added.

Villepin said it was necessary for Iraq to recover its sovereignty on June 30, as planned.

There were few signs of an agreement over a tug-of-war between France and Japan on ITER, the world's first attempt at generating energy in the same way as the sun.

Tokyo is pushing Rokkasho, a remote fishing village in northern Japan, while the European Union is backing Cadarache in southern France.

"It might be true that things have not moved forward...but there needs to be a breakthrough," Villepin said, adding that further dialogue was needed for this aim.

At least 20 injured as trains collide in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, March 2 (Reuters) - Two commuter trains collided near a southern Malaysian town on Tuesday, injuring at least 20 people, four of them seriously, a spokesman for the Fire and Rescue Department said. One train rammed into the back of

another which had stopped near a tunnel in Seremban, some 70 km (42 miles) south of the capital Kuala Lumpur at around 6:30 p.m. (1030 GMT), the spokesman said. Although there have been numerous incidents of derailment, this was the first train colli-



Rescue workers inspect the damage of a commuter train after a collision in Seremban, 70 km (43 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur on Mar. 2. Two commuter trains collided near the southern Malaysian town on Tuesday, injuring at least 20 people, four of them seriously, a spokesman for the Fire and Rescue Department said. REUTERS

One Shi'ite killed, 16 wounded in Kabul clash

KABUL, March 2 (Reuters) - One Afghan was killed and up to 16 were injured in clashes between minority Shi'ites and army cadets in the capital Kabul, witnesses said on Tuesday.

They told Reuters that the clashes late on Monday started when an Afghan army cadet shouted abuse and spat at a banner carried by a group of Shi'ite Muslims commemorating the slaying of revered leader Imam Hussein more than 1,300 years ago.

"After that, the Shi'ites started throwing stones at them (the cadets)," said Hussain, a Shi'ite Hazara who was at the scene.

"Then armed men from the army school started firing on people, and one person died and another was wounded. All the other fifteen were wounded by stones being thrown."

Mohammad Zaki, an eyewitness who was slightly injured by a stone thrown during the clash, gave a similar account.

But Afghan army chief Bismillah Khan denied his cadets had fired on the crowd, and said one person had been crushed to death when Shi'ites pulled a wall down on top of him.

Khan also denied that army cadets had provoked the Shi'ites, saying that in fact they had tried to arrest two people who were hurling insults at the mourners.

On Tuesday, at least 124 people were killed in bomb attacks on Shi'ite processions in Iraq. More than 20 people were also killed in Pakistan as Shi'ites marked the martyrdom of Hussein, grandson of Prophet Mohammad.

Violence between Shi'ites and majority Sunni Muslims is rare in Kabul, but Shi'ite Hazaras have a history of being persecuted elsewhere in Afghanistan.

In the latest incident, 12 Hazaras were killed in January by unidentified gunmen in the southern province of Helmand, an area dominated by Sunni Pashtuns. Hundreds of Hazaras were slaughtered by the former Taliban regime in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif in 1998.

At least 45 dead in attacks on Pakistan Shi'ites

QUETTA, Pakistan, March 2 (Reuters) - At least 44 people were killed when suspected Sunni Muslim radicals attacked rival Shi'ites with automatic rifles and grenades in Pakistan on Tuesday as the minority sect marked one of its holiest days.

Hospital sources said more than 150 people were wounded in the suicide attack in the southwestern city of Quetta, which coincided with bomb blasts that killed at least 143 people in Iraq's holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala and capital Baghdad.

Quetta's military hospital had 25 dead and at least 115 wounded, 20 of them in serious condition, a doctor there said.

A doctor at the Civil Hospital said it had received 19 bodies, including those of two attackers, and 41 wounded, seven of them in serious condition including one suspected attacker.

"Most of the casualties were from gunfire, explosions and stampede," he said.

The attackers struck on the day on which Shi'ites hold processions to commemorate the martyrdom of Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad and one of the most important figures in Shi'ite history.

In a separate incident in Pakistan, the local leader of an outlawed Shi'ite group was shot dead and more than 30 Shi'ites were wounded in a clash with majority Sunnis, police said.

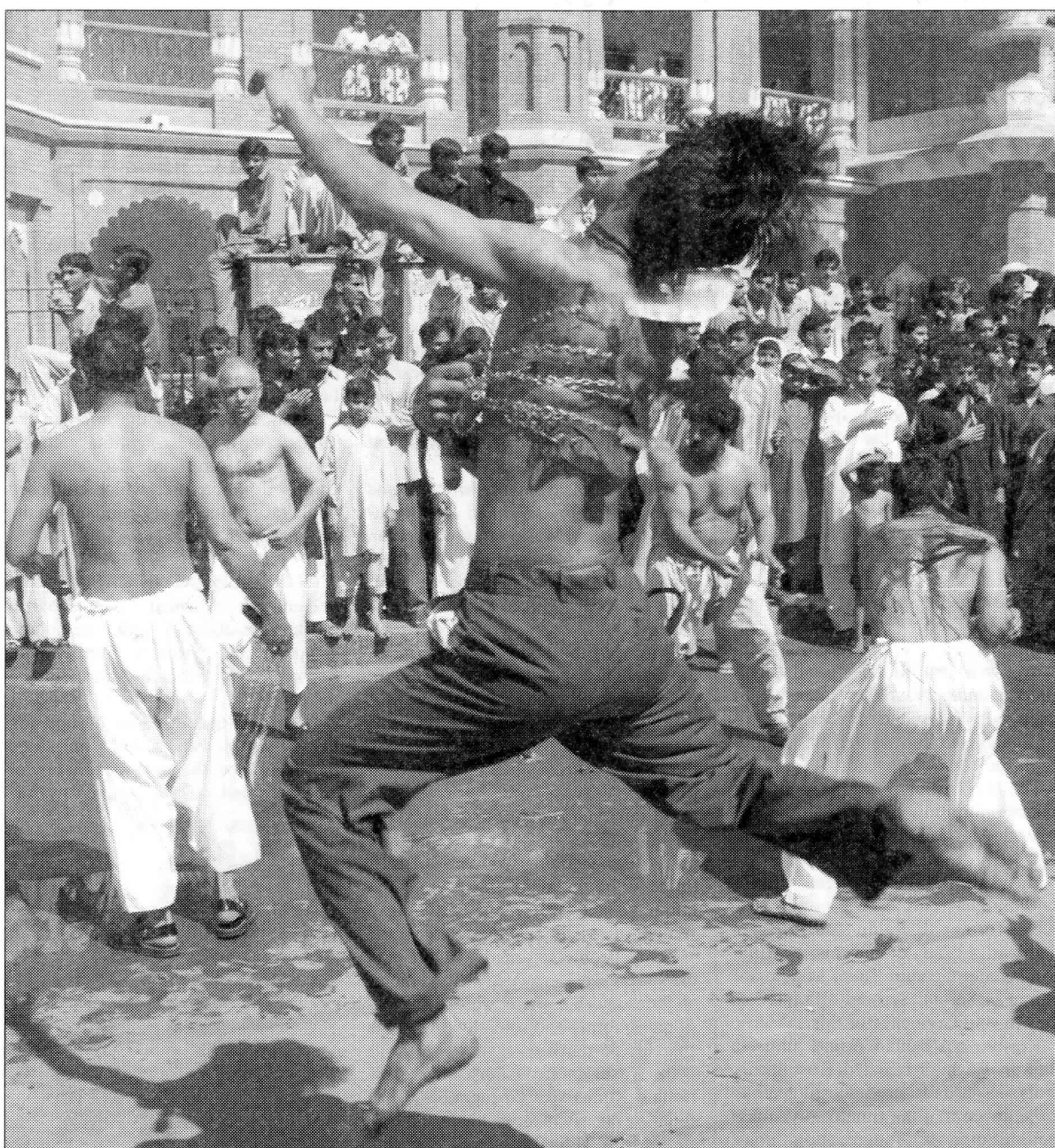
The attack on a Shi'ite procession in the centre of Quetta was the worst outbreak of sectarian violence in Pakistan since a suicide attack on a Shi'ite mosque in the same city killed more than 57 people in July.

"Terrorists started firing from a balcony on participants in the procession," and armed men from the Shi'ite Hazara community fired back, police deputy inspector general Riaz Khan told Reuters. Another police officer said the attackers had also thrown hand grenades.

Attackers killed themselves

"When the terrorists saw themselves surrounded, at least two of them blew themselves up," Khan said. "I saw their bodies dangling from the balcony over the electricity wires."

Witnesses said the attackers' guns were painted with the name of the outlawed Sunni group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi,



A Pakistani Shi'ite mourner flagellates himself during an Ashura procession in the central city of Multan Mar. 2. At least five people were killed and others were feared dead when a procession of Shi'ite Muslim mourners came under attack in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Tuesday, officials said. REUTERS

which has carried out many sectarian attacks in the past.

"We suspect this is the work of the usual suspects like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, but it's not clear what their objective was," Shi'ite leader Abdul Jalil Naqvi told Reuters.

Shi'ites immediately went on the rampage in Quetta, burning more than 100 shops. Troops were sent in to restore order and imposed a curfew as a huge plume of smoke rose from a main market. "Do not come out, a curfew has been imposed," police warned residents

over loudspeakers.

A witness in Quetta saw many Shi'ites rioting just outside his house. "They have burnt a hotel and now the army is in the area," he said.

Interior Ministry Secretary Tasneem Noorani said some suspects had been

China charges three Hong Kong-based Britons

BEIJING, March 2 (Reuters) - China has indicted three British nationals after keeping them in custody for more than a year in the southern province of Guangdong, a British diplomat said on Tuesday.

The diplomat however declined to elaborate on the charges.

Hong Kong media have said the three were former officials of China's state news agency Xinhua in Hong Kong and sold classified material to British intelligence over a period of about 10 years before being taken into custody early last year.

The case was seen by analysts as a warning to Britain not to meddle in Hong Kong affairs as Beijing wages an increasingly harsh campaign to silence demands for more voting rights in the former British colony.

"I can confirm that three British citizens have been detained in Guangzhou," said a spokesman for the British Embassy in Beijing. They were taken into Chinese custody in January 2003.

"We are in touch with their families but because they are dual British and Hong Kong nationals, we are not able to formally get consular access because they are in the second country of their nationality."

The three have been charged, the spokesman said. But he declined to elaborate and said it was for the Chinese authorities to comment on.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry could not immediately be reached. Hong Kong media have identified the trio as Liu Lin, Chen Yulin and Wei Pingyuan. They entered China on Hong Kong travel documents and were not being treated as British nationals.

The Washington Post said Chen, also known as Chan Yu-lam, 53, was tried behind closed doors in Guangzhou on February 24. A verdict and sentence are scheduled to be announced on Friday.

Conservatives say will open Greece for business

ATHENS, March 2 (Reuters) - Costas Karamanlis said on Tuesday that Greece would again be open to the world for business if he wins Sunday's election and becomes the first conservative prime minister in a decade.

Vowing a changing of the guard and of generations after 11 years of Socialist rule, the New Democracy party leader also promised that preparations for the Athens Olympics in August would not miss a beat by his coming to power.

In an interview with Reuters, Karamanlis said a conservative government would make "many changes in domestic policy particularly on the economy."

"So the world will see a country in Europe which will follow a policy directed at attracting foreign investment and privatising big public enterprises," Karamanlis said. "A country with a more friendly business environment."

While the socialists have sold some stakes in state-run firms to pay down public debt, which is among the highest in the euro zone, the conservatives say the government has carried out only partial privatisation.

Some foreign firms have long complained about difficulties of doing business in Greece because of bureaucracy and issues of control.

Most political analysts expect New Democracy to beat the long-ruling Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), with the last polls published a week ago showing the conservatives with an up to five percentage point lead.

"You may call it a changing of the guard or a changing of generation," Karamanlis said. "A changing of the page."

Karamanlis said voters desire for "change" after seeing the socialists win the last three general elections would be the decisive factor.

"Any party long remaining in power breeds arrogance, breeds favouritism and eventually breeds cor-



Costas Karamanlis, leader of the conservative New Democracy party, sits in his Athens office next to a photograph of late Greek Premier Costas Karamanlis during an interview Mar 2. REUTERS

ruption," he said.

Leaving past behind

Karamanlis, nephew of a former prime minister, also said Greeks wanted to end their history of violent political divisions which have included a civil war and military rule. "Greece and Greeks want to leave behind the big divisions, the big fights, the big tensions and focus on the real things," he said.

Karamanlis said while the election pits his own political dynasty against the dynasty of socialist party leader George Papandreou, son and grandson of former prime ministers, voters would make up their minds on issues like high unemployment and quality of life.

"To be very frank, I don't think our names are important," Karamanlis said. "It is simply a coincidence."

He did not foresee a New Democracy government taking Greece down new foreign policy roads.

Incoming Serb PM sends tough message to the West

BELGRADE, March 2 (Reuters) - Serbia's prime minister-designate Vojislav Kostunica sent an assertive message to the West on Tuesday, saying Serb war crimes suspects should be tried at home and ruling out independence for U.N.-run Kosovo.

Presenting his prospective 18-member cabinet and its future policies for parliamentary approval, the self-styled moderate nationalist also pledged to revive the impoverished economy by cutting taxes, boosting exports and fighting corruption.

