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While hundreds of prisoners remain detained without trial or formal charges:

AI appeals: Save human rights in Yemen

Amnesty International (AI) in Cooperation with the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (NODRF) have concluded yesterday their seminar entitled "Human Rights for All" with a statement demanding to save human rights in Yemen and the region.

Terry Waite speaks

The major speaker in the event was

Terry Waite, the prominent British human rights activist who delivered a speech on the first day in which he tackled the issue of the Guantanamo Bay prisoners, events in Iraq and Palestine, and the repercussions of the war on terror. He emphasized the need to look into the source of the problem rather than trying to solve it using excessive force.

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Human Rights for All symposium panel.

PHOTO BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM



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Bodies lie on the ground after being brought to a mosque during a military offensive by the U.S. Marines in the restive Iraqi town of Falluja April 7. Due to the military operation, wounded Iraqis are being treated with first aid as they are denied freedom of movement to reach area hospitals, and the dead are stored at mosques, unable to be buried at cemeteries. REUTERS

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Gunboats will make a difference

BY PETER WILLEMS AND
MOHAMMED AL-QADHI

Since the USS Cole was bombed by Al-Qaeda operatives at the port of Aden in 2001, the security of Yemeni ports has been a major concern.

After the attack, US warships stopped coming to Aden for refueling. When the French oil tanker Limburg was bombed off the coast of Mukalla two years later, insurance premiums skyrocketed and the number of ships heading for the container terminal at the Aden port plummeted.

But the inauguration last Wednesday of the



Yemeni coast guard aboard a gunboat.

PHOTO BY RIDHWAN AL-SAGQAF

seven United States gunboats delivered to Yemen may help lift the shadow of potential terrorist bombings in Yemeni waters.

At least 9 casualties

Car thieves and police shoot it out in Rawdha

On Saturday, April 10, a dramatic chase between car thieves and the police, which started in Agriculture Street in the heart of the Capital City, Sana'a, culminated in a shoot-out between police and the car thieves in Rawdha.

In the qat market located in the main square of Rawdha near the

Grande Mosque of Rawdha and the local security administrative offices for the district of Bani Al-Harith and Sana'a Governorate, the police attempted to cordon off the escape paths of the thieves, who are said to have ran off with two Toyota Land Cruiser Lift Trucks.

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Prime Minister laid foundation stone for computer assembly plant

Saturday, 10 April 2004, Sana'a- Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulqader Ba Jamal laid on the 10th April the foundation stone for the computer assembly factory project during his visit to Telecommunication and Information Technology City. The factory will have an annual production capacity of 150 thousand desktops and 1000 laptop computers. The first production of the multi-phase project will be on 1st September 2004. This project targets

the Yemeni market and aims to make personal computers accessible to Yemenis. They will be offered at reasonable prices and easy-term installment payments.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the multi-phase central control project, a twelve-story building. The first phase of the project, four-stories, will be constructed at a cost of 240 million Riyals. The project aims at monitoring, controlling and

regulating the flow of various telecommunication networks and to allow swift intervention to resolve any breakdown of the network. It will contribute in drawing up policies to develop the Yemeni telecommunication network through statistical reports and will monitor the network to determine places of disruption to expedite the process of repair throughout the Republic. It will also monitor and observe illegal telephone calls

Increase in daily production of Aden Refinery

Daily production of oil derivatives at Aden's refinery increased from 85,000 barrels per day during March of last year to 100,000 barrels daily during each of January and February of this year.

Statistics issued by the Marketing and Production Department of Aden's refinery indicate that the monthly production of various oil derivatives reached 3 million barrels during

January and February of this year, an increase of 450 thousand barrels from that during the same period of last year. The increase comes following the introduction of two new production units capable of refining 120 thousand barrels per day.

The department also recorded during the first week of this month an output of 8320 tons of oil derivatives marketed for local consumption.

Woman Economic Empowerment Association

Workshops on gender and volunteering work

By Fahmia Al-Fotih
For the Yemen Times

The Women Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands, held workshops on gender and research, as well as on the volunteering work.

Around 12 trainees participated in the workshop under the supervision of WEEA's expert, Ms. Roqia Saleh Mohammed, who explained the sensitive mechanisms of gender and research, how to use them in a project for a more prosperous economy and how to enlist them in the inputs of WEEA to support research and studies.

It is worth mentioning that this

workshop was held in Ibb on 8-11 March 2004 with the participation of 17 trainees, including the heads of saving groups and coordinators of WEEA in Lajj, Zabed and Ibb.

This month WEEA continues its activities by organizing workshops in various governorates to train a number of participants in volunteer work.

Dr. Fathia Bahrn, the Head of WEEA, Ms. Roqia Saleh and Ms. Abeer Al-Absi are the main lecturers in these workshops.

It is noteworthy that WEEA will conclude the workshop on volunteer work on Tuesday here in Sana'a. The session will be led and a lecture delivered by Ms. Abeer Al-Absi, the Executive Manager of WEEA.

Yemeni American cleric faces new charges

American Muslim leader of Yemeni origin, Abdurrahman Alamoudi, was arraigned on new charges last week before Judge Claude M. Hilton in the Alexandria Federal Courthouse, Virginia, USA.

The new charges center on Mr. Alamoudi's travels to Libya, and an alleged failure of disclosure by Mr. Alamoudi during his naturalization process.

"This is still a classic case of selective prosecution and the government's legal hair-splitting," said Mahdi Bray, Executive Director of Freedom Foundation of the Muslim American Society, which is a Washington-based national grassroots religious, social, and educational organization.

"They want to vilify the defendant in the eyes of the court through legalistic terror-baiting," said Bray. "It is reprehensible that the government would do this, but unfortunately, these are the signs of our times."

"Our community and the American public must not give in to the climate of prejudice and hysteria."

Mr. Alamoudi's hearing is scheduled for May 7th, 2004.

Another postponement in the Jar Allah Omr case

By: HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
& YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a 6 April 2004- The Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal in Sana'a City has adjourned the Jar Allah Omr murder case to 26 April 2004.

The court hearing, presided over by Judge Mohamed Al-Akwa, was attended by the prosecution and defense lawyers of Ali Jar Allah Al-Sawany, who is accused of killing the Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemen Socialist Party. Relatives of the deceased were also present.

The postponement was approved in order to receive answers related to the appeal petition presented by the General Prosecution and to consider the demands concerning the personal rights of the accused and for the court to oblige the General Prosecution to provide the remaining investigation minutes, which include names of persons having relations with the accused.



Ali Jar Allah Al-Sawany

Some lawyers are suspicious that the Prosecution is misleading the court, hiding documents and dropping some witnesses.

Lawyer Mohamed Al-Saqqaf demanded that the court should question separately all of the suspects muzzled by the general prosecution.

The case of the murder of Jar Allah Omr remains a primary concern of political parties and continues to receive wide attention due to doubt concerning the concealment of names of important persons.

Ethiopian refugees released

By Peter Willems

The majority of Ethiopians who were rounded up three weeks ago at the end of their sit-in at the UNHCR headquarters in Sana'a were released on the morning of the 9th April.

A government official said that the refugees, who camped out next to the UN building for over five weeks, were released "after they agreed not to carry out another sit-in or disturb any foreign mission in Yemen."

According to the official, the refugees were allowed to go free in small groups at different times, but until now, a small group of refugees that led the sit-in remain in jail, refusing to strike a deal with the authorities. Government authorities forced the refugees to end the sit-in early on the morning of March 20. The government said they dismantled the protest because UNHCR had to close its headquarters due to security concerns and it affected other refugees in Yemen who needed assistance from UNHCR.

Over 120 Ethiopian refugees were reported to be jailed, while over 50 Ethiopian women, who came to UNHCR headquarters later the same morning to search for the protesters, were detained. The women were released from jail after one week.

Representatives of the refugees who participated in the sit-in have said their protest was to gain citizenship in Yemen or in a third country. They chose to protest next to UNHCR's headquarters because after living in Yemen for 13 years with no clear future in sight, they wanted UNHCR to find them a solution.

UNHCR said that it is a facilitator, able to offer assistance to refugees seeking basic rights and freedom in Yemen and to encourage the Yemeni Government to offer them citizenship or help them gain resettlement elsewhere.

One Ethiopian refugee who was involved in the sit-in said Yemeni policemen used batons, water hoses and tear gas to force the refugees to end their protest. He said that several men and women were injured after being beaten.

Other witnesses have said that after government authorities warned the refugees to leave the premises, the protesters yelled and threw rocks at the policemen, which forced the authorities to remove the protesters physically.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has a department dealing with African refugees, has said that the Ethiopian refugees can remain in Yemen under refugee status. During the sit-in, UNHCR attempted several times to help the refugees find another country to gain citizenship, but the protesters refused to cooperate and demanded that UNHCR find a permanent location.

The protesters who participated in the sit-in belong to Ethiopian Naval and Civilian Refugees. They are part of around 600 Ethiopians who defected from their country in 1991. They handed over 14 warships to the Yemeni Government when they first arrived in Yemen.

Most governments believe that dealing with refugees who were once in the military is a sensitive issue.

Clearing up 43 landmined regions in Al-Naderah

The National Committee for the Eradication of Landmines is currently supplementing the work of the branch of the Executive Center for the Eradication of Landmines in Hadramout Governorate, with necessary equipment. Minister of State and Chairman of National Committee for Eradication of Landmines, Mr. Qassem Al-Agum, stated that a trained crew would join in the current field work crew in Hadramout, working to eradicate landmines in the governorate.

The Minister pointed out that the field teams working in central regions (Al-Naderah province) have cleared 43 landmine planed fields and lands have been placed under the control of the local authority in the province in order to be handed out to the legitimate owners.

Yemeni Journalist Syndicate Calls for Lifting of Embargo on Al-Tajamoa

Yemeni Journalist Syndicate has received a letter from Dr. Abdulrahman Abdullah, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Tajamoa, mouthpiece of the Popular Unionist Nasserist Party, informing the Union that the newspaper was prevented from printing issue no. 500, dated 5/4/2004.

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate confirms the illegality of the administrative decision to suspend the printing of the newspaper. It does not approve of the principle of suspending any newspaper, including Al-Tajamoa, prior to referring to the laws that regulate journalism and without the issuance of a judicial decision based on constitutional law.

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate urges the Ministry of Information to intervene at Al-Jeel Printing Company to lift the embargo on issue No. 500, which is currently suspended without any legal base.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Which in your opinion is more fruitful in achieving a better future for Iraq?

- Peaceful resistance
- Military resistance
- No resistance at all

last edition's question:

How do you think the current events in Iraq would develop?

- The Coalition Forces will establish law and order 37%
- The Coalition Forces will withdraw due to too many casualties 29%
- A civil war would occur 28%
- Peace will be maintained after coalition forces give in demands of al-Sadr Shiites 6%

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In Brief

Agreements for cooperation between Yemen and Arab and European sponsors

Wednesday 4 April, Sana'a- Yemen and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development signed an agreement to finance a number of rural roads, 1000 km in length in total. The Fund will contribute 80 million USD. The agreement stipulates the implementation of 80% of construction works needed to develop a number of rural roads at different parts of the country.

Moreover, an agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to implement the Bab Al-Mandib Strait Water Project, financed by European Commission, within the framework of the European Food Security Program. More than 20 thousand inhabitants will benefit from the project.

Merchants verses illegal fees in Hodeidah

The Association of Businessmen and Merchants in Hodeidah through pursuit and determination was able to obtain a verdict from a constitutional court confirming the illegality of Article 123 of the Local Authority Law 2000 and Article 5 of Prime Ministerial Decree No. 283, 2001, regarding the fees payable for opening new shops.

Prior to the verdict, the Public Works Office in the governorate was collecting substantial fees for permits to open commercial stores. Following the decision, the Public Works Office can only collect the fees for such activity prior to 2000, a substantially smaller amount.

President Saleh to visit France 14 April

President Ali Abdullah Saleh will pay a visit to France on 14 April 2004. He will discuss with President Chirac bilateral cooperation and the role to be played by the United Nations in regaining security and stability in Iraq and enabling the Iraqis to administer their own affairs.

It is worth mentioning that President Saleh visited France in June 2003, when the talks focused on Yemeni efforts to combat terrorism following the terrorist attack on French oil tanker, "Limburg" in October 2002.

Yemen admitted to Gulf Journalism Union

Wednesday, 7 April, Jeddah- Editors-in-Chief and Director-Generals of Gulf Press Corporations approved in their meeting in Saudi Yemeni membership of the Gulf Journalism Union, represented by the daily Al-Thowra newspaper.

United Insurance celebrates its ISO 9001-2000 certificate

United Insurance Company arranged a celebration ceremony last Tuesday 6 April on the occasion of receiving the ISO 9001-2000 certificate. A reception and dinner were held at the Taj Sheba Hotel.

The celebration included a press conference in which Mr. Tareq Abduwasi Hayel Saeed, the General Manager of the Company said, "I would like to stress that the company's efforts to obtain the ISO certificate show our commitment to enhance our clients' trust in our company and to enforce the comprehensive quality system that will help us maintain our leadership in Yemen's insurance market. This step has also come as a result of the local, regional and global changes and developments that emphasize the need to bring about greater enhancements to be able to compete vigorously, especially as international treaties and agreements such as GATT will demand greater quality of services. In order for companies in Yemen to sur-



United Insurance team

vive when the market is open to international companies, they will have to take similar steps".

Mr. Tareq also emphasized the company's interest in satisfying clients' needs and ambitions, yet he also noted that the company is pledged to rise

above their expectations and to understand their current and future needs. In this context, the company has established a special customer department for research and development, which are two totally new developments in the insurance market in Yemen.

Consultancy opportunity

International NGO seeks national / International consultants to carry out the mid-term evaluation of their Basic Health and Education program. Applications from specialists in the following areas are invited:

- Health, with experience in family planning and reproductive health.
- Basic Education with experience in girl's education, teacher training, multi-grade teaching.
- Community participation, with experience in participation in health and education sectors, local councils, women's development.

The consultancy is expected to start the first week of May, take 3 weeks and includes fieldwork in Sana'a Governorate. Candidates should be experts with at least 10 years of professional experience in

one of the above - mentioned areas and have extensive experience in planning, carrying out and reporting evaluations of complex, multi-sect oral programs in a team setting.

Please send your CV within 2 weeks to the following address:P.O.Box: 19404, Sana'a or Fax: 01-510010. Only short listed candidate will be contacted.

A cleaning worker killed at the hand of a barrow-boy

By: HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tuesday 6 April Sana'a- A lady working in the Sana'a Cleaning Project was killed on Asser Street as a result of a fatal wound by the Jambeah knife of wheelbarrow-trader.

Another cleaning worker was also stabbed in the chest and he is still hospitalized at Al-Thowra Hospital.

Sources said that a quarrel erupted between the sweeping lady and the wheelbarrow merchant when she asked him to move his wheel barrow in

order to sweep underneath it. He responded by stabbing her and her colleague worker before he fled.

This comes as part of a series of problems cleaning workers encounter from shop owners, related to rubbish collection and disposal.



Sweepers during their work in a Sana'a street

President Saleh concludes visit to Moscow

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

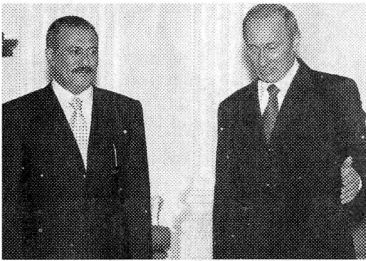
Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh concluded his visit to Moscow during which he held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last Tuesday covering new arms deals, the improvement of bilateral relations and stability in the Middle East.

"The relations of Russia and Yemen have a historical character, and we are very pleased with the success that our

cooperation has achieved," said Saleh to the Russian press after the talks ended.

During the talks, Saleh and Putin cleared the road for several arms deals between the two countries. Russia began delivering military equipment to Yemen in 2000, when Russia sent 31 modern T-80 tanks. In 2001, the two countries signed a contract for the shipment of MiG-29 fighter planes, and the first batch of which was delivered in 2002.

Continued on page 3



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) invites for talks the President of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh in the Kremlin in Moscow, April 6. (R)

93 tourist yachts visited Aden Port

More than 3 million USD national exports through the port

Total value of Yemeni exports of fish and cotton during the first quarter of current year through Aden port reached USD 3,129,741.

Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Tash, Director-General of Aden Free Zone's Customs Office stated to Saba News Agency that the office achieved revenues of 2,229,064,000 Riyals during the same

period.

Furthermore, the Director-General of the Immigration and Passport Authority at Aden Port, Mr. Fouad Fara stated that the port during the first quarter of 2004 received 93 yachts of various nationalities and witnessed the arrival of 298 persons and departure of 262 of Arab and foreign nationalities.

Environmental campaign in Al-Qahera province

Taiz- Health Environment Division in Al-Qahera Province continues its intensive campaign headed by Mr. Tareq Al-Ashwal and supervised by Eng. Ahmed Al-Ramemah, targeting grocery stores and mineral water shops in the province. Quantities of imported spoiled and expired food materials have been removed from shops' shelves. Worms were also found inside water tanks used for distilled water, and since they are made of iron or zinc susceptible to corrosion and a potential risk of poisoning. The Health Division has issued warrants to replace tanks with fiberglass tanks, a substance resistant to corrosion.

China: The giant of the east



BY SAMEER ABDUL HAQ
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

On 28th March, 2004, His Excellency Prime Minister Abdul kader Ba Gamal had been on a cordial visit to the People's Republic of China, aiming at strengthening and developing relations between the Republic of Yemen and the People's Republic of China, so as to raise it to advanced levels based upon commercial and economic principles.

His Excellency the Premier was accompanied by a large delegation of ministers, senior officials, businessmen, which had important meetings regarding commercial and economic relations. In fact, the Chinese side has proven very responsive to the official visit of the Premier right from the beginning. The visit resulted in the signing of a number of agreements, memos of understanding and protocols in the scope of oil, gas, minerals, transformational industries, communications, information technology and development of the industrial areas, in addition to scientific research fields and investment partnership among businessmen in both countries.

The cooperation standards between Yemen and China will definitely witness substantial qualitative improvements in the near future due to the Chinese Government's seriousness in financing a number of projects in addition to investments in oil, minerals and transformational industries. China imports most of its oil from the Middle East countries and is regarded the second greatest consumer of oil in the world.

China is the giant country coming from the east towards world markets, offering its products with competitive quality and prices. It has witnessed during the past three decades gigantic economic transformations qualitatively and quantitatively without giving up the role of the state in leading the

wheel of the economy and development in all fields.

China has had a unique experiment in qualifying and preparing the public sector to work within the competitive terms and mechanisms of the world market. In this regard, it conducted work within the mechanisms of the market, re-arranging its economic forces, infrastructure, and achieving the best services which could be provided to the private sector and investment in unprecedented steps. Thus, these innovative policies have brought foreign investment to China from all over the world.

In fact, China's commitment to the British terms of withdrawal from Hong Kong and leaving Hong Kong to work within the mechanisms of the market and free trade have paved the way for the Hong Kong entrepreneurs and businessmen to direct their activities toward the motherland China and its vast market through a variety of investments, creating partnerships and links in this respect.

