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Conflicting reports as

Guerilla raids increase in Sa'ada

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Confrontations are continuing between the government's forces and Hussein al-Houthi's "Believing Youth" militias, with government forces mounting a successful siege in Ruzam, where al-Houthi's father Badr al-Din al-Houthi, is living, well-informed sources told the Yemen Times.

Officials are deliberately withholding information surrounding the number of casualties resulting from the bloody clashes, but tribal sources say as many as 200 civilians may have been killed or injured.

Medical sources at al-Salam Hospital in Sa'adah, say that many dead government soldiers have been received by the hospital since the fighting erupted in al-Talh Market on March 19, 2005.

Local sources in al-Buq'a district, 170 kms north of Sana'a reported that clashes last Wednesday between al-Houthi's followers and government forces, displaced residents in the areas of Nashur and Ruzamat, where fighting

Other areas affected by the insurgency suffered similar displacement as battles intensified between the two sides. Planes and artilleries bombarded areas thought to be hideouts of Houthi's followers. According to Sa'adah residents, hundreds of families are seeking safe haven elsewhere.

One local resident told the Yemen Times by telephone that they do not know the real reasons behind the campaign. "We were surprised at the attacks, especially because there are no reasons or claims behind the bombardment," he said. There was a truce between the government and the insurgents led by Abdullah al-Ruzami who had traveled to Sana'a and met the President. The insurgents accuse the military in Sa'adah for breaching the agreement.

The source mentioned the incident that occurred two weeks ago at the Arms Market where armed men exchanged fire with the security forces resulting in four deaths, one of whom was from Nashour. Arbitration is being used to settle the dispute. Al-Houthi's followers



Badr al-Din al-Houthi

deny the claim that they violated the truce by shooting at some government sites in recent days. They claimed that the government has not complied with the agreement reached with Abdullah al-Ruzami concerning release of prisoners captured during the events in Maran.

A source close to the government said, on condition of anonymity, that

meeting with the President, and after the intercession of sheikhs Haydar Shawkah and Shaji'a Mohammed Shaji'a, to stay at his home in Sana'a but he returned a few days ago to Sa'adah. The official source said that he is behind the armed groups formed recently in the areas of Aqlah, Muthab, and Al

The source said that Scholar Badr al-Din al-Houthi and his son Abdul-Malik went to al-Ruzami's house, which was surrounded by approximately two thousand armed tribesmen, who took positions in nearby mountains.

Some analysts think that the cause behind the crisis is that members of the Islah party within the so-called the extremist Salafi lobby, started to feel that the President and the General People's Congress (GPC) were trying to confront them especially in the wake of recent demonstrations in Taiz and other cities. These analysts think that the Salafi lobby sparked the Sa'adah crisis as a diversionary tactic.

Continued on page 3



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Reforms must continue Sa'ada fighting hampers economic reform

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The eruption of fighting in Sa'ada between government troops and rebels supporting the Shiite cleric Badreddin al-Houthi, will negatively affect the government and World Bank's economic reform package and general economic stability.

Economists believe that the fight hampers efforts to achieve economic stability by attracting investments. Instability does not encourage foreign investors to come to Yemen and dissuades local investors.

Some opposition politicians argue

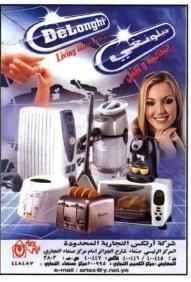
that the fighting gives the government the excuse to further delay the unpopular price reforms. Last year the government asked the parliament to approve an additional budget of YR 180 billion, most of which was to cover the costs of Hussein al-Houthi's three-month insurgency. Although some economists believe that the fight in Sa'ada might delay the introduction of the sales tax and the price reforms on oil derivatives, others dismiss this. Yemeni cities witnessed last month violent protests against the new sales tax, which the government has decided to introduce in July.

Continued on page 3

Iraqi parliament appoints Kurd as president

BAGHDAD, April 6 (Reuters) -Parliament elected Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as Iraq's president on Wednesday, breaking a political impasse and paving the way for a new government more than nine weeks after historic elections.

He is the first Kurd to be Iraq's president, a sign of the new clout of the minority that backed the U.S.-led inva-



The two vice presidents were named as Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shi'ite who was finance minister in the outgoing government, and Sunni Arab tribal leader Ghazi Yawar, the previous pres-

"This is the new Iraq - an Iraq that elects a Kurd to be president and an Arab former president as his deputy," parliament speaker Hajem al-Hassani said after the vote. "What more could the world want from us?"

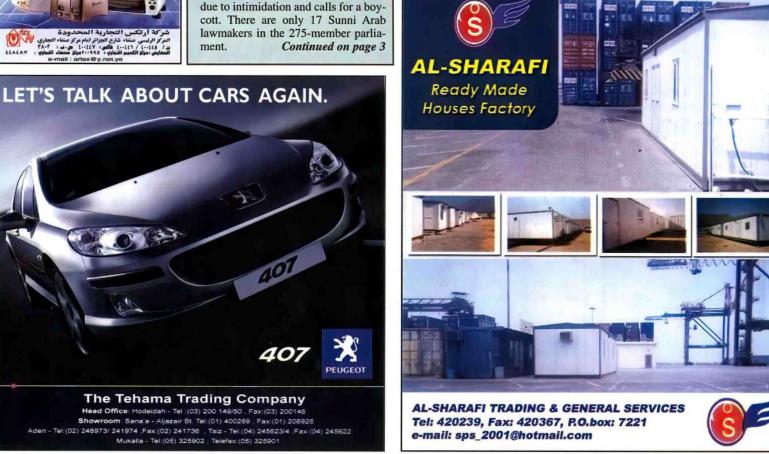
Talabani, hailed by a standing ovation in parliament, pledged to work together with all ethnic and religious factions to rebuild Iraq after decades of conflict and dictatorship.

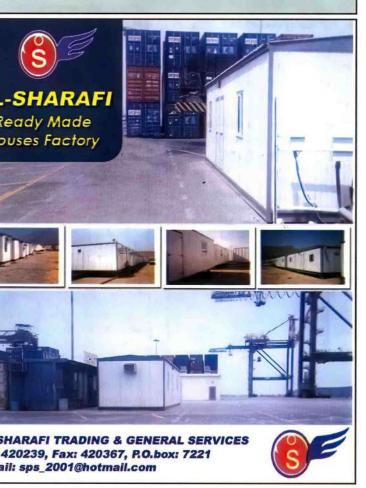
The Islamist-led Shi'ite allia won a slim majority in parliament and the Kurdish coalition that came second in the polls have been arguing for weeks about forming a government.

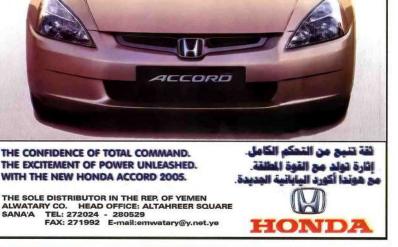
They have also been trying to include representatives of the Sunni Arab minority that dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein but was left sidelined after most Sunni Arabs stayed away from the January polls

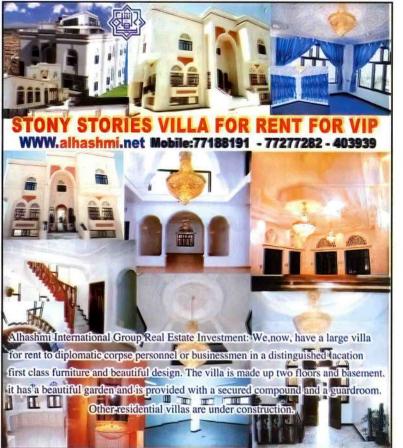


A conference room in the Baghdad convention centre is prepared for a meeting of the Iraqi National Assembly in Baghdad April 6. Iraq's parliament is set to name a president and two vice presidents on Wednesday after weeks of haggling, in a major step toward forming a new government more than two months after historic elections. The Arabic words on the top of the banner are from a Koranic verse urging discussion and the exchange of views, while the words on the bottom, in Arabic and Kurdish, identify the meeting as the National Assembly.









Corruption increases

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI VEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) revealed in a courageous initiative the terrible number of cases related to theft of public property.

Documents were handed to officials at the COCA annual meeting held on March 30

The report showed that there are over 240 cases of plundering public property that will be filed to the concerned courts for prosecution.

The report also confirmed that COCA estimated the losses of the thefts to be around YR2.99 billion,

\$2.6 million and 10,000 Pound, in addition to the plundering of lands and

According to the report, COCA halted expenditure of some YR21.3 billion that was expected to be fraudulently spent and restored nearly YR2.7 million from the Cleanliness Fund that was embezzled by corrupt

Other amounts of public money were restored after officials at the Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank tried to steal it.

Such efforts will not come to fruition unless all these cases are discussed and genuine steps are taken to stop the plundering of public properties.

Yemeni islands lack attention

By YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A recent report by the General Authority for Islands Protection and Development (GAIPD) emphasized that their mandate has, at times contradicted the tasks of other organizations, leading to confusion in their operations.

The report indicated that the several legislative shortcomings have caused Yemen to lose large investment opportunities and high income from

According to the report, the GAIPD was not able to develop sufficiently due to contradictory rules and regulations, and suggested that the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation intend to control development of Socotra Island independent of the GAIPD.

The report added that the Ministry relies on international support, which has deprived the GAIPD from support in its activities in the Yemeni islands.

It also accused them of denying the GAIPD its right to develop the islands by excluding them from the first and second five-year plans.

Lack of financial support has halted the implementation of projects in some Yemeni islands

Forty percent of the population in the islands have immigrated to other places, while 72 percent of those who remain suffer from unemployment.

A further 42 percent of the population lacks education, schools and health services

Al-Zaidi family concerned at son's detention

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The family of detainee Yahya al-Zaidi circulated a statement to local and international organizations urging the authorities to determine the fate of their son who has been detained since Feb. 2, 2005

The detained was transferred by the Political Security Office from Marib to Sana'a.

Relatives of the detainee claimed that the victim returned from the United Arab Emirates last October and that he was hunted and harassed by the PSO for being affiliated with the Yemeni Socialist

Fishermen beaten while detained

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

One of the fishermen who have been recently released from detention in Eritrea said they were severely beaten by Eritrean soldiers while they were

The source said that some of the Yemeni fishermen were released while others are still being held, 14 boats were also seized by the government of Eritrea under the pretext of fishing in its regional waters.

Other sources said negotiations between high-ranking officials from both Yemen and Eritrea are continuing with the aim of returning the Yemeni boats.

The fishermen fear that they may be charged around YR750,000 for each

The harassing of Yemeni fishermen comes after Yemen signed an agreement with Eritrea during the visit of the Eritrean president to the country, under which the two sides will establish a joint

Health survey to start in al-Jawf

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Within the continued efforts of the Ministry of Public Health and Population to conduct a survey of public and private health facilities in all governorates, the Ministry, in cooperation with the USAID-funded project PHRplus, will start the survey this month in al-Jawf following surveys in Amran and Shabwa.

Dr. Abdul Jabar al-Ghaithi, the survey manager, stated that the surveys are conducted by ten teams. Each team is formed of a team leader from the MoPHP, surveyors and drivers from each governorate.

Al-Ghaithi indicated that the training of al-Jawf team leaders would last for one week.

The training will include use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and digital cameras to record the conditions of the health facilities. He confirmed that the survey teams were able to overcome challenges in Shabwa and Amran such as the difficult topography and unpaved roads, through the cooperation of local councils and dignitaries from the villages and districts.

World Bank confirms Wolfowitz as president

Directors unanimously selected Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, effective June 1, 2005, to succeed Mr. Wolfowitz as President of the World Bank, when the latter retires on May 31, 2005. As an international civil servant of a multilateral organization, President of the World Bank is ex-President of the International Development Association (IDA) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Prior to the selection of the President, Executive Directors had discussions with Mr. Wolfowitz on issues related to the Bank's policies, programs and ongoing mission of

poverty reduction.

Issues discussed by Executive Directors included development strategy; the Banks role and multilateral character; synergies within the Bank Group; the financial sustainability of IBRD and IDA; the focus on development results and governance issues, including the fight against corruption; and issues related to the Banks organization and effectiveness, including the diversity of management and staff, and the process of selecting the President. Mr. Wolfowitz, a United States national, currently serving as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense.

He was previously Dean and Professor of International Relations at the Paul H.

Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of The Johns Hopkins University.

He held a number of significant posts within the U.S. government.

In addition to U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, he served as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, and as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific

Mr. Wolfowitz has also served as Head of the U.S. State Departments Policy Planning Staff, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Programs and in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, as well as in the US Bureau of Budget. He taught previously at Yale (1970-73) and John Hopkins (1981). Mr. Wolfowitz has received numerous distinguished government service

Mr. Wolfowitz has a doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you agree that Sa'ada fighting would hamper economic reforms. Yes

Last edition's question:

Do you think the report on human rights in Yemen issued by US Department of State has credibili-

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Accusation of daughter questionable:

Who murdered al-Zaghir?

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Capital Secretariat's Western Court is still examining the murder of Yemeni businessman Mohammed Salem al-Zaghir, owner of the largest opposition and private sector's printing press, and his Egyptian wife Nawal late last year.

The security services have so far been ineffective in determining the real perpetrators.

The 18-year-old daughter of the victims was arrested as the murderer after she was threatened, beaten and forced into signing false statements.