He advocated "the division into entities or cantonisation" of Kosovo to protect its beleaguered Serb minority and, in comments likely to anger the province's independence-seeking Albanian majority, he added:

"For Serbia, the word status in relation to Kosovo can have many meanings but not independence."

Western powers are worried by the fact that Kostunica's government must rely on the support of the Socialists of former President Slobodan Milosevic, now on trial at the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, to get into power and govern.

The Socialists have said they will back the coalition formed by Kostunica's Democratic Party of Serbia along with liberals and monarchists, ensuring it a majority of about 131 in the 250-seat parliament formed after December's election.

But a senior Socialist party official, Milorad Vucelic, was quoted on Tuesday as saying they would withdraw support immediately if any Serb was extradited to The Hague.

That could pose a dilemma for Kostunica: the United States warns it may sever funding if Belgrade fails to show it is cooperating with the tribunal

Kerry pushes for Super Tuesday bonanza

WASHINGTON, March 2 (Reuters) - Democratic front-runner John Kerry looked for a coast-to-coast sweep on Tuesday that would knock rival John Edwards out of the race and set the stage for his nomination to challenge President George W. Bush.

Kerry, who has dominated the Democratic presidential battle with 18 wins in the first 20 contests, is favored in all 10 of the Super Tuesday states on the biggest day of voting in the race. But Edwards is hoping to spring a few upsets that could keep him alive for at least another week.

At stake are big states like New York, California, Ohio and Georgia with a total of 1,151 delegates to July's nominating convention — more than half of the 2,162 delegates needed to win and the campaign's biggest one-day haul.

But Kerry said in morning television interviews he took nothing for granted and would campaign to the end.

"I have never trusted the polls. I have always said when I am behind and when I'm ahead that you take nothing for granted. You just campaign very hard and that is what I am doing," he told NBC's "Today" show.

Edwards began his day at a polling station at a senior services center in Fulton County in Atlanta and greeted a handful of voters there.

As he arrived, he gave his usual thumbs-up sign, but declined to answer reporters' questions.

The first polls are set to close in Georgia and Vermont at 7 p.m. EST/0000 GMT Wednesday) and in California at 2300 EST/0400 GMT Wednesday).

Kerry, the four-term Massachusetts senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran, is keeping his eyes on a November match-up with Bush. He ignores Edwards out of the race. A sweep would not give Kerry enough delegates to clinch the nomination, but it would leave Edwards with little incentive to push on.

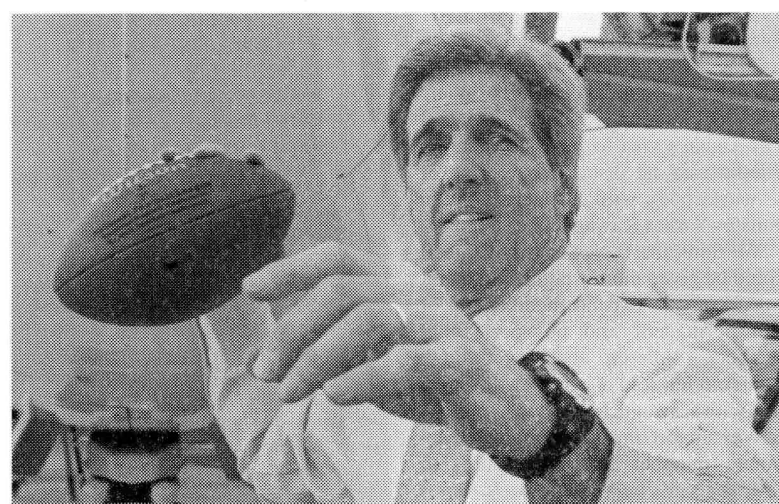
Edwards, a first-term senator from North Carolina, has put his plans to returns in Washington while Edwards planned to return to Atlanta for an election night party.

Fight to the end

Edwards has targeted Ohio, Georgia and Minnesota for possible victories and shrugged off questions about whether he would get out of the race if he is swamped on Tuesday.

"I plan to be in this until I'm nominated," he said on Monday. "We have always been going up and surging at the end. We'll have to wait and see what happens."

The two candidates planned light schedules on Tuesday, with both doing campaign stops in Atlanta, Georgia and then returning to Washington for key Senate votes. Kerry was set to watch the



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry (D-MA) throws a football on the tarmac at Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, Mar 2. Kerry is heading back to Washington for a U.S. Senate vote as he faces a crucial day in his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination with residents of 10 states going to the polls to vote in the "Super Tuesday" caucuses and primaries. REUTERS

Edwards, a first-term senator from North Carolina, has put his plans to

returns in Washington while Edwards planned to return to Atlanta for an election night party.

Kerry is hoping another in his string of dominating performances will knock Edwards out of the race. A sweep would not give Kerry enough delegates to

clinch the nomination, but it would leave Edwards with little incentive to push on.

Edwards, a first-term senator from North Carolina, has put his plans to

ate more opportunities for American workers and stem the flow of U.S. jobs to foreign countries at the center of his campaign.

But he conceded Monday he was running out of time to turn around the race against Kerry, who holds a 3-to-1 edge in delegates, unless he racks up some wins quickly.

"At some point I've got to get more delegates or I'm not going to be the nominee," he said.

Cyprus talks could continue beyond May 1-Greece

ATHENS, March 2 (Reuters) - Greece on Tuesday floated the possibility of Cyprus peace talks extending beyond a U.N. deadline of May 1, date of the island's accession to the European Union.

"If they (the negotiations) continue (beyond May 1) then we will reach a deal in the foreseeable future," Foreign Minister Tassos Yannitsis told reporters.

The Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides are trying to hammer out a U.N.-brokered peace deal that would allow a united island to join the EU.

Yannitsis's comments appeared to raise the spectre of a possible collapse

of negotiations which the United Nations has insisted must be held to strict deadlines as a way of forcing all sides to make timely concessions.

Neither side has reported tangible progress with a U.N.-imposed deadline fast approaching for a deal on the Mediterranean island, divided along ethnic lines since 1974.

The two sides are locked in almost daily negotiations on U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's blueprint in an attempt to put it before referendums of both communities on April 21, giving time for a united island to join the European Union on May 1.

Too early to place Macedonia crash blame: France

PARIS, March 2 (Reuters) - France on Tuesday played down speculation that NATO air controllers might have been to blame for last week's plane crash that killed Macedonia's president, saying an investigation had yet to establish the facts.

The Foreign Ministry was commenting on allegations made in Balkan media about the causes of Thursday's crash, in which Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and eight others died.

A ministry spokeswoman said such speculation was premature before the findings are announced of an investigation led by the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.

"This debate is misplaced," the spokeswoman told a news briefing. "We must await the findings of the inquest. All statements at this stage are thus premature."

The airport control tower at Mostar was under the command of French units of the NATO-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia (SFOR) at the time of the crash. NATO said on Tuesday it would fully cooperate with the investigation.

"NATO will provide whatever support we can to the investigation and has done so from the beginning, right from the moment of the crash," alliance spokesman James Appathurai said at its headquarters in Brussels.

Media in the Balkans have carried allegations that the crash may have been caused by a control tower error which put Trajkovski's aircraft onto an approach path at an altitude that was too low. There have been no official allegations to this effect.

SFOR dismissed suggestions that the airport was not safe.

"The equipment is modern, serviced and maintained regularly and subject to daily checks. SFOR uses the airport for its own aircraft and has every confidence in all aspects of safety," SFOR spokesman U.S. Captain Dave Sullivan said in Sarajevo.

He said the tape recordings of the air traffic controllers' conversations with the pilot had been given to investigators, who had also interviewed the air controllers in question.

Armed rebels call for Haitians to back "army"

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 2 (Reuters) - Rebels sought to consolidate their position in Haiti on Tuesday, urging people to demonstrate support for their "army" in the face of a power vacuum after the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

While U.S. troop reinforcements were arriving to spearhead an international force and Washington worked on political plans for restoring order, rebel leader Guy Philippe, an ex-police chief, went on local radio to call for public backing.

"We need the population to give us the mandate to provide them with security. Once we get the mandate we will assume our responsibility," declared Philippe, whose rag-tag backers took over the police headquarters on Monday.

He called on Haitians to demonstrate outside the U.S.-guarded national palace, the gleaming white presidential office in the middle of this peeling and impoverished city which was long a symbol of Aristide's power.

Many people returned to work and the streets were crowded with vehicles on Tuesday, but there was still occasional shooting and some looting in the anarchic port area.

In Washington Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters, "The situation clearly is more stable and quieter today." U.S. forces were securing the airport, the palace area and the coast guard station.

He added: "the forces that were opposing Aristide seem to have made a conscious decision to behave and that's a good thing. That is a result of the presence of international and multinational forces."

Philippe, however, made clear his forces did not intend to melt away, despite his statement shortly after

Aristide fled on Sunday that his forces would put down their weapons and stop fighting. "The army was never disbanded," he said.

Aristide disbanded the army in the 1990s after a series of military coups, leaving law and order to a poorly equipped police force which collapsed in the face of the rebels campaign in the last month.

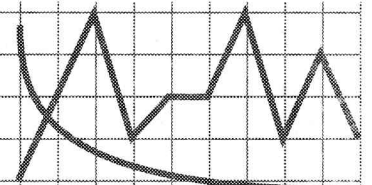
GUNS ABOUND IN CAPITAL
Hundreds of armed rebels, some in military fatigues with automatic weapons and others in T-shirts with Second World War rifles, have entered the capital.

Haiti was convulsed by an uprising that began on Feb. 5 when an armed gang took over the northwestern city of Gonaives and was later joined by for-



Soldiers from the Haitian National Revolutionary Liberation force arrive in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Mar. 1. Armed rebels who helped oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide paraded round the National Palace in central Port-au-Prince Monday, greeted by thousands of cheering Haitians as U.S. Marines began a mission to restore order. REUTERS

YT Business



Ongoing projects to build Yemen

World Bank gives \$145 million credit

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

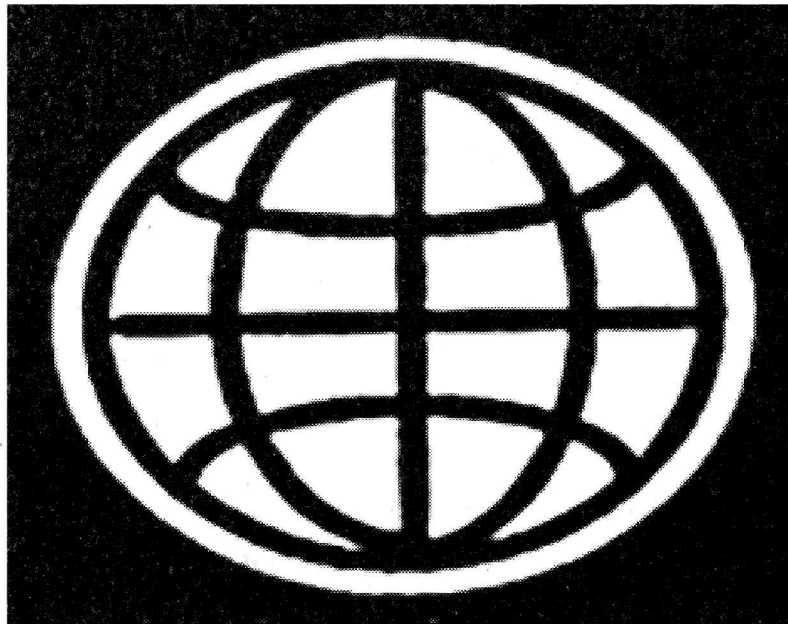
WASHINGTON - The World Bank approved a \$145 million credit for three projects in Yemen aimed at expanding access to basic services, addressing water scarcity in farm areas and providing essential infrastructure to improve services and environmental conditions in poor communities.

The three projects respond to the Government of Yemen's efforts to fight poverty through an economy-wide reform program to stimulate growth while ensuring that vulnerable segments of the population are protected.

Almost half of Yemen's population of 18.8 million live below the poverty line, with 73 percent living in rural areas.

Yemen remains one of the least developed countries based upon human development indicators. Life expectancy is 56 years. Only 45 percent of Yemeni adults are literate, with a wide gender gap in education. Yemenis have limited access to infrastructure such as safe water supply and sanitation, and electricity reaches only 35 percent of the population.

Yemen is also one of the most water scarce countries in the world. The average renewable water resources per capita is about 130 m³ per capita per year, which is about one-twentieth of the world average. As a predominantly rural country, irrigated agriculture remains the main economic activity and source of income and employment



in rural areas. Therefore, water scarcity and the rapid depletion of groundwater directly impacts poverty and employment.

The \$60 million Social Fund for Development Project builds on the success of the first two phases of the project and will support effective delivery of social services with the participation of local communities.

The Social Fund has emerged as the leading development agency in Yemen. Since 1997, it supported about 3,260 projects across the country. In this third phase, the Social Fund will finance projects in the areas of education, water and environment, health and social protection with a special focus on women and children, cultural

heritage and rural roads.

The Social Fund will also seek to strengthen the management of microenterprise programs it supported in the past with over 7000 active clients. In addition, it will continue to finance activities for training and organizational support of NGOs, private sector and select government agencies who work in the same sectors.

