

Al-Shura gets support

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting was held Tuesday August 31st at the headquarters of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) to support Al-Shura Weekly which faces trial that violates constitution.

The meeting, attended by prominent politicians and journalists, agreed to support Al-Shura as a symbol of defending journalistic liberties and freedom of expression.



Abdul-Karim Al-Khiwani

The supporters also agreed to attend the session passing the sentence on Al-Shura, on Wednesday, at the Western Court. The supporters are expected to march in protest at the probable prison sentence against Abdul-Karim Al-Khiwani, Al-Shura's editor-in-chief, and other unjust sentences against the newspaper which are damaging to the idea of freedom in Yemen.

Continued on page 13

مزيد من الضحايا في صعدة.. ومواطنون يزينون حتى الموت وسط حصار وتقييم إعلامي

AL SHOURA

أسبوعية يومية - جمعة 11 مايو 1991م
العدد: 625 - رقم الهاتف: 20046025 - فاكس: 20046025
الطبعة: 3
مقر التحرير: صنعاء - شارع الجمهورية
الطبعة: 5
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الطبعة: 8
مقر التحرير: صنعاء - شارع الجمهورية
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في محاكمة القاصي بغير المسبب القادم بوجه المرافعات القضائية

USS Cole case raises questions about Yemen security

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A lawyer representing suspects believed to have been involved in the bombing of the USS Cole read a document in court last week that may expose Yemen's former Interior Minister of assisting the mastermind of the attack on the US destroyer.

The defense lawyer, Abdul Aziz Al-Samawi, read what is believed to be an official letter by Hussein Mohammed Arab, former Interior Minister, which told security authorities to give "safe passage to Sheikh Mohammed Omar Al-Harazi with three bodyguards without being searched or intercepted. All security forces are instructed to cooperate with him and facilitate his missions."

The order was to be followed between April 2000 and the end of the year. The attack on USS Cole occurred on October 12, 2000.

Since the letter was presented in court, analysts have been wondering about its implications and if there are now questions about Yemen's security.

"This document confirms that there is a breach in the Yemeni security system," said Mohammed Al-Sabri, a freelance columnist who focuses on Yemeni-US relations. "This system has been infiltrated for a long time by

terrorist elements because of old relations."

Other analysts are questioning the authenticity of the document. Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University, has mapped out three different scenarios. One is that the coverage of the letter presented in court was a "media blast" which may have blown the incident out of proportion since documents giving clearance at that time may have been common with no bad intentions. Another scenario is that the letter is a false document. But the last scenario is that the letter is authentic, which implies that "someone in the system may have been involved and there may have been more that could have been associated with terrorist elements," said Al-Faqih.

He added that it is important to see what the government will do about the document. "The answer is for the government to form a committee to investigate it," said Al-Faqih.

When asked whether the letter was authentic, Al-Samawi told Yemen Times, "If this document was not authentic, we wouldn't have presented it to the court."

Al-Samawi would not comment on how the defense team was able to obtain the letter, but the court accepted it as evidence.

Continued on page 13



Security guards protecting the courthouse during the USS Cole trial in Sana'a. YT photo by Peter Willems

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Yemen asked to track down criminals

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni authorities received last week detection requests for 90 international criminals, a source told Yemen Times.

The source said the requests came from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Pakistan, China, and India, asking the government to arrest the suspects if found on the Yemeni land and extradite them to their countries.

The criminals were wanted in connection with terrorist activities, child abduc-

tion, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling before they absconded abroad, the source added.

Al-Wasat newspaper said security authorities, on receiving the requests, have distributed them to sea and land country entrances. And so far none of the criminals have been detected.

The requests are the result of the cooperation between Yemen and these countries in the fight against terrorism.

On the other hand, a Yemeni diplomat in the Yemeni consulate in Prague, in the Czech Republic, reported that Czech authorities had arrested two Kuwaitis with forged Yemeni passports at the city's airport arriving on a flight from an Arab country.

Continued on page 13

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Yemeni Women Union in Taiz

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

On 2nd Aug. 2004, a workshop was conducted at the meeting hall of Yemeni Women Union branch in Taiz, to aid social and health care of the female prisoners at Taiz central prison. Suad Al-Absi, the head of the Yemeni Women Union advised in her address to the workshop that this initiative was part of a multi-sided plan for the legal, health and social welfare of female prisoners and their children. The legal side was discussed by women from the legal protection program which considers this initiative

as one of their strategic targets. As such, the legal team of 12 advocates was formed to defend and plead for the female prisoners before the court with the support of Oxfam Organization. She also mentioned that the number of the women prisoner in Taiz Central Prison had reached 50 with offences distributed into several cases i.e. 25 cases prostitution, 4 cases of the 'open and being alone deed', 1 case of homosexuality, 2 cases of theft, 4 cases of absence from the marital home in addition to 6 cases of murder.

Twenty-two cases have already been released with several further cases under review in the courts. This leaves 10 cases which are still under investigation.

There are also 23 children prisoners who are without any parental care system.

Mrs. Al-Absi added that the health care issue was being dealt with by offering medical training in prisons. She also advised that there are recurrent prisoners who account for up to 13% of the cases. This phenomenon is currently under study so as to fully understand its causes. Also attending was Mr. Mohammad Al-Ansi, Deputy Assistant of Taiz Governorate, and Brigadier Ahmed Mohammad Al-Olufy, Director of Taiz Security, Mr. Mufeed Abdo Saif, the Chairman of Commerce & Industry in Taiz in addition to Doctor Mohammad Al-Durrah, the head of General law at

Taiz University and Doctor Hussain Ali Al-Adeemy. Dr Al-Adeemy has previously submitted two work papers to the workshop, forming a separate report summarizing its' themes. Whereas the Security Director highlighted the fact that the central prison capacity is for 600 prisoners, there are at present 1400 prisoners in it. He asked for greater attention to be paid to the prevention of crime, which he said was a matter for the community, prior to entering into the issue of prison reform.

He did however welcome combined efforts for communication between the prison management and the community leaders who play such an important role in crime prevention.

Global roundtable conference Sexual & reproductive health and rights for all

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES
LONDON

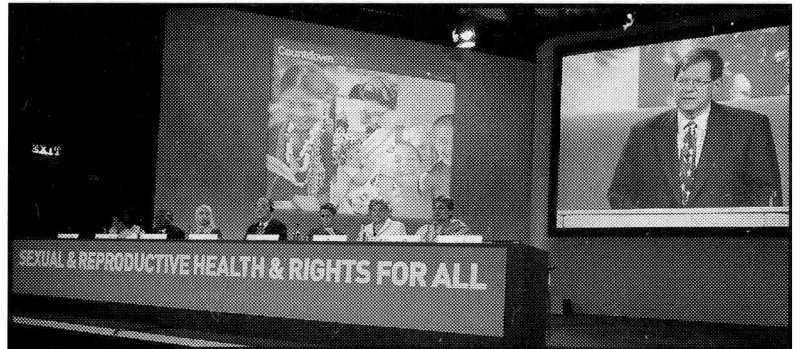
Seven hundred invited leaders, activists, parliamentary and health experts, including 100 young people, from 109 countries gathered on Tuesday 31st August at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to mark the 10th anniversary of the program of Action.

The program of Action, developed at the 1994 International conference on Population and Development (ICPD) - also called the Cairo Consensus - was the product of more than three decades of worldwide debate on how best to promote reproductive health, combat

poverty and advance human well-being.

During the gathering, which concludes on 3rd September, speakers and discussion panels will evaluate the work of the past decade and plan future action towards the global goals of women's rights, poverty alleviation, and universal provision of information and services on sexual and reproductive health.

This Global Roundtable seeks to set clear priorities, recruit new allies, and focus on the critical role of young people in order to bring change to people's lives. Yemen was among the countries invited, and is represented by the Yemeni Family Care Association, that is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the organizer.



Creation of 19 institutes

BY NAZEEH ABDULLAH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN

Dr. Ali Mansour bin Saffa', the Minister of Technical, Education & Vocational Training has emphasized that the Ministry has received a loan of 50 millions US dollars from the Saudi Development Fund to establish 19 technical institutes in different gover-

norates of the Republic. This is in addition to 16 institutes financed by the government. This comes along side a further loan from the European Union for the establishment of a specialist institute for tourism in Sana'a. As well these the European Union continue its supporting for women who study in the gas and petroleum sector.

In a message to the Yemen Times, Dr bin Saffa' indicated that the establishment of vocation and technical

institutes in different governorates will strengthen the institutes roles. With emphasis being made on training in sectors that are required in the local labor market.

He added that the decision taken by the Ministers' cabinet regarding the society/community was correct taking into consideration that the community college is basically tied to the market. Thus, the Ministry has placed a plan for the national strategy of technical education & vocational training which

includes current infrastructure development for the technical education, at all levels; as per the new tendency towards the strategy and the functioning of the institutes which are still in the course of preparation. There are currently 35 institutes which will place their syllabuses and training programs in line with the needs of labor market in terms specialization, which will aid in the development operation and efforts to alleviate unemployment and poverty that is present in many areas.

Dhofar cultural festival

BY SALAH SALEH AHMED
YT STAFF, TAIZ

Events of the second week-long tourist festival got underway on Saturday 21/08/04 in the Dhofar area. The activities were organized by the Ibb Governorate in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, in order to promote awareness for local history, and promote tourism in what has been earmarked to become the tourist capital of Yemen.

The head of the ministry, Khaled al-Rowaishan, emphasized the importance that these festivals have acquired, bringing attention, as they do, to the area concerned and encouraging internal and external tourism. He added that he hoped that the rest of the governorates would adopt the same steps taken in Ibb. In a declaration to Yemen Times, al-Rowaishan said "Dhofar town is a historical location and contains ancient sites and objects of interest. The festival itself is an excellent one and we are enthusiastic about its prospects". He went on to announce the Ministry's intention to enlarge and develop Dhofar Museum



Culture minister, governor of Ibb and group of officials visiting Dhofar museum

next month, and extended his felicitations to the council.

Mr. Amin al-Warafi, the general secretary to the local council in the Governorate, drew attention to the fact that the sum total of the investment applications during this year has exceeded \$30m, which success can be attributed to the festival. A Qatari businessman Abdullah al-Jaber is one such interested party, who has disclosed his intention to establish a tourist resort at a value of \$15m next year.

The festival committee proceeded to deliver two speeches, the second of

which, from Miss Najeebah al-Ma'mari, the general secretary of the Local council in the al-Naderah District, dealt with the goals of the festival, its importance, and the role women play in its success. The audience was then entertained by traditional dances, performed alongside the folksongs and chants of bands from al-Naderah, Ba'dan, al-Suddah, al-A'smas, and Yerim districts.

The Minister of Culture & Tourism, accompanied by a number of Parliament members, in addition to a number of the governors, made a visit during the day, to the Dhofar museum, and inaugurated the exhibits which included various arts and crafts, ancient jewels and traditional clothing. On Sunday, the culture center hall played host to a conference entitled "Sites and Opportunities for Tourism Investment in the Ibb Governorate" during which Mr. Amin al-Warafi, the General Secretary of the local council, underlined the importance of tourism in the Ibb region. Meanwhile, Mr. Abdo Mehdi, the General Manager of the General Authority for Tourism Development handled the constituents and sites of the tourism areas, the elements of tourism produce and the sites selected for prospective development.



Folklore dancer from Ibb performed at the festival

Yemeni boxer achieved an unprecedented 4-0 KO record

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Rising American boxing star, of Yemeni origin, Brian "The Lion" Mihtar, scored his fourth KO victory on August 28 at Cobo Hall, Detroit- USA. With this victory, he has improved his record to 4-0 (4KO's).

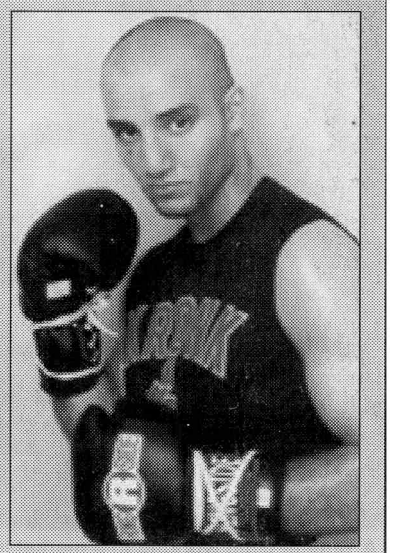
Mihtar, who has become known to proudly represent the Yemeni expatriate community in Detroit, ended the bout with a vicious barrage of body shots that left his opponent Joe Howard flat on his back for several minutes. The fight has also been

broadcast on Yemen TV.

Yemen Times has reported about Mihtar's rising success since his early beginnings.

In an exclusive statement to the Yemen Times, Ray Mihtar, Brian's brother, told the Yemen Times that this is a great achievement that deserves encouragement and support from Yemen as people and government.

He also expressed gratitude to Yemen Times for reporting about Mihtar's early successes. "Yemen Times was the first Yemeni paper to break the news on Brian, and that puts the newspaper on an unprecedented pedestal with us," he said.



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Conclusion of a training course on administering NGOs

A training course on administering NGOs and how to provide them with continuous funding was concluded at the Youth National Cultural Centre in Taiz. It was organized by the Training & Qualifying

Unit Centre, and lasted for the period of 15th - 30th August 2004. The course was participated by 31 trainees from different societies, and supported by the Dutch FRIEDRICH EIBERT STIFTUNG organisation in collaboration with the Arab College for Human

Rights in Tunis. Miss Qisela Truckenbrodt, the Commercial Attache', declared that the Dutch Embassy in Sana'a has supported 12 small projects with the amount of 65,000 Euros, which have succeeded in fighting and alleviating poverty and helping people to upgrade their living standards.

It is worth noting that the amount of 7000 Euros is paid to each project and possibly more in exceptional cases, if requested for, and supported by proof of necessary expenditure. She has promised that any project inauguration that takes place will be carried out officially and through the Dutch Embassy, in the presence of officials and the leadership and Local council of the Taiz Governorate. The female and male trainees acquired the know-how of the methods for obtaining financing, identifying the funding agencies, as well as the styles of modern administration and how to administer projects.

The conclusion of the course was attended by Eng. Dummaj Nasr Ahmed al-Odaini, the General Secretary of University Graduates and the Dutch Colleges in Taiz, and Mr. Abdullah Abdul Elah Sallam, The Manager of the Youth National Cultural Centre.



NGOs trainees attending the course

Workshops to tackle child labor

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Child Labor Fighting Department (CLFD) of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor will begin workshops in different governorates this month to help reduce the number of working children in Yemen. According to Mona Salim, Head of CLFD, the workshops will be geared towards working with governorates

that should help form a comprehensive plan to fight child labor.

