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Two militants sentenced to death for USS Cole attack Convicts describe verdict as “unjust” and promise to appeal

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Penal Court sentenced two al-Qaeda militants to death on Wednesday and sentenced four others to prison terms ranging from five to ten years, for the bombing of the U.S. destroyer Cole, which killed 17 sailors in 2000.

The pair, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri and Jamal al-Badawi, were both sentenced to death for orchestrating, plotting, preparing and involvement in the bombing of the US warship.

Judge Najib al-Qaderi sentenced Fahd al-Qissi to 10 years in jail for filming the bombing. The court said that al-Qissi had traveled to Afghanistan in 1997 to train at an al-Qaeda terrorist camp.

The fourth convict, Mamoon Amswah, received an eight-year prison term for delivering money used in

preparing, executing the attack and playing a close role in assisting al-Badawi.

Ali Mohamed Murakab and Murad al-Sirouri, were both sentenced to five years in prison for forging identification documents for Hasan al-Khameri under the name of Abdullah Ahmad Khaled al-Misawa, one of the suicide bombers.

The six men were all charged with belonging to al-Qaeda and playing various roles in the attack on the Cole, which was carried out by suicide bombers Ibrahim al-Thawr, Hasan al-Khamiri, and a third unnamed person who rammed an explosive-laden boat into the destroyer. Al-Thawr and al-Khameri traveled to Bangkok and received \$36,000 from al-Nashiri for the terrorist operation. The court judge said it was clear to him that the six militants were guilty of setting up an armed gang to carry out terrorist acts, including the attack on the USS Cole.

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Jamal Albadwi condemns the verdict.

Photo by M. alqadhi

Yemen court jails anti-U.S. judge for 10 years

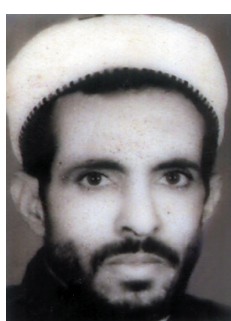
BY REUTERS
AND MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni court on Saturday sentenced a judge who supported an anti-U.S. cleric to 10 years in jail for sedition, fanning sectarian discord and forming an armed gang, the official Saba news agency reported.

Judge Mohamed Ali Loqman of Manakha-Haraz Court, arrested in July, was found guilty of supporting anti-U.S. cleric Hussein al-Houthi — killed by Yemeni forces last month — by setting up a branch of his “Believing Youth” group.

In a letter to the Yemen Times on Saturday, attorney Ahmed al-Dailami mentioned that the case was essentially different and refuted through the evidence he had presented on falsity of charges against the judge Loqman, adding that the reason was the domination of politics on the whole case. Attorney al-Dailami said proceedings of

the trial had proved non-independence of Yemeni judiciary and the clear of that was the forging of the case's papers and even the prosecution had forged those papers. Attorney al-Dailami also pledged to tell press and organisations concerned with human rights and freedoms and also local and world civil society organisations about the flagrant violations of the law in that case. He said the case and the verdict were nugatory. As for the objects presented as evidence to the court and on which it depended to substantiate-claims, the attorney said they destroyed and the court did not say what they were, adding that were the verdict just it would have clarified publicly what were the object that the political security had put hand on at the house of the judge Loqman in an illegal way. The attorney concluded by affirming that the verdict against judge



Judge Mohammed Ali Loqman

Loqman was in general a dangerous example in the history of Yemeni judiciary as it depended on incorrect evidence.

More than 200 rebels and troops have been killed in clashes over the past two months between Yemeni forces and Houthi and his supporters.

Sanaa accuses Houthi of setting up unlicensed religious centres and forming an armed group which has staged protests against the United States and Israel.

His group is not linked to al Qaeda. Anti-U.S. sentiment is high in Yemen and other countries in the Middle East over the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yemen is also fighting to root out militants linked to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

Yemen denies being the source of arms seized in Saudi Arabia's waters

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It was reported last Wednesday that a ship captured off the coast of Saudi Arabia by the kingdom's authorities was smuggling weapons to Sudan from Yemen.

The Yemeni government immediately denied the claim that the arms were smuggled out of Yemen.

“Yemen is not the source of those weapons, and the ship did not originate

from any Yemeni harbor,” said a security official last Thursday.

On board the ship were hundreds of automatic rifles and a large amount of ammunition when it was seized off the southern coast of Jazan.

Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier Mansour Turki said that the crew members confessed that they were smuggling arms to Sudan, were of Sudanese origin, and that the ship lost its course.

Continued on page 6



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Yemen included in Al-Zawahiri's latest message

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An audiotape of Al-Qaeda's second in command, shown on the Al-Jazeera channel last Friday, encouraged Muslims to resist the United States and its allies.

"We can't wait or we will be eaten up country by country," said Ayman Al-Zawahiri, second in rank to Osama bin Laden, and believed to be hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. "People of knowledge and experience should organize their efforts and form a leadership for the resistance to combat the crusaders."

Al-Zawahiri mentioned Yemen while claiming that a number of countries will expand into different countries.

"We should not wait until the US, British, French, Jewish, South Korean, Hungarian or Polish forces enter Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen and Algeria before we resist," said Al-Zawahiri. "The interests of America, Britain, Australia, France, Poland, Norway, South Korea and Japan are spread everywhere. They all took part in the invasion of Afghanistan, Iraq or Chechnya or enabled Israel to survive."

After analyzing the tape, the CIA said it was most likely authentic.

"We assess with high confidence that it is the voice of Ayman Al-Zawahiri," said the CIA.

Al-Zawahiri said Muslims should follow the methods used by insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ongoing clashes continue between US and Iraqi forces and rebel groups 17 months after the US invasion. Fighting has intensified between the remnants of the Taliban regime, which was ousted in late 2001, and US forces in south Afghanistan which has left over 1,000 dead in the last 12 months.

The Al-Qaeda leader also urged attacks against Israel and the United States as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues.

"Defending Palestine is a legitimate issue and liberating Palestine is an Islamic duty for all; therefore, Muslims cannot give up Palestine even if the whole world does so," Al-Zawahiri said.

There are concerns that as the threat of terror appears to have risen since the attacks on the United States on September 11th 2001, more countries have become more vulnerable to terrorist assaults. In recent weeks, there was a flurry of attacks in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Saudi

Arabia, Indonesia and Russia.

But according to one Yemeni analyst, Al-Zawahiri's message was not threatening.

"Al-Zawahiri's remarks were nothing new," said the analyst. "There has never been an uprising or a united front in the Muslim world when he has called on the Muslims to take action. Plus, his message could have been hidden in what he said to a specific group or groups. The threat of terror is rising, so more attention should be given to rooting out terrorist groups."

In an Al-Zawahiri videotape last month he said that the United States will be defeated in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The Americans in both countries are between two fires. If they continue they bleed to death and if they withdraw they lose everything," said Al-Zawahiri.

Last month, US military officials said that Al-Qaeda has been involved in some of the recent attacks in Afghanistan, where violence has increased leading up to the presidential elections on October 9th.

Roughly 18,000 US troops are fighting with the Taliban and its affiliates in Afghanistan and have been searching for Osama bin Laden and Al-Zawahiri for nearly three years.

UNDP contributes \$320,000 to AIDS program

An agreement was signed on Tuesday between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC), and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP), whereby the UNDP contributes the amount of US\$320,000 to combat AIDS. The money will help build the capacity of the National AIDS Program (NAP) and for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues into poverty and human rights projects. The agreement was signed by HE Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Mohammed Yehia Al-Noami, Minister

of Public Health and Population, and Mr. Moin, UNDP Resident Representative, and in the presence of a number of senior UNDP and government officials.

The UNDP-supported project is intended to enhance national capacity in responding to HIV/AIDS by mainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues into national policies strategies through piloting combined HIV/AIDS and national interventions and sharing lessons with other stakeholders, reviewing HIV/AIDS and human rights-related legislation, policies and practices and conducting appropriate advocacy. Recognizing the impact across all sectors of HIV/AIDS, the project aims to integrate HIV/AIDS interventions into the scaled-up national

efforts to develop the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper aligned with achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to which Yemen and the international community have made a commitment to achieve by 2015.

The project attempts to bridge existing gaps in various legislative provisions and policies, hence creating and enabling an environment for HIV/AIDS interventions to make a difference. Additionally, the project is expected to take various advocacy initiatives to raise awareness among high-risk and vulnerable groups, (as well as among other key actors in concerned government authorities and civil society), of the need for comprehensive and timely action to contain the disease at this early stage.

Employment discussed

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A National Tripartite Symposium on Employment, organized by the Regional Office for Arab States of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Beirut, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MSAL), was held in Sana'a from 29th September and 2nd October 2004.

The symposium aimed to support the establishment of a nationally owned

employment strategy that would be integrated into the broader Yemeni development process. This Symposium provides an important input useful in achieving the goals of the Labor Market Information Systems Project being implemented jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ILO and MSAL.

The symposium is stirring a national discussion on key themes related to employment in Yemen, including the broad dimensions of decent work; macroeconomic pol-

icy and employment generation; labor market information systems; small and medium-sized enterprise sector development.

The symposium brought together the policy makers in government, workers' and employers' organizations, business, national and international organizations, as well as representatives of labor syndicates, the donor community and international specialists. It provided a forum for exchanging views and experiences on labor and employment issues in Yemen.

Sewerage Project in Aden

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On Monday 27th September, the Vice President, Abdorbuboh Mansoor, laid the foundation stone to Aden Sewerage Project under Contract 3 of al-Areesh Sewerage Network Mujdalah.

This project comes as per the agreement concluded on 22nd May 1996 between the Yemeni Government and the German Federal Republic, and accordingly, the German Federal Republic offered a financial grant amounting 75 million Deutsche Marks to the Yemeni Government, allocated for the purpose of the Aden Sewerage project. This amount is equivalent to 85% of the project cost, the Yemeni Government will cover the other 15% in addition to providing the area required for the project purposes.

The purpose of the project, in its first phase, is to build a sewerage network in the districts of Khormaksar, Crater, Mu'alla, and Tawahi. As a

result of the horizontal expansion witnessed in the Governorate, and the extension of building into new areas such as al-Areesh, al-Nasr, the situation necessitated the preparation of a study to build a new network to cover up the requirements of this expansion. The expansion is included within the phase of the project known as contract 3.

The project aims to extend the sewerage network in the Aden Governorate so as to include the deprived areas such as al-Areesh, al-Nasr, and Gold Mohur, in order to avoid the primitive sewerage system, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the capacity of the pumping stations.

The event was attended by Aden Governor, Yehia Al-Shuaibi, and a number of officials from the Governorate, and the Water and Sanitation General Authority, as well as the German experts involved in the project.

IMO Secretary General visits Yemeni ports

ADEN BUREAU

Mr. Avtemos Metropoulos, the Secretary General of the International Marine Organization (IMO), and Mr. Alveroed Grafalo, Head of the Department of Conferences at the organization, paid a visit to the Container Terminal, and Al-Mu'alla port in Aden.

The Yemen Times established that the visit aimed at assessing the procedures and guarantees that ships are

subjected to on Yemeni water, as well as international marine lines provided by the Yemeni government.

They also took a sea tour to learn more about the nature of these procedures that ensure safety in the sea. It is worth-noting that the IMO is one of the UN agencies specializing in marine affairs, and it aims at providing marine safety and preventing sea pollution. Yemen joined this organization, which is located in London, in 1979.

Training course on humanitarian principles

By SHAKER AL-MOLSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of the Minister of Education, a humanitarian training course has been organized from October 2nd-6th at the Center for Research and Educational Development, Sana'a, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Habtour, Deputy Minister of Education, Ronald Oferinger, ICRC communication delegate, representative of the head of the delegation in Yemen, and a number of pressmen.

"The course is meant to train 16 participants in international humanitar-

ian principles so that they themselves train other teachers in the country," Offerings mentioned.

"This is part of a program set up by the ICRC. It aims at making secondary school students acquainted with international humanitarian principles and able to apply them to conflicts around the world and at home. The program consists of teaching units with a sophisticated methodology and a teachers guide, implemented in 60 countries and translated into some 12 languages," he added.

Yemen started implementing the program in scholastic year 2003-2004, as a pilot project in 16 schools, in 8 provinces. Now, it is considered one of the leading countries in terms of applying the program.

Al-Saleh Foundation honors students, distributes, bags & uniforms

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development held last Wednesday a ceremony to honor the best students in the Republic's General Secondary and Vocational exams for the Year 2003/2004. Some 66 students graduating from secondary scientific, literary, and vocational sections, were honored in the presence of the Minister of Education, Abdul-Salam al-Joufi, Minister of Technical Education & Vocational Training, Staff Colonel: Ahmed Al Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Foundation, and the relatives of the honored. Muhammad Saleh al-



Qadhi, chairman of the Foundation, said that the Foundation, wants the students and their parents feel appreciated for the efforts paid by them in scientific attainment. He addressed local and international organizations, urging them to be interested in education programs and projects in the country, particularly girls schooling in the rural areas of Yemen.

The Foundation

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that the verdict executing two and imprisoning other USS Cole defendants a just verdict?

- No, the defendants deserved more
- No, others involved needed to be brought to trial
- Yes, I believe it was a just sentence

last edition's question:

Do you think that the Yemeni government will delay the expected price hike until 2005?

No it will not 57%
Yes it will 43%

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German Ambassador visits NCC

By AHMAD AL-BAKHARI
TAIZ BUREAU

The German Ambassador, Frank Marcus Mann, visited last Wednesday the National Cultural Center (NCC) in Taiz and was received by Abdullah Sallam, the Manager of the NCC, a number of sewing and embroidery workers and trainees.

Afterwards, a joint meeting was held to discuss the support offered by the German Embassy and its organizations, for the center as well as functions in the framework of supporting non-governmental organizations and societies for the sake of developing skills and alleviating poverty.

The German Ambassador inaugurated the Computer & Internet Unit at the center. After reviewing the different activities of the center, he offered support in the form of computers and sewing machines.

Mr.Sallam stated that the NCC sponsors many activities in Taiz, including Al-Hujaria Educational Skills Development Center, that intends to integrate computers into the teaching process as well as teaching sign language and caring for youths in several aspects.

The Ambassador delivered a speech during which he promised that his Embassy would finance the construction of a training center with a capacity of 5000 trainees from Al-Turba and neighboring areas. Then he expressed his happiness to be encouraging youths throughout the province to develop their skills and contribute to poverty alleviation.

German Students visit the Yemen Times

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A host of German students from the University of Erlangen-Nuernberg visited the headquarters of Yemen Times Establishment on Tuesday Sept 30th in the accompaniment of Prof. Dr. Horst Kopp, after having made a tour of the country.

They met with Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, editor-in-chief, who briefed them on the newspaper and its history.

Majoring in population geography, they asked Mr. Al-Saqqaf questions, and were involved in a discussion about Yemen particularly in the fields of media, politics, human rights and the economy.

They also expressed their impressions of Yemen. "It is a fantastic country," and "We have read and heard about Yemen but could not have imagined such a



unique country" were some of the comments. The students were amazed by the diversity of traditions, costumes, and architecture in Yemen. One of them was particularly drawn to the distinctive Yemeni villages posed on mountain slopes.

They showed their interest in Yemeni issues including environmental concerns, and the conservation of biodiversity.

The group, consisting of 17 students (12 females), arrived in Yemen on September 14th.

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Migrant workers in Yemen:

If you need them, then help them

Marina de Regt,
University of Amsterdam
For the Yemen Times

Last Sunday it was 26th of September and Yemen celebrated the 42nd anniversary of the revolution. Forty-two years ago, Yemen has been freed of a dictatorial regime and decades of oppression of the Yemeni people. Since then major changes have taken place in Yemen, on all levels of society. The 30 September, a date that has no meaning for Yemenis but which is fixed in the minds of many migrants living and working in Yemen. One month ago, the Ministry of Interior announced that people living and working in Yemen without a residence permit (iqama) would have one month to obtain this permit. If they do not have a residence permit after September 30, they will be imprisoned and deported to their home countries.

This announcement has caused immense worries among many migrants in Yemen, especially those who came from poorer countries in the region such as Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Yet, while Somalis are recognized as refugees and therefore those who have an ID-card from UNHCR do not run the risk of being imprisoned and

deported, many other East Africans are here for economic reasons and work here illegally. They came by boat to Yemen crossing the Red Sea or they came by plane on tourist visa and joined relatives or friends living in Yemen. These migrants are sharing apartments in the poorer areas of Yemeni cities, often living together in small rooms and having access only to basic facilities. They suffer from high rents, the proprietors benefiting from the fact that they are non-Yemenis. They work as unskilled laborers in different sectors of society, doing work most Yemenis refuse to do. The salaries they receive are too low to build up a reasonable living, also because they often send a main part of their money home.