The Capital Southwestern Court, headed by Judge Nabil Jaghman, held its second session on March 29, to look into the case in the presence of a large

In the previous session the lawyer that was appointed by the deceased's brother asked that the judge be changed so that the case may be settled quickly. Consequently, judge Jaghman ruled that son of the deceased to be the judicial custodian of the deceased's

Negating the previous request of the uncle Mr. Marwan, brother of the deceased to be so.



Late Mohammed Salem al-Zaghir

The Court made a number of judgments including cancelling the authorization of the deceased's brother, Marwan Salem al-Zaghir, as legal custodian, appointing instead the son of the deceased Bassam.

The Court also ordered Basmah Mohammed Salem al-Zaghir, the daughter accused of the murders, to be medically tested to refute the Prosecution's claim that she is a drug addict.

The case has been adjourned it until

Poor driving skills, high speeding,

narrow roads and the lack of aware-

ness among citizens about traffic dan-

gers have contributed to thousands of

Legal sources, linked to the case, told the Yemen Times during the last session the Prosecution claimed that the daughter had admitted to the crime, but that she had signed a statement after being subject to beating, humiliation, and threats by the investigators, without any lawyers present.

At the previous session, the jury heard the statements of two Ethiopian women, which the defense lawyer, al-Abivadh, protested against on the basis that they were Christians, and the testimony of a Christian against a Muslim is unacceptable especially in murder

This led to the withdrawal of lawyers al-Abiyadh and al-Yosufi from the session and the cancellation of the first witness as she had been instructed how to testify.

the accused girl, a Denmark-based Yemeni businessman, and her uncle, a lawyer Abdulaziz al-Samawi, have asked for her immediate execution prior to the completion of the trial and before guilt is established.

This is against the constitution of the European Union, which includes Denmark.

Sources close to the al-Zaghir family reported that the son, Bassam, was beaten and threatened with fire arms by his uncle who vowed to move him to Aden despite the fact that his school is located in Sanaa.

Meanwhile, female lawyer Shatha Mohammed Nasser said that contacts are being made with the European Union and the Kingdom of Denmark via an Italian Human Rights Organization to discuss this matter.

Antiques smugglers seized in Yemen

SANA'A, Yemen, April 5: Yemeni of Haradh on the Saudi border. police arrested a three-man gang that smuggles antiquities outside the country through a clandestine crossing on the Yemeni-Saudi border.

An official source said Tuesday a team from the General Department of Antiquities headed to the province of Hajja in northwest Yemen to investigate into the smuggling of antiquities through the border passage freight company.

He said a gang made up of two

Saudis and a Yemeni were arrested last week while trying to smuggle daggers, swords and art pieces dating back to the centuries beforeIslam.

Last February, authorities foiled an attempt to smuggle 500 pieces of antiquities by an Iraqi national who was operating under the cover of his

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Several killed, dozens iniured in traffic accidents highest rate of traffic accidents in the

world.

deaths.

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A report by the traffic department shows that more than 40 people were killed and 218 injured last week in traffic accidents in a number of Yemeni governorates.

The report confirmed that the total number of traffic accidents last week were 183, of which 97 were vehicle crashes, 69 involved pedestrians, and 11 involved vehicles being overturned.

The report attributed the accidents to the indifference of drivers to traffic laws on speed limits, the lack of car maintenance, and slippery conditions caused by rain.

Over the past few years Yemen has been classified as having one of the

GSM-service provider in

By Yemen Times Staff

Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Abdulmalik al-Mu'allimi, confirmed that his ministry is currently completing procedures to establish a third GSM-service provider in Yemen.

Yemen

The minister said the new GSM-service provider aims to eradicate the monopoly in mobile services, and that competition in this industry will be good for citizens.

Al-Mu'allimi stated the government has a 25 percent share in the company and that 20 percent will be available by a public share offer, while businessmen may invest in the remaining 55 percent.

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JW Mariott	Jakarta /	\$ 945	\$ 1295	\$ 1295	\$ 1645	Category * * * * *

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Continued from page 1

Guerilla raids increase in Sa'ada

The President has reiterated the importance of security and stability and has undertaken to solve the problem of detainees and other issues in cooperation with scholars. It appears that the President's message has irritated the Salafi forces and they have inflamed the situation in an attempt to restore the President into their line against Zaidism.

Despite the President's promise, members of al-Houthi's insurgency are still being detained. Further, the Governor remains in power despite his being behind the clashes between the State and the citizens. Another problem lies in the oppressive nature of the military forces active in Sa'adah.

Many people in Sa'adah have been fired from their jobs because of the insurgency and have not been reinstated. Some of them have been moved to distant areas and the President's directives for compensation have not been implemented.

In his turn, Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, Parliament Speaker, invited the leaders of political parties, political forces, several religious figures, and tribal Sheiks to his house on April 5 to discuss what should be done to stop the confrontations in Sa'adah.

The meeting decided that Sheikh Abdullah would contact President Saleh to encourage mediation of the tribes and religious leaders.

The meeting called for strikes and sit-ins by all civil society and human rights organizations if the fighting Islam from the schemes of America."

Finally, al-Houthi's father spent months suffering in Sana'a while the promises made to him were unfulfilled. However, another statement by sources close to the scholar said, 'Scholar Badr al-Din al-Houthi had left Sana'a for Nashour, in the province of Sa'adah when living became hard for him. He had spent over two months in Sana'a upon the request of mediators who sought to bring him to Sana'a. He did not meet the President as it was expected."

An official source announced that Badr al-Din al-Houthi left Sana'a suddenly although the government provided him with promises of safety. He violated all pledges he made to the State and moved back to Nushour Valley where he mustered fighters and incited them to attack police stations and checkpoints across Sa'adah province in an attempt to spark a new insurgency.

Badr al-Din al-Houthi said in a press interview with al-Wasat weekly at the beginning of this month, shortly before his abrupt return to Sa'adah, that he came to Sana'a two months ago in compliance with the President's

Al-Houthi called, through the newspaper, on the President to keep his word by releasing prisoners and stopping to pursue the followers of Hussein al-Houthi.

He also denied that his son claimed to be the Imam. "He was defending

Badr al-Din al-Houthi confirmed that he was not neutral during the war. "My son was right. He was the reference of the Believing Youth and the fighting was to protect Islam."

Al-Houthi revealed his travel to Iran in 1993 and meeting with the Iranian President. However, he denied that he received support from Iran. Concerning his views on democracy, he said that he is supporting "justice' and "know[s] nothing but this name."

Al-Houthi blamed the Zaidi clerics who said his son was deviant and stray. "They are the followers of the State and fear its might." He questioned the killing of his son and considered that the suffering of the Zaidi sect will harden it because the sect's followers are "strong men and cham-

In this interview Al-Houthi, provided facts that his son did not receive any money from the President. He announced his readiness to return any money proven to have been given to his son. He agreed to meet the President when necessary and refused to say whether the President is legiti-

The people of Hamdan, Sa'adah province have sent a message through the media, appealing to Yemeni and international public opinion as well as parties, political organizations and human rights watchdogs to break their silence and save the remainder of women, children and old men from the harsh war waged by the government's air and land forces.

Iraqi parliament appoints Kurd as president

Disagreement over which Sunni Arab would be vice president held up a deal, but political leaders decided late on Tuesday to favour Yawar over elder statesman Adnan Pachachi.

Once the president and his deputies have been appointed they must name a prime minister within two weeks. Shi'ites and Kurds have agreed that Islamist Shi'ite leader Ibrahim Jaafari should be prime minister, taking over from secular Shi'ite Iyad Allawi.

Jaafari is expected to be officially appointed on Thursday, and will then name a cabinet. Disagreement remains on some cabinet posts, particularly the oil ministry which is coveted by both the Shi'ites and the Kurds.

Insurgent attacks

Many Iraqis have complained that politicians have let them down by taking so long to form a government. Several Iraqi officials say the delay has benefited Iraq's insurgents.

A U.S. soldier was killed in Baghdad when guerrillas ambushed a patrol with a roadside bomb and then opened fire, the American military said. On Tuesday, the military announced that four U.S. soldiers had been killed in attacks in

Since the invasion in March 2003, at least 1,540 U.S. military and Pentagon personnel have lost their lives in Iraq.

U.S. officers say the frequency of insurgent attacks is falling. But in recent weeks guerrillas have fought several

large-scale battles with U.S. forces an unusual development as insurgents generally favour hit-and-run attacks.

On Monday, dozens of insurgents fought U.S. and Iraqi forces in a remote area east of Baghdad. Two Americans and one Iraqi soldier were killed, the U.S. military said.

On Saturday, more than 40 U.S. soldiers and 12 prisoners were wounded when insurgents attacked Abu Ghraib jail west of Baghdad with suicide bombs, mortars and small-arms fire. The battle raged for around an hour.

Last month scores of guerrillas attacked a U.S. convoy near Salman Pak southeast of Baghdad. The U.S. military said it repelled the attack and killed at least two dozen insurgents.

Sa'ada fighting hampers economic reform

The parliament approved the 2005 budget, which assured government's commitment to removing diesel subsidies. The draft budget increase was put at YR 19 billion with a deficit estimated at three percent. Revenue was estimated at around YR 761 billion, while the 2004 budget was around YR 681 billion. Expenses were put at around 836 billion.

Prime Minister Abdulgader Bajamal has said that it is necessary for his government to lift the subsidies on diesel and gas, alleging that they cost the treasury YR 150 billion per year. He pointed out that the government imports almost 70 percent of the local market's needs from abroad at a cost of YR 60 per liter, which is being sold to the people at YR 17 only. The government claimed that this low price encourage businessmen to smuggle the diesel to the neighboring countries. President Ali Abdullah Saleh says that he will continue the reform process, warning that oil is diminishing, and urging his government to look for other resources, recommendations that the World Bank had already made.

Now, however, the reform process is being hijacked by the crackdown on the rebels and the ability of the government to bring the Sa'ada confrontation to an end.

The government is committed to the World Bank to continue the reform process and lift the diesel subsidies. The World Bank remains dissatisfied with the government's performance in this regard. Another delay by the government will not make the World Bank happy.

In his visit to Yemen last February, former World Bank President James Wolfensohn warned of the urgency for the reforms if the country is to move forward. He clearly highlighted the fact that Yemen is still underdeveloped and with a population that is largely illiterate. He depicted a

gloomy scenario for Yemen if serious measure are not undertaken quickly to avoid an economic catastrophe.

Wolfensohn said that it was not enough for the government to analyze and realize the situation, but he stressed that it is time to improve the investment climate, promote good governance and enhance employment opportunities.

He also warned that Yemen is depending too much on oil and could face severe economic difficulties if other sources of income are not introduced. He highlighted the need to maintain macroeconomic stability, and also improve water management. He also pointed out that Yemen could face a disastrous water shortage crisis within a decade if proper precautionary measures are not taken.

Wolfensohn also encouraged the government to go on with its proposed reform plan in energy-pricing, which would result price rises of gasoline and diesel up to 50 and 100 percent, respectively.

The World Bank also warned, in a report released last September that Yemen's economy is facing grave challenges for which the government should not expect further support if reforms are not implemented. "Yemeni authorities have not been able to seize the opportunity of rise in oil prices to maintain macroeconomic stability, advance economic reforms and lay foundations for strong non-oil based growth. Half way through the implementation of Country Assistance Strategy (2003-05), the signs are that Yemen is clearly slipping into 'Low Case' judging by three of the four CAS criterion," the report said. "Implementation of PRSP is unsatisfactory, progress in governance reforms is tardy and the macroeconomic framework is unsatisfactory. Through the deterioration of portfolio (the fourth criterion) is noticeable, it is below the cut-off points as of August

2004," it stressed.

The report pointed clearly to the unstable political situation which has constrained "the ability of the authorities to take advantage of strong gain in oil price to advance reforms in 2004. Politically, the ongoing global war on terrorism fought in the Middle East has energized Yemeni militant groups opposed to the war. Simmering antigovernment sentiment was brought to a head on June 28 in the form of an armed rebellion. Though the rebellion has been crushed decisively by early September, the durability of the success could remain an issue." With fighting resumed and its future uncertain, it is unclear how much it would cost the already fragile economy.

On the economic front, the report said that "unexpected declines in oil price, came to light in February 2004, have triggered the fear that oil reserves may depleted sooner than expected. Unanticipated declines in oil production from key oil fields could diminish oil export revenues of government and stress fiscal balance. The date of exhaustion of oil reserves has been advanced by nearly a decade to 2012 lending immediacy to launching a strategy to promote non-oil based growth."

The report said that reform agenda must also be revived urgently in areas such as education, and customs procedures, both of which contribute to macroeconomic stability. "Restarting stalled reforms of civil service, introduction of GST, phasing out of petroleum subsidies are vital to restore macroeconomic stability. Though the authorities are convinced of the direction of reform in these areas, commitment to a clear and robust implementation strategy and calendar is lacking," the report warned, demanding that the authorities should take a decisive action to restart stalled reforms to improve the lives of the 42 percent of the country who are poor.

