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Who is Yemen's 2004 Person of the Year? See next issue!

H



Monday, 3 January 2005 • Issue No. 804 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Government appoints men of "fairness"

Saleh moves on judicial reform

performance of Yemeni judges.

Farwan replaced Abdul-Malik Al-

Jindari, who was appointed as the head

of the Justice Ministry's Technical

Saleh was quoted as saying that

Two weeks ago, the President and

the Higher Judicial Council dismissed

22 judges without any compensation

or benefits and ordered 108 other

"judicial authorities should be inde-

pendent and above any authority and

Bureau

influence."

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a move to tackle corruption and continue Yemen's judicial reform, the Higher Judicial Council has appointed new judges and moved a number of others to different positions.

The council, headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, made the changes last Wednesday.

It sees 25 new judges were appointed to the Higher Court while 24 were given positions in the Judicial Inspection Commission.

Abdullah Farwan, former Chairman of the Central Organization for

Control and Audit, is now the head of judges for early retirement. the Judicial Inspection Commission,

"Judicial tasks should never be an organization which monitors the given to those who are not qualified and do not possess the quality of fairness," said Saleh when the judges were fired from their jobs. "They should be able to be fair in settling people's affairs."

A year ago, the Higher Judicial Council, the highest judicial institute, sacked 13 judges after 35 judges were fired in 2002 being charged with corruption.

The changes last week included the fourth and largest reshuffling in the judicial system since the reform pro-

gram, which is supported by The World Bank and donor countries, began in 1997.

In provincial courts of appeal, 159 judges changed posts, while three new judges were appointed to the military court of appeal. Sixty-eight chief judges and 172 session judges of district courts, 124 prosecutors at courts of appeal and 187 prosecutors at district courts exchanged positions. And twenty-three heads of public prosecutions changed places, while 52 judicial officers were appointed at the Attorney General's office.

Continued on page 3

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Jarallah Omar commemorated

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Two years after the assassination of former Yemen Socialist Party leader Jarallah Omar, opposition parties are demanding a re-investigation into his murder.

The call came during commemoration organized by the YSP at the Center for Research and Studies, in Sana'a, Dec. 30.

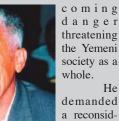
A number of opposition leaders, representatives of political organizations and parties, and many of Omar's relatives, friends and colleagues attended the celebration of his life.

During the gatherihng the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and the Yemeni Political Forces asked for the reinvestigation into the death of the Omar, who was also Assistant Secretary General of the YSP.

He was assassinated on Dec. 28 2002 during his participation in the 3rd General Conference of the Islah Party. The Court of First Instance had earlier sentenced Ali Al-Sa'awani to death

on September 14 last year for the assassination.

Ali Saleh Obad, Secretary General of YSP, warned in his speech of the



He demanded a reconsideration of the official, economic

and social policies to the extent that they amass money in the hands of corrupt forces.

Jarallah Oma

He pointed out that Yemen's social disorder provides an environment for terrorist groups to thrive and recruit depressed youth who mistakenly think the solution to their troubles lies in terrorism.

Dr. Najeeb Ghanem, Head of Information Department of Islah, said: "The crime (of Omar's assassination) targeted the homeland."

He said how necessary it is to eradicate violence and adopt the free election and the supremacy of discipline, law and justice."



Armed militias still an issue **Afghans face future**

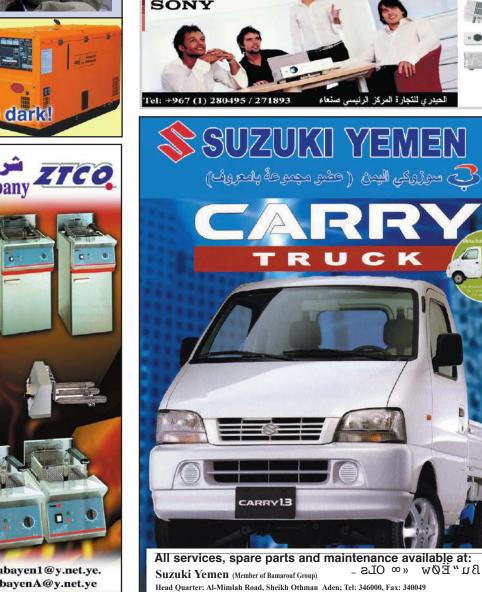
By PETER WILLEMS

In one his last moves to close 2004, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai Cabinet, stressing that ministers need to work together to rebuild the war-torn country and carry it into a brighter future.

political parties must be avoided.







Local News



features

Readers' Voice

Times

'Readers' Voice" a popular way

for our readers to interact with

us. This is your opportunity to

have a say on world and local

This edition's question:

Do you believe that a

majority of Yemeni

mosque preachers are

misrepresenting Islam?

(See editorial on page 8)

No, it is just a minority.

Yes, it is most of them.

last edition's question:

Do you think that any

repercussions of the Asian

Tsunami quake would affect

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Organizations

end season

on Jan. 3 concluded the 17th season of

training of the National Program

Against Leprosy, and the Women

Orientation course for coordinators of

branches throughout all governorates

by the support of GALARA

Local Council - Deputy of Taiz

Governorate, and the General

Manager of Health Bureau, Dr. Abdul

Nasser al-Kubab, the Representative

GALARA organization, Mr. Yassin

Abdul Halim al-Qubaty, the Program

Director, Dr. dulRahim al-Sam'ey, and

on behalf of the participants, Mr. Yehia

ties of the programs in Taiz

Governoate, and the necessity of

focusing on rural zones to improve

They noted the efforts and activi-

al-Soofy all delivered addresses.

The General Secretary of the

Organization.

health services.

A gathering in al-Noor town, Taiz

42%

33%

25%

Yemen in the near future?

It remains to be seen

Yemen

affairs.

No

Yes

Italy contributes to **UNDP mine program**

A UNDP press release from 27 Dec. 2004 says that following its support for the first phase of the UNDP-Supported Yemen Mine Action Programme, the Italian Government will provide an additional contribution of EUR 150,000 to the second phase of the Programme through the UNDP's Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery to support Mine Action Projects. Building on the excellent results achieved under the programme's first phase, the second phase, which started in October 2003, and will last until December 2006 will focus on strengthening the technical capacity of the Yemen Mine Action Programme, improving the safety of the mine affected communities, contributing to the Yemeni economy by safely returning de-mined land to the country for productive use, and developing awareness raising programmes.

This contribution will be added to

the initial US\$ 3.4 million that has been secured so far from UNDP for this phase. These contributions supplement the US\$ 13.1 million that was generated for the first phase of the UNDP Mine Action Support Project from the Governments of Italy, the United States, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Additional specific support to the Yemen Mine Action Programme is given by Italy through the Cooperation Agreement signed in Florence on 18 December 2003 between the Tuscany Region and the Minister of State and Chairman of the National Mine Action Committee, aimed at granting free of charge medical treatment to Yemeni children victims of mine explosion. The agreement has already allowed the rehabilitation of two severely injured young Yemenis.

Yemen-China cultural cooperation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A detail executive program of the cultural cooperation between Yemen and China was signed on Thursday Dec. 30, at the Culture House in Sana'a. It is intended to enhance and expand the mutual cooperation in different cultural aspects. The program was signed by Yemen

Minister of Culture and Tourism and the Chinese ambassador to Sana'a Gao Yusheng. It aims at encouraging direct cooperation between cultural establishments and unions in the fields or archeology, manuscripts, and museums as well as exchanging technical experiences in distinctive Chinese presence in the activiplanning, conserving archeological finds, and survey as well as museum maintenance

The program further includes activation of cooperation fields between Sana'a and Beijing in artistic aspects, and photo, painting, and book exhibitions.

Mr. Khaled Al-Rowaishan pointed out the fact that Yemen wants to make use of China's experiences in the cultural arena.

He indicated the relations of cultural cooperation between the two countries under the agreements signed between both friendly states. He also praised the

Course on situation of Yemeni women

In coordination with the Woman National Committee, the Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) held a course on the situation of Yemen Women.

The course was attended by a number of representatives and activists from civil society organizations.

Mr. Ezzaddine Sa'eed Manager of the HGITC pointed out that such a meeting which coincides with the first day of 2005 conveys to the mind that woman is the foundation stone of the society.

He added: "The most challenging problems we face in civil society and women organizations is keeping silent, so, we have to break this hurdle and get rid of it.

Mrs. Houria Mashhour, Deputy Chief of the National Committee for Women noted: "I feel happy that we welcome the new year with course on the situation of women in the nice city of Taiz.

"In our today's meeting, we want to shed light on the national report about the situation of woman in Yemen, ten years after Beijing's Conference which was organized by the National Committee for Women," she added. "Moreover we pledged to prepare a report according to the international criteria in terms of classification and dealing with women-related issues, including poverty, education and violence against women.

These are the criteria in the light of which the UN wants countries to prepare

reports with high clarity and transparency. Mainly the report deals with the issue of poverty as its indicators in 1998-1999 make it clear that this phenomenon forms a serious challenge for the development of Yemen for decades to come.

ties of Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Cultural

On the other hand, Chinese ambassa-

dor commended the activities and the cul-

tural movement during 2004 and the

accompanying publication of books that

reflected Yemen's culture. He hoped the

Program would contribute to strengthen-

ing the activation and development of

cultural relations between the two coun-

tries since culture is one of the common

features between Yemen and China who

enjoy civilizations going deep into histo-

Capital.

ry.

The report pointed out that poor women constitute the suffering segment in the society.

Concerning health care, the report emphasized the provision of health services for women in spite of numerous challenges related to this area.

The report also focused on the provision of deliverance emergencies to help lessen the mortality rate among mothers that is to bring it down to 75 cases per 1000 births.

Gold prospecting resumed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Canadian Caltex Company for Mining announced resumption of exploratory works for mining in Saadah Governorate starting at the beginning of 2005. This step is to develop the national revenues especially that the Company has reached encouraging results from laboratory tests conducted on the soil and rocks in al-Huraigah zone in the northern governorate of Sa'adah. The tests indicated existence of gold, nickel, copper and cobalt ores. The company's works had ceased due to battles between the governmental forces and followers of Hussain al-Houthy who led a rebellion that was ended by his death.

needs to continue exploratory works during the next period, and encouragement of local and foreign capitals for investment in mineral sources sector. There is also a sign of the possibility

of finding gold in Wadi Muden, Hadhramoute besidesa reserve estimat-15 gm of gold per ton. in addition to its and al-Jawf zones within the old rocks.

The sources say that the serious thinking in encouraging the investment in mineral wealth comes from survey results which assured existence of about 4 millions tons of copper and nickel in al-Hamoorah zone, Taiz Governorate, and in North Mukalla. There have been a number of discoveries of ancient silver mines in al-Redhradh zone in Nehm with a reserve estimated by about 3073 millions tons at an average ratio of 15.3%, and 1.6% respectively within the sedimentary rocks in the southern edge especially in Shebwah and al-Musilah.

The surveys show iron minerals in Mukiras, and Saadah as well as several minerals and industrial rocks available in qualitative and commercial quantities which await funds and modern techniques. The Geological Survey Authority with the cooperation of foreign specialized research teams have determined raw nonmetallic residues of economic values most important of which are rocky salts, limestone, marble, plaster, dolomite, Kaolin, Silica sands, granite, and volcanic glass, basalt and other raw materials classified

Study confirms weak tourism

A study has confirmed the increasing fall of Yemeni tourism.

The study, prepared by the Internal Tourism Organization consultants and the World Bank, attributes this weakness to a drop in individual, a lack of

Internet workshop at YALI BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF on the Internet. -Train students in 'Evaluating

Websites'

gram.

The staff of the American Embassy's Information Center (IRC) conducted a three-day internet research workshop recently at the Embassy's Info Quest Center at YALI.

The training was offered to 10 Sana'a University Teachers who are department chiefs and assistants.

The objectives of the training workshop were:

-Introduce students to 'The Web'. -Teach students how to use 'Web Browsers' and its different elements. -Teach students how to employ

'Smart Research Strategies'. -Introduce students to 'Searching

101' on the Internet. -Train the students in 'Using Web

Search Tools' -Introduce students to 'Specialized

Databases' and their use. -Train students in 'Finding Articles'

> EUS care

strategy

Expected output:

The training strategy involved the presentation of concepts using a computer projector display. The training course were divided into three main sections with each section delivered at

laws and 'Citing Net Sources'.

sessions of three hours a day. Each lecture was followed by a three hour practical session. The workshop was concluded with

-Teach students about copyright

The training material and support-

ing resources were acquired from

Ohio State University 'net. Tutor' pro-

the distribution certificates. A short discussion with the partici-

pants focused on future prospects and venues of cooperation between the United States and the University of Sana'a

According to sources in the Geological Survey Authority, Yemen and important mining of zinc and lead as industrial rocks.

First festival for talented held

TAIZ BUREAU

The National Organization for Fighting Illiteracy (NOFI) and the Talented Encouragement Program (TEP) held the first festival for talented students on Thursday Dec. 30 at the hall of Taiz Tourist Club.

The festival was attended by Judge Ahmad Al-Hajiri Governor of Taiz and a number of officials from governmen-

including a number of in-kind prizes for 79 male and female students who scored excellent grades in the secondary certificate examinations, 2003-

Additionally, first-placed student at the Department of Mathematics, Taiz University was awarded along with the winners in the primary and vocational education

Mr. Al-Qadhi submitted to the examinations."

In his speech, Mr. Shawqi Al-Qadhi noted: "The program is for the talented students both males and females. We have just explored that we live in a miserable situation due to numerous factors that hamper the ambition of the talented students who are expected to lead the society. We were surprised to find that 79 students from Taiz scored excellent grades in the third secondary

restore hope for a close attention

ties and the public toward the gifted

He added, "The program came to

ed by 678000 tons containing a ratio of existence in Abyan, al-Baidha, Sana'a,

The expected output of this consultancy will be:-

CARE International Yemen-YWU Capacity Building

project is envisaged recruiting a consultant to train the

YWU in Arabic on fund raising methods and development

- To have devised a 3 training rounds each rounds include 7 of the YWU branches.
- To have developed a simple manual on the fund -raising in Arabic for the YWU training unit.
- To develop a fund-raising strategy for the YWU

Qualifications and experience

The candidate should have a strong background and experience in fund-raising, with a comprehensive experience in training facilitation, and development of training manual, and development of fund-raising strategy.

For detailed TOR please contact 298780 fax 298781 email: ywu@yemen.net.ye

Deadline to receive consultant proposal is 10th of January 2005.

tal offices in Taiz, businessmen, personalities of distinction as well as relatives of the talented students.

The festival opened with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an. Then speeches were delivered by Shawqi Al-Qadhi, MP, Head of the Committee and Supervisor of the Program, and Mu'adh Al-Sufi Program Coordinator and Head of the Work Team.

Mother of Iyad Al-Saqqaf delivered a speech on behalf of the relatives of the talented students.

On his part, Judge Ahmad Al-Hajiri Governor of Taiz pointed out the vitality of the festival and its importance in the social development. He added that a close attention is paid to the gifted students as well as encouraging them and overcoming difficulties encountered by them ..

The talented students received honors at the conclusion of the festival Governor of Taiz a file including the names of the talented students so that they can receive close attention, toward talented students. We want to encouragement and precedence over draw the attention of the official parothers in getting jobs

Numerous official parties, foundastudents through this program that has tions and businessmen were requested a basic system and work team. Nevertheless, we intend to officially to support the program that contributes to upgrading the level of education and announce it as a national organizathe process of social development. tion.'



A number of talented females enjoy their being honored at the festival.

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Corus Hotel	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	\$ 710	\$ 830	\$ 890	\$ 1170	Category ****
JW Mariott	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$ 945	\$ 1295	\$ 1295	\$ 1645	Category * * * *

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Transfer airport hotel or V.V. \$ 30 sedan car. { 2adult + 01child)	

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Workshop on environment

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF HODEIDAH BUREAU

The Hodieda Office of General Health and Population concluded a workshop on Dec. 27 on the environmental effects of development projects in the province.

Water and Environment in collaboration with the European Union on

Fifty-five participants, including the general managers of the official offices and members of the local council, took

part in the workshop that lasted two days

Dr. Al-Hassan Moh'd Taher, Deputy Governor of Hodeidah, reinforced the significance of taking care of environment and how necessary it is to raise awareness among people in this respect. He said that the province secretariat It was organized by the Ministry of would go on supporting the activities that target the environment issues.

> Mohammed Shamsan, workshop coordinator, noted the relationship between environment and the developmental projects.

tourism and travel companies and agencies in addition to lack of tourism infrastructure.

The study has also verified that qat chewing and its economic consequences make the majority of the community think that local tourism is an impossible matter.

The study has also warned of extinction of traditional handy crafts components such as silvery makes, pottery, coppery, leathery, wooden carvings, traditional clothes, since tourism helps these traditional work opportunities.

Workshop for Taiz **educators**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ BUREAU

A workshop on school management, for principals in 12 districts of Taiz Governorate, was held at Taiz Secondary school Dec. 27 to 30.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Mehdi Abdul Salam, Director General of the Education Office in Taiz.

The course was devoted for train ing novice teachers.

Manager of Training Center, part of the Education Office, Muhammad al-Jalal said more than 2,000 teachers have benefited from the same training now.

Community

Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood **Juvenile workers get training**

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood concluded a four-day training course for workers with juveniles on Dec. 29.

"We hope through this training course that the participants can come up with future ideas and aspects to help them improving and insure the juveniles rights as well as raise awareness among the society members about this weak sector," said Dr. Nafisa Al Jaifi, the sectary-general of the group.

"These juveniles are victims of the

society itself including, family, street, find out their talents and abilities to be on the juveniles. A number of cases bad friends and the society that hasn't protected them. The results of this training course will reflect on the national plan to develop the children potion in Yemen."

The workshop is one of the activities of the national network for caring the juveniles that formed in 2004 with coordination of the ministries, nongovernmental societies and international organizations.

Al Jaifi said the group hopes that the participants will have an idea about planning, perfect ways of dealing with juveniles and incorporate them after getting out of prisons in the society as well as train, rehabilitate them and

efficient people in the society.

She also noted that Yemen is participating in an international contest for drawing. In last year's competition, two Yemeni children won.

"So we have contacted a number of schools and the contest is open for all children, street children, juveniles, poor children and special needs children. For more information they could contact the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood."

The training course also pointed out to the general rights of child and specifies the age in which the child can be convicted in an Islamic point of view and discuss the psychological effects

were presented to display the violence practiced against the juveniles as well as the project of modifying the juveniles' law

Ms. Fathia Abduallah, the assistant secretary-general at the Higher Council, said that the council will conduct a study to clearly know more about the child situations and know the social, demographical and economical qualities of the children in Yemen.

Abduallah AL-Khamisi, coordinator at the council, also commented on the training course. He noted about 150 participants have benefited form the training course.