The \$40.0 million Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project is designed to address Yemen's critical problem of unsustainable groundwater extraction caused by the rapid spread of groundwater irrigation and dwindling rates of recharge. The project will assist the government of Yemen to conserve water in farming areas, improve

recharge and protect watersheds by improving water use efficiency and increasing surface and groundwater availability.

It will also provide support to local institutions to enable them to manage local water resources in a sustainable manner.

The \$45 million Third Public Works Project is an extension of past two operations which provided much-needed infrastructure services and environmental conditions, particularly those affecting women and children and creating short-term employment.

It will focus on infrastructure services in the areas of health, education, water supply, waste water, roads, irrigation and vocational training, while targeting poor communities. The project is designed to assist the government of Yemen in addressing the impact of economic reforms and the potential reduction in government budget as a result of the drop in government revenues.

The three projects fall in line with the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy for Yemen which aims to fight poverty by building human resources with emphasis on girls' education and health, sustainable water management, job creation and public sector governance.

The International Development Agency (IDA), an arm of the World Bank Group which provides interest-free development assistance to the poorest countries, will issue the credit. World Bank commitments to Yemen total approximately \$2 billion for about 130 operations.

New office opening in Sana'a

Germany gives more help to private sector



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

With the opening of an office for the German Bank for Construction in Sana'a, Yemen and Germany have moved to their next stage of cooperation.

This has come in coincidence with doubling the financial allotments the German government is offering to the Yemeni government. The financial appropriation has been raised from 12 million Euros during the past two years to 24 million Euros in 2002 and 36 million Euros in 2003.

During the Yemeni-German consultative meetings this year the Germans added a fourth area for cooperation between the two countries, namely helping the private sector through creating job opportunities in addition to supporting projects of local development.

The two sides agreed on enhancement of the existing cooperation in water, sewage, health, basic education, and economic development.

Negotiations are annually held between Yemen and Germany to discuss issues of cooperation. Last year's meetings resulted agreement on granting Yemen 22 million Euros as financial cooperation and 14 million Euros as technical cooperation.

A number of German organisations offer assistance and expertise to Yemen via the German organisation for volunteers "DED", the organisation for reha-

bilitation and development of abilities, the center for international development and migration for supporting the private sector, the SES organisation of delegating German expertise from retired specialists, and the federal institute for geological sciences and natural resources.

The volume of development assistance offered to Yemen since 1969 amounts to 787 million Euros, distributed as 60% in financial cooperation and 40% as technical cooperation for funding technical consultations and expertise.

In 2001, Germany had chosen Yemen among four developing countries to help cut rates of poverty in half by the year 2015. This selection allows Yemen to get additional support for funding the strategy of combating poverty, and accordingly in 2003 Yemen got additional sums amounting to 4 million Euros, in addition to an increase of \$600,000 Euros for the German volunteers organisation to enhance its developmental activities in Yemen.

Geographically, the German support during the past years was focused on areas of Ibb ad Abyan, while an agreement was signed for expanding the area of cooperation to cover 17 districts in various parts of the country.

There is a German trend towards supporting new fields in the next stage, especially in offering loan facilities to evolve small industries and alleviation of poverty and promotion for cultural heritage.

Thus Germany is considered among the most important partners of development for Yemen, and relations between the two sides relations are characterised by political respect at all levels.

IDA gives \$60M for Yemen's social development

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Board of Director of the International Development Association (IDA) approved a credit of \$60 million to support Yemen's third phase of the Social Fund for Development (SFD) project.

IDA has already supported the SFD with two credits of \$30 million, and \$75 million. Because of the strong record of the SFD, more donors are joining with the IDA in supporting the SFD.

From four donors in the first phase, the SFD now is being supported by 12 donors.

The SFD has become the leading development agency in Yemen. Since 1997, it has supported about 3,260 sub-projects across the sectors across the country at a total value of about \$230 million, out of which about \$153 million has been disbursed.

Impact studies indicate that the SFD is reaching out to the poor segments of the society in Yemen, and

is having a positive impact on the sectors in which it is active.

An example is its impact on girls enrollment rates in the areas where it is financing education sub-projects. Girls enrollment in the SFD supported communities were 20 percent higher than those in the comparison group.

Over the years, the SFD has become a model agency in Yemen of how a public institution can work with private sector rules, and perform efficiently and effectively when the enabling environment is provided.

The SFD is now increasingly playing an institutional development role to a selected number of NGOs, communities, and government agencies.

Over 200 NGOs, and 150 community groups received training and/or capacity building activities from the SFD.

During the proposed third phase, the SFD will focus more on these aspects besides continuing to support the delivery of social services to the poorest in Yemen.

Stock market is essential Stability and security needed to attract investments

Unquestionably, capitalists and businessmen will not venture to begin investment and partnerships with us until they are confident that the elements of stability and security exist.

As long as Yemen's financial situations are still without a stock-exchange market, capitalists will still be hesitant, even if facilities and fea-

sibility study are made available for them to establish investment projects.

Local and foreign private sectors wish to find a stock exchange market through which to do their works and financial transfers easily and assuredly. Whenever the private sector feels that economic and political situations in the country are stable, and growth indicators are positive, investment will come.

It is certain that capitalists would

desire to hold partnership with the government side for the establishment of a long-awaited stock exchange market to adjust investment transactions and to feel confident in the future of the country's economy.

Such a market has become necessary and establishing it is a joint concern shared by all: government, establishments, official and trade and private companies as well as the private or mixed sector.

The longer the establishment of the market is delayed the farther the distance would be between the success of investment and failure of investors in managing their projects.

Surprisingly, the committee entrusted with preparation of establishing the market announces repeatedly that it has been about to declare the establishment of the market and then it would turn back, as if the whole question has become intricate and there is no hope in the establishment of the market in Yemen.

It is certain that the private sector and government concerned parties are capable, if they joined forces, to overcome the impediments of the inception of the stock exchange market, according to modern ways, and connecting it to banking procedures necessary for running the market.

It is necessary that various sectors

to cooperate for establishing the stock exchange in Yemen in order to ensure development of investment process and improvement of performance of investment and economic climate in general.

Thus there must be a co-ordination among banks, companies and various firms to accelerate the formation of the stock exchange market that has been waited for so long.



Cairo Stock Exchange is one of many successfully run Arab stock exchange markets, which exist in Doha, Bahrain, Kuwait, Dubai, Tunis, Amman, Beirut and other cities. It is believed that Yemen would benefit greatly from such a stock exchange market.

Exchange Rare for the Yemeni Rail

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.3400	184.5500
Sterling Pound	345.2000	345.6000
Euro	231.0400	231.3100
Saudi Rial	49.1600	49.2100
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.4300	626.1500
UAE Dirhem	50.1900	50.2500
Egyptian Pound	29.8500	29.8900
Bahraini Dinar	488.9500	489.5100
Qatari Rial	50.6300	50.6900
Jordanian Dinar	260.1700	260.4600
Omani Rial	478.8200	479.3600
Swiss Franc	146.6000	146.7700
Swedish Crown	25.0300	25.0500
Japanese Yen	1.6876	1.6896

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Dialogue is integral to its well-being

Culture in all its forms is complex



BY ABDULLA A. BUKEIR
Abdulla.Bukeir@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A great deal of argumentation has been occurred among philosophers, intellectuals and sociologists concerning the meaning of culture. Moreover, many researches and thesis have been written in an attempt to define culture and civilization. Whether culture and civilization are identical terms for one thing, or are they different, it is also another question.

Culture is generally defined as "a combination of knowledge, technical and mental skills, manners of conduct and morals that distinguish any society or nation from another." It is also defined as "promotion of mentality and morality, and development of the intact taste in literature and beautiful arts ... and it is one of the stages of progress in a civilization."

Upon this ground, intellectuals and sociologists "do not speak about the culture of the cannibals and the culture of violence and destruction, yet they mention the Indian, Chinese, Persian or Arabic culture that is realized to them in the civilized customs and traditions; and in the mental outcome, such as: literature, arts, philosophy and science."

Intellectuals speak also about two types of culture

1. The Scientific culture which is "based on the industrial revolution since the 18th century and its consequences in the scientific revolution, when the scientific theories had been used in industry since the beginning of the twentieth century."
2. The literary culture which does not mean merely literature in its specific meaning as it seems to be at the first glance, "but it includes many of the humanities, such as: social history, sociology, anthropology, politics, economics, principles of government, psychology and social sciences."

The concept of culture is sometimes mixed up with the concept of civilization, to the extent that some people think that they are the same. This is because civilization has, in a way or another, similar definition as "the combination of social, religious, moral, technical, scientific and artistic characteristics in a specific nation; and transmitted through generations."

In fact, some researchers believe that technology is the body of civilization and culture is its soul.

Consequently, intellectuals and researchers have settled the argumentation about the dialogue of cultures and ignored any conflict, when they stated that the progress of civilization does not mean the

overcome of western culture upon the eastern; or the northern upon the southern. But it means essentially a literary, intellectual, scientific and artistic mutuality among all parties, so that the individual culture flourishes and yields its ripen fruit."

Regarding the most significance of culture in the life of humanity, intellectuals and sociologists devoted most of their time and labour to study the various aspects and fields of culture, according to different times and communities; even to different social classes in the same society, in the view of the fact that each time and each society has its own culture.

This hard work brought forth various branches of knowledge concerning culture. Thus we hear now about the science of cultural anthropology which deals with "the individual as a civilized being, living in a specific culture." The concept of cultural determinism which means "human behaviour and character are basically restricted to culture factors", has become widespread.

We also get accustomed to talk about cultural heritage; which sociologists define it as the "combination of cultural specimens that the individual gets from the different communities whose one of its members. The cultural heritage includes also customs, traditions, and dogma that the individual has inherited."

Intellectuals and men of letters study what they call cultural integration, which means that each culture has its own combination of social manners that the individuals live and think according to them. They are closely and tight integrated, and the missing of any element in this integration may lead to confusion and disorder; and to psychological and social problems, consequently this might bring forth different types of conflict that cause an obstacle in the way of the community progress.

Culture & the IT evolution

According to what is mentioned previously; we come to a conclusion that culture is a combination of different branches and fields of knowledge, customs, traditions, morals and values. Culture is also manners of human and civil conduct that characterizes the identity of a society or a nation and distinguishes its character.

Those societies and nations, even if they differ or vary in their cultures, yet they have one basic ground of human culture and civilization, on which they interact, intermix and integrate in a framework of one human culture. On the other hand, any cultural defect or disorder in the cultural integration of any specific human society, will surely cause confusion and chaos inside this society, and might extend or spread to other neighbouring societies.

Or even to a far way community in this age of great speed in development of telecommunication and information technology. This revolutionary progress

makes vast distances very close, and breaks through natural, geographical and political borders and frontiers. It makes the whole globe seems to be one cultural area, where the cultures of great world powers become almost the predominant feature for mostly all social communities.

As far as we are living in a world of increasing speed of crucial changes and great inventions; and in a time where scientific and technological means, tools and equipment develop very fast in quantity and vast expansion; this means that the societies and nations of the world, especially those are called the underdeveloped countries, are obliged to give more attention to researches and studies and to work very hard to fill what is called today this cultural gap or what others call the cultural lag.

In our Arabic-Islamic society, we are undoubtedly, in great need to study objectively our own cultural status; keeping in mind our great cultural heritage that once enriched the human culture and civilization and interweave positively with it.

If we go a little back to the history of modern civilizations throughout the human historical procession; such as the Greek, Persian, Indian, Roman or Arabic civilization, we will definitely realize how the cultures of those societies had founded customs, traditions, spiritual and social values. They also constituted human cultural heritage, which up to date form the base of our current human and civil society.

What is to be taken in consideration now, is this huge industrial progress; and this great scientific and technological development in our today world that form man's culture and mentality. This industrial and technological revolution has brought forth great monopolistic economical and industrial powers that attempt to exploit this great revolution, in telecommunication and information technology, for the sake of their selfish benefits, and to mold man's spirit and mentality according to the materialistic outcomes of this progress.

This phenomenon in the culture of human society, is seriously dangerous and against man's spiritual and moralistic values and traditions. Scientific and technological progress should be utilized for the sake of humanity and its cultural and civil progress and peace.