A large group of illegal migrants consists of single women who are working as maids in the houses of Yemeni families. Some of them are living with the families they work for but the majority work six days a week from 8.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. They clean, wash and iron, and sometimes cook and take care of small children. Yemeni middle class families are increasingly making use of foreign domestic workers, even when the families and the houses are not very big and the women in the house are not having paid jobs outside the house.

Yemeni women are shifting their attention from housekeeping to other activities and having a (foreign) house cleaner is seen as essential and a status symbol of middle class identity. The workload of the domestic workers varies depending on the size of the family and of the house and their salaries differ. The large majority of women earns a salary between 10.000 and 20.000 YR (50-100 US\$), and do not have a work permit nor a residence permit. Many of the women working as maids are having sleepless nights this month because they are afraid that they will be imprisoned and deported. The fines they have to pay for not having a residence permit for considerable periods are too high for them to pay. However, they do not want to go back to their home countries because there is no work for them and they cannot support their families. Their remittances are of invaluable importance for their families back home.

Since the 1962 revolution, major changes have taken place in Yemen on all levels of society. Infrastructure has been improved, schools have been built, health facilities have been expanded, women are actively involved in many fields, civil society is flourishing and a democracy is in the making. Celebrating these changes is good, but

we should not forget how these changes have come about. An important factor in the changes that Yemeni society undergoes is related to the big influence of Yemenis living abroad, and in East-Africa. Yemeni migrants have lived and worked in East-African countries for decades and were able to build up big companies and earn a lot of money. Their stay abroad had important economic, political and social consequences for their home country, and the impact is still very visible nowadays. In addition, there are many Yemenis who are having East-African roots, their mothers being of East-African background, and others have been brought up in East-Africa and regularly pay a visit to Ethiopia or Eritrea. Yemenis in East-Africa were treated as kings, I often hear, but Ethiopians in Yemen are treated very differently. The upcoming campaign to arrest and deport people without residence permits should give Yemenis a chance to do something back to those who helped them to build up their own country. Many Yemenis benefit from the presence of these migrants because they work as unskilled laborers, such as maids, and because of the high rents, they receive from renting their apartments to them. So if you need the migrants, then help them to get a residence permit!

Yemeni-German meeting at SCF

TAIZ BUREAU

The Al-Saeed Cultural Forum concluded the activities of the Yemen-German meeting last Wednesday and a workshop on Yemeni graduates of German universities. The meeting was organized by the World University for Services (WUS) in collaboration with the German embassy and Al-Saeed Establishment for Science and Culture (SESC) during the period from September 28th-29th 2004.

200 graduates, German organizations in Yemen, and some Yemeni authorities participated in the meeting that aimed to discuss the role that graduates may play (and how to integrate them into) the development of Yemen-German cooperation, the achievement of the millennium development goals and taking special care of alleviating poverty, education, health, and water issues.

Taiz governor, judge Ahmed al-



The German - Yemeni meeting Activities in Taiz

Hagri, stated in the opening celebration that Yemeni graduates of German universities are many and their specializations are needed in the Yemeni markets and that they'll surely contribute effec-

tively to Yemen's development.

Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of SESC, stressed the significance of such activities and their role in supporting the development of cooperation.

The German ambassador delivered a speech promising that they'll be continuous support for such activities. After that, Dr. Gaumi, representative of WUS said regarding the graduates: 'You are the ambassadors of Germany and you'll have a basic role in developing Yemen.'

Then the graduates delivered their speeches, characterized by Eng. Jameel Saeed who said that 'we'll contribute in collaboration with German organizations and local authorities to developing our society.'

On the sidelines of the meeting, an



artistic exhibition entitled 'bilateral cooperation between Yemen and Germany' was launched, and the German ambassador opened the German Cultural Center in Taiz.

Czech embassy marks national day

The Czech embassy in Sana'a held a celebration on Tuesday September 28th 2004 on the occasion of the national day. The celebration was attended by a host of Yemeni diplomats, businessmen, pressmen, a number of Arabic and foreign diplomats, and members of missions to Yemen.

The Czech ambassador expressed his happiness and gratitude for the cooperation between Yemen and Czech in all economical and political fields, and for strengthening the bilateral ties.

He confirmed that Yemen-Czech relations are going in strong and stable steps.

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Holy Month Exhibition inaugurated

TAIZ BUREAU

The Holy Month Exhibition was staged at Al-Sa'eed Exhibition Hall (AEH) in Osaifera, Taiz after it had been inaugurated by Judge Ahmad Al-Hajri, Governor of Taiz, Ali Mohammad Sa'eed, Chairman of Hail Sa'eed Companies, Dr. Ahmad Hail Sa'eed, Deputy Chairman, and a number of representatives from companies participating in the exhibition. The Governor and his companions toured the exhibition, which Ali Mohammad Sa'eed described as organized in a better way than it was in the previous year. The exhibition, which is staged by Hail Sa'eed Group every year, on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan, is a first class one.

Similar exhibitions are held in many governorates including Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Al-Hudeida, and Al-Mukalla, that take place between 29/9 and 15/10 2004 in order to provide a chance for



Governor of Taiz along with Ali Mohammed Saeed inaugurating the exhibition

shopping to all consumers at convenient prices. The exhibition includes the offering of instant prizes for those who purchase at the exhibition; the prizes

will proportionally increase as the quantity of purchase increases.

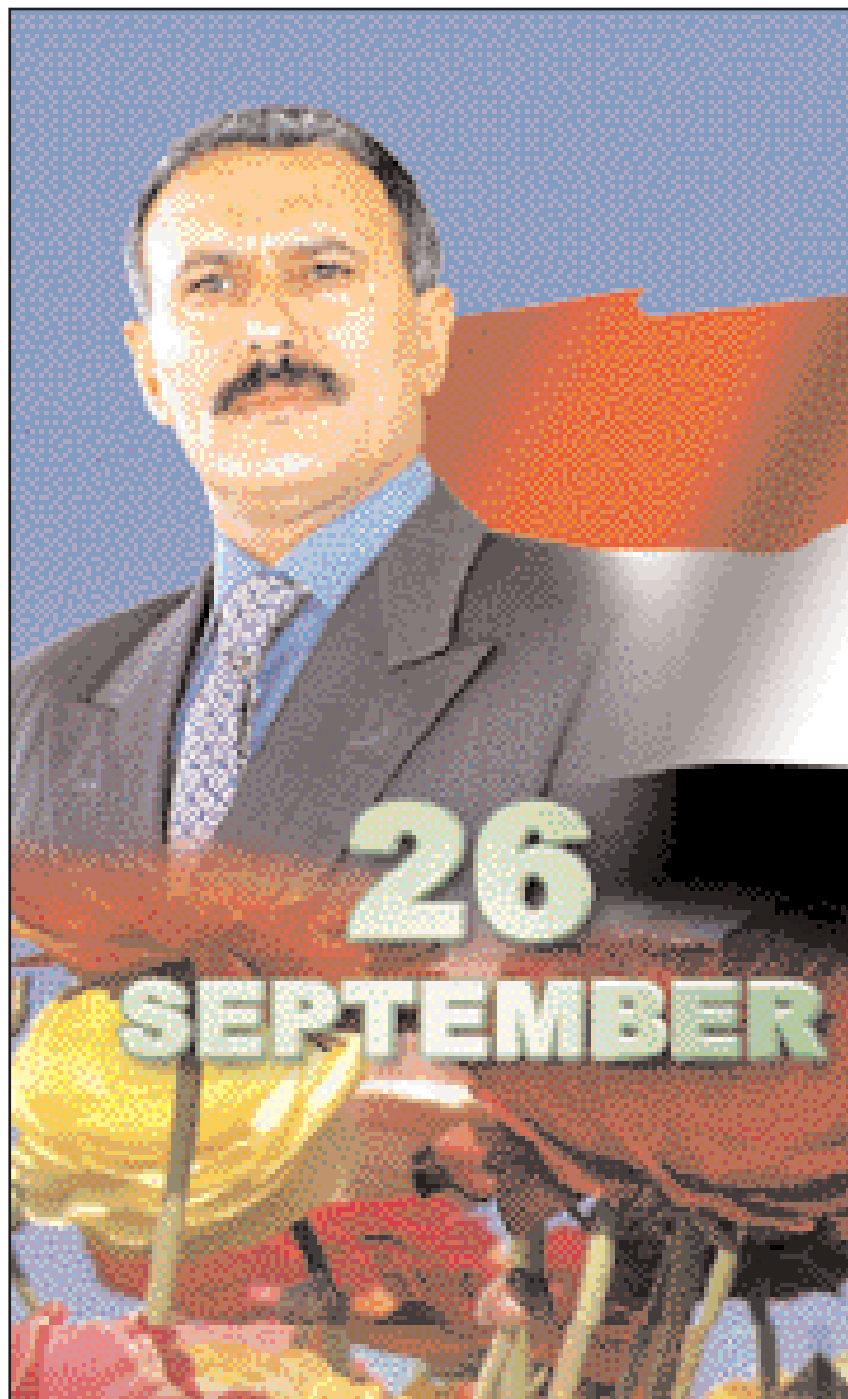
The exhibition, along with other exhibitions all over the republic, was organized by Al-Mass Artistic and Advertising Company, presided over by Waheeb Al-Harawi. For his part, the Governor of Taiz, Judge Ahmad Al-Hajri expressed his pleasure at the national products and at the progress that with the passage of a few years has enabled Yemeni products to compete, in terms of quality, with products imported to Yemen. He also praised Al-Sa'eed Groups for their observed contribution to the Yemeni economy.

The exhibition covers products from 15 companies belonging to Al-Sa'eed Group and others mainly Abdulghani Al-Harawi Company.

The exhibition witnessed a great influx of visitors from various Yemeni categories to buy what they need of the national products, for the Holy Month.



The guests touring the different sections



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Iran revises constitution to allow privatisations

TEHRAN, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Iran on Saturday overturned a key plank of the constitution to allow large-scale privatisations in a bid to overhaul the lumbering economy, over which many hardline parliamentarians have been trying to maintain state dominance.

The Expediency Council, Iran's top legislative arbitration body, gave the green light to privatisations in the downstream oil and gas sectors, mines, banking, insurance, telecommunications, railways, roads, airlines and shipping.

"In order to realise economic growth and development ... investment, ownership and management of these fields by private, cooperative and public sectors are permitted," a statement faxed to Reuters by the Expediency Council said.

Article 44 of Iran's constitution, written after the 1979 Islamic revolution decreed the core infrastructure must remain in the hands of the state.

The Expediency Council made no reference to radio and television which are catalogued in the constitution along with the sectors now earmarked for sale.

Upstream oil and gas and the airwaves for telecommunications will also remain in the hands of the state, news that will relieve parliamentarians who have said these must stay state-run in the interests of national security.

Several attempts by President Mohammad Khatami's government and the former reformist parliament to privatise key industries were blocked by the Guardian Council, a hardline watchdog that labelled the moves unconstitutional.

Re-interpreting Article 44

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last word on all state matters in oil-rich Iran, in June referred the debate to the Expediency Council. The council acts as a consultative wing for the leader in outlining key policies.

Saturday's decision is a final ruling on the constitutional legitimacy of privatisation but details have not been finalised.

Although hardline clerics sit on the Expediency Council, it also includes reform-minded ministers and pragmatic conservatives looking to shake up the economy.

Iran's 2005-2010 economic development plan envisages average economic growth of 8 percent a year over the five years, up from 6.7 percent in the year to March 2004. Iran's calendar runs from March to March.

Analysts dismiss the target as wildly optimistic and Iranian officials say it will not be realised unless the state ends its hegemony over the country's economy.

Hardline lawmakers opposed the privatisation of banks and insurance companies but in August gave the nod to a 49 percent sale of state-carrier Iran Air.

Iran's Privatisation Organisation on Wednesday said it would this month sell more than \$570 million worth of state assets.

Government has a privatisation target of \$5.95 billion in the year to March 2005, but this month's sales will be the first major step taken towards this goal.

Iran sold more than \$1 billion worth of state assets in the year to March 2004.

Egypt firm says two hostages still held in Iraq

CAIRO, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Two Egyptians hostages reported to have been freed in Iraq this week, are still being held captive there, but are in good health, their company said on Saturday.

Arab satellite channel Al Arabiya said on Tuesday six Egyptian employees of Orascom Telecom seized in Iraq had been freed, but the company said in a statement on Saturday only four of them had been released.

"The company confirms that it has received definite information that the two engineers ... are in good health," the Orascom Telecom statement said. "The company is continuing its

intensive efforts to secure their release as soon as possible," it said.

The Egypt-based company also said they had not paid a ransom to secure the release of the four engineers already freed.

"Orascom Telecom confirms the inaccuracy of what has been published by some media outlets that the company paid a ransom in return for the release of those kidnapped who were freed on Sept. 28," OT also said in the statement.

Orascom has a sizeable stake in Iraqna, a mobile telecommunications company covering Baghdad and central Iraq.

Israel kills 9 militants in massive Gaza offensive

GAZA, Oct 2 (Reuters) - The Israeli army killed nine militants in and around the Gaza Strip on Saturday, raising the Palestinian death toll to 47 in one of the biggest and bloodiest offensives in four years of conflict.

Nearly 200 tanks and armoured vehicles seized control of 9 sq km (3.5 sq miles) of the coastal territory in a massive operation mounted after a Hamas rocket attack killed two Israeli toddlers in a border town on Wednesday, witnesses said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his security cabinet ordered the army to carve out a "buffer zone" to halt the rocket strikes that have fuelled right-wing criticism of his plan to withdraw Jewish settlers from Gaza by the end of 2005.

The toll of 47 Palestinians and three Israelis made it the deadliest three days of fighting in northern Gaza since a Palestinian uprising erupted in September 2000.

The Israeli incursion, codenamed "Days of Reckoning", has focused on Jabalya, Gaza's largest refugee camp and a base for Hamas militants firing a daily barrage of makeshift Qassam rockets into southern Israel. Shooting was sporadic in Jabalya's cramped alleys after fierce battles on Friday. Witnesses and medics said three Islamic Jihad militants were killed in an airstrike and two Hamas fighters in a missile attack into Gaza City.

Four militants were killed after crossing the electronic border fence to try to infiltrate an Israeli community.

The Palestinian dead include civilians as well as fighters. Israeli fatalities include two soldiers and a woman jogger.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat condemned the Israeli incursion, saying: "I appeal to the world to ... stop these inhumane and racist crimes."

Cycle of bloodshed

Cutting short a visit to Jordan, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed



Palestinian militants from the military wing of Hamas talk to the media during a news conference in Jabalya refugee camp north of Gaza strip October 2, 2004. Vowing to "teach the enemy an unforgettable lesson", Hamas — sworn to Israel's destruction — threatened on Saturday to use its rockets to hit Ashkelon, the closest major Israeli city, 12 km (7.5 miles) up the coast from Gaza. REUTERS

Qurie also pointed the finger at Israel, but signalled his cabinet's consensus that rocket attacks should stop because they give the Jewish state what they see as a pretext for more raids.

"We appeal to all Palestinian factions ... to seriously consider the higher national interest," he told reporters.

The cycle of bloodshed has sent Sharon scrambling to counter rightist critics who say his Gaza pullout plan has emboldened militants trying to give the impression Israel is being driven out. Israel is determined to smash armed groups before leaving.

Vowing to "teach the enemy an unforgettable lesson", Hamas —

sworn to Israel's destruction — threatened on Saturday to use its rockets to hit Ashkelon, the closest major Israeli city, 12 km (7.5 miles) up the coast from Gaza.

Israeli security sources believe Ashkelon is too far away to face a major threat, though the Qassams — inaccurate and rarely deadly — are constantly being improved in Gaza workshops.

Militants have fired hundreds of Qassams, with an estimated range of 8 km (5 miles). Only one has reached Ashkelon, hitting an industrial zone last year but causing no damage.

A White House spokesman said Israel "has the right to defend itself",

but urged both sides to promote a U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which has been stalled by months of violence. The Arab League condemned the offensive.

Troops in one district of densely-populated Jabalya called through loudspeakers for dozens of Palestinians to leave their houses. Several families fled in fear that their homes would be demolished.

The army has destroyed many houses since the beginning of the raid as soldiers made their way through booby-trapped streets. The army says militants use homes as cover for rocket firing. Palestinians call the demolitions collective punishment.