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Inauguration Wales In.t Institute for Lang. & Computer

Continued from page 1

Saleh moves on judicial reform haul of the justice system is essential to

"The moves made last week were a good step," said Yemeni attorney Abdul Aziz Al-Samawi. "What is needed is the political will to carry out complete reform of the judicial system, which should be more than just moving judges around. It

create a better investment environment to help provide a boost to Yemen's sluggish economy. The World Bank reported recently that the country's gross domestic product growth rate has slowed from

poverty line and as many as 40% being jobless, it is expected that the numbers will continue to climb unless action is taken.

"It is good to see some changes in the judicial system," said a Yemeni businessman. "One of the reasons there is little investment, from both Yemenis and foreigners is that businesses need protection. If there is legal protection

Research students graduate head of GWCC and the research course

Girls World Communication Center

FOR YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Girls World he Communication Center within its unique Youth Leadership Program celebrated the graduation of the first group of research students Dec. 27. "The research course is one of the courses that are given to students in the first year of the Youth Leadership program in which we teach seven courses: English, computer, internet, conversation, dialogue, talking, and research," said Ms. Entelak AL-Mutwakel, the teacher. "Today we have the oral presentation of a first group of students. Seven students have presented their research orally."

She noted that many Yemeni students don't learn how to do research well. "The students start learning this skill in university which, in my point of view, is too late. I wish this actually research skills start to be taught from the primary schools."

She said if the students learn to think in academic ways, attitudes of society will change.

Hisham Al-Omaisi, associate infor-

mation director at the USA embassy said the centre has trained a lot of youth and teachers how to do academic research on the internet.

"The center is excellent and I have seen that some students have benefited from the research techniques, in taking more information from internet much faster. And it is more academic research. We can extend courses hopefully in the next couple months. We have training in January and in March. We assume we have studious students from both courses."

Teacher Abeer Eshaq, commented said "I taught four young groups here at the center and what I know they got better jobs and better chances in the. Some of them actually don't get the English language but they become aware of the problems that our society is facing like the water problems and health problem.

"We started also to teach them about the goals of our life and what we are supossed to do in our society and how the other can get benefits from what we are doing from our knowledge. These things are very essential. Most of the girls who come here belong to poor families and they don't have good chances in studying especially the language."

plete arsenal, both heavy and light weapons, anti-aircraft missiles, rock-

ets-propelled grenades (RPGs), field

the exception of tanks.

fighting each other.

artillery and all ground weaponry with

Tribes get these weapons from arms

dealers and army warehouses to keep

<u>Tribal killings in al-Jawf claim 37</u> When will tribal clashes end?

By Abduh M. Assabri For the Yemen Times

rick-built houses riddled with bullet holes, whirls of dusts are towering high, and rubbish smears the alleys and roadways of the city. Bearded but wrinkled faces are brown as berries, with dusty and curly hair come and go with their rifles upwards as a sign of manhood. This is the state of al-Jawf governorate.

A visitor to that far-flung area or its the outskirts, will be astonished at first glance to tribesmen representing different ages carrying weapons as if a battle was coming. Bit in reality, carrying arms has become their daily routine. Not only the grown-ups, but the

vounger ones are also carrying differ- only thing he desires is to possess adeent sizes of weapons and ammunition. particularly, the Russian-made Kalashnikovs.

While visiting some of the outskirts in the al-Jawf governorate early in the morning, we were surprised when saw a group of students wearing their traditional clothes, jambiyya, (sword-like but short dagger) and dresses. Their books are placed behind the belt of jambiyya and their rifles are placed above their shoulders.

In a nearby popular market of the city, it is customary for the tribesmen there to use bullets as coinage for money exchange.

It is remiss of tribesmen to buy the bare essentials for their families. "If he has or gets a big mount of money, the quate ammunitions to get ready for any bloody confrontations," a tribesman said. The only language they speak is the

language of weapons and nothing else and that's why prolonged tribal disputes erupt from time to time.

The fierce tribal clashes that have been taking place recently in al-Jawf is between two tribes, the al-Saidah and al-Marazeeq.

The situation reached its climax with dozens from both tribes meeting in a barren desert to fight each other. No action has been taken to stop the bloodshed by the security men there. They have remained helpless.

Around 30 people were killed at the beginning of the battle and then the

Flies and mosquitoes in Taiz

YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU

he number of mosquitoes and flies carrying deadly diseases has increased recently in Taiz, due to overflowing garbage pits throughout the city.

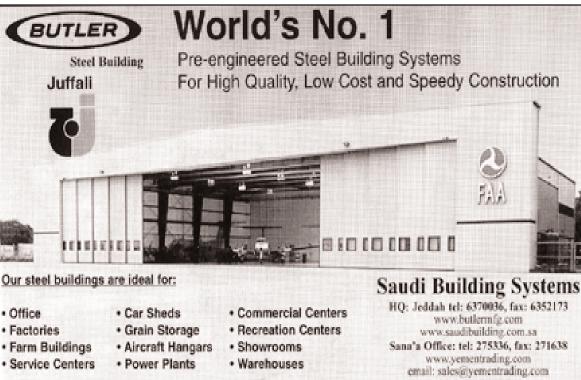
There are overflowing pits in the street leading to Nasser School, near Sug-al-Qat of Osaiferah, around al-Mudhaffar mosque and al-Bab-al-

Kabeer (big gate), the most crowded part of the city. Residents are angry and blame the Local Office for Water & Health Sanitary, in Taiz.

There are also places where sewage is flowing out onto the streets. The pit of Suq-al-Sameel has also overflowed like a sweeping flood before the entrance of al-Saeed stationery shop and Howdh-al-Ashraf Street, in front of the Yemenia office.

death toll rose to 37 when some of the injured tribesmen died in the hospital.

Names of those who died in tribal confrontations were jotted down when they were taken to the cemetery to be buried. It is by no means, a big catastrophe to see a very large number of funeral processions of innocent tribesmen carried in their coffins to be buried. They fall victims because of being under the Shiekhs' (influential tribesmen) thumbs. All tribesmen are under total control of their Shiekhs. "If a breakaway group declares its disloyalty, it is expelled" a tribesman said. Influential tribes also possess a com-



s important that we fight corruption.

3.1% in 2003 to 2.5% last year. With up Analysts have stressed that an over- to 42% of Yemeni people living below the

could see an increase in investment."

world's supply of opium, which is used to

Afghans face future

"I hope all of our ministers in the Cabinet, if they have any link with political parties, they should resign from those parties. If they do, then the people of Afghanistan will trust our Cabinet," said Karzai.

Karzai's selection of ministers, announced just days before the first meeting, has been seen as a significant move. Some warlords holding positions as ministers in the interim government put together after the Taliban regime was ousted in late 2001 were removed. Most of the ministerial positions were filled by technocrats with experience related to their new jobs and a college degree was a requirement

"Taking out warlords and bringing in more qualified people is a fresh start for President Karzai to unify the country, establishing security and rebuilding a country that is in real need," said an Afghan analyst.

Former Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim, once a leading commander of the Northern Alliance, was replaced by his deputy Abdur Rahim Wardak, who fought against the Soviets in the eighties. Yunus Qanooni, who ran against Karzai during the presidential elections last October after being the Minister of Education, was not given a position in the Cabinet.

Two ministers were appointed as governors in important provinces after being replaced in the Cabinet. Gul Afha Sherzai, former Minister of Public Works. was named governor of the Kandahar province, while Sayed Hussain Anwari, former Minister of Agriculture, is now the governor of the Kabul province, which includes the capital city.

Karzai, who won the presidential elections on October 9 and took 55% of the votes, appointed the female presidential candidate Massouda Jalal as the Minister of Women's Affairs.

The new team of ministers working with the president may face obstacles in the near future, however. Decisions made by the Cabinet will need support by the Parliament which is scheduled to be elected next April Militia leaders are likely to have a heavy influence on the new legislature. Qanooni has already announced his formation of an opposition party, and other warlords, such as Fahim, Mohammed Mohageg, Abdul Rashid Dostem, are not expected to sit idle during elections next spring. Vikram Parekh, an Afghan analyst of

the International Crisis Group, said that satisfying donor countries had played a part in Karzai deciding on who he would appoint as ministers. The choices were very much dependent on foreign backing so the question will be how much will that affect their ability to get things done," said Parekh. "Will they need to make compromises?

Establishing security nationwide will also be a challenge. A number of militia leaders supported by armed followers control vast areas outside of the capital. US troops, numbering roughly 18,000, continue to battle with the remnants of the Taliban in the south while around 9,000 NATO-led peacekeeping forces mostly protect the capital.

Opium production has continued to climb over the last three years after the Taliban regime was forced out. The most recent United Nations report showed that the land being used for growing poppies grew 64% in 2004, reaching 131,000 hectares. Poppy cultivation covers each of the 32 provinces and 87% of the

produce heroin, comes from Afghanistan, To help tackle drug trafficking, Karzai established a new Counternarcotics Ministry headed by Habibullah Qadari.

"We look forward to working with the new Cabinet team," said Bill Rammel, Foreign Office Minister to Afghanistan from Great Britain, the country spearheading the international community fighting opium production. "I shall be taking an early opportunity to reassure the new minister for counternarcotics Habibullah Qaderi, of Britain's determination to support Afghanistan in its fight against drugs and to contribute to intensified international efforts in the year ahead."

The newly appointed Defense Minister Wardak has said that progress made by the Disarmament. Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program, which is run jointly by the United Nations and the Afghan government and aims at disarming militias, will continue.

"The process of DDR is going smoothly and would be completed in the three months ahead of the parliamentary elections," said Wardak. Since the program began, around 30,000 weapons out of 60,000 to 80,000 have been collected.

Wardak also said that the goal of having 70,000 soldiers enlisted in the Afghan National Army (ANA) will be completed in December 2006. The US Army has been training ANA forces, and the local army now has 25,000 soldiers.

US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, supported Karzai's selection of a new Cabinet.

"We congratulate President Karzai on his appointment of a new Cabinet," said Khalilzad. "We support their wish and call upon the Cabinet to fully devote itself to supporting President Karzai as he leads Afghanistan to a new and brighter future."

Arab

Abbas gets hero's welcome in Gaza

RAFAH, Gaza Strip, Jan 1 (Reuters) - Thousands of Palestinians including armed militants gave presidential election frontrunner Mahmoud Abbas a hero's welcome on Saturday in a Gaza refugee camp shattered by fighting with Israel.

Abbas is running to succeed the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a Jan. 9 vote.

Abbas has branded violence a mistake but he has won crucial backing from Arafat's militant faithful by vowing no retreat from an agenda including total Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands where Palestinians seek a state.

Palestinians including about 100 masked gunmen crammed into a wedding hall to greet Abbas in the Rafah refugee camp, which has lost more lives and suffered greater destruction than any other place in the four-yearold Middle East conflict Abbas almost cancelled the trip

because of an Israeli army raid into the Khan Younis refugee camp just north of Rafah, but went ahead apparently after receiving assurances he would pass through Israeli roadblocks smoothly and safely.

He dropped plans to visit Khan Younis, the second largest city after Gaza City, because of Israel's continuing raid which has killed 12 Palestinians.

"Rafah continues to suffer oppression and the humiliation of occupation but it will not be defeated and not be humiliated," he said in the most fiery speech in his campaign, setting aside talk about laying down arms to help revive peace talks.

"We will not stop until we achieve victory through the establishment of the Palestinian state, the dream that began with your brother, the martyr Yasser Arafat," he said to heavy applause, with some people standing on tables.



A Palestinian boy (L) shakes hand with Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas (R) during a Fatah election campaign rally in Rafah south of Gaza Strip Jan. 1. Tens of thousands of Palestinians pledged support to frontrunning presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas on Friday as he made his first visit to Gaza since the start of a campaign to succeed Yasser Arafat. REUTERS

"Neither the occupation nor the incursions nor the assassinations nor the demolitions (by Israeli forces) can prevent us from visiting you, the steadfast of Rafah!"

Israeli raids to root out tunnels dug by Rafah militants to smuggle in arms from nearby Egypt have killed hundreds in the sprawling slum of 80,000 people, both gunmen and civilians.

U.N. refugee agency figures show around 16,000 residents have been made homeless from demolitions of housing, which is said by Israeli forces to have hidden tunnel outlets.

Abbas, repeating campaign themes, said he would work for the release of more than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israel and the return of refugees from wars since Israel's 1948 founding.

A moderate in Arafat's circle, Abbas has parted from him in asking Palestinians to embrace non-violence in the struggle for statehood.

Thirty-four drown as Somali boat sinks

NAIROBI, Jan 1 (Reuters) - Thirtyfour people drowned when a boat travelling from northern Somalia to Yemen sank in heavy seas in the latest blow for Somali coastal communities already hit by the Asian tsunami, an official said on Saturday.

and only three managed to reach shore," it sank off the Somali coast. Yusuf Ismail Baribari, a spokesman for Somalia's fledgling government, said of relief agencies were rushing aid to the incident on Friday.

The boat was travelling from Bossasso in northern Somalia to Mekelle in southern Yemen carrying 37 "Thirty-seven people were on board people and 1,200 goats and sheep when



Somalia ships are seen tightened together in the Indian Ocean near the coast line of Hafun District in the north of Somalia, in this picture released by World Food Programme, taken on Dec. 30. REUTERS

Baribari also told a news conference communities in northeastern Somalia devastated by the Asian tsunami on December 26, adding his government believed the death toll had risen to 142. There was no independent confirmation of that number. Reports

from the few aid workers on the ground in the worst-hit Puntland region say 114 were killed when the waves struck.

Most of them were fishermen who had not come home since they set sail on December 26, shortly before the waves triggered by southern Asia's undersea earthquake 6,000 km (3,750 miles) to the east began pounding Africa.

Up to 50,000 in northeast Somalia are in need of emergency aid after the tsunami damaged or destroyed their homes.

German naval vessels attached to a U.S-led task force based in Djibouti have been visiting affected Somali coastal villages since Thursday to provide emergency relief.

In Baghdad No damage after blast

BAGHDAD, Jan 1 (Reuters) - A loud explosion was heard in central Baghdad on Saturday but the U.S. military said it had no reports of any major attack in the

Guerrillas trying to drive out U.S.-led

forces and topple Iraq's Americanbacked government kept up sporadic mortar fire in and around the capital into New Year's day, which may explain the

explosion that occurred at mid-day. There were no reports of damage or injuries in the city centre, a U.S. military spokeswoman said.

Earlier on Saturday, a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad killed an Iraqi truck driver and wounded three people, the spokeswoman said.



A U.S. Army soldier, from the 1st. Cavalry Division, walks past the covered body of an Iraqi elderly man after he was killed in a roadside bomb explosion on New Year's day in Baghdad, Jan. 1. At least one Iraqi civilian was killed and two others were injured when a roadside bomb exploded on a highway southeast of Baghdad. REUTERS

Darfur casts shadow over Iran sets crunch presidential Sudan peace pact in south election for June 17

area.

NAIROBI, Jan 1 (Reuters) Sudanese hailed a New Year accord ending a north-south civil war, but celebrations were tempered by fear the fledgling pact may unravel under pressure from the separate Darfur conflict in the west.

Amid cries of delight and thanksgiving prayers, government and southern rebels signed the final chapters of a peace deal in neighbouring Kenya on Friday, paving the way for a comprehensive accord ending Africa's longest-running civil war.

Delegates from the government and rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed the last two of eight peace protocols that together years of war in the oil-producing south.

A peace ceremony setting an official seal on the accord is tentatively set for January 9 in Nairobi.

The power-sharing accords are intended to end the conflict in the south that has killed an estimated two million people, mainly through famine and disease, and uprooted four million.

The SPLM of the mainly animist and Christian south have been fighting the government since 1983, when Khartoum tried to impose Islamic law on the entire country. Issues of oil, ethnicity and governance have complicated the conflict.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the accord and said the official signing of the peace deal would "...usher in a new era of peace in Sudan,



make up an overall accord ending 21 Sudanese President Omar al Bashir (R) sits next to rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement John Garang (L) during the singing ceremony of two protocols in woman," SPLA leader John Garang has Naivasha, 90 km (55 miles) west of Nairobi Dec. 31. Amid singing and whoops of joy, Sudan's government and southern rebels signed the final chapters of a peace deal Friday, paving the way for a comprehensive accord ending Africa's longest-running REUTERS civil war

> in which the United Nations is prepared to play a significant role."

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington would help Khartoum and the southern rebels implement the deal.

The pact does not cover the conflict in Darfur, where more than a year of fighting has created what the United Nations says is one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Darfur crisis

Darfur's deepening crisis has repeatedly complicated the painstaking negotiations by Khartoum and the SPLM to end the older, bloodier struggle in the oil-exporting south.

"The Darfur cloud is going to cast a dark shadow over the joy of today's agreement," John Prendergast of the influential International Crisis Group think tank.

"The rapid disintegration in Darfur will complicate the implementation of this agreement. The international community will need to be very vigilant on all the issues, especially on revenue and oil and wealth-sharing."

SPLM leader John Garang, set to

become Sudanese Vice President under the peace accords, is eager to enter government to rebuild the south and get a share of oil revenues. But doubts have blossomed among his colleagues, who sympathise with Darfur's rebels, about whether now is the time to share power.

Garang has long expressed sympathy with the African rebels in Darfur, whose demands for a bigger political say in Khartoum and more state resources are similar to the SPLM's own.

Garang has said Khartoum has used the same techniques in Darfur, where tens of thousands of people have been killed as a result of the conflict, that it once used against his forces.

"No man wants to marry an ugly explaining Khartoum's said. attractiveness as a partner was sullied by violence Washington calls genocide. The African Union said security in

Darfur had worsened after an attack this week by a previously unknown rebel group, forcing the U.N. to stop food deliveries to 250,000 displaced people. "Our happiness will not be complete unless we solve the problem of Darfur," Sudan President Hassan Omar al-Bashir told Friday's brief but raucous signing in Kenya's Naivasha town.

A leader of one of Darfur's rebel groups, Sudan Liberation Army chairman Abdel Wahed Mohamed al-Nur, said that only fair deals for all the marginalised people of Sudan would bring a lasting peace in Sudan.

TEHRAN, Jan 1 (Reuters) - Iran's legislative watchdog on Saturday set June 17 as the date for presidential elections that are expected to mark the final defeat by conservative clerics of the reform movement led by outgoing President Mohammad Khatami.

"The Guardian Council has approved the 27th of Khordad (June 17) as the date for presidential elections," said the Council's spokesman, Gholam-Hossein Elham, in a statement reported by the official IRNA news agency.

The Guardian Council had already rejected proposed election dates in May, arguing that screening of candidates could not start more than three months before Khatami's second and last term expires on Aug. 1.

The liberal Khatami, elected by a landslide in 1997 and again in 2001, has seen his popularity plummet as Iranians grow disillusioned with his inability to push through reforms against the resistance of the clerical establishment.

Khatami, who cannot stand for a third successive term, came to power promising political, social and economic change, but powerful conservative clerics have frustrated all his efforts.

Conservatives trounced reformists in parliamentary elections last February after the Council banned thousands of reformist candidates, including many parliamentarians, on the ground that they did not meet its moral standards.