Culture and cultural invasion

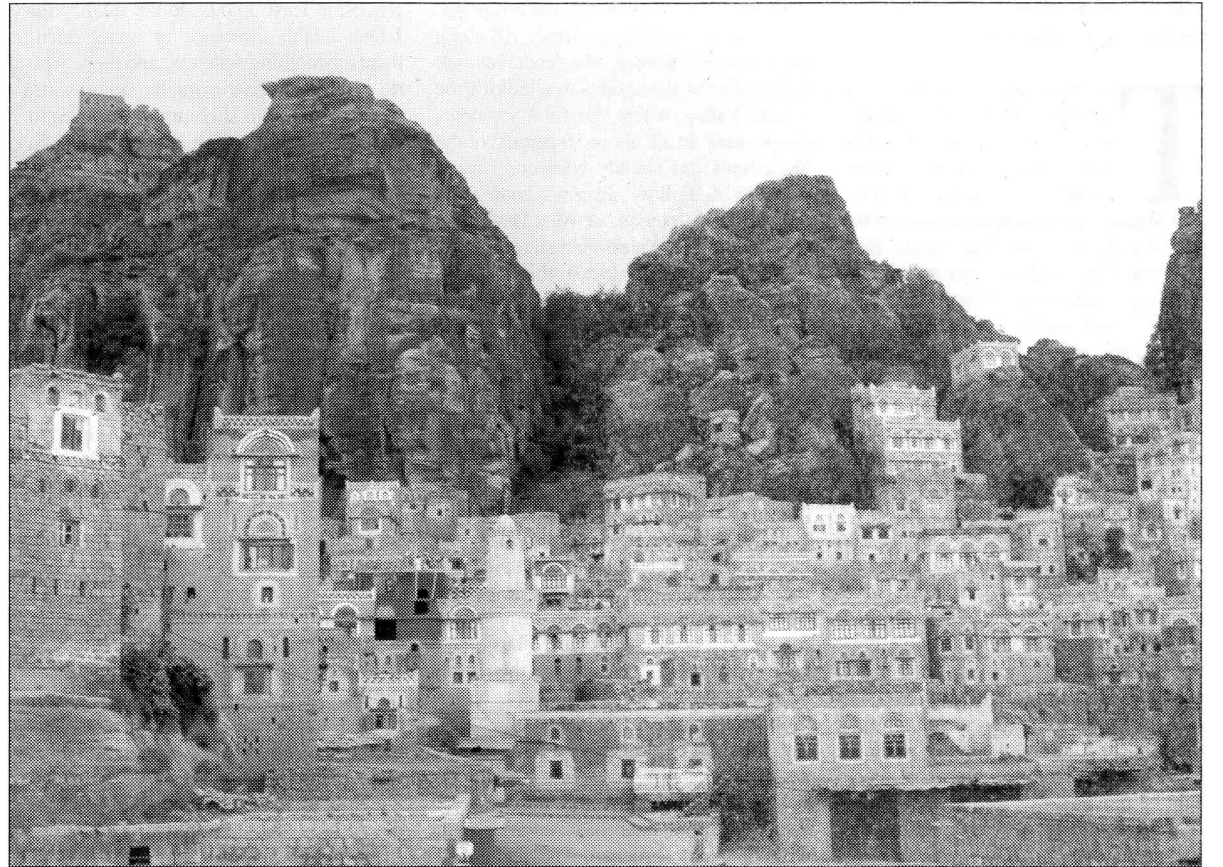
In such heightened argumentation concerning human cultures, a question forced itself urgently, to know whether there is a dialogue or a conflict among these different cultures ?!! Logically, the answer will be: dialogue is the natural and normal case, because human race is inclined to its nature and civil mentality to understanding and not to contradiction ... to dialogue and not to conflict.

So dialogue is the normal and the proper approach in a civilized community; while conflict, violence and destruction are all savage and barbarous means used in jungles among a community of beasts against. If conflict is used instead of dialogue by any human community the other; this means that there is something wrong in the mood and mentality that dominates such a community. If this society tries to enforce its culture upon another, regardless any human or moral respects, this really will cause a conflict.

The approach of dialogue is generally based on the ground of equality and equivalence, regardless the differences in materialistic powers of this society or that. When matters are settled by force; here the authority of logic disappears to be replaced by the power of violence ... and here the voice of truth and reality fades against the voice of falsehood and unreality. Here then, the scale of conflict outweighs and dialogue loses.

This controversial issue leads to another question. Is there, really, cultural invasion in our present human society as some people claim ?!! And if it is so; to what extent the so called invaded cultures are able to resist it or to adapt it ?!

The answer is definitely: there is an inevitable cultural invasion, in this world of increasing speed in the development of telecommunication and information technology. We can see the



Traditional Yemeni architecture, a unique attraction for tourists

dust of its marching covering many cultural areas. We can also realize some of its tangible advantages and disadvantages. It is obvious that cultures of the highly developed countries and of great world powers are the ones probable to invade the cultures of the under developed countries and societies. On the other hand, we cannot ignore even slight effect of the under developed societies culture upon the developed. So no one is safe of this "mutual invasions." If it comes normally and smoothly, this means that it falls and streams in the channels of dialogue; otherwise it is really a planned cultural invasion that leads to the conflict of cultures.

Regarding the second part of the question; the answer is the invaded culture is capable to face this cultural invasion or to adapt to it.

If we take, for instance, our Arabic and Islamic culture, we may say with absolute confidence that our culture has the ability to interact with, or to adapt to any human culture; nevertheless this process needs the following conditions to be achieved:

1. Full understanding of the real meaning and nature of culture and civilization, and their specific human purports and significance. This is to fortify the cultural community, the youth and the new generation, who is starving and striving to obtain knowledge, and who is surrounded by huge, developed multimedia of telecommunication and information technology.
2. Full objective understanding of our Arabic Islamic cultural heritage; because its is a remarkable factor that portrays the features of the individual and the community. It is true that our culture had interacted, through all the human ages, with other human cultures and civilizations, and still has the ability to be an active pole in the current dialogue of cultures through both its present creative culture and its original cultural heritage.
3. All modern and developed scientific and technological means, tools and equipment should be available for scientists, intellectuals and men of letters, so as to be able to participate positively in this cultural dialogue. They also need to be highly qualified in both humanities and applied sciences, to cope with the high speed progress in our contemporary age of science, technology and industry.
4. Our cultural, intellectual and informational authorities should avoid to be trapped in the ready made molds and terms of culture that are brought from abroad, or to be attracted to new ideas or thoughts, without putting their creative fingerprints on them. This notion should not be understood as an attitude against what is called Occidentalism. We are open-minded people; but what we are aiming at, is that any cultural individual or community should be

aware of his or its own culture, and also to beware the abuses and disadvantages of other cultures. To promote your culture does not mean to accept whatever is presented to you, but to make use of the advantages; otherwise one will find himself at the margin of the process of the cultures' dialogue; and consequently far away from human civilization; especially in our present age where the whole globe seems to be one village as it is said, and all human communities seem to be one human society.

Conclusion

There is a vast distance between the concept of dialogue and that of conflict. However when one thinks of dialogue he, finds himself spontaneously thinks deeply of the raised question of the concept of the conflict of civilizations; which is now one of the most prominent issues of the age. It is also one of the hot questions of disputation among the intellectuals as well as among the politicians.

As we have already stated previously that man's intact nature is inclined normally to dialogue; while the uncivil mentality mostly trends to conflict and destruction. Furthermore the concept of civilizations' conflict is usually adopted by what we may call the "Tatarian" communities, or by "Tamburlainian" leaderships; since such a concept will not logically and probably emanates from a civil minded community. However, such a concept of conflict and violence does not necessarily represent the whole community but only the dominated circles and classes in it.

The up normal call of the conflict of civilizations is surely related to unhealthy psychology, and uneducated and uncultured mentality that hates positive human relations among the various societies and nations of the world. This call is an outcome of a defect in the cultural integration of such

a society; which leads to disturbance and chaos in the mood and mentality of this community that consequently leads to a trend of hatred and vengeance.

From all that we have previously mentioned above, we come to a conclusion that, humanity will not surrender to uncivil mentalities or uncultured conducts. Humanity is able to protect its cultural and civilized heritage through positive cultural dialogue; and through balanced positive human relations among all various cultural areas and communities. Human race is capable to live in peace and protect its civilization, and is able to defeat and overcome all concepts and calls of conflict and violence.

Humanity owns all the conditions and constituents of existence and living peacefully through its historical cultural heritage that includes values, traditions, moral and religious teaching, as well as through its international laws, establishments and authorities.

We look ahead into the future with an open-minded and optimistic vision. A vision that sees the whole world as one integral society .. or even one great unified family. Although its members slightly vary in behaviour and conduct; yet they have one language of dialogue that will go on as far as there is love for peace, freedom liberty, democracy; and above all love for humanity.

Quotation have been quoted from the Arabic references:

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* Abdulla Abdulrahman Bukeir is a researcher and lecturer in English Literatur



A view of traditional building in Sana'a

Make good habits



By RAHMAT ELAHI
mmrrahmat@hotmail.com

He saying "It's better to wear out than to rust out" plays an important role as a stimulus.

And right use of time is the most precious factor for a student.

The art of using time to do as much good as we can neglect no opportunity of improving ourselves intellectually and morally.

The rules can best be expressed negatively in the form of rust. They take the form of warnings against the various ways in which we are tempted to waste our time.

This situation can be captured by avoiding lateness.

It is wittily said "he lost half an hour every morning and ran after it all the day without being able to overtake it."

The second important factor is the proper use of money in the right time. Do you believe that money to a certain extent is power? Yes, it is, and its proper utilization can do much good and on the contrary can do much evil. It may set up a new standard for some men and cause the ruin of some others.

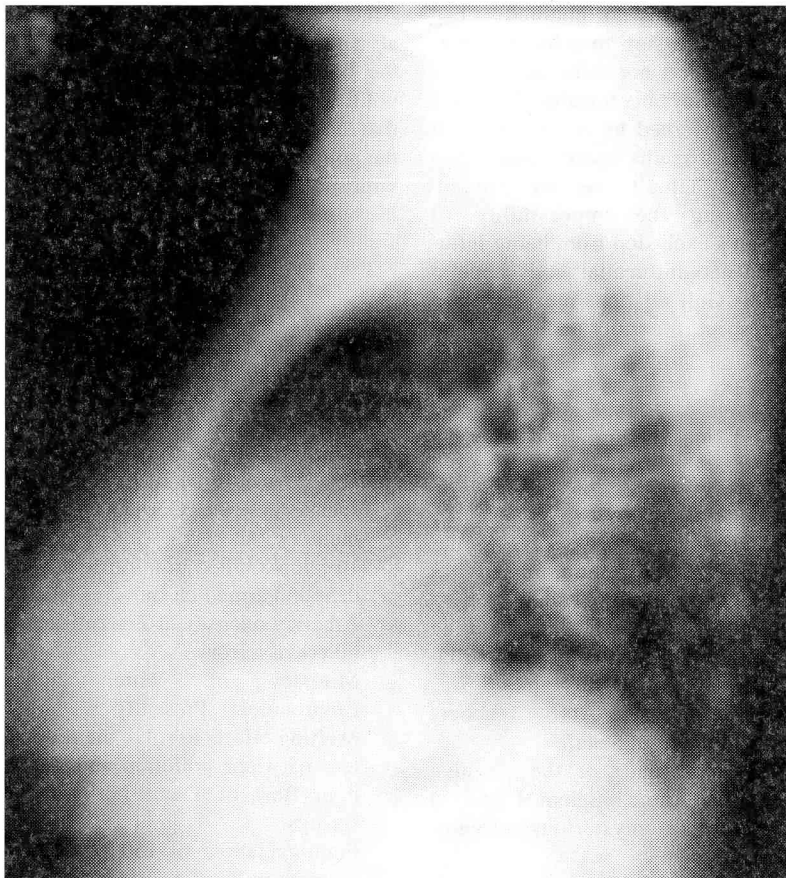
The third most important factor is known as the second nature of the person. Try your best since your childhood to bring this motto of "It's better to wear out than to rust out" into your second nature. Then you will be the one who can enjoy its taste.

Check-ups important

Dangers of sickle-cell anemia

BY DR. NABEEHA AHMED SAID ASSELWI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Sickle-cell anemia disease is characterized by the availability of unusual hemoglobin pigment found in the blood which is medically abbreviated as H.B.S.S. In this case, the infant is born where its parents convey the H.B.A.S. An important research has been carried out in the Taiz City for that disease. A medical unit for blood patients should be erected for them in a complete manner whether those patients who belong to Mohammed Addorah Blood Center.



Such blood centers faces a big difficulties including the lack of necessary potentials. The number of blood patients have increased day after day from the whole areas belong to the Taiz governorate.

The diseases symptoms occur after six months of delivery.

Such symptoms includes body paleness, spleen and liver hypertrophy as well as having bellyache, pains in chests, joints, and headache. There are also other symptoms including hands and feet tumefaction especially during the pre-6-month age.

The sickle-cell anemia disease is diagnosed through embryo diagnosis. For avoiding such disease, parents have to carry out medical check-ups earlier along with brothers and sisters

for knowing the disease carrier.

It is to be mentioned here that medicine for such disease is widely spreads at the present except some of the medical sedatives, antibiotics, liquids, vitamins or blood transfusing when just need arises.

In case of having a paroxysm, the patient have to stay at least 20-hour stay in medical facility.

In most cases, some of the advanced countries transform the medulla and this without a shadow of doubt entails huge financial expenses. In addition to this, some of patients have fallen prey to paroxysm are ones who are having sickle-cell anemia.

The main prophylaxis for the sickle-cell anemia caused by the lack of oxidation as a result of blood viscosity can be performed through the various instructions, including avoiding high places such as living in mountainous areas or flying too often in airplanes.

In terms of citing cases of this disease, the responsibility should be held by physicians and the health ministry

I give my advice to all citizens in the country of not ignoring scientific facts and to deal with reality in a credible manner.