Thus, China within the past few years has witnessed all of these economic transformations and hierarchical reforms and turned into a giant in information technology and advanced technologies, benefiting from all the advanced technologies of the world and human experiences, and working diligently and patiently to create a new system of a civilized conduct. It also combated the administrative and financial corruption that aimed at stopping or slowing down the wheel of development. The new march of China created an economic giant to occupy the first rank of the world economy during the coming years.

The visit of Prime Minister Ba Gamal included a visit to one of the advanced technological fields of science and communications called "Zhongguancun Science Park", which is regarded as one of the seven giant advanced scientific information technology fields in China. In such a scientific scene one finds oneself amazed at the human knowledge and progress China has reached during the past few years. The great international compa-

nies benefit from this highly developed experiment so they manufacture their products based upon high technology.

In this industrial complex work 460,000 employees, of which 60% hold above postgraduate certificates. The numbers are great and cannot be rivaled.

During the meetings in the China Trade Chamber in the capital Beijing the Chinese businessmen expressed their extraordinary readiness to come to Yemen to know more about the investment opportunities, study the requirements of the market and make direct contacts with Yemeni businessmen. In fact, they had such meetings with the Yemeni side after the Prime Minister's official meetings in the China Trade Chamber had finished. The meetings were successful, promising strong understanding and partnership.

The Chinese experiment is huge and rich and it is possible to benefit greatly from its communication information technology. It is significant that the Yemeni businessmen attempt to base a Yemen-China partnership in the GSM or CDM in addition to manufacturing hardware, and this point was agreed upon during the visit. This industry will become a strategic project to manufacture iron and cast iron for the Yemeni market. If such an industry is achieved it will operate hundreds of small workshops and employ thousands of local workers. This great project will provide the market with all its requirements for tools, construction and agriculture equipment and small car spare parts.

In this sense, The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have a big role in creating a qualitative move which could be effective in raising living standards in Yemen through providing and financing such strategic factories. The concerns of the world institutions should not be on non-productive projects. They should focus on productive projects and the question is, "Can the Bank suggest such a big strategic project to the Yemeni government to coincide with its other programs which get no welcome by the

In Brief

Ministry of Agriculture and Belgium Gov. sign joint minutes
Wednesday 7 April 2004, Sana'a- A joint minute for agricultural cooperation and rural development was signed at the Ministry of Agriculture in Sana'a between the Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and the Government of Belgium, represented by the Minister of Agriculture of Alost District in Belgium. The minute states an intention to establish a joint project in the field of agriculture, and a joint project on the vaccination of cattle, under which the Belgian side will provide milk and dairy products to Yemen.

Second Working Group of the Ministry of Health and Population
Wednesday 7 April 2004- Activities of the second working group to develop nursing leaders throughout the Republic, affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Population, have commenced. The eight-day discussion group focuses on increasing the number of nurses at various health centers, in addition to improving the rehabilitation and training of staff at various levels of the Ministry and in various health fields.

Several Yemeni Diplomats detained in Tunisia
The latest issue of weekly "Al-Shoura" newspaper, dated 31 March, stated that 8 diplomats are detained at a five-star hotel in the Republic of Tunisia. They are detained in lieu of payment of 35,000 USD in outstanding fees, incurred during their stay prior to the arrival of President Saleh to attend the Arab Summit. The expenses result from the rental of cars and other sundry expenses, says the newspaper. The source said that only Nedhal Al-Haime, Deputy Chief of Presidential Protocol, and two others were released to catch up with President Saleh in Germany via Paris, leaving the rest detained until the settlement of the issue by the Financial Officer at the Yemeni Embassy in Tunisia.

Training session on protection of diagnostic radiation
Saturday, 10 April 2004, Ibb- Today begins the 3rd training session regarding protection from radiation at hospitals and health centers, organized by the National Atomic Energy Agency. The five-day session aims at informing more than 150 workers in diagnostic x-ray departments in the Republic. The attendants will receive practical lectures on biological effects, preventive measures against radiation, safe sources, the radiation dose and guaranteeing the quality of the diagnosis, delivered by experts and specialist at the National Atomic Energy Agency.

Yemeni public?" We are waiting for a positive response in this respect and not justifications of a refusal. Finally, I refer to the Chinese President's words during his reception of Prime Minister Ba Gamal, in which he praised the wise leadership of His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh for his administrative, economic and political approaches. The balanced, wise standpoint of our leadership provides a service to the homeland and the Yemeni citizen, which is reflected in the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Yemen and its brothers and friends.

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Job Opportunity

The USAID - funded Partners for Health Reform Project (PHRplus) is recruiting a Communications Specialist to support the following:

- 1- Report on "Success stories"
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- 7- Provide support and guidance to the Yemen team on communications

Qualifications:

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Applications to be mailed to:
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A training session for teachers

April 5-8, Taiz- The Women's Forum for Researchers and Training (WFRT), representing the Arab Network for Civic Education -Yemen Branch- organized a four-day training session for male and female teachers regarding leading and implementing civic education activities in schools. The participants represented seven primary and high schools in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Ibb.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Ms. Soad Al-Qadasi, the Forum Director, explained that the forum has sought to inform official and non-official parties

of the importance of including civic education activities in schools and to educate students about positive citizenship and to enhance their skills to analyze and collect information about the problems of local communities. The forum also aims to encourage them to engage in inventive and innovative initiatives which would prepare them to bear the responsibilities of democracy and civil society in Yemen.

WFRT has issued two booklets, one for teachers and the other for students, as guides to refer to in implementing activities in this regard.

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Clashes erupt in Baghdad, US offers Falluja truce

BAGHDAD, April 10 (Reuters) - Street fighting erupted in Baghdad on Saturday and sporadic gunfire echoed across Falluja despite a new U.S. truce offer and an effort by Iraqi officials to secure a peace deal with insurgents in the western city.

Gunmen shot at U.S. troops from alleyways in northwest Baghdad's Sunni Muslim Adhimiya district. Reuters journalists saw an Iraqi shot dead in his car as he tried to flee the area.

An Iraqi group told Al Arabiya television it was holding 30 foreign hostages and threatened to behead them unless U.S. forces lift a blockade of Falluja. It offered no proof. But some hostages have been seized, including three Japanese under threat of being burned alive if Japanese troops do not leave by Sunday.

In the Shi'ite shrine city of Kerbala, pilgrims gathered in far smaller numbers than expected for Arbain, a holy occasion that U.S. officials say could be a target for Sunni militants.

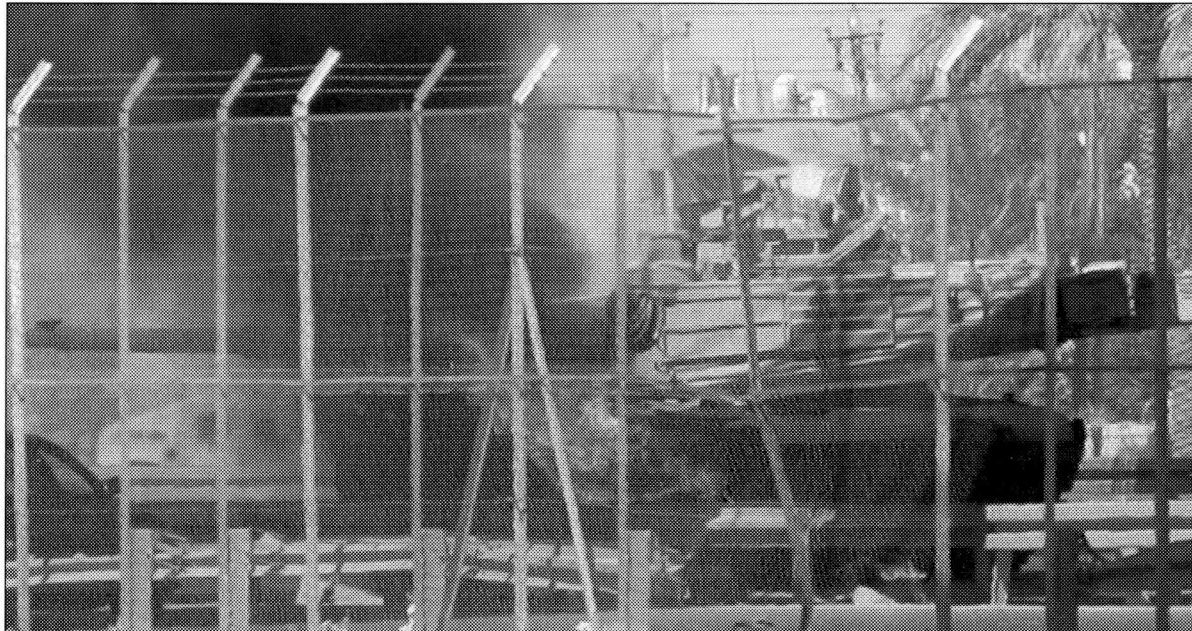
Anti-American Shi'ite militiamen were out in force, clashing with Polish troops. The U.S. authorities said they could not guarantee the security of the million or more pilgrims expected.

The truce offer in Falluja came after Iraqi politicians, decrying U.S. "collective punishment" meted out to local people, demanded a halt to the worst fighting since Saddam Hussein fell.

"Coalition forces are prepared to implement a ceasefire with enemy elements in Falluja commencing at noon (0800 GMT) today," Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt told a news conference.

"At this point it's an aspiration. We are hoping to use this press conference...to get this message to the enemy."

The aim was to allow peace talks between Iraqi officials and insurgents, with no U.S. participation, Kimmitt said.



A U.S. Army Abrams tank burns after an attack on a highway junction in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad April 10. REUTERS

FALLUJA TALKS

An Iraqi Governing Council delegation went to Falluja. "They are meeting with religious leaders there, and with leaders of the anti-coalition forces," council member Mahmoud Othman told Reuters. They planned to stay "until a deal can be cut".

Othman said the team would ask Falluja leaders to hand over those who attacked four U.S. private security guards 10 days ago and then burned and dragged their bodies through the streets.

U.S. Marines launched a retaliatory crackdown in Falluja on Monday, triggering battles in which one hospital official has said 450 people were killed and 1,000 wounded.

A masked man in a videotape aired by Al Arabiya Arabic television demanded the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces from Iraq.

"We have Japanese, Bulgarian,

Israeli, American, Spanish and Korean hostages. Their numbers are 30," he said. "If America doesn't lift its blockade of Falluja their heads will be cut off," he said. The footage showed none of the alleged hostages.

But several foreigners are known to have gone missing in a spate of kidnapping over the past few days, putting pressure on U.S. allies, including Japan, Britain, Spain and Italy.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has rejected pulling out his troops, despite protests in Tokyo urging him to do so.

The Pentagon said two U.S. soldiers and an unknown number of civilian contractors were missing after an attack on a military fuel convoy in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad on Friday.

Australian television footage showed a captive American, possibly one of those truck drivers, being driven off by gunmen.

Two German embassy security guards went missing while travelling on the same main highway from Jordan to Baghdad a few days ago, the German Foreign Ministry said on Saturday. Officials in Berlin said they feared the pair had been killed.

A Reuters reporter saw two foreigners, one of them wounded, in a mosque at Abu Ghraib. Gunmen said they were Italian.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a close U.S. ally who has rejected demands at home for Italian troops to be withdrawn, paid an Easter visit to the contingent in Iraq.

He told troops in the southern town of Nassiriya he was proud of them. "I bring you a big hug from all of Italy."

Italian forces battled Shi'ite fighters earlier this week for control of Euphrates river bridges in Nassiriya after radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr launched a revolt in the south.

Snapshot of key developments in Iraq on April 10

- Street fighting erupts in northwest Baghdad's Sunni Muslim Adhimiya district, where youths with rifles and grenade launchers battle U.S. troops and attack a police station.

- U.S. forces offer rebels in Falluja a ceasefire to allow for peace talks after days of fighting that have killed hundreds of people, including fresh clashes on Saturday.

- Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi makes a surprise Easter visit to Italian troops based in the southern Iraqi city Nassiriya.

- The director of the Iraqi Red Crescent in the northern Iraqi city of Arbil and his wife have been murdered, a Red Crescent official says.

- Two German security officials went missing several days ago while travelling to the German embassy in Baghdad from Jordan but there are no signs they were kidnapped, the German foreign ministry says.

- Shi'ite pilgrims gather in the shrine city of Kerbala to mark the holy day of Arbain as radical Shi'ite fighters and

Polish troops exchange rocket and mortar fire on the outskirts.

- U.S.-installed Governing Council criticises "military solutions and the policy of collective punishment that has fallen on innocent civilians" and demands a halt to the fighting and negotiations.

Diplomatic:

- British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon says Britain supports the tactics U.S. forces are using against Sunni insurgents and Shi'ite rebels in Iraq.

- U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney arrives in Tokyo, is expected to support Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's pledge to keep Japanese troops in Iraq despite rebel threats to execute three Japanese hostages.

- Protesters in Tokyo urge Japan to pull its troops out of Iraq to save the hostages' lives.

- Senior Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Ichiro Aisawa holds emergency meetings in Amman to coordinate efforts to rescue the three hostages.



Supporters of Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr hold photos of him and his father Sadiq al-Sadr (C) during a rally in the northern city of Mosul, April 6. Radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has turned down an appeal by Iraq's powerful Shi'ite Muslim establishment to renounce violence, an aide to a leading cleric said on Monday. REUTERS

Iraq Council delegation holds negotiations in Falluja

BAGHDAD, April 10 (Reuters) - A delegation from Iraq's Governing Council went to the restive Sunni town of Falluja on Saturday to try to secure a peace deal with rebels after days of fighting that has killed hundreds of people.

"The delegation, which is made up of two members of the Governing Council and also includes clerics and other notables from Baghdad, is meeting in Falluja now," Mahmoud Othman, a member of the Governing Council, told Reuters.

"They are meeting with religious leaders there, and with leaders of the anti-coalition forces," Othman said, adding that they were likely to stay "until a deal can be cut".

The Governing Council's delegation is made up of Hakim al-Hosni, deputy head of the Iraqi Islamic Party, and Ghazi al-Yawar, a Sunni member of the 25-member council. Othman did not say who the Baghdad clerics and notables were.

Earlier, al-Hosni called on those

fighting in Falluja to respect the truce offer made by U.S. forces earlier on Saturday.

"The Iraqi Islamic Party calls on our brothers in Falluja to stop attacks from your side because the Americans are saying they are abiding by the ceasefire but are facing attacks which they have to respond to," Hosni told al-Jazeera television.

"We want you to help us stop the bloodshed and to give us a chance to treat the injured, bury the dead and deliver supplies," he said.

Othman said the delegation intended to ask Falluja leaders to hand over those responsible for attacking a convoy of American contractors 10 days ago, when the bodies were burnt and dragged through the streets after the attack.

He also said U.S.-led coalition forces believed foreign fighters, including Saudis and Syrians, had been smuggled into Falluja to fight with the insurgents, contributing to the stern resistance that U.S. forces have faced.

Shi'ite pilgrims gather amid Iraq clashes

KERBALA, Iraq, April 10 (Reuters) - Shi'ite pilgrims gathered in the Iraqi holy city of Kerbala on Saturday for a major religious ceremony as radical Shi'ite fighters and Polish troops exchanged rocket and mortar fire on the outskirts.

Militiamen loyal to anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr were controlling access to Kerbala, 110 km (70 miles) south of Baghdad, and militia leaders have ordered occupying forces to keep their distance until religious ceremonies end on Sunday.

U.S. authorities in Iraq say more than a million pilgrims are in and around Kerbala for the ceremonies of Arbain, but large groups of pilgrims were not yet massing on the streets.

Iraq's U.S. governor, Paul Bremer, has said the safety of pilgrims cannot be guaranteed during Arbain. Last month suicide attacks in Baghdad and Kerbala on the Shi'ite occasion of Ashura killed 171 people. Washington said the attacks were masterminded by a Jordanian linked to al Qaeda to try to spark civil

war.

Iraqi police, whom U.S.-led forces had previously entrusted with keeping order during Arbain, were nowhere to be seen.

Streets were being patrolled by Sadr's Mehdi Army and another Shi'ite armed group, the Badr Brigade, as well as local guards, some employed by the clerical authorities. Militiamen waved pilgrims to the sides of streets for fear of sniper fire.

Some ordinary pilgrims blamed the U.S.-led forces in Iraq for the new disorder that appeared to have discouraged many from travelling to the city. Many also criticised Sadr's uprising.

Some clerical authorities voiced disquiet: "Because of the clashes the police have disappeared, leaving a big gap in our security plan," said Afdhal al-Shami, head of security for Kerbala's Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas shrines.

"Some parties tried to take the place of the police but we still can feel the effect — we are worried that someone will try to exploit this security breach."

FAITHFUL FEAR TO TRAVEL

The fall of Saddam Hussein and his Sunni-dominated secular regime a year ago ended decades of oppression for the 60-percent Shi'ite majority and left them free to observe major festivals like Ashura and Arbain, marking one of the founding events of Shi'ite Islam in a seventh century battle near Kerbala.

But many pilgrims, including many from Shi'ite-ruled Iran, seemed to have stayed away this year. Fighting has flared in the past week, involving Sadr's Shi'ite forces as well as disgruntled Sunnis who have long fought the U.S.-led occupiers.

Reuters journalists heard rocket and mortar fire from the outskirts of the city where the Mehdi Army and the Poles have been engaged in skirmishes.

A week of clashes in and around Kerbala alone has killed 69 people, mainly Iraqis, and wounded more than 100, Mahdi Masnawi, the city's director-general of health, told Reuters.

"It is the innocent people who are getting killed here every day," said Ahmad Mohammad, a member of the force that protects Kerbala's shrines, some of Shi'ite Islam's holiest.

"The clashes have affected the security efforts terribly. Instead of focusing on the main job to protect the pilgrims from attacks like that at Ashura, we have to make sure now that they won't be caught in the crossfire."

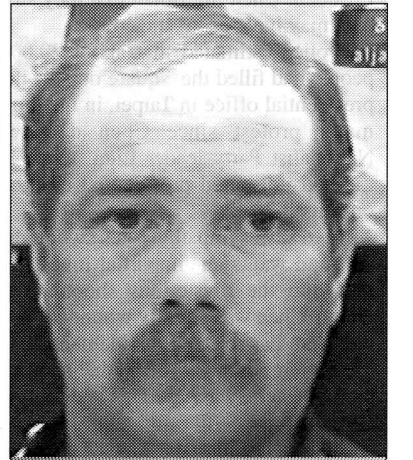
There was little celebration among pilgrims at the militia's presence and very few chanted the pro-Sadr slogans that have been heard from his supporters in other cities this week.

"All our family wanted to come but at the last minute the women and children had to turn back because of the fighting," said Hussein Radhi, a pilgrim from Baghdad.

"Coalition forces have ignited this whole crisis on purpose," said Hamid Ha'eri an Iraqi returning from Iran.

"But those who are fighting in these holy days are not Shi'ite. They are fighting for their own political interests."

Iraqi kidnappers threaten to kill U.S. hostage



A television image aired on an Arabic television station April 10, shows a U.S. hostage in front of an Iraqi flag who Qatar-based Al Jazeera television said identified himself as Thomas Hamill. His Iraqi kidnappers said in the tape they will kill the U.S. hostage they are holding unless U.S. forces lift the siege of Falluja. REUTERS/Al Jazeera

DUBAI, April 10 (Reuters) - Iraqi kidnappers said in a tape aired on an Arabic television station on Saturday they will kill a U.S. hostage they're holding unless U.S. forces lift the siege of Falluja.