Amid heated speculation about who will stand for the presidency, influential former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani – regarded as a pragmatic conservative - has signalled that he may run if he gets enough high-level backing.

"If the elite of the regime conclude that I should take over this crucial responsibility at this stage, God willing I will run in the elections," Rafsanjani was quoted as saying by the student ISNA news agency on Saturday.

Several political parties are backing a comeback by Rafsanjani, whose 1989-1997 presidency was marked by modest social reform.

Analysts believe a Rafsanjani candidacy might reduce the chances of hardline hopefuls such as former foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Ali Larijani, both advisers to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Islamic Iran Participation Front, the leading reformist party, this week gave its backing to former higher education minister Mostafa Moin, the first reformist candidate to throw his hat into the ring.

Former parliament speaker Mehdi Karroubi, a moderate reformist, is also considering an election bid, though it is not yet clear whether the reform camp will settle on one candidate.

Moin resigned from Khatami's government in 2003 in protest at mass arrests of students who were among the main supporters of Khatami's reform drive.



Hertz Yemen updates its Hyundai Fleet



Mr. Jamal Abul Wasa' Hayel handing over the keys to Mr. Saleem Sheikh in the presence of Mr. Amin Bahamam

Universal Rent a Car - Hertz International Franchisee in Yemen updated its Hyundai Fleet into 2005 models Accent, Sonata and Santa Fe.

The vehicles were handed over by Mr. Jamal Abul Wasa' Hayel, the Deputy Managing Director of Natco, the dealers of Hyundai, Ford and Porsche in Yemen.

Mr. Saleem Sheikh, the General Manager of Hertz Yemen informed "its an effort to keep and maintain our fleet always young, as we update our fleet in every two years to provide the best and quality vehicles to our customers to achieve highest customer satisfaction"

Mr. Saleem Added "Hyundai vehicles have proven track record for the safety of drivers and passengers, spacious and equipped with all modern state to art amenities that will ease the travellers while the drivers enjoy driving".

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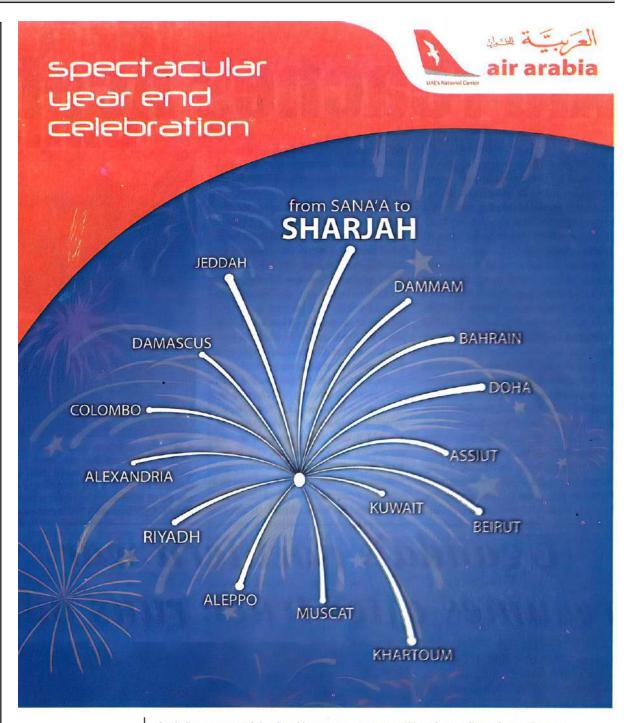
Hetz

most of the corporate sectors in Yemen, because of our uncompromising standards in providing a comprehensive range of first class car rental services. We have ever increasing number of delighted clients who feel that our driver is one of the reasons that made their stay in Yemen a pleasant one".

Mr. Amin Ba Hammam, the Sales Manager of Hyundai informed "its worth mentioning now that Hertz Yemen started with Hyundai vehicles and ever since we have been supplying Hyundai vehicles. I should be thankful to Universal management for their continued patronage to Hyundai and say gratefully that Hertz does their best marketing support by renting Hyundai vehicles to all type of its clients"

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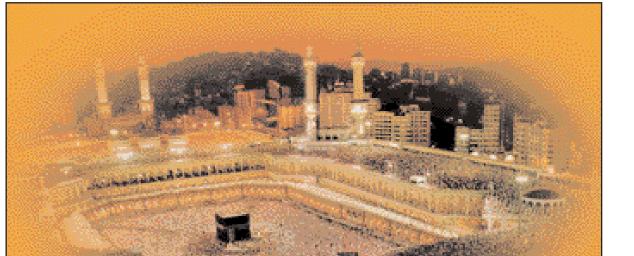
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تواصل مع الأهل والأقارب خلال موسم الحج مع خدمة التجوال بدون تأمين

عسرض جديد من "سبيستل يمن" لمشتركي خدمة الفوترة المتوجهين إلى المملكة العربية السعودينة لأداء قريضة الحج بإمكانية إرسال واستقبال المكالمات والرسائل القصيرة (SMS) مع الأهل والأقارب من وإلى اليمن وداخل المملكة العربية السعودية

بدون رسوم تأمين.

• الرواد (مسار كالثيرة الحج الإستقارة من منة العرس.
 • منة العرض تقارة (٢٠١٩/٢١/١٩٠

كيفما حسبتها، أسعارنا هي الأنسب خدمسة المشتركسين ١١١١١ (مجانًا). (للإنصبال من خبارع اليمن)، ٧٣١١١١١١ ٧ (١٧٩٧ www.spacetelyemen.com

Asia/Africa

Aid reaches Aceh, US forces arrive

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia, Jan 1 (Reuters) - Substantial help began reaching refugees in Indonesia's devastated Aceh province on Saturday amid depressing rain, and the U.S. military arrived in force to speed the flow of critically needed aid.

Supplies started pouring into the airport at the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, on Friday, but much of it failed to get distributed to the nearly 110,000 made homeless by Sunday's massive earthquake and the powerful tsunami it triggered.

Hundreds of survivors gathered at the airport on Saturday, captivated by the hive of activity created by the arrival of five U.S. Sea Hawk helicopters, Singaporean military Super Puma choppers and Australian and Indonesian Hercules transports.

"We just got here, we're here to help and we're going to keep working until the mission is done ... Where they say they need (aid) we will move it," Capt Larry Burt, commander of U.S. Carrier Air Wing Two, told Reuters in an interview.

The disaster is now known to have killed more than 80.000 people on northern Sumatra island, all but a handful of them in Aceh. Officials say the final toll may exceed 100,000.

But while aid was now finally getting through to some of the needy after days of delay - a refugee camp at a mosque in Banda Aceh had ample supplies of food early on Saturday many were still searching for help as the world saw in the new year.

"This is no time for celebration. I am now going to another refugee camp because I hear there is a food supply there," dishevelled survivor Armiah, 32, told Reuters as he walked in the town of Lhoknga, 20 km (12 miles) west of Banda Aceh.

Armiah lost his wife, mother and two brothers when the tsunami destroyed his home in the fishing village of



Australian soldiers unload aid items for Acehnese survivors of the tsunami disaster at a military air base in Banda Aceh, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra Jan. 1. With more than 80.000 confirmed deaths. Indonesia was the hardest hit after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake less than 95 miles off the northern tip of Sumatra triggered a tsunami that ripped across the Indian Ocean to Africa. Officials said the Indonesian figure may soar past 100,000. REUTERS

Khueh, but managed to rescue his five-month-old son as he clung to a tree.

"I haven't received anything yet. We have just been using what is left over (from the tsunami)," he said.

Faced with the possible spread of disease from polluted water supplies and dozens of bodies lying untouched, filling the air with a nauseating stench, some survivors - many wearing face masks - were starting to flee Banda Aceh.

But at the same tine others were starting to return to try and retrieve anything that was left, with cars being towed out of the mud, more traffic on the roads and markets re-opening. Long queues were also starting to form for kerosene.

Innocence lost

Nature itself continued to be unkind, with quake aftershocks overnight rattling homes and shelters, sending many people scurrying outside as early morning rain dampened spirits.

"When it rains, it's so hard to sleep because the ground gets wet," said Nurlina, an eight-month pregnant 32year-old mother of three, as her children clung to her legs.

The shelters were inadequate to keep some goods and cardboard sleeping sheets from getting wet.

Razali, 33, said there was enough food in the camp, but people needed medical help. "We need doctors. The children are sick, they have worms and fever."

"The water is not clean. We drink and bathe there. Look, it's near the toilets," said Rafika, a 40-year-old mother of three.

A U.N. health official, who declined to be named, said aid workers were seeing a lot of infected injuries among children, respiratory tract illness, diarrhoea and mothers struggling to feed their babies because they could not produce any milk.

Uganda's northern war resumes after truce runs out

GULU, Uganda, Jan 1 (Reuters) -Fighting resumed between Ugandan troops and northern rebels of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) on Saturday after a temporary truce to facilitate peace talks ran out, the army said.

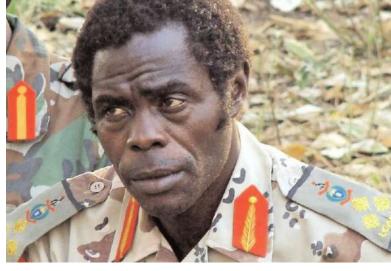
LRA rebels attacked an army vehicle 16 km (10 miles) from this northern town shortly after dawn and one soldier went missing during the incident, after the truce ran out at midnight (0900 GMT), military sources said.

There was no official word on the reported attack, but army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza said: "The ceasefire has expired and we have begun (military) operations today at 7 a.m."

During the past 18 years, the LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children according to World Vision, forcing boys to fight and using the girls as sex slaves. More than 1.6 million people have fled their homes in northern Uganda.

The rebels routinely target civilians, slicing off the lips and ears of their victims and kidnapping thousands of children who are forced to work as porters, fighters and sex slaves.

The fighting follows a decision by both sides to postpone the planned signing on Friday of a landmark total ceasefire because the rebels wanted more time to study truce terms offered by the government at talks earlier this week, negotiators said.



Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel leader and chief negotiator Sam Kolo listens to Uganda's chief negotiator and former government minister Betty Bigombe in Palabek, near northern Ugandan-Sudan border in this picture taken on Dec. 30. Uganda's governmentand the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are to sign a landmark total cease-fire on Friday, opening the way for an end to a bloody 18-year insurgency, Bigombe said. REUTERS

ble by the arrangement of the temporary truce that ran out on Friday night. The intended total ceasefire dis-

cussed at the talks held in a clearing in

the bush near the Sudan border would

rebels)," Bantariza said on Saturday, without elaborating.

Mediators say contacts between the government and LRA negotiators are continuing, despite the resumption of not be limited in time or scope, unlike hostilities, to try to revive peace efforts.

The talks are sponsored by the United Nations, Britain, Netherlands and Norway and have been attended by U.N. officials, religious and civil society leaders and Britain's military attache Chris Wilton.

Maldives drops treason charges in tsunami gesture

longest-serving ruler has dropped treason charges against a number of opponents in a conciliatory gesture triggered by this week's tsunami devastation.

Maldives Chief Government Spokesman Ahmed Shaheed said late on Friday that President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has ordered the pardons "to promote and sustain" the community spirit needed to rebuild the archipelago's economy.

"The President has ordered the withdrawal of all charges of treason against those involved in the protests.

COLOMBO, Jan 1 (Reuters) - Asia's He feels this is a chance to start afresh," Shaheed told Reuters.

At least four prominent opponents of Gayoom's autocractic rule were charged last month with treason after a crackdown on hundreds of anti-government protesters in August, drawing strong criticism from human rights groups.

Gayoom, who has been in power for 26 years, ordered truncheons and teargas to quell the protest, and his opponents accused him of trying to fix upcoming parliamentary elections by jailing and charging their members. The government on Wednesday

postponed the election scheduled for Dec. 31 until Jan. 22 after the tsunami killed at least 67 people and flattened a number of resorts.

The Malvides, whose white beaches and scuba diving are a magnet for tourists, has declared a state of emergency. The tsunami waves flooded two-thirds of Male, the capital.

Still the idyllic island chain escaped the tsunami disaster relatively unscathed compared to its neighbours. More than 124,000 people in 12 other countries were killed around the Indian Ocean and the death toll is expected to rise.



SEOUL, Jan 1 (Reuters) - North Korea, at the centre of a crisis over its nuclear weapons programme, urged the United States on Saturday to end its hostility in the New Year and said it itself would work for peace and prosperity.

The traditional message from the reclusive communist state, which has hostile policy towards it," the editorial the world's fifth largest military, was said. carried in its three main state newspapers and is seen as setting policy direction for the year.

policy - independence, peace and friendship," the joint editorial said. DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea. "The U.S. should give up its attempt to stifle the DPRK by force of arms and make a switchover in its

war Iraq

In last year's editorial, the North pledged a commitment to a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue through dialogue.

Saturday's editorial stressed the military-first policy preached by its leader, Kim Jong-il, as the basis of national strength but did not use the fiery rhetoric it normally directs at the United States The editorial signalled further economic reforms, which began in July 2002, and stressed greater agricultural productivity as the starting point.

The talks — the first substantive peace negotiations between the two sides in a decade — were made possi-

But government negotiator Betty Bigombe said on Friday afternoon the signing of a truce was postponed to give the rebels more time to consult each other.

previous truces.

"We are told that there are disagreements among themselves (LRA

"The army and people of the DPRK will as ever firmly protect the national dignity and sovereignty and invariably remain true to the idea of its foreign

There was no direct mention of stalled six-party talks aimed at swapping its nuclear programmes for international aid and a guarantee of national security. The United States has branded North Korea part of an "axis of evil" along with Iran and pre-

White roses, candles bring in solemn New Year

PATONG BEACH, Thailand, Jan 1 (Reuters) - People held candles and white roses on the tsunami-hit island of Phuket, tearfully embracing as they grieved, in a poignant symbol of the mood which darkened New Year celebrations across the globe.

In contrast to the usual revelry, sadness hung over this year's festivities after more than 124,000 people were killed and millions left homeless by Sunday's massive Indian Ocean waves.

Australia led the world in a global minute of silence, parties were cancelled and trees on Paris's grand Champs Elysees were shrouded in black on Friday.

On Thailand's Phuket island, bar girls and customers at the Tiger Discotheque stopped their partying for a candlelight vigil metres away from where the waves had crashed into Patong beach.

At the stroke of midnight, partygoers stopped their celebrations and lit incense sticks. The mournful Elton John song "Candle in the Wind" echoed through the resort.

On the debris-strewn beach, two people were lonely figures, crouching near the sea with lit candles.

Then it was over and the disco roared back to life with the girls wiping away their tears and returning to the table tops.

British tourist Richard de Gottal at the Tiger.

"It's business as usual here and 100

Minute's silence

Sydney, the world's first major city to start celebrations, went ahead with its annual New Year's Eve firework displays, but the estimated 1 million revellers who flocked to the harbour foreshore were urged to remember those killed.

Sydneysiders were asked to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of tsunami victims. Party-goers in Australia's Melbourne and in neighbouring New Zealand similarly paused to remember.

"This gives an opportunity for mums and dads to help to explain what happened to their children," a spokesman for Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore

said.

ing.

At the stroke of midnight Sydney's Harbour Bridge exploded into a blaze of colour, with multi-colour flashes illuminating the city for miles around. "It's definitely a big difference," said Around the world, party plans were

dropped or toned down. In Sri Lanka, where more than 28,500 people died, President Chandrika Kumaratunga

yards away there was death and destruction. It's very, very surreal."

Thailand called off outdoor celebrations in memory of its 4,500 victims and Malaysia decided against official festivities.

cancelled all New Year celebrations

and declared a national day of mourn-

In Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called for muted New Year celebrations and a fireworks display over the Marina Bay area was cancelled.

In Hong Kong, where disgruntled residents are used to marking public holidays with anti-government protests, political parties across the spectrum decided to postpone a New Year's Day march and instead planned to raise funds for tsunami victims.

Europe sombre

The Asian disaster has cast a long shadow over global celebrations, particularly in Europe. Europeans made up the majority of the more than 2,200 foreign tourists known to be dead and

7,000 missing. Sweden, Norway, Finland and Germany planned to fly flags at half mast to start 2005 as a mark of respect for their many dead and missing, who had left Europe's cold, dark winter for the sunshine and golden sands of Asia. Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson called for national solidarity amid muted New Year's celebrations following the devastating tsunami that may have killed more than 1,000 Swedes.

"We can greet the New Year as welcome ... and at the same time think of all the missing," Persson told a crowd of several thousand in a central Stockholm park, a traditional venue for national celebrations of all kind, but now more sombre.

Paris draped black mourning crepe on the trees lining the Champs Elysees to pay homage to the victims. Thousands of Parisians traditionally collect on the tree-lined boulevard in

the centre of the French capital on New victims. Year's Eve.

Istanbul, with memories of a massive earthquake that rocked northwestern Turkey in 1999 and killed more than 18,000, cancelled a concert and firework display in the city centre.

A number of Italian cities abandoned plans for major New Year's Eve parties, deciding instead to send the money saved to charities helping the

Near Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, where a million people typically throng on New Year's Eve, flags were being flown at half-mast. Around 1,000 Germans are missing after the disaster.

Germany urged revellers to donate some of the 100 million euros (\$136 million) they would normally spend on fireworks, a call repeated across Europe.



Thai people hold candles to honour the memory of those who died after Asia's tsunami, in Phuket province about 862 km (536 miles) south of Bangkok, Dec. 31. Asia's tsunami death toll soared above 125,000 on Friday as millions struggled to find food and clean water and the world mobilised for what is shaping up to be the biggest relief effort in history. REUTERS

World

Ukraine PM resigns; giant rally fetes Yushchenko

KIEV, Dec 31 (Reuters) - Viktor Yanukovich said on Friday he was resigning as Ukraine's prime minister, but refused to concede defeat in a presidential poll as a vast New Year crowd feted liberal Viktor Yushchenko's victory in Kiev's main square.

TEMEN

Yanukovich has denounced his rival's victory in the re-run of last month's rigged election and is pursuing legal challenges to overturn the outcome.

But in a New Year's address, he admitted the appeals to election authorities and the Supreme Court stood little chance.

"In view of this, there is no point in staying on as prime minister. The political role of the Yanukovich government as a factor of stability in the past year is all but exhausted," he said. "I have taken the formal decision to resign.

The results of last Sunday's ballot, ordered by the Supreme Court, handed West-leaning Yushchenko an eight-point lead over Yanukovich, backed in the contest by Moscow. The vote followed protests in support of Yushchenko to denounce electoral fraud.

In Independence Square, focal point of protests that halted activity in Kiev for weeks, Yushchenko told a crowd well over 200,000 that activists had concentrated the minds of Ukrainians.

"I would like to wish well-being and happiness to every Ukrainian household, so that every Ukrainian can say proudly that he is a Ukrainian, proud of living on Ukrainian soil," he said, a glass of champagne in his hand.

He said hard work could produce improvements even in a year.