In brief

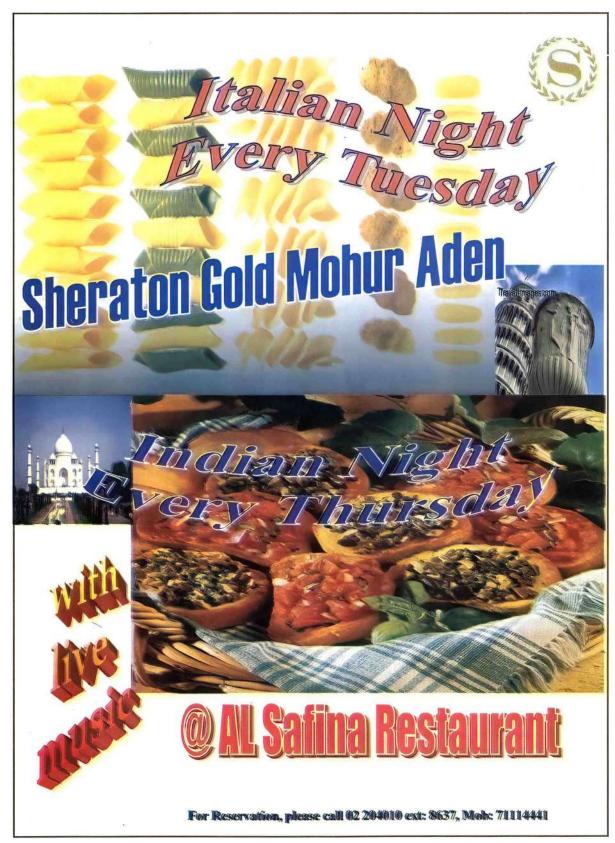
- Authorities at the Hodeida Port have seized around 40 tons of schoolbooks disguised as outdated papers before being trafficked to India.
- The books were for different educational stages and most are new editions.
- Yemeni Interior Minister Dr. Rashad al-Alimi and his Omani counterpart Saod Ibrahim signed a security agreement to enhance security cooperation on April 4.
- The agreement covers the control of borders from both sides and the exchange of information on several security issues.
- A number of unidentified men threw a grenade in front of the Contemporary Language Institute, which is located near al-Jomhouri Hospital, Taiz. The explosion resulted in shattered windows and damage to a bus while it was parked in front of the Institute.
- Abduljaleel Radman al-Mikhlafi was murdered by Abdu Ghalib Othman, 55, on Sunday April 3 in Taiz over disputes between their families. The victim is the father of Abdulamalik al-Mekhlafi, Secretary General of Unionist Naserite Party.
- Nashwan Mohammad Sa'eed of Taiz al-Masbah Zone was killed last week by Wadhah al-Shar'abi, 20. The motives behind the murder case are still unknown.
- The town of al-Qaeda Ibb witnessed a tragic incidence when a child murdered his father in front of a hospital in the locality after being beaten by his father while his mother was hospitalized.
- Abdu No'aman Saleh, 45, one of al-Ma'afer locals, Taiz, committed suicide by hanging himself by own clothes and the real .

- motives behind the tragic incident are still unidentified.
- The international workshop of the less developed countries that work hard to join the World Trade Organization was concluded Wednesday April 6 in Sana'a. The workshop was organized by the UN Conference for Trade and Development in cooperation with the ministry of industry and trade.
- Dr. Raofa Hassan Founder of Cultural Development Program delivered a lecture at the Egyptian Cultural Center under the title "civil community in Yemen in the age of globaliza-
- In collaboration with the UNICEF, the media forum for childhood issues held on Sunday April 3 a workshop on girls' education and the role of media in supporting women to undertake schooling.
- Yemen is currently participating in the 15th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair through the participation of four Yemeni publishers with nearly 795 titles.
- Functions of the ninth meeting of the Yemeni-Tunisian Committee were concluded on Sunday April 3. Seven memorandums were signed in the meeting along with executive programs for a number of agree-
- A memorandum of understanding between Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population and a Japanese medical foundation was signed in the Japanese capital of Tokyo. Under the memorandum, the Japanese medical foundation will establish a well-equipped and multispecialization hospital in Yemen. An awareness program on chil-

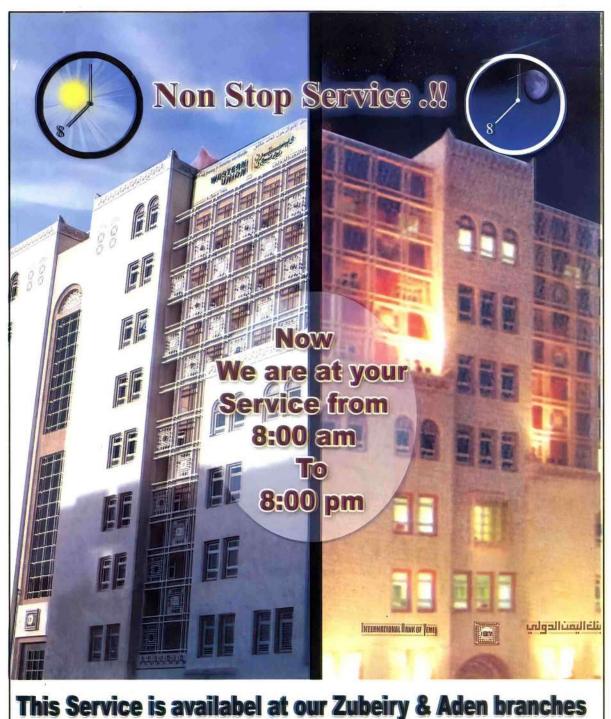
- dren's rights was inaugurated April 4 at Sana'a University. The program was organized by Human Rights Ministry and Sana'a University in collaboration with the Swedish Organization for childcare, Rada
- Parnen. Functions of the special course on the role of media in facing crises wrapped up Wednesday April 6 at the Media Training Institute with the participation of 45 trainees.
- Preacher Amro Khalid completed his visit to Yemen after delivering several lectures for Yemeni youths, particularly those who claim to support al-Houthi's followers and those who returned from Afghanistan.
- A special workshop for funding industries and small enterprises started last Friday in Sana'a.
- Lawyers are still continuing their protest condemning the attack against the lawver Mohammed Naji Allaw and Jamal Al-Jabi'e by some soldiers at the hall of the Capital City Appeal Court in the beginning of March. The Bar Association has started to implement their protests, including sitins, demonstrations, and strikes. These will continues until the authorities prosecute the people responsible for the attack.
- A number of armed tribesmen attacked the offices of Al-Waseet newspaper, forcing out all employees and disrupting the printing of a number of party and private newspapers. The police authorities rushed to the building on April 4 but they quickly withdrew, leaving the tribesmen to play with the printers, the office furniture and the building's equipment belonging to Haj Salem Al-Zagheer.











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Story nights attract New Yorkers like moths to flame

By Mary Ann D'Urso

here's a joke that goes around among prison guards. How do you know when a prisoner is lying? When he opens his mouth. So began the last tale in a recent evening of stories about teenage dreams and eating dog biscuits, being robbed, working as a copy shop manager for Xerox and being a prison guard at Sing

The five 10-minute tales were each as different as their storytellers onstage at The Moth — a modern New York take on a tradition that stretches from Homer's epics to ghost stories around the camp fire.

Formed in 1997 in the belief that everyone is drawn to the heat of a good story, The Moth was the brainchild of writer George Dawes Green. Green wanted to recreate the feeling of community from his Georgia youth when he would lie in an overgrown backyard

with friends on summer nights and tell mesmerising stories.

The first meetings were in Green's living room. Since then, more than 35,000 people, through word of mouth, mailings and e-mail notices, have heard the call of the flame. Moth storytellers take to the stage about once a month in New York.

The Moth has also produced shows in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Aspen, Colorado and has a quarterly series in New Haven, Connecticut. Organisers are planning a trip to Boston later this year, and hope to fund a tour of several U.S. cities.

"People are starved for connection," said Lea Thau, executive and creative director of The Moth, which still sees itself as building community. "Blackberries, Palm Pilots and all the rest are wonderful at communicating information. I'm not sure they get us to understand our humanity more. I think that's what stories do."

Stories without scripts

Craving to hear the rich details of other people's lives, about 250 people pay \$20 apiece and pack various softly-lit clubs or lounges to listen to story-tellers who include everyone from the glitterati to suburban mothers tell their well-honed stories, all gleaned from real life.

"I'm addicted," said one enthusiastic 30-something film editor who regularly attends Moth events because she loves the intimate arts atmosphere.

At Moth evenings, storytellers cannot read from scripts or notes and must tell stories around a predetermined theme.

On one recent night of pelting wet snow in Manhattan, singles and couples, mostly in their 20s, 30s or 40s, gathered at the club Crash Mansion to hear "New York Stories".

Actor John Ventimiglia from "The Sopranos" had the audience howling as he entertained with a story of being robbed in his apartment in the dead of night.

Writer Ted Conover captivated the crowd with jokes about prison life before telling a story based on the year he spent as a guard at Sing Sing prison researching his book "Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing."

The night's proceeds benefited The Moth's outreach programme, which works with high school students, youth programmes and adults in rehabilitation.

Sense of belonging

Graduates of the outreach programme, which helps people learn how to tell their stories, take to the main stage twice a year. Sometimes, Outreach alumni like audience members Ritchie DeSalvo and a young man who identified himself only as O.T. have their tales recorded on a CD of audience favourites.

"The programme gave me a sense of belonging to something," O.T. said.

For Isis Richardson, an 8th grader at the Bronx Preparatory Charter School, going through the outreach programme gave her a lot of "self-confidence speaking in front of people and not worrying that they will be thinking something about you".

At 14, Richardson, who dreams of attending Harvard to study law, is the youngest Moth storyteller ever to take to the stage. As she told about her afterschool adventures with modelling, she transfixed the crowd with stories of shady companies looking to lure girls hoping to become models and extracting hefty fees from them.

"It felt really good," Richardson said after she stepped off stage. "At first I was a little nervous, but when I realised I couldn't see anybody (in the audience,) I calmed."

Conover, a veteran journalist, said that as his story moved along — about a prisoner who was convicted of rape, repeatedly professed his innocence and served years before being cleared by DNA tests — he could feel the energy from the audience.

"That's when the rush starts to build and people give you that feedback. The immediacy is a huge kick," he said.

Thau said an evening at The Moth, with its varied stories and settings, "will remind you that the world is vast and full of very different realities, and yet there's a common core."

—Reuters

Private sector employees

oppressed

Despite the laws

By YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU

ery low salaries, monthly deductions, insufficient breaks and arbitrary dismissals are the most prominent problems associated with working for private sector institutions.

Abdussamad, who works for a painting factory, said laborers at the factory are mostly children who are paid between YR120-140 a day. "Despite the fact we at the factory are supposed to be provided with safety equipment and training courses to help us avoid risks at work, nothing was done", he said.

Ali Mustafa noted, "a certain amount is deducted from our salaries every month as an insurance but when we leave the factory, the employer does not pay us the money deducted as insurance". According to Ali, private sector institutions have a policy that prevents the employees from being paid their insurance unless they show insanity certificates.

"When someone is sick, his employer sends him to a certain doctor who in turn prescribes him cheap and useless medicines and grants him a very short break that does not exceed two days" said employee Hisham Abdu.

Mohammad who works for a tourist hotel claimed that employees are usually mistreated by their bosses and shown no respect.

These complaints by private sector workers compelled the Yemen Times to visit Abdu al-Hakimi General Manager of Taiz Social Affairs and Labor Office, who agreed that more attention has to be paid to issues of private sector workers.

Regarding the arbitrary dismissal of employees al-Hakimi said, "we have an arbitration committee that acts as a workforce court. This committee is composed of some people representing the government, some members from the general union of Yemeni laborers and one member from the Chamber of Industry and Trade."

In response to complaints of the employee, the committee holds a meeting in the presence of both the employer and the employee and if the latter was arbitrarily dismissed, the committee rules that they should be compensated.

Al-Hakimi described two areas of labor law designed to reduce these problems. Firstly, all private sector workers are supposed to be paid an additional salary (equivalent to a monthly payment), and secondly, insurance payments are supposed to be refunded to the employee when they stop working with the company.

With respect to the working hours, al-Hakimi said: "the maximum number of hours is eight per day and we have published and circulated notes to all the private sector institutions about this maximum number of working hours. Workers should be paid for their overtime work. According to the law, if any employee works overtime on occasions and official holidays, a single day will be counted as two days."

According to the republican decree recently drafted, the minimum payment a private sector worker should be paid must not be lower than the lowest salary a public sector employee receives (YR8750). An inspection committee has been formed to report companies that violate the law.

If any one is injured at work, the company should compensate them, and health services should be offered for workers if the number of workers exceeds 50. Medical committees should be responsible for medical reports that assign the period of rest to sick employee, al-Hakimi added.

Youth Economic Development Initiative program

Help for unemployed youth

By Fahmia al-Fotih For the Yemen Times

n cooperation with the Girls' World Communication Center (GWCC), the Youth Economic Development Initiative program (YEDI) has held a ceremony to mark the graduation of its first group of young trainees. The ceremony was conducted under the patronage of the minister of Youth and Sport Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Akwaa.

Ms. Kabul al-Mutawakl, the head of YEDI, gave Yemen Times a brief idea about the program "The program is called YEDI and it is run by CHF-international organization and GWCC-a local organization. The program started in last January... We are targeting the youth who are not working either they have no job or they are not enrolled in schools or universities."