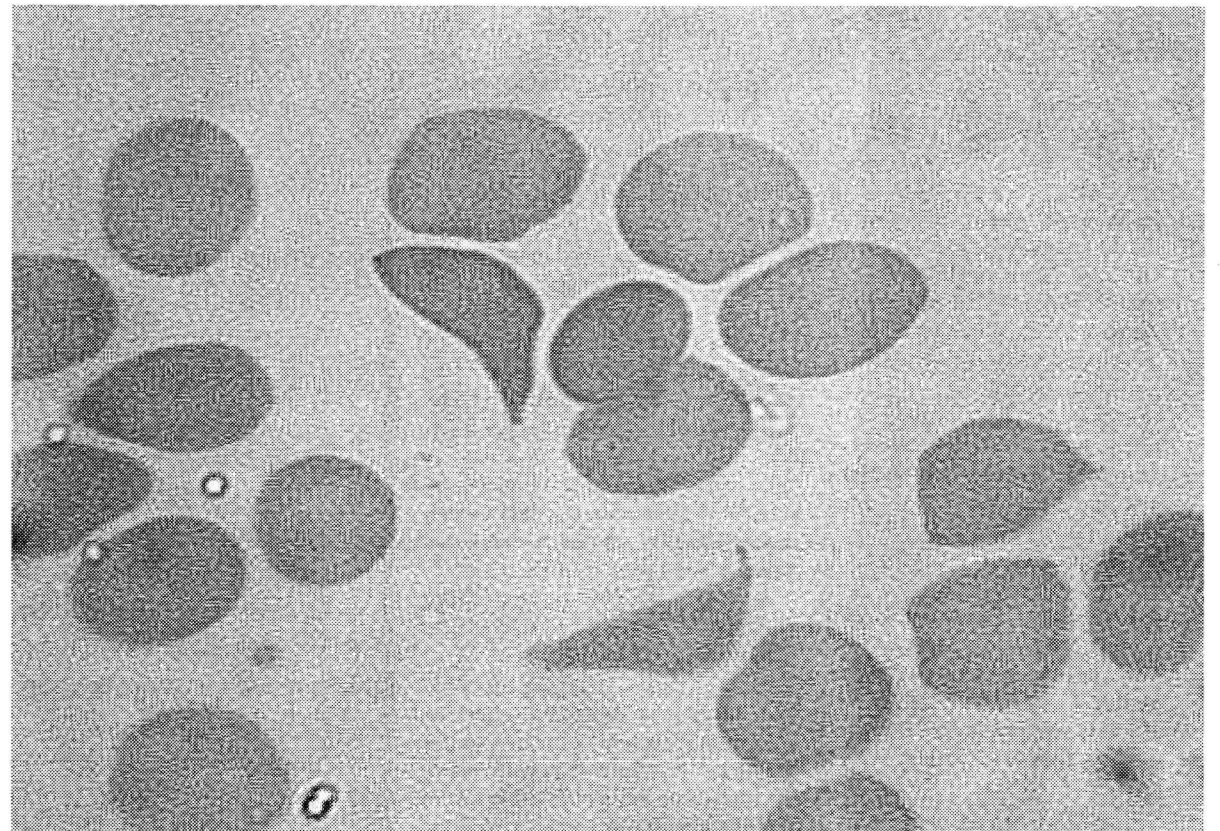
Parents and married couples have to carry out medical check-ups.

The role of the media in this case is indispensable to raise awareness among the public of the great significance of carrying out medical check-ups.

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Indonesia dengue outbreak unlikely to be new strain-WHO

JAKARTA, March 2 (Reuters) - Indonesia's dengue fever outbreak, which has killed hundreds of people in the past two months, is not likely to be the result of a new and more deadly strain of the virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The death toll from the disease has climbed to 344 since the start of January, with 19,908 cases recorded across the archipelago, the health ministry said in a statement.

Indonesian officials have said they are waiting for the results of blood tests to find out if the outbreak is the result of a new strain of the virus.

But Georg Petersen, the WHO's representative in Indonesia, said a new strain was unlikely.

"We don't expect that to be the case," Petersen told Reuters.

He said the disease outbreak this year was likely part of a five-year cycle common in tropical countries. "The main reason for the outbreak is the immunity in the population (is lower)," Petersen said.

"It seems to have a peak or large outbreak around every five years," he said.

Indonesia's government has come under heavy criticism in the local media for its handling of the disease and many say the outbreak highlights loopholes in the country's underfunded and hobbled health care system.

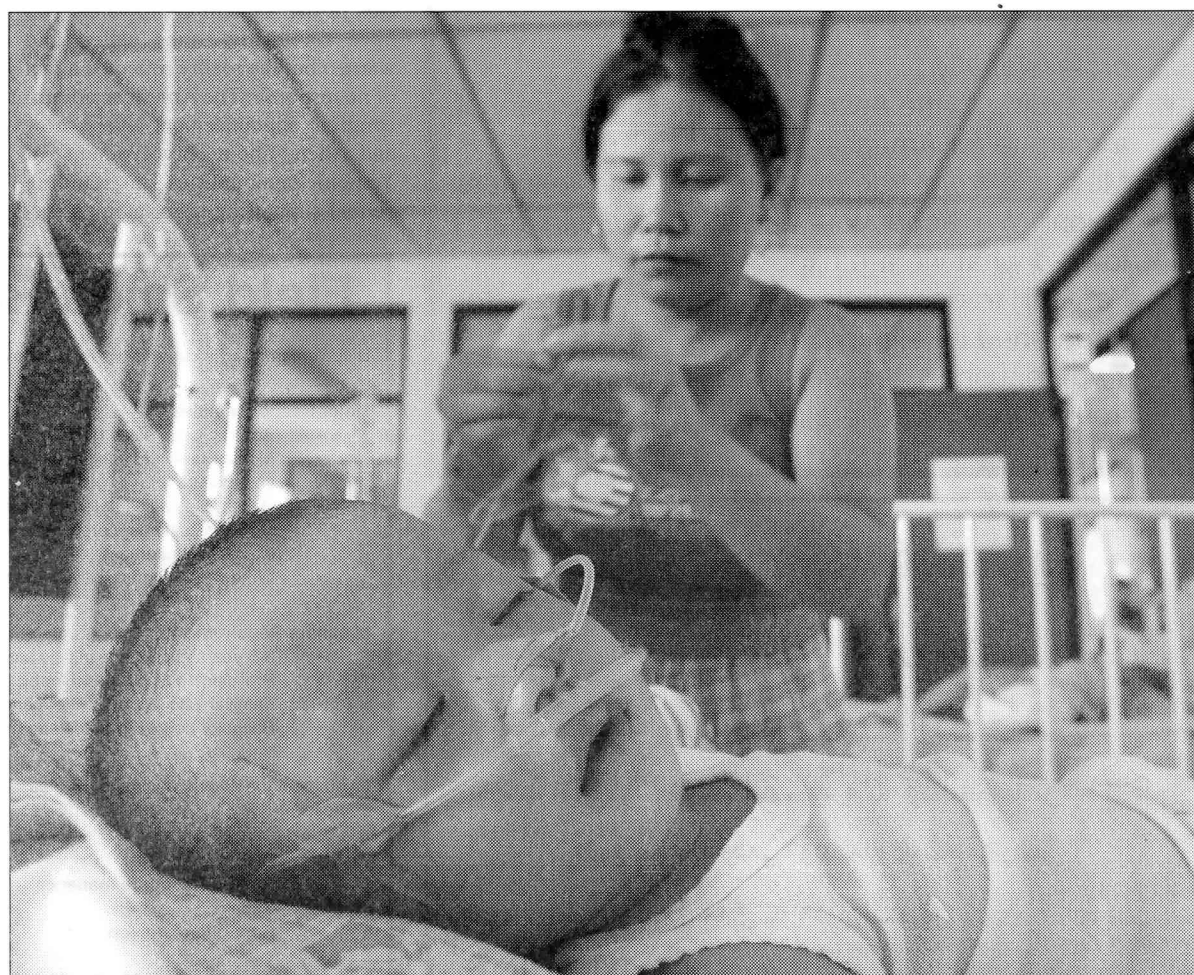
Petersen said, however, that the primary responsibility in tackling the dengue outbreak lay with local communities. "The local community has an obligation to clean up the town and the neighbourhood," he said.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito, which carries the disease, lives and reproduces around stagnant puddles of water common in inner-city slums during the

rainy season from October to April.

The disease strikes annually during the rainy season in Indonesia, the world's fourth-most populous country,

starting in January and peaking in May or June. But the toll so far in 2004 is more than double that at the same time last year.



An Indonesian baby receives treatment for dengue fever at a government-run hospital already overcrowded with patients suffering from the disease in Jakarta March 2. Over 300 people have died and thousands more have fallen ill from the outbreak which has hit Indonesia since beginning of this year. REUTERS

Curbing Pollution



BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The regional conference on law and environment concluded its meetings in Aden on 23 Feb. The conference discussed a number major environmental topics and compatibility of legislation with curbing the expansion of pollution through activation of the relevant law.

The conference was attended by a number of legal professionals and specialists in the environment.

It covered environmental dangers and the legal ways for tackling them nationally and internationally, in addition to determining the measures the state should take, such as providing enough protection for environment and avoiding harming it as well as raising awareness about environmental legislation.

The conference also aimed at proposing mechanisms, leading to the activation of existing legislation dealing with environmental problems and issues.

Correction

On the health page of its edition Feb. on 26, The Yemen Times incorrectly reported that a Canadian medical delegation that arrived in Yemen on Feb. 25 is sponsored by Canadian Oxy. It

should have been Canadian Nexen, the new name of the former Canadian Oxy. Our apologies to the company and readers for the inconvenience caused by the error.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly, 1 March 2004.

Main headlines

- Dangerous American accusations against former presidency member,
- Islah: Reply is responsibility of the government
- GPC: He's a national personality, waiting for receiving charges
- Zindani to the Americans: Let's have your evidence sent to the Yemeni judiciary
- Husband and wife discard their infant under pretext of poverty
- "Ruqayah" accuses the sheikh's son of raping her in Kafr area, Ibb
- In Hadramout, a man cuts his wife's neck with a knife
- In a discussion meeting o Yemeni foreign policy,
- Parliament and Shoura Council approval of Sana'a Triple Group Agreement produces political controversy

Columnist Dr Hassan al-Jawshaie says in his article there is no doubt that the attack against Islam is ferocious, the plot is big and the conspiracy needs joining forces to confront it and deal with it. The writer says he feels sympathy for those who are philosophizing and criticizing the theory of conspiracy. If what is now happening is not a conspiracy against Islam what can we call it? The strong is the one who would stand fast in the face of the tempest and taking a firm stand regarding principles is the factor that would compel others to respect us. As for those who have gone down on their knees and thrown themselves to the laps of the west and offered concessions without return, they would be increasingly despised by the west in addition to the despise of their peoples.

The next Arab summit conference to be held in Tunisia is approaching and we hope from all to be firm on their principles and stands. The stronger stands the Arab leaders would adopt in defending the issues of the nation, the more the west would respect them and smaller concessions could lead to bigger ones.

We hope that the leaders of the Arab countries in their summit to deal seriously with the issue of the occupation of Iraq and define a date for withdrawal of the foreign forces and to strongly stand against the siege of an Arab leader; Yasser Arafat. If the Arab leaders would continue in their negative attitudes since the invasion of Kuwait, blockade against Iraq and its occupation later, the fire would then devour every Arab country, and the first of those would be the Arab leaders themselves. What happened to the leaders of Iraq and Palestine could only be example that might be applied to the rest of the Arab countries.

Al-Ihyaa al-Arabi weekly, organ of the National Arab Baath Socialist Party in Yemen, 28 Feb.2004

Main headlines

- Teaching profession union demands moving headquarters of Arab Teachers Federation to Sana'a
- Indonesian president assails the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq
- Egypt approves cancellation of imprisonment punishment in issues of publication

Writer Nassr Shamali says in an article that the speedy successive events prove that al that has been said about the new liberalism, open markets and globalization was merely talk. These titles that heralded by advanced international relations collided with the American dictatorial policies and ended in smoke.

Some rich big powers have looked forward to better commercial and economic international relations, if they have been achieved sincerely they could have mitigated somewhat of the tragedies the humanity is living today. The American administration has changed the new liberalism and the open markets and globalization to pretexts for igniting a third world war, pushing its armed forces to launch it preemptively.

The American administration resorting to the war is mainly because of its deteriorated trade and economic situations. It has become lagging behind in fields of competition concerning production many goods except computers and financially indebted internally and externally. Since its armed forces are the field of its decisive international superiority, it has resorted to those forces to balance its trade and economic situations.

Al-Umma weekly, Al-Haq party organ, 26 Feb.2004.

Main headlines

- Extremists attack Abdulmalik Ahmed al-Mutawakil in Thamar
- HAMAS: The wall would not protect the Zionist entity, the world has to force it stop it
- America escalates accusations against the Islah leaders

The political editor of the newspaper writes an article saying whenever the Yemeni relations with Saudi Arabia or one of its regional neighbours gets tense a tedious question would pop up by Gulf and Arab mass media instruments about Yemen's accession to the GCC. The question and arousing it every time is as a reminder to Yemen that it is something and the Gulf States are something else. Perhaps the geography, history and religious and social blending do not qualify the political state of Yemen to join the GCC. The question, more important than that, should be: what is the significance of the GCC and what has it achieved, what are the privileges and gains the Gulf States have realized politically, economically or in security?