"The workshops aim at deeply studying the needs of each governorate according to the nature of labor...in order to design a comprehensive strategy to fight child labor in every governorate during the next ten years," said Salim.

The workshops are scheduled to first start in Hodeidah, Haja and Mahweet, followed by Sana'a, Ibb, Taiz, Aden and Abyan.

Carrying out the workshops is part of the second phase of the child Labor Fighting Project that has support from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and The World Bank.

Although it is difficult to calculate the number of children working in Yemen, it is estimated that there are roughly two million working children out of Yemen's 19 million population. Child laborers are believed to work nearly as much as full-time adults putting in an average of almost 39 hours a week.

Afrah Al-Ahmadi, Head of Health and Social Protection at Social Fund for Development, said that there are a number of important projects underway to deal with child labor. The first rehabilitation center for working children in Yemen was established in Sana'a in early 2003. The joint venture between ILO and the municipal government of the capital works with up to 350 child laborers with an aim to get the children to go to school. The second rehabilitation center was opened in Mukalla earlier this year.

Some have been critical recently of how Yemen has been dealing with child labor. The country's prominent reform programs – the Strategic Vision 2025, the Second Five-year plan for Economic and Social Development and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper – do not address the issue of child labor. Although there have been many programs, projects and NGOs working in Yemen over the last few years, some believe that there needs to be better coordination to tackle the problem of child labor.

To create a more comprehensive strategy, Yemen is working on developing the National Strategy for Children and Youth. The plan aims to study the conditions of children and coordinate programs and policies to take on the problems children face in a comprehensive manner. It helps steer efforts from the government and organizations across the board to improve the living conditions of children, ranging from health and education to reducing the number of working children.

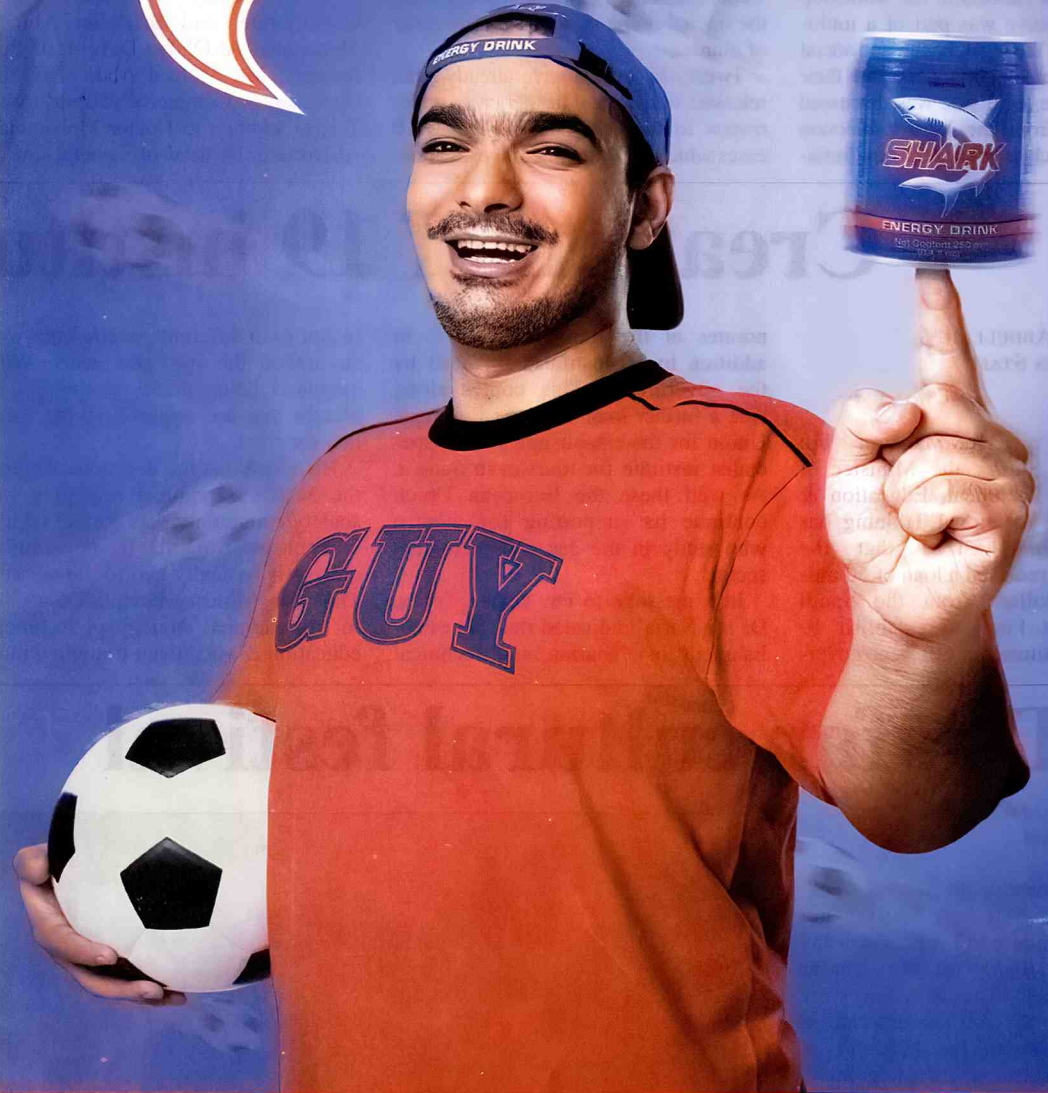
The report will be ready and presented to the government in the middle of 2005.



A Yemeni child working in a market in Sana'a YT photo by Peter Willems

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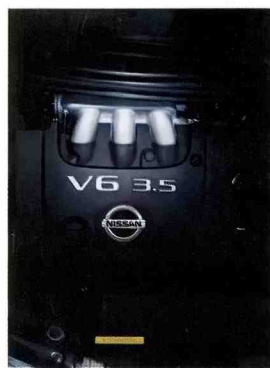
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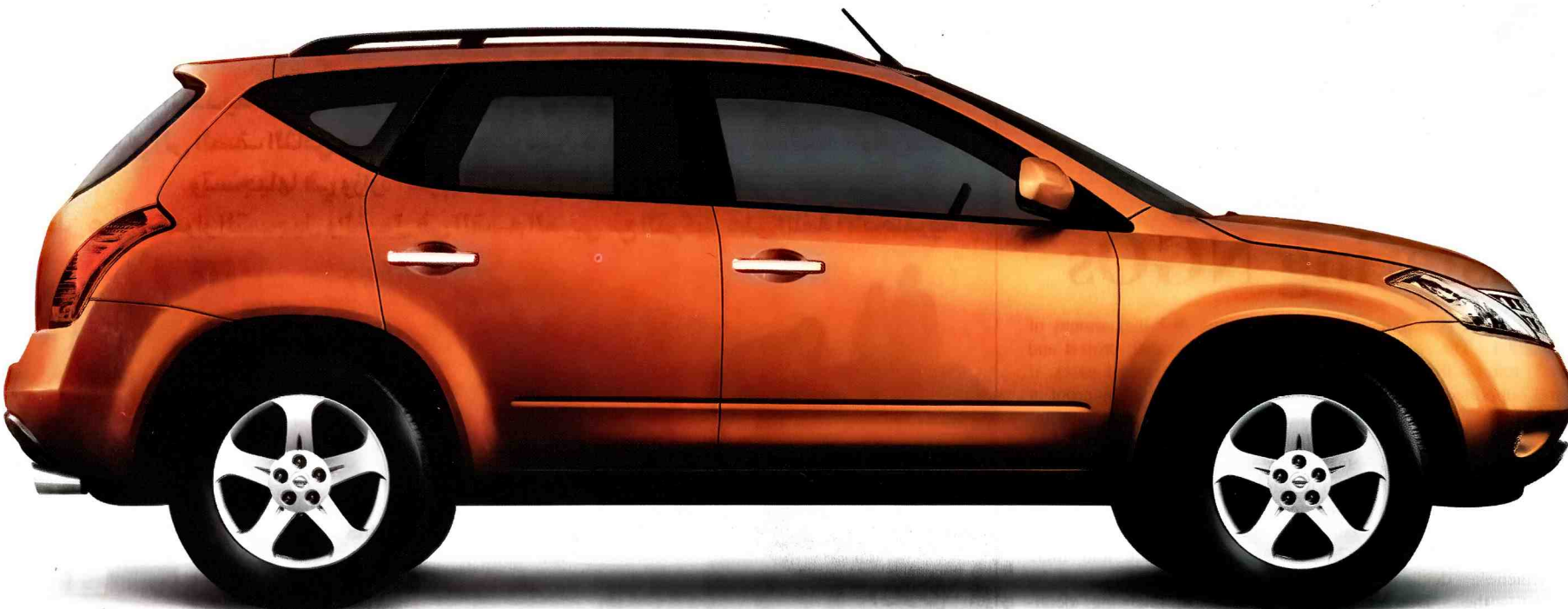
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Weary Baghdad hospital hopes for end to fighting

BAGHDAD, Aug 30 (Reuters) - The elderly man who runs a hospital mortuary in Sadr City says he does not have space for the bodies of those killed in fighting in the Shi'ite Baghdad slum.

"I'm tired of this," grumbles 74-year-old Bedou Abbass.

"This morgue is old. There's not enough room," he said, pointing at a refrigerated metal room by the hospital gate.

"Sometimes they bring 15 bodies, sometimes 20, sometimes 30," he said, grimacing as he remembers occasions when the morgue's refrigeration units have been knocked out by power cuts.

"The smell kills." The Imam Ali general hospital in Sadr City has become a field clinic for fighters and others wounded in clashes between U.S. forces and militants loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Clashes broke out at the weekend in Sadr City, which was not included in a peace deal last week ending fighting between Sadr loyalists and U.S. and Iraqi forces in Najaf.

The hospital's young staff are yearning for peace.

They struggle against supply shortages and risk death to treat both the wounded and the many suffering from disease in the slum, where pools of sewage fill potholes and dead animals decay in the streets.

"It's like we're going to the front-line," said Dr Ghazwan Ghalyan, who was shot in the neck on his way to work last week.

"The streets were blocked, they were filled with tanks. So we got out of the car and started walking," the 25-year-old said.

Then a bullet struck him and he fell unconscious.

"The bullet entered here and left here," he said, pointing at blood-soaked bandages on either side of his neck.

"One centimetre further forward and it would have shattered my spinal column."

Like Ghalyan, many of those



Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi (2L) speaks to tribal leaders from Baghdad's impoverished Sadr City slum, scene of fierce clashes between U.S. troops and militia loyal to the radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, August 31. REUTERS

wounded in fighting were shot either in the chest or above, the hospital doctors said.

"That's where the Americans aim," doctor Samer Saeed said.

"We can't treat them. They die in transit to another hospital," he said.

Threats

The doctors struggle against shortages of basic equipment including blood transfusion kits.

Fighting, which first erupted in Sadr City in early April, has even cut the hospital's supplies of clean water, which is

delivered by tankers.

"One time we couldn't find drinking water for eight hours," said surgeon Sarmad Adnan, who was previously an Iraqi army doctor.

"I now see things I never saw in the army."

When clashes erupt, the hospital is filled with the frantic relatives of the wounded, who block corridors and make it difficult for doctors to treat the casualties. 27-year-old doctor Laith Ghazi said.

Relatives often threaten doctors who they think are not doing enough for the

wounded.

"Many times my colleagues have been struck. Sometimes those relatives are even carrying machine guns," Ghazi said.

Ghazi says his work, which pays \$140 per month, gives him anxiety. "But I have to do my duty," he said.

The doctors, who say disease is rife in Sadr City, hope the fighting will end soon.

"We have a lot of work anyway," Saeed said. "The water is dirty.

The sewage system is exhausted."

Lebanon says UN must not interfere in its politics

BEIRUT, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Beirut has complained to the U.N. Security Council about proposals to curb Syrian influence in Lebanon, saying the United Nations has no right to interfere in its internal politics, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday. Paris and Washington are considering a Security Council resolution calling on Syria to respect Lebanese sovereignty, fearful that Damascus has too much sway over a decision on whether to extend Lebanon's pro-Syrian president's term.

"The conditions under which the Lebanese elections are being prepared give rise to profound concerns," a spokeswoman for the French Foreign Ministry told a regular news briefing on Tuesday.

Lebanon's cabinet has already agreed a plan to let President Emile Lahoud stay on for three more years. Parliament must now vote on the proposal, which would be welcomed by Syria but also involves changing Lebanon's constitution.

Syria has about 17,000 troops in Lebanon and is the main power-broker there.

But Beirut's foreign ministry sent a letter to the United Nations saying that the

Security Council would be setting a dangerous precedent if it tried to intervene.

"No outside authority has a right to interfere in the details of agreements between Syria and Lebanon, or to impose changes on them," the letter carried by the national news agency said.

"The attempt by some countries to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs under the pretext of respecting the constitution on the occasion of the presidential election conceals a political intent."

The plan to extend Lahoud's term when it ends in November is opposed by the prime minister and several prominent politicians, including some traditionally allied to Damascus. Lahoud accused the international community on Tuesday of double standards, saying it ignored Israeli transgressions of international law but put pressure on Lebanon and Syria to alter their own strategic choices. "Lebanon and Syria which together have faced threats in the recent and distant past, will be able to overcome them by persisting once more in strengthening their cooperation and shared plans," Lahoud said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Damascus.

Britain's Straw advocates Turkish EU membership

PRAGUE, Aug 31 (Reuters) - The European Union should open up accession talks with Turkey to help the spread of European values of liberal democracy, human rights and tolerance, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Tuesday. Straw spoke to Czech ambassadors during a visit to new EU member Czech Republic, which has been leaning toward endorsing Turkish EU entry but has not made its position absolutely clear.

"There would be no better signal of Europe's wish to support the spread of those universal values that a positive decision to open accession negotiations with Turkey this December," Straw said.

Britain has backed opening accession negotiations with the Muslim country of 70 million people to bridge Europe with the Islamic world.

The EU has said it would decide at its December summit whether it would open the talks.

Czech Prime Minister Stanislav Gross, leader of the left-wing Social Democrats, has said he was in favour of closer link with Turkey, and possibly its membership.

Former Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla said after meeting his counterparts from fellow new EU members Poland, Hungary and Slovakia in May that none of them indicated they would veto a decision to start the talks.