Lebanon firm urges release of hostages in Iraq

BEIRUT, Oct 2 (Reuters) - A Lebanese electrical firm on Saturday urged militants in Iraq to free Lebanese and Iraqi hostages, including two of its staff, saying it had long since quit working in the country amid a wave of kidnappings.

"The Lebanese Jubaili Bros company announces that it stopped all activities in Iraqi territories last June and that its activities are limited only to training staff in Iraqi firms to operate and service power generators," it said in a statement.

"We urge the kidnappers to release all Lebanese and Iraqi hostages so they can return safe and sound to their families as

soon as possible."

Al Jazeera said on Thursday an Iraqi militant group had kidnapped 10 people, including two Lebanese and six Iraqi nationals as well as two Indonesian women.

The Arab news network aired a tape from the "Islamic Army in Iraq, the western leadership" showing images of five captive men and the two women, but there was no death threat.

"They work for the Jubaili Company for Electrical Appliances and called for their company to stop dealing with what they called the occupation forces," Al Jazeera said.

Jubaili identified the two Lebanese as

Marwan Ibrahim Qassar and Mohammed Jawdat Hussein, who were sent to Iraq at the request of the Iraqi al-Qaswaa firm to train its staff in generator maintenance.

Jubaili Bros deputy general manager Tarek Arkhadan told Reuters neither his company nor al-Qaswaa worked with the American military.

"We don't work with the Americans or anything," he said. "When there were a lot of kidnappings we got scared and stopped going there, but we had to send these two because our customers were having problems with the equipment."

Hussein's mother pleaded by phone on Al Jazeera for his release.

"In the name of Islam I plead that you release my son Mohammed and his colleague Marwan," she sobbed. "Mohammed has no links to any Americans."

A Lebanese Foreign Ministry official told Reuters five Lebanese nationals were missing in Iraq, but declined to give names or details.

Another Lebanese, Imad Basila, was freed by kidnappers in Iraq on Thursday, the official said.

Militants have seized scores of foreigners in Iraq since April. Most have been released but around 30 have been killed, including a Lebanese national in June.

Many Iraqi children miss school over violence worry

BAGHDAD, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Millions of Iraqi children were due to start the new school year on Saturday, but many stayed at home, their parents too scared to let them venture out amid Iraq's spiralling violence.

"I wanted to wait and see what happens today, in this country no one is safe. Not us and not our children," said Souad Mohammed, a teacher and mother of four.

"Now a new worry is added to our fears...the fear of not having our children back to the house after school."

Three days ago 34 children were killed and scores more wounded when suicide bombers detonated at least two vehicles in a suburb of Baghdad as children ran to collect sweets from a U.S. troop patrol.

The first day of class had already been delayed by two weeks because of the violence.

At Iraq's Education Ministry on Saturday, dozens of parents tried to find out about what new security

measures would be taken at schools.

The minister tried to assuage their fears, but for many parents it was not enough. Teachers who did turn up to work on Saturday said class sizes were greatly down on last year.

"We have about 10 children in each class which is the least we have had in years, even last year," said a teacher who gave her name as Salam at The Family elementary school in Baghdad.

"Of course, parents are worried. They didn't send their children to school, not only because they fear something might happen at the school but also because the roads are not safe."

Army of school guards

Iraqi children usually start the school year in mid-September and study through to June, with a couple of weeks off in February. They have a long break during the summer, when temperatures soar to 50 degrees

Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

Souad Mohammed said she didn't send her children to school because she was worried that insurgents might use the first day to carry out attacks.

Instability is mounting in Iraq just weeks before the U.S. presidential election in November and four months before Iraq is due to hold its own nationwide polls.

Attacks on American troops have risen to around 80 a day from 40 a month ago, while there are also dozens of attacks on Iraqi security forces. Civilians have often been caught in the crossfire.

Despite teachers saying numbers were sharply down, the education minister said the first day had been well attended, with about 80 percent of students turning up for class.

At the same time, he said he understood parents' fears.

"Security remains our number one priority and concern," Sami al-

Mudhaffar told Reuters after meeting worried parents.

"What we are really worried about now is the security matter which is not in our hands and we can't control it," he said.

"We can't just issue a decree saying that Baghdad, for example, should be a safe province and then it is. Security is not a decision from a minister and this what worries us."

He said the ministry had introduced new measures to try and secure schools throughout the country, including employing 15,000 guards to protect school buildings.

But security may still be out of reach, Mudhaffar said.

"Even if we prepare an army and we assign every student a guard, I don't think the problem would be solved," he said.

"The problem can only be solved when everyone believes that keeping these students safe is everybody's responsibility."



Iraqi students arrive for the start of the school year at Afladh school in the capital Baghdad October 2. Parents of many of the six million registered students delayed the return of their children to class this week amid fears of violence and kidnappings. REUTERS

Bomb blasts, attacks kill 46 in India's northeast

GUWAHATI, India, Oct 2 (Reuters) - A series of bomb blasts and attacks in India's northeast killed 46 people on Saturday in one of the bloodiest days in the troubled region.

Two bombs exploded in a market-place in Dimapur, commercial centre of the state of Nagaland, while a third ripped through a crowded railway station there almost simultaneously, an officer at the local police station said.

Twenty-six people died in the Nagaland attacks, the deadliest since a ceasefire with the main Naga separatist group began seven years ago.

Later on Saturday, tribal guerillas fighting for a separate homeland in the neighbouring state of Assam massacred 11 people. One man died in another bomb explosion in Assam and eight more people were killed in four separate grenade attacks.

Police said the attacks in Nagaland

and Assam appeared to be unrelated.

Janardhan Singh, Dimapur's police superintendent, said the attacks in Nagaland were aimed at disrupting the peace process.

Twelve people died at the railway station and eight were killed at the market. Six later died in hospital.

"It was a powerful blast, the tin roof of the railway platform has been blown," railway official Robin Kalita said.

"There are pieces of flesh and torn human limbs lying on the platform. There are people wailing," Yanger Thakkar, a journalist in Dimapur, told Reuters.

The blasts in Christian-majority Nagaland could have been set off by any of several smaller separatist groups that are not part of the truce with the Indian government, officials said.

The biggest group, the National

Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isaac-Muivah), which has fought for a separate Naga nation for more than half a century, has held several rounds of talks with government officials but with no breakthrough.

Police in Assam blamed the deaths there on two different separatist groups fighting for independence in the state.

India's mountainous northeast is home to dozens of underground groups, some fighting for greater autonomy, or statehood and others for secession. The groups accuse the federal government of plundering the region's rich resources and neglecting the local economy.

Security analysts say successive Indian governments have largely ignored the northeast, focusing almost entirely on the rebellion in the disputed region of Kashmir.



Debris and bodies of blast victims lie inside a railway station in the Indian northeastern town of Dimapur October 2, 2004. A series of bomb blasts killed 19 people and wounded more than 50 in northeastern India on Saturday in the deadliest attack since a ceasefire with the main separatist group in Nagaland began seven years ago. REUTERS

Zambia's Chiluba warned against return to politics

LUSAKA, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Former Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, who faces graft charges, will lose his monthly pay if it is proved he is a member of a newly formed political party, President Levy Mwanawasa said on Saturday.

The government will withdraw the monthly salary, limousines, domestic servants and state security the state provides to the former president "if it is proved he is involved with a new political party" because the constitution bars former presidents from active politics, Chiluba's former protegee Mwanawasa said.

Some close associates of Chiluba have joined the newly-formed Party for Unity,

Democracy and Development (PUDD), although his spokesman dismissed widespread speculation that Chiluba himself had joined.

Mwanawasa has already launched an unprecedented crackdown on corruption in the southern African nation that has targeted top members of the previous administration and Chiluba himself is awaiting trial on 199 counts of theft totalling \$36 million.

Chiluba stood down in 2001 as required by the constitution after 10 years in power, anointing Mwanawasa as his successor at the head of the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD). But Mwanawasa quickly turned against his former mentor.

"If he engages in active politics, the government reserves the right to discontinue paying him the former president's terminal benefits," Mwanawasa told reporters after returning from the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

But Chiluba's spokesman Emmanuel Mwamba issued a statement denying the former ruler had joined the new party.

"We wish to state that Dr Chiluba is in political retirement," Mwamba said.

"It is however, illogical to assume (Chiluba) will play no political role in the democratic processes of the country. Dr Chiluba is founder president of the MMD and he remains an ordinary member of the MMD so far," Mwamba added.

Afghans foil plan to disrupt vote; campaign picks up

Afghans foil plan to disrupt vote;

KABUL, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Afghan authorities arrested 60 Taliban guerillas who were planning to derail the upcoming presidential election, officials said on Saturday, as campaigning intensified for the poll in a week's time.

President Hamid Karzai's deputies and his main opponent hit the election trail. But Karzai, almost invisible during the campaign amid security concerns, prepared to go to Germany to receive an award.

Sayed Fazluddin Agha, a senior official in the town of Spin Boldak on the border with Pakistan, said the guerillas were intercepted on Friday as they slipped across the frontier.

"Their aim was to target voting centres and government troops in Helmand and Uruzgan provinces," he said. "During the initial investigation, we found they were planning to attack the elections."

Helmand and Uruzgan are both in the south of the country and are part of the stronghold of the Taliban, who were ousted from power by U.S.-led forces in 2001 for failing to hand over al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. military, leading 18,000 troops hunting Taliban and al Qaeda militants, also said it had thwarted planned attacks aimed at disrupting the country's first ever direct presidential vote, but warned of more violence to come.

"As we get closer to the election we expect to see more activity," U.S.

military spokesman Major Scott Nelson told reporters. "It only takes one person with a car bomb to get in there and get lucky and do something."

NATO-led international peacekeepers helped Afghan security services detain 25 people with "reported ties" to Taliban, al Qaeda and Islamic militant allies near Kabul on Saturday, a spokesman for the peace-keeping force said.

The threat of violence has been one factor behind a muted campaign so far, with Karzai virtually absent and some rivals calling for the poll to be delayed.

Campaigning intensifies

On Saturday, however, campaigning was markedly up.

Leading candidate Yunus Qanuni travelled to the southern city of Kandahar, taking him to the heartlands of the largest ethnic Pashtun clan that is expected to back its kinsman Karzai.

Ethnic divisions will play an important role in the polls, analysts say. Qanuni is an ethnic Tajik, Karzai is a Pashtun and Abdul Rashid Dostum, the third main contender for the presidency, is Uzbek. A total of 18 candidates are in the fray.

Qanuni addressed a crowd of around 600 people outside Kandahar's Khirqa Mubarak Mosque, before interrupting his speech to offer prayers. His audience clapped and shouted "Allah-o-

Akbar!", or "God is Great!" as he spoke.

While Karzai is widely tipped to win, he may not get the majority he needs to clinch the presidency. Qanuni is likely to be his closest challenger and hopes to force the vote to a November runoff between the top two candidates.

Karzai's running mate, Vice-President Karim Khalili, went to the country's second-biggest city of Herat on Saturday, where he was met at the airport by a noisy, exuberant crowd of 2,000.

In Kabul, Karzai's other running mate for the election, Ahmad Zia Masood, read out their manifesto on a programme to be broadcast on state television, saying Afghanistan had to take advantage of international support to resolve its problems.

"It is important that the world has stretched out its hand to us and it is for us to seize this chance," said Masood, brother of assassinated resistance hero Ahmad Shah Masood.

Karzai, who moves guarded by special U.S. bodyguards, escaped an assassination attempt in the southeast last month and has barely taken to the campaign trail in person.

On Sunday he travels to Berlin to receive an award. Last month he attended the U.N. General Assembly.

More than 1,000 people have died in militant-related attacks since August last year, and at least 21 Afghan soldiers have been killed in the last week in the volatile south.

Leaders launch drive to curb polio in Africa

KANO, Nigeria, Oct 2 (Reuters) - Political leaders and health workers launched a drive on Saturday to immunise more than 80 million children against polio in 23 African nations and fight back against a resurgence of the crippling disease.

Campaigners had been hoping to eradicate polio this year or next but the virus has spread in the past 18 months to 12 countries where it had been wiped out, in part because the northern Nigerian state of Kano banned the vaccination.

Authorities imposed the ban last year because local Muslim leaders alleged the vaccines had been tainted to reduce fertility and spread HIV in a Western plot against Islam. They reversed course in July this year after 10 months of pressure.

"Building a strong nation today in order to guarantee a virile future ... is our collective responsibility," Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo told thousands of people packed into a stadium in Kano.

"Let us pride ourselves on a polio free Africa and Nigeria," he said, watched by officials from the United Nations and European Union, as well as African Union Commission President Alpha Oumar Konare and a range of Nigerian dignitaries.

More than 650 African children have been paralysed by polio this year, accounting for more than 85 percent of the global total, according to the partnership of U.N. agencies and other groups spearheading efforts to eradicate the disease.

"The ban on immunisation in Kano was a key factor in allowing the virus to spread back into polio-free parts of Africa," said Kent Page, a spokesman for U.N. children's fund UNICEF in West and Central Africa.

"It provided the spark and the region ignited," he said, adding that inadequate campaigns in other parts of Nigeria and surrounding countries had made matters worse.

Polio, which mainly afflicts children under five, is caused by a virus that

invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis or death. It is one of very few diseases than can be fully eradicated if enough children are vaccinated.

Health experts say political leaders need to back vaccination — usually administered by mouth in at least three doses — to underscore its importance to citizens.

"Despite the great gains made by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative around the world, polio is now fighting back in Africa," said E.M. Samba, director of the World Health Organisation's regional office for Africa.

"Now, more than ever, we have to stop polio forever, and we cannot do it alone," Samba said.

The new campaign will cover 22 countries in West and Central Africa as well as Sudan. The first wave of vaccinations will begin later this month, with a second wave in November and further rounds throughout 2005, officials say.

Continued from page 1

Convicts describe verdict as "unjust" and promise to appeal

Upon hearing the sentence the six defendants broke into cries of "Allahu Akbar".

"This is an unjust verdict, this is an American verdict," screamed Jamal al-Badawi when he was handed the death penalty. He said that the court, the prosecution and the government did not have a hand in the verdict which was "totally American". His father also condemned the verdict, appealing to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for leniency in the sentencing of his son. "the courts verdict was already passed three years ago," he screamed while talking to reporters outside the courtroom.

For his part, the defense lawyer Abdulaziz al-Samawi was shocked by the verdict, as he had already announced during the final hearing that he expected his clients to be convicted, but not in the way the prosecution wanted. He described the verdict as "unjust" and that the defendants "were used as a scapegoat as the prosecution failed to find the real perpetrators."

Khaled, the brother of al-Qiss'e, told the Yemen Times that the verdict was "unfair." "We never expected such a sentence. We expected that they would be acquitted as the prosecution throughout the tribunal failed to present any evidence to convict them. It was

very clear that the court was influenced and pressured by foreign forces," he added angrily, pointing out that the verdict will be appealed.

During the hearings defense lawyer Abdul Aziz al-Samawi presented to the court judge an official letter from the former Interior Minister, Hussein Arab, instructing security authorities to give "safe passage to Sheikh Mohammed Omar al-Harazi, (an alias of al-Nasheri) with three bodyguards without being searched or intercepted. All security forces are instructed to cooperate with him and facilitate his missions." The order was valid from April 2000 until the end of 2000.

The lawyer asked that Arab should be questioned on the official letter but the judge was heedless to his request, despite the fact that it accepted the letter as evidence.

Last month the same penal court sentenced 15 defendants to terms ranging from three years to death for various terror plots and attacks. Those imprisoned for 10 years included five supporters of Al-Qaeda for the 2002 bombing of the French supertanker Limburg in an attack similar to that on the Cole. The militant Hizam Mujali was sentenced to death after being convicted of fatally shooting a police officer at a checkpoint.

Yemen denies being the source of arms seized in Saudi Arabia's waters

"The rules adopted in this case are in line with internationally recognized norms, which the kingdom will be implementing after verifying the nature of the territorial violation," said Turki. "If we find out that the violation was committed intentionally, the violators will be punished in Saudi Arabia."

Last spring, Saudi and Yemeni governments agreed to secure the border between the two countries to stem the flow of smuggling. Smugglers have been known to carry a wide variety of goods, ranging from diesel fuel, to qat, to weapons, into Saudi Arabia across the long, porous border. It is reported that Saudi authorities believe arms involved in suicide bombings last year in Riyadh that killed over 50 people were traced to being smuggled out of Yemen.

Yemen has been building its security along the coastlines and at ports. The government has been developing its coast guard, including the use of gunboats given to the government from the United States last spring.

"The government has put in a lot of effort into, and has done a good job in, fighting against smuggling," said a Yemeni analyst. "They have been doing the best they can, but it does not have all the means and resources. It will take time to control smuggling because what they need is more resource."