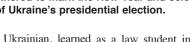
Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (L) greets residents of the Ukrainian capital at the New Year celebrations at Independence square in Kiev, Jan. 1. Hundreds of thousands gathered to mark the New Year and celebrate Yushchenko's victory in are-run of Ukraine's presidential election. REUTERS

"Work for Ukraine with your sleeves rolled up and you will see it will be a different country in a just year," he said. "We are living in a different country already, thanks to you."

Georgia inspired Ukraine

Also on stage was Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose landslide election victory after a "rose revolution" against electoral fraud a year ago inspired Ukrainian activists.

"We held our breath watching you. We admired your courage. The future destiny of Europe was being decided in this square. Good overcame evil in this square," Saakashvili said in fluent



Ukrainian, learned as a law student in Kiev in the 1980s.

"These days I have felt like a Kiev resident again ... But each freedom-loving person was a Kiev resident at this time, at the time of the orange revolution, which has changed Europe.

Few now doubt Yushchenko will take office, though Yanukovich's legal campaign is holding up official proclamation of the results and the new president's inauguration

Yanukovich had looked increasingly isolated without a power base or any sign of backing from voters in his stronghold in eastern Ukraine to keep fighting to overturn the outcome.

Parliament dismissed Yanukovich early this month, but he stayed in office as outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, who backed him in the earlier ballot, never signed the necessary decree.

Seated at a desk, the prime minister said he was the rightful winner of the original election.

'We are still fighting, but I do not have much hope for any decisions from the Central Election Commission or the Supreme Court," he said. He vowed to remain in politics but would take on no position "in a state under such an administration".

The Supreme Court has rejected efforts to have the vote annulled on procedural grounds. The Commission, which has thrown out several of his submissions, examined new arguments.

Yanukovich was initially declared winner of the Nov. 21 run-off. Protests by Yushchenko backers in orange gear erupted immediately and the Supreme Court later annulled the result.

The U.S. State Department said on Friday Washington wanted a "quick, fair and transparent resolution". The European Union has sent Yushchenko good wishes but Russia, quick to congratulate Yanukovich on the tainted poll, has remained silent.

In his New Year speech, Kuchma, now at odds with Yanukovich, urged Ukrainians to unite behind the new president.

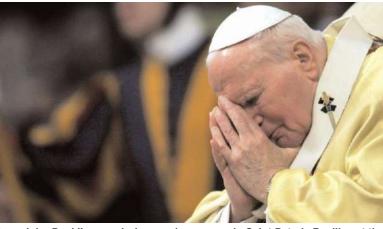
"All of Ukraine - every region, every citizen - must accept this democratic choice as his own," Kuchma said. "This man will need your support."

Pope prays for tsunami victims, peace at new year

VATICAN CITY, Jan 1 (Reuters) -Pope John Paul ushered in the New Year with special prayers for the victims of the Asian tsunami on Saturday, the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace.

"In my prayers for the victims of this catastrophe and for those close to them, I also note with happiness the show of solidarity that has developed in every part of the world," the pope told thousands of pilgrims gathered is St. Peter's Square to hear his traditional New Year message.

"This swell of human solidarity. together with the help of God, is the foundation for our hope of better days for the rest of this new year," he said to the waving of flags and cheers.



Pope John Paul II prays during a solemn mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the

said.

the Polish Pope's pontificate, describing social and political evil spreading through the world causing war, injustice, violence and desperation.

In it Pope John Paul says Iraq seems locked in insecurity and uncertainty, the Middle East sometimes appears to be broken beyond repair, Africa is mired in desperation and terrorism has hung a cloud of anguish over the globe.

The pope, who suffers from Parkinson's disease and has trouble speaking, on Saturday called on the world's one billion Catholics to "win the fight over evil with the armies of love".

"This is the road Christians and believers in different religions are called on to walk together acknowledging the

No US - UN rivalry in tsunami aid response: Powell

(Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State munity by announcing he had assem-Colin Powell on Friday rejected suggestions that Washington was trying to edge out the United Nations as leader of the international relief effort for the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Powell, during a visit to U.N. headquarters for talks with Secretary-General Kofi Annan, also denied that President George W. Bush had just increased U.S. disaster aid to \$350 million from \$35 million because he had been stung by criticism that wealthy nations were stingy.

"This ten-fold increase is indicative of American generosity but it also is indicative of the need," Powell told reporters when asked if the increase announced by Bush on Friday had been the result of a "bidding war."

The announcement had been timed around completion of the necessary assessments and "not just that each day everybody was trying to play, 'Can you top this,'" Powell said. "The need is great, not just for immediate relief but for long-term."

The United Nations said the death toll from Sunday's colossal sea surge may be approaching 150,000 as the emergency relief operation struggled against debris-clogged harbors, power outages, washed-away roads and shattered towns from Indonesia to Somalia.

The United States initially had committed \$15 million, then raised its contribution to \$35 million after U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland criticized rich nations such as the United States as "stingy" for cutting back on general aid funding even as the world economy was growing.

'Assets, experience and capabili-

Bush on Wednesday dismissed suggestions that America was stingy as "misguided and ill-informed" and

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 31 set off alarm bells in the relief combled a core group of Australia, India, Japan and the United States to coordinate the relief effort.

> The move prompted speculation that Bush hoped to supplant the United Nations, which has taken the lead in coordinating natural disaster relief for the past five decades.

> But Powell said the group had been formed only because Washington saw a need for a coordination mechanism consisting of countries in the region "with assets, experience and capability that could be brought to bear right away."

> The group "might expand slightly but in due course we hope the core group will work itself out of business because we will have brought all of the international organizations into play under the overall supervision and leadership of the United Nations," Powell said.

> Egeland said the latest U.S. contribution brought total donations from around the world to more than \$1.1 billion including cash and in-kind contributions.

> Washington's relations with the world body have been tense since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, which Annan opposed and the Security Council refused to authorize.

But Powell, who has announced plans to leave the U.S. administration in early 2005, and Annan praised each other for their cooperation since the tsunami crisis and before.

"Over the course of the last six days we have worked very closely with the secretary-general and his staff," Powell told reporters after his talks with Annan.

"My visit here today with the secretary-general is for the purpose of making sure we keep proper momentum," he said. "This is not the time for squabbles. This is a time for all of us to work together to help people who are in desperate need."

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Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Oxfam's program in Yemen has expanded which requires new areas of work with new specialization. We are looking for dynamic people to work as part of the Oxfam Sana`a team. The Staff member appointed will be based at the Sana`a office.

Job Title: Campaigns Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

The Pope's prayers followed an extraordinary mass in his private chapel on New Year's Eve dedicated to the thousands of people killed when an earthquake under the Indian Ocean last week sent tsunami waves onto surrounding shores.

Pope John Paul, now in the 27th Christmas season of his pontificate, at his earlier New Year's Day mass marked

صدام الظلاع

Vatican Jan 1. The Pope ushered in the New Year with special prayers for the victims of the Asian tsunami on Saturday, the Catholic Church's World Day of REUTERS Peace.

the Catholic Church's annual World Day of Peace by calling for greater cooperation between religions.

"In the face of multiple manifestations of evil, that are injuring the human family, the first priority is to further

aradi.



حمل وأرق التهاني القليبة مكللة بأربج الفل وعبق الجلنار نهديها للأستاذ عبده دائل العريقي . مدير بنك التضامن الاسلامي . فرع حدة محمد داؤود مراد وهياف عبدالرحمن السقاف وجميع موظفي بنك التضامن الإسلامي الدولي - وص

Putin wishes Latvian war criminal happy new year a

MOSCOW, Jan 1 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin wished Happy New Year on Saturday to a Russian partisan from World War Two convicted by Latvia of war crimes. He said the world should not try to present heroes as criminals.

peace through common means, giving

importance to dialogue, to acts of justice

and forgiveness," the 84-year old Pontiff

The peace message, released earlier in

Putin's occasional notes to Vasily Kononov are seen by analysts as a sign of Russian reluctance to accept the Baltic State's move to the West since the fall of communism.

Kononov, 81, was convicted last year of murdering Latvian civilians during World War Two, in a case that outraged many Russians who saw him as a brave partisan fighting the Nazi armies that devastated the Soviet Union.

But for many citizens of the Baltic States, Soviet victory in 1945 brought 46 years of occupation and not liberation.

"With all my heart, I congratulate you and those near to you on the New Year. I wish you good health, success, well-

universal moral law," he said in a relatively clear voice.

As has become typical, the pope presided over the mass but senior cardinals celebrated it.

The annual peace message, 16 pages long this year, is traditionally sent to all world leaders, the Rome diplomatic corps and heads of major organisations like the United Nations.

being and all the best," said Putin in a note released by the Kremlin.

Next year will mark the 60th anniversarv of the end of World War Two, in which the Soviet Union lost far more troops than its U.S. and British allies, and Putin told Kononov the world should not try to devalue Soviet troops' heroism.

"I am convinced that all attempts to re-examine the results of World War Two, to justify real criminals and to slander the heroic victors are doomed," he said.

"You are firmly defending not only your good name, but also the historical truth and the honour of your comrades. In your brave and correct struggle you will receive all necessary help."

Russian relations with Latvia are often stormy. Russia accuses its neighbour of abusing Russian-speakers' rights, criticising Russian firms and stoking anti-Russian sentiment.

University degree in social science or relevant fields.

- Proven knowledge, skills and experience in campaigning on issues for social change related to ideas, attitudes and practices and preferably in gender related issues
- Understanding and sensitivity to development issues and context
- Well developed management skills to support, develop and build capacity of staff and partners in campaigning
- Ability to mentor and support national staff to build local capacity
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrable creative thinking, and problem solving
- Flexibility, responsiveness and sensitivity to the needs of the local context and culture and listening and supportive attitude
- Experience of working with media and sound understanding of messaging and public positioning and adapting it to the needs of the local context.

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Words of Wisdom



TENER Y

TIMES

from other religions

the true sense.

all of us!

more.

communities?

ing of all Jews and America.

How bizarre!

help them.

and enmity

Arab and Muslim world.

from the world.

rather all who suffer.

belief and originality.

The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times

OUR

OPINION

Misrepresenting

Islam, again

severe misery to millions of Muslims and innocent people

I thought the first thing any preacher would do is to pray for

the victims, ask God for the protection of those of them still

suffering without shelter or food. But what I got was ugly in

death would come in such a quick instant. Those who died in

Asia, how many of them were drinking, committing crimes,

committing adultery, or practicing other evil deeds?" he asked.

I was truly astonished. In a time the whole world is pledg-

ing to help, the preacher so openly implicitly or even explicit-

ly criticized those who died saying that they are an example to

What is going on? What are those preachers feeding their

The only mention of the Tsunami didn't last for two min-

utes. The remainder of his speech focused on traditional lec-

turing that he must have repeated for a thousand times or

But suddenly, the preacher turns back again to call for the

In a time his Muslim brothers and sisters are suffering in

South East Asia, this preacher returns to slam the USA, which

by coincidence is the largest sole contributor to aid efforts to

I just wonder how those South Asian Muslims would feel if

This irony repeats itself in many areas in Yemen and the

This rhetoric is diminishing whatever respect is left for us

Islam is not theirs, and if they claim ownership to it, we

need to fight back. Islam is a religion of tolerance, global

peace and dedication to all humans, regardless of faith or reli-

gions. Islam is a religion that calls to help those suffering, and

it never gave specific directives to help those 'Muslims' but

Islam is not what some may call a religion of radicalism that

calls for the extreme It is a religion that has been misinterpret-

ed and misrepresented over and over again.

people to believe and take them as examples.

so-called 'infidels' are the ones currently helping.

demolishing, the total destruction, the erasing, and the smash-

"You see, this is the power of God! Who ever know that

ast Friday, I was quite upset. I went to the mosque

to do my Friday prayers as usual and listen to the

mosque preacher as usual. I had one thing in mind

before I entered, i.e., the Asian Tsunami and the

horrific catastrophe it resulted in and which caused

By Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

> he Arab World has seen in the recent years changes in leaderships, including in countries such as Qatar, Jordan,

Morocco, Bahrain, Syria, UAE and Palestine, not to mention what occurred in Iraq and the alterations in other Arab regimes.

We are in a new phase of the development of the Arab political system.

However, what is remarkable is that these changes, which affected approximately half of the Arab world, were limited just to the change of individuals and were not real changes to the systems. Although we always call for injection of new blood into the top of the Arab governance, what has happened was a transfer and not change of authority.

Therefore, our expectations of the new leaders were not high, besides the volume of change did not live up to our hopes and expectations. I don't deny that it is unfair to compare new leaders with old ones who spent too many years in power as it is unacceptable to compare the last years of the former with the commencing years of the coming.

We should remember that past leaders such as King Hussein, President Hafidh Al-Asad, King Al-Hassan II, Sheikh Zayed and Yasser Arafat are historical leaders who spanned a long period on the political stage and have left vivid impressions.

Opinion

New leaders, old patterns

Arab leaders aren't

bringing reform

We also do not deny that the new leaders have introduced some sort of liberal changes influenced by the spirit of the era especially that international and regional events suggest reform initiatives to be adopted in different degrees by various Arab regimes.

If we take the Arab-Israel conflict as yardstick to evaluate the new leaderships, we will see that they are more moderate and less linked to the situation and causes of the conflict in the area. The Arab world now is like the large family which has started to disintegrate. It has become characteristic that Arabs put a high price now to their particular states and not to their all inclusive nation. If there are no annual meetings and foreign ministers assembly at the Arab League headquarters, the picture could have been even worse.

If we try to foresee the Arabic future taking into account these changes, we will focus on Arab countries' attitudes towards major issues in the Middle East. We will choose four problems which are: Palestine-Israel confrontation, Iraqi issue (both are main issues in the Asian part of the Arab World) and then we move to the African portion to the Sudanese issue and the dispute over the Western Desert.

I want to say frankly that a particular ruler succeeding his predecessor, either in a monarchy or a republican regime, has not yet indicated an effective change. The heart of the issue lies in the essence of the political regimes and the philosophy of their performance of duties so that they have steady orientations opening the doors to freedom, hope and real reforms.

The Arab regimes now have two generations of leaders who express the presence of the nation in which the new spirit and traditional ideas interact. It is necessary that all try to conserve the deep-rooted principles and characteristics of the nation, adhere our values and be tenacious of rights.

We are in a bad need for a good perusal and analysis of what happened around us in regard to the four above mentioned issues, as well as a calm discussion of the nature of the traditional ideas within the frames of new leaderships concerning the following:

* Palestine-Israel confrontation after the death of President Yasser Arafat.

* Iraqi plight since the ouster of the former regime and preparation for the election.

* The Sudan crisis and the problem of Darfur after the pre-final agreement with the front in the south.

* The Western Deser, which is the most complicated of Arab-African problems.



And in 2005

soon get its first free elections. Palestine looks to a new future. And there are rumblings of broader regional reform.

best or worst of times here. Some things are changing, but it may be somewhat like fashion in the west: a new combination of the same items, knowing that once was.

predictions of what might be in store.

Iraq's democracy: Forgive me for Such preachers in my opinion are the main hurdle to Islam. my cynicism, but Iraq seemed doomed They may even be the ones who are furthest from Islamic from its birth 85 years ago, when it was created by Western powers trying to I believe lack of education and blind fellowship to such somerge arch-rival Sunni and Shiite called Muslim scholars are causing masses of our illiterate Muslims with ethnically different Kurds who were promised their own homeland. Students of Iraq's history know that even before Saddam Hussein, for decades, it had plenty of bloody coups, counter-plots and assassinations. Has much really changed? As one Iraqi here in Sana'a told The Yemen Times previously, "I was hoping for security and democracy. Instead there is only killing and bloodshed. I have lost hope.' The U.S, \$7 trillion in debt, has already spent \$300 billion, three times its initial projection, trying to change things its way. That's on top of the dead. But elections or not, it appears the nihilists, fascists, insurgents, freedom fighters or whatever else you care to call them, aren't leaving. Prediction: If foreign troops eventually leave, don't be surprised by civil war.

Arab reform: By now you know that this is the buzz-phrase here these days. It comes after two UN human development reports, written by Arabs, that lambaste regional leaders for backwardness in political, social, gender, and educational spheres. Now Time magazine even reports the EU and NATO may work together to reshape the Greater Middle East, a vast area from Afghanistan to Morocco.

You'll recall in 2004, Yemen got involved when Sana'a hosted 800 Arab delegates discussing how to modernize the region's political institutions. And you'll recall that president Ali Abudullah Saleh noted "there's no longer a place for dictatorships."

But Arabs don't want outside solutions imposed on them. And corrupt leaders don't want to lose their privilege. Officials in Yemen in particular have things to lose, considering Transparency International recently named Yemen and Iraq as the most corrupt Arab countries. It seems all that Arab governments want from the U.S. is cash for so-called economic reform. And polls show while everyday Arabs don't like their autocratic regimes, they don't prioritize political reform because they don't link it to things like a job.

spotlight to go down as the great Arab Superman who could have saved the region from the both the Yanks and the Jews. (Then again, some cabbies in Sana'a (and some others here) don't even believe it's actually Saddam in custody.)

Palestinian statehood: Palestinians, no doubt, have suffered terribly over the past several decades, both inside and outside of the Occupied Territories. But I wonder if some of this could have been avoided if, for one, their leaders took a different tact

In 2000 at Camp David, for example, Yasser Arafat refused an offer giving Palestinians 94 per cent of the West Bank, partial control over Jerusalem, resettlement rights for 100,000 Palestinians in Israel, and compensation for five million Palestinian refugees. Had



By Hassan Al-Haifi

American churches vs Israeli caterpillar tractors

n August 30, 2004, Common Sense discussed the decision by the Presbyterian Church, which has an investment portfolio of US \$ 8 billion, that Church investments in American and international companies dealing with Israel was a disservice to peace in the region. Starting with Caterpillar, Inc., the Church has looked seriously at using its strong investment portfolio as leverage towards working for real peace in the region and to halt the injustice and suffering of the Palestinians in the wake of the Israeli occupation policies of doing everything to make life as miserable as possible for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Driven by a moral conscience and a belief that the Church should use whatever it has at its disposal to promote peace and to end the wanton rape of the Holy Land by Zionist bulldozers, that have continuously sought to change the demographic and social make up of the West Bank to make room for illegal settlements and to set up elaborate defense and security systems that make normal life for the Palestinians almost impossible. The decision taken in July of last year has stirred up considerable controversy and encouraged other churches to consider following suit, namely the Episcopalian Church and the Methodist Church. The American Zionist lobby has sought to discourage any such practice and has diligently worked to counter any further organized Church efforts to boycott such firms that provide Israel with the instruments of its transgressions.

What has even made the Zionist lobby in the United States even more jittery is that a current poll being carried out by the Christian Science Monitor has yielded astonishing results that baffle organizations like the American Jewish Committee. In the meantime the voting on the poll being conducted by the Christian Science Monitor has shown that 2 out of 3 Americans actually support such action by church congregations, because they feel that it is not proper that churches should sit idle when they have the ability to influence government policy and exact pressure on the parties involved by indirect economic boycotts. The more than one million votes tallied so far have shown that more than 65% of Americans believe that divesting investments in such companies is sound Christian policy and called for, in light of continued Israeli intransigence and the Bush Administration bias towards Israel's aggressive policies in the occupied territories.