In addition to all that and other questions, is Yemen actually in need of entering the GCC which void of any content, by the testimony of its very members and division of their

Main Headlines

- After Washington's adding of his name to "terror list",
- Washington's accusation of Zindani of terror places Yemeni-American relations on touchstone
- After being convinced with trade ministry justifications, the government asks parliament and shoura to approve rise in prices
- America chases Zindani's property
- Challenges face the new leadership of the journalists syndicate
- Foreign boats harass Shahr fishermen, Hadramout governorate
- Pilgrims remittances delayed because of American banks
- General Abi Zaid in Egypt, doubts about his visit to Yemen
- Arafat chairs the revolutionary council of Fatah movement
- American accusation of Zindani after Sa'tar, Al-Mouayad and Zaid
- Correspondents without borders requests immediate investigation into threats against journalist Nasher
- Unknown group kidnaps Ahmed Salem Ubeid in Cairo
- America accuses Al-Zindani, denies arresting Bin Laden
- Expired cheese in Yemeni markets
- Jabal Al-Malik, declared a historical landmark in Yemen, foiling the biggest operation for smuggling antiquities
- Ahmed Salem Ubeid, a national issue
- Ubeid's family appeals to the president to follow up his issue in Egypt
- 5 years of American spying on Sa'tar
- Al-Zindani denies the American charges against him
- Refugees from the Ethiopian navy demand Sana'a to solve their conditions
- On conclusion of the journalists third conference,
- Mahboub Ali chairman and the biggest victory for the press and democracy'
- Democratic demonstration restored to unionist work its prestige,
- The syndicate's new formation good professionally
- According to the Associated Press: discovery of a morgue for American soldiers in Kuwait
- Message from Iraqi teachers to Arab teachers union: We hope you to adopt a clear stand toward what we are exposed to
- Yemeni tradespeople declare: Private sector threatened by elimination
- Two thousand teachers stage sit-in strike in front of Arab Teachers meeting venue

stands and the known differences of the GCC states internal and external as well as the variance in the standard of growth inside it? Added to that is the weakness of trade exchange among its member states if compared to other countries. The ludicrous thing is that unifying the Gulf currency would not be accomplished before the year 2010, which is another evidence of the GCC chronic failure. Thus the mere Yemeni official ambition for accessing the council would not go far beyond an attempt to escape from official internal failures as a result of the deterioration of the political, economic, social and security situation and continuous search for unstudied alternatives to alleviate the acuteness of those problems.

Yemen is not in need for joining the GCC and is not honored to beg for this accession to a loose framework that has not achieved to those within it any mentionable thing and is still governed by an external will and faded media sparkle more than what is actually on the ground. Conceding the impossibility of Yemen's exclusion from being influenced and influential, it is hopeful that its Gulf relations must be based on respect, fraternity and equal joint interests.

Al-Shumou weekly, 28 Feb.2004.

Main headlines

- Parliament speaker al-Ahmar accuses the culture ministry as the cause of tourist stagnation
- Tenant-leaser draft law, a betting between government and parliament?
- Meetings of Arab Teachers Federation in Sana'a
- Disappearance of the socialist leader Ahmed Salem Ubeid in Cairo in mysterious circumstances

The newspaper editorial is devoted to discuss the danger of the American going to extremes in interfering in Arab peoples, especially our Yemeni people's internal affairs. It says the newspaper was among the first that warned against any security and intelligence cooperation outside the official channels.

That interference has surpassed it to extend to most of the political sectors. And we have rather been the first that warned of the existence of a dangerous spying network working for and connected to the American embassy and spreading through circles of the Yemeni civil society. We have for many times called and warned but the reality reflected a fact of no response. The American administration announcement every now and then about involvement of Yemeni personalities in standing behind supporting terror is not a sur-

prise and not something new because their hints were expected since an early time. What has happened to the religious leader sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, former presidency member and present head of Islah Shoura is not a surprise in itself as what some political forces have done of preparing for that American demand has paved the way for it. The American demand for a social and religious personage like sheikh al-Zindani did not represent a surprise for the politicians and observers. Many observers confirm that the American surprise expected to be announced in the coming months would go beyond Zindani and his likes as long as there are among us who work for preparing suitable conditions for encouraging the Americans to go too far in targeting all national forces. Despite of all that the betting is still heading for the political and cultural consciousness that the political leadership and all of the political forces to have in dealing with such surprises that are targeting the homeland.

Sawt al-Khoder newspaper, organ of the Yemeni al-Khoder (Greens) party, March 2004.

Main headlines

- Yemeni Greens party secretary-general meets Dr al-Eryani and speaker of the German parliament
- 14 people killed in a traffic accident and armed clash
- America accuses al-Zindani and others of terror
- Minister of Water and Environment: Presently we are exerting efforts to solve the problem of water pollution and random flow of Damt hot water springs
- Fighting labour of 150 of street children in Sana'a
- Dutch support for demining

Yemeni greens party secretary general Abdulwali al-Bahr says in an article that under the contemporary challenges threatening all human societies and under many variables and political, economic and social syllabus we find ourselves face to face before a fact we have to abide by, i.e. the grouping and unification.

Out of this fact the European Greens parties decided to get united. Therefore, and out of our convictions that a group of facts led us to we have found ourselves forced to offer a sincere call all leaders and organisations concerned with environment all over the Arab homeland to be united and to follow suit of the European Greens parties and unify their efforts and activate their activities to face the real danger that is threatening life in general.

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- Familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel.
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NBA Wrap: Watson leads Grizzlies to comeback over Spurs

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Earl Watson scored 13 points and Memphis held San Antonio to just 12 points in the fourth quarter as the Grizzlies scored an 81-80 win over the Spurs in National Basketball Association play Monday in San Antonio.

Lorenzen Wright added 12 points for the Grizzlies, who got at least five points from all nine of the players they used to win their second straight game.

Wright scored the go-ahead basket with 19 seconds remaining on a follow shot to complete the Memphis comeback.

San Antonio led 68-57 after three quarters but struggled offensively without star Tim Duncan, the NBA's Most Valuable Player the past two seasons.

Memphis, one of the NBA's most improved teams, is now 36-24. The Grizzlies started March in fine fashion after posting a franchise-best monthly record of 10-3 in February.

The Spurs were once again without Duncan, who missed his second game with a bruised thigh. The Spurs won without him Saturday, beating Denver 117-92 and scoring 64 points in the second half.

The Spurs say Duncan has an irritation of the left patellofemoral joint, where the thigh bone meets the knee. His condition will be re-evaluated later this week but he is expected to miss at least a few more games.

The Spurs are 2-4 without Duncan in the line-up this season and 8-12 in his seven-year career.

San Antonio shot just 3-for-12 in the fourth quarter and committed seven of their 18 turnovers as well as the Grizzlies out-scored them 24-12 in the final 12 minutes.

The Spurs made just one field goal in the final 9:27 to drop to 39-21 on the season.

After Wright's basket the Spurs got one more chance to win it, but Malik Rose's desperation shot while falling missed as time expired.

Hedo Turkoglu led San Antonio with 19 points, while Rashaun Nesterovic



Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace(L) and Utah Jazz forward Tom Gugliotta(R) chase down a loose ball during first half of NBA action in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1. Reuters

added 18 points and 10 rebounds. Manu Ginobili scored 15 points for the Spurs and added a career-high nine assists.

Other games: Gilbert Arenas scored 35 points to

lead the Washington Wizards past the New Orleans Hornets 111-106 in overtime in Washington.

Kirk Hinrich had 22 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to lead the Chicago Bulls past the Cleveland Cavaliers 92-81 in Chicago.

Mark Blount had 28 points and 21 rebounds to pace the Celtics to a 117-96 win over the Orlando Magic in Boston.

Gordan Giricek scored 24 points as the Utah Jazz edged the Detroit Pistons 94-86 in Salt Lake City.

Kobe Bryant's accuser won't be in Colorado court

EAGLE, Colo. (Reuters) - Basketball star Kobe Bryant will not face the woman who accused him of rape when he returns to a Colorado courtroom on Tuesday for the second day of a pre-trial hearing to determine what evidence will be presented to a jury at trial, a court official said.

"The victim will not be here," Colorado state court spokeswoman Karen Salaz said.

The woman had been expected to make her first court appearance — behind closed doors — on Tuesday, but a glitch developed after District Judge Terry Ruckriegle agreed to reconsider an earlier decision not to require the defense to limit its questioning of the woman, Salaz told reporters.

Defense attorneys are eager to put the 19-year-old woman on the stand to question her about her sexual activity in the days just before and the hours after she said the Los Angeles Laker raped her at the

Colorado resort where she worked. Prosecutors have been trying to keep the former college student out of court for pre-trial hearings, saying she has already been the "subject of humiliation and death threats."

Bryant, who is married and the father of a 13-month-old girl, has denied he raped the woman, characterizing the encounter as consensual sex that he deeply regrets.

Colorado's rape shield law bars evidence from being introduced at trial about the sexual history of a victim, unless there is a compelling reason to admit the testimony.

The defense has been arguing that special circumstances exist that would allow asking the woman about her sexual history.

In particular, the defense said it is relevant to ask her about having sex so soon after she said Bryant raped her on June 30, because prosecutors want to present evidence she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after the incident.



Los Angeles Lakers basketball superstar Kobe Bryant, defense attorney Pamela Mackey (R) and a security guard make their way to the courtroom in Eagle Colorado, Mar. 1. Bryant was scheduled for a two-day hearing in the sexual assault case where he will face his accuser when she takes the stand for the first time. Reuters

Henman loses in Dubai

By BARRY WOOD

DUBAI (Reuters) - Tim Henman has slumped to a stunning 6-4 3-6 7-6 defeat at the hands of Czech qualifier Tomas Zib, and has joined world number six Rainer Schuettler as a first round loser at the Dubai Open.

Schuettler was beaten 3-6 6-4 6-4 on Monday by compatriot Philipp Kohlschreiber, another qualifier.

Sixth seed Henman, who had won the two previous meetings against Zib, looked uncomfortable from the beginning and lacked consistency in the face of an opponent who made few unforced errors, struck some blistering passing shots, served well and competed well from the baseline.

"All credit to Zib," said the 11th-ranked Henman. "He certainly won the match."

"He hit some great passing shots and was very, very solid from the baseline."

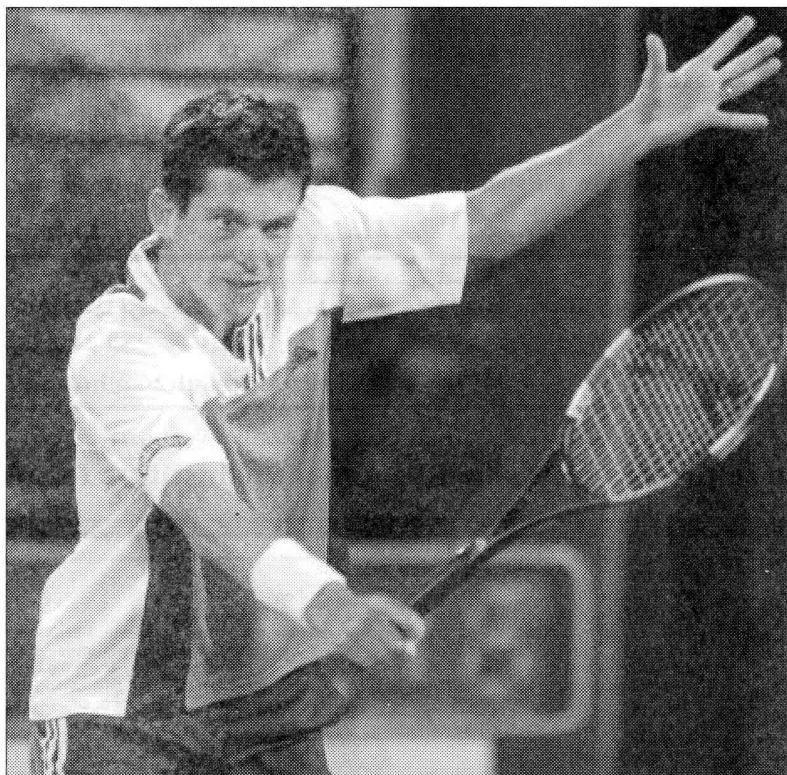
"I don't feel I was making mistakes. I was putting him under as much pressure as I could so I give him a lot of credit. He did play some very good tennis."

The Briton was forced to hold off a break point in the opening game, and then double-faulted to drop his serve and fall behind 3-2 before losing the set.

Henman took a more aggressive stance in the second set and broke Zib twice to level the match.

In the final set, the British number one broke to lead 2-1 but Zib fired a perfect pass down the line to level at 2-2 and while he failed to convert a match point at 6-5, the 149th-ranked Czech always held the advantage in the tiebreak.

"I knew if I started well against him



Tim Henman makes a return to Czech Republic's Tomas Zib during the first round of the Dubai Open WTA tennis tournament. Zib won the match 6-4 3-6 7-6. REUTERS/Anwar Mirza

I would get some chances," said Zib, who also has career victories against Marat Safin and Juan Carlos Ferrero. "I knew Tim's game very well and that was the key of the match."

"I was making incredible passing shots (and) I think Tim was struggling a little bit with his own serve so he couldn't play every ball serve and volley, and I knew from the baseline he was weaker than at the net."

Poor year Australian fifth seed Mark Philippoussis joined world number six Rainer Schuettler and Henman as first round losers.