The Yemeni security official said that Yemen and Saudi Arabia are working together to determine the results of the Saudi authorities capture of the smugglers.

"Contacts are being made between concerned bodies in Yemeni and Saudi to understand the circumstances in light of the investigations being conducted by Saudi authorities within the framework of security cooperation between two fraternal countries," the official said.

نهني الدكتور / علي اليدومي
بمناسبة حصوله على درجة الدكتوراه في الاقتصاد من جامعة المستنصرية (العراق)
المهنتون
منير الحميدي شاكرا المصلي رمزي العبيسي
عادل الخولاني صدام الظلال علي الحميدي
وجميع الاهل والأصدقاء

الف مبروك للشهيد / ناجي بن صالح عباد الزايدي
بمناسبة إرتزافه المولود الجديد الذي أسماه / صالح
فألف مبروك
المهنتون:
حسن الزايدي - أحمد مرشد الخولاني - عبدالله سعيد الزايدي - محمد بن هادي - محمد سلام الأصبحي - أمين مأمون السقا

المسابقة التي انتظرها الآلاف كثيراً

The contest awaited by thousands



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- وتحبذون أن يراها آلاف القراء في اليمن والعالم؟
- تعتقدون أن الصورة التي بحوزتكم قد تكسبكم الملايين؟

إذا، فقد أتى دوركم للمشاركة في أكبر مسابقة من نوعها في تاريخ الجمهورية اليمنية وهي:

مسابقة "أجمل صورة"

برعاية كبرى الشركات اليمنية

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For more information, please refer to following editions of Yemen Times and the Family and Development Magazine.

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أجمل التهانى والتبريكات للشاب الخلاق
عبد الحميد محمد حجر
بمناسبة عقد قرانه الميمون
تأليف ألفت ميروك
المهنتون:
جميع موظفي شركة وولد لينك الدولي

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شركة فاس للتجارة والخدمات
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21 سبتمبر
وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
وزارة التعليم العالي وكافة موظفيها
يتقدمون بأحر التهاني القلبية وأطيب التبريكات الى فخامة الأخ المشير /
علي عبد الله صالح
وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في
ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.
عنهم: د / عبد الوهاب راوح وزير التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR
OPINIONAden & Dubai:
from where
to where!

If there is a contrast that can be seen in the comparison of two portal cities in the Arabian Peninsula, it would be the changes witnessed in the ports of Dubai and Aden. It is fascinating to observe the growth that Dubai had experienced in the last fifty years, and simultaneously, the decline of Aden since the 1960s.

To appreciate the level of change in of these two cities, let us have a brief historical review of the two cities.

Aden from glory to vulnerability

Aden was once one of the most prosperous hubs and ports of the world. Its most glorious time followed the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 when it became the most important transit port on the sea route between the Mediterranean and Asia. It continued its growth to become one of the strongest economic trade centers, especially as the British colonial authorities (who occupied it) ensured that it remained a free zone for trade, and even for tourist visits from the UK and elsewhere.

By the middle of the 20th century, Aden had become a city with modern infrastructure: from wide boulevards and tall buildings, to highly advanced electricity and communication services. At the time, Aden rivaled many European cities, and surpassed many more.

But the glorious days didn't last forever. The city started its decline in the 1960s with a socialist regime that deprived the city of many of the advantages of the past. Then the city suffered from violence and war, which caused even greater damage.

Hope was revived when unification took place in 1990, and promises were made to convert it once again to an international free hub by re-establishing the free zone. But it wasn't long before hopes were shattered with successive blows to the city such as the 1994 war, and the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, which devastated the city and condemned it to the stagnancy it continues to suffer from.

With its desperate need for new infrastructure and investment, and with its huge unemployment rate and crushing poverty, the city is barely staying alive in a time of regional competition and the rapid growth of rival ports including Dubai.

Dubai: the miracle of the Gulf

The story of Dubai is perhaps the opposite to that of Aden. This coastal city has grown in 50 years from a small seaport in the Gulf, used for limited trade and fishing, to a major hub in the Asian continent. International trade, which has flowed from Dubai's cosmopolitan contracts, has been the basis of rapidly increasing prosperity. This gave the city an early start in development before the beginning of oil production in the late 1960s.

The rulers of Emirates and of Dubai, had a vision of the conversion of the city to an international hub that facilitates investments and builds an infrastructure to match and surpass that of other countries. Dubai's largest urban development project, just outside Dubai city, is the industrial complex of Jabal Ali, 20 kilometers southwest along the coast. The government of Dubai has built the largest man-made harbor in the world, with a dredged deepwater approach channel stretching far out to sea, and to create a complete industrial complex, it has established such major undertakings as an Aluminum smelter and gas separation plant, as well as a residential village of more than 300 houses.

Today, Dubai is one of the fastest growing urban cities of the world. It already has a highly valued reputation for being a tourist destination and a trade center. It has also demonstrated the potential of visionary Arab entrepreneurs, who can create and develop cities that fascinate and baffle visitors from the most advanced countries of the world.

A lesson to be learnt

If we examine two pictures, one of Aden and one of Dubai, in the 1930's, we would see that Aden was much more advanced, however, the pictures of the two today show the total opposite. Why and how this happened is a lesson that we all need to learn. In my opinion, it all comes down to leadership, vision, determination, and courage in applying new initiatives and ideas.

Aden could certainly have been a much more developed city than Dubai, if we had had the vision. But so as not to put things so negatively: I still feel that Aden can again surpass Dubai if the required vision comes - even today.

It is not too late, the question should not be whether Aden will regain its glorious position of the past, the question should be when!

The Editor



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Change and reform is a will, and political process,
and not a technological transformation

Yemen and change

PROF. DR. ABDUL AZIZ AL-TARB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Some Arab regimes mistakenly think that the concept of reform applies only to modernizing infrastructure, to pushing forward technological progress, and may be to paying attention to economic issues. However, we see it differently. It is an integrated process, based on a comprehensive view, starting inevitably with political and constitutional reform, which is the independent variable that controls all other variables. We are not saying this vacantly, for actually the head of the state is the one responsible for reform, and who has the key to all the doors of bureaucracy. The body can not be sound unless the head is sound. Therefore, I think that the technocratic changes can not be an expression of real change, nor can they be a symbol or reform. The heart of the issue still lies in having a comprehensive vision and far-sightedness, as well as the ability to anticipate the future, so that it suits coming generations.

We will discuss this issue in the following pivots:

Firstly: the former experiences of the Arabs joint work, and ways of managing conflict, show vividly that a lack of vision is the most dangerous factor that controls us and threatens our future. We are very particular about the secondary things, and, if it happens that we tackle main issues, we address them in a limited sense and the results are usually negative. Research into the science of methodology tells us that whoever does not have vision will not be able to make plans for the future.

Secondly: let's take the Indian experience into consideration. It is an exemplary history that can help explain what happened to us, and what we can do tomorrow. Immediately after independence, India set up a higher planning council under the auspices of the planner of modern India, Jawahar Lal Nehru. By virtue of that council, that big country was able to draw up the outline of its future despite the challenges resulting from overpopulation, ethnic and political differences, and a large geographic area.

What made India, is its early adoption of a farsighted vision, and, with its leader's fertile imagination, it figured out its path, planning into it without hesitation. We can now look up at its status: a nuclear country with space research, heavy industry - self-sufficiently providing food for over a billion people.

Thirdly: seriousness and continuity are two main factors in any reformation process. The Arab World is more interested in high-sounding slogans, than the fruits of such rich language. Therefore, we begin first with an announcement of various ideas, and manifold projects, but we generally do not complete the task. Many Arab countries have spoken about scientific research, heavy industry, space rockets, and nuclear weapons. Yet, the reality is entirely different. These aspects need objective treatment that does not exaggerate nor allow aspiring words to distort the facts. So, seriousness and con-

tinuity are two things, which the Arab world needs but which the Arab mind lacks.

Fourthly: Segmenting entities, disintegrating policies, and thinking in routine way may fit the bureaucratic state, but it does not meet the requirements or the aims of change. A state may become technologically developed and may be economically strong, but at the same time be politically backwards if it does not respect law, democracy and freedoms. Policies, therefore, are the maker of the future, the indicator of change, and the factor of transformation.

Fifthly: Respecting human rights and the value of the individual are two matters that have a special significance in defining the concept of reform. Many regimes have benefited at the expense of human beings, their dignity and freedom. The Marxist communist system was the best example and a proof of this, when the ideology devastated spiritual and ethical values, imposing instead the model of dominance, an iron grip, and intellectual subjugation.

Six: Turning the reform process into day-to-day activities, on-the-spot decisions, and governmental changes is an evasion of the broad and clear meaning of reform, and its all-inclusive significance. Reform is based on a general theoretical grounding, with a clear-cut philosophy, and does not limit itself to procedures, decisions, or short-term changes.

Seven: political and constitutional reform is the way to change the approach to transformation. Since the Arab World has a confidence crisis with liberties, and suffers flabbiness in political thought, the cure lies in entering new realms that keep up with the spirit of the age, and are in harmony with the rhythm of change that satisfies the will of nations.

These are the major observations about the issue of reform, which has become a chewed slogan losing its sense and application. Many are the regimes adopting pointed slogans and ambitious policies but few go past that point. They mobilize their efforts only to ensure the safety of their existing political system, and perpetuate ongoing conditions. The result was always fossilization, backwardness, and a departure from the concerns of the contemporary world. If we were allowed to think out loud about reform, we should put forward the following points hoping they would stir an interest in the future of this country, which is still challenged more than any other one, and facing external pressure and intervention:

a) If the unit of change is the organization, its umbrella will be philosophical. Those who think that advancement is an imported contemporary industry and not based on national thought are misled, and do not realize it. Reform does not come from a vacuum and change does not happen by chance. There must be a farsighted and comprehensive vision. In the Arab World, the organization is weaker than the individual who manages it. Therefore, its prosperity depends on its manager, a fact which puts organizations at the mercy of a handful of individuals, and lets their circumstances dictate an organizations life and success.

b) Policies are the main criterion to understand change and judge the soundness of reform programs. Policies, by their nature, must be set up on a general and theoretical basis before they are translated into practical operational decisions. Yet, they should never be a package of abstract methods without a framework.

c) The reform process requires a fully politicized staff. Hence, the presence of political parties - serving as political schools - is a source of satisfaction, indicating that we are going in the right direction, and they are a proof that the process is ultimately political and nothing less.

d) The vitality of political systems is a necessary condition for the completion of the reform process. Moreover, the link between reform and external factors is considerable, because external influences seem to be effective in reform, and its bearing. No control can be set over the required steps without the presence of foreign pressure.

e) Reform will continue to be conditional on democracy. Those who want to evade this fact are wasting valuable time and losing available opportunities. Wide-scale political participation and liberty are the guarantees of effective change that will enable us to catch up with recent international developments.

f) If change is related to organizations and their policies, it should have an impact on leaderships. In the meantime, we believe that changing individuals is not enough to embark upon the reform process, which necessitates a basis of content, thought and a vision for the future.

This article aims to arrive at the essence of the reform process and its full content, because we have seen that some Arab regimes rely upon bureaucratic means under the pretext of making changes. They follow an approach of confusing the real concept of reform up with technocracy. The endeavors and experiences of nations show that policies are the leader. The political official is responsible for setting up the vision, while technicians apply it, each in his field of specialization. But to turn things upside down, and give leadership to technocrats will not serve the goals of change and real form.

Technology is necessary and technical advancement is one manifestation of reform, but political vision and national volition are the two principles for moving towards the future. Otherwise, we would be building castles in the sky. We should not imagine that this topic is far away from the current conditions of the Arab World. The management of conflicts was never successful when a comprehensive vision was absent. Victory is a mental decision, and defeat is psychological surrender. Pioneering in all aspects of life and alleviating poverty are fruits of the reform process based on a vision. The fruits and the spirit of change are based on the national consciousness, and the fruits of real democracy are that it respects the dignity of the Arab citizen.

When shall our leaders understand this? It is the political will, which can make us stronger.

Letters to the Editor

Haifi: peace cannot
be won by denial

I would like to respond to a recent column by Haifi about the recent developments in Iraq. You intimate that the murderers of the Nepalese workers have implicit sanction of the occupying forces in order to discredit Islam. Saddam's hoodlums they may be, but you will never win peace by denial. The 9/11 terrorists were the product of radical Islam and given sanction by the very concept of the lack of worth of a so-called infidel. Al-Sadr's taking a holy site hostage was an attempt to have American forces desecrate it. The Americans showed the mosque more respect than the Mahdi army.

You must fervently renounce them.

Else, we are all doomed to a future of endless war between peoples who all want their children to live in peace and know that our differences do not alter God's love for any of us. He is not so limited in scope as we. Peace be with you.

Don Fraser
domhnall@bu.edu

Dead babies for Zion

I'm getting pretty good at predicting Israeli tactics - I've got the "who" and "what" and "when" portion down to a science - it's the "where" I keep mulling.

I predicted a 9/11-type catastrophe just after the Durban conference.... I

knew they needed to change world headlines from "dangerous Israel" to "evil Israel"....

And when the AIPAC spy scandal broke, I said - uh oh, somebody's going to be cleaning up baby body parts real soon.... but where?

I predicted the American Southwest, or the Northwest because each are important demographics necessary to the country's resolve in the war on Islam. Islamic terror in Seattle would have cleaned the clocks of the anti-war left.

But back to AIPAC - Who sent whom what message?

I don't know, but the resultant dead children for Zion was a spectacular show of why Jews dominate media.

I am impressed. It was a brilliant choice of victims, superb timing for George, and a significant body count, insuring, new, very public demands for the extermination of 'radical'

Islam, with radical Islamists being those who dare to fight back.

I am not deterred, however in my assessment, Jews will self-destruct in this environment of total largesse.

Face down in their crème fraiches, so to speak. Jews are terrible losers... but they are frightful winners.

The way you defeat the Jew, is to make them hate you so much, they self destruct, revealing a uniquely bloodthirsty ardor for revenge - on not just you, but former employers, or childhood friends... hell, they might even kidnap the first born of your third grade English teacher.

Resistance is futile. We have been assimilated.

All we can do now is get out of the way and observe the downward spiral of Jewish success and excess.