The AJP and other pro Zionist groups are working diligently to convince the Churches that such actions are discriminatory, etc. but the Churches in question have so far stood their grounds, believing that their moral principles drive them to such actions. With the Bush Administration showing little fanfare for an effective US policy that truly seeks to end the miserable situation caused by the Israeli illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the systematic death and destruction unleashed by American military equipment and destruction equipment, originally intended for construction purposes, provided to Israel by the US government, the Churches have decided that enough dallying is called for if Israel is to succumb to any efforts for genuine peace. Thus every effort is being used by the American Jewish lobby to convince the Churches to cease such radical approaches to promoting peace. In defense of the Church's decision, the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, a Presbyterian leader, wrote to members of the US Congress: "The decision to initiate a process of phased, selective divestment ... was not taken lightly."It was born out of the frustration that many of our members, as well as members of other denominations, feel with the current policies of Israel and those of our own government.", as quoted from the Christian Science Monitor. The American Zionist lobby is shown by the reaction of the AJC: "To call for divestment played into all the language of boycott, from earlier periods in Jewish history to the Arab boycott of Israel. It caused an explosion in the Jewish community," says David Elcott, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee (AJC). To manifest the rise in tension provoked by the divestment decision, the Christian Science Monitor said: "Tensions rose when a Presbyterian delegation traveling in the Middle East in October met with members of Hizbullah, the Lebanese group on the US terrorist list. The church's national leadership disavowed the action. Then in November, the church received a letter threatening arson against Presbyterian churches unless it halted the divestment process." Rev. Marthame Sanders, who was in ministry in the West Bank said, explaining the Presbyterian Church position: "We have to be principled; we respect human rights and the legitimacy of international law, and when Israelis or Palestinians breech either we'll take a hard look at our investments." Even Jewish peace activist groups have found merit in the idea: "Some US Jewish peace groups support the initiative, Mr. Sanders says, including Jewish Voice for Peace. JVP has filed its own shareholder initiative asking Caterpillar Inc. to investigate whether Israeli use of its bulldozers to demolish Palestinian homes violates the firm's code of conduct." according to the Christian Science Monitor. The Methodist Church has also indicated that it is looking into the use of divestment as a means of encouraging better moves towards peace: "The notion that a two-state solution might no longer be realistic is very unsettling to many people, both Jewish and Christian," says Jim Winkler of the United Methodist Church's public policy board. It probably wont be long before Americans at the grass roots level, like their European counterparts will come into sharp conflict with their politicians, who have been led to believe that siding with Israeli contempt for human rights is the only way to get votes.

they know that hundreds of preachers are uttering such rubbish and feeding those in the mosque with ideas that bring hatred Those preachers are in my opinion a reason why we are It's 2005, a new year with some promise for the Arab world. It appears Iraq will retarded as a nation. They preach hate and with no justification insult and accuse others calling them infidels, in a time those

But it's still unclear if these are the

eventually the look will return to what it With that kaleidoscope, here are four

stories to watch in 2005, along with my

the

http://www.new7wonder.com

Don't use the

phrase 'Akhdam'

/isit

rather

this, let's win!

site

Ahlam T.

tlmld@aol.com

For the sake of our future and religion, they need to be stopped. It will take time and perseverance, but it will one day happen.

There will be a day when those preachers will be stopped and told to take their corrupt version of Islam away. Then we will bring Islam that truly deserves people who believe in peace, love, and dedication to humanity. The Editor



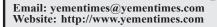
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Finally, we know that virtually all serious Arab talks on reform stall over Palestine and America's alleged blind support of Israel.

Prediction: Reform will move as dangerously slow as a turtle crossing a busy highway. (But never give up hope.)

Saddam's trial: Yes, this will be the mother of all courtroom dramas. Not much more to be said on this one. Prediction: Saddam will seize the

he accepted, perhaps the 4,000 Palestinian deaths in the latest Intifada could have been avoided.

It does seem telling that it is only that now, after Arafat's passing, that there is real hope that Palestinian statehood is possible. And what about all these reports that Arafat allegedly siphoned untold millions of dollars in donations intended for needy Palestinians. Considering Arafat was lionized across this region, what are we to make of these things? Perhaps there is a sad truth to the Arab motto "Al-Wala'a, la al-Kafa'a," or "Loyalty not qualifications."

Prediction: Palestine's dream of statehood will progress when a new breed of Palestinian leader emerges.

Jamil Abdul Karim is a Yemen Times editor.

Email jamil@yementimes.com

Letters to the Editor

Help Sana'a win the award people, by branding them that would like to ask you all for your slavish name It is high time YT refrain from help through this section to make The City of Sanaa" win the race to

encouraging the use of such disbecome the best of other wonders criminative labels, which are ward. In order to vote, please against all norms of human rights, at although used by the majority of Yemenis in the northern parts of And do let everyone know of Yemen.

Mohammed Basmeir basmeirmohd@hotmail.com

Non-Isaagi Somalis

have a say too Ali Toosane, is a tribalist Mand the only reason he is call-"Akhdam" as you described the unfortunate segment of ing Somaliland a "clan-state" is he Yemeni community, sounds because the so-called Somaliland humiliating term for this section of administration is purely an Isaaq he society. Just say the poor ather than "Akhdam". government. Isaaq one of the clans live in northern Somalia. Encouraging the use of such names by Yemen Times supports mainly Hargeisa and Barbara, they only make up about 28% ne continuous degrading of these (other clans who makeup 72% oppose strongly so-called maliland and support united Somalia).

Somaliland myth was invented by some Isaagi men "power Hungary" to create a government dominated by Isaag clan (since Isaaq's are a minority in Somalia). These men were tribalists and were oppressed. Recognizing Somaliland is a extremely dangerous, it will create more genocides by Isaags against other clans who live in northern Somalia, never ending civil wars, and more border conflicts with Somalia. Another fact is that the so-

called Somaliland authority is only popular and in control in Hargeisa and Barbara. What's more tragic is that the so-called Somaliland government is illegitimate and wages constant aggressive wars

on all regions in northern Somalia

and non-Isaaq clans. So-called Somaliland government vigorously follows bad policies like ethnic cleansing and genocide against

non-Isaag clans. Non-Isaaq clans believe that if Somalia is divisible, than so-called Somaliland is divisible. This will create eight small independent nations in northern Somalia, for example. Awdal Republic Hargeisa Republic, Barbara Burco Republic, Republic, Buhoodle Republic, Soo Republic, Las-Anod Republic, and Sanaag Republic.

Somaliland's Recognizing Somaliland's administration is only legitimizing it as a final solution against all non-Isaaqi clans, and would incite more violence and instability in an already volatile region.

Omar Adam adam3030@hotmail.com

Ooops, ... we are all human!

Common Sense apologizes for the error in the last issue of YT (hard copy edition) of repeating a Common Sense article of the previous issue. The right article may be found in the issue No. 803 website version (Archives).

Op-Ed

Changes for 2005 **Arab fathers** and sons

By Volker Perthes

he deaths of Yasir Arafat and of Sheikh Zayd, the long-standing ruler of the United Arab Emirates, continues the generational change that began in 1999-2000, when the leaders of Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, and Syria died in quick succession. Across the Middle East people are younger, and their political leaders older, than the world average. The gradual replacement of one generation of elites by another may be one of the key factors in determining whether or not effective reform takes place in the Arab world.

At present, four political generations co-exist on the region's socio-political map. The outgoing leadership generation - that of Arafat, King Hussein or Hafiz al-Assad, King Fahd and President Mubarak - was born before 1935 and has determined events in the Middle East since the 1970's.

These leaders came of age and began their careers during the era of decolonization. They were weaned on Gamal Abdel-Nasser's pan-Arab nationalism, and the crucial political event for them was the Arab defeat in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Members of this generation sought a strong Arab leadership that would create a balance of power with Israel. They also believed in - or at least toyed with - forms of socialism and étatism, and did not consider democracy or civil rights to be priori-

The next generation was born between 1935 and 1955, and in many respects represents a generation "in between." Most benefited from the economic growth and expanded educational opportunities associated with the oil boom of the 1970's. At the same time, political participation remained blocked by the previous generation, which never intended to give up power voluntarily. Unsurprisingly, many in this generation grew dissatisfied, and not a few began to look for Islamic alternatives to the prevailing political systems.

Rather than determining events in the coming two or three decades, this generation is likely to be sidelined by the next cohort, born between 1955 and 1975. This is the generation of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, Jordan's King Abdullah and Morocco's King Muhammad VI. Some call this the "generation of sons" – sons of leaders who led their states for decades.

This age cohort was not much influenced by the Arab-Israeli wars or the East-West conflict. Instead, their political education included the Gulf War of 1991 and the Arab-Israeli peace process of the 1990's, with its crises and breakdown. Jailed West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti is as representative of this group as the leaders of Syria and Jordan.

Members of this generation are better acquainted with notions of globalization and economic reform than with socialism and revolution. Except for

the Palestinians, they have never known their countries other than as independent and comparatively stable states. In the Palestinian territories, the jil al-intifada, the generation of the (first and second) Palestinian uprising, will likely become the founding generation.

But it is the fourth group that underscores the relevance of generational issues in the Arab world. Even when combined, the first three generations make up barely one-third of the entire Arab population. Almost 60% of all Arabs are younger than 20, with roughly 70% below the age of 30.

This raises a key question: what happens to these Arab "baby boomers" if the generation now coming to power clings to it as tenaciously as the generation of Mubarak, Assad, and Hussein?

The political generation of Bashar al-Assad, King Abdullah, and Gamal Mubarak - son of Egypt's ailing president - forms a less coherent picture than that of the outgoing leadership. In that elder generation, many had pursued military careers, and many of their aides and collaborators were engineers and civil servants.

The socio-professional profile of the new elite is broader. Economists, bankers, and entrepreneurs as well as of technology or communication experts are common. There are also more traditional politicians: personalities who see themselves as representatives of particular social or economic interests, not as apolitical technocrats. This new leadership elite is in many



ways more cosmopolitan than its predecessors; their average level of education is higher; a few have foreign degrees. Women also play a somewhat greater role.

base will widen. Such continuing political inertia leaves an increasingly young Arab population prey to the appeal of extremist ideologies, while driving the best and brightest to seek their fortune elsewhere.

East and Africa program at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and is author of Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change Copyright: Project Syndicate,

Volker Perthes heads the Middle December 2004.



Why are foreigners preferred? The price for being a Yemeni national

capital which is supposed to contribute in the economy of the

country and reflect a positive improvement in the social sometimes employ some Yemenis pay. But unfortunately we find "The Private Yemeni capital" extremely interested in recruiting foreign employees, not in rare specializations, but in normal positions mastered by a multitude of Yemenis.

In fact Yemenis have proven on many occasions that they are more successful because they do hail from be serving their own people.

he private Yemeni disgrace? Or are our responsible people beneficiaries of such infringements of good reason let alone the law?

Labor offices are deep asleep or have no powers, then what is the use conditions of Yemenis, does of such institutions and their annual budgets if they cannot cease such who ought to be honored with good corruption and perform their assumed duties. Or is it that they do not know their responsibilities?

I still remember how an American wanted to take his Yemeni gardener with him to his new post in another country and how that country refused to give that Yemeni a residence permit because his profession was not that rare and many nationals of that country could do the same job. Such the same environment and they will employees find themselves unable to make ends meet and thus decide to



BY ALFRED STEPAN

lthough

tion, many suggested that reconciling Ukraine's the "two Ukraines" was impossible. 13 years ago was made in the name of the "two Ukraines" was impossible. "The people of Ukraine," and citizen-to the French style semi-presidential-Revolution" But polarization has not been a con- ship was offered to everyone who was ism created by Charles de Gaulle for stant factor in the history of independent Ukraine. On the contrary, Ukraine is closer to being a "state nation" than many people think. Moreover, its prospects for becoming a consolidated democracy are enhanced by the fact that its political elites - and most ordinary Ukrainians - have eschewed the idea of being a classic "nation state."

During the recent presidential elec- country's declaration of independence

The Ukrainian Constitution of 1996

Developments in Morocco, Bahrain, and Jordan certainly seem to suggest that this changing of the guard can help soften rigid political structures and allow for broader participation. But generational change need not be

accompanied by economic reform and steps towards political liberalization witness North Korea under Kim Il Sung's son, Kim Jong Il. Indeed, experience gives little reason to presume that a modern way of speaking, willingness to liberalize the economy, and an urge for technological development automatically translates into a democratic opening. It is more realistic to expect that the new Arab

elites will make use of their states' authoritarian institutions, both to overcome resistance to their economic agendas and to consolidate their newly acquired power.

This is anything but a risk-free path. Without a significant increase in opportunities for political participation, including genuinely competitive elections, the chasm between a predominantly young population and a ruling elite with a narrow generational

has once again demonstrated the power of people in the streets, two aspects trouble many observers: the perception that there are "two Ukraines," and the pact reached between the old regime and Viktor Yushchenko's democratic forces to reduce the president's constitutional powers. But both comparative democratic theory and historical experience suggest that these factors could be less worrisome than they seem.

"Orange

Certainly, the diversity of forms of governance used over the centuries by Russia, Poland, Lithuania, and Austria-Hungary when they ruled what is now Ukraine make creating a classic "nation state," with one dominant culture, difficult to imagine. Consider, for example, the robustness of the Russian language and the strength of the Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate - in Donetsk that is in eastern Ukraine and the robustness of the Ukrainian language and the influence of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Lviv in the west.

Yet Spain, India, Belgium, and Switzerland are all consolidated democracies that do not fit the classic model of the nation state. Indeed, multiple but complementary identities are the norm in all four countries.

These multiple identities emerged because the democratic state provided a "roof" of equal rights above all citizens, whatever their religion, language, or culture. This helped develop a strong sense of identity with the statewide political community. These profoundly pluralistic countries are not classic "nation states," but rather what I call democratic "state nations."

Indeed, more than 80% of Ukraine's Russified eastern districts voted for independence in 1991, and the 1999 parliamentary and presidential elections did not split the country nearly as much as the 2004 presidential elections did. A survey in 2001 of the two supposedly most polarized cities, Donetsk and Lviv, showed convergence in their approval of independent Ukraine, with only 1% of respondents in Lviv and 5% in Donetsk preferring that Ukraine be divided into two or more countries.

As in other "state nations," surveys in Ukraine indicate that common symbols have helped build elements of a common identity. Both ethnic Russians and ethnic Ukrainians view the tenthcentury feudal state known as "Kviv Rus" very favorably. Moreover, both groups share the seventeenth-century Cossack warrior Bohdan Khmelnytskyi as their most popular historical figure, and both revile Stalin due to the famines caused by his forced collectivization of agriculture in the 1930's (whereas most ethnic Russians in Russia view Stalin as the heroic state savior of WWII).

These shared attitudes toward Ukrainian symbols and statehood owe much to a recognition that independence will not be well protected by forging a classic nation state, that is, a "Ukrainian Only" state. Thus, the

born on the territory of Ukraine, regardless of nationality.

I was invited as an adviser to two constitutional committee meetings in Kyiv in the 1990's. My impression from the discussions was that both Ukrainians and Russians in Ukraine were acutely aware of the need to avoid ethnic conflict. In fact, an informal state-building alliance of convenience emerged between key non-communist Ukrainian nationalists and key pro-sovereignty, ethnic Russian communists.

The perception of "two Ukraines" emerged in the presidential election of 2004 partly due to the charge that Yushchenko would eliminate the constitutional guarantee that ethnic Russians could use Russian as their primary language of instruction in schools. But during his campaign Yushchenko assured Russophones that he would uphold such rights.

Finally, much of what has been described as "secessionism" in the east is in fact regionalism. Greater legally respected decentralization in Ukraine. especially in Crimea, would be a logical and overdue "state nation" policy.

The other major issue raised during the Orange Revolution concerns presidential powers. Many Yushchenko loyalists are unhappy that, in exchange for the government agreeing to fairer election rules, Yushchenko agreed to transfer some presidential powers to the parliament. Not withstanding the selfserving intentions of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, this historic pact may in the long run produce positive results for Ukraine's democracy and prospects for joining the European Union.

the Fifth Republic: a directly elected president with significant executive powers and a prime minister responsible to parliament. This system works best when the president and the prime minister come from the same political party or coalition.

But, as in Russia under President Vladimir Putin, Kuchma vastly increased presidential powers in Ukraine. Indeed, no real democracy in the world has such unchecked presidential authority.

A look at the eight postcommunist countries just admitted to the European Union is instructive. Four - Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, and Latvia - are parliamentary. The other four - Slovenia, Poland, Lithuania, and Slovakia - have directly elected presidents, but none comes constitutionally and politically close to Kuchma's Ukraine. Like Portugal in the 1980's, they adopted semi-presidential systems that so reduce presidential authority and increase the parliament's powers that they are most accurately described as "parliamentarized semi-presidential" systems.

This is the model toward which Ukraine could be moving, however unwittingly. If so, the presidency would most likely cease to be a potential source of ethnic polarization, thereby strengthening the common identity that both Ukrainian and Russian citizens are committed to upholding.

Alfred Stepan is Professor of Government at Columbia University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, December 2004.

The distressing reality shows that

our local capital diversifies its humiliation of Yemeni compatriots who exert much effort in the service of this country only to receive very low wages without any other privileges whatsoever.

On the other hand, the foreigner whether he/she be an Indian or from another Arab country, receives his or her salary in US dollars. Ironically such a foreigner in certain cases may receive an amount exceeding or equaling all the wages of the whole Yemeni Staff in such a private institution. So don't be amazed to find some of them smoking cigars instead of normal cigarettes!

Then we dare to ask whether Yemenis are aliens in their own land? After a few days from the arrival of the foreign employee we find him living in luxury having a good accommodation, a nice car and the latest prestigious cellular, all mostly given free. Don't we see that a generation after another is underway? How can we guarantee that their seething anger will not explode one dav?

The president and the government should take avail of the Saudi and Omani experience in replacing foreigners with their own people before it is too late. The Private Business Sector should not be left alone to act whimsically.

And what is the use of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs? Don't we have a bit of honest state administration to cease such

leave the country.

I would like to give you a vivid image of this, a Yemeni would receive a monthly salary of YR15,000-YR30,000 i.e \$75 to \$150. The foreigner would receive \$1,000 up to \$6,000. I know cases where a foreigner receives \$10,000 in addition to other privileges. Adding insult to injury the Yemeni pays taxes and the foreigner is exempted.

When it comes to incentives and occasional gratuities a Yemeni gets an amount equaling his basic salary and the foreigner double his full salary. The Yemeni employee is always under attack and continued harassment lest he fails to perform his job assignments while the foreigner always receives broad smiles and incessant compliments. When decisions are taken to raise salaries the Yemeni gets a 10 per cent raise in Yemeni Riyals and the foreigner 10% in US Dollars (see the difference!)