"Up to now your prisoner is being dealt with in the tolerant manner specified by Islamic law. Our one request is to break the siege of the city of the mosques (Falluja) during the 12 hours from six o'clock on Saturday evening," a voice on a tape shown on Qatar-based Al Jazeera said.

"If not he will be dealt with worse than those who were killed and burned in Falluja," the voice added in the tape, which also showed the man, who Al Jazeera said was described elsewhere in the tape as a U.S. citizen.

Iraq group says has 30 foreign hostages: Arabiya TV

DUBAI, April 10 (Reuters) - An Iraqi group said in footage aired by an Arab TV station on Saturday it was holding 30 foreign hostages and threatened to decapitate them unless U.S. forces lifted their blockade of the town of Falluja.

"We are calling for the withdrawal of American and coalition forces. We have Japanese, Bulgarian, Israeli, American, Spanish and Korean hostages. Their numbers are 30," a masked man holding a Kalashnikov rifle said.

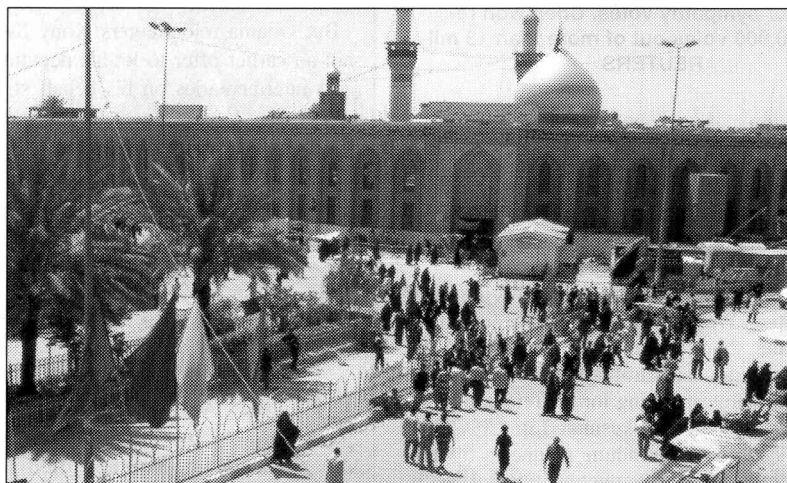
"If America doesn't lift its blockade of Falluja their heads will be cut off," he said in the footage in Arabic, which Al Arabiya said it obtained from news

agencies. It did not show any of the alleged hostages.

The speaker of the group of eight masked men said they were called the "Brigades of the Hero Martyr Sheikh Ahmed Yassin", in reference to the founder of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, whom Israel assassinated last month.

"We announce the killing of four soldiers and we have the bodies," the speaker said. The footage showed the body of an unidentified and decomposing man in the sand.

It was not clear when he had been killed or when the tape had been made.



The boulevard leading to the shrine of Imam Hussein in Kerbala lies devoid of crowds April 10, as Shi'ites celebrate the Arbain festival, a religious occasion that climaxes this weekend to mark the end of the period of mourning for a 7th-century martyred Shiite saint. Many pilgrims, including many from Shi'ite-ruled Iran, seemed to have stayed away this year due to fighting in the past week, involving Sadr's Shi'ite forces as well as disgruntled Sunnis who have long fought the U.S.-led occupiers. REUTERS

Iraq hostage crisis overshadows Cheney visit to Japan

TOKYO, April 10 (Reuters) - U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney arrived in Japan on Saturday on the first leg of a weeklong Asian tour, lending support to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi for keeping troops in Iraq despite rebel threats to execute three Japanese hostages.

The hostage crisis and the worst violence in Iraq since Saddam Hussein was removed from power a year ago threatened to overshadow the talks, eclipsing economic issues and efforts to eliminate North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Cheney, one of the architects of the Iraq war who once predicted that U.S. troops would be "greeted as liberators," vowed to stand firm in the face of unrest as he embarked on only his third overseas mission since taking office in 2001.

"Our will is being tested in Iraq as we have seen in the heavy fighting this week," he told troops at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. "It is absolutely essential that we finish the task at hand."

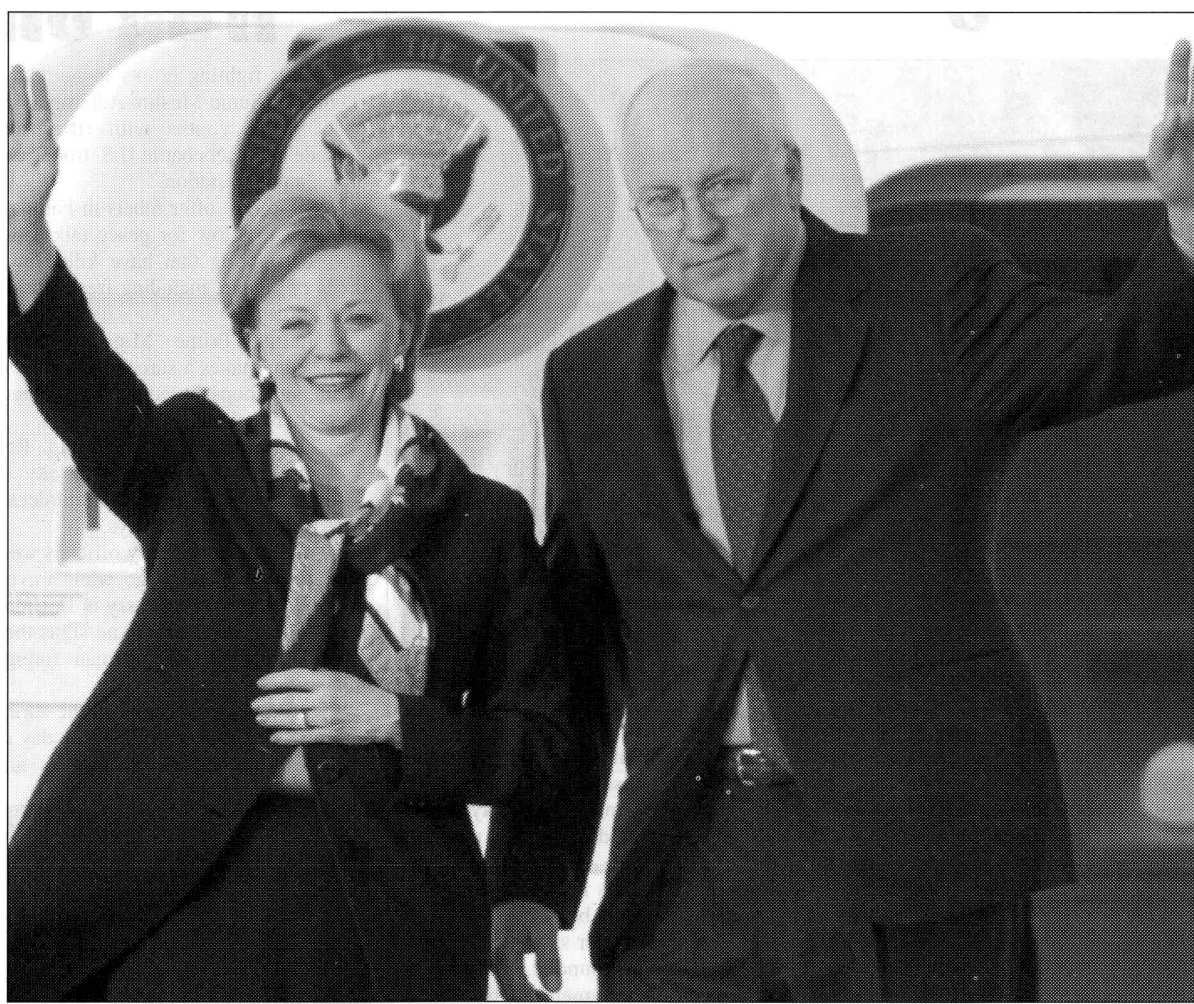
But Cheney's stay-the-course message is a harder sell in Japan — a country in shock after rebels kidnapped three civilians in Iraq and threatened to execute them if Japanese troops did not swiftly leave Iraq.

Tearful appeals

Despite tearful appeals from the hostages' families, Koizumi said he had no plans to pull the country's troops from Iraq.

That was welcome news in Washington, where officials fear any appeasement will only encourage more kidnappings and acts of terrorism, and pick apart the coalition.

Koizumi has spent enormous political capital to push through the Iraq deployment. The mission is Japan's riskiest military operation since World



U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney (R) waves with his wife Lynne upon their arrival at Tokyo's Haneda airport April 10, 2004. Cheney flew in to Japan for a four-day visit on the first leg of his Asian tour. REUTERS

War Two and a major shift away from the purely defensive military stance Tokyo adopted after its defeat in the war.

Cheney is scheduled to meet with Koizumi and some of his Cabinet ministers on Monday. He will visit with the Emperor on Tuesday before flying to China and finally South Korea.

U.S. officials said Cheney plans to tell U.S. allies in the region that

Washington is committed to a June 30 deadline for transferring sovereignty to Iraqis despite renewed violence.

In addition to Iraq, Cheney is expected to press Japan to reopen its markets to U.S. beef, banned three months ago because of the first U.S. case of mad cow disease.

In Beijing, he is expected to discuss thorny currency policy and market-access disputes.

A senior administration official said ending North Korea's nuclear program would be "an important subject not only in Beijing, but also in Tokyo and Seoul."

But the official sought to play down expectations for movement on Pyongyang. "There's no touchdown pass here," a senior administration official said, using an American football metaphor.

Pakistan military say they foil Karachi attack

KARACHI, April 10 (Reuters) - Pakistan's paramilitary rangers said on Saturday they had foiled a major attack bid in the restive port city of Karachi, recovering a huge cache of weapons but making no arrests.

The weapons seized in a raid on Friday at a house under construction included a Russian-made mortar, shells and rockets.

"This is the first time ever we seized a 82 mm mortar gun in Karachi," senior ranger officer Colonel Zafar Iqbal Awan told a news conference.

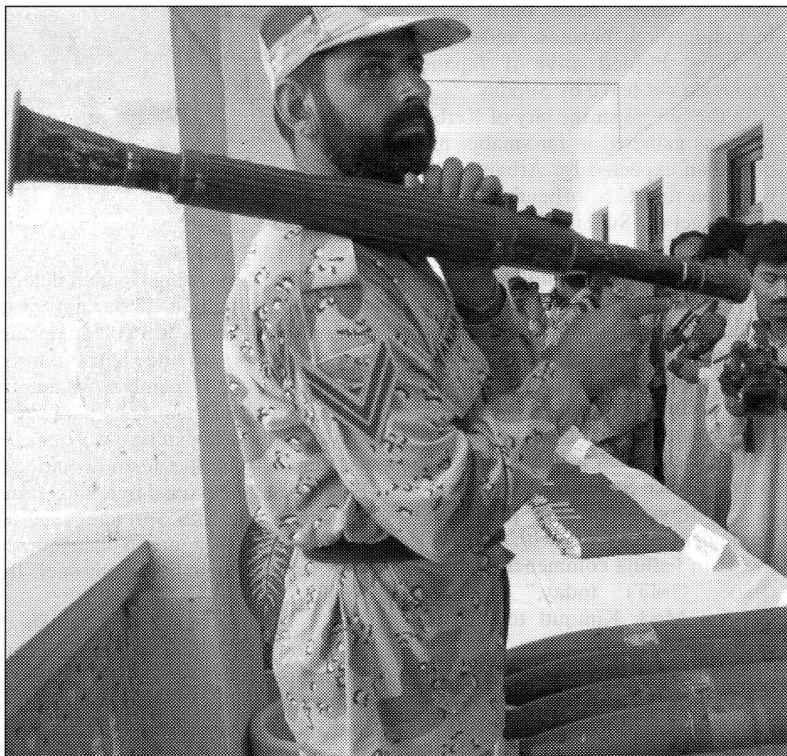
Officials said the mortar could hit a

target at a distance of five km (three miles).

Karachi has seen a spate of assaults, including suicide bombings, targeting Westerners, government officials and the religious minorities in the last couple of years.

Police blame most of these attacks on Islamic extremists furious at the government's support for the U.S.-led "war on terror" following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Awan said, however, that it was too early to blame any group for bringing the weapons to Karachi.



A Pakistani paramilitary soldier holds a rocket propelled grenade launcher next to a display of recovered weapons in Karachi April 10. Pakistan's paramilitary rangers said on Saturday they had foiled a major attack bid in the restive port city of Karachi following the recovery of a huge cache of weapons despite no arrests. REUTERS

Taiwan stages third big protest over election

TAIPEI, April 10 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Taiwan opposition supporters protested on Saturday, demanding an independent inquiry into an election-eve assassination attempt on President Chen Shui-bian that they suspect may have been staged.

Police estimated that about 70,000 people had filled the square outside the presidential office in Taipei, in the third major protest since Chen defeated Nationalist Party leader Lien Chan in the hotly disputed presidential election on March 20.

Lien says sympathy votes swung the poll and wants an impartial investigation into the mysterious shooting, in which Chen was slightly wounded. The president has rejected the demand.

"Referendum for the truth," shouted the protesters, waving flags and tooting horns in a peaceful rally.

The Nationalists have proposed holding a referendum to back the independent inquiry and many protesters brought their identity cards to register their support.

"If we don't put some pressure on him, we won't have a chance to find out the truth. We won't allow A-Bian to do whatever he wants," said one elderly man, after signing a petition for the referendum. A-Bian is Chen's nickname.

An unknown assailant with a home-made handgun fired two bullets at Chen and Vice President Annette Lu as they campaigned in an open-top jeep in the southern city of Tainan on March 19. Chen was gashed across the stomach and Lu wounded in the knee.

The incumbent president won reelection the following day by just 30,000 votes out of more than 13 million cast.

"The presidential election is over," Chen told a meeting of his Democratic Progressive Party on Saturday.

"The election dispute has entered the legal process and everyone should have the biggest confidence and patience in the fairness of our judicial system."

Glass fragments

Police say they have no suspects for



Tens of thousands of supporters of Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party protest outside the presidential office in Taipei on April 10 to demand an independent inquiry into the election-eve assassination attempt on President Chen Shui-bian. The Nationalists say the shooting that lightly wounded Chen may have been staged for sympathy votes. Chen won reelection by a razor-thin margin of just 30,000 votes out of more than 13 million cast. REUTERS

the shooting so far. Top U.S. forensic expert Henry Lee, a veteran of such high-profile cases as the O.J. Simpson murder trial, joined the probe this week and recreated the crime scene in Tainan on Friday night.

Lee told reporters he had discovered 20-30 tiny glass fragments inside the jeep, proving that one bullet was fired from the right side of the vehicle. His team found machine markings on the bullets and casings that Lee said needed further study.

Lien has filed two lawsuits with the High Court — one to invalidate Chen's victory and order a recount, and the other to nullify the election and order a new one.

The suits cite a record 330,000 invalid ballots, triple the number rejected in the 2000 election, along with vot-

ing irregularities, puzzling circumstances surrounding the shooting and other factors.

Analysts say a recount is almost certain since Chen has consented to one but a new election is unlikely.

"It doesn't matter who wins the election. We just want to know exactly how the shooting on Chen Shui-bian happened," said a 40-year-old woman at the protest calling for the referendum.

Cabinet spokesman Lin Chia-lung said the referendum planned by the opposition was unconstitutional as it would put too much power into the hands of one committee.

"Even if the referendum is approved, it has no effect. The referendum law clearly states a referendum cannot violate the constitution," Lin told reporters.

Uganda LRA leader rejects talks, archbishop

Kampala, April 10 (Reuters) - Uganda's elusive rebel leader Joseph Kony refuses to join peace talks proposed by religious leaders because he does not trust President Yoweri Museveni to ensure his safety, a Ugandan archbishop said on Saturday.

The self-proclaimed mystic and leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) made the statement in a rare communication with peace brokers trying to end the 17-year war that has displaced 1.5 million people in the east African nation.

"If the government wants to kill me and is not ready to talk peace, then how can these peace talks take place?" John Odama, archbishop of the northern town of Gulu, quoted the rebel leader as telling him by telephone from an unknown location.

But Odama told Reuters Kony had said an earlier offer to let his deputies meet intermediaries on his behalf still stood.

There was no immediate comment

from the government.

Most Ugandans say the rebel group does not appear to have any clear aims or objectives, but it has become notorious for the brutality it has meted out to its victims, mostly civilians in remote districts of northern Uganda.

It has abducted tens of thousands of children and forced them to become fighters and sex slaves.

Odama, chairman of the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative, a multi-faith group that aims to end the conflict between government forces and Kony's fighters, said he was surprised to receive the telephone call from Kony on March 6.

"I have spoken to (Kony deputy Vincent) Otti before, so when he called me I immediately recognised his voice," the archbishop said by telephone from Gulu.

"He told me, 'I am here with my boss. Listen to what he has to say to you.' Then he handed over the phone," he said.

"My heart jumped a little to be speaking to Kony directly for the first time, but I listened and I began putting my points across," Odama said.

He said that while Kony had rejected taking part personally in peace talks proposed by the religious leaders, the rebel leader said they should continue communicating with him through his deputies.

Odama said he first met Otti in person two years ago. He said he held talks with him five or six times, until Museveni told the archbishop it was too risky to meet the rebels in the bush, and that it was better to continue contacts by telephone.

Odama said he stressed to Kony that religious and cultural leaders were ready to meet him wherever possible to seek an end to the bloodshed.

The archbishop said the LRA leader had insisted that if peace talks were to take place, they must be held within Uganda. Child soldiers who have escaped from LRA camps say Kony is based in southern Sudan.

Zambia President's mother dies after bus blaze

LUSAKA, April 10 (Reuters) - Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa's mother has died in South Africa where she was getting treatment for burns suffered when a public bus she was travelling in caught fire, a presidential aide said on Saturday.

Miriam Mokola, 77, died on Friday in a Johannesburg hospital,

where she was flown for treatment after suffering 50 percent burns on her face, abdomen, right arm and back when the bus she was travelling in on March 29 caught fire.

"I regret to inform the nation that the president's mother Ms Miriam Mokola is dead," Mwanawasa's principal private secretary, Jack Kalala, said in a statement.

Mokola was burnt after a conductor on the bus accidentally spilled fuel on her. The conductor and a two-year-old child were also burnt.

Police have charged the driver with carrying dangerous substances. Public buses often carry fuel in containers in Zambia, even though it is illegal.

Bush vows rebels in Iraq will be defeated



U.S. President George W. Bush (R), with National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, receives an update on the situation in Iraq during a National Security Council meeting via video teleconference in Crawford, Texas, Saturday, April 10, 2004. Bush vowed on Saturday the U.S.-led troops would defeat guerrillas wreaking havoc in Iraq even as street fighting erupted in Baghdad and reports emerged of an American being held hostage. Bush, spending the weekend at his Texas ranch, defended plans to hand sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on June 30 as Democrats said delaying the deadline could prevent a civil war from erupting. REUTERS

CRAWFORD, Texas, April 10 (Reuters) - President George W. Bush pledged on Saturday that the U.S.-led coalition would defeat guerrillas wreaking havoc in Iraq and he defended plans to hand sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on June 30.