Sudan says rebels kidnap 22 Darfur volunteers



Sudanese refugee children wait to receive polio vaccinations at an IMC (International Medical Corps) hospital in the Kounoungo refugee camp in the north east of Chad near the Sudan border, August 31. About 11,500 refugees are sheltering in the Kounoungo refugee camp. Aid agencies have set up camps in this remote, impoverished corner of Africa to provide medical care and food in what officials call one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. REUTERS

KHARTOUM, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Rebels from Sudan's western Darfur kidnapped 22 volunteers who had joined a programme to vaccinate an estimated two million people affected by fighting in the remote region, Sudanese officials said.

The head of Sudan's vaccination programme and emergency operations office, Hassan Idriss, said rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) abducted the volunteers on Sunday.

"We have no information regarding where these volunteers have been taken," he said in a statement released late on Monday, adding that they had been working in Adwa, in the Shariya area of Southern Darfur state.

JEM officials were not immediately available to comment.

Sudan said on Monday rebels had kidnapped eight World Food

Programme (WFP) and Sudanese Red Crescent workers in Northern Darfur state. The WFP confirmed those workers were missing and set up a crisis centre to try to find them.

The United Nations' top envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, is to address the Security Council on Sept.

2 on the Khartoum government's compliance with a July 30 resolution to provide more security and aid access in Darfur.

After years of low-intensity conflict between Arab nomads and African farmers over scarce resources in arid Darfur, rebels revolted last year, accusing the Sudanese government of arming Arab militias known as Janjaweed to loot and burn African homes.

Khartoum admits arming some militias to combat the rebels but denies any link to the Janjaweed, calling them outlaws.

More than a million people have fled their homes, with some 200,000 refugees now in neighbouring Chad, triggering what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

International officials say the violence in the region is far from over. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is also currently chairman of the African Union, said on Monday that AU monitors had confirmed accusations by Darfur rebels that the Sudan government launched fresh attacks on civilians last week.

Obasanjo said he had written to Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir asking him to ensure all attacks on civilians by government forces and Janjaweed militia stopped, to avoid undermining peace talks being held in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

Suicide bombings on two Israeli buses kill 12

JERUSALEM, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Bomb blasts ripped through two buses in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba on Tuesday, killing at least 12 people in an attack carried out by Palestinian suicide bombers, Israeli radio and medics said.

Israel Radio said two buses were on fire near Beersheba's city hall. An ambulance service spokesman said at least 12 people were killed. Emergency services said 59 were wounded.

Israel Army Radio said two suicide bombers were responsible.

Palestinian militants vowed anew shortly before the Beersheba bombings that they would keep fighting Israel until it quit all territories it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

"Up to now Sharon has been selling the world words and not deeds. We should disregard his statements, and fight on, until every last Zionist soldier and settler quits our land," Islamic Jihad

militant spokesman Khaled al-Batsh said in Gaza City.

Gaza pullout

Earlier on Tuesday, Sharon set a timetable for steps toward pulling 8,000 Jewish settlers out of Gaza despite opposition in his Likud party and from allied religious nationalists, who say it would reward "Palestinian terrorism".

"Disengagement will be carried out. Period," Sharon said, signalling his resolve to prevail over Likud hardliners bent on thwarting any retreat.

Sharon's unilateral plan has destabilised his coalition. But he has counted on majority support in opinion polls, and the reluctance of rightists to risk parliamentary seats with early elections, to see the withdrawal through.

It supersedes a U.S.-backed peace "road map" to Palestinian statehood in Gaza and the West Bank that has been all but torn up by persistent violence on both sides.

The bill would go to a cabinet vote by Oct. 24, paving the way for a reading in parliament on Nov. 3.

Sharon aims to scrap all 21 Gaza enclaves and four of 120 in the West Bank, while erecting a barrier around some larger West Bank settlements he deems strategically vital.

Washington has endorsed "disengagement", hoping it might put its "road map" plan back on track.

Sharon told the Likud legislators the Gaza pullout would be quick, even if phased.

Political sources close to Sharon said he intended to bring forward a cabinet vote authorising a start to evacuations to January from late February or March.

"Sharon's intention is to finish all the legislative and security preparations by the end of this year, and put withdrawal to a cabinet vote early next year," one confidant said. "The act of evacuating could begin shortly thereafter."



Israeli rescue workers cover a body after bomb blasts ripped through two buses in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba August 31. The Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for simultaneous suicide bomb attacks that killed 15 people aboard two buses in the Israeli city of Beersheba on Tuesday. REUTERS

Equatorial Guinea judge suspends "mercenary" trial

MALABO, Aug 31 (Reuters) - A judge in Equatorial Guinea on Tuesday suspended the trial of 14 suspected foreign mercenaries accused of plotting to overthrow its president, saying more time was needed to investigate evidence from abroad.

"This trial has a clear international dimension. Many elements have developed outside, or far from the borders of Equatorial Guinea," Judge Salvador Ondo Ncumu told the court.

The prosecution earlier asked for the indefinite suspension, saying new evidence was coming to light every day from investigations outside the oil-rich former Spanish colony.

It pointed to the arrest last week in South Africa of Mark Thatcher, the 51-year-old son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, on suspicion of helping finance the plot.

"If we want a trial that will establish as much as possible what really happened, the court considers that it should grant the request of the prosecution," the judge said.

Of the 14 foreign suspects on trial in Malabo, only one has admitted taking part in a coup plot: South African arms dealer Nick du Toit, for whom prosecutors want the death penalty.

Du Toit has said the attempt was masterminded by "financial people" wanting to install exiled opposition leader Severo Moto.

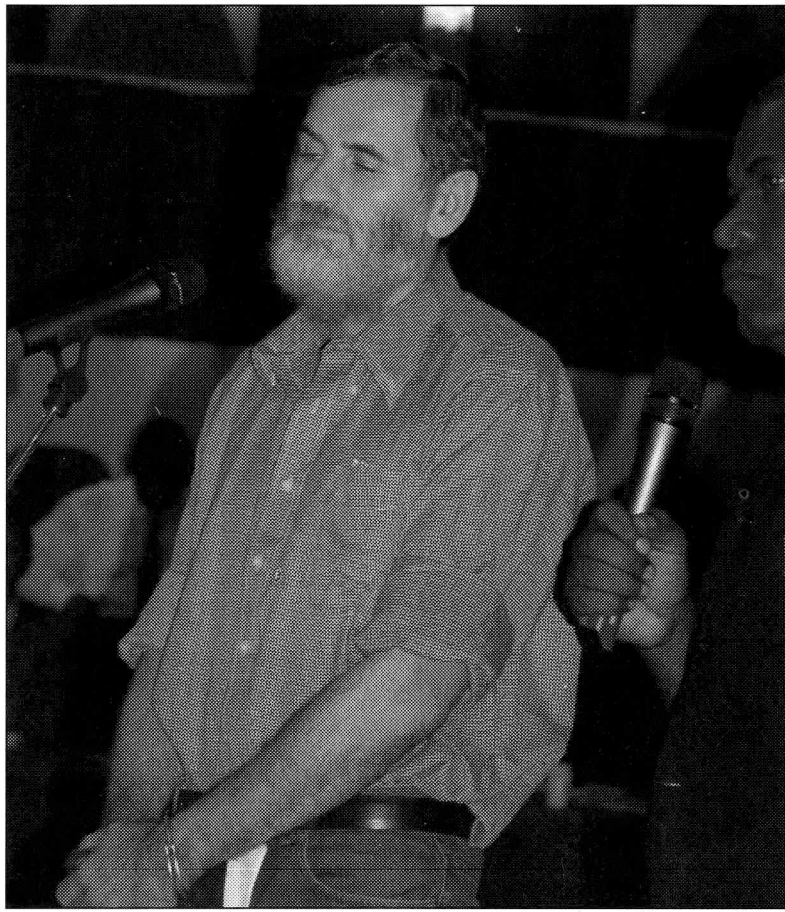
President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has called it a conspiracy by foreign countries and firms and says investigators have found an elaborate web of payments to offshore accounts.

The government has requested international arrest warrants for all those it suspects, including Moto and London-based businessmen Eli Calil and Greg Wales.

However the judge said Equatorial Guinea had no control over the timing of investigations abroad which might have an impact on the trial, so it was best to suspend proceedings for now.

TAKEN AWAY IN CHAINS

Belinda du Toit sat outside the court, sobbing behind her sunglasses as her husband was taken away: "I'm a little upset,



South African arms dealer Nick du Toit (L) stands in a court room in Malabo, August 27. On August 29, Equatorial Guinea's efforts to prove that British businessmen, foreign firms and a cargo plane of burly fighters planned to oust its president hang on just one man as its trial of suspected mercenaries prepares to enter a second week. REUTERS

I don't want to talk about this right now."

Defence lawyer Fernando Mico said the suspects' prison conditions must be changed, arguing that holding them any longer in their current state would be an infringement of their civil rights. He said the suspension could last for weeks.

"In the case of the Equatorial Guineans we request that they be freed on bail and in the case of the foreign detainees, that they should no longer be chained all the time for the duration of the investigation," Mico told the court.

The judge said he would consider the

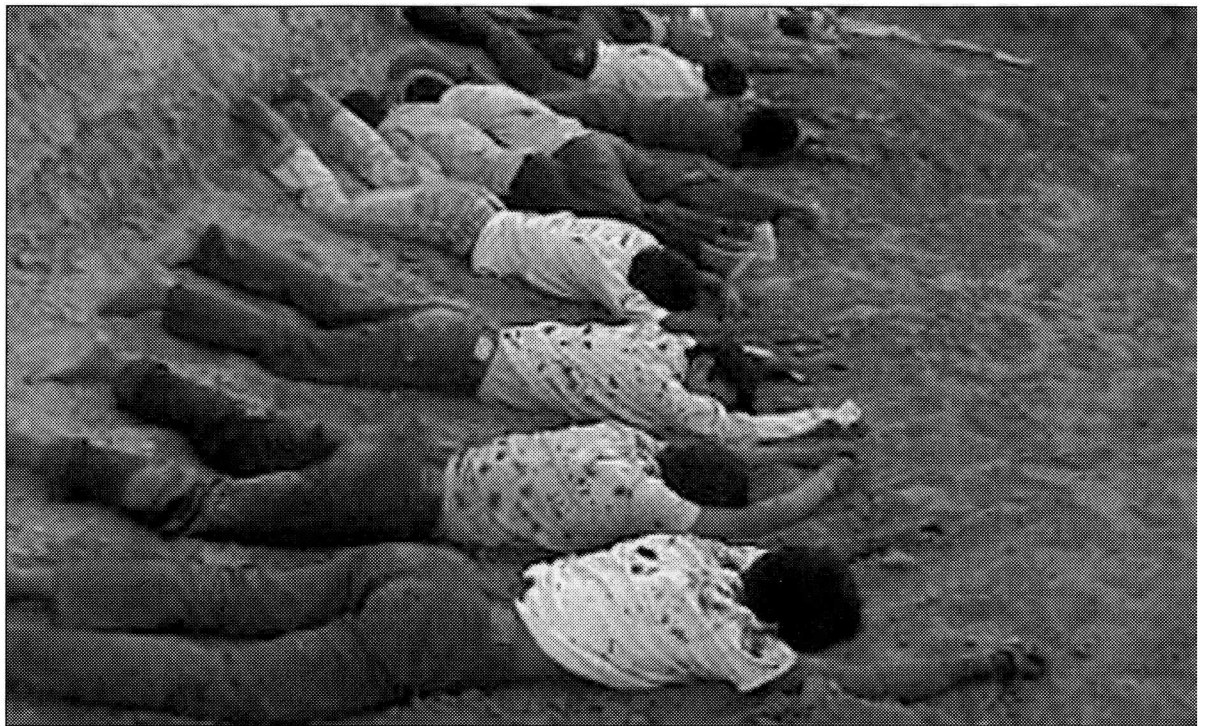
request.

The suspects, who were in a sideroom when the judge suspended the trial, were taken off in military vehicles, the foreigners' hands and feet shackled, after the court adjourned.

"All the observers were shocked," said one international observer who has been in court throughout the trial.

Apart from du Toit, the seven other South Africans and six Armenians being tried have denied all knowledge of any coup attempt, as have five Equatorial Guineans also on trial.

Villagers wait at Nepal hostage home after killing



A photo published on an Islamic groups' website August 31, showing what appears to be men lying shot in a pit. An Iraqi militant group said it had killed 12 Nepali hostages and showed pictures of their throats being apparently slit on an Islamist web site on Tuesday. REUTERS

LELE, Nepal, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Jit Bahadur sat on the floor of his simple mud and brick house on Tuesday, weeping inconsolably after hearing his son was among a dozen Nepalis believed to have been murdered by their Iraqi captors.

Bahadur's wife fainted when the family received a call at a public telephone from a reporter saying their son, Ramesh Kadhka, and 11 other men taken hostage earlier this month in Iraq had been killed.

"Oh Lord, why have you kept me alive," Kadhka's father cried. His eldest son hugged him.

Scores of villagers rallied round the family to console them.

The Islamist Ansar al-Sunna posted a series of photographs showing the killing of the hostages from Nepal as well as a video.

The recording showed two

masked men, one in camouflage, holding down a hostage. One of the men used a knife to behead the hostage and then held his head aloft. The other hostages were shown with bullet wounds in the head and back.

Nepal's foreign ministry said it was trying to confirm the reports. The men had entered Iraq earlier this month to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian company.

Kadhka's family said it had relied on assurances by Nepal's government that it would secure the release of the 12 men.

"I was quite sure my brother would be released," said Sudarshan who took the call from the reporter. "In fact, we were waiting for his return," he sobbed.

Outside, nearly 100 villagers gathered to console the family, whose house near terraced paddy fields is about 25 km (16 miles) from the capital

Kathmandu.

Like hundreds of his fellow Nepalis, Kadhka was lured to the Middle East with the dream of making a fortune that could change his life.

Kadhka, the fifth of seven children, expected to make nearly 40,000 rupees (\$555) a month — six times what he would have made from his old job working in a restaurant in Kathmandu.

"When he was leaving, he said he would send money in three months in time to celebrate Dasain festival," said Sudarshan, referring to one of the country's biggest annual festivals.

Those hopes were shattered on Tuesday.

Village elders urged the family not to lose control of themselves.

"You have lost one son, you have others. They will take care of you," said one villager to Kadhka's 55-year-old father.