Do you think someone might read this and do something about it? Nope, everyone reads but all have dead consciences. They are in a valley and their compatriots are in another. Simply they are responsible with regard to foreigners. As for their own people, they are mere aliens. In such institutions the hard work is done by Yemenis.

This is urgent and the private sector must be forced by the government to employ Yemeni youth who are jobless roaming the streets aimlessly and likely to commit crimes, even in unwanted radical or terrorist groups.



Economic highlights from 2004



The agreement of financing and executing Al-Haswah electricity project with 132 Kilo Volt worth of US\$ 33,688,197.

March:

he government of Yemen has implemented a number of economic activities during 2004. It approved many agreements and executed a variety of development projects serving its economic policy based on the free market and private sector involvement in investment.

The government continued its policy of loaning and financing infrastructure projects. Those activities were mostly in the social fields including supporting development, social care, agricultural encouragement, and fishery funds. The government also took care of transportation and cargo services. Of the most prominent economic stations in 2004 are the following:

January:

The Cabinet approved the draft of the executive program of the decision and recommendations of the 2nd conference of the local council that was held in Oct. 2003. The decree of establishing the provinces of Raimah was approved as well as the results of the 6th course of the Yemeni-Chinese Joint Ministers Committee which were a gift of 30 million Chinese Yuan and a loan without interests of 20 million Chinese Yuan.

The board of directors of Social Fund for Development (SFD) approved its agenda of 2004 worth of US\$ 83 million. It studied the report of accomplishments of 2003 of which the direct beneficiaries exceeded 3.10 millions besides 600.000 who were the indirect ones. The female direct beneficiaries were about 49 per cent and the indirect ones were 48 per cent. SFD executed 620 projects (92 per cent of its targeted ones).

The government agreed to the agreement of the development loan for 3rd step of SFD project signed by Government of Yemen and International Development Authority on Dec. 20 2003 that granted 41, 700,000 of the special withdrawal units (US\$ 60 million).

February:

The Cabinet approved integrating the government and joint banks making the integrated bank's capital not less than US\$ 50 million. A strategic partner should be accepted and public qualification should be opened for selling shares.

The cabinet accepted to the agreement of the loan of support for completing the Capital's Sewerage Project signed by the Social and Economic Development Arabic Fund with 12 million of Kuwaiti Diners (US\$ 40, 700,000). The (US\$ 13

million) loan signed by OPEC for supporting the 3rd step of public labors project was approved. This step cost US\$ 400 million. There were two other agreements which the cabinet agreed to: agreements of exchanging encouragement and protection between investments signed by Yemen and Hungary and BluRussia.

It approved the suggestion of holding a national meeting about the population problem and the abnormal social behaviors. The second report about applying the process of Population, Housing, and Establishments Census 2004 was agreed to. The tender of executing additional dryness basins for Sana'a sewerage with US\$ 622 million was agreed to.

The cabinet approved the agreement signed by Yemen and European Group Commissioner about establishing the commissioner delegation in Yemen.

The draft of the Technical and Vocational Education and the executive bylaw No. (1) for 2001 of the private societies and establishments were approved. The republican decree draft on establishing the distinct of Muzher ijn Raimah

April:

The cabinet accepted to a number of memorandums of understanding and agreements signed between Yemen and China including:

- Granting Yemen an easy loan from China Bank for Export and Import of 200 million Chinese Yuan.
- Agreement of Economic and Technical Cooperation offering accordingly a gift of 30 million Chinese Yuan.
- Educational Cooperation Agreement during 2004- 2006
- Economic Cooperation Protocol • A number of memorandums between ministers and establishments in Yemen with some Chinese Establishments and Corporations.

Referendums of some articles of law No. (22) for 1997 about commercial corporations in order to adapt with the new

and Economic Development Arabic Fund including support for the rural roads projects worth of 26 million Kuwaiti Diners (US\$ 800, 000) was approved.

May:

The government agreed to the tender of Dhamar Al-Husainiah road project vorth of US\$ 38 million

Employment plan directions of 2004 were also approved with all procedures and executive control. The republican decree on Seismological Studies Center in Dhamar was agreed to. The draft specifying and protecting drinking water wells in Ibb and Hadramout was approved too.

June:

The Cabinet in its periodical meeting following the republican directives transferred the draft referendum of Marketing Law to Al-Shura Council to study it with representatives of Government and General Union of Commercial and Trade Chamber about establishing Civil Service Fund.

The Cabinet approved the draft of organizing procedures of attendance, arrest, and applying the legal fines against law violators. A tender on the project of establishing a double leveled crossroad in the roundabout of Taiz St. with 45 St. worth of YR 614, 096.

July:

SFD approved the agreement of financing the 3rd step of the Social Fund Project during 2004 -2008 through the loan signed with the International Investment Authority with US\$60 million

The Cabinet agreed to distinguish the central subsidies and the public joint resources among the administrative units in all provinces for 2005. It approval the bylaw organizing medicine trade and its equivalences.

It approved the organizational bylaw of Ministry of Water and Environment, the basis and conditions of permitting the 3rd operator of GSM-900 system, the tender of the project of establishing the building of Ministry of Information in Al-Hasabah at the cost of YR 1.4 billion the tender of establishing the building of Yemen News Agency (Sheba) and the permanent journalist center worth of YR 612 million the tender of the project of executing water network in Al-Guraf and Al-Hasabah at the cost of YR 978 million

The draft of the national strategy for

executive bylaw of law No. (1) for 2004 August:

Agreements, memorandums and executive programs of cooperation between Yemen and Lebanon signed whilst the Lebanese PM visit to Yemen was approved by the Cabinet. It agreed to the following:

- · the republican decree on establishing the General Administration for Medical Services in Ministry of Interior.
- restructuring the company of produc-

Establishment for Producing Bascuits in Al-Mansourah, Aden, by privatizing it.

the project of Police System in the capital by PM. It's worth of YR 400 million. The project will be prepared with highly developed technologies worth of YR 370 million.

The government permitted General Authority for Post and Postal Saving represented by Postal Saving Fund to be a new partner in Teleyemen Company for International Telecommunication instead of the British Cable and Wireless by %5 (US\$ 3,10 million) of the companv's assets after the reevaluation that reached US\$ 62 million.

The republican decree on establishing Yemeni Distance Investment and Geographical Information on basis of investment service and scientific researches was approved. The Cabinet approved of the contract of importing

and preparing eight systems for checking the containers and compounds with x-ray that was signed by Costumes Authority and a Chinese Group worth of US\$ 23, 022, 600. The agreement of cooperation in marine transportations affairs signed between Yemen and Lebanon was agreed to. first letters between Yemen and the

September:

The Cabinet agreed to the UN Agreement on Fighting Corruption and to open an additional allotment of state general budget with YR188, 589, 932, 000. It approved the republican draft on forming the Supreme Committee for preparing the 3rd Five-year Plan.

It approved the final account of the state general budget for 2003 that contained the total income, actual outcome and actual deficit in budget. The tender on Arad-Souk Al-Hurriah road project in Taiz was approved. The road is 31km in length worth of YR685, 210, 000.

Protection Encouragement Fund discussed the indications and general directions for preparing a plan and policy of encouragement as well as the suggestive budget of 2005.

The Cabinet permitted the agreement signed by Yemen and Italy to execute the required services for the ships passing in Yemeni waters.

It agreed to the tender of establishing the Faculty of Medicine in Dhamar University worth of YR 595 million.

The loan agreement signed by Yemen and Islamic Bank for Development on Dec 14, 2004 offering support for Hajah-Keshr road project was approved. The support was worth of 7 million Islamic Diners (=US\$ 10, 850, 000).

October:

The cabinet agreed to the loan agree-

The Cabinet approved the bylaw of medicines and accessories systematizing based on Bern International Agreement of Classifieds Protection. **December:** During his visit to Hadramout Valley, PM inaugurated Dates Purification Lab

UAE Dirhem

Egyptian Poun

Bahraini Dinar

Jordanian Dina

Swedish Crown

Japanese Yen

November:

in Tunisia.

Qatari Rial

Omani Rial

Swiss Franc

50.5300

29.8000

492.2900

51.0000

261.7800

482.0800

161.7900

27.6900

1.7862

ment dated July 6 2004 signed with the

World Agricultural Development Fund,

so as to support the Society Resources

Management Project in Al-Dhale'e

province special withdrawal units. The

The Cabinet agreed to the republican

decree draft regarding construction,

management and supervising of indus-

trial areas and issuing the covenant, rec-

onciliation and solidarity document

among the Arab Leaders that was agreed

on by the Arab League Council on he

16th normal Summit held in May 2004

total cost amounts to US\$ 22 million

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

50.5900

29.8400 492.8700

51.0600

262.0900

482.6600

161.9800

27.7300

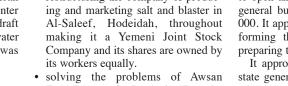
1.7883

Project in Sayun being qualified by the Yemeni Economic Corporation, at a total cost of more than YR 105 million. The productive capacity of the lab accommodates about 60 people of local workforce. Oratorical ceremony held at shows yard in Shibam Historical City, Hadramout on the occasion of the Palm Tree Festival.

The cabinet approved taking measures for investment structure enhancement and preparing programs of health, agriculture and tourist sectors.

Invitation for Bids **Republic Of Yemen Child Development Project**

SUPPLY, Transportation and INSTILLATION OF Water Pumps



and Sweets and the Automatic Bakery Placement of the foundation stone for

The draft presented by the PM of issuing the executive bylaw No. 2 for 2002 of Handicapped Care Fund. The Cabinet accepted the tender of 3rd contract of Aden Sewerage project worth of YR 1,681,950,000 by the government and German Fund for Construction.

The government agreed to reorganize Ministry of Health and Population. Ending monopoly of transportations, cargo and services in all seaports as well as increasing the depth of the harbors No. 5 and 6 in Aden in order to enhance its capacity were approved. Establishing Sana'a Cooperation Gathering including Sudan, Ethiopia and Yemen signed in Addis Ababa on Dec 29 2003. Yemen joined the Regional Grouping for fighting money laundering and terrorism. This Grouping's memorandums of understanding were signed.

The approval of the loan of the project of maintaining groundwater and soil worth of US\$ 40 million was signed by International Development Authority. changes took place when issuing laws on commercial sector.

PM, Bajammal, launched the beginning of distributing the second batch of the president's project of computers (5000 computers worth of YR 680, 400.000) in the Technology City.

SFD while meeting with PM approved SFD financial allotment of 2003 stating that the total outcome was YR 10, 867, 516,000 of the total income of the same year that reached YR 11, 086, 958,000 yet the above income was divided between 582 projects in all provinces. The calculated projects reached 3440 projects in all fields at a total expenditure US\$ 245, 283, 969. The overall beneficiaries of these projects till the end of 2003 were 9, 458, 502 while those projects provided 12, 471 permanent labor chances and a million temporary ones.

The government agreed to the executive program of electricity projects. The loan agreement signed with the Social Technical and Vocational Education for 2004-2013.

PM opened the project of reinforcing the electricity in Al-Rayan station by adding productive capacity with 10 megawatt worth of Euro 6, 350, 542 paid by the government.

PM opened in Al-Ghaidhah, Al-Mahra, Faculty of Education belonging to Hadramout University for Sciences and Technology at the cost of YR 170 million. He opened also Taj Balza Hotel, gifted from Sheik Ahmed Salem bin Muhaisen, the hotel's owner. He put the foundation stone of the Faculty of Applied Sciences in Al-Gharf worth of YR 125 million.

The Supreme Council of Civil Service approval the results and orientations of the study of simplifying the procedures of the government services presented to the public and private sector. The program of improving the public services in a number of ministries and official authorities was approved as well as the

For 2005 Yemen Mobile gets new services

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he Yemeni state-owned communication company Yemen Mobile is launching new services for Yemeni subscribers in the New Year 2005 and the beginning of Al-Adha Eid. The State Establishment of Communications says the new services will be offered beginning this month. One deal will enable ten friends to sub-

price lower than that outside the group. The service also includes calls with reduced prices within each family group.

This service will be used by employees working for establishments and companies.

So subscribers would be designated with distinguishing mark and a shortened number and reduction in telephone calls prices.

Yemen Mobile will also begin offer-

scribe as a group to Yemen Mobile at a ing an internet service to its subscribers enabling owners of Yemen Mobile telephone sets browse the internet from anywhere inside the country.

The establishment has set one user name and password fixed for all subscribers.

Yemen Mobile has also decided to cancel pager services and subscribers would be offered free of charge Suhail SIM cards enabling them subscribe to Yemen Mobile service provided that the pager number was registered.

Credit No. (3326/Yemen)

- 1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 555 of March 31, 2001.
- 2. The Republic Of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of the Child Development Project (CDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Water Pumps with Delivery, complete Instillation and Testing at sites.
- The Project Management Unit now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procuring 3. Eleven Water Pumps produced to ISO 65 for an efficiency range 65-75% with full-completed Diesel Engine (1500-1550rpm).
- Bidding will be conducted through the Inter-National Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures 4. specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- 5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Child Development Project (CDP) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$50**. The method of payment will be in cash or bank transfer to the Central Bank of Yemen in Sana'a account No. (1076-0010235). The document will be submit by hand or by mail or urgent post /air carrier. In the latter case the bidder will be charged for the additional cost.
- 7. Bids must be delivered to the address below by 11:00 am., On Tuesday 20th February 05. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum 2.5%. Of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 12:00 noon, On Tuesday 20th February 05.

Dr. Nafissa H. Al -Jaifi / Director of the Project Coordination Unit Child Development Project (CDP) P.O. Box 16939 – Hadda District, behind of "Crown Hotel" Sana'a - Republic of Yemen Tel.: + 967 - 1- 426 470/1 / 2/ 3, Fax: + 967 - 1- 426-457/ 426-477 E-mail: <u>HCMC1@y.net.ye</u>



Culture

Organization for keeping information Preserving Yemen's national memory

BY RAFIQ YASSIN FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he Central Organization for Control and Audit has helped record Yemen's history. Muhammad Dirhem Zaid, the organization's deputy chairman, spoke recently about future policies and strategies of the organization in terms of preserving documents. Following are edited excerpts from his interview.

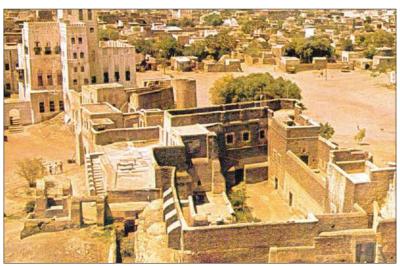
Q. Is there any improvement and modernization in the shadow of low cultural awareness and backwardness about information systems in most of the state's organizations and establishments?

A. There is no development without planning, and no planning without con-

transcendence and infringements in the line of documents collection and its preserving, its possession and its smuggling. In fact, the organization has notified of this phenomena danger earlier.

Q. Is the organization work restricted to controlling over the actual existence of the documents and properties of the governmental units?

A. The works of the organization is not restricted to the sides which I have clarified but also exceeds it to include works of evaluating and following-up the methods and means adopted in preserving and maintaining operations of the fixed assets of the documents, maps and agreements, and to propose special means for its protection and maintenance.



ducting field studies and researches: no studies without census and information; no information without the existence of documents, documentation systems and modern archives.

Document and information issues were given earlier attention by the political leadership. Construction of National Center for Documents, the National Center for Information, and several documentation and information specializing centers are considered as a true embodying to the increasing care and support of the president.

Q. Is there a certain strategy being adopted by the Central Organization for Control and Audit?

A. The control work starts with the planning, collecting and analyzing of data and then checking and assessing internal auditing systems, the internal control procedures, and reviewing the registers, books, and documents so as to assure its efficiency.

What I wish to emphasize here is the issuance of instructions from Prof. Abdullah al-Sunafy, the chairman of the organization to all the organization sectors and its branches to pay attention and to continuously follow-up all the issues connected with the national memory, and to take the necessary procedures to treat and correct all the defects and the negativity. We may say, that these issues have occupied a characteristic position in the organization plan for this year and the coming years.

Q. What are the prominent issues that the reports of the organization have recorded?

A. Some administrative and financial units have got rid of the old documents and instruments without notifying the Central Organization for Control and Audit or the National Center for Documents.

Some Authorities have spoken with the organization for contribution in damaging operation or documents burning without referring to the National Center for Documents and without their knowledge of documents laws which forbid such random works that destroy the national memory.

Q. At the conclusion of the Yemeni history between recording and documentation, several general recommendations were issued on rescuing the Yemeni documents and the assurance of the necessity of the Central Organization's contribution in all the projects connected with the preservation of the National Memory in future. What does that attribute to?

A. I wish to direct my thanks and appreciation to the leadership of the General Center for Studies, Researches & Issue, and all the members of the Consultative Assembly for the Center, represented by the Head of the Consultative Assembly, Dr. Abdul Kareem al-Iryani, Consultant to the President of the Republic, and also to the Chairman of the General Center, Mr. Ahmed Ahmed al-Shur'abi, who observed to take the Central Organization for Control & Audit into partnership into these documentary scientific events.

Eco-tourism Society helps planning Socotra is a gem just waiting for new discovery

BY DAVID B. STANTON FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ew countries have as much to offer tourists as Yemen, yet the travel industry in this country remains low. Uncertain security due to bad press in the west is probably the chief challenge faced by Yemeni tour operators. Yemen's security record since 9/11 remains about the best in the region, however, and Yemen is now, as ever, a safe country to travel in.

Of all Yemen's many beautiful and diverse regions, its Indian Ocean possession of Socotra is easily the safest and most fascinating. The island receives relatively few foreign visitors, however, mainly because of uncertainty as to how to go about organizing a Socotran tour. Since the inception of the Socotra Ecotourism Society (SES), however, organizing a Socotran sojourn is as simple as sending an email.

SES was formed in 2003 when local visionaries realized that the untapped potential of sustainably managed tourism could bring some measure of local prosperity while conserving the natural beauty that makes Socotra such a desirable destination for adventurers.

The society maintains active contacts with utterly reliable drivers, guides, boatmen, and cameleers and can tailor an itinerary to suit any taste. Staffers with the society speak and write good English and Arabic so communication poses no problem.

Due to heavy rains in the past month, Socotra is presently at the height of its beauty. Every watercourse trickles or rushes with potable water. The hundreds of species of endemic plants have burst with greenery the likes of which hasn't been seen for more than 30 years.

With the rains, Socotra's profuse bottle trees are gearing up to bloom synchronously in a spectacle that will

peak in March, turning hillsides pink with desert roses.'

Visitors to Socotra have many options. all of which can be easily and inexpensively organized by SES. While most tourists base themselves at one of several hotels in Hadibo, taking day trips to many of the fascinating environments that abound on Socotra, the opportunities to camp on Socotra are limitless. For the fit and adventurous, there is probably nothing as special as a trek into the Hagghier mountains and beyond with camels for support.

These gentle beasts are capable of carrying huge loads, and each can easily transport the gear for a party of three to four trekkers. With camels shouldering your burden it is relatively easy to get far off the beaten track for a truly unique experience.