Bush also promised support to Iraq after the initial handover of power and through the country's election slated for the end of 2005, including armed forces to maintain peace as well as economic aid.

A year after the coalition toppled Saddam Hussein's regime, U.S.-led troops have launched a multi-city offensive against Sunni and Shi'ite rebels who have inflicted some of the worst casualties seen since Bush said major hostilities were over last May.

"Our coalition's quick reaction forces are finding and engaging the enemy," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "Our decisive actions will continue until these enemies of democracy are dealt with."

In the last week at least 51 U.S. and allied soldiers have died in combat in

addition to scores of Iraqis. Rebels on Friday attacked a fuel convoy and said they kidnapped foreigners to try to force their governments to withdraw troops.

Bush, vacationing at his Texas ranch, will travel to nearby Fort Hood on Sunday for Easter church services where soldiers there are mourning the loss of eight of their killed in combat last week.

ENEMIES OF FREEDOM WILL FAIL

In recent months, Bush's public support has slowly eroded as conditions have deteriorated in Iraq and questions arose about the reasons for going to war. A CNN/Time poll showed his job approval rating at 49 percent, down double-digits in the last few months.

Bush again brushed aside suggestions by some top Republicans and Democrats in Congress that it may be necessary to delay the June 30 handover to an interim government amid the uprising by insurgents.

Guerrillas "want to dictate the course of events in Iraq and to prevent the Iraqi people from having a true voice in their

future," Bush said. "The enemies of freedom will fail. Iraqi sovereignty will arrive on June 30."

The United States last year agreed to hand over control in Iraq but its plan to select an interim government through caucuses collapsed, partly because of objections from leading Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi is in Iraq for the second time this year to advise on an interim government until elections for a permanent government can be held.

Even so, Bush's own chief diplomat, Secretary of State Colin Powell, admitted on Friday that the interim government may have to accept limits on its power after the transition and that it had been a "tough week" for U.S.-led forces.

Nonetheless, Bush pledged that the United States would continue to provide aid to Iraq after the handover.

"Our coalition forces will remain committed to the security of Iraq," he said. "We will continue helping the Iraqi people reconstruct their economy, undermined by decades of dictatorship and corruption."

German Greens leader slams US 'occupation' in Iraq

BERLIN, April 10 (Reuters) - The co-leader of Germany's Greens party, Angelika Beer, said on Saturday the United States should end its occupation of Iraq and turn over control of the country to the United Nations.

Beer, whose Greens party is the junior partner in Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats-Greens coalition, is also her party's defence policy expert.

In an interview with Berlin's Inforadio, she also said she hoped U.S. leaders would not let the campaign for November's presidential election influence decisions on Iraq.

"I believe there is no alternative to completely turning over the overall control to the United Nations and to the Americans giving up their occupation status," Beer said, going further than any German political leader.

"The situation is getting worse every day — as the fighting in Falluja show. I hope the Americans



A German citizen walks into Germany's embassy in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, April 10, 2004. The German Foreign Ministry said two German security officials had gone missing while traveling from Jordan to Germany's embassy in Baghdad. A spokeswoman in Berlin confirmed the report that two men, aged 38 and 25, had disappeared while en route to Baghdad several days ago. Several foreigners have been taken hostage on dangerous roads between Baghdad and Amman which pass through the Falluja area, where Sunni guerrillas have been fighting U.S. troops over the past week. REUTERS

won't put the election ahead of everything else so Bush can save face, but rather say: 'We made a mis-

take. Preventive strikes are not the right answer and we're turning over responsibility to the United Nations."

مولين محلين، مستشارين ومتعاقدين

تعتبر اليمن ضمن قائمة الدول المهددة بالكوارث الطبيعية مثل السيول الجارفة، والجفاف، والزلازل. وتعد المحافظات الجنوبية أكثر عرضة لتهديد السيول الجارفة التي يؤدي حدوثها إلى جرف التربة، تدمير المنازل والمحاصيل، وتعريض حياة الناس للخطر.

أوكسفام بصدد مساعدة المجتمعات في التفكير والإعداد لتقليل الإصابات الناتجة عن الكوارث الطبيعية وتطوير إمكانيات المجتمعات للتصرف في حالة حدوثها.

ولتحقيق هذا الهدف ومن أجل التعامل بفاعلية في حالات الطوارئ فإن أوكسفام تقوم في الوقت الحالي بتأسيس قاعدة بيانات تضم الممولين المحليين، المتعاقدين والمستشارين المحتملين. كما تتطلب قاعدة البيانات وجود المذكورين في كل من محافظات صنعاء، تعز أو عدن (المتقدمين من محافظة عدن سيكون لهم أفضلية). يشترط ثلاث سنوات من الخبرة على الأقل في أي من المجالات التالية

المستشارين:

مهندسين مياه

مهندسين مدنيين

محاسبين

إمداد ومشتريات

مترجمين

أخصائيين في النوع الاجتماعي

الممولين والمتعاقدين:

مولي معدات مائية وصحية (مضخات مياه وأنابيب)

حفاري آبار

مولي مواد بناء

شركات نقل (شاحنات وعربات)

إذا كنت ممن يرغب في التقديم لأوكسفام بهذا الصدد الرجاء إرسال نسخة من السيرة الذاتية، المؤهلات والمراجع إلى:

أوكسفام - بريطانيا، برنامج أوكسفام في اليمن، صندوق بريد ١٠٤٥، صنعاء الجمهورية اليمنية

فاكس رقم ٠١٤٤٥٦٥٠

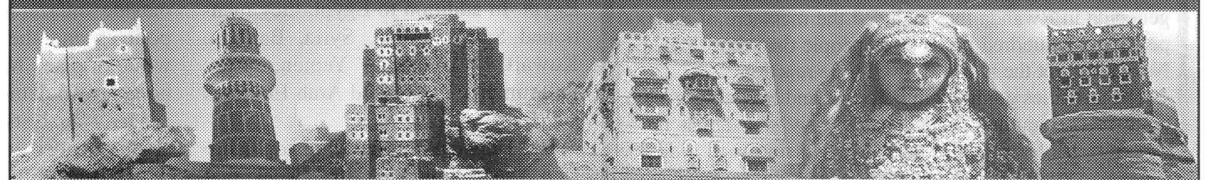
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أوكسفام هي منظمة تنمية، إغاثة ومناصرة مكرسة لإيجاد الحلول طويلة المدى للفقر والمعاونة حول العالم. نحن نؤمن بأنه من حق كل إنسان أن يعيش بكرامة وأن يكون لديه الفرص المتاحة. نحن نعمل مع المجتمعات لإجهاذ الفقيرة، الشركاء المحليين، المتطوعين، والمساكين لمساعدتنا تحويل هدفنا إلى واقع.

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والرعاية عامة للجميع



لمزيد من المعلومات: ٢/٢٦٣٣١ - ٩٦٩٥٧٩٧٣٨٥

المشاركين:

- مجلس الترويج السياحي اليمني
- الجمعية اليمنية لوكالات السفر والسياحة
- مجلس الترويج السياحي العالمي
- الخطوط الجوية اليمنية
- الخطوط الجوية القطرية
- طيران الخليج
- العالمية للسفر والسياحة
- مجموعة الهاشمي الدولية

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتٍ

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تقدم بأحر التعازي للوالد / ناصر الحبشي وأولاده / وذلك لوفاء المغنورة لإذن الله تعالى

يحيى ناصر الحبشي

الذي وافقة المنيعة إثر حادث مروري أليم سائلين المولى القدير أن يتقدم الفقد بواسع رحمة وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته

وأن يلهم أهله وذوية الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون .

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- حسن أحمد الكحلاني
- حسن مهدي الحافظ
- وليد البعداني
- عدنان الكامل

Words of Wisdom



As a society caught in the endless transition from a traditional way of life to none trying to catch up with a set of values which are often the subject of controversy and confusion, to say the least. One such value is integrity. It was a big thing in the old days, this integrity business. But today, it has been often compromised, and we see people 'selling' their integrity. Think of it, would you sell yours?

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



OUR OPINION

Understanding the double standard

The incidents of last week in Iraq are a clear indication of the fact that there is what is called "double standard" in the world and the US administration is quite aware of it. In just over a week, more than 450 Iraqi civilians were killed in air raids in Fallujah in Iraq, for ongoing compensation for the killing and mutilation of the bodies of some Americans in the city. This is in total contrast with basic and fundamental human rights principles and hence, is the reason why Arabs and Muslims, and in fact most of the developing world and many citizens of developed countries, hate the US policy.

In last Saturday's seminar organized by Amnesty International, the phrase 'double standard' was mentioned so many times. No one was able to otherwise explain why the death of a few thousand Americans in the 9/11 incidents could justify the killing of tens of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans elsewhere in the world.

Meanwhile, the killing of hundreds of thousands of people also takes place in various parts of the world, such as the genocide in Rwanda that included the massacre of 800,000 people, one hundred times more people than those killed in New York, yet the world showed little reaction.

The atrocities going on in Palestine and Iraq were a major topic in the seminar, which has clearly stated that if the superpower of the world, the USA, is using such a double standard system in carrying out its operations, and then it ought not to be the leading example for other countries to follow.

Prominent human rights activist Terry Waite also delivered a very important message about the importance of ending the double standard phenomenon taking place everywhere in the world in order to achieve global justice and peace.

"We cannot use military might to fight terrorism. Such action only incites more hatred and frustration and results in greater extremism," he said.

It is often understood that modern countries give greater value to their citizens than developing countries. That is a fact that cannot be denied and it is due to many factors including the level of democracy, which in turn empowers citizens who can speak up and express their thoughts openly, and can pursue the law to hold governments accountable.

But on the other hand, it is not the fault of citizens of developing countries. They are mere innocent people who wanted to lead a respectable life and care little about regimes and political affairs. So having their lives seen as less valuable in one way or another is a violation of their rights as humans and makes their families and communities potential havens for radical and extremist ideas.

The new world order is clear. It places the interests of developed countries far above those of the developing world. It is also obvious that interests of developed countries lies in preserving their human resources and protecting their people, who are the driving force in their economies. On the other hand, governments of the developing world are not aware of the potential of their people. In fact, many citizens in developing countries decide to leave their homelands for better opportunities in the West, and to be seen as of value and be respected.

So the double standard we see and feel every day is a mere reflection of the economic-political gap between the rich and the poor, the developed and developing. This gap cannot be closed down overnight, but actions like that of the USA are not helping at all.

The Editor



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Trying to salvage the summit

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Although efforts have been made to get the Arab summit bank on track, obstacles have delayed agreement on rescheduling the summit.

Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa told reporters in Cairo last Thursday that Arab leaders have agreed that holding a summit is important and that it should be held in late April or early May.

"Everyone is agreed on this, the holding of a summit is a necessity," said Moussa.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who offered to host the summit in Egypt soon after Tunisia cancelled the summit just before it was scheduled to begin last Monday, met with Arab leaders at Sharm Al-Sheikh last week. The leaders included Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, King Hamad of Bahrain and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

Egyptian officials claim that 10 out of 22 Arab countries are backing Mubarak's plan to hold the summit in Egypt. In addition to Egypt, they mentioned Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Yemen, the Palestinians, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

But Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya announced last week that President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali still wants to host the summit, claiming that Tunisia still has the right to do so. Some members of the Arab League are showing support of Tunisia's position. Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohammed Benaissa has agreed that the summit should be held in Tunisia. He said last week that "as long as Tunisia has not given up its right to host the summit, frankly I don't see how the summit can be transferred."

Some say that the argument over choosing between Egypt and Tunisia as the location of the summit may create a division between eastern and western Arab states.

But Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi denies that a division between eastern and western Arab countries is growing. He told Egypt's state-run Voice of the Arabs radio station, "The postponement of the summit has not divided the Arabs into Eastern and Western blocs. The Arab world will remain united."

Moussa said it is important for Arab nations "to deal with the current situation and calm down, then start to prepare for a successful meeting". He added that after that "we will reach an agreement over a place."

According to Moussa, there is also a disagreement between Arab countries on how to address potential political reforms in the Middle East. He said the disagreement is on "the extent that reforms will go to and our position regarding this or that reform initiative that we have received from abroad."

Moussa was referring to the US Greater Middle East Initiative that urges Arab nations to promote democracy, human rights, and the status of women and encourages the upgrading of educational systems and economic liberalization.

Most Arab countries have resisted outside interference in their domestic policies and the idea of importing a western plan. Many are pushing for homegrown democratic reform.

Many analysts have judged Yemen as the leader in the Arab world in developing full-fledged democracy. President Ali Abdullah Saleh supports political reform, but argues that the changes should come from within the Arab countries. In a speech he delivered during a demonstration in Sana'a against the killing of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin a few weeks ago, he said that there should be no pressure on Arab countries because "these reforms should come from within".

Two days before the summit was scheduled to begin last week, the Tunisian Government decided to postpone the summit, claiming there were differences over proposals to promote democracy in the Middle East.

Arabs throughout the Middle East

have been showing criticism of the Arab League after the summit was cancelled. Many were expecting Arab leaders to stand up against Israel following the assassination of Yassin and deal with the US occupation of Iraq.

"Looking back over the years, people in the Arab world can see that Arab Summits rarely found solutions or implemented them," said a political analyst in Yemen. "And the timing of canceling this summit was bad. After the assassination of Sheikh Yassin, Arabs wanted to see something happen. But now their faith in the Arab League is deteriorating."

The Yemeni Government planned to present its own peace initiative for the Middle East at the summit in Tunisia. Yemen's "roadmap" for peace includes adding the Arab League to the international quartet of the European Union, Russia, United Nations and the United States that is attempting to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It also suggests the use of an international force to protect Palestinians, a non-violence pledge from both sides and the creation of a Palestinian state in the territories the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war.

For war-torn Iraq, the Yemeni proposal calls for the Arab League, the United Nations and the US-led coalition to set up a committee to work on building security using international forces under UN command. An Iraqi sub-committee would draw a constitution, elections would be held in a year and Iraqi forces would be fully established in two years.

The Arab land-for-peace plan, which won support at the 2002 Arab summit in Beirut, was expected to be re-launched at the summit in Tunis. But Al-Qirbi told Yemen Times last week that ministers in the preliminary meetings showed interest in Yemen's initiative, especially since the Yemeni plan is based on the Beirut proposal.

To continue to salvage the summit, Moussa traveled to Tunisia and held talks with Ben Ali. He also has plans to go to Algeria, Morocco and possibly Libya and Mauritania.

My diary in Iraq: Day One

By EMMA BONINO
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I am in Iraq. We set out at dawn from Kuwait City, with an Air force C130 which flew zigzag to reduce the risk of being hit by portable missiles: the Bedouins sometimes fire them at passing planes. Finally the plane touched down on the runway at the Italian base in Nassiriya, at the centre of a wide area assigned to Italy. It was the region most badly hit by Saddam's oppression, to the extent that I was not allowed to visit during my last trip to Iraq as European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in 1997. Waiting to welcome the Radical Delegation is the commander of the 132nd Ariete Armoured Brigade, General Gian Marco Chiarini, and all his staff.

Chiarini immediately gives us a general picture of the situation on the ground: 2,893 Italian troops, and over 600 Romanians and Portuguese, to control an area as big as Kosovo, sparsely inhabited and marshy - with problems of pillaging, theft, and assaults on trains - in the South; more densely populated to the North, with problems of religious fundamentalism linked to Iranian infiltration. From the General's words there emerges an awareness that the Italians are trying their best to fulfill their job: to protect the institutions of the coalition and of the provisional government (also by means of a telephone emergency service), to train the local forces, and to reconstruct and begin to operate basic services and rebuilt the infrastructure, beginning with schools and hospitals.

The Italian contingent - the Army and the Carabinieri - has to deal on a daily basis with the three main actors who are attempting, also by means of

At the intergovernmental conference in Sana'a, Yemen, organised in January of this year by No Peace Without Justice, Iraqi ministers invited Emma Bonino to Baghdad. A delegation of Radical MEPs - Bonino herself, Marco Cappato and Gianfranco Dell'Alba - accepted their invitation. This is the first of a four-part serialisation of their diary in Yemen Times.

violence, to fill the void created by the fall of Saddam: tribal chiefs (so powerful that they supply the police with men), political parties (over 20, devoid of any real programme), and Shiite religious leaders, particularly strong in the South (and the 'owners' of the only means of mass communication: Friday Prayer). After an excellent espresso we begin the meetings scheduled. The Governor of the province of Dhi Qar, Ramadi - "When he wants he can speak English," the General tells us, mischievously - describes a situation of extreme hardship, inherited from the period of the regime. Four hours of electrical power a day during the time of Saddam's regime, two asphalt roads in the whole of Nassiriya, a dramatic health situation. Things are now improving (the Governor acknowledges the work of the Italians), but not fast enough: "I am not happy, there is not much time left before the transfer of power on 30 June."

Next I meet Widad Kareem, the President of the association most committed to the promotion of women's rights: 10 women in Nassiriya, and 85 in the whole province, to distribute food and medicines and to help women finally to play a leading role in civil society. The General trusts her: "With her I know where our aid is going."

After Iraqi women, the Italian

women in Nassiriya: the soldiers and Red Cross volunteers who we meet in the camp used for operational meetings. I had met some of them in Kosovo and Bosnia, others are veterans from Afghanistan. Together they convey their enthusiasm for their mission.

The lunch break in the brand-new camp refectory is also a chance to greet the many soldiers present, rather surprised and curious, though ultimately, I think, happy to see us here. There is also Colonel Burgio, Commander of the Carabinieri Regiment that paid such a heavy toll in human lives in the performance of its mission.

Our visit to Nassiriya ends with a meeting that foreshadows the future political debate in a society that has suddenly become freer, but at the same time full of tensions and contradictions. We spend over three-quarters of an hour with a dozen Iraqi women from a whole range of professions: an engineer, a primary school teacher, a provincial councillor, and so on. Five of them are close to the most fundamentalist Islam; they are also the ones who believe the time has come for power to be handed over to the Iraqis. The others, more open-minded, are more cautious about the transition, like the Governor: "The next time we meet will be for a conference in Baghdad," I say as we are about to leave, the almost unconscious expression of a hope, and of a promise, made to women who want to look to the future at a decisive, delicate moment for the fate of Iraq.

* Emma Bonino is a Member of the European Parliament. Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy. She is also an active member of the Transnational Radical Party.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The press in Iraq:

"If you are not with us..."