Carole Ward
Santa Fe, New Mexico
carolontheweb@yahoo.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

It is God's that
they take away

The ugliness of mass death is again hovering over the Holy Land from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean in incredible numbers. This ugliness is moreover hitting the most tender of "collateral" damage, with several children falling dead or limbless for the rest of their lives. All this horrible display of senseless killing is being unleashed simultaneously by the most powerful nation on earth and by the most powerful regional power. Both have an unlimited stockpile of the most destructive weapons, and both have given themselves immunity from adherence to all the international statutes that have regulated the relations between nations since the end of World War II. Both are also applauding each other's actions, on the pretext that they are fighting against terror. Both are actually the birthplace of terrorism in several respects. Israel was established with terror as its cardinal weapon, and the United States has encouraged the propagation of terror, by its blind support of a state that has caused havoc in the Middle East for the past fifty years, irrespective of the total disregard for moral or civilized conduct, on which Zionist doctrine is based on. Death and destruction are the common scenes the observer is witnesses in Palestine and Iraq against a helpless people, in both countries, who have no one to assure them that their sleep on any night will be free from the explosive ugly sounds of rockets or from the catapult of tank shells. Yes, the war on terror has actually brought terror to a refined art practiced by supposedly the most civilized of nations, which claim to uphold the highest of human values. But the scenes of children being dragged out of the fallen rubble that interrupted their normal slumber of the night and turned it to an endless sleep, without yet even given an opportunity to leave their marks on life. In this terrible display of power versus the meek, destinies become beset by hopelessness, because there are narrow minded arrogant thugs in this world, who insist on monopolizing the right to life, the right to peaceful slumber for them and their children, even if the whole world burns, while they are enjoying their tranquil and prosperous lives. No, these arrogant monsters living behind a façade of legitimacy by sheer power think that the whole world is for the taking to suit their own visions of a world dominated by their infinite quests for power and plunder. Yes, these phony articulators of might makes right think that all the children of the world are vulnerable to their rockets, and laser guided ordnances, if per chance their school happens to be along the paths of their monstrous lethal tanks. Even if these children could not help but defy the odds and confront these tanks with harmless stones. The cowardly troops hiding behind the armor unleash their hate with impunity against these young stone throwers to satisfy the bloodthirsty ego that Zionism and American arrogance has engrained in the shallow minds of the men in these invincible machines of slaughter as they tread mercilessly over the shanty refugee camps of Gaza or the poverty stricken neighborhoods of Samarra or Baghdad. Never mind that the refugee camps of Gaza were created by several years of the same ongoing confrontation between the meek and the destitute against the powerful worshippers of demagoguery. Several years of helplessness have brought on a kind of unusual courage even among children, who know that those tanks are killing machines that cannot be held back no matter how many pebbles or rocks they can manage to collect and hurl at those mighty armor vehicles, the payload of which was designed to destroy, kill and permanently injure all or anything that stands in their way. In the Holy Land of all places, men who been scientifically reared to kill are allowed to freely unleash all the might at their disposal against the helpless of the Holy Land to satisfy the mythology of men, who actually claim to be civilized. Yes, it is first of all God's land, and where God has destined such land for other children to enjoy the right of a peaceful slumber, even if in squalid refugee camps created by a long history of institutionalized terror based on might and might alone. Yet those brave children defy the odds and hurl their harmless stones against this mighty display of armor creeping into their crowded residences, with their mothers praying that maybe they will still have a chance to see their young children again, a prayer they fully know can be blocked from the Heavens and because they know that their children will not let themselves become used for target practice by these merciless death machines. But the children say no to all the impossible odds and say that if life is meant defiance of the odds then be it so. They take out their helplessness against this ugly enemy that has been driving their parents and their parents' parents for generations from one refugee camp to another, insisting to offer them no more than a life of perpetual misery they themselves have no appetite for. Those children know that these tanks were sent to hunt them down and take away all that God only has the right to take away from man: the right to live; the right to sound sleep, the right to dream, the right to plant their seeds. It is an arrogance that only Zionism has refined to a mastery art of Spartan chauvinism, with the full backing of another monstrous power that seeks to persuade the world that it and only it knows when the time to kill is right and why. It is God that gives life and it is God that takes it away. But when arrogance is driven by a careless display of might, the arrogant seeks to challenge the might of the Almighty and decides that this might in their hands is a God given blessing to them. No, it is more than that, it raises them to the pedestal of takers away of the very life that God has given: a foolish belief that they are indeed also Gods. Even helpless children are theirs for the taking to unleash their ugly propensity to kill for the sake of quenching an engrained thirst for blood, on which Zionism, as preached by the likes of Ariel Sharon thrives and on which the arrogance of a cowboy urge to overtake the world of the helpless and the meek finds solace. It is a horrible rendition of the ugliness of men, who claim to have the powers of God to take life away, just so they can only be the sole possessors of this most wonderful gift, which only the Lord Himself can grant to helpless mortals. They insist that what they are doing is correct and proper, because their arrogance has blinded them to set all proper conduct according to their chauvinistic and narrow minded whims. They are after all the Gods of the Earth and they can take any life away they want, even the life of small infants who have yet to enjoy their first taste of their mother's milk.

YT Business

A survey of qualified workers' applications to installations



By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
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A survey of qualified applicant workers in the sector of installations reveals that a great proportion are from youth between 15-39 of age constitute a percentage of 82.6% and from 40 years old and more constitute 17.4%.

Results of the survey prepared by a program on information system and labour market in cooperation with the

central apparatus for statistics, the development program and the social fund for development reported that those holding certificates of vocational training centers form 6.7% and 11% from those holding the technical and vocational secondary school, 25.3% from holders of diploma after secondary school stage and 56.9% from those holding university degrees. It also revealed that a large proportion of females holding university qualifications rate 71.2%.

The survey has also revealed that those specialized in human, social and educational sciences form 42% and in professional and technical specialties form 13.9%, in applied sciences

10.7%, medical health sciences 7.8% and pure sciences-natural and biology 5.7%.

The highest proportion of the survey is concentrating in specialist professions by 39.4%, technicians and assistant professionals by 28.5%, clerks by 11.4%, legislatures, senior officials and managers by 9.4%, and craftsmen by 2.2% and operation and factory assembly workers by 2.7%, while the remainder percentage is distributed on other jobs.

Results of the survey also reveal indicators pertaining to opportunities of training and qualification the workers acquired from employers that show their number amounting to

17280 workers forming 35.2% of the total workers and concerning females by 26.2% and males by 36.8%.

Distribution of trainees indicates that 65.5% of them are holders of various qualifications received training at an official institute and center and 34.4% of them have been trained during their work.

About bureaucratic skills, the skills of foreign languages and administration, operating computers and leading skills form an average of 63.8% of trained workers who acquired knowledge for the improvement of work performance.

Distribution of workers according to the survey indicates that those who

do not work in the field of study and specialty are of a rate higher than those of holder of certificate received from centers of vocational training centers by around 19.8% and the university qualifications by 18.4%, diploma after the secondary school by 16.9%, technical secondary schools by 14.9% out of the total number of those working in the field of their study.

The survey has also revealed the relationship between the qualification, specialty and job as having an effect on the level of the monthly income of employees. Those working in fields incompatible with their specialties are in positions included among groups of less income, while those performing

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8700	185.0500
Sterling Pound	333.5800	333.9000
Euro	226.8900	227.1100
Saudi Rial	49.3000	49.3400
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.3200	627.9300
UAE Dirhem	50.3300	50.3800
Egyptian Pound	29.7200	29.7500
Bahraini Dinar	490.3600	490.8400
Qatari Rial	50.7900	50.8400
Jordanian Dinar	260.7500	261.0000
Omani Rial	480.2100	480.6800
Swiss Franc	146.7500	146.8900
Swedish Crown	25.1100	25.1400
Japanese Yen	1.6684	1.6701

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

jobs compatible with their specialties are among those of higher income. The survey also revealed the difficulties facing employees while at the beginning of practicing their profession; the more important of which the difficulty of dealing operating tools an equipment, such as electrical, mechanical and computers and accountancy jobs. The survey recommended the necessity of increasing opportunities of training for employees holding qualifications and develops their skills in a manner commensurate to requirements of labour markets.

Grapes agriculture needs promotional studies

Plans for increasing production

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The first Grapes Festival, recently organized in Sana'a by the ministry of agriculture in association with Thahban Company, has revealed the availability of investment opportunities in production and marketing of such agricultural crops and that the Yemeni agricultural policy is lacking of promotional studies aimed at attracting capitals for investment in the agricultural sector, increasing the production of grapes. The production volume of grapes is at present estimated at about 168824 tons a year.

The festival has also disclosed that the diversity of climate in Yemen is convenient to growing more than 40

species of grapes, being marketed during period of June to November. There are spacious agricultural areas for growing grapes over areas amounting to 22870 hectares of the total arable land in Yemen which is estimated at 1668858 hectares.

The map of agricultural crops revealed that grapes occupy the number 19 on the list of the area grown with cereals, vegetables, fodders and fruits. Meanwhile the quantity of exported fresh and dried grapes is estimated at about 719 tons of a value of 316.795 million riyals, according to last year's exports statistics.

Despite of the deterioration of grapes exports the festival, organized under the motto "From Scarcity to Abundance", has attracted the attention



of private sector agricultural sector to the importance of planning for the expansion in production of this crop of which Yemen produces three kinds in white, red and black colours and 40 species, most renowned are the Al-A'simi, Raziqi, Zaytouni and al-Jaborandi they match world species.

According to the map of yearly statistics, the governorate of Sana'a occupies the first place in the area of growing grapes, which is esti-

mated at 18478 hectares with an average of annual production of 135141 tons, come the governorates of Saada with an area of 3514 hectares; with 30415 tons, Al-Jawf, 731 hectares with a production rate of 2433 tons and followed by Mareb, Tamar, Hajjah by less proportions.

Studies confirm that consuming grapes as nutritious stuff is very useful for the human and supplies his body with vitamins, mineral salts, sugar material and has many medical benefits and for curing some diseases.

The ministry of agriculture and Thahban Company has at the end of the festival honoured producers of grapes to encourage them to increase the production of this crop and raise the volume of exports to external markets.

Yemen during 42 years: from deterioration to entire economic planning (2-2)

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
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The strategy of planning wasn't given up, but the government started to foresee future horizons especially after noting that economic reforms showed positive indications of developing human resources.

The population reached 18.3 million in 2000; the average life expectancy is 60.5 years; the health coverage of population is 50%; then fatality average is 9.8% out of a thousand births, the rate of water coverage is 40% and that of electricity is 30%. Government spending on education and training is 22% of its budget. The rate of adult illiteracy is 55.7% and the average of the elementary education is 61.4%.

These figures signify to what extent planning to develop human resources has become the main policy of the economic system after unification in 1990. This process went in two directions: the first is in designing the economic reform program in 1995. The second direction was the preparation and the execution of the five-year plan during 1996 and 2000.

Following what is stated in the Yemeni constitution that Yemen should adopt the strategy of planning to organize its economy and exploit its resources in all fields, the government started to set the overall framework of the first five-year plan including three important

aspects:

The first aspect is working on achieving actual results in economic growth.

The second one is rectifying the economic and financial defects.

The third is benefiting from human resources as well as economical ones that are available.

The plan has aimed at achieving the aims of the economic, financial and administrative reform since March 1995 and of these goals are:

- Getting rid of the public budget deficit that reached 14.9% of the gross domestic product in 1994.
- Decreasing the financial overflow that exceeded 49% in the same year.
- Lightening the burden of the external indebtedness and decreasing the defect in the budget of payments that was 13% of local gross in that year.

This tendency towards planning helps in improving the national economy, the most important indications of which are the achievement of real growth in the local gross at an annual rate of 5.5%, decreasing the deficit to 7.1% of the local gross, and reducing the overflow average to less than 5% in 2000. The debt was decreased by 18.9% of the GDP besides lowering the debt by 55%. During a decade of planning for development after unification, Yemen has achieved many goals in the fields of agricultural and industrial development, and improving infrastructure such as building roads, electricity, telecommunications, water, etc.

The second five-year plan towards anticipating the future

The second five-year plan in Yemen, between 2001-2005, is distinguished by the governments efforts to make the framework of a strategy to alleviate poverty, which is considered the core of all strategies and aims. The general aim of the plan focuses on founding economic reform, alleviating poverty, creating job opportunities and ensuring social and economic stability.

The plan included the strategies for Yemen until 2025 and millennium development goals and some local and international obligations.

The plan expected that the national economy would grow until the end of 2005 by an average of 4.7%. It reported that its priorities are: implementing the policies of economic, financial and administrative reform and increasing the personal share of the local gross from YR 51,558 to YR 53,973 by the end of the plan, which would help to reduce poverty to 35.9%.

The policy concentrated on improving the government's income, especially the non-oil income, based on better exploitation of the resources and improving the system of taxation; and creating suitable procedures for the private sector, in the effective investment in development programs and offering some services.

In this respect, the expenses of the strategic programs of alleviating poverty were estimated to be nearly 413.4 billion

Yemeni rials during 2003 and 2005.

Typical transfer of planning

If the second five-year plan was the first stage Yemen's strategic view until 2025, this view reflects the planning for economic development for the foreseeable future. Those suggestions were decided by all the appropriate public officials and partisan sectors in all provinces and free zones. The plan included some other aims such as:

- Improving the coastal areas and industries
- Encouraging agricultural activity.
- Investing in fishery wealth and developing the tourist sector
- Increasing production and exports
- Reinforcing science and technology
- Enlarging public participation in politics and taking care of cultural heritage
- Achieving economical stability and reinforcing partnership with the private sector.
- Supporting the role of the local authorities and achieving the aims of development until 2015.

Anticipating future

According to Yemen's strategic outlook, planning is continuing. The third five-year plan, 2006-2010, which is considered the third stage of the general strategy is being prepared now and the government is intending to integrate this plan within the strategy of alleviating poverty.

\$ 53 million worth
Implementation of water and soil protection project

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of Agriculture is, from the beginning of next November, implementing a project for the protection of waters and soil in fifteen of the country's governorates at an estimated cost of more than \$ 53 million.

The project aims at limiting danger of water exhaustion and the increase of subterranean and overland waters production through:

- improvement of water transport systems for irrigation purposes,
- improvement of methods of re-feeding of subterranean waters,
- protection of waterfalls,
- supporting of institutions working in the field of waters and group of water consumers.

It is scheduled that the project would be finished by the end of 209 when there would be an improvement in transferring water via plastic and iron pipes to an area of 27 thousand hectares.

The project also aims at reducing proportion of water loss through the installation of modern irrigation systems feeding 440 thousand hectares. It also involves the improvement of irrigation with small flowing water torrents of 33 installations and rehabilitation of 22 medium-capacity installations for irrigation by water torrents, the building and re-qualification of canal control

installations in 126 establishments and the implementation of works meant for protecting valley sides at 105 sites.

The project also is meant for protection of agricultural terraces, preserving waters and soil in the heights whose length is 193 thousand and 235 hundred meters for an area of 1105 hectares, in addition to protection of valley banks of around 227 sites sprawled on an area of 2519 hectares.

The project is also aimed at providing protection of soil at 129 sites against torrents for an agricultural area of estimated at 530 hectares as well as building 269 new water reservoirs with a capacity of 35 thousand and 600 cubic meters and rehabilitation of 127 reservoirs.

It is decided that the project offers support for establishments and parties concerned with waters through training and providing requirements for civil works and consultative services.

The project's work would cover ten field units in 269 districts distributed over 15 governorates, namely, Sana'a, Amran, Saada, Tamar, Al-Baidha, Hudeida, Taiz, Ibb, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa, Hajjah, Dhalie and Hadramout.

It is also expected that the project would upon its execution provide 47 million cubic meters of waters a year, equaling 1.8% of renewable water resources in Yemen and feeding about 1.25 million people of Yemeni cities population.

World Links Arab Region

Maximizing the potential of Arab youth

INTERVIEWED BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

With the majority of its population under the age of 20, the Arab Region stands at a crossroads. Proper investment in education, knowledge, technology and the empowerment of all its citizens will lead to economic and human development in the region. Neglect will lead to unemployment, and social frustration. The Arab Human Development Report 2002, published by UNDP and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, made this all too clear. UNICEF's 2002 State of the Arab Child, reinforced these findings. World Links is a positive, proven and professional response to the challenges and opportunities facing youth in the Arab Region.

Ms. Sama Danyal, World Links Arab Region Program Coordinator, has been in Yemen and the Yemen Times has seized the chance to run the following interview.



Sama Danyal

Q: Can you give a brief account on the World Links Arab Region?

A: The vision for World Links Arab Region is to dramatically expand the reach and impact of the program, in order to reach millions of Arab youth. The goal is to improve education, enhance employment opportunities, and build a global understanding among Arab youth themselves and with non-Arab youth around the world. In turn, this will promote regional economic and social development.

The mission of World Links Arab Region is to improve educational outcomes, economic opportunities and a global understanding for youth in developing Arab countries, through the use of technology and the Internet. World Links Arab Region connects youth in a global learning network, allowing them to share their knowledge, perspectives, hopes and dreams with their peers. Through this network, youth develop skills in technology, entrepreneurship and collaboration. Teachers learn to integrate technology into learning for improved educational results. These skills enable youth to participate successfully in the global knowledge-based economy when they leave school. The

program is particularly beneficial for girls, who demonstrate improved academic results, school attendance and communication skills, along with increased confidence and self-esteem.

World Links began in 1997 as an initiative of Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank. In 1999 World Links spun off from the World Bank as an independent non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. Since its inception, World Links has expanded to over thirty five developing countries in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth in thousands of schools and community tele-centers. Approximately US\$25 million has been mobilized in this effort, with another US\$10 million raised in in-kind donations. Today World Links is recognized as one of the most innovative and successful global educational programs. World Links was voted by the World Economic Forum's membership as the #1 educational program bridging the global digital divide, through more than 75 programs.

Q: What has World Links Arab Region have achieved so far?

A: World Links Arab Region operates in the Arab Region as the Arab holding of World Links. From its initial hub in Jordan, World Links is already operating in 120 schools in Jordan, reaching over 100,000 students in five years. WLAR is also currently launching a nation-wide pilot program in Lebanon and about to expand into Syria with a program that will cover about 80 schools and about 300 teachers, reaching about 50,000 students in over 5 years. With hopes of further expansion in the Arab Region, WLAR has picked up subcontracts to use its growing influence and developing partnerships in the Arab Region to benefit the lives of even more children. Working closely with ministries of education and strategic partners, these schools have received computer labs, Internet connectivity, and teacher training (in Arabic and English) better preparing students for the global information economy.