Fishermen can guide parties of up to seven per boat on a coastal holiday to the most pristine of beaches. It is even possible to circumnavigate the island in the week between Friday flights by traveling a mere three to four hours per day, and stopping at many of the isolated spots that ring the island. Such a schedule leaves plenty of time to explore wadis and beaches on foot, or simply to relax and let your worries disappear.

Socotra is served by a network of tracks that can be traversed by 4 X 4s, so even the less energetic can safely and comfortably visit many of the most interesting parts of the island. Because of the roughness of the tracks, travel is relatively slow which gives tourists the illusion that they are actually going much further afield than they really are.

As part of its policy to promote ecotourism, SES has helped to establish local enterprises in the protected areas of Dihamri and Homhil. The former is a marine protected area that can be reached from Hadibo by car or boat in less than two hours. The main attraction at Dihamri is a vibrant coral reef that



One of countless wadi pools on Socotra

abounds with colorful sea life. With aid from SES the local community has developed a camping area within a minute's walk of the reef.

Permanent shade, a shower and toilet block, and tastefully prepared meals are among the amenities offered at the camp. Snorkeling gear is available, but many visitors prefer to use their own.

A similar camp has been established at Homhil, a site of unique botanical interest adjacent to the Hamad'ero plateau. At Homhil, which is also within a couple hours' drive from Hadibo, there are more than 90 species of endemic plants, including dense stands of Dragon's Blood Trees and several species of Frankincense.

Local facilities include a camping area, several well-maintained hiking trails which are rated according to their difficulty, and a swimming hole known as D'kibkub Pool.

Development on Socotra is accelerating and the island is therefore changing rapidly. The island is as yet unspoiled, however, and the developments that have been initiated by SES, such as those at Dihamri and Homhil, have all been positive.

Socotra is nevertheless one of the last unspoiled places on earth and there is really no reason why you should put off your visit any longer.

For more information about visiting Socrota, or to make inquiries about a tour, or to book your holiday, contact Abdelateef or Ahmed Saeed at the Socotra Eco-tourism society: ecosocotra@socotraisland.org

JOB VACANCIES xfam

Oxfam GB is looking for dynamic candidates to work as part of the Oxfam Yemen team to provide support in the implementation, delivery and management of the Integrated Action on Poverty and Early Marriage" Project funded by the Danish Government for the period of 4 years 2005 – End 2008. The vacancies are as follow: -

1- Job Title: **Project Manager**

Key Competencies and requirements: University degree in social sciences or

- related fields. Proven knowledge, skills and experience in
- programmes/projects' management including human and financial • Strong understanding of local sociomanagement skills.

programmes related to women's economic empowerment Proven knowledge on national polices

- related to women's access to the market and employment. Ability to network and link widely with
- CSOs and government bodies working on women's economic opportunities and employment.
 - Hudaidah developm

and women's situation in Hudaidah. Ability to network and link widely with CSOs and local government bodies

working on poverty and women's related issues. At least 2 years of related mid-level project

community mobilization and networking.

Proven knowledge of the poverty context

coordination experience, preferably with national/international organizations in

sufficiency and initiative.

issues

Savoun.

· High degree of personal organization, self-

Demonstrable coordination

Oxfam's work.



Prof. Abdullah al-Sunafy

Q. How do you evaluate the random procedures which lead eventually to the documents damage?

A. In fact, the report of the organization have recorded some documents and instruments damaging incidents and also incorrect preserving of the different types of documents (audio-visual, maps, documents, register) and some units which got rid of its old documentation records without referring to the National Center for Documents. This attributes to the non-reviewing by the administrative leadership.

The documentation law has put an end to all the random works which destroy the national memory and also to all the

Q. There is a valuable and rare documentation wealth in the documentary audio-visual bookshops within the radio and television establishment in Aden which exposed to complete damage. What is the role of the Organization in this matter?

A. There is an early tendency by the political leadership represented by the personality of the President of the Republic as a pioneer for the documentation advancement in Yemen aiming to pay great attention to such issues in all the Republic of Yemen governorates. We work in coordination and cooperation with the leadership of the National Center for Documents to take urgent steps to rescue this national wealth.

By the way, I would like to confirm that there is continuous follow-up and interest in such essential national issues by the Director of the Republic Presidency Bureau, Mr. Ali Muhammad al-Anesy, and to which matter he assured, upon the inauguration of the yearly 13th meeting of the organization leadership, of the importance of drawing a comprehensive strategy for the organization to help in assuring its professional role in protecting the public finance and property.

- Proven working experience in
- programme's related to women's economic and social empowerment.
- Research and training experience in gender issues.
- Well-developed writing skills in both Arabic and English.
- Strong analytical and advocacy skills.
- Action oriented, with the spirit of changing obstacles into opportunities.
- Strategic coherence thinking.
- Ability to work in a team and consult with a wide range of staff and alliance at different levels.
- Ability to travel to the field and outside . Yemen
- Flexibility, responsiveness and sensitivity to the needs of the local context and culture and listening and supportive attitude
- Ability to monitor and support national staff to build local capacity
- Excellent communication and leadership skills

2- Job Title: **Livelihood Programme** officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- University degree in social sciences or related fields.
- Experience in and knowledge of livelihood issues in Yemen from a gender perspective
- Experience on management of projects/

- and communities.
- At least 2 years of related mid-level project management experience, preferably with national/international organizations working for women's economic empowerment.
- · Commitment to equal opportunities and the promotion of gender equity in all aspects of Oxfam's work.
- High degree of personal organisation, selfsufficiency and initiative.
- Demonstrable analytical, project appraisal, monitoring, impact assessment and reporting abilities;
- Research and training experience in gender issues.
- Well-developed writing skills in both Arabic and English. Ability to work in a team and consult with
- a wide range of staff and alliance at different levels.
- Ability to travel to the field and outside Yemen. · Excellent communication and leadership skills.

3- Job Title: Field Coordinator (Hudaidah)

Key Competencies and requirements:

- University degree in social sciences or related fields.
- Experience in and knowledge of project implementation and monitoring. • Experience on community projects,

- · Commitment to equal opportunities and the promotion of gender equity in all aspects of Oxfam's work.
- High degree of personal organization, selfsufficiency and initiative.
- Demonstrable coordination, monitoring and reporting abilities;
- Well-developed writing skills in Arabic
- (English is an advantage). Ability to work in a team and consult with a wide range of staff and alliance at local
- levels. Ability to travel to rural areas in Hudaidah
- and outside Yemen.
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- NB: Preference will be given for candidates based in Hudaidah

4- Job Title:

Field Coordinator (Sayoun)

Key Competencies and requirements:

- · University degree in social sciences or related fields.
- Experience in and knowledge of project implementation and monitoring.
- Experience on community projects, community mobilization and networking.
- Proven knowledge of the poverty context and women's situation in Sayoun
- Ability to network and link widely with CSOs and local government bodies working on poverty and women's related

and reporting abilities;

At least 2 years of related mid-level project

coordination experience, preferably with

national/international organizations in

Commitment to equal opportunities and the

promotion of gender equity in all aspects of

- Well-developed writing skills in Arabic (English is an advantage).
- Ability to work in a team and consult with a wide range of staff and alliance at local levels
- Ability to travel to rural areas in Sayoun and outside Yemen.
- Excellent communication and leadership skills

NB: Preference will be given for candidates based in Savoun

5- Job Title: **Project Accountant**

- Key Competencies and requirements:
- University degree in accounting.
- · Ability to implement office and finance systems
- · Procedural and legal knowledge on various administrative and finance functions especially pertaining to the NGO sector
- Ability to handle administrative and finance matters and work to deadlines · Ability to work with others and as part of the team
- Good Arabic and English writing skills
- Knowledge and skills in computer usage
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time
- Willingness and eagerness to learn about organizational and financial procedures.

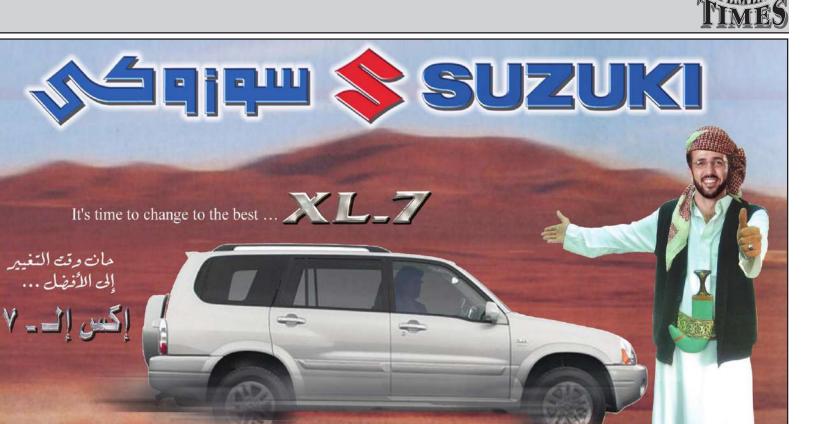
Please send a copy of your CV latest by 15th January 2005 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

Fax no: 01 445 650 Or email: melsanousi@oxfam.org.uk and habass@oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organisation dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.

The Country Programme Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana`a, Republic of Yemen







أجمل التهاني وأحلى الأمنيات نهد





الإدارة العامة _ صنعاء ت: ١٩ ٤٠٤، ١٠ الحديدة ت : ٢٦٢٧٦٩ - ٢٠ ٢٢٨ ٢٠





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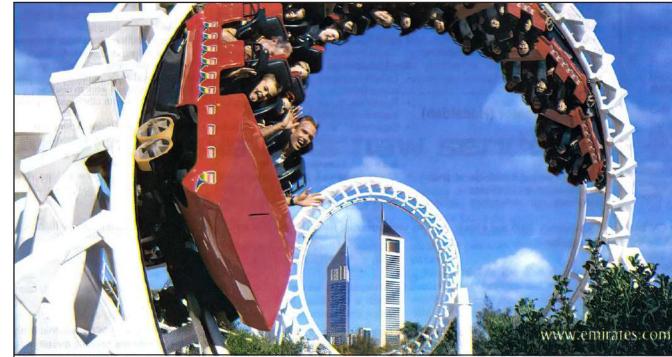
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Sport 13 3 January, 2005 **Special teams win for hurricanes**

ATLANTA (Sports Network) Devin Hester returned a blocked field goal 78 yards for a touchdown and Roscoe Parrish returned a punt for a score, as special teams play lifted 14th-ranked Miami-Florida to a 27-10 win over 20th- ranked Florida in the Peach Bowl at the Georgia Dome.

Hester also had an interception for the Hurricanes (9-3), who scored 14 points on special teams. Parrish's return went for 73 yards and Miami's defense managed to hold off two late rallies for the win. The Hurricanes had five sacks against a Florida offensive line that had allowed only 15 all season.

"Those guys are playmakers," said Miami head coach Larry Coker. "Team speed is one thing, but Roscoe and Devin have the knack to make people miss and score touchdowns.'

Miami senior quarterback Brock Berlin, who began his collegiate career at Florida only to later transfer to Miami, ended 13-of-23 for 171 yards with a touchdown and one interception. Frank Gore added 25 carries for 78 yards as the Hurricanes won their sixth straight against their intrastate rival.

Chris Leak ended 19-of-39 for 262 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for Florida (7-5), which had a three-game win streak halted and is now waiting for its new head coach to take over.

Defensive Coordinator Charlie Strong served as head coach for



Miami wide receiver Roscoe Parrish (1) returns a punt for a touchdown as University of Florida punter Eric Wilbur (10) pursues in the first half of the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia, Dec. 31. Reuters

Meyer to the position earlier this month. Strong took over the Gators' program after the displaced Ron Zook took the head coaching job at Illinois. Meyer opted not to coach Florida in the bowl and stay with the

Florida, which named Utah's Urban fifth-ranked Utes for their Fiesta Bowl tilt against 19th-ranked Pittsburgh on New Year's Day.

The game got off to a quick start and just as quickly settled down.

Florida's Jermaine McCollum blocked a Miami punt and recovered

it on the Gators' 39 yard line. However, Florida had trouble mustering any offense. On a 4th-down play, the Gators went for it and got the first down, but had it called back because of a penalty.

Then, on the ensuing field goal try, a Miami lineman got his hand on the kick and Devin Hester picked up the loose ball and returned it for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

Florida did manage to get a Matt Leach 34-yard field goal in the second quarter to draw within 7-3, but a 47-yarder by Jon Peattie extended Miami's lead to 10-3. Then, Roscoe Parrish returned an Eric Wilbur punt 73 yards for a score to make it 17-3 going into halftime.

In the second half, Berlin hit Ryan Moore with a 20-yard touchdown pass to extend the lead to 24-3 with 9:39 left in the third quarter.

However, Florida answered with seven points of its own later in the stanza. Leak hit Jemalle Cornelius with a 45-yard bomb late in the stanza to again make it a 14-point contest. Cornelius made a nice diving catch on the play.

In the fourth, Peattie nailed a 32yarder to extend the advantage to 17 points.

Later, the Miami defense forced a turnover on downs and intercepted Leak in the end zone with under two minutes left to preserve the win. Ciatrick Fason had 98 rushing

yards for the Gators. Copyright 2004, The Sports

Network

Cole's winner keeps Chelsea bandwagon rolling

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea, boosted by a slice of good fortune for substitute Joe Cole's winner, have continued their surge towards a first Premier League title with a battling 1-0 victory at Liverpool.

The England midfielder's low drive from distance deflected in off Jamie Carragher 10 minutes from time to hand Jose Mourinho's side their third win in the hectic holiday programme and a perfect start to their centenary year.

Chelsea, with 52 points from 21 games, extended their lead to eight over Arsenal but the champions can close back to within five if they defeat Charlton Athletic at The Valley in a 3 p.m. kickoff.

Cole, scoring for the second successive game, had hit the winner in Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in October.

On as a 76th-minute replacement for Damien Duff, Cole was well positioned to latch on to Glen Johnson's cushioned header from Arjen Robben's corner. The deflection off Carragher wrong-footed Jerzy Dudek and flew in.

Chelsea have lost only once in their 21 league matches and are unbeaten in their last 12.

Manchester United, who have climbed to third on the back of seven wins in their last eight games, play away at fifth-placed Middlesbrough in a 5:30 p.m. kickoff.



Benitez says Gerrard will win key midfield tussle

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Steven Gerrard will win the battle between England's two top midfield talents when Liverpool play Chelsea on Saturday, according to his Anfield boss Rafael Benitez.

Gerrard will have to overcome the challenge of his international team mate Frank Lampard if he is to continue his match-winning performances.

"I am sure the midfield will be the most important place on the pitch against Chelsea," Benitez told



2004 tennis belonged to Federer

Federer staged a single-handed takeover of men's tennis in 2004. In the women's game the Russians seized control.

salvo for Russia at Roland Garros in June, becoming the first woman from her country to win a grand slam title. Four weeks later Siberian-born teenager Maria Sharapova demolished Serena Williams to win Wimbledon and in September Svetlana Kuznetsova powered to victory at the U.S. Open.

As the year drew to a close, Myskina inspired Russia to their first Fed Cup title against France in Moscow.

emergence to fill the Federer's

LONDON (Reuters) - Roger Federer dethroned Andy Roddick as world number one by marching to the Australian Open title against Marat Safin

The 24-year-old then won tourna-Anastasia Myskina fired the first ments in Dubai, Hamburg and Halle before breezing into an eagerly-

awaited final against Roddick at Wimbledon.

On a rain-hit Centre Court defending champion Federer was briefly knocked out of his stride before he delved into his bag of tricks to win in four sets.





reporters on Friday.

"We will try and see if Frank Lampard can play against Didi Hamann, Xabi Alonso and Steven Gerrard.

"I know people say Lampard is good but in my opinion Steven is the best player. He is our player and has the spirit we need in our side."

Benitez also confirmed midfielder Harry Kewell will be out for up to five weeks with a groin injury he admits has come at the worst time for the Australian international.

"It is very sad for Harry because he was playing as well as any time since I have been here," Benitez added.

"He was scoring goals and making assists for his team mates and I felt he was improving his level."

vacuum left by the retirement of Pete Sampras stamped an indelible mark on the year.

The Swiss, who has a steely core to compliment an unrivalled arsenal of weapons, captivated fans across the globe as he racked up a 74-6 singles record.

By winning the Australian and U.S. Opens, and retaining his Wimbledon crown in between, he became the first player since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three grand slam titles in a year.

He was unbeaten against players in the top 10, matched Sampras's 23match winning streak and set a record of 13 consecutive wins in finals — not bad considering he does not even have a coach.

The year was just weeks old when

New Real coach Luxemburgo gets cautious welcome

MADRID. Dec 31 (Reuters) -Spain's sports media gave a guarded welcome to new Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo on Friday, highlighting the Brazilian's stellar record but bemoaning the merry-goround of new faces at the club.

Real named former Brazil manager Luxemburgo, who has just led Santos to the Brazilian title, as their third coach of the season on Thursday in a bid to reverse a slump in their fortunes.

"Madrid De Luxe" was the headline in Marca, while AS dubbed the new coach "Iron Vanderlei", in reference to his insistence on the need for discipline during Thursday's presentation news conference.

Luxemburgo's surprise arrival ends the three-month tenure of Mariano Garcia Remon who in turn replaced former Spanish national coach Jose Antonio Camacho after just four months in the job.

"Luxemburgo, yet another whim,"

sighed Mundo Deportivo in a banner headline.

"Today is a bad day for a 'madridista' (Real fan) like me: with every day that passes this Real Madrid becomes less recognisable to me," moaned one of AS's columnists.

Real have accumulated a roster of star players unrivalled in club football that includes Brazilians Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos as well as Zinedine Zidane, Raul, Luis Figo,

David Beckham and Michael Owen. But despite the line-up of "galacticos", as they are called halfin-jest these days, the club ended last seaon without a major trophy for the first time in five years.

They have been disappointing so far this season too, slipping to five defeats in the league and stuttering into the knockout stages of the Champions League.

It's a poor show from the most successful club in the history of European football, with 29 domestic league titles in addition to a record nine European Cups — but there was a small sense of optimism Luxemburgo could recover the Real spark.

understand that many "I madridistas feel disoriented as if they had lost their compass in the middle of the desert," wrote AS columnist Tomas Roncero.

"But I have a good feeling about this. Luxemburgo will know how to motivate the troupe of galacticos who have lost their way.'

As for Luxemburgo himself, who recently told reporters in Brazil "I'm a star", he looked set to make an equally confident start in his new job.

Marca described the dapper Brazilian getting emotional as he strolled through the cavernous Bernabeu on Thursday, and quoted him as declaring: "I am going to triumph in this stadium."

3 January, 2005



The invaluable human treasure of Language



SADOON ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, MAHWEET

anguage is a means of communication among human beings. It is characterized by the use of arbitrary spoken or written symbols that make sense. More broadly, language may be defined as an invaluable tool for the acquisition of understanding in general. It is regarded by many linguists as a form of knowledge, thought or cognition.

There are about 3000 languages and dialects in the world. It is an undeniable fact that one cannot imagine any society without language. In other words, language is so important that no society can live without language. This is so because language is an instrument of communication among the members of the same culture. It is best suited to convey the meanings current in the particular culture. This also means that no development can be achieved by any society without language. On the other side, the development that takes place

development of language itself.