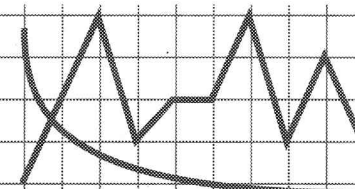
Ever since the early days of the Bush Administration, especially after the infamous 9/11 bombings of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President George W. Bush made it very clear that the overall assumptions that govern the relations between the White House (which then was supposedly speaking on behalf of all Americans) was that: "if you are not with us, you are against us". This was supposedly meant to cover the US's "War on Terror", which the Bush Administration was launching right after that tragic day of September 11, 2001. However, it appears that the Bush Administration has insisted that this motto should be the general guidelines to be adhered to on all matters of domestic public affairs, international relations and all issues related to the deeds and the misdeeds of the Bush Administration. This attitude shall govern the relations of the Bush Administration with just about everyone outside the "Bushies" clique, no matter what institutional or political manifestation they may fall under. See the *New York Times*, Paul Krugman op-ed column of April 4, 2004)

In the Iraqi fiasco, the Bushies have made sure that this motto must also apply to the press as well almost from the start of the gearing-up effort for the war. With the powerful media foundations that the Bushies have laid down in advance, every effort was made to strengthen the Bushies stand on going for an all out invasion of Iraq and to dismiss or belittle the obvious questions such an adventure would raise. Any effort by the American press to argue the wisdom of such a clearly dubious deviation from the "War on Terror" was always dismissed as unpatriotic or left wing stupidity. When the war was finally started, amidst strong international and obviously toned down American opposition, the Bushies set up a well organized controlled mechanism for controlling the press coverage of the war to make sure that only what the Bushies saw as acceptable news reporting hit the air waves or the other press media channels. Thus the "embedding program", which tightly restricted what accompanying US and international press corps members could file back to their respective press media was put in place. In the meantime, any press organs that showed signs of opposition or deviation from the criteria (some announced and others put up at will as events proceed) by the Bushies or the Military and later the Civilian Administrative Commands holding the helms in the Iraqi quagmire would face the meaneast of attacks, including possible death or harm to personnel of the devastating press organs. There have been a number of staff members of especially Arab news media organs that have become among the sought after "collateral" damage of the US military effort in Iraq, during the early invasion effort and later during the occupation and subjugation phase of the still to be clearly understood American debacle, inappropriately called the "Iraq Conflict", by most of the American media. Just over the past week or so two Al-Arabiya Satellite News Channel became the latest victims of the obvious contempt for the press organs that dared to disregard the "with us" criteria set forth by the American military and civilian managements of the American occupation (which the Americans insist must be called a "coalition" of occupiers, although one is quite certain that the absence of the "other members of this "Coalition" would hardly make any real difference from a policy or strategic standpoint).

As if that was not enough, even the democracy that the Americans would like to promote in Iraq must fall under the motto of "if you are not with us, you are against us". Accordingly, the American Civil Administrator, Mr. Paul Bremer set out to make sure that the domestic press of Iraq submit to the motto, and threw away all notions of press freedom out the window, with one sweep of the pen. The outcome: a suspension order directed against "Al-Hawza Al-Natiga", the mouthpiece newspaper of the "Moqtada Sadr organization, the latter of which has been outspoken against the US occupation of Iraq, in more ways than one. While there are many who suggest that the ban on the publication of this domestic press organ, was really intended to ignite a new phase of the Bushies' agenda in Iraq, namely the fueling of Shiite resistance that would eventually provide "justification" for an all out effort against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the suspension order was clearly incongruous with the declared aim of setting up a "model democracy" in Iraq. Many in the American press saw the irrationality of such a decision and were quick to point out that no matter what the paper was writing, it could not have been damaging to the Americans to warrant inflaming the already discontent grass roots following of the Moqtada Sadr organization and in turn the entire Shiite population of Iraq, which has on the whole, assumed a cautious wait and see attitude towards the American invasion and occupation of their country.

On the other hand, the recent obvious diatribes by the spokesmen of the American military and civilian command in Iraq against the reporting of Ahmed Mansour of Al-Jazeera Television Channel of the consequences of the general "revenge" against the entire population of Faluja (for the humiliating mob handling of the armed "civilian" victims of an attack against an American vehicle), underscores the persistence of the Bushies, that even if the facts and scenes on the ground take on what the latter perceive as unfavorable impressions of the facts on the ground, as cameras or eyewitness accounts reveal them to be, they have deviated from the "with us" criteria and thus become "bad news". There is no telling how far the Americans are the least concerned about how genuine the Bushies declared objectives of their misguided Iraqi adventure are shown, but surely this continuous repression of press freedom adds more to the list of lies and misrepresented intentions of the tragedy that is daily unfolding in Iraq.

YT Business



New strategy for exploiting gas in power generation



REPORT BY
MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government is intending to implement a strategy for exploiting gas in the generation of electric power. Presently there are practical steps for building a gas power station in the governorate of Mareb as part of the investment program for the ministry of electricity and the state establishment of electricity for the year 2004.

According to sources at the ministry of electricity the state establishment is seeking to exploit gas in the field of producing generating electric power as Yemen possesses large reserves of gas amounting to around 16.5 trillion metric tons. The new strategy includes the building of a number of generating stations in various governorates, among them a generating station in the governorate of Mareb with a capacity of 500 megawatt, a station with a capacity of 400 megawatt and a third station in Aden with a capacity of 400

megawatt as well as another station in Hudeida with the capacity of 400 megawatt.

The strategy considers that the building of gas power stations would have positive results in terms of different economic and technical areas. The concerned parties estimate that transferring power from the production center to centers of works requires the building of lines capable of transferring 400 kilovolt and 230 kilovolt and that depends on the construction of the new stations. The process of consuming the new power needs the building of new networks for distribution in the cities for the best utilization of the new gas power stations.

The amount of financial allocation appropriated for the investment of the state establishment of electricity in the present year is estimated at about YR 14.5 billion, of which YR 12.5 billion for the united electric system and 2 billion riyals for projects of countryside waters electricity. The investment [program] has appropriated financial amounts for rehabilitation of the working power generating stations and their maintenance because the new power stations would start working in three years

time and therefore the establishment seeks to preserve the present stations capacities.

The investment program also includes the improvement of services level of some stations by funding from Arab and Islamic funds in addition to government financing. Electricity sources indicate that work is now going on in construction of power transfer lines from Mareb to Sana'a estimated at 400 kilovolt and building of a steam turbine in Aden with a capacity of 60 megawatt. The sources also mentioned that there are several projects under construction in some governorates, some for strengthening generation with 10 megawatt in the Rayan in Hadramout and 6 megawatt in Seyoun and generating enhancement with a capacity of 25 megawatt in Tihama and about 700 projects under construction for countryside electricity.

There is a study for joint a electric power connection between Yemen and Saudi Arabia funded by the Arab Fund and the electricity establishment in Yemen expects the agreement with the Saudi side would be concluded about naming the companies that would implement the field study of the project.



Electricity Station

Poor women innovate a marketing profession,

The hookah impresses women and incenses sellers at festivities halls

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Elements affecting the social structure component of a proportion of poor families, according to their category, pushed numerous women in the capital and major cities in Yemen to search for easier job opportunities to increase their income. But some women descending from not poor families do not show interest in economic and social activity and constitute a disguised unemployment especially among those who have finished their secondary school and university education who are noticeably seen present at festivities hall and

birth or mourning occasions.

Qualitative gaps between the reality of women and men reveal that poor families headed by women are estimated at 60.3% of the total non-poor families. And this imbalance pushes poor women to be perseverant and serious for improvement of their living conditions to the extent of innovating ways for marketing their sales of handicrafts or choosing commodities or light food stuffs bringing forth financial returns. In this scene there appear some paradoxes inside festivities hall in the capital Sana'a where women from well-to-do or poor families gather. Women from well-to-do families bring with them qat and hookahs, known in Yemen by "Mada'a" to participate in celebrating the bride and perform kinds of dances expressing the joy to rhythm of local traditional tunes, in a phenomenon that has become common and a social habit expressing stability of their family situations.

Poor women would rather convert their presence and attendance in festivities halls to places for marketing their handicraft products and selling various kinds of incenses and perfumes, cake, and women clothes. Mariam, nicknamed Um Abdullah, specialized in marketing products at festivities halls, says rich families are keen to buy handicrafts made by women in weddings and this method of trading gives profitable results without having the need to have shops and showrooms to display their goods. She says the halls are movable trade shops during hours when rich women are chewing qat

and smoking hookahs. The same can be said about celebrating new births or offering condolences, which are occasions causing a rise in proportion of selling more than traditional trade shops.

Fatma, specialized in selling Aden incenses says it has become familiar that the hookahs impress women on occasions of joys, mourning and new births and this situation provides poor women with opportunities for marketing and selling the best types of incenses among the women attending those occasions.

Divorced, widows and mulatto women are among most of poor women who practice the marketing profession at various social occasions, in addition to those who have discarded education due to their family and living circumstances. Field surveys reveal that a number of girls used to enroll in schools usually discard educations after the fourth grade of primary school especially in countryside and coastal areas for reasons related to cultural, economic and social habits and this state urged women to take part in productive activities.

Sameera Ghaleb Taha, an unemployed university graduate consider the phenomena of marketing at social occasions as confirming weakness of the woman participation and contribution to the national economy and that early marriages limit participation of Yemeni women in the labour market after reproduction age and as a result of increased burdens of family care in cases of divorce or death of the husband. Here the woman head of the

family finds herself forced to practice the profession of marketing products at weddings and other occasions.

It is to be remarked that such woman activities are temporary and for providing needs of the poor families and are not effective in improving the quality of family income in the long-run. Nevertheless, contri-

bution of female university graduates to the economic activity remains hostage of obtaining job opportunities at professions demanding specialized skills.

It remains to point out in this regard that the Yemeni woman in general is still struggling for improving her position at the labour market under an official interest in

increasing the educated woman's economic and productive activity. As for the poor and illiterate women, they have created such job opportunities ensuring for them the development of their income in the process of facing the conditions of poverty that are increasing in the Yemeni society despite of all efforts exerted to fighting them.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.3900	184.6400
Sterling Pound	336.8700	337.3300
Euro	222.2500	222.5600
Saudi Rial	49.1700	49.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.4700	626.3200
UAE Dirhem	50.2000	50.2700
Egyptian Pound	29.8000	29.8400
Bahraini Dinar	489.1100	489.7700
Qatari Rial	50.6500	50.7200
Jordanian Dinar	260.0700	260.4200
Omani Rial	478.9700	479.6200
Swiss Franc	141.8300	142.0300
Swedish Crown	24.1700	24.2000
Japanese Yen	1.7398	1.7421

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Vacancy



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Profile and Book Review

BANAADIR: The Country of Harbors



BY IRENA KNEHTL
IRENA_KNEHTL@YAHOO.COM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The history of East Africa without its association with Islam and Arab influences is like European history without Rome and Greece. East Africa had historical and cultural ties with Arabia and Persia because of geographical proximity and the impact of monsoon winds which blow all the way to Zanzibar for six months and the remaining six months to the Persian Gulf. Unlike the hinterland, the Banaadiri Coast had more cultural contacts with the people playing Indian Ocean trade routes following the Monsoon Winds over the last two thousand years.

The most important source on the Indian Ocean during this period is Periplus Maris Erythraei (Circumnavigation of the Erythraean Sea) written by an unknown Greek commercial agent based in Egypt, written about 156 CE. Since the Periplus of the Erythraean Seas, the Banaadiri Coast was an ancient trading center. From India and Arabia, trading sea vessels anchored at Mogadishu, as the first natural harbor in the Horn of Africa to trade and take supplies on their journey to Zanzibar, Kilwa and Sofala.

Because of natural highways of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, the East African coast had received many visitors. The archeological investigations are still in an embryonic stage but are supporting oral traditions. The excavation during 1910 proved that the ancient Egyptians, Sumarians and Sabeans visited the East Africa coast for international trade. Trade during 3000 BC flourished between Mesopotamia, Southern Arabia and the East African coast. It was also in the Persian Gulf where the first ship building industry started. Other early visitors to the East African coast were the

the southwest monsoon, carrying food grains, mangroves poles for timber, spices, gold from Sofala, ivory and ebony. The Arabs knew the East African coast as "Zinjibar" and hence the romantic name Zanzibar is derived. Chronicles now indicate the existence of Perso-Arab civilization in East Africa before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Islam reached East Africa peacefully during the seventh century, and by the tenth century it became a dominant religion in Ethiopia, Somalia and the East African islands of Zanzibar, Pemba, Kilwa, Mafia, Pate, Lamu and Mombasa. During the later Middle Ages, i.e. in those crucial three hundred years that appear to have been the formative period of a number of towns and nations along the Indian Ocean shores, the Arabs and Persians spun a network of Moslem connections across the waters in all directions. Ibn Battuta during his visit in 1331 observes that Arabic was already the common literary and the commercial language spoken all over these coastal islands.

Ibn Battuta was extremely impressed by the splendor of Mogadishu. In 1516, the Portuguese navigator Duarte described it as "a very big town of blacks called Magadoxo. It is ruled by a Sultan. It undertakes much commerce of different merchandise and many ships arrive here from the Kingdom of Cambaya, bringing large quantities of clothes of different types and different goods and spices". And again in the 18th century, Sultan Sayed bin Said of Oman calls it "the most brilliant of all the princesses of Arabia". Mogadishu, known as Hamar by the native founding Rer Hamar people, emerged through the centuries as the cultural and religious center of the Banaadiri Coast.

This prosperous trade was rudely interrupted by the arrival of the Portuguese who came round from the other side of Africa, suddenly and unpredictably, with bigger and faster ships and better guns. Within thirteen years, by 1511, the Portuguese had

ties were established in what is today southern Somalia about one thousand years ago. Their reputation as settlements of a prosperous and peace loving people was set down in written accounts by foreign travelers to Africa dating back to the 13th century.

"The Banaadir Coast" as a name for coastal northeast Africa was used well into the 20th century, and as an informal designation for southern Somalia remains in use today. Being the first to live in this region, nomad "Samale" (Somali) people from the African interior did not press south and east to the Indian Ocean until centuries later. The Banaadir port city of Hamar eventually became Mogadishu, Somalia's capital. The Banaadir continued to live in the ancient stonies homes of their ancestors, built in Mogadishu's old quarter. Although there has been intermarriage and influence from African peoples over the centuries, the Banaadir today remain very much a light skinned minority whose economic livelihood, unlike most of Somali people, is based on commerce and not agriculture.

First group of settlers originally resided in Al-Ahsa on the Persian Gulf, near Bahrain. Furthermore, they were exclusively composed of 39 families, led by seven brothers. These 39 families belong exclusively to four clans in different proportions. There were 12 families from the Muqarri clan, 12 families from Jidati, 6 families from the Aqabi, and 6 families from the Ismaili clan. Successively, other groups emigrated from different regions of the Arabian Peninsula at different times, but mostly from Yemen.

Upon their arrival, these early settlers have established centers of commerce, doing business with traders from as far as India and China. In the tenth century along the Banaadir coast shoe factories and textile plants were established and the entire production of clothes was exported to Arab countries, Persia, India, China and other centres along the East African coast. The construction of buildings and mosques with great artistic value was another feature of that time. So sophisticated was urban culture and the extraordinary literate background, these early settlers along the coast of the Indian Ocean were described by foreign visitors as "people bound together by ties of citizenship and not by tribal relationships", remarking on their identification with locality and not with tribal affiliations. In 1891 one of the major chiefs was Sayyed Ahmed BaAlawi whose ancestors had come from Tarim seven generations earlier.

Shamsud-Din Abu Abdalla Muhammed, better known as Ibn Battuta, arrived probably in November or early December 1330 in Aden and sailed with the favorable monsoon to Zeila, Mogadishu, Mombasa, and Kilwa. At Mogadishu the learned traveler was received with great honor and ceremony by the Qadi and the local ruler. The Shaykh was conversant in Arabic but his own language was different. We do not learn the name or even one word of this language but it is likely that it was Swahili. The Qadi was surrounded by his students who were at the same time his assistants doing a practical "stage" at his madrasa, which was no ordinary Quranic school. It was an institute for advanced studies in Islamic law, built near the Shaykh's palace to which aspiring law specialists came for study.

Mogadishu then was already a center of Islamic learning and culture. The citizens were rich, and Ibn Battuta comments on their good food and well-to-do appearance.

While many historians still maintain that the Portuguese came to the East African coast as explorers for spices under the patronage of Prince Henry, a few have different opinion. Contemporary Islamic scholars now view it as crusade against Islam normally associated only with the Middle East. The arrival of the Portuguese in East Africa was the first landmark in the strong hostility and competition between Islam and Christianity. As a result Mombasa became the capital of the Portuguese when the whole of East African coast from Lamu to the north to Sofala in the south was virtually under the Portuguese domination. Mombasa was burned to the ground five times, its peoples put to the sword or carried into slavery, yet it rose again and again from its smoking ashes. Kilwa was ravaged with fire and sword, its people were driven from their homes. The Portuguese tried to capture the coasts of Banaadir on many occasions without much success. There is one famous account of the ransacking of the Banaadir city of Barawa by Portuguese in 1499. The invaders spent three days in town ransacking and looting it. The town was then set on fire.

With the independence of Somalia in 1960, Mogadishu became the national capital of Somalia. For thirty years, Somalis from all over the country and abroad poured in their capital to build houses, make business and be part of the prosperous community it generated. During the last 12 years, however, Mogadishu and other Banaadiri towns have seen one of the worst nightmares in their history. Decorations, antiques, and sacred patrimonies dating from the 12 century were looted from ancient mosques. Archeological sites, going back to ancient dynasties in Mogadishu, Gondoreshe, Merka, Barawa and Kismayo, were vandalized.

Banaadir and the regions between the two rivers of Somalia are of great strategic and economic value to the major tribes of Somalia, who are contending for access not only to land, resources and port facilities but also to manpower. Mogadishu, Merka, and Barawa are considered to be the major ports of Southern Somalia. This region is still experiencing the most sustained inter-clan fighting. Meanwhile the UNDP has already named the ancient places of Hamar Weyne and Shingani in Mogadishu as historic sites that need to be preserved for their historical value.

Says Mohammed Abati, a Banaadiri scholar and coordinator of Banaadiri community in New Zealand: The Banaadiris suffered much loss and devastation. Yet they rose to the challenge and survived, though not within the boundaries of their country. The buildings of old Mogadishu, Marka, Barawa and Kismaayo which the Banaadiri ancestors founded with their meager resources more than thousand years ago have been destroyed. But our history remains intact. This will continue to stand as long as we are proud of who we are, treasure our past and preserve it for future generation".

Banaadiri: The Renewal of a Millenary Identity
by Nuredin Haji Scikei

For the past three decades we have witnessed radical interest in the history of the Indian Ocean and East Africa in particular. Now a new generation of local researchers are utilizing innovative research material at their disposal. They are utilizing oral tradition, linguistic evidence and the archeological data. They have now produced excellent studies which have put the East African Coast into the center of her historical development. One should view the author Nuredin Haji Scikei as being in this category.

Nuredin was born in Mogadishu as a descendant of Al Faqi, known also as the Reer Faqi or Qahtaan religious dynasty, appointed by the Banaadiris as administrators of justice in the territory from the Middle Ages until the first years of the Italian occupation. He graduated in civil engineering at Bologna where he now lives. Since 1990 has been active in the defence of the rights of the Banaadiri people and



Banaadiri

Il risveglio di una millenaria identità
The renewal of a millenary identity

Nuredin Haji Scikei

The Book "BANAADIR: The Country of Harbors"

has published several articles in Italian periodicals on the subject.

Banaadiri: The Renewal of a Millenary Identity is a remarkable book and a valuable contribution to the history of Banaadir. The first of its kind it is written simultaneously in Italian and English, the book examines the existing studies on the subject. It shows how rich and developed Banaadiri society was well before Italian colonization. The extraordinary pictures in the book help to visualize the Banaadiri historical profile that started probably in Mesopotamia, crossed Yemen and reached the east coast of Africa where the Banaadiri civilization grew and flourished.

the giant tankers, while the business of carrying cargo in bulk is mostly in the hands of the Japanese Maru ships which bring Japanese printed cotton cloth to East Africa, replacing Indian cotton which once dominated the market.