World Links Arab Region has assembled an Advisory Council of the highest caliber. The Advisory Council is composed of Queen Rania of Jordan (President the Jordan River Foundation), the First Lady of Syria, Asma Assad (President of FIRDOS, a

Syrian NGO), Bahia Hariri (Member of Parliament, Chair of the Education Committee and Director of the Hariri Foundation), Lubna Olayan (CEO of Olayan Financing Company) and Elaine Wolfensohn (international education advocate and spouse of the President of the World Bank). The Advisory Council will guide and facilitate the work of the World Links Arab Region. It will meet annually, and oversee fundraising events. It will also serve as an additional contact point for interested government agencies and/or prominent private sector individuals who might wish to support World Links.

Q: What are World Links Arab Region's future plans?

A: World Links Arab Region will serve the needs of Arab youth, teachers and ministries. This office is staffed by Arab nationals, experts in educational technology and entrepreneurship training. World Links Arab Region will offer educational technology services in English, Arabic and French, and be a critical "knowledge bridge" for Arab

youth to the rest of the world.

All funds raised from the Arab Region will stay in the Arab Region. One million students will have been empowered by the end of 2006. With \$250,000 per country per year, World Links Arab Region can reach 120 schools, 500 teachers and 100,000 students over five years. With this reach, World Links Arab Region will set in motion a process by 2006 that will enrich the lives of 1 million students and by 2008, 2 million students.

World Links Arab Region will also mobilize funds generated by World Links at the global level. WLAR has raised over \$1.6 million in less than one year with \$100,000 from World Links donated in July 2003 as start up capital, \$250,000 from each Pepsi, Hewlett Packard, and Arab Construction Company CCC. For the Yemen Hadramout project, over \$200,000 has been donated from SEDCO. Further, our esteemed Advisory Council members Mrs. Assad and Mrs. Hariri have each contributed \$160,000 for programs in Syria and Lebanon with

matching funds from FIRDOS, and \$25,000 from the Wolfensohn Family Foundation. A good part of this funding can be expected on an annual basis. Strategic Partnerships with institutions and individuals can be developed at all times.

Q: Do you have any final words?

A: Arab youths deserve the same educational and economic opportunities as their peers around the world. Furthermore, improved learning, communication skills (Arabic, English and French), technological skills, access to the best global knowledge, and opportunities to express their own views and dreams, are critical to the successful economic and human development of the Arab region. World Links has proven its ability to deliver sustainable, high-impact results, and stands ready to assist Arab countries to succeed in the 21st century global knowledge-based economy. Individual and organizational leadership from the Arab region is required to turn this potential into reality.

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Pakistan and Iraq

Difficult conditions for upcoming elections

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Afghanistan: unstable presidential elections

Campaigning for the presidential elections, to be held in a week-and-a-half in Afghanistan, began earlier this month. Although the president of the interim government Hamid Karzai is the front-runner, 17 other candidates are attempting to win the country's first election in three decades.

But as the elections are approaching, many are questioning if the elections can be carried out successfully.

Two weeks ago, Karzai barely escaped an assassination attempt the first time he left the capital Kabul, during his campaign for the elections. His trip to the southeastern town of Gardez was aborted as a rocket just missed the US military helicopter carrying the president.

Late last month, a bombing attack at a security firm in Kabul that pro-

insurgents in Afghanistan in the near future.

What is left of the Taliban regime, which was ousted in late 2001, has regained strength and is fighting 18,000 US forces in the south. The number of casualties, coming mostly from guerrilla tactics carried out by the Taliban, has climbed to over 1,000 over the past year. This year, terrorist attacks have moved into northern areas, once calm as clashes have continued in the south. Up to 40 aid workers and a dozen election workers have been killed over the last 12 months.

The United States is sending around 1,100 soldiers of the first battalion of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which already has experience in Afghanistan and Iraq, to help secure the country for elections.

But some believe that more troops arriving just before the elections may not provide enough security.

"We welcome US troops to help us

70,000 troops in 2009 to replace ISAF and US forces in the south. The local army now has only 15,000 soldiers.

Some think that Afghanistan is not prepared for the elections.

"We certainly anticipate a rise in attacks as we get closer to the elections and more assassination attempts against candidates, including Karzai," said Nick Downie, who is in charge of security for non-governmental organizations.

Downie also said that the United States and NATO sending more troops is "too little too late. It's going to make very little difference and in any case should have been done long ago."

A recent report from the Afghanistan Evaluation and Research Unit said that the candidate that wins the election may face a "crisis of legitimacy" because of the lack of international monitoring and well-trained electoral staff. The report argues that without proper supervision, there will be many flaws, like militia commanders intimidating voters and fraud.

Early this month, one of the best known organizations for observing elections, the Organization for Security and Co-operation based in Vienna, decided not to send a monitoring team due to the lack of security.

A number of presidential candidates are now calling for the elections to be delayed for a month or longer, arguing that they are not able to campaign for the presidency in such an unstable environment.

But some believe that even if the elections will be far from perfect and violence increases, the Afghans are eager to vote. Around 10.5 million have registered to vote, with women taking up over 40%.

"People are looking at the elections with hope, doubt and fear," said Abdul Latif Rahmani, Professor of Political Science at Kabul University. "The number of people that have registered is more than was expected, and it indicates that people are willing to go to the polls, even though it may not be as easy, free and realistic as we had hoped. The people look at this event as something unique and are eager to vote because of the opportunity to express themselves."

But it is unclear what will happen as the elections get closer.

US Ambassador in Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said that he expects the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and affiliate groups to continue their attacks. He also said that there might be a "spectacular" offensive carried out by the rebel groups between now and the elections.

Iraq: elections in a danger zone

When Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi traveled to Washington, D.C., last week, he gave a positive speech to the US Congress on the situation in Iraq and assured that elections will be held next January.

"Let me be absolutely clear – elections will occur in Iraq, on time in January, because Iraqis want elections on time," Allawi said to Congress. "Despite the setbacks and daily outrages, we can and should be hopeful for the future."

During his visit, he added that 14 or 15 out of 18 provinces in Iraq are safe, and "if you look at Iraq properly, there are no problems. It's safe. It's good."

But government officials and leaders are now divided on whether the elections can be carried out fully or if elections should be held in the war-ravaged country at the beginning of next year.

Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said that the conditions in Iraq are getting worse, but the US government believes elections will be held as scheduled.

"The reason it's getting worse is that they [the insurgents] are determined to disrupt the election," said Powell. "Because it's getting worse,



we will have to increase our efforts to defeat it, not walk away and pray and hope for something else to happen."

Richard Armitage, US Deputy Secretary of State, said to Congress recently that the elections will have to be held in every area of the country.

Others, however, believe that with ongoing clashes people going to the polls in some parts of Iraq may not be possible.

"The level of violence may very well increase between now and the Iraqi elections," said US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the Armed Service Committee of the US Congress last week. "If there were to be an area that was – where the extremists focused during the election period and an election was not possible in that area at that time, so be it. You have the rest of the election and you go on. Life's not perfect."

A few days ago, Iraqi Vice President Barham Saleh supported Rumsfeld's view of a partial election

process, claiming that if violence continues in some areas people will not be safe enough to vote.

There are also voices arguing that elections in January are not feasible due to heightened violence and lawlessness. King Abdullah of Jordan said this week that "it appears to me impossible to organize indisputable elections in the chaos currently reigning in Iraq."

The king added that if some people are excluded from voting, the country could become even more divided after the elections, which might heighten violence.

"I don't think the elections at the beginning of next year are possible," said Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University in Yemen. "You need a stable country to hold elections. The conditions are actually getting worse, and they probably won't change very much in the next few months."

Since the US invasion in March 2003, over 1,000 US soldiers have been killed. In the last year, daily

attacks on US troops by insurgents jumped from an average of 20 a day to around 85 daily. Rebel groups have kidnapped around 140 people, and a number of the hostages have been killed. Insurgents also target Iraqi security forces, and ongoing attacks have killed thousands of Iraqis.

The elections, scheduled to be held on January 31st, 2005, will come out with a national assembly which will decide on the new government replacing the interim government headed by Prime Minister Allawi. The first national assembly chosen by the Iraqi citizens will also take on the task of writing the country's new constitution.

Iraqi authorities will be using unusual tactics to reduce the risk of registering voters before the elections. The database created for food rationing under the Saddam Hussein regime will be used in November at distribution centers instead of setting up registration sites.

Powell has said that the US and Iraqi forces are planning a major offensive to try and tighten security before the elections. He said that the offensive will probably include the "Sunni Triangle," by focusing first on Ramadi and Samarra, followed by the most difficult target Fallujah.

"The other ones, I think, are more manageable. Ramadi and Samarra, I think we'll get those back under control, and then we'll have to deal with Falluja," Powell said.

According to Allawi, the Iraqi government is trying to develop its own security force. The plan is to increase its forces from 50,000 today to 250,000 by the end of next year.

But if the level of violence remains over the next few months, many will continue to wonder if the elections can be carried out in January.



vides protection for Karzai, killed 10 people, which showed the lack of security in the heart of the country.

The Taliban have made it clear that they are aiming to derail the upcoming elections. Soon after the assassination attempt on Karzai, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and announced their intention to target all of the 18 candidates running for president.

"All presidential candidates are our top targets now because they are running for the polls of a US-made election – an election which will create a government in the interest of the Americans," said Abdul Latif Hakimi, a Taliban spokesman.

Although US forces have been in Afghanistan for nearly three years, the mastermind of the Al-Qaeda network Osama bin Laden and his second in command Ayman Al-Zawahiri are still on the loose. US army officials now believe that the two Al-Qaeda leaders were behind some recent attacks.

"What we see are their techniques and their tactics here in Afghanistan," said Major General Eric Olson, Operational Commander of US-led forces in Afghanistan. "I think it is reasonable to assume that the senior leaders are involved in directing those operations."

Olson added that "I don't think we're close at all" to eliminating

carry out elections, but security has gotten worse, and we expect violence to increase during elections," said an Afghan government official.

Although NATO agreed in October 2003 to send more forces to help bring security to areas outside the Afghanistan government's control, member countries have hesitated to commit troops. NATO has plans to send 1,500 soldiers to boost the 6,500 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) for the elections. But NATO has yet to find countries willing to send troops into unstable areas, such as the western province of Herat.

Early this month, Karzai made a bold move by removing the Herat governor who is seen as one of the strongest warlords and reluctant to give up power. Soon after his dismissal, a riot broke out in the city of Herat and six aid agency offices were burned down while four people were killed and 50 wounded. The staff of the UN and aid organizations had to evacuate the area.

Karzai's decision was to expand the influence of the central government outside of the capital and into the countryside, but vast areas are still under the control of powerful warlords backed by armed militias.

The government is in need of the ISAF. The US army is training Afghan forces so that they will have



PROCUREMENT OF TRAVEL AND CLEARING/FORWARDING SERVICES

EXPRESS OF INTREST

The UN Agencies hereby solicits Expressions of Interest in Yemen for :

- I. Travel Services.
- II. Clearing and Forwarding Services.

UN agencies invites qualified suppliers to express their interest in supplying the above services. The expression of interest should specify the name and address of company, contact person, relevant supply experience, financial statement, list of professional staff and equipment and must be received by UN agencies no later than **October 10th, 2004**. It should be noted that UN agencies are not obliged to invite to participate in the subsequent bidding process any particular potential supplier who had expressed interest in this project.

Only vendors prevailing from past experiences delivering the above will be considered. Interested potential suppliers should forward their expressions of interest, labeled "EOI TRAVEL SERVICES" and/or "EOI CLEARING/FORWARDING SERVICES" including the documentation listed above.

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UNDP
"EOI TRAVEL SERVICES" AND "EOI CLEARING SERVICES"
United Nations Development Programme
P.O. Box 551
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex
Sana'a, Yemen
Attn: Ms. Nesreen Al-Hibshi
E-mail: Registry.ye@undp.org
Tel: +967 1 448605-8
Fax: + 967 1 448841

For any clarifications, please feel free to contact Mr. Mohamed Nashwan via his email: nashwan@unfpa.org or mobile: 00967 71767171

Joy to the world

By JANE NOVAK*

With great glee, Kofi Annan's personal assessment that the Iraq War was illegal was received as vindication by many around the world who opposed the war. It was received with jubilation by those who would support nearly anyone who could humiliate the hated US. As a practical matter, it surely empowered the ideology of the bombers, the beheaders and the kidnappers in Iraq.

Cutting open old wounds, Annan said: "From our point of view and from the Charter point of view, it was illegal." He was referring to the US decision nearly two years ago to enforce the numerous UN resolutions against Iraq. Not surprisingly, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Danforth took an opposing view, saying that it would have "undercut the rule of law" to have allowed Saddam to continue to defy UN resolutions. The British attorney general, Lord Goldsmith, had found Britain was acted within the law citing three U.N. resolutions that justified the use of force against Saddam Hussein's regime. Australian and US legal advisors had reached the same conclusion, as had the advisors and parliaments of 32 other nations in the early part of 2003.

Within a day of Annan's pronouncement, howls of "war monger" and "war criminal" were directed at President Bush, and calls to support the "courageous Iraqi resistance" surfaced in various media. The "courageous Iraqi resistance" must be the same Iraqi patriots who last week executed nearly 100 people, mostly civilians, in bombing Iraqi security personnel. They - now kidnapping journalists and professors - were very "courageous", according to this logic, in perpetuating the al-Shurra massacre. Rooting against those working to bring about an Iraqi democracy, is the goal of international hostility toward a democratic Iraq the formation of a new Taliban or a new Ba'athist regime? Or does it matter as long as America fails?

Those who feared to lead, those too proud to follow, those who ran away, and those whose main agenda is a multipolar world now have a champion now that Kofi Annan expressed his bias. And

all their efforts can be directed in unison in destroying Iraq to prove the point: the Americans were wrong. No grownups here concerned for the Iraqis themselves, just vindictive children, quick to label the Iraqis as the new Palestinians, although the Iraqis themselves have grasped the opportunity for democracy.

Burdened by the mantle of terrorist appeaser, Spain jumped at the chance to pretend their accommodating response to 3/11 was in fact logical: "We're not surprised by Annan's comments. That's what Spain said and that's why we pulled out the troops," government spokesman Javier Valenzuela said. No mention was made of how Spain's withdrawal emboldened the enemies of the Iraqi people and indeed the world at large.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier opined: "You well know that what explains our country's disagreement with the way the war was carried out was that it clearly did not at that time abide by international law and there was not a clear request from the United States to start that action," he said at a news conference. The French spokesman gave no indication that France's huge financial stake in the continuance of Saddam's regime may have been a factor in their strong support for the dictator. Of course, the vouchers uncovered in the Oil for Food Scandal showing millions of barrels of oil allocated to French nationals have been hotly denied as false.

Having undermined the legitimacy of heroic Iraqis, Annan went further in saying that elections should not be held on schedule because of the security situation, and little help will be forthcoming from the UN, as if any serious effort had been undertaken so far. Throwing one obstacle after another at the Iraqis, who already face a substantial mess from American mistakes, Annan has little confidence that the alliance of Iraq with the US, the Brits, the Australians, and the Poles will produce a positive outcome. But it wouldn't surprise the Iraqis, a determined people if there ever was one.

The Iraqis don't share the pessimism of Annan, the anti-Americans and the terrorists regarding their country. A recent poll shows that 58% of Iraqis believe that democracy in Iraq is likely to succeed, Prime Minister Allawi has a

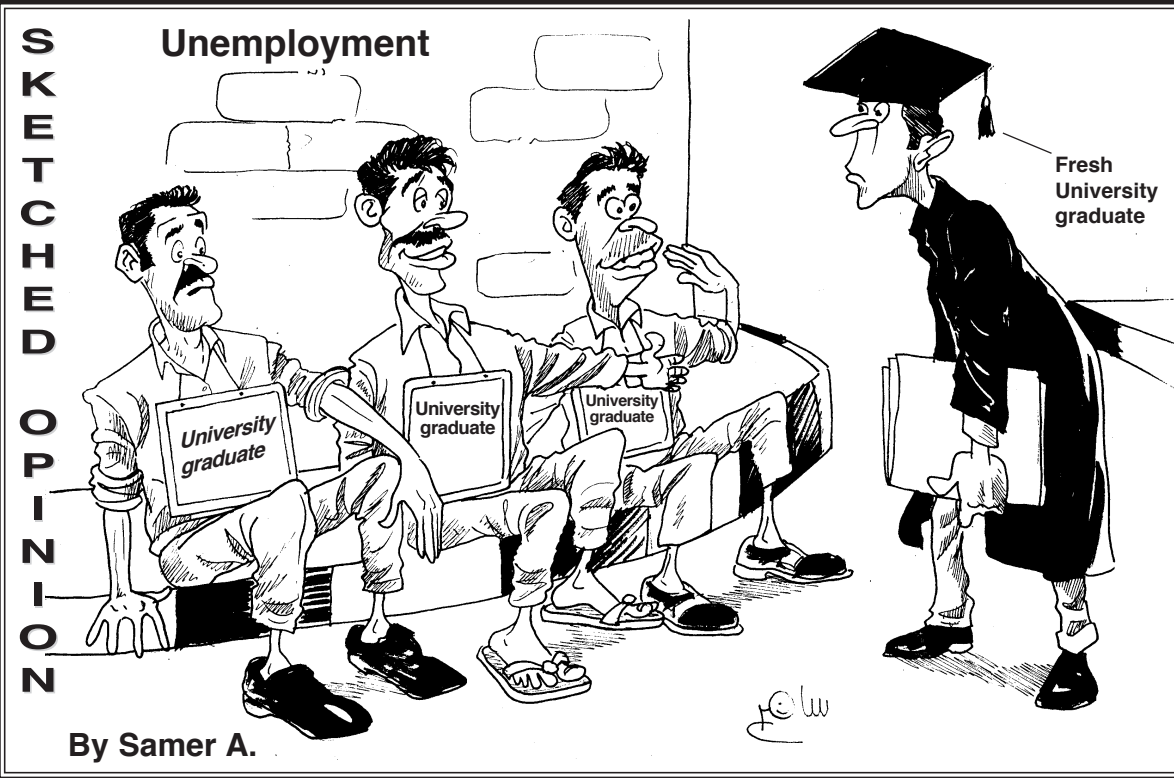
66% approval rating, and 87% of Iraqis plan to vote in the January elections, with 75% believing the outcome of the elections would reflect the will of the Iraqi people. Currently unnoticed, municipal elections are being held throughout southern Iraq. Iraqis are registering and voting for their representatives in local municipalities.