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Invitation for Bids

Republic of Yemen
Child Development Project

Water Pipes and it's Accessories

Credit No. 3326-YEM
Bid No. PCU/ICB/03/2004

- 1-This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business No.555 of 31 March 2001.
- 2-The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Child Development Project (CDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the supply of Water Pipes and it's Accessories.
- 3-The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Delivery's 13, 224 Galvanized Pipes and 62,900 meter density polyethylene Pipe with it's accessories.
Bids must be submitted with 100% of the items.
- 4-Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding
Procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- 5-Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Child Development Project at the address below from 08:00 to 15:00 hours.
- 6-A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD\$ 50. The method of payment will be cash or bank transfer to the Central Bank of Yemen in Sana'a, account No.1076-0010235. The document will be sent by mail or Urgent post/Air carrier. In the latter case, the bidder will be charged for the additional cost.
- 7-Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 am on Saturday, 16 October 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum 2.5 % of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:00 am on Saturday, 16 October 2004.

Child Development Project
Project Coordination Unit
Attn: Dr. Nafisa Al Jaifi, Project Director
Hadda District, behind of the Crown Hotel
Sana'a, Yemen
Tel: 967-1-426470 - Fax: 967-1-426457
E-mail: hcmc1@y.net.ye

Activists confront Republican convention delegates

NEW YORK, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Political activists in pig snouts protested over Halliburton's controversial contracts in Iraq on Tuesday, the start of a day of "direct action" against delegates attending the Republican convention in New York.

The protesters called the company "Hallibacon" and threw fake money up in the air outside a major Manhattan hotel targeted Halliburton's breakfast for Texas Republican Party delegates.

Activists from the A31 Action Coalition have vowed an all-day series of nonviolent acts of civil disobedience including sit-ins and street theater to confront corporations and Republicans over the U.S.-led war in Iraq and other policies.

Critics say Texas-based Halliburton has been favored in winning up to \$18 billion in Iraq contracts because of its former ties to Vice President Dick Cheney, who ran the company from 1995-2000 when he joined the race for the White House.

Halliburton strongly denies the charge. Its workers in Iraq do everything from delivering mail to U.S. troops to getting oil fields working again.

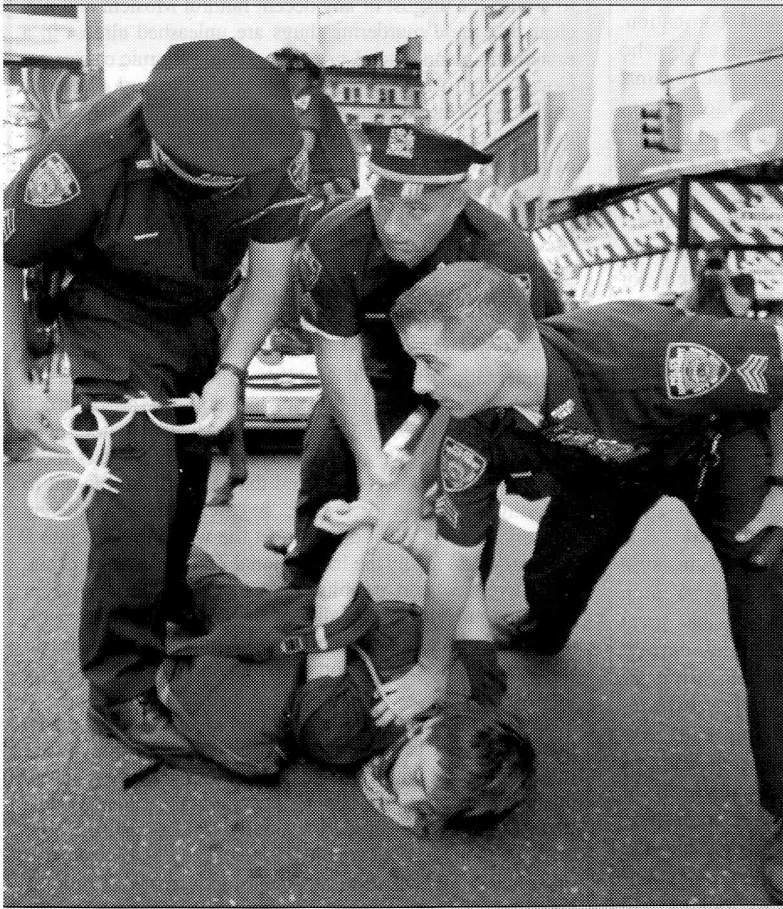
"They are piggish. They don't care about human lives," said protester Jodie Evans. "They are willing to risk the lives of our American soldiers and are willing to kill Iraqi soldiers just to get their money. ... They are raping a country."

One protester had a sign that said, "Halliburton thanks the GOP."

There were no arrests at the anti-Halliburton protest.

Since last Thursday, 558 people have been arrested in demonstrations across the city to protest President George W. Bush, who will be nominated for a second four-year term at the gathering. He will face Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts in the Nov. 2 presidential election.

Most protests have been peaceful, but the wild card this week are anarchists who have disrupted major gatherings in other cities in recent years.



Police arrest a protester in New York's Times Square after a large demonstration against U.S. President George W. Bush's policies August 29. REUTERS

Putin says link probed between al Qaeda, Chechens

SOCHI, Russia, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday investigators were probing a possible link between al Qaeda and Chechen rebels widely believed to have downed two passenger planes a week ago.

At a meeting with the leaders of France and Germany, Putin also defended Sunday's election in the turbulent Chechnya region, which was denounced by rights groups as stage-managed, and by Washington and the European Union as seriously flawed.

Chechens had voted "with their feet" to stay in the Russian fold and finally find peace, Putin said. "The trace of the terrorists who still operate in Chechnya is confirmed again, in as much as one of the international terrorist organisations linked to al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for carrying out the terrorist acts," he told a news conference after talks with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac.

"This (claim) must still be proved by our security forces. But it is a fact that explosions occurred aboard two Russian airliners and if a terrorist organisation linked to al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for this it confirms the link between specific forces in Chechnya and international terrorism."

Last week an Islamist group calling itself Islambouli made an Internet claim that its followers had brought down the two planes on August 24, killing 90 people, to avenge the killing of Muslims by Russia in Chechnya.

Moderate Chechen separatists accused Russia's special forces of spreading misinformation and denied any link to the group.

Khaled Islambouli was an Egyptian army officer who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981. He was a member of the Jihad group, part of which integrated into al Qaeda in the 1990s under Ayman al-Zawahri, the top aide to Saudi-born leader Osama bin Laden.

RUSSIAN UNITY

Putin, who sent Russian troops back to Chechnya in 1999 to cement his image as a strong leader ahead of his own election, has repeatedly said "foreign terrorists" were driving a rebel insurgency in the region on Russia's southern rim.

He told Chirac and Schroeder he would never allow Russia to splinter and its territorial integrity was beyond question.

"What is important is that Russia's position has been expressed clearly by Mr. Putin. A political solution is necessary and that is what Russia wants," Chirac said.

Both foreign leaders voiced support for the election where Putin's man, Alu



Russian President Putin, French President Chirac and German Chancellor Schroeder listen to journalists' questions during a news conference after the talks at the presidential residence in Sochi. Russian President Vladimir Putin (C), French President Jacques Chirac (L) and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder listen to journalists' questions during a news conference after the talks at the presidential residence in Sochi, August 31. REUTERS

Alkhanov won a landslide victory, thanks largely to a one-sided publicity campaign.

But the EU executive Commission condemned the poll.

"We were not ourselves observing in these elections but we have noticed persistent reports that the day before yesterday the presidential elections were neither free nor fair," spokeswoman Emma Udwin said on Tuesday.

"And we will now press for early parliamentary elections in Chechnya, and for those elections to be held in a way that can be regarded as free and fair," she told a briefing in Brussels.

Human rights groups said the election amounted to an appointment from Moscow.

In his trademark brusque style, Putin cut off a French journalist who asked whether the election was fair.

Later he mounted a lengthy defence: "It is clear to us all that you cannot drag voters by force to a polling station ... When people don't want to vote they stay away. This is of course in line with voting with one's feet," he said.

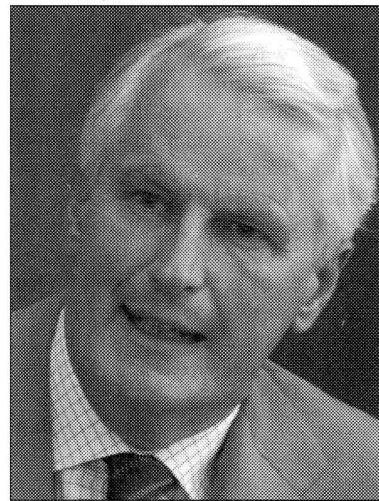
France calls in Arab debts in Iraq hostage crisis

PARIS, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Faced with a hostage crisis in Iraq, France has called in its many debts in the Arab world to create an unprecedented front of Muslim opinion demanding that two French journalists held by Islamist radicals be freed.

Groups as varied as the Arab League, the Palestinian Hamas guerrillas, Iraq's Sunni religious leaders and Al Jazeera television's leading Muslim preacher have all lined up behind Paris to demand the shadowy Islamic Army in Iraq release them.

Now racing through Middle Eastern capitals, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier is picking up support from Arab countries that France has courted for years in its determination to play a role in the region despite the far larger role of the United States.

This unprecedented chorus denouncing the hostage taking reflects France's bet that its long-time contacts among Arab leaders could create enough pressure to win freedom for Christian



Foreign Minister Michel Barnier gestures during a news conference at the French embassy in Amman, August 31. REUTERS

France ... is trying to capitalise on the positive image it has in the Arab world, due to its support for the Palestinians and against the Iraq war, to win the support of public opinion and religious leaders," said Middle East expert Gilles Kepel.

The French hostage taking has frightened the region's leaders because it has stoked power struggles within Islam itself, said Kepel, who teaches at Paris's Institute of Political Studies.

"That's why Islamic organisations have mobilised. They see this capture of French hostages as something very prejudicial to the Muslim world today," he told France 2 television.

The kidnappers holding the two journalists have set Paris a Tuesday evening deadline to scrap a ban on Muslim headscarves in France's state schools.

Antoine Sfeir, a Lebanese-French commentator, noted Paris had succeeded in winning support from the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist movement whose French allies have led the protests against the headscarf ban.

"This was a first, a premiere," he told Europe 1 radio.

Sfeir said Barnier's trip was not just about winning statements of support. Both Egypt and Jordan, his first two stops, have contacts with Islamist radicals in Iraq that could open a channel for talks between Paris and the captors.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the Hamas militant group have both backed Paris in the crisis, as have Iraq's top Sunni authorities.

Support also came from Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, a leading religious authority in the Muslim world whose weekly programme on Al Jazeera television has given him high visibility there.

This gave the green light for Muslim Brotherhood chapters in several other countries to support the French, Sfeir said.

France has rejected the captors' demand that it revoke the law, due to come into effect when school reopens on Thursday.

Defiant Milosevic launches defence at trial

THE HAGUE, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic launched a spirited defence at his war crimes trial on Tuesday, branding the case a "distortion of history" of the blood-stained collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Milosevic, 63, was characteristically defiant as he opened his defence against charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo months later than planned because of his deteriorating health.

Milosevic, who wants to call more than 1,000 witnesses, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former U.S. President Bill Clinton in the 150 days allocated to him, stabbed the air with his glasses as he called the tribunal illegal.

"Accusations levelled against me are an unscrupulous lie and also a tireless distortion of history," he told the U.N. court in The Hague. "Everything has been presented in a lopsided manner in order to protect those who are truly responsible."

Looking relaxed and sitting with his legs crossed, Milosevic started his opening statement with a broad-brush account of what he called "the violent destruction" of Yugoslavia.

The former Serb strongman, who has described himself as a peacemaker, accused the West, NATO, Kosovo Albanian drug gangs, Islamic mili-



Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic stands in a court room of the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday Aug. 31. Milosevic opened his defence case at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal Tuesday, starting the long-delayed second half of his trial on charges of genocide and other war crimes in the Balkans. REUTERS

tants and the Vatican of fuelling the break-up of the former Yugoslav federation at the end of the Cold War.

"A multi-ethnic, multi-confessional state was destroyed ... this constitutes the gravest international crime," said

Milosevic, who was wearing a dark suit, pale blue shirt and red, blue and white striped tie.

"Hundreds of thousands of people were wounded and maimed. Thousands of people fled their

homes, mostly Serbs."

ANTI-SERB BIAS?

Milosevic has accused the court of inherent bias against him and the Serb people, saying it is designed to cover up NATO war crimes in Kosovo sponsored by the United States and Britain.

Quoting from historical texts dating back to the 19th century, Milosevic said he was the victim of ancient anti-Serb propaganda, which charged the Serbian people with an expansionist drive to create a "Greater Serbia."

"It is in this institution that the lie of the Greater Serbia grew into a monstrous structure of unprecedented magnitude," he said.

A small group of supporters demonstrated outside the tribunal waving a banner reading "Freedom for Slobodan Milosevic."

Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch was disappointed Milosevic had not addressed the charges levelled against him.

"We are hearing an alternative view of history. We're hearing nothing about the specific charges," he said. Prosecutors want judges to impose a defence counsel on Milosevic despite his objections to make sure the most significant war crimes trial in Europe since top Nazis were tried at Nuremberg is not delayed again by his ill health.

Australia boosts army with A\$1 bln helicopter deal

CANBERRA, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Australia will spend A\$1 billion (\$700 million) on 12 new troop-transport helicopters to boost the counter-terrorism capabilities of its army, the conservative government said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister John Howard, making one of his final spending announcements before an Oct. 9 election, said Australian Aerospace would supply the MRH-90 helicopter.

Australian Aerospace is a subsidiary of Eurocopter, one of the five main players in the global helicopter industry and a unit of Europe's EADS.

EADS is top stakeholder in a consortium that builds the helicopter, a variant of the NH90 purchased by several European countries. Helicopter maker AgustaWestland also holds a stake.

Howard and Defence Minister Robert Hill said the new squadron would enhance counter-terrorism capabilities by freeing up a squadron of Black Hawk helicopters to move to Sydney from north Australia to support special forces troops along the east coast.

"This will bolster not only the troop lift capacity ... but it will also release a squadron of Black Hawk helicopters to reinforce the Australian Defence Forces' special forces," Howard told reporters.

The deal was subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with Australian Aerospace, he said.

Shares in EADS were down 1.19 per-

cent at 21.57 euros as of 1057 GMT, trailing Paris's CAC-40 index.

AgustaWestland stakeholder Finmeccanica was off 0.4 percent at 0.548 euro in Milan.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Hill said the transfer of the Black Hawk helicopters would better equip the special forces to respond to any terrorist threat or incident.

The announcement came days after the government said it would create the most lethal force of fighter jets in Southeast Asia by equipping its aircraft with long-range cruise missiles, sparking security concerns among its neighbours.