Notes:

Banaadir, the Country of Harbors, will be republished in the Asian Studies Journal, published by University of Singapore

'Banaadiri, The renewal of a millenary identity' is published by Clueb, Bologna, Italy, www.clueb.com. My thanks go to the author for kindly forwarding his book for review.



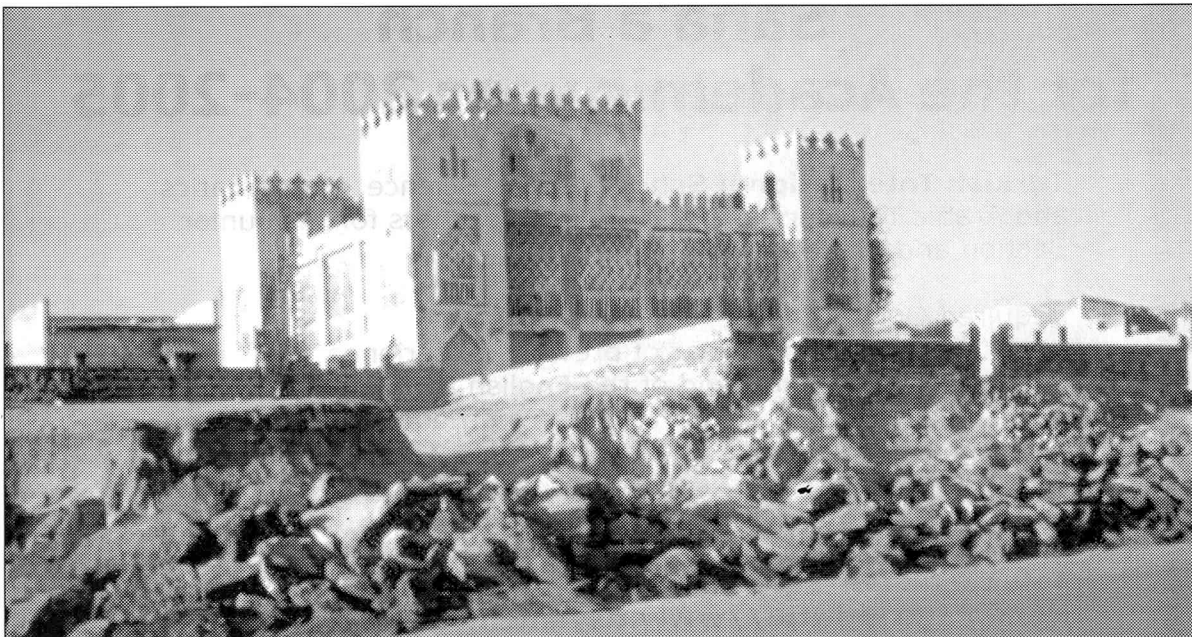
Notable Banaadiris of Mogadishu in a picture from 1930.

Phoenicians, a navigating people from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

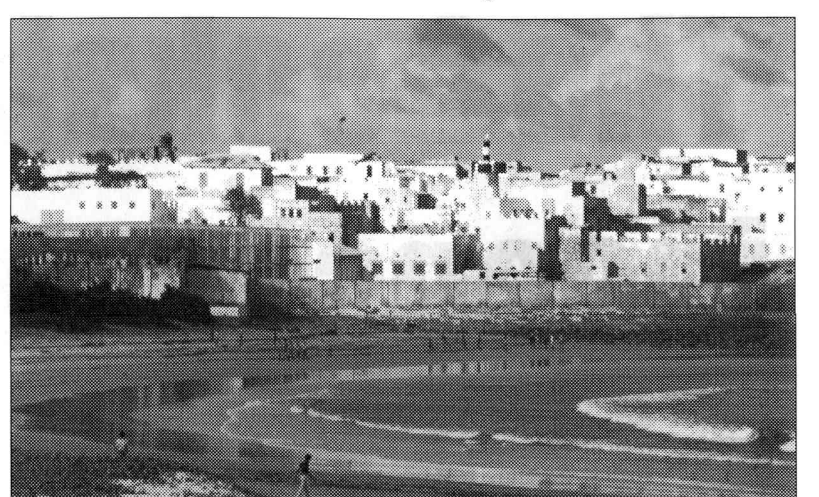
At the very beginning of the first century CE, all the region stretching up to Zanzibar was part of the Kingdom of Saba (115 BC-525 CE), also known as Sheba. The Sabeans were a maritime people, with a large kingdom in Yemen and used the seasonal monsoon winds to travel regularly to as far as Zanzibar. They sailed south from November to February, during the northeast monsoon, carrying beads, Chinese porcelain and clothes. Between March and September they returned to the north on

made themselves masters of the Indian Ocean. More than ever before, the Indian Ocean became a link, a unifier of cultures.

The Banaadiris (also spelled "Benadir") are people with their roots in ancient Arabia, Persia and South and Central Asia. Their name is derived from a Persian word "Bandar" which means "harbor" or port, reflecting their origins as seafaring traders who crossed the Indian Ocean to the easternmost part of Africa and established centers of commerce which linked that continent with Asia. The first Banaadir communi-



Baraawa. This house was constructed at the in the first years of the 20th century by a Yemeni man, called Abud Mussad, originally from Hadramout.



Marka. This coastal city is 50 km south of Mogadishu, and was founded by the Arab Banaadiris.

We have arrived in the modern period with rather big strides. Our time of air traffic and jumbo jets has left the ocean below as a battle ground for aircraft-carriers and submarines. The once numerous, elegant dhows which connected all the colorful ports of the East African coast have been superseded by

I am much indebted to Mohamed Haji Mohamed Abati, a Banaadiri scholar, and coordinator of Banaadiri community in New Zealand for drawing attention to the subject, and for supplying references.

Reference: The Banaadir People, report by Mohammed Ahmed H. Mohammed Abati

وظيفة شاذرة

مجلة يمنية تعنى بشئون الأسرة والتنمية تعلن عن حاجتها لشغل وظيفة

مندوبة تسويق

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- العمل في العاصمة صنعاء.

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موضحة عنوان للتواصل لإجراء المقابلة

على الفاكس التالي:

04-217-157

Continued from Page 1 and Page 3

AI appeals: Save human rights in Yemen

"I am not an Anti-American in any way. But I cannot but express my disappointment at the way this mighty power has been running its international affairs lately," he said.

"This US administration has brought about the new saying of 'if you are not with us, you are against us' which is a basic violation of human rights."

During the first session of the seminar, NODRF Chairman Mohammed Naji Allaw stressed on the need to end the human rights violations that are taking place in Yemen, including the imprisonment of hundreds of detainees in violation of the constitution and law. "Those detainees are kept in the cells of the Political Security Organization without any formal accusation. This contradicts the spirit and demands of conferences held in Yemen under the motto of democracy, freedom, and human rights," he said.

Mr. Allaw added that "Several years have passed for tens of prisoners since they were first detained and they have been deprived from their human right of being tried, whether a just or unjust trial."

"The issue of the war on terror has become the justification used by the Yemeni government to take hundreds of innocent people to prison without regard to their basic rights, such as access to a lawyer and a fair trial. This has taken place due to US and

Western pressure to act, under threats of reduced access to aid and loans. This is the stick and carrot method, and it is causing a lot of oppression in the country."

US administration blasted

The seminar discussed various issues concerning human rights violations in the region and the world, and specifically targeted the issue of double standards applied by the USA throughout the world. The participants exposed the difference in treatment of the USA of different countries based on their loyalty to the US Government. The atrocities taking place in Iraq at present were also pointed out and during discussion sessions several speakers blasted the way the US has handled the issue of Iraq. "How can we expect that the USA will bring freedom and democracy when it is using excessive force in killing civilians in their own homes after occupying their country?" one of the attendees asked.

The pro-Israeli actions of the USA have also been the focus of many attendees, who asked why the USA is turning a blind eye to Israeli atrocities against Palestinians and never mentioning them in its human rights reports, while criticizing other less radical governments of minor human rights violations that might or might not be true.

Guantanamo prisoners

The seminar was also attended by some family members Yemenis currently held in Guantanamo. Some have expressed outrage and anger at the USA for imprisoning this number of people and treating them inhumanely without having bringing any charges against them. The ignorance of US citizens was also pointed out as Terry Waite said that ironically, most Americans think that prisoners in Guantanamo Bay are already guilty and that is, according to Mr. Waite, due to the way communications and media are run in the USA.

All speakers concentrated on the need to pressurize the US Government to revise its global way of dealing with other countries, to abandon its double standard policy, and to educate its citizens to be aware and more tolerant of other nations and their cultures and religions.

The seminar was concluded with a common statement requesting governments in the Gulf and Yemen and the region to pay greater attention to human rights and not bow to external pressure in the scope of the war on terror in a way that would damage the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The event was attended by intellectuals, lawyers, human rights activists, politicians, and journalists.

Gunboats will make a difference

The ceremony was attended by Governor of Aden, Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi, U.S. Ambassador Edmund Hull, Admiral Duncan Smith of the U.S. Coastguard, General Ali Rassa, Chief of the Yemeni Coastguard, Brigadier General Mastin Robeson, Commander of the U.S. Joint Task Force/Horn of Africa and numerous other dignitaries and diplomatic representatives.

Governor of Aden indicated in his address on the occasion the noticeable development of Coast Guard Authority, Aden Branch, where it has accomplished major steps in a short span of time, from the point of foundation going through preparation and equipping the branch till today of celebrating the inauguration of the first batch of the gunboats, the fruit of developed cooperation between Yemen and United States. The Mayor emphasized the importance of Aden as a strategic location and as a vital port in international navigation routes. Aden is characterized by having long coasts, ports, islands and berths. Therefore, it requires a shrewd security administration to secure our coasts and international navigation routes to combat terrorist piracy and to greatly reduce any smuggling activities. The Mayor pointed out it was no coincidence the celebration of inaugurating these new boats with the approaching celebrations of the Republic of Yemen. The Mayor thanked the United States for its cooperation.

Furthermore, Brig. Rasa explained the importance of these boats in enhancing capabilities of the coast guard especially in the fields of training and rehabilitation and search and rescue. He also emphasized the importance of the obligation of the government in expanding the infrastructure of the Coast Guard Authority.

The gunboats are planned to be used to protect the Yemeni ports and coastline by the newly established Yemen Coastguard. The personnel of the new security division have been trained by the US Coastguard.

"The inauguration of the gunboats was a very significant step," said Abdul Karim Al-Ariani, former Yemeni Prime Minister and advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "The Yemeni government has put a lot of energy into securing the ports, and security at the ports has developed dramatically."

Increased security along the shores of Yemen has already shown some positive results. At the inauguration, a US marine commander said if Yemen continues to secure its waters and fight terror, US warships might return to Yemeni ports this year.

After business at the port of Aden hit rock bottom following the attack on Limburg, the Yemeni government has been able to persuade shipping lines to use the port, and the volume of ships has increased steadily.

"The number of ships coming to the port of Aden has climbed dramatically," said Omar Al-Amodey, Minister of Transport & Maritime Affairs. "It is still 20% lower than before Limburg, but the increase has been substantial."

By putting up a \$50 million guarantee, the Yemeni government was able to get the insurance companies to lower their premiums. And because of increased security, the government hopes to get the \$50 million back this year.

Last month, a British company hired by the Ministry of Transport came to evaluate the security of Yemeni ports. The company is scheduled to turn in their report this month, and the Ministry of Transport is expecting positive results.

The Yemeni government's efforts to fight terrorism on land should also help build confidence. Along with the arrests of top Al-Qaeda members and rounding up of numerous terror suspects since the government joined the war on terror in 2001, early this month security forces captured six suspects involved in the USS Cole bombing and five others implicated in the attack on Limburg. The suspects are scheduled to go to trial in a Yemeni court in April.

At the inauguration of the gunboats the US Ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hull, said that not only will the new gunboats increase security in Yemeni waters, but the United States is willing to offer financial support to the Yemeni government to buy a further 8 patrol boats at a cost of \$8 million, although this was not mentioned in the US Embassy press release.

The US is Yemen's main partner in the coastguard project, and the cost of this project is expected to mount to \$60 million. However, last month, Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Bajammal said that Yemen is in need of \$700 million to patrol its shores properly. Yemen has complained several times that it is not getting enough support from the US in this regard. However, the US officials said that they are committed to support Yemen but they stress tight security is the interest of Yemen itself and protecting its borders is the responsibility of Yemen government.

But some believe that increasing security along the Yemeni shorelines will still be a challenge. Not only does Yemen have several important ports, but the country's coastline, along the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, is 1,550 miles long. However, the strategic location of the Bab al-Mandab Straits and Aden port, ensure continuing international interest in security measures.

"The new coastguard and the gunboats are very important, but security along the Yemeni coastline will have to continue to be increased," said a foreign diplomat in Yemen.

But the Yemeni government's efforts to secure its ports and receipt of the first batch of gunboats will make a difference.

"If we had had a proper coastguard, the attack on USS Cole probably wouldn't have happened," said Al-Ariani. "The efforts that have been made for in the fields of equipment, training and monitoring should really make the ports in Yemen secure."

President Saleh concludes visit to Moscow

Russian military sources said new contracts will be signed in the near future, and Russia will supply Yemen with anti-aircraft missile systems, helicopters and more fighter planes.

To ensure that arms deals are carried out more smoothly, the two leaders agreed to eliminate the use of weapons traders as intermediaries. In the future, arms transactions will only be handled by the two Defense Ministries.

"Arms deals between Yemen and Russia have always been present", Abdul Karim Al-Ariani, former Yemeni Prime Minister and advisor to the President, told Yemen Times. "Yemen's armed forces are essentially equipped and trained with Russian arms and military strategies. Around 90% of Yemen's military equipment has come from Russia."

Russian military equipment being sold to Yemen is estimated to have reached \$8 billion in the last few years.

It is also reported that the two leaders had a similar vision on how the unstable conditions in the Middle East should be dealt with, including the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the situation worsening during the US occupation in Iraq. As for Yemen's recently developed peace initiative for

the Middle East, Saleh said that Yemeni and Russian viewpoints are "identical."

Yemen's own "roadmap" to peace is planned to be presented to the Arab League if the Arab leaders agree to reschedule the Arab summit that was cancelled by the Tunisian Government last month. The initiative calls for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by using an international force to protect Palestinians, the creation of a Palestinian state in the territories the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war and an the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights in Syria. For war-torn Iraq, Yemen's initiative proposes international forces under UN command building security, an Iraqi committee creating a constitution and elections being held within a year.

Russia is an active participant in the international quartet, including the European Union, the United States and the United Nations, which is attempting to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The region is complex, and we watch with great attention the situation in the region and in your country," the Russian President said to Saleh.

The two leaders also discussed an increase in trade between Yemen and Russia. Putin said that although the

two countries have not yet reached their potential, Russian businesses are anxious to invest in Yemen.

Saleh is the first Arab leader to meet Putin after he was re-elected in mid-March.

"President Saleh is the first Arab head of state to visit President Putin after he was recently re-elected", said Al-Ariani. "This relationship has always produced positive results. It's not difficult to negotiate or agree with the Russians. It's in this framework for continued bilateral relations, congratulating President Putin on his re-election and, of course, discussing all topics related to the region."

During his trip to Russia, Saleh also had talks with other government officials, including Bures Zezaneov, Chairman of the Parliament, and Michael Dimtreeve, Deputy Minister of Defense.

This was the second time in the last 18 months that Saleh visited Russia, as his last visit was in November 2002. He has plans to travel to France on April 14 and have talks with French President Jacques Chirac. It is expected that the two leaders will discuss conditions in the Middle East and cooperation between the two countries.

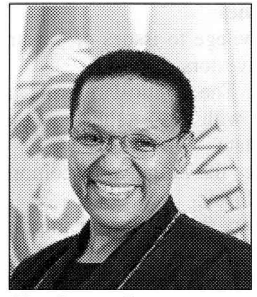
UN WFP top official in Yemen

Ms. Sheila Sisulu, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has arrived in Yemen last week in a formal visit to the country. Ms. Sisulu has been received by the United Nations World Food Programme Representative in Yemen, Ms. Naila Sabra, who held a special reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel last Saturday in honor of the WFP top official.

Ms. Sisulu is expected to carry out field visits to certain remote areas in the country in a mission to look into the special needs of the rural community and explore potential aid programs and developmental projects.

Through this visit, the WFP aims at finding ways in reducing the gender gap in education by providing incentives for girls to attend school, reaching malnourished women and children through health centres, improving immediate food security for the poorest groups and, with their participation, invest in activities for sustainable food security, and ensuring the food security of refugees living in camps.

According to the WFP, Yemen is designated as a least-developed and a low-income food-deficit country. Around 20 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Access to education has been extremely limited, with an illiteracy rate of 88 percent for



Ms. SHEILA SISULU

women and 36 percent for men.

The United Nations through WFP and other organizations has been quite active in Yemen, particularly in the field of nutrition and combating health problems and diseases.

In this regard, a seminar entitled "Poverty and AIDS, Their Impact on Society" was concluded last Wednesday, 31 March 2004 in Taiz marking the global celebration of the International Women's Day under the theme of "Women and HIV/AIDS". The event was organized by a leading Taiz-based women organization—namely the Women Forum for Research and Training—in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Sana'a and Yemen Times.

Mr. Khaled Ahmed Ishaq, the Officer-in-Charge of UNIC in Sana'a provided a global and regional overview of the status of HIV/AIDS. He explained the set of factors that are

contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS, rendering women and girls more vulnerable to be infected by the disease than men. Such fac-

tors include the biological factors of vulnerability, the social, cultural, and legal factors that perpetuate an environment in which women become the primary victim of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Ishaq also presented an introductory note on all nine UN agencies that form the base of supporters and sponsors for the UN Joint Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and are serving at the forefront of the global fight against the disease. He concluded by quoting Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General in his message on the International Women's Day saying, "What is needed is positive, concrete change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls, and transform relations between women and men at all levels of society. Change that will strengthen legal protection of women's property and inheritance rights, and ensure they have full access to prevention options".

وظائف شاغرة في مجال الطباعة

توجد وظائف شاغرة في مجال طباعة أوفست بآلات حديثة في مدينة صنعاء.

على أن تتوفر في المتقدمين الشروط التالية:

١- خبرة لا تقل عن خمس سنوات في مجال الطباعة.

٢- معرفة ولو متوسطة بكيفية تشغيل آلات التعطيف والقص وتنوير معالجة البليتات.

٣- الإستعداد للعمل في أوقات متأخرة من الليل إذا إقتضت ظروف العمل للسهر ومتابعة العمل.

٤- معرفة كاملة بمواد الطباعة (أحبار وأحماض وزيوت...) وكيفية تبديلها.

٥- خبرة في صيانة وتنظيف آلات الطباعة.

هناك إمكانية تدريب المقبولين للوظيفة.

على من يستوفي الشروط أعلاه ويجد في نفسه الكفاءة أن يتقدم للوظيفة

عبر الاتصال على الهاتف التالي ٧١٩٤٨١٤٠ لتحديد موعد للمقابلة

Car thieves and police shoot it out in Rawdha

According to eyewitnesses at the scene, the thieves, charged against one of the blocking Police Emergency (Opel) Sedans and opened fire into the vehicle personnel killing all four Police personnel inside it.