"The idea of the program is just to give these youths a chance to find a job and have a better social economic life. We are targeting 500 person (girls and boys) and the training we are giving them is all about administrative fields; basic management, accounting, sales and market-

ing, Photoshop, business planning and development and business English, photography, journalism photography. The trainers all of them are local and we give them also training of trainers coming international experts. We give them a training how to be a trainer in such subject. This is empowerment for trainers"

Mr. Ali al-Hadheri, trainer, told Yemen Times "It is a great idea. All of us we have sisters and brother who are without a job and they don't have a chance to have special job. It is really different rather than universities and academic way. We focus on the practical transmit of most of topics. I have taught sales and marketing. Most new companies focus on the personal skills rather academic degrees, English and computer. The trainees were very active even the center is far from the city but they bear the long distance, as they want to learn. We do our best to lean them and if I get chance to help them in their practical life, I wont hesitate and I really cannot forget the management staff. They are helpful and open-minded."

Ms. Iman Ali, trainee, expressed her happiness about her graduation form

this program "I have a lot of benefits from this program. I get benefits in speaking English well and I have much about how to run a company and how to be successful manager. I would like to a professional businesswoman in future."

Mr. Najeeb Kaid Abduallah, trainee "I am completely happy to join such a course. I have learnt a lot, to know about business and how to deal be a businessman and how to be a successful businessman and how know people from other nationalities. I think this will help us much in future to find a job. I am impressed by the different ways teaching that our trainers have in transmitting the information easily to the students. I need more courses like this. I'd like to be more qualified to find high-job vacancy easily."

Mr. Fouad A. Gohery, coordinator of Canada Fund Development Program for Local Initiatives, said "The program in Yemen focuses on the local initiatives and development in Yemen as a whole. The program started 10 years ago in Yemen and we are trying to do in Yemen is mostly to help the underprivileged sectors in Yemen and woman, disabled."

Tender Notice

Faculty of Engineering Phase (2) Sana'a University

Sana'a University inviting the local and international contractors who are well experienced in the construction of big projects. To participate in the tender for construction of the Faculty of Engineering Phase (2) Sana'a University.

Tenders are requested to prove with evidence their successful of at least 3 projects of US\$ 8-12 million cost for each during the last five years.

The interested companies can collect the tender documents starting of Saturday March 26 2005 till April 23 2005 from General administration for financial affairs (Alwadi Road) telefax: 01-464677 against non refundable amount of US\$ 2000.

Given that, tender bids submission must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Bids should be accompanied by a bid security "Bank guarantee or payable cheque" of a minimum of 2.5% of the total bid price valid for 90 days.
- 2. Bids should be accompanied by a copy of the Tax license renewed for 2005, along with the original for verification and insurance card with the original for verification.
- 3. Tender bids should be delivered in envelopes sealed with ted wax.
- 4. Tow copies of the submittals are to be delivered by hand or courier at the above address not later than May 24-2005 at 11:00 pm.

إعلان مناقصة مشروع كلية الهندسة

المرحلة الثانية - جامعة صنعاء

تدعو جامعة صنعاء شركات المقاولات العالمية والمحلية ذات الإمكانيات والخبرات في مجال تنفيذ المشروعات الكبرى، للإشتراك في مناقصة تنفيذ مشروع كلية الهندسة- المرحلة الثانية ويشترط:

أن تكون الشركة المتقدمة قد قامت وبنجاح بتنفيذ ثلاثة مشاريع على الأقل خلال الخمس سنوات الماضية بقيمة 8 -12 مليون دولار أمريكي للمشروع الواحد.

بالإمكان الحصول على مستندات المناقصة إعتباراً من يوم السبت الموافق 26 مارس 2005م وحتى يوم السبت 23 إبريل 2005م من الإدارة العامة للشئون المالية - طريق وادي ظهر مقابل مبلغ وقدره (2000 دولار) لا يرد.

ويشترط لتقديم العطاء مايلي:

- 1) يرفق مع العطاءات تأمين بواقع 2.5% بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي
 صالح لمدة 90 يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
- 2) إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة للعام 2005م وإحضار الأصل للمطابقة مع صورة كرت التأمين والأصل للمطابقة.
 - 3) تقديم العطاء داخل مظروف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
- 4) تسلم مستندات المناقصة من نسحتين إما باليد أو بالبريد على العنوان المذكور أعلاه، في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادية عشر من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 24 مايو 2005م. (يوم فتح المظاريف).

Iran insists it will retain nuclear programme

PARIS, April 5 (Reuters) - Iran will not abandon nuclear activities, despite its negotiations with the EU about ensuring its nuclear programme cannot be used for weapons, President Mohammad Khatami said in an interview published on Tuesday.

But it will continue for now to discuss the issue with Europe and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, Khatami told the French newspaper Le Figaro.

Washington backs these talks but insists, like the EU, that they must end with Iran giving up uranium enrichment, a process that can produce material for nuclear weapons as well as fuel for power

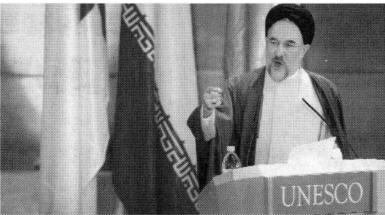
Iran says it has no ambitions to develop nuclear weapons.

"We are ready to consider any reasonable solution, but we refuse to suspend our (nuclear) activities for good," Khatami told Le Figaro.

"The Europeans have to understand that the (Nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty and international agreements allow us to possess nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.'

Khatami had talks scheduled later on Tuesday with French President Jacques

France, Britain and Germany are



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami

offering Iran political and economic incentives to terminate and dismantle its uranium enrichment programme.

Iran says it has suspended all work linked to enrichment while the talks The European Union says that if Iran

resumes enrichment, it will support a U.S. plan to refer Tehran to the U.N.

Security Council, which could impose economic sanctions. "I hope that this problem can be

resolved as soon as possible. But if, through pressure, people try to force us to give up peaceful nuclear power, that will be unacceptable," Le Figaro quoted Khatami as saying.

He said he took seriously the threat of a possible military attack by the United States on Iran's nuclear facilities. "We are preparing for it, but it seems

unlikely. Such a strike would be to the detriment of Iran and its attackers. "Let's hope that the latter remain

rational But we are prepared to defend ourselves against any form of

Algerian militants kill civilian as attacks escalate

ALGIERS, April 5 (Reuters) -Islamic militants have killed a 62year-old man in western Algeria, newspapers said on Tuesday, as violence escalates in the North African country.

Rebels shot and stabbed the man and seized his sheep late on Sunday in the forest of Abais, near the city of Chlef 200 km (130 miles) west of Algiers, newspaper El Khabar said.

Dozens of soldiers and paramilitary police have been killed in coordinated bomb and gunfire attacks in recent days, most blamed on the al Qaedaaligned Salafist Group for Preaching Combat (GSPC). government has not commented.

Kuwait

health

minister

resigns over

allegations

GSPC members in the Boumerdes province, 100 km east of Algiers, have stepped up attacks to try to sabotage a general amnesty expected to be offered this year to rebels and members of the armed forces.

Security experts say die-hard

The GSPC is Algeria's main rebel group still fighting authorities after 13 years of an Islamic holy war or "jihad".

Authorities say 150,000 people have died since militants took up arms in 1992 after legislative elections, which a hardline Islamic party was poised to win, were cancelled.

Violence has fallen sharply in KUWAIT, April 5 (Reuters) -

Tuesday he had submitted his

resignation, after 10 members of

parliament filed a no-confidence

motion over allegations of

mismanagement, the state news

It quoted Mohammad al-Jarallah

as saying it was up to Prime

agency KUNA reported.

Kuwait's health minister said on

recent years, bringing back much needed foreign investment.

"The GSPC wants to show it's still alive." said a security expert, who declined to be named. "It shows they have logistical support from the local population and that is worrying."

Newspaper Liberte said recent well-planned attacks on the armed forces in Boumerdes was proof a well-funded GSPC remained a significant threat despite losing many of its key members.

The government has repeatedly said its war on militants has been won with only a few pockets of resistance left in the west and east of the oil-rich

Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to decide whether to

accept his resignation.

Jarallah endured hours of tough questioning on Monday by an Islamist MP over allegations of mismanagement, squandering public funds and the deterioration of health services in the oil-rich Gulf Arab state.

sees little reform, faults U.S. actio

REUTERS

CAIRO, April 5 (Reuters) - In a longawaited report contested by the United States and Egypt, Arab intellectuals and reformers said they saw no significant advances towards democracy in the Arab world in the year after October 2003.

The third Arab Human Development Report (AHDR), released on Tuesday under U.N. auspices, says most reforms were "embryonic and fragmentary" and did not amount to a serious effort to end repression in the region, which has some of the world's most authoritarian govern-

The United States, which says its policy is to promote democracy in the region, contributed to an international context which hampered progress, through its policy towards Israel, its actions in Iraq and security measures affecting Arabs, it

"Overall, there has been no significant easing of the human development crisis in the Arab region," it said.

The report was written before elections in Iraq in January and the recent street protests in Lebanon - events which the Bush administration has cited as evidence

The U.S. and Egyptian governments had criticised parts of an early draft of the

U.N. report, leading to a dispute which held up its release for at least three

But the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) eventually decided to put it out under its logo, with a disclaimer in the

"The very process of writing this AHDR has been a source of significant public and, unfortunately, highly politicised and often inaccurate speculation," wrote Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator at the time it was written.

"Some of the views expressed by the authors are not shared by UNDP or the UN... (But) This report clearly reflects a very real anger and concern felt across the region," he added.

The most controversial parts of the report, subtitled Towards Freedom in the Arab World, describe the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and the occupation of Iraq by the United States and its allies as violations of freedom and obstacles to human development there and in

It says that the occupations gave Arab governments an excuse to postpone democratisation, forced Arab reformers to divert some of their energies away from reform and strengthened extremist groups which advocate violence.

The United States also undermined the international system by repeatedly using or threatening to use its U.N. Security Council veto, enabling Israel to build new Jewish settlements and continue with its barrier in the West Bank, it adds.

Increased suffering in Iraq

"This has pushed many people in the region to lose hope of obtaining justice from global governance and could exacerbate a tendency towards extremism," the report said.

In Iraq, the occupation has increased human suffering and, because the United States has failed to meet its obligations to protect citizens, the country has seen "an unprecedented loss of internal security", it

"After dismantling the old state, the U.S.-led authorities made little progress in building a new one.

Despite the optimistic reports published by the Occupation forces and the U.S. Administration their performance continued to be deficient," it added.

In its analysis of the roots of authoritarianism in the Middle East, the intellectuals cited the discovery of oil, the creation of Israel, the phenomenon of client states



Arab and foreign officials attend the launch ceremony of the Arab Human Developments Report "Towards Freedom In The Arab World" in Amman April

U.S., Iraqi troops battle

during the Cold War and the fragile and unnatural nature of most of the Arab states

created during the decolonisation period. The U.S. response to the September

2001 attacks on the United States added

to the ambiguity in the Western attitude to human rights in the Middle East, it said.

"The 'war on terror' has cut into many Arab freedoms... An unfortunate by-product in some countries has been that Arabs

of insurgents

are increasingly the victims of stereotyping, disproportionately harassed or detained without cause," it said.

The fact that some Western countries ... have taken steps widely perceived to be discriminatory and repressive, has weakened the position of those reformers calling for Arab governments ... to change their course," it added.

The report notes an increase in activity by civil society groups pressing for changes inside Arab countries, some reform initiatives by Arab governments, some improvements in education and some empowerment of women in the Arab world.

But it added: "There is a near-complete consensus that there is a serious failing in the Arab world, and that this is located specifically in the political sphere."

It says that if the current repressive situation continues, more intense social conflict is likely to follow.

"Disaster can be averted.

The alternative is to pursue an historic, peaceful and deep process of negotiated political alternation ... The desired outcome is a redistribution of power within Arab societies, restoring sovereignty to its rightful owners, the vast majority of peo-

Palestinian gunman wounds Israeli in Gaza army

Palestinian gunman shot and wounded an Israeli in a Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday, testing a two-month-old ceasefire that has largely halted more than four years of violence.

The Israeli was shot while working on a security fence at the settlement of Morag, near the Palestinian town of Rafah, an Israeli military source said. His wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), a coalition of militants, said its fighters detonated a

GAZA, April 5 (Reuters) - A bomb against an Israeli bulldozer working near the fence and opened fire towards Morag.

> A PRC spokesman said the group was responding to Israeli violations of the ceasefire, citing "shootings and arrests".

"Our position regarding calm is clear. We will respect calm as long as the Israeli enemy does and we will respond to their violations," the spokesman said.

The Israeli military source and Palestinian witnesses said the bomb attack on the bulldozer caused no injuries or damage.

BAGHDAD, April 5 (Reuters) - U.S. and Iraqi forces battled dozens of insurgents in a remote area east of Baghdad and three soldiers, two American and one Iraqi, were killed in the fighting, the

U.S. military said on Tuesday.

The battle erupted on Monday afternoon when two Iraqi army battalions were carrying out a "cordon and search operation" in eastern Diyala province, it said in a statement.

"The mission to search for weapons cache sites in the area uncovered dozens of terrorists and a firefight ensued."

Around 100 U.S. troops with Bradley fighting vehicles moved in to back up the Iraqi forces, and called in air support. The area was still being searched on

Tuesday, the U.S. army said. "There were two to three dozen insurgents there, with evidence of prepared fighting positions," Major Richard Goldenberg, spokesman for the 42nd

"Those that survived the initial contact appear to have fled the area, but we're continuing to check."

Infantry Division, said.

Recent weeks have seen a number of large-scale engagements between U.S. troops and guerrillas - an unusual development as insurgents generally favour hit-and-run attacks.