Philippoussis lost 6-2 7-6 to Belgium's Olivier Rochus while Germany's Schuettler was beaten 3-6 6-4 6-4 by compatriot Philipp Kohlschreiber, another qualifier.

In the late match on centre court,

Philippoussis, the world number 10 lost the first four games as Rochus served well and mixed up his game to keep the Australian guessing.

Despite a better performance from Philippoussis, especially with his serve finding its range, Rochus was able to hold off two set points to claim victory.

Third seed Schuettler, who lost his first three matches of the year before reaching the quarter-finals in Rotterdam two weeks ago, edged a tight first set against the qualifier.

But the 164th-ranked Kohlschreiber made the only break to take the second and, rallying steadily from the baseline, repeated the feat in the decider.

"I thought if I can hold my serve long enough I would get my chances on his serve because he's not the best server in the world," said 20-year-old Kohlschreiber, who travels without a conventional coach.

"At 5-4 in the second and the third sets he made a double-fault and then one more easy mistake each time."

Frenchman Gregory Carraz followed up his first round victory over Juan Carlos Ferrero in Marseille last week by trouncing local wild card Omar Bahrouzyan 6-0 6-0 in just 43 minutes.

Bahrouzyan, the leading player in the United Arab Emirates, failed to win more than two consecutive points at any stage of the match and served eight double-faults.

Kuwaiti wild card Mohammed Al Ghareeb came tantalisingly close to becoming the first player from the Middle East to win a match on the ATP Tour when he held a match point in the final set tiebreak before losing 7-6 3-6 7-6 to Dutchman Dennis Van Scheppingen.

Fans mourn Wales striker Charles

LEEDS (Reuters) - The funeral of Wales international striker John Charles, dubbed the "gentle giant" by Italian fans during five prolific seasons with Juventus, has taken place in Leeds.

Charles died last month at the age of 72.

The funeral was held on Monday at Leeds Parish Church, while fans remembered their hero at the Elland Road stadium, where Charles began his footballing career.

Charles died in a Wakefield Hospital on February 21, following a run of ill health that began in Milan in January.

Among those attending the service on Monday were Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, former Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton, and Leeds caretaker manag-

er Eddie Gray. Born in Cwmdu near Swansea in 1931, Charles scored 147 goals for Leeds United in 200 games before moving to the Turin club in 1957 for a then British record fee of 65,000 pounds.

He became one of the greatest players to represent Juventus, notching 93 goals in 155 matches, and also enjoyed the rare distinction of playing an entire career without being booked or sent off.

Charles, tall, strong and quick, was equally formidable at centre-half or in midfield and was the first leading British player to make a lasting impression in Italy.

Charles, who also played for Roma and Cardiff, won 38 caps for his country and helped Wales to the quarter-finals of the 1958 World Cup.

PSV's Robben agrees five-year deal with Chelsea

By THEO RUIZENAAR

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - PSV Eindhoven's Arjen Robben has agreed a five-year contract with Chelsea, Dutch news agency ANP has reported.

ANP on Monday said the Dutch international would join Chelsea at the end of the season for 20 million euros (13 million pounds).

Chelsea confirmed that they were in talks with Robben in a statement on their website.

"Chelsea can confirm that we are in negotiations with PSV Eindhoven for the purchase of their 20-year-old

international striker Arjen Robben, and that he is undergoing a medical with a view to signing," the statement said.

PSV spokesman Pedro Salazar Hewitt told Reuters that technical director Frank Arnesen, who handles transfers for the Dutch champions, and the club's legal adviser Peter Fossen were in London with Robben.

Manchester United failed to reach an agreement with PSV over the transfer of the winger last month.

Robben, who has three international caps, joined PSV from Groningen in 2002.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	26	26	27	27	27	27	27
Lo	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	33	32	32	33	34	34	35
Lo	19	19	19	20	19	18	18

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



Vaughan plunders Jamaica attack

LONDON (Reuters) - Captain Michael Vaughan began England's West Indies tour in storming fashion, stroking a century from 19 boundaries and a six before lunch on the first day of a three-day test warm-up match against Jamaica.

But Vaughan's knock of 105 and the efforts of former captain Nasser Hussain (65) and wicketkeeper Chris Read (61) were the highlights as an almost full-strength side were bowled out for 320 in 78.1 overs on a low, slow wicket at Kingston's Sabina Park.

Jamaica were 25 for two in reply at stumps with swing bowler Matthew Hoggard dismissing both Brenton Parchment (nought) and Donovan Pagon (six).

The visitors had chosen to bat first on the wicket, which will probably not be used for the first test at Sabina Park next week, and were in trouble early on, losing Marcus Trescothick (seven) and Mark Butcher (one).

Vaughan and Hussain then proceeded to score at a rate of better than a run per ball to take the visitors through to 154 for two at lunch.

The home side struck back in the second session taking four wickets with Vaughan the first to be dismissed just after the break when he was deceived by a Jermaine Lawson slower ball and played on.

Lawson, playing his first competitive game since May 2003 when he was called for throwing against Australia, proved lively in the opening overs.

Hussain then combined with left-hander Graham Thorpe (34), who was the only other top-order batsman to get into double figures, for a 45-run partnership before the former captain was trapped in front by off-spinner Bevon Brown.

England resumed after the tea interval on 257 for six and Read managed to nurse the tail through to 303 before



England Captain Michael Vaughan raises his bat after reaching a century during the first day of a three-day warm-up match against Jamaica at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica March 1, 2004. England will meet the West Indies in the first test March 11. REUTERS/Andy Clark

he was stumped off a Brown delivery. Hoggard (12) and fast bowler Steve Harmison (six not out) then combined for a 17-run partnership to take the visitors through to 320 before Hoggard

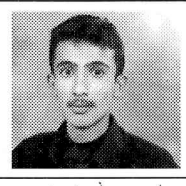
became Brown's third victim. The 24-year-old was Jamaica's best bowler, finishing with figures of three for 74 off 20.1 overs. With England only playing two

three-day matches before the first test starts on March 11 both teams have agreed to allow 12 players to participate with any 11 allowed to bat and field.

المسابقة رقم 4 Contest No 4

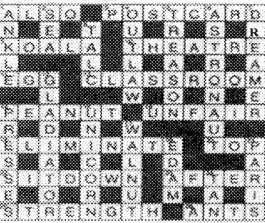
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الفائز في المسابقة رقم (3)



م/عبد الله الصليحي

حل المسابقة رقم 3




- 1- ما هو جديد الكمبيوتر بالنسبة لنظام Windows xp professional ؟
- 2- لماذا استبدل معهد الفاروق أجهزة الكمبيوتر القديمة بأجهزة حديثة بانصوم 4 للعمل بهذا النظام بدلاً من الأنظمة القديمة ؟
- 3- Why Al-Farouk Institute changed old computers with Pentium 4 to work with xp professional ؟
- 4- كون من اسم الصحيفة 5 Yemen Times كلمات إنجليزية مختلفة - يمكنك استخدام الحرف أكثر من مرة ؟
- 5- Make 5 different English words from **Yemen Times**. You can use the letter more than once .
- 6- ما الجائزة التي يقدمها معهد الفاروق للحصول على المركز الأول في نظام الدبلوم ؟ (جهاز كمبيوتر - دورة مقدمة - 10.000 ريال)
- 7- What is the present given by Al-Farouk to the student who obtains the highest marks at the Diploma final Exam ? (Computer - free Advanced course - 10.000 Y.R)
- 8- تم تخفيض رسوم دبلوم اللغة الإنجليزية في المعهد إلى 50% (بدلاً من 60.000 ريال) مع الكتب والأشرطة شريطة أن تدفع الرسوم مرة واحدة بداية التسجيل ما هي الجائزة التي يحصل عليها الأول (جهاز كمبيوتر - دبلوم آخر مجانا - وظيفة)
- 9- We decreased the fee of an English Diploma, for one year to 50% (30.000Y.R) instead of (60.000Y.R) . The present given to the student who gets the highest marks is (computer - advanced Diploma - a job)

NAME : TEL:

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Those who wish to present gifts should contact the institute for more details



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia

<p>Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Your confidence is back and you're ready to take on the world both personally and professionally. Competitive activities will fuel the fire within and lead you to the success you relish.</p> <p>Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Duck - before you end up taking the blame for something you didn't do. Accomplishment can be yours if you don't let anyone drag you into his or her melodrama.</p> <p>Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20) Travel, communication and learning all you can about everyone and everything will lead to an interesting turn of events and possibly a new relationship. The education and experience you receive today will be valuable.</p> <p>Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) A few good ideas put together with a couple of good friends could very easily turn into a lucrative partnership. There is no time to waste, so do what has to be done.</p>	<p>Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) You may have to give a little extra attention to someone who loves you. Plan a mental health day where the two of you can get to spend time getting to know one another all over again.</p> <p>Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Keep things out in the open so that you aren't accused of doing something underhanded. Secrets are likely to lead to devastating circumstances today.</p> <p>Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) This is the perfect time to take a trip or get involved in talks that will open your mind to new ways of doing things. Share your thoughts and you can make improvements.</p> <p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Someone may not be as willing to help you as he or she is letting on. Your personal and professional responsibilities may clash if you have taken on too much.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Contact with cultural groups can teach you about different lifestyles, bringing about a change in your life. You will be led in a direction that will help you understand yourself better.</p> <p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Don't take on too much today. Added responsibilities are likely to surface. Legal matters that have been pending may need to be dealt with quickly.</p> <p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Don't let jealousy set in regardless of the circumstances. Take the initiative and it won't be long before you will discover you are just as capable as anyone around you.</p> <p>Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20) Put a little pizzazz into your work and it will prove you are a cut above your competition. Don't ask for help. The more you do all by yourself, the better.</p>
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Mars once 'drenched with water,' NASA says

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Parts of Mars were once "drenched with water," so much that life could easily have existed there, NASA said on Tuesday.

The robot explorer Opportunity has seen clear evidence of the main goal of Mars exploration — that water once flowed or pooled on the Red Planet's surface.

"Opportunity has landed in an area of Mars where liquid water once drenched the surface," NASA associate administrator Ed Weiler told a news conference. "Moreover, this area

would have been good habitable environment."

That does not mean that evidence of life has been found — but it suggests that life could have evolved on Mars just as it did on Earth, NASA said.

It does mean NASA can go ahead with a plan to eventually send people to Mars.

Opportunity landed on Jan. 24 in a small crater on the vast flat Meridiani Planum near the planet's equator. It has spent most of its time there studying finely layered bedrock in the crater's wall.



NASA scientists are excitedly speculating that discoveries made by a Mars rover over the weekend will help them finally unravel whether water played a role in the Red Planet's geologic history, a science team member said on Feb. 23. Shown is a composite red-green-blue image of the rock called White Boat, taken by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit and released by NASA February 15, 2004. It is the first rock target that Spirit drove to after finishing a series of investigations on the rock Adirondack. REUTERS

Asteroid theory of dinosaur extinction questioned

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Scientists probing a vast crater off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula questioned a popular theory about dinosaurs on Monday, saying the collision that formed the crater happened too far back in time to have caused their extinction by itself.

Much evidence points to the idea that an asteroid or comet gouged the Earth around 65 million years ago, triggering volcanic and climate changes that eventually wiped out the dinosaurs.

When the huge, mostly underwater crater was found off Yucatan, it seemed the perfect candidate.

"Since the early 1990s the Chicxulub crater on Yucatan, Mexico, has been hailed as the smoking gun that proves the hypothesis that an asteroid killed the dinosaurs and caused the mass extinction of many other organisms at the Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) boundary 65 million years ago," the researchers write in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

But they said a core drilled out of the middle of the crater suggests it dates back more than 300,000 years before the K-T boundary and "thus did not cause the end-Cretaceous mass extinction as commonly believed."

The researchers, led by Gerta Keller of Princeton University and including experts from Germany, Switzerland and Mexico, studied a sample that extends 5,000 feet below the current surface, in the middle of the more than 125-mile-wide crater.

Other samples have included tiny pieces of glass-like rock that could have been melted during an asteroid impact, and which seem to date to the 65-million-year point, give or take a

few hundred thousand years.

But their core sample showed fossils that suggest the crater was blasted out 300,000 years before the K-T boundary. Magnetic evidence also suggests it is older than previously believed.

ALTERNATIVE THEORY

This finding would support an alternative theory that the dinosaurs and other forms of life were wiped out in a series of disasters that changed the Earth's climate, Keller's team said.

They noted there are other craters dating to around this time. None is big enough to have caused world-altering changes by itself.

But the meteors or asteroids hit at the same time of a busy period of volcanic activity known as Deccan volcanism, as well as when greenhouse-type atmospheric warming and major extinctions occurred.

"The Chicxulub impact occurred at a time of massive volcanism which led to greenhouse warming," Keller said in an interview conducted by e-mail.

The name Deccan comes from an area of what is now India where a massive amount of molten material surged up from near the Earth's core 65 million years ago.

It would have brought vast amounts of carbon gases to Earth's surface, causing a warming effect that would have wiped out many species of plants and animals.

"This finding suggests that the K-T boundary impact (and volcanism) may have been the straw that broke the camel's back, rather than the catastrophic kill of a healthy thriving community," the researchers concluded.