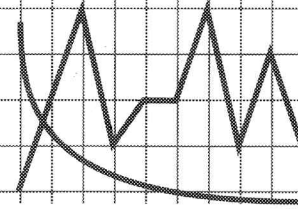
Hill said the new helicopters would likely be assembled in the northern city of Brisbane, with the first aircraft delivered to Townsville in tropical north Queensland state in 2007 and the remainder by 2008.

He said the new squadron would increase the army's troop lift by more than half and would be purpose-built for amphibious operations.

The deal marks a second European win over U.S. defence rivals this year in Australia, where the MRH-90 was selected over the Black Hawk from Sikorsky.

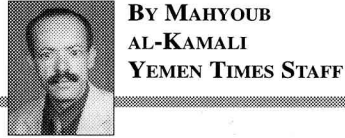
In April, the Australian Ministry of Defence selected tanker aircraft to be built by Airbus Military, also a unit of EADS, over a rival bid from U.S. plane-maker Boeing Co.

YT Business



USD 176 million worth,

Seventeen world companies compete for building an energy project

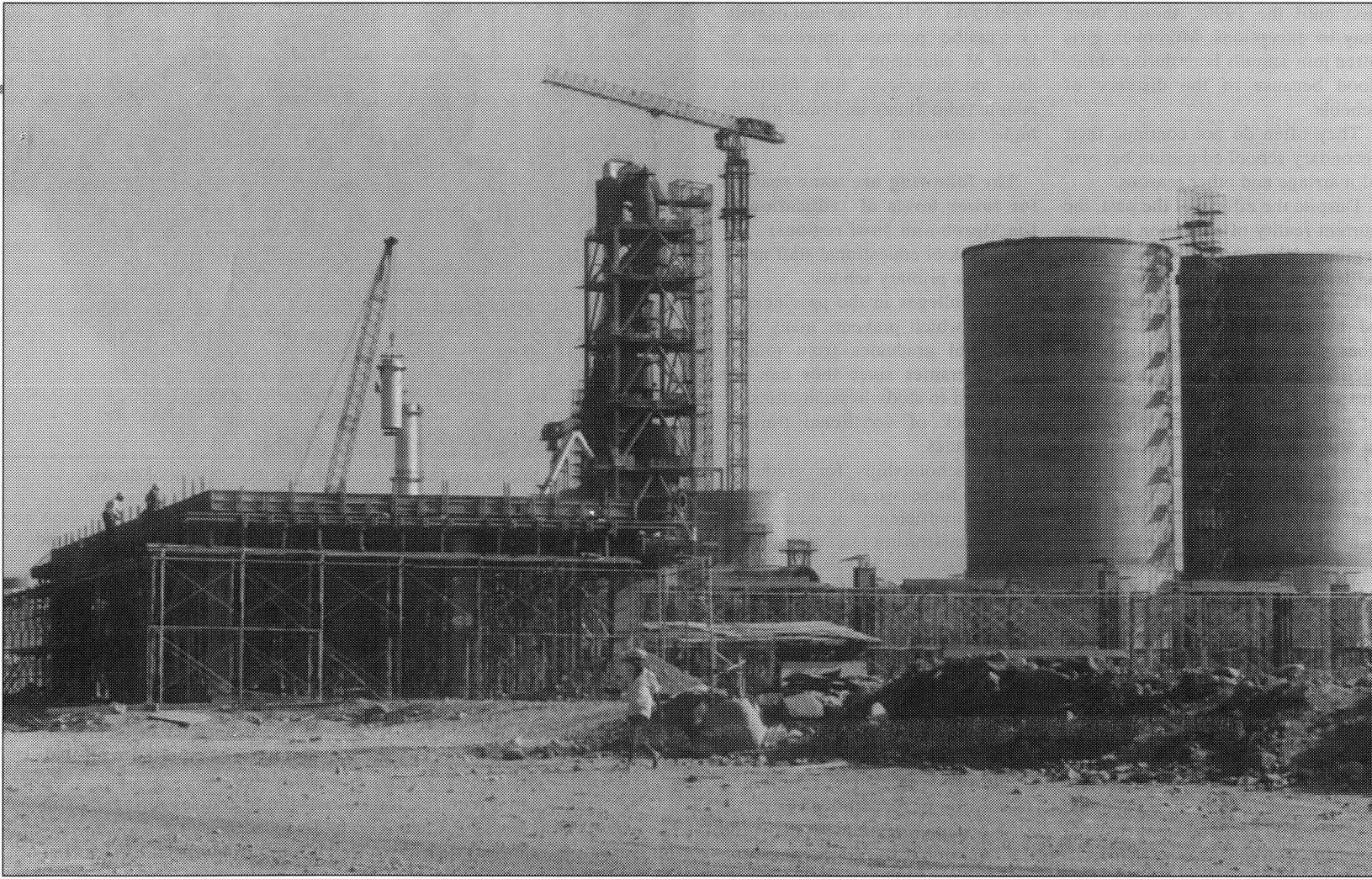


By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Seventeen world companies offered their bids in competition for winning the implementation of a project for building transformation stations and power transfer lines from the Gas Power Station in Mareb to Sana'a. The project costs \$176 million in which the Arab Fund for Development contributes with \$ 100 million.

The project aims at increasing capacity of the power network and increasing the power produced from additional generating sources at Mareb Station, in addition to transfer lines and new transforming stations.

The project includes building 400-kilovolt power transfer lines and installation of a 200-km long double line for the transfer of power from Mareb to Sana'a. Technical studies mention that the project would enable Yemen to move from the present 132-kilovolt system to the world 400-volt system to avoid the drop of power voltage and to safely transfer the great influx of energy across long



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7800	184.9300
Sterling Pound	330.9900	331.2600
Euro	222.1200	222.3000
Saudi Rial	49.2700	49.3100
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.8000	627.3100
UAE Dirhem	50.3100	50.3500
Egyptian Pound	29.8000	29.8300
Bahraini Dinar	490.1100	490.5100
Qatari Rial	50.7600	50.8000
Jordanian Dinar	260.6200	260.8300
Omani Rial	479.9700	480.3600
Swiss Franc	144.0400	144.1600
Swedish Crown	24.2900	24.3100
Japanese Yen	1.6860	1.6874

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

distances exceeding 200 km.

The State Establishment for Electricity has completed all documents and statements demanded by the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development regarding the project of power connection between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The Establishment has agreed with the Saudi Electric Company on calling nine world companies qualified for entering in tender for preparing the project and updating the previous study between the two countries as the Yemeni contribution to the study project amounts to \$ 399 thousand.

Yemen is waiting for results of a study carried out by a Djibouti consultative team on the project of connection between Yemen and Djibouti, expected to be concluded at the end of August 2004.

Power sources made it clear that an American consultative company has already begun analyzing offers of the world companies for building a Gas-powered electric station in Mareb with a capacity of 300 MW. The winner company in the bidding for the project would embark on its work at the beginning of next year and end building the project in 2006.

Income-yielding projects

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Social Fund for Development and some governmental institutions exert great efforts for building income-yielding projects. The fund has recently terminated a week full of activities implemented for the small enterprises to publicize programs of various funding carried out in the governorates of Yemen for the purpose of benefiting from them in managing successful small projects.

Reliable sources told Yemen Times that the fund had reviewed local samples that had succeeded in running small enterprises with the aim of

encouraging innovation and development of local industries as well as providing job opportunities and comparison between successful experiments and the possibility of generalization for other projects to realize positive and successful results.

The question is how to enable develop income-yielding projects if majority of the people in the society are unable to build small projects due to their difficult financial circumstances. Segments of the society suffering from poverty say holding symposiums and seminars does only clarify role of the smaller funding in pushing the wheel of development. As for providing jobs for the unemployed, the matter needs bigger support

in comparison with what is hoped for from small enterprises. These groups see that providing capitals for building a small project is the more important link in the series of steps needed for supporting and financing family income.

The social fund for development however, encourages segments that are unable to benefit from traditional establishments of funding and to run their projects according to their limited capacities along with offering support embodied by programs for funding supported by the fund. Thus, the small projects need first a support for the essential structure necessary for building them through money assistance offered to the poor groups.

Postal saving, partner with TeleYemen

Communications add new services on the internet

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The State Establishment for Cable and Wireless Communications is indulging in introducing new services on the internet. The general administration is working on data in preparation for implementation of the additional service.

The new services include the introduction of broadband internet system that would offer internet users with possibilities of browsing and speedy downloading of files as well as the use of telephone call and browsing internet at the same time.

There would be an introduction of hosting sites with technologies of (bhp and asp) with expansion of the hired international band in the world network by more than 155%. The previous post system has been replaced by the electronic post system due to the former system's limited services and new programs with modern advantages have been introduced.

On the other hand, the government of Yemen has allowed the Post Saving Fund to be a partner of TeleYemen Company for international communication instead of the British Telegraph and Wireless Company with a percentage of 5%. This investment partnership of the state authority of post, represented by

the saving fund, has been estimated at around \$3.1 million out of the total value of the company's assets.

According to the plans, through France Telecom operator, the company intends to modernize its services soon with a developed system of modern communications.

The government has entrusted the minister of communication with completing all legal procedures necessary for the post authority entering as a new partner of TeleYemen, as well as acceptance of forming the Arab Organisation for Information and Communication Technology, approved by the Arab Communication ministers.



اعلان مناقصه

تعلن شركة النفط اليمنية - الإدارة العامة - عن رغبتها في تنفيذ مشروع مكننة أعمال الشركة (برمجيات وأجهزة) في مبنى الإدارة العامة. فعلى الأخوة الراغبين الدخول في هذه المناقصة التقدم إلى مبنى الشركة الكائن في شارع الزبيري في مجمع البنوك الدور الثالث لاستلام نسخة من المواصفات الفنية مقابل رسم وقدره \$2000 لا ترد ويشترط في المتقدم الآتي:

1. احضار ضمان ابتدائي بواقع ٢,٥٪ صالح لمدة ٩٠ يوماً.
2. إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول.
3. إرفاق صورة من التأمين سارية المفعول.
4. تقديم الأسعار بالريال اليمني.
5. تحديد فترة الكفالة المجانية.
6. تحديد الفترة الزمنية للتنفيذ.
7. سيتم فتح المظاريف بعد ٣٠ يوماً من تاريخ نشر أول إعلان على أن يتم الفتح بتاريخ ٢/١٠/٢٠٠٤م.
8. إرفاق صورة من شهادة التأهيل لمزاولة المهنة.

Hurdles to Education in Mareb and Jawf

BY HASSAN SAEED AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mareb and Jawf provinces are remote areas. Primary and secondary education is at the lowest levels in the country due to several factors, aside from the general condition of education in Yemen. Some reasons relate to the special nature of the two governorates, as well as the lack of higher education. There is also the problem of girls quitting primary and secondary schools.

Before proposing a plan, we should review the effects of the past, and diagnose the present situation, so that we realize fully the changes needed to ameliorate education in these two unfortunate provinces.

The past:

If we go back to detect the history of regular education in these areas, we will find that it began in the early 1980s, unlike other districts of Yemen which received educational services as early as the 1970s. This means that the adults of the 1980s in these regions, were not qualified, a fact which impacts on the current situation.

Nowadays, the environment is not conducive to high quality education. Therefore, we find that families who want to educate their offspring usually move to the capital city to ensure receiving a better educational service.

Besides, the primary and secondary school educational output of these regions does not live up to the

set standard, and this hinders high school graduates from joining universities. There are also social factors that add insult to injury.

Girl education in Mareb:

Girls in Mareb can be said to be deprived of education. They weren't formerly provided access to education until the 1990s, though there may be exceptions. Moreover, girls often join schools later during childhood because of the distance of schools.

They often do not continue their secondary school education because of marriage and other reasons.

Despite the effects of the past, the current reality of education in these regions, at the threshold of the third millennium, can be described as a disaster. The government represented by the Ministry of Education does not carry out plans to try to rectify the unfavourable legacy of the past. Actually, the existing plans of the ministry approach education in the two provinces precariously. Current educational policy does little to avert inevitable disaster, starting with the unjust distribution of teachers and books and ending with deprivation, and planned disregard.

The present educational conditions can by no means create a stable and illuminated society, able to catch up with the continual development of other regions. Tribesmen still put a high price on force as a concept inherited from their fathers, and this brings about yet other stumbling block in the way of development in this area, which is rich with a civilized heritage and natural wealth.

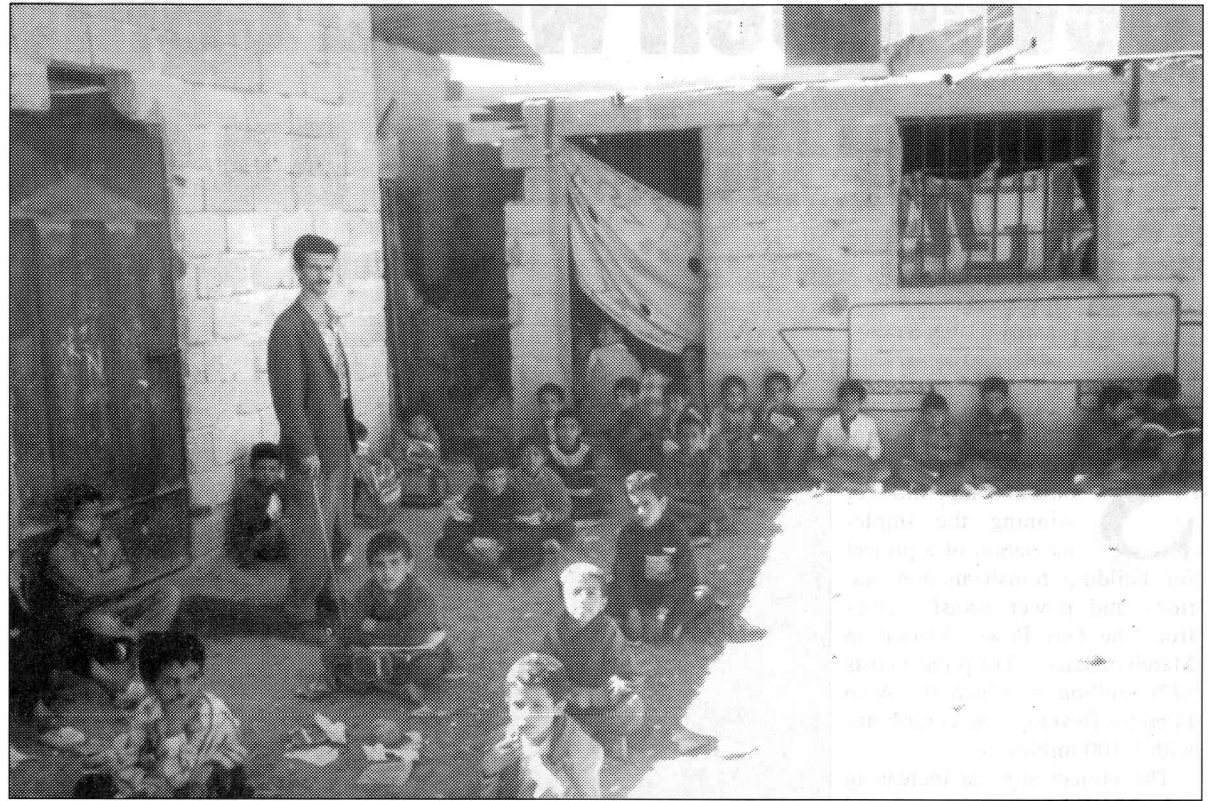
We should feel that what is being

done now does not provide the means to sufficiently qualify locals to take up the responsibilities of advancing their area.