Return fire by other policemen in the area also led to the death of at least two of the escaping alleged Bedouin thieves and caused the assaulting vehicle to hit an electricity pole, at the southern end of the square, bringing it and its attached

wires to the ground. Another pole near the mosque was also reported to have been damaged.

The casualties reported ranged from six to eight fatalities and about four wounded from the police, thieves and bystanders, who happened to be in the area.

The barrage of gunfire that ensued in the exchange caused a panic amongst the many people who were buying their qat from the several parked vehicles in

the makeshift market, or waiting for the Noon Prayers by the mosque, and luckily most of them escaped harm, in the nearby alleyways and behind the walled entrance ways and yards of nearby houses and buildings.

A woman was reported to have been wounded in one of her thighs. At time of posting, it could not be determined if the remaining alleged thieves were later apprehended and the exact casualty count was not officially confirmed.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Wahda weekly, 7
Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Justice privilege to issues of expatriates and investors
- Al-Asbahi: The political reform was associated with the establishment of the unity state
- JMP studies the initiative of comprehensive reform
- Oil engineers stage strike for improving their conditions
- To be lectured by religious scholars from Yemen and al-Azhar
- Training course for mosque preachers on mosque message
- Education minister: We seek to depend on special cadre of education inspectors
- Rock cemetery dating to the second Hegira century discovered in Jibla district, Ibb governorate
- Conference on female circumcision concluded
- 79 container ships arrive at the Free Zone in Aden
- Preparation for holding Sana'a conference; civilization and history next August
- preparations continue for holding lawyers 4th conference
- Training course for leaders of charitable societies

Columnist Abdulraheeb Muqbil says in an article what has been happening in Iraq and the extensive world controversy on the international crime perpetrated by America in Iraq are still arousing astonishment and sorrow particularly following confession by the war pillars that all evidence they had marketed was weak.

Here one should ponder why now is the confession that Iraq was not posing a threat to its neighbours and the world peace and did not possess weapons of mass destruction? Why the Iraqis refuse the occupation that led it to loss and exchanged their sovereignty by an imported sovereignty that rendered them into beggars after they were entertaining riches? We have to think deeply about those strange paradoxes that do not go beyond robbing the Arabs of their right to live free and independent. The whole world did not approve the United States invasion of Iraq and implicitly held it responsible for what happened later after it had agreed via an international decision considering America as an occupying force legally and did not give America the right to behave in Iraq as it wants. The United States has opened Iraq before every Tom, Dick and Harry under an implicit Arab approval and made of Iraq a chess board for internal conflict and a vacuum area not to be filled but by a superpower playing the role of the protector and the thief.

Naturally we do not defend the violation of law and human rights by any regime but if Saddam Hussein's regime was a bloody one we can query what is happening in Iraq nowadays. Iraq has been rendered into sand islands of sects and ethnics and the situation has become intolerable with that law that opened the way before dividing Iraq as if it is a land having no owner and the Iraqi people are not qualified to run their own affairs. Aren't the Iraqi people in need of a serious Arab consideration by an Arab summit to make up for what they have done to Iraq and to avoid perpetrating another crime against another Arab people?

The RAY weekly, organ
of the Sons of Yemen
League party, 6 Apr
2004.

Main headlines

- Tourism in search for who to lead it on the right course
 - Arab pressures on Arafat
 - Two political symposiums in Ibb and Lahj
 - 6 presidential candidates compete for winning 18 million Algerian votes
- Columnist Mahdi Uthman al-Masfiri discusses in his column the problem of vengeance saying that the solving the issues of revenge is dependent on knowing the issues and causes that pushed for the occurrence of vengeance and the authorities did not pay attention to them in their early stages. The vengeance fighting is no longer between one tribe and another but extended to be in the same family and developed to include al Yemen. The work for ending the continuous revenges equals the work for reducing the issues of vengeance.

The writer maintains that the many causes of vengeance issues cannot be included all in this regard but he offers some axioms that must be taken into

Main headlines

- Laying foundation stone for the first computer assembly factory and central control project in Yemen
- Final Yemeni-Saudi border markings to be erected soon
- Iraq, a scene of severest confrontations since the arrest of Saddam Hussein
- London invites al-Hattar to visit it again.
- British interest in Yemen's experiment in fighting terror
- Educational plans return females to houses of illiteracy
- Security authorities looking for 9 Europeans infiltrated into Yemen, possibly to implement assassination operations
- Yemeni citizen discloses the story of his recruitment in American intelligence
- Bush's crime price in Iraq paid by American soldiers
- Bajammal accuses tribes of protecting terrorists
- Corruption whales in Yemeni universities
- Torture in Taiz and Mareb, embezzlements in millions in Hudeidah
- Saudi authorities prevent the Nasserite opposition personality Saeed al-Taib from travel
- While Hull and al-Aleemi meet to discuss monitoring border crossings,
- A UN security delegation arrives in Sana'a
- Tribal fighting in al-Jawf
- Al-Sadr calls for fighting the enemy,
- 20 troops from coalition occupying forces killed, 40 others wounded
- Fighting on borders, American ambassador collects weapons in Sa'da
- Political reform of the Arab regimes, reforms the Arab League
- Information ministry suspends Al-Tagamou newspaper
- Egyptian interior minister and Yemeni embassy in Cairo before court against backdrop of Ubeid disappearance
- Iraq in a people's armed uprising against American occupation

consideration for solving those issues.

- There should be an election of the judicial power it is very significant in attaining the Yemeni civil society and installation of justice.
- The election of governors freely and directly and the candidate for this post should be known by his honesty, reasonability, courage and understanding of the issues of vengeance and all problems of his governorate.
- Officials of security and political security have to be aware of their responsibilities and issues of their society and efficient specialists and characterized by constructive personality.
- The appeal judge has to be capable in his speciality and work as well as efficient and sincere and just.
- The governor, head of the general security, head of the political security, the appeals judge, responsible personalities, sheikhs, parliamentarians, the local council are he one who should be responsible for solving the issues of vengeance and revenge itself.

Al-Wahdawi weekly,
organ of the Nasserite
Unionist organisation, 6
Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Nasserite Organisation condemns the American massacres against the Iraqi people
 - Financial corruption at Hudeida education office
 - Pressures to prevent referring file of corrupts to court
 - Bajammal: The government dealt a blow to 90% of al-Qaeda
 - 100 Israeli companies in Iraq
 - More than 84 AIDS cases in Hudeidah
 - Information that Saudi Arabia behind suspension of printing Al-Tagamou weekly newspaper
 - Security authorities continue arresting those condemning the American policy
 - Killing and burning a citizen's body in Dhalie by a criminal gang
 - Journalists resentment over arresting journalist Thabit at the court hall
- The political editor of the newspaper says in his article at h time the world is witnessing a large-scale change opposing the aggression and war on Iraq and the war in general, according to the American policies and justifications, the Japanese government insists on refusing these facts going on in the world and on its participation in sending Japanese troops and military equipment supporting the American aggression and occupation. The Japanese government.

The Japanese government tries to show that its role in Iraq as humanitarian participating in the reconstruction of Iraq but this allegation is untrue and not based on a legal basis and it is refuted by the Japanese government early stand in support of the war against Iraq. The Japanese government knows that any humanitarian assistance does not come via the American aggression and occu-

pation but through the United Nations that till now has no role Iraq and must have a role to stop the aggression, the American occupation ended and full sovereignty returns to he people of Iraq. This is what the Japanese government has to understand. Japan is connected with the Arabs by excellent relations and its interests with them are many and its products fill the Arabs markets. It is very important that the Japanese government should preserve the future of these relations and interests as much as the Arabs are in interested in respecting, developing and expanding them. The Japanese people are genuine friends of the Arabs and we are not pleased to see their government dragged behind the American aggressive policies and to play a role supporting the aggression in Iraq at the expense of Iraq's independence, resistance, sovereignty and the unity of existence and destiny that connects it to the Arab nation. Our refusal of this Japanese stand towards Iraq is emerging not from any hostile stands towards Japan.

Al-Shoura weekly,
organ of Yemen's
Union of people's
Forces, 7 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Seven killed, 4 wounded in a tribal clash between Dam and Weal
- Military commanders stop work in emergency department of Olfi hospital in Hudeidah
- Hand grenade went off in Mithaq Street in the capital, wounding four children
- Horrendous traffic accident kills 8 and injures others in Yarim
- Verdict on imprisonment of student activist
- Mass organisations in Taiz refuse any new price dose
- An advocates committee for defending Yemenis and Arab detainees in Guantanamo free of charge
- Symposium on civil education organised by the Woman Forum
- Winner of Hael Saed prizes announced

Columnist Jammal A'mer says when America threatens; leaders of the Arab regimes begin to revise their history that is full of domination and begin to take out some papers of their suppressive records. Some of them would waver with the paper of democracy and others with that pertaining to human rights to record on them promises of elections and so on that in fact would only bring about more domination.

The Arab environment is almost similar in all results and identical in conclusions though the may differ in data and realities. Democracy and elections bring forth the same on-man despotic ruler and the republics with their ruler are in fact kings and emirs in action and also in inheritance. The peoples are also treated in the same way whether in a republic or a kingdom. They are trodden with big shoes of the rulers to an extent one



would think that the Arab world is revolving inside a vicious circle. The key of this circle seems to be in the hands of America and not in our hand. Our rulers make slogans of democracy and human rights more brilliant to blur our eyes when they and to blind our eyes and to see them more shining though they know they drive us like herds of cattle to their stockade when they grant us some of our rights under the threat of their whips, making run towards them at a time the souls are killed, dignities humiliated and arrests increase.

In our country we do not know to whom we shall complain is it to our government or to the American embassy represented by its ambassador Edmond Hull to attract the attention to the hundreds of detainees, some of them children, just because they said something rating the least of what is said by an American citizen against his authorities. There they applaud to him and here is beaten and tried. One wonders if democracy in America has different meanings and applications, although this is quite apparent in Iraq under the American

occupation.

We just want to remind Hull that Yemen is still a sovereign country and its sovereignty is recognised and this reality should curb his authorities in favour of the Yemeni state and to consider those protesting inside the Grand Mosque are similar to the angry people in the American streets and parks. Finally we seek from Hull an explanation of his relation with the arrests carried out in the Grand Mosque every week because of opposing the policy of his country.

By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Embassies should have the last word about recipient of their scholarships

The question is always raised when it comes to scholarships conferred by embassies to Yemeni nationals, whether such embassies seek to satisfy our officials' whims or would like to create a friendly impression on the part of their respective countries towards the Yemeni people. Unfortunately what is tangible from daily experience is that the embassies opt for the satisfaction of our concerned official institutions, whether they are corrupt or straightforward. Many scholarships are offered from friendly countries to the Republic of Yemen as assistance in vocational training, various courses and academic postgraduate studies. Unfortunately, due to administrative corruption such scholarships are often destined for the wrong recipients. Ministers, Chairmen etc. often give such scholarships to those who get through due to bribery to lower administrative officers, but first and foremost they give them to those who have what we call in Arabic *Wasatah* or *Wasitah* (i.e. a mediator being a high responsible intervening mostly so as to get something unlawfully for someone who does not deserve it).

Mediators sometimes do receive money, return favors or merely show off their capabilities in front of their acquaintances in that they can give scholarships to whom they want whenever they want. Of course, *Wasatah* or *Wasitah* is used in many other domains and is not limited to this instance. Naturally, this phenomenon is existent in other Arab countries, but is not as barefaced as in Yemen.

In my opinion friendly embassies and agencies wishing to grant scholarships to Yemenis should first advertise the scholarships, receive the files and then decide for themselves, unless the embassies are obliged by their governments to offer such scholarships intentionally to individuals in control, not to normal Yemenis. As a result, instead of winning a good reputation

amongst the Yemeni people, embassies disappointingly do satisfy the whims of some of our corrupt officials. I have many examples of such wrong appointments of candidates. The excuses given by an official about any given candidate should be always meticulously verified, that is if the concerned embassy does not want to be duped (unfortunately embassy staffers act in many such instances as collaborators).

A friend of mine submitted his file to the concerned Yemeni Authority (Planning Authority). He had all the documents ready and handed them to the concerned embassy. His less qualified competitor equipped with his position, which he occupied via *Wasatah*, or *Wasitah*, placed him in control of some yet unspent state funds coveted by himself and his boss prior to the end of that fiscal year. So his boss phoned directly to the embassy and told the competent officer, "Look! This is our man. He is the one fit for the scholarship. We shall not accept any person other than him". Back at work, the minister was angry because my friend dared to deliver his candidature to the embassy, so he ordered the concerned administrators to suspend the payment of his salary and to interrogate him as if he has committed a dereliction, while in fact the wrongdoers were the minister and his said minion. The minister even threatened to imprison my friend at the tarnished jail of the Yemeni Secret Police on account of the complaint filed to the ambassador in which my friend criticized the embassy for being gullible and inefficient, in that it could not perceive what was going on. (*The stupendously intelligent ambassador sent a copy of the complaint to the said Minister*). When the ambassador of the concerned country was asked by the aggrieved why he chose an unqualified person, he replied we are obliged to deal with your official institutions. After a year or so, the corrupt minister moved to another office. The new minister replacing him dele-

gated an official Yemeni administrative officer to the donor country in order to check why no more scholarships are forthcoming. There they told him your last best Yemeni candidate was unable to read or write English and so we decided to better suspend our scholarships as long as your country's candidates are of such a luminous level. The problem is that some countries do not care whether the scholarship candidates are suitable or not. Thus, unqualified candidates waste Yemen's opportunities to acquire badly needed practical knowledge and expertise. Certain higher-level administrators do distribute scholarships according to their own interests and caprices. In fact they monopolize the sumptuous ones and grant them exclusively either to their close relatives, friends, tribal kin or for private purposes.

I asked one of the individuals who is still aspiring to obtain a postgraduate scholarship to tell me his experience. He told me that when he went to a concerned Yemeni body the employee there received him gleefully and told him: "You know, as a matter of fact, one cannot get a scholarship without payment of *Ibn Hadi's dues* (a Yemeni euphemistic word for "bribe", literally meaning "Son of Mr. Hadi's dues"). So the unfortunate applicant offered him US\$200. Immediately came the response of the employee saying that the amount was not enough for him and that if he really wanted to get a scholarship he would have to give Mr. so- and-so US\$500 etc.

Anyhow, after having paid different additional amounts it became clear to him that the individuals who overpaid or simply employed the famous Yemeni *Wasatah*, or *Wasitah* were the ultimate winners.

I should be very happy one day to notice that lawful Yemeni candidates obtain scholarships not via the payment of *Ibn Hadi's dues* or the employment of the famous Yemeni *Wasatah* or *Wasitah*.

Chelsea in hunt for premiership title

By Nick Mulvenney

LONDON (Reuters) - With confidence sky-high after their thrilling Champions League victory over Arsenal on Tuesday, Chelsea resume their quest to derail the domestic title charge of Arsene Wenger's team this weekend.

Chelsea, who trail their London rivals by four points having played a game more, host Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and they have not yet given up hope of a first English title since their sole 1955 triumph.

The 2-1 victory over Arsenal on Tuesday not only secured Chelsea a place in the last four of the Champions League for the first time, it also extended their unbeaten run to nine matches in all competitions.

While that may not compare with Arsenal's record 30-match unbeaten streak in the league — which they can extend to 31 against Liverpool on Friday — it does indicate that they are hitting form just at the right time to take advantage if Wenger's side slip up again.

"The confidence has been growing in us all season and we are starting to look really good," midfielder Joe Cole said after the win at Highbury.

"We are in great form and want to keep that going. Everyone is as high as a kite. We are still in (the title race) and we are



Chelsea's Icelandic forward Eidur Gudjohnson (L) shares a joke with teammate Frank Lampard during a training session near London on April 9, 2004. NO ONLINE/INTERNET USAGE WITHOUT FAFL LICENCE.

fighting on the European front."

If form is on Chelsea's side on Saturday then so is history. Boro's last victory at Stamford Bridge came 29 years ago.

Tempting offer

If media speculation can be believed, Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren would have been Chelsea coach under Sven-Goran Eriksson next season, had the England manager succumbed to the

temptations offered by the big-spending club.

The Swede, though, was cornered into signing a contract extension with England and it now looks like Claudio Ranieri may still be at the helm in west London beyond the end of the season.

The Italian may again tinker with his line-up for Saturday's match at Stamford Bridge after leaving it unchanged for only the second time this season on Tuesday.

Chelsea also play at Aston Villa on Monday and Ranieri may decide to rest some of the players that have served him so well, most notably England midfielder Frank Lampard whose next match will be his 50th of the season for the club.

Romanian Adrian Mutu and Argentine Hernan Crespo, who scored in Chelsea's 2-1 victory at the Riverside earlier this season, could also get a start up front in place of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink or Eidur Gudjohnsen.

Middlesbrough, 11th in the league, have had a decent enough run themselves of late but will be without winger Boudewijn Zenden, who is unavailable under the terms of his loan from Chelsea.

They will also be without England central defender Gareth Southgate, who was ruled out for the rest of the season after damaging knee ligaments in training earlier this week.

Wenger hails Arsenal's "special" spirit

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has paid tribute to his team's spirit after they came from behind to beat Liverpool 4-2 to go seven points clear in the premier league with seven matches remaining.

Arsenal's last two games had been morale-sapping defeats, against Manchester United in an FA Cup semi-final last Saturday and Chelsea in the last eight of the Champions League on Tuesday.

"After two big disappointments it was

a great test of mental strength, of character and of togetherness," Wenger told Sky Sports News on Friday. "And the game was too, because we had everything against us again at 2-1 down at halftime."

"But this team is special and they have shown it again today. When they have their backs to the wall, they come out and respond by playing fantastic football with a great spirit."

Wenger stressed the collective efforts of his team rather than singling out

Thierry Henry, who scored a hat-trick to extend Arsenal's unbeaten run from the start of the season to 31 games.

"Of course there was individual quality but a special team spirit won us three points today."

"We still have the unbeaten run, and we have the championship to win and for me that's the biggest title," Wenger said.

"The one thing I can guarantee with this team is that they give everything they can to win. I have great respect for this team."

"Thierry is exceptional, but I think the team have been exceptional for him."

It was left to Wenger's Liverpool counterpart and compatriot Gerard Houllier to hand out the plaudits to Henry, particularly for his spectacular second goal which gave Arsenal a 3-2 lead.

"We were better in the first half but they were stunning in the second," he said. "The game was probably decided by a moment of individual brilliance from Thierry."

مرحباً إبراهيم

التهاني الحارة والأمنيات القلبية

مشفوعة بأكائيل الورود نرفها للزميل الأستاذ

رمزي علوي السقاف

بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوده البكر إبراهيم

جعله الله قرّة عين والديه وأنبته نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيه

المهنتون:

طاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز

عنهم

المهندس / وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف

الف مبروك

في يوم بهيج أضأنت فيه شموع الفرح وتغاريد العصفير

وسط لفييف من الأهل، أقبل للأخ العزيز

وليد عبد الرب عوهج

المولود الجديد عبد الرب وليد عبد الرب عوهج

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I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (64) Wedding wishes (V)

Marriage is a solemn pledge to walk hand in hand, in the true spirit of companionship. It is a commitment to face the challenges of life and not be deterred from the avowed goal under any circumstance. Mutual trust, respect, understanding, tolerance and a spirit of adjustment constitute the cornerstone of this lasting relationship. As we conclude our presentation of wedding wishes, we wish all young couples best of happiness and luck to get the best out of the union of their hearts.