Now they need to find the actual crater left by whatever made this final blow. Perhaps one known as the Shiva



After years of theories and predictions, scientists have started questioning the possibility that Dinosaur may have not been extinct due to an asteroid blast on the earth.

crater in India, dating to around the same period, is the one, they suggested.

"There is evidence for a third impact, which occurred about 150,000 years after the K-T mass extinction,"

Keller said.

This impact may have made it harder for plants and animals to recover from the worldwide effects of the blasts from space and from within the planet.

New Netsky-d worm spreading through e-mail

LONDON (Reuters) - A new computer worm dubbed "Netsky-D" was clogging e-mail systems around the world after emerging on Monday, a security expert said.

The worm is particularly difficult to root out because it lands in e-mail boxes using a number of different subject lines such as "re:details" or "re:here is the document."

"It arrives with an attached pif file (program information file) and it's already extremely widespread," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos Plc.

He said experts do not think the new virus is as big as MyDoom, which brought havoc to computer users and targeted Microsoft's Web Site, but that the full extent of Netsky-D's spread would be known as North America logs on.

When opened, the virus pif file will rapidly replicate itself, slowing down computers and e-mail bandwidth.

"We suspect people are more laid back about pif files because they may not have heard of them and may not realize they can contain dangerous code," Cluley said. "The best thing to do with this file is to delete it, don't open it."

Netsky-B, an earlier variant of the latest worm, was rated the third worst computer virus in February after MyDoom-A and Sober-C, according to Sophos, which writes anti-virus and anti-spam software.

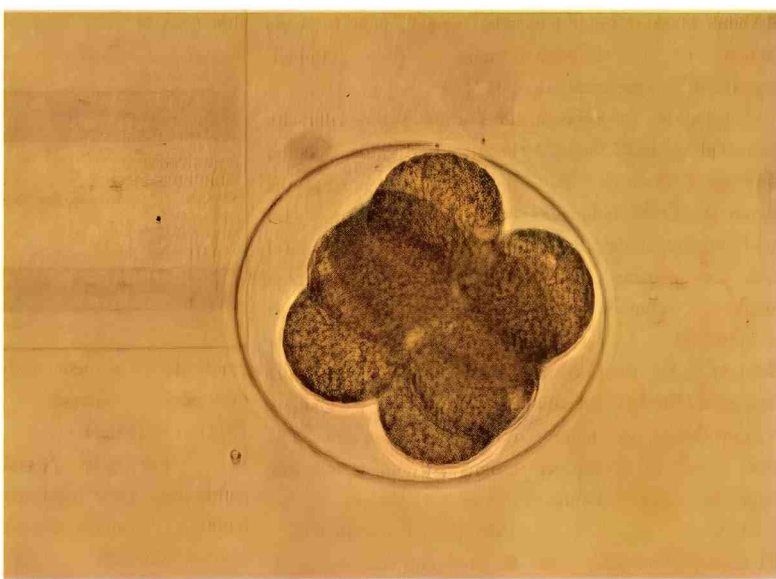
S. Koreans get stem cells from frozen human embryos

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korean scientists have developed the technology to extract human embryonic stem cells from frozen embryos and have applied for patent rights in four countries, the leader of the team said Tuesday.

Park Se-pil, head of Seoul-based Maria Biotech Ltd, said in a statement he and his colleagues had, with the consent of those responsible, harvested seven stem cells from 20 frozen embryos, due to be discarded after being used at in-vitro fertilization facilities.

Embryonic stem cells have the potential to develop into different types of human cells, opening the way for them to be cultivated and grown to become nerve cells or new organs such as the kidney, heart or even skin.

The announcement came less than a month after another team of South Korean scientists surprised the world by describing how they cloned several human embryos and extracted valuable stem cells from one.



But the development by Park's team is different from the breakthrough led by Hwang Woo Suk of Seoul National University and has nothing to do with human cloning, which is at the center of controversy over ethical issues.

The statement said details of the development were described at Park's report carried by the March edition of the Human Reproduction magazine, published in London. Park was not immediately available for comment.

Video games make kids fat, violent

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Video games can make children fat and, in the case of violent games popular among teenage and younger boys, aggressive and even criminal, Swedish experts said on Monday.

The games industry, estimated at \$200 million a year in Sweden and \$10 billion in the United States, is dominated on the hardware side by Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox, Sony Corp.'s PlayStation and Nintendo Co. Ltd's Game Boy and GameCube consoles.

Electronic Arts Inc., Nintendo, Activision Inc., and Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. are among leading games title publishers.

Take-Two's Rockstar unit's Grand Theft Auto — a game condemned as "horrendous" by former U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Joseph Lieberman — is among titles mentioned by a Swedish television documentary in connection with violent youth crimes.

"It's concerning because they (video game players) are rehearsing scripts of behavior that will possibly play themselves out in real life," Michael Rich, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics who has studied the effects of entertainment media on the physical and mental health of children, was quoted as saying in the 45-minute "Deadly Game" documentary.

Technology lets Garage studios challenge Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Home movie makers, take heart. You may be able to take on Hollywood.

Take Shane Carruth, a 31-year-old from Dallas who invested \$7,000, three years of his life and a virtual eternity in front of a personal computer that crashed repeatedly.

As a reward for his perseverance, he walked away this year from the premier independent film festival, Sundance, with the Grand Jury Prize for best drama.

He wrote, directed, edited and acted in "Primer," a story about a discovery that changes the lives of four garage inventors.

"Watching these independent films, you realize it is not so much about the budget but the passion of the project," Carruth said over the phone as he prepared to sign a national distribution deal with Think Film.

But it was the falling prices and growing array of features of digital equipment that made it possible for him to make his movie.

"I was just smart enough to learn this stuff, but stupid enough to try it,"

Carruth said with a laugh.

Like many emerging technologies, digital video has become more sophisticated and accessible to a growing number of people.

"The image quality and, to a large extent, the performance of what you can get today is comparable to the best products that were available to professionals at any price no more than, let's say, 10 years ago," said Charlie Russell, senior product manager at editing software heavyweight Avid Technology Inc.

The company has a line of products ranging from free to about \$140,000. Competitors include Apple Computer Inc.'s Final Cut Pro, which runs on a Macintosh, and suites from Adobe Systems Inc. and Pinnacle Systems Inc.

Low-end systems allow editors to establish scene order, while more sophisticated ones add bells and whistles like specialized fades and color correction. Products at the top end feature lots of hard drives and are fast enough to make every change in real time.

Monday's preview of the film, due for prime time broadcasting on Swedish TV4 television on Wednesday, was followed by a panel debate, which concluded that scientific findings of the effects, if any, of violent video games were scant.

"But it has been proved beyond dispute that people who watch a lot of violence on television develop aggressive behavior," said Frank Lindblad, a child psychiatrist at Sweden's Karolinska Institute university hospital.

Diffuse border

"They run a very high risk of criminal behavior ... there's a lot suggesting that video games are worse," he said, noting

that many players tended to identify themselves with game heroes.

"The border between the virtual reality and the real world becomes diffuse and that is dangerous," Lindblad said.

Gustav Niel-Berggren, a 16-year-old student who said he tended to spend many hours a day several days a week playing an interactive online action game called Counter-Strike, which focuses on killing opponent soldiers, disagreed.

Shooting somebody in a game is just like scoring a goal in a football match," he said, dismissing the documentary's suggestion and Lindblad's fear that youths could not distinguish between the game world and real life.

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"Lord of the Rings" wins 11 Oscars awards

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The film trilogy about the One Ring ruled over the film world on Sunday as "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" won a record-tying 11 Academy Awards on Sunday, including best film.

Charlize Theron, holding back tears, claimed the Oscar for best actress for her portrayal as a female serial killer in "Monster," and Sean Penn took home the golden statue for best actor in murder thriller "Mystic River."

Both acting victories had been largely expected by Oscar watchers, as was the best film win by "Return of the King," and the show had little of the flair of recent years that saw several unexpected Oscar winners like Adrien Brody in 2003 or Halle Berry two years ago.

But the victory was well-earned by "Return of the King" and New Zealand director Peter Jackson, who labored more than seven years to make the three movies. The film lorded over the U.S. film industry's top honors, winning every category in which it was nominated, including best director for Jackson.

It tied 1959's "Ben Hur" and 1997's "Titanic" with the most Oscar victories ever for a single movie, and "Return of the King" became the first fantasy film ever to win the best film Oscar.

"You're giving us an incredibly overwhelming night, and we appreciate it so much," Jackson said onstage, holding one of the golden Oscars in his hand.

Backstage he admitted to reporters that making the films "was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life."

"It nearly killed me," he said, "but right now it feels absolutely fine."

The Oscars, or Academy Awards, are the U.S. film industry's highest honors and are given out each year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Oscar-nominated actress Keisha Castle-Hughes, of New Zealand, arrives for the 76th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Feb. 29. REUTERS

A CLEAN SWEEP

"Return of the King" — the final film in the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's books about an epic struggle for control of middle-Earth among hobbits, humans, wizards and bloodthirsty orcs — also earned Oscars for costume design, makeup, art direction, visual effects, sound mixing, original score, film editing, original song, and adapted screenplay.

The first two "Rings" films were nominated for best film in the previous two years, but failed to take the Oscar home to New Zealand. Overall, the three films have been huge box office hits, raking in more than \$2.8 billion worldwide.

"Return of the King" is only the second movie ever to reach the \$1 billion threshold, behind "Titanic," winner of 1997's best film Oscar.

The second most nominated film in 10 categories, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," managed only two victories, one for sound editing and the second for cinematography.

where "Return of the King" failed to turn up.

"We might have had a better shot in another year," cinematographer Russell Boyd told reporters backstage. "I think 'Lord of the Rings' is a remarkable body of work."

Theron claimed her Oscar for a role in which she gained 30 pounds (13.6 kg) to transform from blonde-haired beauty to the deeply conflicted killer Aileen Wuornos, a prostitute who murdered the man who picked her up.

"This has been such an incredible year. I can't believe this," she said, holding back tears. "I know everybody in New Zealand has been thanked, so I am going to thank everybody in South Africa, my home country."

In his fourth Oscar nomination, Penn won the best actor trophy playing a Boston thug whose daughter is killed.

Penn's character suspects a childhood friend is the killer.

NO "BEST" FOR PENN

"If there's one thing that actors know ... it's that there is no such thing as a best in acting," Penn said.

The friend was portrayed by Tim Robbins and he, too, took home an Oscar for best supporting actor for the movie.

Renee Zellweger received a best supporting actress Oscar for "Cold Mountain" in which she played a tough-talking farm girl. Last year, Zellweger lost for her role in "Chicago" to "Cold Mountain" co-star Nicole Kidman, and this year the two were sitting together.

"I am overwhelmed," she said, adding about Kidman that it is "such a privilege to go to work with you everyday, such a privilege, thank you."

Box office sensation "Finding Nemo" also found an Oscar for best animated film. The Disney-Pixar collaboration grossed \$340 million in domestic theaters and was considered an almost-sure bet to win. But the Disney-Pixar relationship has soured, since then, and one of the most lucrative partnerships in Hollywood history ended.

Canada's "The Barbarian Invasions" was named the best foreign language film, and Sofia Coppola, daughter of "Godfather" director Francis Ford Coppola, won the Oscar for best original screenplay for "Lost in Translation."



Academy Award winning director, producer and screenwriter, Peter Jackson (C) from New Zealand, is surrounded by fellow Oscar winners for their film "The Lord of the Rings The Return of the King," at a party following the 76th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, late Feb. 29.



Academy Awards host Billy Crystal opens the 76th annual Academy Awards show at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood Feb. 29. REUTERS

Protests stop Arab Big Brother reality TV show



MANAMA (Reuters) - An Arab television channel said on Monday it was temporarily pulling the plug on its Arabic version of the hit reality show Big Brother after charges of indecency.

But an official of the MBC satellite channel said it would relaunch the show from outside Bahrain, where it was produced. Protesters in the conservative Gulf Arab state had said showing unmarried people living together offended Islam.

"There are many (locations) where it could be produced. We are looking at possible schedules," the official said.

"This decision aims to avoid exposing MBC and its programmes to accusations that it offends Arab values, customs and morals, because we consider MBC to be first and foremost a channel that belongs to the Arab world," the popular Saudi-owned channel said in a statement.

Several hundred Islamists chanting "Stop Sin Brother! No to indecency!" protested in Bahrain on Friday against the show, which they deemed un-Islamic.

Some members of Bahrain's parlia-



ment demanded to question Information Minister Nabeel al-Hamer about Big Brother.

"We are an Islamic country with our own traditions. This programme spoils the morals of our sons," MP Jasim Saedi said.

Yusef Nooh, a doctor, said: "The show was not acceptable, but it's strange to stop it, because it is an internationally accepted programme."

The Big Brother formula, in which participants are filmed 24 hours a day, has been copied around the world and draws large audiences.

The programme, aired across the Arab world by MBC, had raised eyebrows despite efforts to take into account Muslim sensitivities. Separate living and sleeping quarters for male and female participants were introduced, as well as a prayer room.

"This type of show is no more a challenge or social problem than most films and television serials shown on all channels, in fact it is more faithful in showing reality than the movies and soaps," the MBC statement said.

The Arab world's first reality TV experiment, a dating show called Al Hawa Sawa (On Air Together), survived its three-month stint, ending earlier on Monday. It was aired from less conservative Lebanon.



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