Dr. Burhum Ahmad Salih, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, denounced the Iraqi resistance: "We held from the beginning that these terrorists, who are not necessarily in accord among themselves as to their goals, are a danger both to Iraq and to humanity, and all should adopt a united moral stance against them." President Bush affirmed on Saturday that the United States and other nations are committed "standing with the liberated peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan as they move toward democracy." The President made no mention of those on the sidelines throwing rocks, like Kofi Annan.

Annan, more comfortable with those who flaunt the UN than with those who enforce its resolutions, has taken a step into partisan politics with his statement that the Iraq War was "illegal". And illegal is such a righteous word, except when it comes from the mouth of a man incompetent in his post during more than one genocide as the international advocate of civilian interests. Illegal is such a morally indignant word for the international community to be shouting over the cries of nearly two million people starving in the deserts of the Sudan.

Unlike the 17 resolutions on Iraq, perhaps this week's resolution on Sudan will have a meaning that translates into food for starving children and security for young girls. More likely it will be just empty words of no consequence as this slow motion Rwanda unfolds. If only this genocide could be blamed on the US instead of the Janjaweed, then perhaps international will could be finally mustered to rescue a dying population. Australian Prime Minister John Howard identified the problem aptly when he called the United Nations a "paralyzed" body. The description is apt in both Iraq and in the Sudan.

** Jane Novak is a New Jersey based writer, and a frequent columnist in the US and the Middle East. She can be reached on Gavsrule@aol.com.*



Is the European Union imploding?

By ALBERTO ALESINA
AND FRANCESCO GIAVAZZI

The prospect of being accepted into the EU provided the nations of Eastern and Central Europe with a strong incentive to achieve fiscal balance - a process somewhat similar to what happened in Western Europe at the time the euro was launched. In both cases, however, after initial progress, countries have shown clear signs of political "fatigue": in the euro area, the Stability Pact has imploded; throughout Eastern Europe, budget deficits have started to rise.

In the Czech Republic last year, the budget deficit jumped to 13% of GDP, a threefold increase since 1999. Although this included a one-time charge for bank restructuring costs, this year the deficit will close above 6% of GDP. In Poland, the deficit is also moving close to 6% of GDP, up from 2.9% in 2001. In Hungary the budget deficit is widening again, after narrowing to 4% of GDP in 2001. Malta, too, has a deficit close to 10% of GDP, up four percentage points since 2001. Only the Baltic countries seem able to maintain sound fiscal policies.

In many ways, this is not surprising: once politicians no longer face annual EU progress reports - and the threat of exclusion - fiscal relaxation becomes much less costly. At the same time, the big euro area members (France and Germany) do not have a leg to stand on to criticize other countries' fiscal policies, so there are virtually no interna-

tional constraints on EU countries' budget deficits. Indeed, these constraints have proven to be utterly useless after a country's EU entry, and it will be hard to impose them as an admission criterion for other potential entrants.

Perhaps more surprising is the apparent political backlash against the governments that have led countries into the EU. Once again the similarity with what happened in Western Europe at the time of the euro's implementation is striking. The government of Romano Prodi, having managed against all the odds to get Italy into Europe's monetary union, fell three months later. The Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary have each endured a government crisis since EU accession.

Throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the EU is not as popular as it used to be. Voter turnout in the European Parliament elections in June was embarrassingly low in the new accession countries, ranging from just 17% in Slovakia to 38.5% in Hungary. Participating in their first-ever EU election, citizens in these countries turned out at a rate not only well below the European average (about 45%), but even below the UK average.

The reasons are twofold. Accession countries felt that they were asked to make major fiscal adjustments in order to be accepted into the EU. Regardless of whether such policies were in the long-term interest of these countries, in the short run they were politically costly.

This "adjustment fatigue," a term coined to describe the experience of Latin American countries to economic

liberalization in the 1990's, is now coupled with the feeling that the EU is not such a great bargain after all. Perhaps most visible has been Western European countries' eagerness to protect their labor markets against migration from Central and Eastern Europe - a sticking point that always comes up in every meeting between politicians from the West and the East.

Little wonder, then, that voters in Central and Eastern Europe now feel that they got a poor bargain from the governments that brought them in: belt tightening, labor market restrictions, and the notorious barrage of EU regulation. The result has been a reaction against these governments and a lack of public interest in EU affairs.

So, after all the celebrations of European enlargement, we are left with a predictable set of problems: a "union" of countries with very different views on everything (from foreign policy to labor market policies) and different economic interests; widespread disillusionment among voters in the new member states; a constitutional process whose future is uncertain; and all the usual political wrangling in Brussels between countries seeking to get as much power as possible.

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A curse on Sharon

By GWYNNE DYER

The way his enemies and even his allies are talking, you'd think that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had suggested giving the country back to the Arabs. In fact, he accused his critics last Wednesday of trying to spark a civil war in Israel, so extreme are their condemnations of his plan to evacuate Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip by the end of next year.

Early last week, 70,000 people, including many members of his own Likud party, rallied in Jerusalem to denounce him as a "traitor" and a "dictator". His chief rival within the Likud party and the government, former prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, has demanded a referendum on Sharon's Gaza pull-out plan. And a settler-rabbi, Yael Dayan, has announced that he is prepared to put a death curse on Sharon.

Yael Dayan has a track-record in this matter. He conducted a similar mystical ceremony to put a death curse on then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin shortly before he was murdered by an ultra-nationalist Israeli Jew in 1995. The thought of Ariel Sharon being murdered because he is soft on the Arabs boggles the mind, but right now he probably is more at risk of being assassinated by a fanatical Jewish settler than by a suicide-bomber from Hamas. Can this be the Sharon we all know and love?

Relax, he hasn't really gone soft on us. He's just not as totally blind to inconvenient realities as the more extremist Jewish settlers in the occupied territories. In the West Bank, which is over a third as large as Israel itself and quite close to the most densely settled areas of that country, the 230,000 Jewish settlers make up over a

tenth of the total population and effectively control about half the land. With few exceptions, their settlements are relatively easy to protect from the hostile Palestinian majority around them.

The Gaza Strip is different. It is a tiny, mostly barren strip of land, right on the Egyptian border and far from Israel's main population centres, packed tight with 1.3 million Palestinians whose parents or grandparents fled or were driven from their homes further north in Israel proper in 1948. Amid them live only 8,000 Jewish settlers - but those settlers control one-third of the land, and require an approximately equal number of Israeli soldiers to guard them from the Palestinians who surround them.

The Gaza settlements make no economic or military sense, and while many of the Jewish settlers there are driven by a religious vision, the enclaves were probably always seen by the secular Israeli governments that authorised them as bargaining chips in some potential future deal with the Palestinians. Sharon is certainly using them as bargaining chips, though he has no intention of making a deal with the Palestinians.

Sharon's strategy aims to separate Israelis from Palestinians as much as possible while still retaining almost all the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and carving the Palestinian areas up into enclaves separated by Israeli-patrolled roads and military checkpoints. The Gaza pull-out saves Israel money and troops while also letting him throw the world a bone: Look, Israel is withdrawing voluntarily from some settlements. But about 96 percent of the Jewish settler population, up in the West Bank, will remain.

Asked what would happen after the Gaza withdrawal last week, Sharon replied: "Israel will continue its war on terrorism, and will stay in the terri-

ories that will remain." But the furious arguments in Israel over the Gaza withdrawal serve to divert foreign attention from all that, and to make Sharon appear a beleaguered moderate assailed by wild-eyed fanatics. If Yael Dayan hadn't volunteered to put a death curse on him, Sharon would gladly have paid him to do it.

It is vintage Sharon: brilliant tactics, but not even a hint of strategic vision. Of course, Sharon was the main political patron of the settlers from the start, and though he does not share their religious fanaticism he has a deep emotional attachment to the territories they have settled on. Now he has turned the more extremist settlers against him, but he still wants to keep almost all of the land. The problem is that this means no deal with the Palestinians, and a future of endless war.

The late Yitzhak Rabin was at least as tough a general and as dedicated to Israel as Ariel Sharon, but he was a great deal wiser. He thought long-term, and understood that the day will eventually come when Israel no longer enjoys all its current advantages of overwhelming military superiority over its Arab neighbours, a regional monopoly of nuclear weapons, and unwavering US support. It was therefore necessary for Israel's long-term survival to reach a lasting settlement with the Palestinians before it lost the upper hand.

Sharon and his allies deny that a deal is possible, because "there is nobody to negotiate with," and by now they have managed to discredit or kill most of their potential Palestinian negotiating partners, but they don't really want a deal anyway. They are unwilling to contemplate the sacrifices that it would require, so they have no coherent vision beyond endless military occupation of the territories and an endless war on terrorism.



By Yahya Al-Ofri
alolfri@hotmail.com

Reflections

On the occasion of the new scholastic year

It is time to give credit to our teachers

I am not sure if much has been said in this matter but time has come for us to look at teaching seriously.

As previous reports have confirmed, last years' semester hasn't been much of a good one for our students. Most of them, boys in general, either failed or produced low-grade marks.

The cause behind such results are either of the two: lack of studying harder or inadequate teaching. All in all both are to blame and to resolve such problems and to make our children the best they can be is to teach them to study harder and take life much more seriously taking in account that the world is developing in a more faster rate as it is the age of science and technology.

Teaching must be developed so that we can bear fruit well equipped for the new generation but such development cannot take place if it is not taken seriously by both the Government and the Ministry of Education which should go over the reasons of such problems within the domain of teaching, whether

inadequate teachers or failures among students. Unfortunately many students complain of their teacher's lack of explanation during class or lack of co-operation when asked questions. Also to blame are the crowded classrooms that must be solved by the educational committee but sadly some teachers don't bother making much effort in their work because of the low income they receive. As goes the saying: If you're paid well you'll work well, and maybe even better taking pride in your job and taking a glimpse of today's living standards no one is to blame as the rocketing prices are making anyone unable to put up with the daily expenses in life, mostly leading one to take a part-time job to cover the extra living expenses and there is no doubt that when we study teaching we find that it is a very tough job that needs wisdom, courage, patience and a big heart to cope with the different kinds of characters you'll meet almost every day of the week. A Job which is honored in every developed country and which should be honored here in Yemen not just with words and poetry but with

implementation for making better teachers and better students. Teachers must have their rights for better pay so they can concentrate more on their work with students. Unfortunately, to what is happening today foreign teachers love to come and work in Yemen because they receive payment in dollars and so considered better than our own teachers just because they are foreign which is unjust and unfair. If our local teachers were encouraged and given a raise or a promotion they will surely do the best for our children as they will not have to think of their daily worries of expenses. That would be solved.

Also, we must teach our teachers of how to deal with students of every age group with their mentalities. Also qualified teachers must be chosen to boost the level in our education. Schools must collaborate with parents so as to understand the character of the pupil and make the task easier.

If such was to happen then we will have a hope of a better future for our children and catch up with the rest of the developing countries.

CANADIAN nexen

إعلان

يسر شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمن أن تعلن أن
السيد / أليستر جون موني
قد عين ابتداءً من الأول من شهر أكتوبر 2004 م بوظيفة
الرئيس والمدير العام
للشركة في الجمهورية اليمنية.



ANNOUNCEMENT

CANADIAN NEXEN PETROLEUM YEMEN
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT
MR. ALISTAIR JOHN MOONEY
HAS BEEN APPOINTED
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER
OF THE COMPANY EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST, 2004
IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
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College of Education,
Mahweet
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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (71): Good Luck messages (II)

Good luck wishes are tribute to the sender's sagacity and largeness of heart. The outcome is reciprocal will which creates an aura of comradeship and good will, significantly nurturing personal relationship.

- Life is challenge to face. It offers opportunities. Good luck is another name for being alert for opportunities and good luck is ushered in when opportunity is seized. When any of our near and dear ones undertakes to face any challenge, his purpose is strengthened when he is emboldened by good wishes from the well wishers
- Good luck... May you rise to greater heights. True excellence is achieved when one endeavors to rise, without the fear of falling... As real achievement lies not in the result but in the effort that one utilizes, in order to become worthy of a result, here's wishing you good luck, for your every endeavor, which will hopefully yield the most outstanding result. All the best.
- All the best. We know you can do it!
- Exam time. Sending your way, the best of wishes and hoping your hard work and dedication bear rich results, the joy of which you'll treasure always. All the best.
- "Best of luck. Every success story was a dream someday, for some which came true through their dedication, hard work and their total commitment. May you too put in your BEST and may the best come back to you. Good luck.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- He was first to reach the station that day.
- The students did nothing but laughed heartily.
- Being a rainy day we could not go out.
- Let us do nothing but to wait and see for the time being.
- I ordered for soup and salad at the restaurant.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Many a worker **has** not finished his job in time.
- The water of many Indian rivers is considered to be sacred.
- The wisdom of the Prophet (PBUH) is famous **all** over the world.
- I saw **a** one-eyed beggar in the street last week.
- The Red Sea should be declared a zone of peace.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Earlier in time.
- Something unexciting coming after something exciting.
- In the opposite direction to the hands of a clock.
- The act of raising or being raised to the rank of a god.
- An official expression of agreement.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- A person who reads news or introduces people, acts, etc. on radio or television: **announcer** (n)
- A fixed sum of money paid each year to a person for a stated number of years or until death: **annuity** (n)
- To put oil on a person's head or body in a religious ceremony: **anoint** (vt)
- A medicine that prevents an acid condition in the stomach: **antacid** (n)
- To cause to become an enemy: **antagonize** (vt)

(B) Useful terms, their origin and meaning

- thesaurus
- tour de force
- tragedy
- trilogy
- trimeter

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- tantra** (Sanskrit 'thread, fundamental doctrine'): Hindu and Buddhist writings of a religious nature.

- tautology** (Gk. 'the same saying'): Redundant words or ideas. Repetition of words or ideas, as in the common phrase 'I myself personally'.
- terza rima** (It. 'third rhyme'): The measure adopted by Dante for his Divina Commedia, consisting of a series of interlocking tercets in which the second line of each one rhymes with the first and third lines of the one succeeding, thus: aba, bcb, edc.
- testament** (Last. 'witnessing'): A document which bears witness; an affirmation.
- tetrameter** (Gk. 'of four measures'): A line of four metrical feet. In English verse usually iambic or trochaic.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- value, price
- apposite, opposite
- sensuous, sensual
- refuse, decline
- wage, salary, remuneration, pay

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- cataclysmic** (adj) (relating to a violent and sudden change or event): Hundreds of people are marooned in the cataclysmic earthquake.
- catalytic** (adj) (fig. causing speeding up of a process): The workers' demand for higher wages had a catalytic effect on the wage revision.
- border** (n) (land near the dividing line between two countries): Soldiers are guarding our border.
- brink** (n) (upper edge of a steep place): He's on brink of the grave.
- edge** (n) (line marking the outer limit or boundary of a flat surface): The wood-cutter lives in a cottage on the edge of a forest.
- stimulus** (n) (something that stimulates or excites, rouses, quickens thought or feeling): He works under the stimulus of money.
- stimulant** (n) (drink, drug, etc., that increases physical or mental activity): Tea or coffee is a common stimulant.
- deprecate** (vt) (to express disapproval of): Such waste of time and resources is to be deprecated at all costs.
- depreciate** (vt) (to represent as of less value than usually supposed): The exchange value of dollar has depreciated considerably.
- bang** (n) (violent blow): She shut the door with a bang.
- bank** (n) (a place for storing): We have opened a book bank in our college.
- bunk** (n) (nonsense): He bothered us with a load of bunk.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- a give-away price
- run the show
- be dying for
- not someone's cup of tea
- try one's hand at

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- face the music** (to confront the outcome of your action): He misappropriated the government funds; after audit he has to face the music.
- at daggers drawn** (ready to start fighting or quarreling at any minute): The two estranged friends are at daggers drawn ever since they fell out.
- lose one's grip** (to lose control or understanding of something): The manager is very inefficient and it is obvious he is losing his grip.
- rally round** (to come together for a joint effort or action, usually in a supportive way): The loyalists rallied round their leader in pursuit of excellence.
- steer clear of (someone/something)** (to avoid contact with someone or something): The President has steered clear of all major hurdles on the path of progress.