Many linguists believe that the main function of language is to express thoughts, ideas and emotions of a community. They also assume that it is an instrument of social communication.

The more prominent advocates of the socio-linguistic school are the American Scientist Starterant, the British linguist Cardiner and the linguist Manlinowski. It is worth mentioning that the Arab linguists recognized from the beginning the social function of a language, and Ibn Jini, Ibn Faris and others who lived in the fourth Hijri Century had defined language as sounds through which each group can express their objectives.

In addition to the social school, some other scientists view language related to other fields such as philosophy, logic and psychology. They describe the linguistic facts based on the basic principles of such fields.

Language, as viewed by such people, is no more than a means of transfer of certain information. Some advocates of such school have specified three functions for a language: expression, communication and influence, i.e., to

in any society inevitably influences the express the feelings and thoughts and share their thoughts, experiences enthucommunicate them to other people and then affect them. The advocates of such a school are Hermanpall, Steven Ulman, Sweet and Sapir. They regard language as the first element to formulate the non-material culture.

Some other scientists look at language from a behaviorist view point which explains their belief that language is a process of stimuli and responses. This viewpoint is influenced by the theory which says that for every stimulus there is a response.

The most outstanding linguist of the Behaviorist School is the American Linguist Bloomfield. Even though those schools have different opinion towards explaining and defining language and its functions, yet they maintain that communication is the primary role of language for every individual.

Communication is the basis for cultivating interpersonal relationship. It is a small wonder that language difference remains one of the main factors which prevents a person from communicating with the others, despite the efforts of human beings to solve the problem of communication. Therefore, a person should interact with his neighbors and

siastically. He must have something in common with such neighbors; he must communicate with them. Such a communication is vital for promoting greater understanding. Inability to understand the neighbors mind and the absence of such understanding is the reason for conflict between them instead of forging mutual understanding.

On the other hand, foreign languages are also necessary for any society to develop. This is signaled by the fact that any advanced or developing society lays a lot of emphasis to have its members learn a living foreign language.

The study of foreign languages and knowing them is a vital process to develop the necessary trends and skills for human communication. Besides, study of a foreign language not only develops the efficiency in a foreign language but extends the member's understanding of his/her national language too, and enriches the recognition of linguistic principles in general. Moreover, it provides the person with a background of cultural knowledge which goes a long way to serve him in his work and his role as a citizen.



A letter to the teachers of English: 70

Dictation for developing

Dear Fellow teachers,

n my last two letters I have discussed how to develop the listening skills in our learners, mainly in schools. The listening activities I have suggested in my last letter (letter 69), however, are useful in the college classes also. In addition to what I have said, you can use dictation for developing the listening skills in your learners. Let us discuss the use of dictation in this letter.

Dictation is traditionally considered as a test for the listening skills. The procedure conventionally followed is as follows: the teacher dictates a few words, chosen from the lesson taught in the previous class and the students write them; then the teacher checks the spelling of the words written by the students; dictation has mainly been a test of spelling. But it is interesting to note that dictation has greater potentialities and can be used as a very good test for testing the students' abilities to communicate. It has been found that dictation involves not just listening, as traditionally thought, but other language skills such as writing, knowledge of vocabulary as well. It has gained importance recently as one of the good communicative tests.

Dictation can be used at all levels. At the preparatory level, dictation of words chosen from the lessons taught already can be tried out. You can inform the students in advance and give dictation in the following class for about ten or fifteen minutes. You should be careful while giving dictation. The recommended steps are as follows: read each word slowly once or twice, ask them to write the word and then read the word once for confirmation. Do not read the word while they are writing. At the end of the year, you can also choose a few simple sentences

for dictation, say sentences with not more than four or five words.

At the secondary level, you can start with words, words taught in the previous lessons, but should include sentences, sentences with more than five words. When you dictate sentences, you should read each sentence slowly once or twice and then at normal speed once before asking them to write it. Care should be taken not to read the sentence word by word, which makes vour reading unnatural and awkward. After their writing it, you should read it once for confirmation. Some of us wrongly stick to three times while dictating, which is not a strict rule. At the end of the year, you can use small passages taken either from the lessons taught earlier or some magazines, the latter used occasionally.

At the tertiary (college) level, dictation of words can be occasional and dictation of sentences and passages can be frequent. Words chosen for dictation can be those which are difficult for the students to pronounce or spell, especially the key words in a lesson taught. You can read each word once or twice and not more that that. Sentences chosen should be from the lessons taught or from popular magazines; they can also be proverbs or quotations from books. Passages can also be chosen from the lessons taught, but unknown passages taken from some newspapers or stories can make the task challenging. You should be careful to keep the difficulty level minimum so that they do not lose interest in the task. Read the passage once slowly, then at normal speed for them to take down; once again at normal speed after they have written it for confirmation. If you select interesting news items from a newspaper and give dictation regularly, it will develop an interest in them to read the newspaper as an extra reading material; this will help develop good reading habit in them. Try this. Good luck.

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

Take advantage of your competitors



BY MS. LAKSHMI DEVI ASST BRAND MANAGER MAM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Sana'a – Yemen roja.lakshmi@ny.com

ustomer service, which is often discussed and rarely mastered business function, is presently in shambles. It is steadily getting worse and worse and consumers are becoming

more and more agitated. Some industries are so lacking in customer service skills and ability that they are running the risk of getting a bad reputation.

What this means to any business is that there is a tremendous opportunity for any business that is able to master the fine art of delivering outstanding customer service on a consistent basis. If vou can achieve this level of service, vou will be hard to compete with. Your competitors will, in most cases, be unable to replicate your level of service because of several factors; 1) they have not hired or promoted enough high performing personnel, 2) their cultures are so deeply embedded that they usually give up before getting to the level they need to reach and 3) they just don't understand how to do it.

But delivering outstanding customer service on a consistent basis is hard work and it requires extreme discipline to accomplish. There must be a company-wide commitment and top management must insist on near perfection in

What is success?

they have.

FUAD ABDULKAREEM ALSABRI MOBILE: 71554903 FUADMARZOH@YAHOO.COM TAIZ

e hear people talking about success. What do they really mean? And what too inexperienced - too old - too is success? When young - too tired -have no time -no can a man be successful? When can this person succeed and not another? Success is a process as well as a result. It is a journey as well as arrival for without a journey there will never be any arrival – no success story. Success means working continuously if possible - keeping doing the work whether accepted or rejected. Success means having a system to help you work through your frustration over rejections. Success is schooling yourself to knowledge and learning from previous accomplishments as well as hope

to achieve something spectacular like

Success is thinking positively. Say I

can do this.It is going to take a lot of

time, effort and patience but I can do it.

So lets get moving. Don't allow your-

self to whine - Oh I do not think I can

do this - I am not good enough I am

delivering service to the company's customers. Again, most organizations cannot sustain a disciplined and well-managed effort to deliver outstanding service.

The basic prerequisite therefore is that you must first understand what is important to your customers. At a minimum, customers expect:

- to be treated with respect
- · to be treated fairly • the business to respond in a reason-

able time frame · products and services to be of high

quality

· employees to be knowledgeable about the products and/or services being offered

· the business to deliver what was ordered or purchased and on time

• few or no mistakes in charges, billing, shipping, etc.

· employees to be friendly and courteous

• the business to rectify errors and problems in a timely and expedient man-

ner This "minimal expectations" list is virtually ignored by many business houses. Getting to these simple minimums can be a monumental task for some businesses. Delivering outstanding service means exceeding these minimal expectations on a consistent basis. Most ousinesses have large peaks and valleys in terms of how they deliver service. Or one area of the business does a decent job with customer service while another does a very poor job with it. Businesses that gain an edge in their battle with competitors understand that customer service is an organization-wide activity. Delivering outstanding service begins with hiring professionals that have the inherent traits and skills to be able to function in a customer-focused culture. All too often, businesses hire people who have no idea how to deliver outstanding service. On the other hand, they put people with few people skills in

heavy customer contact positions. Moreover, to compound matters, they establish few, if any, expectations, policies or procedures related to customer service. Bear in mind that training people who are not well suited to customer service activities will have little, if any, affect the level of service delivered.

In broad and simplistic terms, the following must be in place in order for your business to have chance at gaining a consistent and definitive edge against your competitor relative to customer satisfaction:

· Strong management

· A high percentage of high performing employees who are well-suited to the jobs they hold

· A real commitment to outstanding service

· Clear goals and objectives about customer service

· Reasonable, yet demanding expectations about serving customers • Efficient processes

· Discipline about doing the right things the right way

· Clearly defined policies and procedures

system/organization-wide • A approach to customer service

• Action rather than lip service

• A very high level of accountability Again this list represents minimum

Somalia is one BY DR AHMED FARAH

Poetry Corner

DRHOLIFJR_515@HOTMAIL.COM Somalia is one and has no other name, because it Is one nation and has no other nationalities

Has one religion (Islam) and no other religions

Has one mother tongue and no

other languages

A true friend

BY SADIQ HIZAM AMRAN

Has one tradition and no different traditions Has one culture and no different

cultures

Has one history and no different histories

Has common enemies (unfaithful people, violence, illiteracy, famine, poor health)

Has territories well-integrated.

one believes in my work / ideas. The real pity is that so much valuable time and energy is spent in the creation of nothing. If all the scientists, writers and great inventors had thought this way, we would not be at this stage of development and achievements.

But say I can do this, I will do it, repeat that ten times and see yourself doing it - THAT IS SUCCESS. Success is also finding time to start your work / project for pure pleasure. Above all, success is forgetting

about the possible pitfalls and just going on doing the job at hand.

requirements for delivering outstanding service. Your organization must look internally to determine specific requirements that must be in place beyond the items on this list.

It is possible to gain an advantage over your competitors in terms of customer satisfaction. However, it requires hard work and lots of it. Does your business have what it takes to deliver outstanding service on a consistent basis? Taking advantage of your competitors

is important. To help ensure that you win the competitive battles that face your business, outstanding service must be delivered consistently.

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET							IG A	N	EW	но	ME	2						So	lutio	on:	11	ett	ers
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HOW TO PLA	OW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions —				Т	Т	S	0	0	1	С	A	н) Y	E	G	A	к	С	A	Р	J	U
vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The						G	A	G	T	R	0	м	SC) E	S	Т	G	A	R	A	G	E	L
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.						N	М	Т	S	м	N	w	0 7	N	U	Т	в	F	0	Y	Е	R	E
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I will not forget what's important to you

Will you remember what's important to me, too?

With you my most favorite things I'll share,

If only I know you truly care. If you can accept me as I do you, Then I will know you are a friend most true.

People today, have lost sight of what a true friendship is. In the beginning in kindergarten, we thought that a real friend is a person who helps us to standup to the class bully. In secondary school our idea of the true friend was the person who lets us to copy his social studies homework. But now I believe that, a real friend is a person who shares with you your sadness and happiness, a person who is always beside you when you are in danger. And finally, I would like to say that there's never a wrong time to pick up a phone or send a message telling your friends how much you miss them or how much you love them. No matter what we were or what we may become; never forget those who helped us to get there.

I need to know if you're my true friend,

Will you be by my side until the end? Can I tell you my secrets deep? And trust them in your heart you'll keep?

We are, neither of us, without our flaws.

Can you accept mine, as I will yours? I'll be a shoulder to cry on, when you're blue,

Will you be there for me when I need you?

If you are busy will you make time for me, too?

I will take your hand and comfort your tears.

Will you hold me and soothe my fears?

I wish you joy and many warm smiles.

Can we share that across many smiles.

Can we share that across many miles?

Our sad plight

Our communication - wireless Our business - cashless Our telephone - cordless Our cooking - fireless Our youth - jobless Our religion - creedless Our food – fatless Our faith - Godless Our labor - effortless Our conduct - worthless Our relation – loveless

Our attitude – careless Our feelings – heartless Our politics – shameless Our education valueless Our follies – countless Our arguments - baseless Our commitment - aimless Our poor – voiceless Our life - meaningless Finally, our existence – useless? From Internet



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Poetic images from the desert Beauty in the barrenness of the Empty Quarter

BY IRENA KNEHTL IREN_KNEHTL@MAKTOOB.COM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

emen's eastern and southern governorates, Al Jawf, Marib, Shabwa and Hadramawt surround the sands, the Al Rub AlKhali desert, or Empty Quarter, the great desert of Southern Arabia.

There the Yemeni governorates fade into winds, draught and barren stretches. Inside is more sand, both in surface and volume. And a more daunting landscape featuring high sand dunes.

A barren place, where rare blooming flowers are a sign of hot weather to come. Although here everything still bears the mark of the past, the area stood on an ancient trade route from India. A unique "island civilization" developed in the middle of vast sea of sand and rock.

Odor of camel clung from lamb fat and sesame oil. Scent of perfumed smoke, cardamon coffee was in the air. Not a bird, not a blade of grass, but great grandeur. A full moon which presides over the starts, and once foretold the destiny of nations. Roads here have particular significance, and in Arabia one of the most important rights is the right to passage.

I went there just in time to write down some oral poetry. And before man lost or gave up his battle with nature. The human strength and weakness, the only elements needed for a powerful and strong being the triumph.

Emotions

Oh, how my heart is being pulled

NOKIA

because of Dhayjim, Like the rope is pulled over the roller. The emotions, I tried to repress, have burst open. Bitter is my cure. Even bitter herbs do not cure the hearts of those who love. Everything imaginable occurred to me all at once.

While my heart boiled over like a coffee in a pot made in AlAkhsa. Earth and sky I gobbled up. But for me it was not even chicken feed. I drank the oceans in one sip and swallowed the years. As clock of course wool, I threw the day around my shoulders, wrapped myself in the dark night, gathered the stars. A rider of month left since the summer. O God, send us a night where clouds are not dispersed by the wind.

Making good on their promise with floods. I climbed a rock, a lovely rock, where white dark - wringed falcons made their abode. O, my heart that is swept by the bowling winds, as foam and dust from the surface of a desert pool left by torrent.

O God, grant us a night with the promise of flashing lighting and heavy clouds that will bring rains from Al-Hazim, from Al- Jawf. Its violent gushes tear into the fine crests of the sand dunes. The joy of cultivators who will toil to irrigate their majestic palms from wells. And refreshing camels, weakened by far from water in the hot season. With necks as graceful as those of gazelles. Well covered with fat, their woolly hair coal-black with some silvery behind their ears.

The legs of camel are long, her color black and her neck slender. Heavy clouds rolling in the wake of other. A vast darkness, its flashes of lighting. The stormy mood and distant



thunder, the blinding flashes, the lowering clouds. Wind scented with winter rain, pointing to the sand.

What news had they of those sands? She loves the man who is sent to draw the water. And he is fond of her. With the festive, swinging fait, she heads straight to the well. Her lips a mosaic of coral. Her neck like the gazelle of the garden. With her back against the date palm he watched her walk away. He saw her and that was enough. The camel troops were overwhelmed. O. God. he who knows

the souls intentions secrets. For you, I ask a night stretching from the east, he promised. Flashes of lighting and ruling thunder are unmistakable signs. As soon as one cloud drifts away the next one follows in its traces and brings to blossom the wide empty vastness that they lay bare for so long.

Like a prince

Camels now appear dark like indigo. As slopes washed by the powerful rain. Like a prince who rides at the head of his army. When a host of nomads who view for the water at the well. A messenger, riding a camel from Oman. He winds his way through the rolling stony hills. Seen from a distance his silhuette is as fast moving object. He burns up the mils in the wide empty plains.

His legs paddling like a swimmier, his color is reddish, his ride magnificent. Though he is not flying, neither is he running. Like ships at sea hurling on the waves. His legs rocking. Is front parts curving down as gazelles on the run. Earth and the sky may heavy clouds release their rains.

Seaming curtains of rain are pouring down on the earth. Rains that irrigate the branches of palms and their yellow stalks heavy with burdens of young dates that are enveloped for

a mountain socked with rain in heavy clouds.

Oh, rider of camel who travels the empty wilderness. Beware of places once inhabited by your beloved one. Like dreams at night, they seem to have never existed at all. When the sea surges - nothing has the power to contain it. Even the clouds above the hilltops are now swept up by the water. Above the clouds the freedom has a thousand faces to show.

Count the grains of sand in the dune. Ours is a journey of Ninety years. Grains are as pearl anointed with grace and beauty that cannot be bought, not even for princely sums. No price, no matter how high can be set for a thing so precious.

For us every grain in its soil is worth a fight. In war we glory once its gate is opened. Once two thousand tents in the desert drew water from our well. One day an enemy tribe took up position in the sand - hills. But the land is ours - not that of anyone else. And the sands seal off the well from which we drew our water.

Did you know ...?

- The AI Rub AI Khali, or the Empty Quarter desert is the world largest sand desert. There is more sand in the Empty Quarter, both in surface areas and volume, than any other place on Earth.
- Although the Sahara is world best known desert, it is actually only 10 percent sand, with the remainder made up of rock, scrub and mountainous terrain. Here sand temperatures can reach up to 80 Celsius.

A massive, trackless expanse of

shifting sand dunes, covering an area of more than 250,000 square miles. or 650,000 square kilometers, and extends to 1,200 by 500 kilometers.

- As one of the driest places on earth, most of it consists of massive rolling sand dunes, but to the west there is gravel plains that rise towards the mountains of the Yemen. The sandy and stormy eastern part is the richest in petroleum and minerals.
- It is bordering on Saudi Arabia. Yemen, Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.
- British explorer Sir Wilfred Thesiger, was the first Westerner to navigate eastern section in Empty Quarter in 1945. Read his beautiful account "The Arabian Sands"
- Yemen Governorates that surrounding the Al Rub Al Khali or the Empty Quarter desert are AlJawf, Marib, Shabwa, and Hadramwat. Except for AlJawf, an predominantly agricultural area, oil in commercial quantities has been discovered
- · Aljawf area is also known for ancient salt and mineral mines, such as gold and silver, thought to be an important source of wealth of the ancient Sabean kingdom.
- The area is home to a number of rare species of wildlife, including the Arab oryx, gazelle, rich variety of birds and animal life. Leopards have been seen in the Asir National Park, there are wolves, jackals, hyenas.
- Explore also the fascinating Arabian Wildlife web site: www.arabianwildlife.com and www.arabianoryx.com



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🕀 Air purification for industry protection. They irrigate the watering place of her whose curls are sprinkled

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The gray sheets of rain keep falling. the thunder rumbling in their rain. And the sky water splashes in the gullies of the sand files with pouring rains and lighting ripping through the dark. And flashes like the glittering steel of Indian swords while the clouds dip towards the crests of the sand-hills of

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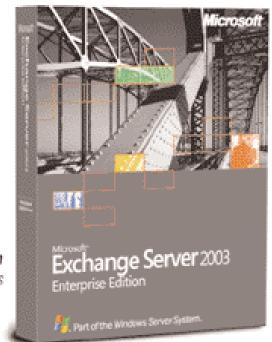


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