On Saturday, more than 40 U.S. soldiers and 12 prisoners were wounded when insurgents attacked Abu Ghraib jail west of Baghdad with suicide bombs, mortars and small-arms fire.

The battle raged for around an hour. Last month scores of guerrillas attacked a U.S. convoy near Salman Pak

southeast of Baghdad. The U.S. military said it killed at least two dozen insur-

General kidnapped

In other violence on Tuesday a U.S. soldier was killed and four wounded by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, taking the American military and Pentagon death toll in Iraq to at least 1,539 since the start of the war in March 2003.

Roadside bombs also killed four civilians in Salman Pak and two policmen in the southern city of Basra, police said.

A car bomb in southwestern Baghdad killed one Iraqi civilian and wounded

In Hilla, south of Baghdad, a local government official was assassinated on his way to work, police said. The commander of a special armoured

unit of the Iraqi army, Brigadier General Jalal Mohammed Saleh, was kidnapped in Baghdad late on Monday, police said. Insurgents have kidnapped several leading Iraqi officials and military officers, and often kill them and post footage

of their deaths on the Internet. Iraqi security officials say the delay in forming a new government has benefited insurgents trying to sow chaos in Iraq.

More than nine weeks after millions of Iraqis defied suicide bombers and insurgent threats to vote in the historic Jan. 30 polls, politicians are still arguing over cabinet posts.

Leaders of the main political blocs said Iraq's new president, two vice presidents and prime minister would be announced on Wednesday at a meeting



U.S. Army soldiers arrive to secure the scene of a car bomb explosion in western Baghdad April 5. A car bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol close to Baghdad's international airport on Tuesday, killing one civilian, REUTERS police said.

of parliament.

Under a deal betwen the Islamist-led Shi'ite alliance that won a slim majority in parliament and the Kurdish coalition that came second in the polls, veteran Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani will be named president and Shi'ite politician Ibrahim Jaafari will become prime min-

Adel Abdul Mahdi, another Shi'ite, is expected to be named as one of the vice presidents, and politicians want to appoint a Sunni Arab as the other so as to include the minority that dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein but which won just 17 of parliament's 275 seats in the

Many Sunni Arabs were afraid to vote or boycotted the elections, but other factions want to ensure they are given key

government posts to try to undermine support for the insurgency, which is being fought mainly by Sunni Arab guer-

There are three Sunni Arab candidates for the vice presidency - current President Ghazi al-Yawar, elder statesman Adnan Pachachi and monarchist Sharif Ali bin al-Hussein.

Politicians hope to reach a deal on Tuesday on which of them will be chosen, paving the way for key government posts to be announced on Wednesday.

Once a prime minister is chosen he has two weeks to name a cabinet.

Officials say key disagreements remain on some government posts, particularly the economically crucial oil ministry, coveted by both Shi'ites and



Israeli soldiers rush a wounded Israeli man, following a shooting accident, at a hospital in the Israeli town of Beer Sheva April 5. A Palestinian gunman shot and wounded an Israeli at the Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday, testing a two-month-old ceasefire that has largely halted more than four years of violence. The Israeli was shot while working on a security fence at the settlement of Morag, near the Palestinian town of Rafah, an Israeli military source said.

REUTERS

night, long wait to see Pope rners brave cold

VATICAN CITY, April 5 (Reuters) -Wrapped in blankets against the dawn chill, but glowing with emotion, mourners flowed out of St.

Peter's Basilica on Tuesday after waiting through a cold night to see Pope John Paul lying in state.

Undaunted by the biting night air and the sight of tens of thousands of other people standing in line, pilgrims sang, prayed, chatted and snacked to while away the hours before they could pay their last respects to their revered Pontiff.

"It was a small sacrifice.

The emotion was worth it," said Mario Faitanini, who drove for half the night with his wife and two children aged six and eight from Pescara, on Italy's east coast.

Then they waited in line for four hours before dawn as temperatures fell to an unseasonably low 3 Celsius (37 Fahrenheit).

The children got cold and tired but we tried to explain why it was important.

I'm sure they'll come to appreciate what they experienced when they grow up," he said as the family, wrapped up in anoraks, scarves and hats, emerged from the church.

Sister Frances Orchard, an English nun living in Rome, said the diverse crowd of all ages and nationalities were united in their burning desire to show their love for the Pope.

"He spent so much of his time going out to the whole world.

We wanted to be part of the whole world coming to him," she said.

Some who came out in the dead of night with nowhere to sleep had lain down on the street with their bags and

Thousands of empty water bottles and snack wrappers had spilled out of the immense queue, the wreckage of the night, while nearby cafes were doing a roaring trade as famished pilgrims piled in for coffee and croissants.

Playing guitar, sharing snacks "It was very cold but I'm happy I did during the night.

was a different atmosphere than during the day, perhaps more meditative, more evocative with the basilica lit up against the night sky," said 28-year-old Lucia Amatruda. She and three friends had travelled down from Lombardy, in northern Italy, and started waiting at 11.30 p.m. on Monday.

They filed past the pope at around

"People were quiet, respectful. Every so often a spontaneous round of applause would go down the line. Some people were praying the Rosary, some were playing the guitar.

People were sharing blankets and snacks with strangers," said Amatruda. Marie-Chantal Magangi, a nun from the Democratic Republic of Congo studying at a convent in Rome, said she sang and meditated to stave off the cold.

She was wearing a wraparound skirt and a light jacket.

"I felt the cold, but in my soul I was warmed by prayer and meditation.

I looked around me and knew that everyone in the crowd was feeling the same emotion," she said.

One group of about 100 people had hired a coach to travel up from the village of Brienza, in Basilicata in southern Italy, They were wearing yellow and white

scarves - the colours of the Vatican to help find each other in the huge crowd. "I always wanted to see him when he was alive but I never made it,

unfortunately. At least I paid him my respects now he has died and his sufferings are over," said housewife Raffaella Russo, who

Bishop prays at the Vatican April 5. came on the coach with her 14-year-old

They were huddled in a tight group, eating sandwiches and turning their faces to the pale early morning sun as

they waited for their friends to come out

The body of Pope John Paul II lies in state in the Saint Peter's Basilica as a

"The Holy Father has started eternal life. We miss him but he is still with us,"

UK's Blair to call election as poll lead shrinks

LONDON, April 5 (Reuters) - Prime Minister Tony Blair will call Britain's election for May 5 on Tuesday as polls showed his opponents catching up and dissent flared within his party.

Blair delayed the long-expected announcement by a day due to the death of Pope John Paul but he will visit Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday morning to dissolve parliament, triggering an election.

Public anger over the Iraq war could slash Blair's parliamentary majority five opinion polls on Tuesday showed his party has lost support to the main opposition Conservatives.

Embarrassingly, one of the ruling Labour party's candidates, Stephen Wilkinson, said he was defecting to the Liberal Democrats, the only major British party to oppose the Iraq war.

"Who would have thought that a Labour government would become a lap dog to George Bush's right wing Republican administration," he said.

Surveys in the Guardian, Times and Independent newspapers gave Labour a lead of just two or three percentage Separate surveys of voters who said

they would definitely vote even gave the Conservatives a lead "The prime minister should be nervous about his coming encounter with the elec-

torate," the Times said. If those figures were replicated on polling day, analysts say, Blair would still win a third term in power but with a much looser grip on parliament.

Britain's electoral map, which concentrates constituencies in Labour's urban strongholds, means the Conservatives must win a larger share of the vote than Labour to take power.

The Financial Times said the 5-point Conservative lead in its poll of definite voters would still make Labour the biggest party, though with a parliamentary majority slashed from 161 seats to

Historic third term

There is more to play for in the campaign than in the previous two elections in 1997 and 2001, when Blair easily won triple-digit majorities.

If he wins, Blair would make history by becoming the first Labour premier to clinch a third consecutive term.

But if his power is weakened, having already stated he will not seek a fourth term in power, he could quickly become a

Labour strategists are hoping eight years of solid economic growth and prosperity will more than offset public anger at an Iraq war which Blair said was necessary because Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of banned weapons primed for

Two years after the U.S.-led invasion, no such weapons have been found.

Blair's powerful finance minister Gordon Brown took up the economic cudgels early on Tuesday.



Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair Downing Street Buckingham Palace in London, April REUTERS

"Labour will be and will remain the party of economic competence and stability in Britain," he said in a speech.

Brown, widely seen as Blair's most likely successor, has been moved back to the centre of Labour's re-election cam-

Labour views its economic record as a trump card but critics say higher spending has brought little improvement in schools and hospitals and instead led to overbor-

Gaddafi son: North Korea needs incentives on nukes

TOKYO, April 5 (Reuters) - North Korea needs to be encouraged with incentives to abandon its nuclear programmes, as Libya was, and not just pushed, a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said on Tuesday.

Libya pledged to abandon weapons of mass destruction in December 2003, after which the United States revoked an embargo and the European Union lifted sanctions.

Three inconclusive rounds of talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programmes have been held by the United States, Japan, Russia, China and the two Koreas, but a fourth round planned for late last year never materialised.

"It's not fair all the time just to press, to push North Korea," said Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, 32, on a visit to Japan in connection with a Libyan art exhibition that includes some of his own paintings

"It's like a tango, a dance, with two parts," he told a news conference.

'We have to ask the other side to give more guarantees, more incentives.'

Gaddafi said Libya made a strategic choice to abandon its illicit arms programmes because it became clear that doing so was to its advantage, what he termed a "win-win situation".

"We have to give them political and

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's son, Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, shows his work of art during a news conference ahead of the opening of a Libyan art exhibition in Tokyo April 5. On a six-day visit to Japan, Gaddafi said on North Korea that it needs to be encouraged with incentives to abandon its nuclear programmes, as Libya was, and not just pushed.

be much better," he said, without giving specific examples.

'We have to guarantee that there isn't a hidden agenda, there isn't any

Gaddafi declined to comment on whether North Korea had helped Libya with its weapons programme.

North Korea, which has rejected

U.S. proposals that it follow the example of Libya as "nothing but a sham offer", has come under heavy pressure to rejoin the six-party talks.

Any nuclear deal would involve an exchange of economic incentives for the impoverished state to freeze and ultimately dismantle its nuclear arms

More shops, offices open on quake: hit Nias

5 (Reuters) - More government offices and private shops opened on Indonesia's Nias on Tuesday, in signs life was slowly returning to normal on the quake-hit island though the stench of death still lingered in some areas.

In one marketplace surrounded by rubble in the centre of Gunungsitoli, the island's main town, some meat and vegetables were being sold.

But many people, even those with intact homes, continued to sleep outdoors, worried about aftershocks from the 8.7 magnitude quake that struck Nias and other islands off the west coast of Sumatra on March 28.

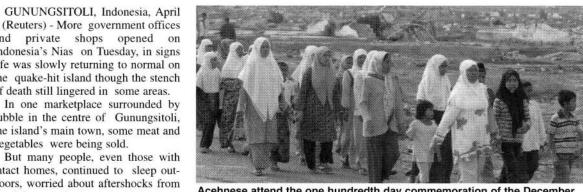
As many as 2,000 people are believed to have died, officials say.

"We're trying to get a clearer picture on the road network, which ones we can use," said Francois Desruisseaux, a

United Nations logistics coordinator. Until it was clearer which roads were passable, priority would still be on utilising air and sea to distribute aid around the island, he said.

More heavy equipment was arriving to help clear the rubble.

There was little hope of finding any survivors and the stench from bodies



Acehnese attend the one hundredth day commemoration of the December 26, 2004 tsunami that hit Indonesia's Aceh province, in Ulee Lheue near Banda Aceh April 5.

buried under collapsed buildings in areas yet to be searched was strong. Peter Scott-Bowden, U.N. team

leader in Nias, told reporters on Monday that time running out. "The longer you go, the slimmer the

chance of finding anyone," he said.

The latest official government count of the dead from the quake is 564, more than 500 of those on Nias. Official figures count only recovered

Many of the areas affected are isolated and it could be weeks before final

figures are known.

The government says 74,064 people were displaced from their homes.

The World Food Programme has said 200,000 people on the island urgently needed food and other relief after the quake, which came just three months after the Indian Ocean quake and tsunami that left more than 220,000 Indonesians dead or missing, the majority in nearby Aceh province.

In Aceh on Tuesday ceremonies were being held to mark the passing of 100 days since the tsunami.

Wabara, who has denied the allegaeighth-biggest oil exporter.

"I hereby step aside as the president of the senate to enable me (to) attend to all the allegations against me," Wabara

"I pledge to make myself available to all panels investigating the allegations," he said

New polls show French voters rejecting EU charter

ty of French voters plan to reject the European Union constitution in a referendum on May 29 but the "No" camp's lead over the "Yes" campaign has narrowed, according to two opinion polls published on Tuesday.

Nine successive surveys have now shown more than 50 percent of voters oppose the treaty, mainly due to discontent with the government's economic and social policies, raising the prospect of France rejecting the charter and plunging the EU into crisis.

A survey by the CSA polling group showed 53 percent of respondents would vote against the constitution, intended to simplify decision making in the EU following its enlargement to 25 member states.

It found 47 percent would vote for it. The poll of 865 people of voting age, published in Le Parisien newspaper,

A similar CSA poll carried out a week earlier showed 55 percent of voters would oppose the constitution and 45 percent would back it.

A second poll, published in Le Figaro newspaper, also showed the "No" camp losing momentum.