- On this very special day that means so much to both of you it's a pleasure to send best wishes and congratulate you, too. With warm wishes on your wedding day.
- As you stand before the altar, may you truly be aware that God's own love surrounds you and you both are in His Care – and may the Giver of all Gifts Who gave you to each other, bless with happiness that love and life you share together. May God bless you on your marriage.
- Congratulations for the bride and the groom. Wishing you the joy of recalling special memories, the beauty of continued togetherness and happiness of being in love.
- Your wedding day is here. What a wonderful day, a time for enjoyment in all kinds of way... So may all life's pleasures just knock at your door to bring you more gladness than you've known before.
- A wedding prayer: We ask you Lord, to bless this couple on their Wedding Day and make them truly one in your perfect will and way.
- The secret of a marriage that's filled with happiness is putting love in all you do and asking God to bless each moment spent together as partners and as friends, "for a marriage touched by Heaven is a union without end." May the promise of the glad beginning be sweetly fulfilled through all your years as husband and wife. Best wishes always.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- He would not have made that mistake if he would have consulted the dictionary.
- The choice is between glorious death or shameful life.
- Dr. Mohammed is so disgusted to withdraw the report.
- He needs not worry; everything will be all right.
- The rich countries do not care about the poor.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- It is unfortunate that he is bent **on (upon)** doing evil.
- Many a battle **was** fought on the soil of India
- I am **very** glad to see you.
- The master as well as his servants **was** asleep.
- I **shall** have reached the station before the train arrives.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A statement showing a remarkable degree of prediction.
- The study of ancient writings and inscriptions.
- That which relates to the common people.
- One who is indifferent to art and literature.
- Science of artificial rearing of fish.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The art of spelling words correctly: **orthography** (n)
- Science of languages: **philology** (n)

- Science of diseases: **pathology** (n)
- Art of postage stamp collecting: **philately** (n)
- Study of vocal, natural sounds: **phonology** (n)

(B) Foreign words and expressions

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following:

- hyphaeresis
- hypotaxis
- ibidem
- icon
- idem

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- holophrasis** (Gk. 'entire phrase'): The use of one word to express a number of ideas.
- hubris** (Gk. 'wanton insolence'): Insolent pride or feeling of security.
- hybrid** (L. 'half-breed, mongrel'): A word formed from a stem or word in one language plus a suffix or prefix from another. Ex. Television (Gk. + Lat.)
- hymn** (Gk. 'song in praise of a god or hero'): Song of praise to God.
- hyperbole** (Gk 'over casting'): A figure of speech which contains an exaggeration for emphasis.

(C) Words Commonly Confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- tell, tale, tail
- umpire, empire
- veil, vale
- addicted, devoted
- artist, artiste, artisan

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- roll** (vt) (cause to move along on wheel): The bicycle rolled down the mountain.
role (n) (actor's part in a play): Sir Richard Attenborough admirably played the role of Gandhi in the Oscar winning film 'Gandhi'.
rule (n) (law or custom which guides or control behavior or action): There is strict rule of law in Yemen.
- sail** (n) (sheet of canvas spread to catch the wind and move a boat or ship forward): The ship set sail in the sea.
sale (n) (exchange of goods for money): The sale of his old car made him sad.
sell (vt) (give in exchange for money): The new edition of the book sold like hot cakes.
- suit** (n) (case in a law-court): He filed an eviction suit against his tenant.
suite (n) (set of rooms in a hotel): Please reserve a suite for me in a good hotel.
- steal** (vt) (take somebody else's property secretly and unlawfully): One who steals my money steals a trash
One who steal s my name steals everything.
steel (n) (hard alloy of iron and other elements): The government proposes to set up a steel plant with German collaboration.
still (adj) (without movement or sound): Wordsworth heard still, sad music of humanity in Nature.
- tenor** (n) (general meaning): The audience could get the tenor of what the speaker said.
tenure (n) (period of time): The tenure of office of the President is four years.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Bring out the meanings of the following in illustrative sentences

- a square deal
- to save one's skin
- small fry
- scapegoat
- a stepping stone

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- utopian scheme** (impracticable, unattainable): The hope of the government to eradicate

- corruption appears to be a utopian scheme.
- to throw mud at** (to speak badly of): You should refrain from throwing mud at others.
- to take French leave** (to take leave without due permission or information): He habitually takes French leave.
- through thick and thin** (under all circumstances): I have stood by my friend through thick and thin.
- spick and span** (neat and clean): How can you expect a bachelor's room to be spick and span?

IV. Grammar and Composition

Use each of the phrasal verbs below in its correct form to complete these sentences

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| break up | knock out | get away |
| let down | check out | take off |
| show off | take over | break down |

- Our firm has been — by a larger company.
- Why does he always — and try to impress people?
- I'm counting on you to organize the event, so please don't — me —
- The plane — on time, much to our surprise!
- The car — when we were on our way up north.
- I hear they don't see each other any more. Why did they —
- We must — of the hotel by 10:30 a.m.
- I'd like to — as early as I can to miss the traffic.
- The champion was — in the second round by a much younger competitor.
- How did the thieves manage to — after they had robbed the bank?

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 'I think it's going to rain,' said Ramzy
- 'Yes,' said Hayaf. 'Let's take our umbrellas.'
- 'I shan't take one,' said Basham. 'I don't think it will rain.'
- 'You will get wet if it rains,' said Ramzy.
- 'No, I won't,' said Basham. 'I shall borrow yours!'

(B) Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

61: FLATTERY BRINGS FRIENDS, TRUTH ENEMIES

Last week's topic

62: FAME IS THE LAST INFIRMITY OF A NOBLE MIND

Tacitus has rightly remarked: 'Love of fame is the last weakness which even the wise resign.' Fame is, indeed, one of the greatest weaknesses of most men. Little do they realize that the bubble of reputation is transient and as Pushkin asserted, 'a colored patch on a ragged garment'. Yet they undertake strenuous efforts to achieve it, by fair means or foul. They tend to forget what Thomas Carlyle has observed: 'Fame, we may understand, is no sure test of merit, but only a probability of such: it is an accident, not a property of a man.'

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"If any one does evil
Or wrongs his own soul
But afterwards seeks
Allah's forgiveness, he will find
Allah Oft-forgiving
Most merciful"
S4: A110

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Every big accomplishment is a series of little accomplishments."

—David Schwartz

Breaking Lines From Malaysia

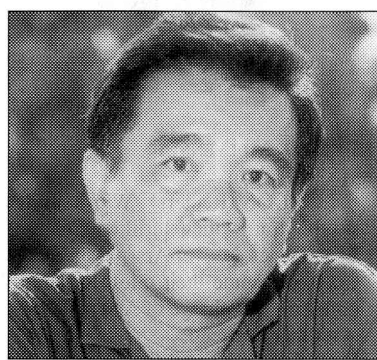
Wung Phui Nam: A Fascinating English Poet



INTRODUCED BY DR.
MURARI PRASAD
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

Wong Phui Nam is a first generation Malaysian poet in the English language. Most of his poems written in the 1960's appeared in Bunga Emas, an anthology of Malaysian writing published in the UK in 1964. He has since published several volumes of poetry, the latest, *Against the wilderness*, in 2001.

Phui Nam's poems have been anthologised in *Seven Poets*, *The Second Tongue*, *the Flowering Tree*, *Young Commonwealth Poets '65*, *Traveller's Literary Companion: South East Asia*, *Westerly Looks to Asia* and *Petals of*



Wung Phui Nam

Hibiscus: A Representative Anthology of Malaysian Literature in English.

His works have also appeared in literary journals, such as *Tumasek*, *Westerly*, *Manoa* and *World Literature Written in English*.

A Poet Beyond the Far South For Mohammad Abdul Quayum

'I am now proceeding to my place of exile in a barbarian country in my old age. There is no hope of my returning alive.'

i Huizhou

Day cools quickly here into driving cataracts of rain that roars in on a swelling tide of incoming night, dousing the last incandescence of the Huizhou hills. Over our fields, the makeshift barns and shelters for our feeble lives, it builds into high collapsing walls of crushing waves – the wrack of cane and banyan blows in as a fiend's disturbance of the air outside. The world has contracted in here into the fitful radiance of my single candle sputtering on the odour of wood rot and the smoke of incense snaking into damp bedclothes. I fail into its small flame's eye in closing oblivion – till morning probes me with its icy knives of fire into the rowdy wakefulness of crickets and field frogs and spirit touching faintly the shattered wind chimes.

ii The Crossing

The sea comes in sullen and black, brimming over in a rising flood from the far end of the sky as I make my fearful crossing into a dawn still-birthing in faint smears of its own spilt light. Through a lightless noon, I drift into a distressed quiescence, wary of pain's ambush in a flaring up of dream, of memory that now I carry as banked down fires beyond this wilderness of waters across the world's edge. Nothing that I was will catch new life: the high exhilaration that was spirit lost to itself, brooding on the commonweal all night, making bright day in the chancellery of subdued candles till the dawn levee. Now a spill of lights out of the darkness grows across the water into jostling lanterns – the bearers claim us for their night.

iii – Chaoyun

After bouts daylong of massive rains, the earth opens its clogged recesses to night in fumes of midges and winged termites which, subsiding, leave the garden a moonless quietude, an other-darkness haunted by the unearthly scent of jasmine. Your presence, fugitive in the vanished grass and trees, secretes itself into waking dream misting over into the visible as blessed spirit – or ghost. I see you now luminescent as fallen snow under our remembered northern moon, white from dead winter, but delicate still as jade, and your lips that should be brighter than berries in the sun. The closing earth reclaims you even as I speak, leaves in the after-vacancy a spectral fragrance, a scent.

iv – Happiness

In the heat of the morning's light that burns through crevices of my hovel crumbling into earth by a baking summer field, I wake from the past to present ruin. All of the living signs I set down to catch my wine-lit and other passing ecstasies have bled into the grain of rain-touched pages that I saved; seeped into fibres of fused reams to join enclosed Du Fu and others in an ink cloud of common oblivion. Mould fattens where thoughts were, that roused the vipers in contentious men at court. Yet, as from embers of the stove I fan to brew weak tea for neighbours calling, I catch from the debris, a flame of happiness rising as we talk into a late noon rain. By the evening bamboo weeping after-rain, it burns bright still.

v – Days into Dream

Where summer never ends, the sky that you would gaze at blinds with the veiled expiring sun bursting into a blaze of mauves, pinks and reds against impending total night. Vanished day-brightness of men hot in chase through fern and vine for boar, of snowfall of egrets across the marsh; and, out of broad noon, word of Chang and Zhou's fall from grace – friends from the *yamen* from my first days in this wilderness – these stay luminous awhile. For day fades... days into dream. I smell the spring in dream imperial gardens where high terraces look down on vague banks of flowers floating in muted splendour in light pools of mist. In the high brocaded hall where we crook our knees, I dream before that presence as great lords and ministers plead – their words break down into twitter of birds at dawn.

vi – So Long in this Wilderness...

So long in this wilderness, I am now wholly constituted of its earth, its habitable air, and its waters raised by an unabated, tropic sun. My spirit has taken on the colour of its days, content it is not consumed in the hungers of unsatisfied flesh, diminished in pain or its sickness. No ruffians here break in to rouse me from my hovel of small dreams, or cut me down into the mud where crows and egrets cry across a daylight marsh. At the time of year when hamlets rot in the air pregnant with impending early rains, or when dry winds crash like an incoming sea over ripening fields, I track with the folk through fields, where familiars snag our feet, bearing meat and wine for the far temple, its listening shrine.

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

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

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Ballet	Excitement	Maxims	Pride	Success
Baritone	Exit	Memorize	Radio	Suffer
Bass	Express	Mood	Recite	Suits
Box	Fame	Notes	Roles	Talent
Cast	Folly	Observe	Saga	Tenor
Character	Force	Oeuvre	Seats	Tents
Choreography	Fury	Opus	Senses	Theater
Chorus	Ghost	Orchestra	Series	Tragedy
Classical	Groan	Ornate	Serious	Training
Color	Hall	Parts	Snare	Tune
Dance	Illuminated	Passion	Solos	Verses
Decor	Interpret	Plays	Soprano	
Director	Latin	Plot	Sound	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Load

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Solution: 7 letters

R	T	X	D	R	E	S	S	E	S	P	I	S	M	H	G	M	P	Y	C
S	O	U	N	D	U	O	X	O	E	L	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C
B	L	T	U	C	P	P	F	E	L	B	M	E	S	N	E	L	O	P	M
S	P	S	C	R	R	S	A	U	O	O	A	O	M	S	E	R	L	A	S
N	T	E	A	E	T	A	M	A	R	D	S	R	E	I	U	T	S	R	N
O	S	N	S	I	R	I	E	I	Y	Y	P	N	I	S	S	T	A	G	E
S	O	S	X	E	N	I	Z	E	X	R	T	A	A	T	E	E	G	O	T
S	H	E	T	A	R	E	D	S	X	A	T	T	S	R	O	C	A	E	R
E	G	S	T	O	C	I	P	T	T	C	M	E	P	S	E	N	R	R	E
L	M	E	L	A	R	L	O	I	O	R	I	O	E	I	P	E	O	F	
I	D	O	S	P	A	I	O	U	B	O	E	T	C	P	R	O	A	H	F
B	C	T	T	Y	N	N	E	S	S	C	R	N	E	E	A	U	N	C	U
R	S	H	S	I	G	T	E	S	E	E	A	C	T	M	D	R	L	S	S
E	B	E	T	N	O	T	A	I	R	D	T	N	H	I	E	A	T	E	A
T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	L	V	F	I	R	E	E	S	N	R	S	I
T	L	T	L	C	O	S	A	S	E	D	O	N	A	S	S	I	T	R	R
O	C	E	E	L	L	T	T	L	O	N	C	L	I	G	E	T	O	E	A
A	P	R	C	O	E	A	E	O	A	E	T	C	L	S	E	N	R	V	D
O	E	U	V	R	E	T	M	S	O	B	A	S	S	Y	E	D	U	A	I
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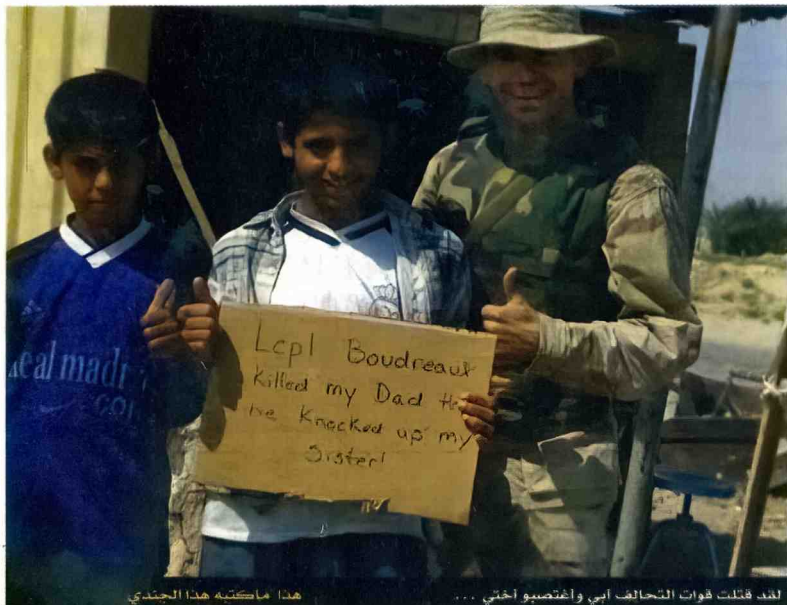
U.S. Muslims seek Pentagon probe on Iraq photo

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) today called for a Pentagon investigation of a photograph circulating on the Internet that apparently shows an American soldier mocking an Iraqi child.

The photo sent to CAIR seems to be of an American soldier standing next to two Iraqi children who are giving the thumbs-up sign. One child holds a hand-lettered sign in English that reads: "Lcpl Boudreaux killed my Dad, th(en) he knocked up my sister!" ("Knocked up" is American slang for making someone pregnant out of wedlock.)

"If the United States Army is seeking to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people, this is the wrong way to accomplish that goal," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad. "Defense Department officials must take action to let military personnel know that such offensive behavior harms America's image and will not be tolerated."

Awad said CAIR has also received an



anonymous letter from a soldier who recently returned from Iraq that claims a commanding officer engaged in inappropriate conduct with prepubescent Iraqi girls. The letter states that the officer, who was named by the writer, referred to the girls as "pre-rag heads" and coerced local Iraqi leaders to provide them in exchange for protection by American soldiers. (The officer's military unit was also named in the letter.)

The letter-writer indicated revulsion at the officer's alleged actions. He or she wrote: "The thought of all this makes me sick to my stomach. I am afraid to bring this to anyone in the Army, because I am doubtful that they would believe a soldier over the Battalion Commander."

"These reports point to a disturbing pattern of behavior that needs to be addressed by our military," said Awad.

CAIR, America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, has consistently condemned all terrorist acts, whether carried out by individuals, groups or states.

Bush Sr. opposed his son's plans on Iraq war: book

By THOMAS M. De FRANK
DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON - A new book on the Bush political dynasty claims former President George H.W. Bush opposed last year's invasion of Iraq.

In "The Bushes: Portrait of a Dynasty," Peter and Rochelle Schweizer cite as evidence a summer 2002 interview in which the older Bush's sister said her brother had expressed his "anguish" about the administration's preparations for war.

"But do they have an exit strategy?" the former President is quoted as worrying.

"Although he never went public with them," the authors assert, "the President's own father shared many of [the] concerns" of Brent Scowcroft, his national security adviser and a leading war opponent.

Top Bush aide Jean Becker denied the allegations yesterday.

"From the very first day, President Bush 41 unequivocally supported the President on the war in Iraq," she said.

"He had absolutely no reservations of any kind."

Peter Schweizer is a research fellow at Stanford University's conservative Hoover Institution and authored "Reagan's War."

The book prizes open the door slightly on one of the Bush clan's most closely held secrets: the former President's private qualms about aspects of his son's Iraq policy.

"He agrees with the policy goals but not with all of the execution," a close friend told the Daily News.

The older Bush has maintained strict public silence about possible differences, and only last week hammered "elites and intellectuals on the campaign trail" for criticizing the war.

Yet close friends and associates said the older Bush, while fiercely proud and protective of his son, nevertheless harbors concerns about the war and its aftermath.

These sources told The News that aside from his "exit-strategy" fears of a

prolonged, bloody conflict, the ex-President is troubled that the war fractured the international coalition he painstakingly assembled to expel deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991.

One close associate said the older Bush feels Vice President Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld may have pushed President Bush too hard for a preemptive strike.

In his 1998 diplomatic memoir, the former President offered this impassioned defense of his controversial decision not to attack Baghdad and topple Saddam in 1991:

"Trying to eliminate Saddam ... would have incurred incalculable human and political costs. ... Had we gone the invasion route, the United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land."

One well-placed Bush colleague said the older Bush recently acknowledged, "I'm having trouble with my boy," referring to Iraq.

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