Although, the people partly contribute towards the problem, since they can aid or hinder projects, this does not exempt the government from its duty of better equipping them to do so. It is clear that its policies neither promote improving the level of education, nor accommodate measurements that facilitate people from Mareb and Jawf joining higher education.

The following are some reasons for lower levels of education in the Mareb and Jawf regions:

- A lack of educational staff needed for primary schools.
- No colleges in the provinces, a fact which prevents many high school graduates from joining universities since they can not afford to study in main cities.
- A lack of vocational training institutes.
- No scholarships for graduates from these two provinces.
- The inefficiency of educational administration in the governorates.
- Appointing teachers in primary school education with only high school certificates, and in recent years, the ministry did not pay attention to training them.
- Constructing schools not according to a well-studied plan for society, but according to influence of sheikhs, resulting in a waste of time and effort.
- No administration to study the condition of female education, nor investigate the reasons for



In some schools pupils are forced to sit on ground for lack of desks

their quitting school, as well as solutions to this problem.

- Lax controls, and on many occasions, deliberate facilitation of cheating at exams, and registering students from other governorates in local schools so that they can get certificates and possibly scholarships at the expense of local students.

Suggested solutions:

- Organizing training courses for teachers on methods of teaching at various educational stages.
- Establishing a community col-

lege.

- Establishing agriculture and mineral colleges.
- Establishing well-equipped schools in the centers of districts for boys and girls separately.
- Establishing a newspaper concerned with education and awareness programs so that negative phenomena in local communities is spotted and gets addressed.
- Training courses for administrative leaders.
- Establishing specialized technical institutes.

- Allotting a certain number of scholarships for students from Mareb and Jawf in different specializations, and removing obstacles that might obstruct them from joining universities.
- Providing vehicles for transporting young students to and from school.
- Providing computer and languages services at schools in district centers for the summer vacation.
- Establishing a department responsible for encouraging girls to continue their education.

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أُصِيبُوا بِسُوءِ بَأْسٍ أَوْ بِبَأْسٍ آخَرَ قَالُوا اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ



DOVE ENERGY, YEMEN

Offer our condolences and sympathy to

Aziz Al-Ashtal

On the death of his brother,

Abdullah Saleh Al-Ashtal

Who died in New York on 26th August, 2004

We also express our condolences to the family of
Abdullah Saleh Al-Ashtal

in their time of loss

On behalf of all the staff of Dove Energy

The oral & dental conditions of the people of Ibb governerate

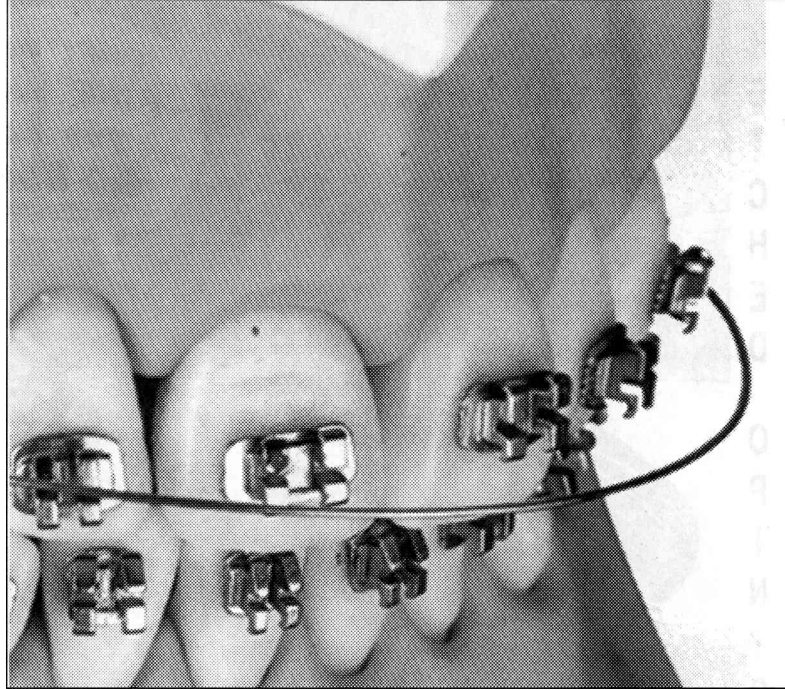
Dr. K.I.MOHAMMED
AL-NOUD HOSPITAL
DENTAL DEPT

During my work as a dental & oral surgeon in the dental clinic of AL-NOUD hospital in the Ibb governate, I had collected many notes about the general oral & dental conditions & the DMF index from the patients who had attended the clinic during that period of time.

1. There was a high incidence of fluorosis ranging from mild, to moderate and severe.
2. There was a high incidence of tooth decay (despite the high incidence of fluorosis!) especially the posterior teeth (upper & lower molars); and the majority of the cases of decay are of class V
3. Oral hygiene was generally poor. Most of the patients have chronic periodontitis associated with teeth mobility.
4. As for the condition of other soft oral tissues, I had noted that there was a high incidence of swelling in cheek mucous especially near the retromolar region; and also there was a high percentage of patients with dry mouth and fissured, dry lips.

I blame all these problems that I have mentioned above on many factors such as:

The habit of qat chewing, which is a national epidemic. This plant has many pharmacological com-



pounds such as Ephedrine, Amphetamine & Atropine.

The traditional way to chew qat, is to collect the pulp in the vestibule space between the posterior teeth and the cheek. People keep the leaf of the plant after chewing them in that place for many reasons, e.g. the slow release of the qat substances and the possibility of absorption that occur through the oral mucous. Another reason is a psychological satisfaction that is gained through this process. Also many people drink sweet drinks or sometimes alcohol. The stagnation of the sugar contained in the drinks will give the chance for bacterial fermentation of the sugar and the occurrence of decay and other related pathologi-

cal conditions. In addition there is the destructive irritating effect of alcohol due to its cytotoxicity.

The second factor is low level of dental & oral education; patients are rare who have a sense of dental and oral hygiene, and those who brush their teeth are likewise very few.

There is an old tradition of teeth brushing with Meswak, but although it has some favorable mechanical cleaning effect, it is not a sufficient measure, especially nowadays when you can buy several kinds of soft ready made foods and a huge variety of sweets, especially chocolate and other sticky foods.

The last factor is heavy smoking, which is a well-known problem.

Motorcycles plague Hodeidah

By ABDULWAHAB A. AL-SOFI
Abdulwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com

Just as locusts wipe out many agricultural crops in Africa nowadays, so motorcycles in Hodeidah city destroy people instantly. Day by day, the more motorcycles increase in the city, the more accidents happen. Most accidents that occur in the city - if not all - are caused by motorcycles.

It is impossible to go to any private or public hospital without finding patients hit by motorcycles. Moreover, we don't find any family in Hodeidah city, but, a member of the family has been exposed to a motorcycle accident. This is aside from the pollution to the atmosphere and the disturbance all day and night that motorcycles cause.

The noise, which is caused by the din of motorcycles has a bad effect on our hearing. Therefore, many people settled in the city may have become a little deaf. It is a worrisome noise. Hodeidah has become a bad city, in which it is difficult to live. What causes astonishment is that any useful debate pertaining to the matter, doesn't get any response of those responsible in the city, claiming that those huge numbers of motorcycles are considered to be a main resource of many families livelihood. They forget the dire consequences of these machines.

This is because they don't have any foresight. There are enormous numbers of motorcycles spread in all roads. They are triple the number of other vehicles. I think, with no exaggeration, there is a motorcycle in every home in Hodeidah city. There are more than 15,000 units of motorcycles in the city, imagine how much pollution and din in the city they produce. Every day and night motorcycle accidents happen and victims suffer broken limbs, and unfortunately, many others die.

We all are suffering from too many motorcycles. Many are so frightened and

scared that they can't even walk on the pavement safely. We often cannot determine which direction a motorcycle is coming from, and so have no chance to escape or avoid an accident but we invoke Allah to protect us from. In the name of so many sufferers in Hodeidah city, I appeal the Minister of Interior through your prestigious newspaper Yemen Times, to get a real salvation and to stop this danger, which threatens the people of Hodeidah day and night.

Mr. Minister of Interior, I would like to bring to your notice the fact that motorcycle accidents in Hodeidah streets are increasing, and are leading to a real calamity. Motorbikes are causing a great inconvenience to people, civilization and pollution to environment.

It is also an uncivilized phenomenon. Motorcycles in Hodeidah city have evolved from being transportation tools into being killer machines. We also invoke Allah to inspire our responsible leaders to rescue us from the dangers of motorcycles.

We really suffer from these accidents. Our children are expose to serious accidents by motorcycle. A year has not yet

completed since a motorcycle crashed my child and broke his leg. He is still lame. Two weeks ago another motorcycle hit me and I seriously injured in my left leg. As a result of that, I went to the hospital.

I entered the hospital through the causality Department where painful sights met my eyes. All the patients were emergency cases, which were caused by motorcycles accidents. There, I saw some children crashed by motorcycles were so seriously injured that they couldn't eat or smile and I felt really sorry for them.

There is no hospital to visit in the city but you find patients with injuries resulting from motorcycle accidents. We face an actual catastrophe.

We need a succor of our minister of interior. He should quickly deliver his instructions to whom it may concern to vacate Hodeidah city of the motorcycle, before the problem develops into more disasters.

Traffic officials must be strict and firm to stop this dangerous phenomenon before more of us meet misfortune. A word to the wise is sufficient.

الف مبروك

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهدبها الأخوين العزيزين

نيازي حمود الأشول
و نصار حمود الأشول

بمناسبة زفافهما الميمون

الف الف مبروك... متمنين للعريس حياة زوجية سعيدة
المهنتون: آل الأشول ونصري السقاف

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابُوا مَصِيبًا قَالُوا إِنَّ الْبَلَاءَ مَا أَلَدُّنا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ راجعون



Condolence

The Management and Employees of

Yemen Hunt Oil Company

& Jannah Hunt Oil Company

Convey their sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to

A'azal Al-Ashtal

and to the whole family

on the death of

Abdullah Saleh Al-Ashtal,

Yemen's former Ambassador to the United Nations,
who passed away on Thursday, 26 August 2004.

تعزية

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره يتقدم مدراء وموظفو

شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

وشركة هنت جنة للنفط

بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى

الأخ العزيز/ أزال الأشطل

وآل الأشطل جميعا

في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

السفير عبدالله الأشطل

مندوب اليمن الدائم السابق لدى الأمم المتحدة الذي وافته المنية

يوم الخميس ٢٦ أغسطس ٢٠٠٤ اثر مرض الم به.

Yemeni Press, A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- World Bank Acting Director: We monitor the public spending from the Yemeni budget
- The government approves issuing passports of sophisticated qualities
- The Palestinian ambassador to Yemen:
- American Zionist policy behind death of the peace process in the region
- Fish wealth minister: Rules organizing fishing based on integrated vision linking production to services
- Yemen determined to close all pending files with London, open spacious horizons for relations between the two countries
- U.S. Pentagon decides allocation of \$ 500 million to support militias in the Horn of Africa and Arab Peninsula
- Imamate & secessionist forces to launch a TV channel in London with programs beamed against the homeland
- Thirty-eight charitable societies formed a cover for activity of the "Believing Youth"
- Fate of insurgent al-Houthi is still unknown
- Principles of democracy and human rights, part of school curricula beginning from present academic year
- Houthi and Hattar brothers killed, Hunt down operation expanded, conflicting news on al-Houhi's fate
- Politicians in Hadramout: Comprehensive reform requires political will
- Following the arrest of chairman and members of the Students Union,
- Large-scale condemnation of suppressive practices in Mahweet
- More victims in Sa'ada
- Court issues verdicts against persons accused of Limburg incident
- In commemoration of its foundation,
- The GPC holds a discussion seminar
- Yemeni girl students reap first places in secondary school final examinations
- In the World Youth Festival,
- The Yemeni delegation forces the Zionist delegation withdraw from the Festival
- Hunt: Indicators of damage rise
- Saudi activity in Asia to alert Yemen against drugs
- President Saleh: We look forward to a British-European effective role to push forward peace process in the region
- Initiating an agreement on declaring Yemeni-British partnership
- Iraq's foreign minister visits Sana'a this month
- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State visits Yemen
- Millions plundered in Al-Mahweet, unreal projects in Al-Jawf
- Scores of fishermen poisoned in Hudeida
- Confrontations with al-Houthi and Razzami followers extend from Mran to Hamzat, Razamat, Sha'fia and Nashour
- Yemen seeks to attract British investments in the Free Zone and mineral wealth

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation 24 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Murder crime shocks the city of Ibb
- Sea pollution threatens fish wealth
- NUO's delegation meets Arab Youth delegations in Barcelona
- Tens of citizens detained in Taiz and Aden
- Demand for allowing lawyers take part in specialized prosecution committee

Columnist Annas Ali says two weeks before an official source announced that the military operations in Sa'ada had to their end, adding the government forces would in 24 hours control all hideouts and strongholds of al-Houthi and his followers. More than 14 days elapsed on the statement and fire is still causing the death and wounding of tens of people every day.

Recently, government troops launched a fierce attack on al-Houthi strongholds in Mran, Shafia, Nashour and Hamzat and reliable sources affirmed that those battles were as the fiercest that took place in the past weeks and left tens of killed and wounded most of them from tribes of Hajour and Usaimat whom the government had driven to those battles. The bleeding of blood continues and victims are increasing in number and only the homeland and its sons are to sustain the results of the war.