The survey of 947 people by the Ipsos research group, conducted on April 1 and 2, found 52 percent of respondents would oppose the constitution and 48 percent would support it.

A previous Ipsos poll a week ago showed 54 percent of voters would oppose the charter and 46 percent

Giacometti said support for the constitution had steadied among supporters of President Jacques Chirac's centre-right Union for a Political Movement (UMP).

Previous polls had pointed to a slight

"The reaffirmation of the 'Yes' was seen on April 2, the day Pope Jean-Paul II died," said Pierre Giacometti, head of

"An event that is so exceptional helps create a consensus." Millions of French people are Roman Catholics.

Opposition among left-wing voters remained firm, he said, even though the leadership of the opposition Socialist Party broadly backs the constitution.

Seven other polls in the last three weeks have put the "No" campaign They have put the number of people

planning to vote against the treaty in a range of 51 to 55 percent. The treaty requires the support of all

25 member states to go into force. Spain has already approved the treaty in a referendum but France will pose a

Ukraine's president urges emigrants to return home

CHICAGO, April 5 (Reuters) -Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his Chicago-born wife extended a hand to emigrants on Monday, asking them to return and offer "brotherly assistance" to their homeland.

Fresh from a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush where Yushchenko discussed Ukraine's hopes of joining the World Trade Organization by the end of the year and NATO later, he said his ultimate aim was for the country to join the European Union.

Yushchenko visits Boston on Tuesday and addresses a joint session of the U.S. Congress on Wednesday.

The Ukrainian president and his wife, Kateryna, received a warm welcome on Monday from Chicago's Ukrainian-American community.

"As before, we need your brotherly assistance." Yushchenko said in a speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations that was attended by hundreds of local Ukrainians.

"I call you (back) to Ukraine."

He thanked Chicago's 100,000strong Ukrainian community for giving him a 99 percent majority in the second round of voting that helped him topple Russian-backed candidate Victor

Yanukovych. Chicago's Ukrainians also raised

hundreds of thousands of dollars to support "Orange Revolution" protesters, many of whom camped out in Kiev's main square to demand fair elec-

much bigger obstacle.

Yushchenko said since he won the presidency the rules were changing in Ukraine and promised those planning to return an "open and competitive market," free speech and a government free of corruption.

While tax rates on incomes, business profits and consumption have been cut, government revenues had risen, Yushchenko said, implying corruption by the previous government was to

Nigerian senate head quits over graft allegations

ABUJA, April 5 (Reuters) - Nigeria's Senate President Adolphus Wabara said on Tuesday he was resigning, following allegations that he and other lawmakers received a \$400,000 bribe to pass an inflated education budget.

Wabara, third in the constitutional hierarchy, had been expected to quit after President Olusegun Obasanjo last month publicly accused him and six other lawmakers of having taken the payment from the education minister,

who has since been sacked.

tions, is the most senior member of Obasanjo's People's Democratic Party to have been named in a widening crackdown on corruption in the world's

told the senate.

Words of Wisdom



I remember in the early 1990s, one of the newlyarrived Peace Corps volunteers was puzzled as to why Yemenis did not plan their free time, especially the weekends. Six months after her service in Yemen, I met the PC volunteer again, and asked her if she found an answer to the question. "Yeah. I mean the whole week is a week-end," she said.

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





OUR OPINION

Larger freedom

t no time in human history have the fates of every woman, man and child been so intertwined across the globe. We are united both by moral imperatives and by objective interests. We can build a world in larger freedom - but to do it we must find common ground and sustain collective action. This task can seem daunting, and it is easy to descend into generalities or stray into areas of such deep disagreement that differences are reinforced not

This was a part of the "In larger Freedom" report presented by the secretary-general of the United Nations to the general assembly last month. The aim of the report was to assess the situation in the world until the first half of last year. Of the nearly 50 pages report, perhaps the most striking lines I read were the lines I quoted to you

It seems that even the simple fact that people of the world depend on each other is not comprehended by many. Today, it feels very natural for someone from Asia to relate to someone in Latin America or Australia or anywhere else in the world. And that the world is a circle of people joining hands, what you give eventually goes back

It's not about deeper freedom, real freedom or even free freedom it is about larger freedom. To understand that the implications of policies goes way beyond the boarder line, and the more powerful the politics are the further the impact goes. This is precisely why, governments of the world must be accountable to their the whole world about their decisions and actions. Mainly because harm can not be undone, and no one can bring thousands of lives that have been taken unfairly in Palestine, Iraq, Yemen or anywhere else in the world.

Larger freedom means more space for mutual grounds, it means standing on the same base as equals. It means that the whole world is responsible for each and every country. There is no excuse for why a child starved to death in Africa, or why citizens from Cuba are imprisoned in USA jails without trial. There is no justification if a curd loses a limp because of not being able to reach the hospital, and no reason why thousands of Indonesians are dead today because of lack of services in emergencies.

What we need now is leaders of the world to feel responsible. And for them to come around and move a little to make space for one another so that we all stand as equals on common ground. The acts of terrorism in anywhere in this globe are not by mere coincidence, and while we engage in our self centered interests we must always keep in mind that what goes around, eventually, comes around.



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Israel's 'record is not reassuring'

BY RAMZY BAROUD

n independent and sovereign Palestinian state, with well-defined borders, territorial contiguity and integrity, economic promise and all the aspects that should define any self-respected state has been confined - since the signing of the Oslo peace agreement with Israel in 1993 to the rosy speeches of politicians and optimistic commentators in the West as well as in the Middle East.

The reality on the ground is starkly different. That disparity - between interpretation and reality - is perhaps the single most important factor that culminated in the eruption of the Palestinian uprising (Al Aqsa Intifada) in September

And now we face the same dilemma, the decades-old dichotomy that has defined the Arab-Israeli conflict since its foundation with the Palestinian refugee crisis in 1947-1948 and again in 1967. Since early days, Israel has crudely used the pretence of security to justify its wars, expulsion of the Palestinian population, the confiscation of Palestinian land and the maintaining of its inhumane military occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza following the

Since then and even before, dozens of UN Security Council resolutions and General Assembly resolutions have been passed, condemning Israel's action and demanding a swift Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Indeed, there is a wealth of UN resolutions that are vet to be carried out or even acknowledged, for that matter, one of which is Resolution 194, stipulating that Palestinian refugees "wishing to return to their homes ... should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date".

Today, Palestinian refugees, according to the United Nations, count up to five million, spread across the Middle East. A large number, which continue to live in refugee camps across Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, identifying with no entity other than Palestine.

The main fallacy of the so-called Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in the last 12 years was the complete omission or the indefinite postponement of fundamental Palestinian demands — demands sustained and cemented by international law and, most recently, the July 2004 ruling of the International Court of Justice. The problem lies in the Israeli occupation of Arab land. The Israeli military's control of Palestinian territories since 1967 has been anything but benign. It has invited a legacy of violence and counterviolence that has claimed the lives of thousands of Palestinians and Israelis. It has systematically and intentionally destroyed any chance for peace. It insisted to punish the victim for the sins of

Palestinians are victims, and their rights, security and welfare should be the priority of the international community. Israel has no right to demand security from its victims; it lost that right the moment it breached international law, when its tanks rolled onto Palestinian

Unfortunately, however, it is as if the opposite were true. Those who follow media coverage since the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat can draw only one conclusion: that Palestinians are at fault, and only the death of their extremist, uncompromising leader could bring peace or at least revive the deadlocked peace process.

This dreadful habit of blaming the victim has also defined US foreign policy and media discourse for years: only if Palestinians would unify their security forces, clamp down on terrorism, reform their political institutions, cease incitement and put down their weapons and become more democratic, could they become worthy peace partners. But even then, Israel is under no obligation to do much, since democratic or otherwise, the mere existence of Palestinians is prob-

This is not an exaggeration. The fact that the birth rate among Palestinians is higher than that among Israelis is termed a "demographic bomb", a problem in the eye of Israel that must be countered by any means necessary, including the fencing off and the caging of Palestinian towns and villages to keep the unwanted multitudes of people out of Israel's domain, while keeping Palestinian land.

Entire communities in the West Bank have lost their farms, freshwater sources, access to markets, schools and major cities. In short, their freedom has been sacrificed, so that the Israeli apartheid wall can continue to grow. Israel's wall will slice the West Bank into two main parts and slice the two parts into numerous others, separated by military zones, settlers bypass roads and other military installations meant to bolster Israel's security, or so we are told.

The occupied territories make up 22 per cent of the size of historic Palestine. But much of the little remaining has been stolen throughout the years, ethnically cleansed of its Palestinian inhabitants to make room for Israeli settlements, all illegal under international law.

Arafat's death on Nov. 11, 2004, has indeed "revived hope". But by hope, Israel and its friends mean the hope of returning to the Oslo legacy and the status quo that defined the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for years. Oslo has yielded nothing but a few symbolic gestures to the Palestinians. On the other hand, it won time and vigour for Israel's unilateral expansionist project.

Israel's real motives behind the impetus in the peace process are anything but a secret, and thus must not be seen as a Palestinian construct. While Israel is congratulated for its courage and "painful compromises" in deciding to "disengage" from Gaza, Israeli officials speak openly of Israel's dishonest objectives of wanting to partially withdraw from Gaza to simply strengthen its grip over the West Bank. Strangely enough, it was this repugnant Israeli ruse that was translated (thanks to Israel's friends in the media and in the US administration) into an Israeli gesture of good will. As revolting as the Israeli government's intentions are, they supposedly placed the ball into the Palestinian court. Palestinians are now expected to reciprocate an illusion deprived of any sub-

stance or value. A just peace is indeed possible, but not according to the current standards, which the Palestinian Authority has sadly accepted. If the two-state solution is to work, Israel must dismantle all its settlements from East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza and withdraw to the June 1967 borders, in accordance with UN resolutions 242 and 338. Palestinian refugees must be given the choice to return to their land, in accordance with UN Resolution 194. The Israeli wall must come down, in accordance to the ruling of the International Court of Justice of July 2004. But, more important than numbers, dates and figures, Israel must accept its responsibility for Palestinian dispossession and suffering for the last five decades. If such willingness cannot be found in Israel, the international community must do all it can to ensure the implementation of the law it helped draft.

Palestinians, on the other hand, must continue to create alliances among peace forces around the world, including Israel itself, and under no circumstance should they forfeit their right to defend them-

Shortly before his untimely death, Palestinian-American professor Edward Said wrote in Al Ahram Weekly: "So far, all we hear is that Palestinians must give up violence and condemn terror. Is nothing substantive ever demanded of Israel? Can it go on doing what it has without a thought for the consequences? That is the real question of its existence: whether it can exist as a state like all others, or must always be above the constraints and duties of all other states in the world today. The record is not reassuring."

The writer is a veteran Arab-American journalist, the editor-in-chief of PalestineChronicle.com and a programme producer at Aljazeera Satellite Television. He contributed this article to The Jordan Times.

COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

he recent reports about armed followers of

Another rising form of religious militancy

some of the Salafi extremist groups entering mosques brandishing their guns and demanding that even the government appointed Friday Sermon preachers step down from the speaker's platform so that their speaker takes over is a serious new development. One is inclined to pray that our extremist brothers have not decided to take on a more militant posture at this time, especially with the war on terror still at its zenith. This is exactly what Common Sense was pointing out in the last column in noting that the Government is indeed giving the extremists what they need in terms of a signal to proceed with taking over all the religious activities in our society and imposing their own uncompromising dogma on the good Moslem citizens of this country. Because they are unable to develop a majority following amongst the mostly moderate Moslems of Yemen, they are now insisting that any new mosques built should be controlled by extremist preachers and caretakers. With most traditional Moslem institutions being either marginalized by the state and not enjoying the privileges that these extremists have been allowed to enjoy over the last couple of decades, including the right to roam around in bands of armed men, even in the middle of the major towns, these extremists have become a frightening sight to most common citizens. Now with their open assaults on mosques, the moderate peace loving worshippers will not even be able to enter mosques to pray until they swear allegiance to the extreme renditions of Islam that these militants insist on imposing upon the society. These increasing attacks on the Houses of God are furthering the difficulties of the mostly good citizens of Yemen, who wish to go about their lives in peaceful atmospheres, where they can worship Allah as they see fit - a liberty they have enjoyed for 15 centuries - no matter what Islamic sect they adhere to. One is not sure if the political wing of the Islah (Yemeni Congregation for Reform) Party sees this as a positive reflection of the political ideals of the Islah, as the observer knows many Islah members who have not to his knowledge shown any signs of militancy of this nature. However, the majority opinion of the people "in the street" is that these militants do share many dogmatic views with the Islah and the party has not voiced any objections to such aggressive propagation of the religious persuasions. In fact, many suggest that the Islah Political Wing tends to play a less obvious effort to represent a religious persuasion of sorts, but in reality they emanate from the same ideological roots and origins and enjoy the financial backing from the same external and internal supporters that the extremists have access to. Whatever the case, it is imperative that the ruling party, the General People's Congress understands that these extremists are now taking on more daring displays of their muscle, even in mosques of neighborhoods that are either GPC or open areas where neither has yet established full control. This means that the GPC will either have to assert its hold in these areas, before the extremists find that there is really nothing to stop these aggressive advances they are building up, or else allow the rest of the citizens the right to defend themselves against these forceful intrusions into the neighborhood

If they have not yet shown a direct military threat to the GPC, these extremists are no doubt testing to what extent the GPC is ready to present a challenge to this rising degree of militancy displayed by the militant extremists. With the government now embroiled in a head on colli sion with a religious group of a different caliber (which is closer to the traditional renditions of Islam that Yemenis have adhered to for the last fifteen centuries), the extremists are taking full advantage of the situation, without regard to the sensible religious persuasions of the communities in question. All of this gives rise to a scary feeling among the general population of Yemen, that our country is being directed towards a greater degree of chaos, that these militants thrive on to impose their religious (and eventually political) dogma.