IV. Grammar and Competition

Combine a word from List 1 with one from List 2 and make words to fill the blanks in the sentences

below

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| List 1 | left | three | short | old | self |
| List 2 | fashioned | legged | centered | handed | tempered |

- The advantage of having a — stool to sit on is that it is always steady even if the floor isn't level.
- Although both her mother and father write with their right hands, Omar is —.
- He only ever talks about himself and how wonderful he is. I have never met anyone so —.
- He's very — and aggressive, and he shouts at you if you do slightest thing wrong.
- She hates anything modern. She only likes vintage cars, black and white films and — furniture.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- They don't tell you what happens at the end of the film. You have to use your **imagination**.
- Buying a house in Aden sounded like a wonderful idea, but **in reality** there were a lot of serious problems.
- You know she doesn't love you. Everyone can see that. So stop **deceiving** yourself and start trying to find someone new.
- The woman whom we thought was slightly mad came up with a **fantastic** story about herself.
- In the picture the two lines look different lengths but actually they are the same. The picture is an optical **illusion**.
- She woke up screaming because she had just had a terrible **nightmare**.
- There's a good **horror** film on tonight about two dead people who come back to life and start murdering everyone they knew.
- A **thriller** is an exciting kind of film or book often about spies or criminals.
- The poor girl was kidnapped and held hostage for three days. She must have been absolutely **terrified**.
- Unfortunately he didn't realize light was on, so when he touched the wire he got a terrible electric **shock**.

(C) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
**82: MONEY IS A GOOD SERVANT
BUT A BAD MASTER**

81: MAN DOESN'T LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

Undoubtedly man cannot survive without food. However, we eat to live, not live to eat. In other words, human life has a loftier goal of self-actualization, of a quest for excellence in all fields of human enterprise. Of course, it is true that without the satisfaction of the physical needs, man cannot progress in the path of accomplishment. Hence man should not be content or complacent over mere earning of bread; but be inspired to break new frontiers, make something beautiful and something new. In other words, man should be imbued with a strong desire and should work towards mental nourishment, emotional enrichment, and spiritual fulfillment apart from the satiation of physical needs. Only then can man elevate himself and help attainment of the supreme goals of life.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"O mankind! Verily
There hath come to you
A convincing proof
From your Lord
For We have sent unto you
A light (that is) manifest."
S4: A174

VI. Food for Thought

"The sharp thorn often produces delicate roses."
—Ovid

Suggested innovations for curriculum development in Yemen



Dr. Qaid A. Farae
College of Education,
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After studying several leading models of curriculum development, it is obvious that the local environment plays a significant role in curriculum development because there is close relationship between an understanding of the social environment and the development of an appropriate curriculum.

The rational curriculum must cater to the students' vocational demands and requirements, such as the demands of citizenship and self-fulfillment.

However, proposed curriculum cannot accomplish these demands and requirements unless it is developed in the light of the salient domestic model, which takes into account all students' needs, interests, experience, background in the target subject, growth level of students, attitude, aptitudes, individual differences etc. Also, community's needs and educational context, in addition to its facilities must be taken into account before such an enterprise.

The curriculum development models which are at present available are prepared in USA or European countries, so they are inappropriate for all the world because the environment, facilities and educational climate are different in these countries from the situation obtaining in Yemeni schools and so on. Hence they must be adapted, modified and changed according to the prevailing local conditions and educational scenario when any country wants to adopt any model. Otherwise it may design a national model taking into consideration the existing educational conditions in the target country.

There is consensus among all the educators that environment varies from one country to another, at the same time, it also varies from one suburb to another and from neighborhood to another in the same country. Keeping all these factors in view, the writer proposes a model which is appropriate for Yemeni educational environment.

It may be modified and adapted by other Arab countries to suit them according to their educational problems and possibilities.

This model consists of six main phases which are as follows:

1. Preparation phase

This phase comprises the following steps:

- Selection of the contributors who will be participants in curriculum development process. They can be selected by the following ways:

- The target curriculum specialists;
- The educational supervisors;
- Highly experienced teachers;
- Experimental schools' principals;
- Educated parents;
- Psychologists;
- Sociologists and

h) In case of the development of curriculum in a foreign language, like English, some native experts may participate in the process with domestic English curriculum specialists, and English language specialists, selected from Colleges of Education and Arts.

ii. The participants in curriculum development process, should be equipped with the required skills.

iii. Determining the facilities of the human resources and the project budget.

2. Implementation phase

This phase should achieve the following tasks:

- Preparing appropriate scientific criteria specifications for the target curriculum development;
- Evaluation of the current curriculum which is used in the schools;
- Studying the students' needs, interests, individual differences and so on;
- Studying the community's needs and requirements for comprehensive development;

v. Studying suggestions and opinions of the respective subject specialists;

vi. Studying the schools' observations about the students' needs, interests etc.

vii. Studying the opinions of educated parents;

viii. Studying the prevailing educational scenario;

ix. Studying the schools' facilities;

x. Writing general aims of the new curriculum in the light of the results of the studies(i-ix above);

xi. Formulating the specific objectives from the general aims. At the same time, the formulation of the objectives should be focused on the students' targeted behaviors performance in the classroom.

xii. Selection of the curriculum content in the light of sound scientific criteria;

xiii. Organization of the curriculum content in the light of appropriate theories;

xiv. Preparation or suggestion for the use of appropriate audio-visual aids; and

xv. Selection of appropriate methods of teaching.

3. Writing the new curriculum phase

The new curriculum should be written using a clear, simple and appropriate style.

4. Experimental phase

The experimental phase is considered as one of the crucial phases in curriculum development. The purpose of the experiment is to administer the new curriculum in the experimental schools to find out its positive and negative points in order to overcome the negative points and reinforce the positive points.

5. Experimental schools

The experimental schools may be selected in limited Governorates which represent coastal areas, urban areas, and its outskirts in the Republic of Yemen. They have to select at least ten schools in the capital of governorate and the surrounding rural and suburbs areas. The supervisors of the experiment may increase or decrease the number of the schools in the target governorate. This matter depends upon supervisors' perceptions.

6. Evaluation phase

The following steps should be taken before starting the experimental phase:

- Training the supervisors, experimental schools' principals, the teachers who will teach the new curriculum in schools as well as the assistants of new curriculum team who will follow up the new curriculum in the experimental schools.
- Preparing evaluation tools for collecting data and information about the appropriateness of the target curriculum from the experimental schools.

Evaluation should be comprehensive and should take into account even minor achievements in so far as they provide valuable feedback to the curriculum team about accomplished steps and help them to take a sound decision about the target step.

As an instrument it would assist the curriculum developers and educational authorities to take precise decisions on the adequacy of the new curriculum in terms of different aspects during the preparation, implementation and administration phases. All these depend on gathering the required information and data from their original sources such as experimental teachers, students themselves, supervisors, experimental schools' principals, parents, other contributors in the curriculum development process. Moreover, these information and data must be analyzed precisely adopting scientific methods and techniques. In the light of the diagnosis and analysis of the experiment results, decisions must be taken wisely and rationally.

The final step in the evaluation process is to get the feedback. It links up the evaluation results with the formulation of objectives and other curriculum development phases continually because the curriculum development process is a cyclical sequence.

Among the mad



DR. M. SNEHAPRABHA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
IN ENGLISH,
HADRAMOUT
UNIVERSITY

A mad person
is one who talks
and talks
But reaches nowhere.
He kills your soul

Gives you suffocation
Deafens your ears
Dampens your imagination
Defeats your senses
Overthrows your views
Denies your rights
Vetoes your common sense
Numbs your feelings
Smashes your dreams
Nullifies your wishes
And silences you ultimately.

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Beat | Fast | Leader | Rodeo | Stretch |
| Best | Favorite | Mount | Runs | Swift |
| Bets | First | Nose | Saddle | Tails |
| Bids | Fluke | Number | Sales | Teeth |
| Blinder | Foot | Oval | Scoreboard | Thoroughbred |
| Bookmaking | Gallop | Owner | Second | Total |
| Boots | Gamble | Pacers | Select | Trot |
| Breed | Grass | Paddock | Show | Wagers |
| Change | Great | Parks | Slow | Waiting |
| Chariot | Guard | Pole | Spectator | Weight |
| Cheer | Halls | Praises | Spend | Wheels |
| Claim | Harness | Predict | Stakes | Whip |
| Combination | Helmet | Program | Stall | Winner |
| Compete | Hero | Quest | Start | Wins |
| Course | Iffy | Rails | Statistics | World |
| Crowd | Infield | Regulations | Steed | |
| Debatable | Information | Ribbon | Steer | |
| Error | Lane | Rider | Steward | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Candlelight

BETTING ON THE HORSES

Solution: 5 letters

H	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	M	T	D	S	S	P	R	H	Y	D	I	G
T	C	H	A	N	G	E	V	I	R	E	R	E	A	E	E	F	N	S	
H	R	T	S	H	O	W	H	A	R	N	E	S	S	C	R	D	I	F	C
G	O	I	E	L	O	P	W	L	L	D	G	T	A	B	O	K	I	O	I
I	D	P	B	R	O	E	A	C	I	D	A	H	D	A	N	S	R	T	
E	E	A	L	B	T	W	I	C	L	R	W	G	M	M	D	P	D	M	S
W	O	D	I	S	O	S	T	E	E	T	U	H	K	B	E	L	R	A	I
R	E	D	A	E	L	N	I	N	E	O	E	O	E	C	L	D	E	T	T
S	S	O	D	E	U	F	N	C	R	T	O	M	T	E	R	E	D	I	A
R	E	C	E	M	N	I	G	O	D	B	I	A	L	A	L	T	N	O	T
E	E	K	B	I	W	A	H	M	C	R	T	R	U	E	D	S	I	N	S
G	R	E	A	T	S	T	L	B	T	O	A	G	O	W	H	A	L	L	S
U	R	I	T	T	F	E	O	I	R	W	U	O	O	V	H	F	B	T	G
L	T	R	A	S	S	O	L	N	A	N	S	R	B	T	A	I	L	S	A
A	O	S	B	I	T	L	O	A	T	E	C	P	S	E	D	F	P	R	L
T	T	D	L	S	L	T	G	T	S	R	S	H	F	E	R	E	M	I	L
I	A	U	E	A	A	S	R	I	S	W	O	P	E	L	E	O	S	F	O
O	L	U	T	E	L	K	A	O	I	E	I	R	E	E	U	O	C	O	P
N	Q	S	B	Y	T	R	S	N	U	R	B	F	R	N	R	K	C	S	N
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Hope team hit thrice, Al-Sunaini resigns

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The hope team was drubbed 4-0 in the game that combined it and the Korean Giant, in spite of the adventurous change conducted by the Coach Amin Al-Sunaini. This was followed by a 2-0 beat by the strong Iraq. The team played against Korea with the plan (4-5-1), maintaining the side players Al-Edrisi to the right and Al-Selwi to the left, Al-Sallad and Mohammad Rajeh in the middle, and Tamer Hanash in the center forward.

On the contrary, the Koreans played with the plan (3-5-2) depending on their sound physiques and abilities. They strongly played with the intention to win the match after losing 3-0 to Iraq, who ensured an early qualification for the second round.

The tenth minute of the first half witnessed a Korean goal by the foot of Song Yong after the failure of Yasser Al-Ba'adani to save the ball. The Yemeni players attempted to change the result but with no avail; their short passes were



The Hope Team whilst juniors

deterred by the opponent and penetrating the Korean defense was difficult to a great extent. The second goal for the Koreans came just after three minutes from scoring the first and in the 37th minute of the same half a third Korean goal

was added by Park Yong when he cleverly stole the ball away from Attia and placed it easily in the net to close the first half with Korea 3- goal lead over Yemen.

The national Coach Amin Al-Sunaini realized the wide gap during the break between the two halves and conducted somehow successful substitutions when he replaced Mohammad Rajeh by Sharyan and sent Al-Selwi to the middle instead of Waseem Al-Qa'ar who left the field. He also substituted Akram Al-Warafi for Al-Sallad who appeared in a poor level for the second time, and striker Sami Ju'aim

instead of Tamer Hanash.

Our team played in a better way during the second half, particularly after sending off a Korean player. Although it proved some control over the match but it could neither pass through the Korean defense nor approach the goalkeeper. The substitutions did not change the situation except for a recurrent deterrence. In the last quarter of the game time, the Koreans waged new counteroffensive resulting in a fourth goal in the 79th minute when the same striker (Park Yong) benefited from a free kick on the verge of the eighteen area, directing the ball toward the ninety angle of Yemen's goal.

Al-Sunaini announced his resignation

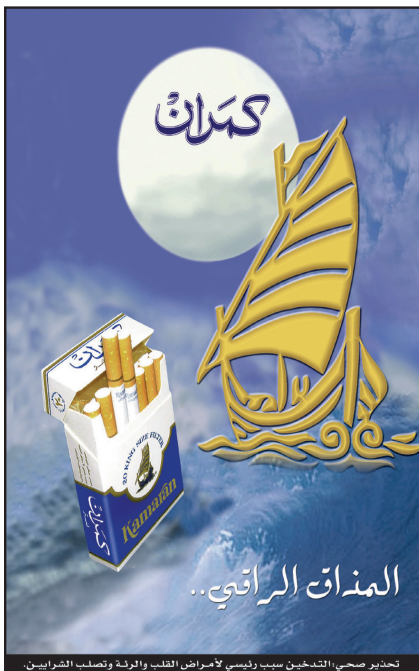
The national Coach Amin Al-Sunaini declared his resignation from coaching the youth team after the 4-0 loss to Korea in a press conference held after the match, saying that he was convinced of what he offered through leading the youth team and also while they were juniors.

"The results that I have achieved so far are considered normal and not a failure due to the huge difference in the level, experience and age between our players and others. Additionally, the rainy atmosphere in Birac did not go in our favor and our team being mated along with the strongest group in the Asian youth finals is among the reasons for the loss. I thereby apologize to the public and those who offered every sort of support and care for the team," said Amin.

He added: "the game against Iraq will be incontestable and I am confident that the players will perform well under my Assistant, Captain Abdurrahman Sa'eed who is able to lead the team. Afterwards, the responsibility of the team was welcomed by Abdurrahman Sa'eed in the encounter against Iraq."

The team faces Iraq:

The other scenario that combined the two Arab teams resulted in Iraq's 2-0 win over the hope team. The Iraqi Coach, whose team is officially in the second round, kept his prominent striker Musallam Al-Mass and the defenders Hafeedh Sa'ad and Rahimy Ali and send the other main players along with some new faces to encounter the Yemeni players, who joined the match with the hope of an honorable conclusion.



لتحذير صحتي: التدخين سبب رئيسي لأمراض القلب والرئة وتصلب الشرايين.

They appeared in a level better than that of the previous match by standing on the face of Iraqi offensive players and holding off several balls.

The recurrent coordinated Iraqi offensives yielded a goal in minute 33 of the first half through give and take passes between Mohammad Jawadel and Hasan Heider who confused the less experienced defenders.

During the first thirty minutes of the second half, our team played better than the Iraqis, especially with Akram Al-Selwi and Sami Ju'aim joining the game. However, their several offensives could not succeed in shaking the Iraqi net owing to some confusion among the players and their inability to cope with the sound fitness of Iraqis. Within the final minutes, the Iraqi team resumed control over the game that enabled striker Eesa Ali to score another goal to end the match with Iraq 2-0 ahead.

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