Al-Isbou weekly, 26 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Issue of those accused of Limburg incident ended
- Smuggling Yemeni children become a public issue
- Social Fund for Development supports small enterprises
- Aden Gulf platform to be expanded

- Japanese grant for waters in the countryside

Columnist Ma'ath al-Ashaby says the most prominent remark in the progress of the relationship between Yemen and the GCC states is the insistence of the latter to have this course of relationship take a unilateral way. Yemen continues in launching initiatives while there is no response on the other side. At the beginning of August 2004, the Yemeni government announced unilaterally the abolishing of entry visa for the GCC citizens, proceeding from depth of the relationship and brotherly bonds between Yemen and the sisterly Gulf states. Some Yemeni government sources mentioned that the latest decision is similar to a one taken a few years before with a pre-arrangement and only came as a unilateral initiative and up to now it has not received any reaction from the Gulf states. The Yemeni government can present its initiative under justifications such as opening wide fields of cooperation with the GCC and give a new dynamism to activate the relations of cooperation with the GCC. Another reason it can be said it may give evidence on Yemen's adherence to the policy of good neighbourhood but the GCC countries that ignored the Yemeni initiative are far from changing their policy towards Yemen and there is no sign of their action in an initiative parallel to that of Yemen. The broad horizons of cooperation the GCC countries understand is that taking the form that provides for them customs and taxation exemptions resulting from establishment of a free trade zone with Yemen. They realize that the decision is a political affair concerning the Yemeni authorities but its announcement should not be a surprise one from one side. It should be taken after discussing it by consulate committees composed of experts representing both sides and since such a discussion has not taken place they see it enough to just be heedless towards such an initiative.

Al-Sahwa weekly 26 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Government confirmations on economic growth deterioration
- Threats to the government on vote of non-confidence, PM is having summer vacation
- Because of levying new taxes, Abyan authorities arrest trucks drivers

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position to work with the project "Modernization of the Justice Sector in Yemen".

Project Assistant

Duties & Responsibilities

- Assist the CTA in the discharge of his duties
- Liaise with the implementation teams in the pilot courts
- Act as a central liaison point for the Project team in communicating on a day to day basis with the stakeholders, government, and non-government institutions
- Liaise with the relevant UNDP staff on project expenditures, equipment and personnel matters as required
- Compile and prepare background materials, briefing notes for meetings and monitoring exercises.
- Plan and organize for all meetings and prepare and disseminate minutes of the meetings
- Provide translation and interpretation services if and when required
- Compile and document press clippings and media information related to the Project
- Assist project team members with secretarial and clerical work functions as appropriate, including preparing for brochures and pamphlets and making arrangements for training courses, seminars and missions.
- Draft simple and routine correspondence. Make copies of important documents/letters and keep for filing distribution when required.
- Maintain project records, reports, work plans, reference files on various subjects, manuals and documentation
- Maintain updated inventory records
- Perform other duties as required

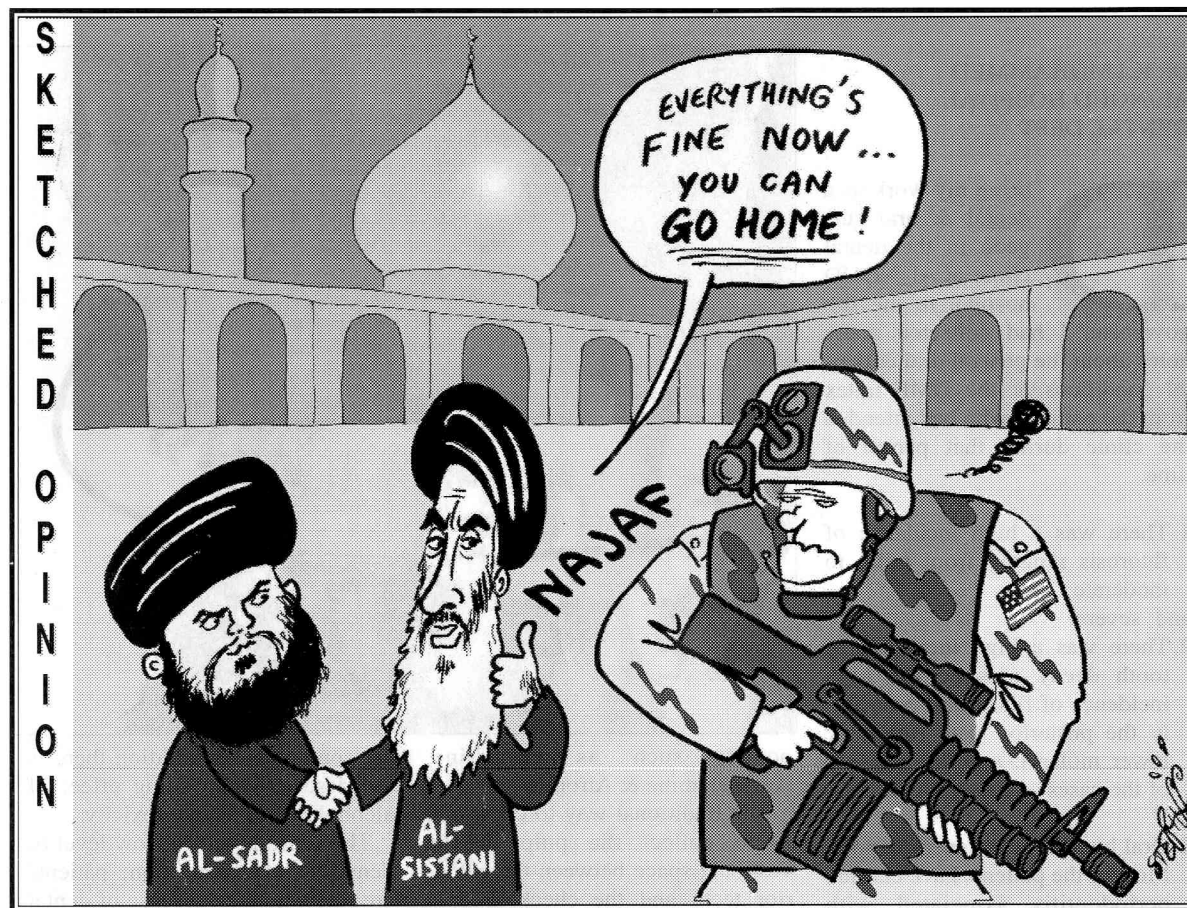
Qualifications

- Possess university degree or equivalent preferably in law or legal profession
- Excellent command of English and Arabic
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficiency in standard computer softwares (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point) and ability to use the Internet
- 5 years of experience in administrative and project management

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above mentioned position may submit their applications by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 11 September 2004

For further details of our vacancies you may visit our website at:
<http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm>



- An armed gang arrested in Hudeida
- Sudanese ambassador at the Strategic Studies Center: The Yemeni and Arab stand in supporting Sudan was distinguished

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in an article the cause of Palestine has remained the first central issue of the Arab and Islamic nation during the past fifty years. Despite of the Zionists, under an unlimited international support, have built a state and imposed it by force and oppression, continuation of resistance on the Palestinian land and the Arab and Islamic rejection remained as a proof that the cause would not be deleted by the passage of time or by the imposition of the fait accompli. The Palestinians are still sacrificing their blood and offering victims in defense of their right and sanctities of their nation. The many stabs and aggressions on the Arab nation have negatively affected the Palestinian cause as there are many wounds bleeding in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kashmir and others.

Thirty-five years have passed since the incident of setting fire to the Aqsa Mosque n 21 August 1969 and that was a big incident but the reaction was rather limited. Diggings and acts of sabotage continued around the mosque

and the Zionists voices rose by mentioning that the "state of Israel" would have no meaning without the Temple and no meaning of the Temple with the existence of the Aqsa Mosque. Nowadays we hear about new threats against the mosque aimed at demolishing it or to cause explosions round it so that they would lead to its collapse. The state of the Zionist entity feign to showing fears about those threats as if it is not involved in them or not able to prevent that conspiracy. The Arabs and Muslims should not forget the deep wound of Palestine and the Palestinian cause has to be always alive in the souls and the resistance must be supported always.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress 23 August 2004.

Main headlines

- GPC observes it 22nd foundation anniversary
- President Saleh's talks with British PM Blair tackle bilateral relations and situation in Iraq and Palestine
- State minister al-Kuhlani: Ministries interference in the capital secretariat work hindered our application of local authority law
- Fact-finding committee for smug-

gling children appeals to organisations and forces to encounter the phenomenon

- Precautionary security measures to curb stealing mobile phones

Columnist Iskandar al-Asbahi says in his article Yemen can offer satellite information radiating good quality and impose the increasing importance and great influence of this activity on today's societies. In addition to providing technological facilities, there must be a provision of a guarantee for a high quality media and information program's influx. This needs new media administration compatible with necessities of information.

There are for instance around 200 Arab satellite channels but very few of them capture interest of the Arab audience. Media studies reveal that satellite news channels like Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya come at the forefront of Arab Channels in that they have presented a new model and style of Arab information unfamiliar to the Arab information regarding the balance in news coverage and issues tackled by them as well as commitment to professional criteria.

The current situation of Arab media system as a whole has to be reconsidered so that to keep in pace with the age and responds to its challenges.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position:

Administrative Assistant

Duties & Responsibilities

1. Personnel-related matters:

- Maintains personnel files of all UNV-specialists assigned to the country, ensuring that all correspondence and periodic reports are properly kept.
- Keeps records of the contractual status of all serving volunteers and flags to UNV Programme Officer follow-up actions on post extensions, renewals, and replacements.
- Maintains up-to-date leave records, and ensures that all UNV-specialists submit their leave requests well in advance to the UNDP office.
- Receives medical insurance claims from UNV-specialists for the UNDP Administrative Officer's signature, and forward these claims to the Van Breda Insurance Company.
- Ensures that inventories of personal effects of UNV-specialists are compiled, updated, and sent to UNV headquarters in a timely manner

2. Logistical Support:

- Ensures, in co-operation with the UNDP office, that all UNV-specialists arriving for the first time in country are met and accommodated.
- Accompanies UNV-specialists, if requested to do so by the UNV Programme Officer, to visit houses/apartments proposed for permanent accommodation.
- Assists UNV-specialists in opening bank accounts, as well as in completing various forms required to obtain residence permits, driving licenses, etc.
- Maintains inventories of all UNV-supplied non-expendable equipment, as well as stock-record cards for all items purchased for UNV-specialists or UNV-executed projects.
- Prepares, when required, in consultation with project manager and/or the UNV Programme officer, travel authorizations for UNV-specialists in connection with their duty related travels within the country.
- Collects travel claims from volunteers, checks for completeness, and forwards them for settlement to UNDP finance section.

Other Responsibilities:

- Drafts and types correspondence, including memoranda and notes for file.
- Performs other functions as may be assigned by the UNV Programme Officer related to the developing and administering of the UNV programme.

Qualifications

- University degree in business administration, management or accounting.
- At least five years experience in secretarial/administrative functions, preferably within the UN system.
- Fluency in Arabic and good command of English.
- Good skills in Microsoft word, Excel, access and PowerPoint are essential.

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above mentioned position may submit their applications by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 11 September 2004

For further details of our vacancies you may visit our website at:
<http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm>

Safin suffers while Henin-Hardenne survives

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A 15-year-old newcomer had defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne on the run at the U.S. Open Tuesday and an experienced campaigner put paid to former winner Marat Safin.

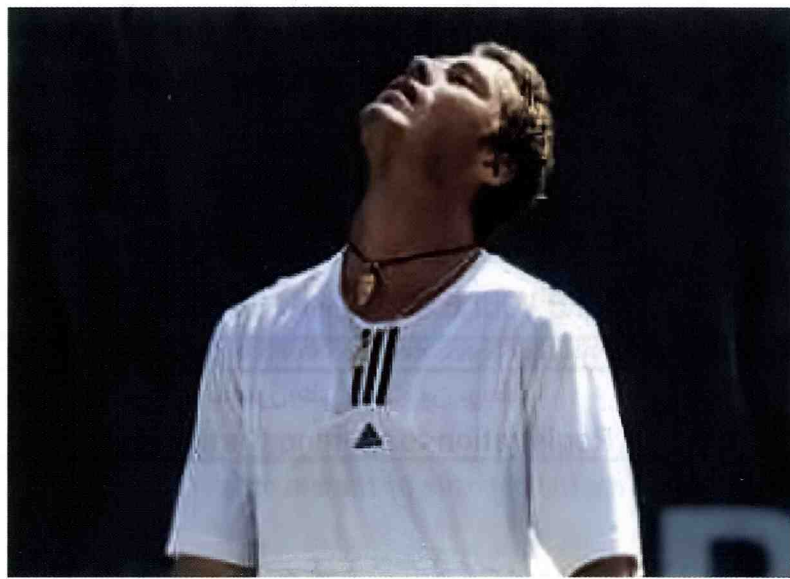
Top-seeded Henin Hardenne beat Czech qualifier Nicole Pietrangeli 6-1, 6-4 but the score failed to tell the whole story of a match that almost got away from the top seed.

Russia's Safin could not pull his game round, however, falling 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, 30, in a tough first-round draw for the 13th seed.

It was the 2000 champion's earliest exit from the tournament for six years.

"I've not got enough confidence to beat these guys at the moment, coming to a tournament like this without any confidence is a little bit tough," said a gloomy Safin. "To be honest I'm not feeling very happy with myself."

After breezing through the first set in



Marat Safin of Russia reacts after a missed point against Thomas Enqvist of Sweden during their match at the 2004 U.S. Open in New York August 31. Reuters

17 minutes Olympic champion Henin-Hardenne dropped 4-1 behind in the second against an opponent reveling in performing on the big stage for the first time.

Normal service was resumed when Henin-Hardenne came back to win five consecutive games but she admitted afterwards the teen-ager, who won her first WTA tournament in Vancouver earlier this month, had proved a big surprise.

"I started to sleep a bit at the start of the second set and she started to play better. I wasn't ready for it," said the 22-year-old Belgian who returned from a debilitating virus to claim the gold medal in Athens.

"She was pushing me and I knew it could go to a third set if I didn't stay calm."

PLEASANT SUNSHINE
Despite more comfortable weather

conditions, with the humidity of previous days replaced by pleasant sunshine, there were plenty of empty seats in the stands as fans geared up for Andy Roddick's opener later on Arthur Ashe Court and the first appearance of Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova.

The early arrivals did see several men's seeds in action, including number five Tim Henman who came through a topsy-turvy five-setter against giant Croatian Ivo Karlovic.

Henman, the only British player left in the draw, squandered two points for a two-sets-to-love lead before falling two sets to one behind and in danger of a second successive first-round exit at Flushing Meadows.

But despite being aced 39 times by the

6-foot-10 Karlovic, Henman refused to buckle and came through 7-6, 6-7, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours, 37 minutes.

Double Olympic gold medallist Nicolas Pietrangeli of Chile maintained his hot streak, blasting away Jose Acasuso of Argentina for the loss of just six games.

Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan also cruised into the second round, coming from a set down to beat Victor Hanescu of Romania 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1.

In the women's singles home favorite and fifth seed Lindsay Davenport racked up her 18th consecutive victory with a 6-4, 6-0 defeat of Slovakia's Lubomira Kurhajcova while Russia's Anastasia Myskina, the French Open champion, crushed Ludmila Cervanova 6-1, 6-0 in 42 minutes.

Pencak Silat sets its boots in Yemen

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the patronage of Mr. Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a, the minister of Youth and Sport and the head of the Olympic Committee, along with the Yemeni general federation of Pencak Silat, concluded on Saturday 14th August, a training course at the Olympic Center.

Abdullah Al-Kebsi, deputy secretary-general of the Olympic Committee, told the Yemen Times, "Actually, Pencak Silat is a new game in Yemen and we are trying to find a venue for it in Yemen.



Pencak Silat is very important game that has been recognized by Olympic Committee since 2003. We are planning to make more workshops and training courses in a number of governorates so as to have a tangible presence and wider participation."

Mohammed Al-Faqih, the head of the Yemeni Pencak Silat association, told YT also "The running of this training course comes within the concerns of the Olympic Committee. We hope that this new game will take root and spread in Yemen as it benefits the youth both physically and intellectually. The games in general are the means to create a generation armed with values, traditions and principles and the education."

He concluded, "We hope to expand our participation at the Arabic and international level."

The trainees were awarded certificates after a series of three lectures.

It is worthy to mention that the Pencak Silat, a self-defense game is of Indonesian origin and is popular in a number of countries.

Continued from page 1

Al-Shura gets support

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) have released a statement after an emergency meeting on August 29th, in which they discussed the trial of Al-Shura, and accompanying judicial procedures, that led to the withdrawal of the lawyers in Saturday's session, when the court refused to consider the defense's argument that it is not legal for the court to look into the case during the judicial holiday.

The JMP denounced and condemned infringements of law by the court.

"Denouncing the violations of the legal procedures in the trial of Al-Shura Weekly, and protesting against the influence of the executive authority over the judicial one, the JMP is asking for a cessation of the harassment of those who exercise their freedom of expression, and consider any illegal act as a stark breach of justice and the authority of law. What is happening confirms the importance of the opposition's call for separating the three authorities," the statement read.

It concluded saying: "the trial of Al-Shura shows the disrespect for constitutional and legal rights and liberties. This reinforces the totalitarian policy of confiscating liberties, concealed only by the thin veil of democracy that gradually fades."

The YJS released a statement on August 28th that strongly condemned what it called "false procedures" that targeted colleague Abdul-Karim Al-Khiwani and Al-Shura Newspaper. It stressed its

absolute rejection of this manner that flouts constitution, law, commonsense, and logic.

The statement urged the judicial authority to adhere to its constitutional role by means of honesty, independence, and the provision of all constitutional guarantees for Al-Khiwani.

It also called on human rights organizations to support Al-Shura Newspaper, and its editor-in-chief, so as to boost journalistic freedom.

Meanwhile, Al-Shura has issued a press statement that included its account of the reasons that prompted the government to sue it and Al-Khiwani.

"Al-Shura has been facing, for several months, a campaign led by great personalities in the authority for its tackling public issues and opposing the erroneous policies of the government in many fields. The stance of Al-Shura has coaxed the campaign yet further to reach the point of misusing the judicial authority for the sake of gagging Al-Shura, and putting an end to its mission," the statement said.

The statement added: "the trial of Al-Shura, which began before this month, has revealed a premeditated intention to shut the mouth of Al-Shura under many different pretexts which brought the newspaper and its editor-in-chief to court many times, when courts are actually, under a ministerial decree, on holiday."

"The continuation of the trial in the judicial holiday is itself a violation of law

which the judicial authority is claiming to uphold. The trial and its procedures have shown the relationship between the executive and judicial authorities, which is based on the subservience of the latter to the former.

"The court and the judge have demonstrated the influence of the directives they receive when they set the session of sentencing for next Wednesday, after the court refused to consider the defense of Al-Shura, which said that the court was not authorized to look into the case. The defense withdrew on Saturday, and justice was vanquished when the judge accompanied the prosecution out of the courtroom at the request of the latter, and then reentered to read out the verdict to the astonishment of legal personnel and the public."

The statement elaborated: "What Al-Shura faces heralds an orientation to limit the democratic margin and journalistic freedom, which are the remains of a system that claims to be based on democracy and freedom of expression." At the end of the statement, Al-Shura expressed its rejection and condemnation of the harassing procedures, and called on all the lively forces inside and outside the country to condemn and reject the harassment and restriction of journalistic freedom in Yemen.

"The support is not for Al-Shura only. It is for the freedom of journalism and expression, which the government attempts to bury alive, as it buries the dreams of Yemenis who are sunk in endless crisis," the statement concluded.

USS Cole case raises questions about Yemen security

Last Friday, an official at the Ministry of Interior told local newspaper 26 September that the letter read by Al-Samawi in court was "false and baseless" and that the letter was not issued by the Ministry of Interior or former Minister Arab. The official added that the ministry has asked the prosecution to investigate the new document presented in court, mentioning that forgery on official documents is a crime.

Former Interior Minister Arab was removed from his position in April 2001.

Yemen was once viewed as being tolerant to Muslim extremists. After the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, the government joined the United States to fight terrorism and has rounded up hundreds of terrorist suspects, including key Al-Qaeda members.

"The government has worked hard to eliminate terrorist elements in Yemen for the last three years," said a Yemeni analyst. "If there were some sympathizers of radical groups in the government, they may have already dealt with them."

The United States has had its eye on some prominent Yemeni figures. Last March, the US Treasury Department charged Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani of recruiting Al-Qaeda operatives and being involved in purchasing weapons

for Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Al-Zindani, founder of a conservative Islamic university in Yemen and Chairman of the Shura Council in the Islah (Reform) party, fought in Afghanistan against Soviet occupation in the eighties.

Yemeni officials said that no action has been taken against Al-Zindani because the government has not received evidence from the United States.

Al-Harazi is one of the aliases used by Abd Al-Rahim Al-Nashiri who is being held by the United States in an undisclosed location and is charged in absentia. Believed to be the mastermind of the attack and a close associate of Osama bin Laden, Al-Nashiri was arrested in the United Arab Emirates in 2002 and handed over to US officials. He is also believed to have been connected to the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Yemeni government has asked the United States to extradite Al-Nashiri, but US officials have said that he will probably go to trial in the United States.

The USS Cole was attacked four years ago as it was refueling at the port of Aden. Two men approached the destroyer in a dinghy loaded with 500 pounds of explosives killing 17 US

sailors and wounding 33 others when the explosives were detonated. Six suspects believed to have been involved in the attack have been on trial in Yemen since the beginning of July.

If they are convicted, the men on trial could face capital punishment. Analysts believe, however, that the death sentence is unlikely since the defendants are not accused of being the actual bombers.

Yemen asked to track down criminals

The airport officers discovered the forgeries as the documents were undergoing a routine check. The illegal documents were immediately confiscated and submitted to the Yemeni consulate to verify whether they were really Yemenis or forgeries. The two Kuwaitis were arrested.

Officials in Yemen have not yet confirmed that the documents are forged, though a memorandum was sent to them from the consulate with the documents attached to it.

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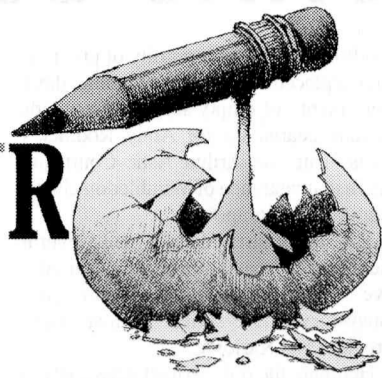
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by Wiley



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THE BULLEMIC TIMES
"ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS BETWEEN THE ADS"

SINCE THEN, INDUSTRIAL FORCES BACKING THE BOMBAST PARTY BEGAN TO PURCHASE NEWS OUTLETS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THEN SHUT THEM DOWN ONE BY ONE TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF INFORMATION TO AN INCREASINGLY APATHETIC PUBLIC...

...SO ALL THAT'LL BE LEFT IS A NEWS MEDIA THAT'S LITTLE MORE THAN AN EXTENSION OF THE P.R. DEPARTMENT FOR THE ONES WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SCRUTINIZING!

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, PHIL... NO ONE READS TODAY ANYWAY, SO EVEN IF YOU KEPT YOUR JOB...

SHUT UP AND KEEP POURING, RALPH...

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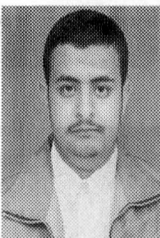
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قسم علمي



- 1- W wide (.....)
- 2- A antonyms (.....)
- 3- T temporary (.....)
- 4- A awful (.....)
- 5- N nice (.....)
- 6- I illegal (.....)

الاسم:

المدينة:

رقم التلفون:

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

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Don't leave yourself too much idle time to think about the things that are bothering you. The more you keep busy, the better you will feel.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Not everything will be laid out in front of you today. If you are careful and question what everyone is doing, you will get to the bottom of things and be successful.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Prepare to meet some interesting new people. Getting out and doing things you enjoy will lead to love, friendship and a new and interesting pastime.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
If you let everyone do his or her own thing, you will discover it's easier to get your own way. It's all in the strategy you use today.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Someone you meet along the way will be of interest, and this could lead to an interesting partnership or friendship. You are likely to change your direction in a positive way today.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Think first or you may find yourself in the middle of a scam. Not everyone will be trustworthy, so don't get involved in joint ventures.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
You may not see eye-to-eye with a partner. Listen and observe what this person is doing before you make a decision that could affect the union.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You'll have a high impact on everyone you deal with today. Your energetic and jubilant way of presenting what you are passionate about will win you points and favors.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will be in the mood to entertain and do your thing. Don't be tempted to overindulge - that will put a damper on what you can accomplish today.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You have everything going for you now. All you have to do is put your plans into motion. Don't let an emotional problem stand in your way.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
The more you do with others, the better your day will be. You can collaborate and come up with a workable solution to a cash flow problem. Romance is in the stars.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Don't let your personal matters disrupt your professional dealings today. Set up meetings and talk to people in your industry. Put love on the back burner today.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	29	31	30	30	30	30	30	Hi	39	38	39	39	38	37	37
Lo	13	13	13	13	13	11	11	Lo	27	27	27	26	26	26	25

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Legend and reality on October 17, 2004:

Bowers Museum unveils Queen of Sheba

For centuries, the myths surrounding Queen of Sheba have been among history's most intriguing mysteries. Just who was this captivating Queen and leading lady in the Bible and Quran? The Bowers' newest exhibition seeks to find out.

The myth, mystery and majesty of the Queen of Sheba is the focus of a new and exciting landmark exhibition at the Bowers Museum.

Organized by The British Museum exclusively for the Bowers, *Queen of Sheba: Legend and Reality* opens October 17, 2004 and runs through March 13, 2005. This is the first time the celebrated Queen of Sheba exhibition has

come to the United States.

"The Bowers is proud to bring the treasures of The British Museum to Southern California and the United States," says Peter C. Keller, Ph.D., president of the Bowers. "With many people unable to travel to London, we decided to bring London and The British Museum to them."

Queen of Sheba: Legend and Reality focuses on the significance and splendor of the mythical Queen of Sheba, legendary ruler of Saba, and the ancient kingdoms that prospered under her reign through commodity trade to Jerusalem and the Roman Empire.

The Queen of Sheba is a legendary figure referred to in the Old Testament as bringing great riches to the court of King



Bronze head from the queen's

Solomon in Jerusalem. Jewish, Christian, Ethiopian and Islamic traditions dwell on different attributes, giving rise to a rich artistic vein, particularly but not exclusively in Renaissance and later art.

The Queen of Sheba, however, remains an anonymous figure of legend associated with the land of Saba, one of the early kingdoms of Southern Arabia, now present-day Yemen. "There are many interpretations of the Queen of Sheba legend, which makes this exhibition and story so fascinating and compelling," says exhibition curator St John Simpson.

Queen of Sheba:

Legend and Reality will feature more than 100 spectacular treasures chosen from the breathtaking collections of the 250-year-old British Museum. These treasures, some from the 1st century, will bring to life the history of Queen of Sheba's fascinating ancient civilization still mostly unfamiliar to a Western audience. In addition to magnificent treasures from the acclaimed British Museum collection, one of the marquee treasures in *Queen of Sheba: Legend and Reality* is a bronze head of a male that was lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The exhibition will begin with the Queen of Sheba as a legend in art through Renaissance and modern representations. Queen of Sheba is viewed as a figure of beauty and seduction who sent a camel train of gold and ivory to King



Queen of Sheba side view

Solomon. According to legend, Solomon married the Queen around 950 BC after she became enthralled by the magnificence and majesty of his palace.

Included among the exhibit's stunning prints, drawings and film stills that illustrate various explanations of the Queen of Sheba legend are a superbly detailed 1590-1600 creation of the Queen of Sheba reclining beside a stream, and a splendid 1549 etching that depicts the Queen falling to her knees before King Solomon.

The early history and cultural development of Sheba's ancient civilization are explored in this exhibit through new archaeological discoveries, demonstrating the existence of a rich Bronze Age culture. Among the alluring treasures are statues depicting rulers of rival kingdoms as well as the striking 1st century alabaster head of a woman that reveals the attitudes regarding death and the afterlife in the ancient civilization.

Spectacular examples of decorative architectural elements, gold jewels and jewelry, pottery, glass and metalwork will reveal daily life in this ancient civilization. Extravagant incense burners and aromatic resins highlighted the bastion of the ancient economy. *Queen of Sheba: Legend and Reality* will present a stunning 3rd century calcite-alabaster incense burner engraved with a camel rider. The evocative smell of incense will be used to enrich the atmosphere in the Bowers' gallery and grand gallery, designed by

Paul Johnson, Director of Exhibit Design.

The development of art during Sheba's era will be revealed in the exhibit through such artifacts as the exquisitely crafted gold bull's head as well as a bronze altar with a bull's head and a lifelike bronze hand with a dedicatory inscription that provides insight into this civilization's fascinating culture.

The Bowers previously featured *Egyptian Treasures from The British Museum* in 2000. The relationship between the museums grew, and in May 2003, the Bowers became the first museum to sign a long-term, joint-venture agreement with The British Museum. The next exhibit to come to the Bowers Museum under this collaboration is *Mummies: Death and The Afterlife in Ancient Egypt*, which will open April 17, 2005.

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مع هاتف Nokia 6600 الجديد، الخيال يصبح واقعاً.

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