In such a venue, it is impossible to believe that Yemen can move forward in its democratization process nor can it ever hope of seeing its economic development proceed in keeping with the visions and plans laid out by the Government or the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people for enhanced livelihoods. For one thing, these extremists have no "democratic culture" in their nurturing or even political philosophy. On the other hand, they are not concerned with economic issues, because those who are affiliated with these extremists of the Salafi persuasion already enjoy ample ways to derive income that are not causing them to worry about their wellbeing. They, in fact, do not even have to be productive, for their extremist religious persuasions is a gateway to the means for sustenance without having to really work for a living. With job opportunities limited and rising poverty, it is easy to see how these extremists can find the recruits they need to impose their extremist views on the rest of the population, who are still inclined to earn their own means of livelihood and feel very strongly that these extremists do not share the same religious and political views with them. Yemen's future is now at stake. Shall Yemen be turned

into a senseless religious battleground that extremists have been longing to see happening after the Government has found itself now alone after it has over the last two decades marginalized all other political or religious persuasions that do not see eye to eye with these exported extremist renditions of Islam. The extremists now probably sense that the way is paved for them to impose their will in a more apparent militant manner, even in the cities, where they have up to now kept a low profile.

Letters to the Editor

Muslim leaders the problem

uslim leaders look at

M their own interests and not those of the country. Is SANA'A there any leader whom is willing stay in power for

only five year or ten years in the Arab world? They all keep the leadership in their own families. We need true democracy, one or two terms of leadership, not eternal Salim A Salim bolayaman@yahoo.com Islam is a

religion of peace

n reply to the letter of

Gentle Giant published in Yemen Times, issue 828 on 28 March 2005, I would like to give this gentle man some few hints about what Islam means so he will understand that Islam is not forced everywhere not only in Yemen.

First of all, dear Gentle Giant, Islam is Allah's (God) final world to humankind. It is a religion of peace, joy, security and safety and not the opposite as many think. It is meant for all human beings and it is for the good of humanity. Islam talks to and appeals to Allah's soul in man so when one feels that rendering his soul may

Letter of the day

Oat and cigarettes: a way to die

TOFEEK AL-SARARI

T ow can we solve the addiction to qat and Coigarettes? Smoking and chewing qat are two persistent problems in Yemen. They are destroying our country. These habits break off the relations among the family members. Husbands often prefer buying these two harmful things to food for their children. Add to that the waste of money and time. Cigarettes and qat bring disease and bankruptcy.

It seems to me that educated people should find a solution to these harmful

habits with the help of the government. For example, they should take punitive measures against officials who smoke and chew qat in government offices.

Why don't we take care of ourselves and save ourselves from death? Why don't we save our money for our children's education and standard of living? Why don't we raise our nation without smoking and qat?

Finally, I would like to advise addicted men to stop smoking and chewing qat. I know that it is difficult for them to do, but with step-bystep self-training, impossible things can be easily

do something good for this religion and win Allah's mercy and forgiveness, he never hesitates in giving that sacred soul back to its lord. Thus, a religion of peace and mercy cannot use force, a religion of security and safety will not support terrorism and violence, and a religion of mediation will never recpath and every body has a mind so he can decide. And

ommend extremism. In short, Islam, was not, is not, will not be forced upon

achieved. any people. This is clear very its very beginning, our prophet and his followers lived having Jews and Christians as neighbors. Neither Jews or Christians were forced to change their religions nor Muslims were forced to stay Muslims forever. And so are we today! Islam just shows the right

in response to his statement

"Islam is forced upon Yemeni Muslims in particular," I should like to say that Islam did not come to Yemen but that Yemenis went to it willingly and embraced it. Now prove that other religions save Islam are not forced upon people everywhere whether intentionally or without intention Mohammed Al-Ra'awy

National Institute

Enough of al-Haifi

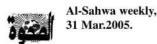
t is really boring to keep I reading articles written by al-Haifi, because he is always discussing issues regarding Bush and Sharon and neglecting urgent issues taking place in Yemen . He forgets poverty, illnesses. the lack of security, stability and progress, the violations of human rights, the nepotism nepotism and the favoritism.

Please, try to understand the Hadith of the prophet (pbuh) saying the one who is good is the one who takes care of his family and I am the best to take care of my family. If you are good, you have to take care of your family, which is Yemen then you can solve the problems of others.

mohamad abdu alutaifi@yahoo.com

Yemeni Press,

A week in review Presented by Mohammed Khidr



Main headlines

- New oil scandal, the government
- squanders hundred million dollars
 In new clashes with the government, a number of al-Houthi followers fall dead including the leading figure Ahmed al-Daie
- In an incident deemed the biggest, the marginalized people camp in the capital catches fire
- Eritrean authorities arrest 14
 Yemeni fishermen, seizing their
 boats
- The government offers impractical conditions to university professors
- Teachers union intends to file lawsuit against the ministry of education
- Security authorities in Ibb raise their military campaign
- Tribes of Nahd and Al Sulaiman wrap up their disputes

Columnist Zaid al-Shami wrote in his article that the constitution gives he citizen the right to express his opinion with legitimate peaceful means and the law has defined controls of expressing by demonstrations and marches. The law allowed that on condition it would not change into a means of chaos or riot or damage public and private properties. The law also obliged security authorities to take necessary measures and arrangements to protect the demonstrators and provide security for them on condition the side organizing the demonstration should notify the security authorities about the demonstration or the march.

Two weeks before limited demonstrations took to the streets I a number of major cities to protest to the sales tax law that the official media rushed to herald its benefits. The ministry of interior, security committee and official press speedily accused parties of the JMP holding them responsible for consequences of those demonstrations. To that, the parties of the JMP denied categorically any relation to that, confirming at the same time the citizen's right to peaceful demonstration to express his opinion. It was expected that the government would receive that denial and welcome it to indicate that the demonstrators do not represent a certain a large segment of the people. Wisdom dictates that the government should have called parties of the JMP, the private sector and trade unions to dialogue on the sales tax in order to come out with joint vision. To the contrary of that the official press readily expressed astonishment of the JMP denial of having any relationship with the demonstrations and made the parties of the JMP target for its campaign holding them responsible for all bad conditions of the past, the present and future. This means that opposition parties now have no other choice but to go ahead to lead the masses with peaceful means and legally-guaranteed methods to express resentment towards the bad living conditions, the aggravation of poverty and absence of justice and equality.



Al- Muaaradha (Opposition) weekly, organ of the National Opposition Council, 31 Mar.2005.

Main headlines

- Thorough study at the parliament on wages strategy
- National opposition parties welcome dialogue with ruling party
 Human right minister calls on those
- Human right minister cans on those interested in our country to shift from appeals to action
 Tens of al-Houthi supporters arrest-
- Tens of al-Houthi supporters arrested, others escaped after confrontations with government forces
- Yemen and France discuss support for democratic governance and enhancement of security in Yemen
- Workshop in Taiz on media training and qualification
- Yemen experiences water disaster

Lawyer Abdulaziz al-Samawi writes an article in which says those who thought that by the killing of Hussein al-Houthi the insurgency came to its end have been mistaken. The rebellion led by al-Houthi is not attributed to a personal ambition that could end by killing of the person. It is rather a collective ideological thought the generations have suffered much from and Yemenis have killed each other because of it.

What has happened in the past and what is happening at present or in future in Saada and maybe in other parts of Yemen, confirm that fighting thought could be only with enlightened national thought and the use of force as the only means could have no avail and won't solve the problem.



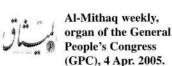
Al-Tagamou weekly, organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation, 4 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- The world mourns the decease of the Pope
- Syria announces its full pullout from Lebanon territories
- Warplane crashed near Sana'a International Airport
- An attempted assassination against
- director Saadah security Violent clashes in Saudi Arabia

Writer Yahya Saleh says there is no difference regarding reforms coming from inside or the outside. The important thing is that they are done and to be implemented and that should not be in a selective manner but as an integrated system including all political, economic, social, cultural, educational and

even security aspects. In fact, the Arab regimes have, throughout decades, aborted the effectiveness of any reforms just for the purpose of tightening their grip on governing their peoples. The Arab regimes have devoted all potentials and destinies of the Arab peoples for the continuation of their stay in power and expulsion of vital forces and any opposition standing on their way. This situation has taken our Arab countries to a cull de sac and a state of backwardness in all walks of life. Some regimes have gone farther in rendering their republics into hereditary regimes and disregard the will and rights of the peoples. However, those regimes so easily abide by programs on economic reform imposed from outside by international organizations as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. They also obey instructions of foreign donor countries and organizations and implement them in detail. The reason of that is that the economic reforms imposed by outside would affect the peoples directly with their impact. When reforms are related to political, security and cultural aspects those regimes procrastinate and delay any measures leading to any changes or political reforms, whether resulting from local or international pressures. The reason is that such reforms would touch directly the ruling regimes and shake the land from under their chairs.



Main headlines

- The president welcomes results of Yemeni-Tunisian commission meetings
- Army and security forces surround reaming remnants of rebels in Razamat to force them surrender or face death
- Fish Wealth ministry resorts to justice to retrieve \$33 million from investors
- Roundtable conference on social development, work in Yemen begins Saturday
- American Deputy ambassador to Yemen regrets opposition's non-

response to GPC's initiative for expanding the woman participation

- expanding the woman participation
 Human Rights Minister asks the journalists to move to action and present a draft law alternative to present press law
- First conference on illiteracy eradication and diversified skills to begin on 11 April

Al-Mithaq editorial says the decision taken by the general committee of the GPC on 25 last March concerning dialogue with opposition parties and civil society organizations and the formation of a committee for this question, has received large-scale responses, some have been positive. The commission has last week praised the stances of some political parties and non-governmental organizations that welcomed the GPC's call.

The commission's decision is not for bidding but rather out of a genuine desire of the GPC's leadership on the importance of activating the dialogue among the political forces and increase in demonstration of credibility. The call expresses a genuine intention and sincere patriotic feeling. The GPC has no preconditions for the dialogue with opposition parties but it is necessary to be based on solid foundations which are almost agreed upon. Those bases are mainly the respect of national constants, the constitution and the law, in addition to the significant basis of serving the homeland, the citizens and enhancement of cohesion and the national unity. The expansion of dialogue scope to include parties of the national council, parties of the JMP and the civil society organizations, active in the political life, reflects the GPC's open vision to various active forces in the society and its keenness that all should participate in exerting efforts devoted to serving the homeland and the people. The decision also reflects the GPC's appreciation and deep understanding that the various active social forces are concerned with issues of the homeland and it is mistaken to presume that those issues are the interest of certain forces alone.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation (NUO), 29 Mar. 2005.

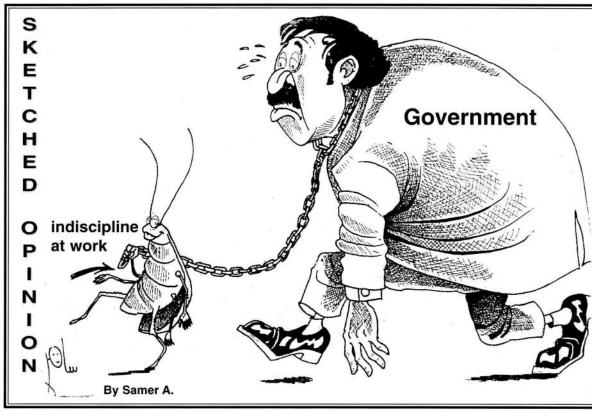
Main headlines

- Security authorities launch military campaign on Razamat and Sha'fia areas in Saadah
- Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia gave instructions on attacking the British embassy in Sana'a
- Al-Atwani: political reform, demand of the NUO and the call for dialogue has not come through partisan channels
- Yemen hands over 25 wanted Saudis to Saudi authorities

Abdulaziz Ismael writes saying the recent developments in Lebanon is following two courses; the first is the explosions aimed at a certain sectarian and commercial area and the second is the attempts to internationalize the Lebanese question, as exposed in the report by the fact-finding committee regarding the case of al-Hariri assassination. This matter requires from all the Lebanese to take great precaution against what the fifth column is aiming at by such acts and practices.

The fact-finding committee report has expanded to discuss security, political issues and topics related to the internal affairs. This situation in fact necessitates warning by all Lebanese political forces and should be requested to investigate into the committee's tasks, which are confined to investigation into al-Hariri assassination. The report recommends the implementation of the UN resolution 1559 that targets Hizbollah and then the internationalization of the Lebanese issue and opening the way for the American intervention in the Lebanese internal affairs.

On the way leading to internationalization of the Lebanese issue, the American eyes are set on Syria. It has



either to comply with implementing all American demands regarding Iraq, the Palestinian cause and its national faction and the political reform according to the American-Zionist dictates, or otherwise the activation of the report by the fact-finding committee and continuation in raking fires of sectarian and ethnical conflict in Lebanon. Along all that accusation, fingers would continue to be pointed to Syria.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 31 Mar.2005.

Main headlines

GPC's General Commission calls for joining forces for building and development of the homeland Security agreement with the

Emirates, meeting of authorities of borders with Oman

Tunisian foreign minister visits

Yemen

In a government comment present-

 In a government comment presented by human rights minister, Yemen deals in transparency with international reports

Saudi investors discuss establishment of projects in Hadramout

 FM to visit Russia and Belarus in mid April

The newspaper's editorial says the

new events of sedition in the governorate of Saadah have disclosed the ugly role played by those who would not like but fomenting seditions in the country. The newspaper says the new events have been instigated by Badruddin al-Houthi who has been urged by some to ignite fires and intrigues against the homeland. He and those instigating him are enemies to the republican, democratic pluralist system and deny the people's right to choose their rulers by their free will and via polling boxes. Those who do not want this homeland to entertain security and stability have found in that man their goals to push him towards committing new follies against the homeland.

مسابقة أجمل صورة

ملاحظات	الزمان			المكان	الحدث	
	إلى	من	5 3 5			
الدخول	8:00 م	3:00 م	الخميس ٤ ابريل	منتدى القرن 21- الدور		
بدون أي رسوم	12:00 م	9:00 ص	الجمعة ٥ ابريل	الثالث - مبنى صحيفة يمن	معرض الصور	
	1 3.00	1 2100	Va/16	تايمز		

لتصويت

سيتم التصويت على أفضل الصور من قبل زوار المعرض لعدد مائتين صورة تقريباً.

- التصويت من قبل الجمهور سيكون المرحلة الأولى للفوز في جوائز المسابقة والمحددة بنسبة ، ٢%، وسيتم إختيار الصور الفائزة (من الصور التي صوت عليها الجمهور) في المرحلة الثانية والأخيرة من قبل لجنة التحكيم (بنسبة ، ٤%).
 - لكل زائر صوت واحد فقط، و لا يحق له التصويت أكثر من مرة.
- يسمح للتصويت من فوق السن السادسة عشر فقط وعبر بطاقة إثبات الهوية.

 * سيتم الإعلان عن الفائزين وموعد تسليم الجوائز في العدد رقم ٨٣٨، والذي سيصدر في تاريخ ٢ مايو ٢٠٠٥.

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Business

Tourism in Yemen

Marketing boost needed

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

is all about marketing these days. To persuade people into buying the same electronic device they already have, but with some extra decorative features, you must engage marketing in the operation. To encourage people to read your book you have to convince them that you are selling them knowledge. To attract them into visiting your country you can relay on this powerful

Marketing doesn't mean cheating. Some people may associate the two words. However, marketing is about making your product known to others by advertisements and promotions. Otherwise, you will be just like the guy who kept winking at the girl in the dark! No matter how good your product is, nobody will know about it without marketing. We may call this era as the marketing era as consumers have grown aware and selective with so many options open to them.

Tourism is an industry that needs to be marketed. The tourism sector in our country has to catch up with this concept. Tourism can be an important source of income for our country and for the businesses within it. Tourism has become a major industry in many countries

According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), revenues from tourism accounted for more than eight percent of the world merchandise exports and one third of the world trade in services in 1995. The percentage of tourism to developing countries has increased constantly over the past two



Sana'a old city is a major attraction point for tourists in Yemen

decades. In 1995, the "third world" received about 170 million international tourist arrivals, which is 30 percent of the world's total. The revenue generated from tourism to the third world in that year was \$US113 million. Tourism to the third world overwhelmingly originates from developed countries. This has been termed "North-Southtourism" and is the second largest source of income for developing coun-

tries. A case in point is the statistic that in 1991 more than 20 percent of the population of Germany had travel experience to a third world country.

Almost all Yemenis are aware of the tourism potential of our country. Most of us often discuss this issue and wonder why this sector isn't improved. It is generally agreed that if tourism in Yemen is used to its full potential, it can work miracles for the economy.

In my opinion it is about marketing, or a lack of it. Commercials air on satellite channels persuading people into visiting countries in the Far East. Along with the new tourist attractions, some Arab countries have been known as famous tourism sites for decades. All these countries, and their official tourism bodies, have acknowledged the power of mass media and other marketing means in attracting tourism

With a single advertisement campaign on TV you invade the world. You enter to hundreds of thousands of homes all over the world. Think of the possibilities of having people attracted to our diverse geographical sites and weather, our Islamic and pre-Islamic monument and heritage. How many of them will decide to give it a try, attracted by the beautiful scenes they may see on TV through a well prepared advertisement campaign?

Yemen doesn't look as destroyed and undeveloped as the western media portrays it. On the contrary, it is a beautiful country offering a diverse climate and culture. It is tempting to many as there are a variety of attractions to suit various types of tourists. For those interested in history, it is the land of the Oueen of Sheba with a rich history of many kingdoms and eras. For those interested in sea activities, we have an environmentally healthy coastline 2000 km in length. For those interested in seclusion, Yemen has many islands that are in themselves very attractive.

It is important to enhance the image of Yemen to attract tourists, whatever their interest. Although our image has been tarnished by Western media, we must show Yemen as it is. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and to the Ministry of Media and Mass Communication should prepare a well planned advertisement campaign showing Yemen in its true colors. This advertisement campaign should target possible tourists from Arab and International states. An advertisement campaign on Arab TV and/or International channels will open the world's eyes to what we can offer them.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	188.6200	188.8500
Sterling Pound	353.5900	354.0200
Euro	242.9900	243.2900
Saudi Rial	50.2900	50.3600
Kuwaiti Dinar	645.8000	646.5900
UAE Dirhem	51.3500	51.4200
Egyptian Pound	32.5100	32.5500
Bahraini Dinar	500.3400	500.9500
Qatari Rial	51.8200	51.8800
Jordanian Dinar	266.2200	266.5500
Omani Rial	489.9300	490.5300
Swiss Franc	156.3600	156.5500
Swedish Crown	26.4900	26.5200
Japanese Yen	1.7454	1.7475

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

State Real Estate **Authority** reforms itself

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ources at the State Authority for Real Estate say that the Authority is undergoing measures to improve investment in the state's real estate in an attempt to increase annual revenues.

The Authority has commenced several projects to develop and improve Yemen's cities and seaports in conjunction with the World Bank. The plan includes the governorates of Sana'a, Hodeidah and Hadramout at an estimated cost of \$96 million over a 12-year

The Authority has already begun coordination with a number of relevant organisations in a bid to curb repetition between its activities and those of other groups to exceed the YR 500 million that it earned in revenue last year.

Democratic capitalism,

Butlers, Bakers, and Capitalists?

BY ROBERT J. SHILLER

he communist revolution that spanned the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was about concentrating government ownership of capital. Then, in the closing decades of the twentieth century, a counter-revolution swept the world, pushing for just the opposite: disperse capital as widely as possible by getting everybody involved as owners.

Now the counter-revolution is being carried to its logical extreme: if everyone can be an owner, then everyone can be a capitalist, down to the barber, the waiter, and the trash collector. A specter is haunting us again; this time it is the dream of truly democratizing

But turning everyone into a capitalist may be as impossible as the communist dream of turning everyone into an inspired socialist worker. Interest in the arcane principles of finance has always been an inclination particular to people who love to pore over numerical tables and study mathematical formulas. These people sometimes make themselves rich, and it would seem nice if everyone could do that. But the varying talents, foibles, and psychological predilections of men and women make this impossible.

The new spirit of democratic capitalism goes by different names and mobilizes a variety of symbols. But, however we describe it, the idea that the masses should be owners is growing everywhere.

In Britain, for example, Tony Blair articulates a vision of "a nation of savers and asset-holders." His plans have been called "asset-based policies," a term that has grown in popu-

American Welfare Policy. In the United States, President George W. Bush calls his dream the "ownership society." In China, the National People's Congress in 2004 re-defined entrepreneurs and individual proprietors as "builders of the socialist cause," and included them in the Patriotic United Front.

Governments around the world are spending money on regulating and monitoring their stock markets so that they are safer for individual investors, and so that investor interest in these markets will grow. They are also trying to develop their housing finance in order to expand homeownership. Some are talking about letting people own their social security contributions, in the form of personal retirement accounts, their health care through health savings accounts, and their education through educational savings accounts and school vouchers.

This is an attempt at a real revolution, not a return to an earlier capitalist past. It is about experimenting with creative new economic institutions that have never been seen before. The general concept of "ownership" is not by itself a roadmap to a successful new economy, and there are myriad interpretations of how to carry out the revolution. Revolutions are always experiments, and they are always an adven-

Some of the new policies seem exemplary. Tony Blair's Labor government is implementing a plan that, beginning in April, will establish a personal Child Trust Fund of £250 to £500 for every newborn. Parents can then make contributions to their child's trust fund which can grow tax-free, and can

larity since Michael Sherraden's 1991 choose how to allocate the Fund going up. book Assets and the Poor: A New among investments. The purpose of the gifts is to "encourage parents and children to develop the saving habit and engage with financial institutions."

> This is a well-designed, small-scale plan that will cost the government fairly little: £500, even invested for twenty years, will not be enough to lift someone out of poverty. The trust funds' real promise will consist in educating citizens about investments. That's a good start, particularly if Blair's policy is copied elsewhere.

> But other proposals carry bigger risks, notably the privatization of retirement pensions, which is talked about in many countries, and that some including Great Britain, Chile, Sweden, and Mexico - have already put in place, at least partly.

> Bush's plan to reform Social Security in the US - at least what is known of it – represents the ownership revolution's cutting edge. Young people in the US who opt for it would see most of the traditional pension benefit replaced when they retire decades from now with proceeds from personal accounts that they would be free to allocate among a range of investments, including stocks. Whatever traditional benefit remains would not be enough to live on; retirees would be at the mercy of the markets for the bulk of their income.

> The outcome of any such experiment is impossible to foresee, because other countries' experience can never be a perfect guide to a new system - the situation is never exactly the same in a different environment. A privatized social security system like the one Bush proposes might turn out very well, assuming that people behave sensibly and/or the stock market keeps

But there is also a higher risk of disaster, owing to a seemingly inborn human tendency to extrapolate past returns. Investors could create a stockmarket bubble, encouraging even more naïve investors to concentrate their personal retirement accounts in the stock market - and leaving them dangerously exposed when it crashes.

There is also a related risk that private accounts would cause a further drop in the personal saving rate. The saving rate is the lifeblood of any economy, because foreigners cannot be expected to finance capital investment forever. But all the talk of wondrous returns could spur what psychologists call "wishful thinking bias," leading people to believe that their personal accounts will be so valuable in the future that outside saving is unneces-

Encouraging widespread capital ownership could potentially give rise to good policies. But do we really want to extend such policies to areas like pensions, health care, and education? After all, owning capital - whether it is stocks or real estate - entails risks, and the need to insure against these risks is why capitalist countries built traditional safety nets in the first place. Revolutions are exciting, but we must make sure that we still have a home to return to when the barricades come down and the dust settles.

Robert J. Shiller is Professor of Economics at Yale University, and author of Irrational Exuberance and The New Financial Order: Risk in the 21st Century.

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Saudi businessmen invest in Hadramout

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

nessmen have agreed to cooperate in investments al-Mukalla, Hadramout.

Sources at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hadramout say that the visits by the Saudi businessmen will enhance investment opportunities and consolidate trade and economic interests between the two countries. The Chamber has been active recently in negotiating other significant agreements to boost investments throughout Yemen.

If the investments in Hadramout are

successful, they will become a model for investments in Yemen. By the end of 2004, Hadramout had hosted severemeni and Saudi busi- al meetings between Yemeni and Saudi businessmen regarding the new Arab-Yemeni cement company in Mukalla. The company's capital was estimated at \$250 million with a production capacity of 200 million tons.

Saudi investors indicate that they are satisfied with their Yemeni partners. particularly the expatriates who possess large financial assets in Saudi Arabia. In 2004 there were 33 investment projects granted in Hadramout to expatriates. Sources at the Office of Expatriates affairs in Hadramout said these projects attracted 1257 people in the excavation and fisheries industries.

Yemeni industry impeded

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

- ndustrial experts say that Yemeni industry remains impeded but that there are still a number of successful industries in the country, particularly in the food and beverage sectors.

Sources blame the continued weakness of Yemeni industry on price rises of raw materials, and increased customs charges. Domestic industrialists often complain of unfair competition to their products as a result of smuggling.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has recently announced that there are new cement investment projects estimated at \$700 million and capable of producing three million tons, and iron projects with the potential to produce 300 thousand tons of steel a year.

The availability of these investment opportunities must be promoted to gain the attention of foreign investors.

Members of the Economic and Industrial Committee of the Shura Council recently discussed industrial hindrances with officials at the Ministry of Industry, the General Authority for Investment, and a number of businesspeople. The participants called on relevant parties to work to advance the industrial sector, setting up a joint committee with the private sector to study the possible solutions.

Modern times

By Yemen Times Staff

emen used to considered a backward country. It was to be referred to as an example of medieval conditions, habits and attitudes. Streets were not paved, there was no sewage disposal, news spread by word of mouth. Many people did not have a clock or wrist watch, and relied on the position of the sun and the call to prayer.

But even when in possession of a clock, women had a timetable of there own, dating back to the time of the Prophet, when every new day started at six a clock in the evening and hours were counted in two cycles from 1 to 12. Being invited at "eight" was a lunch invitation for 2.00 p.m., being asked to come at "two" was a dinner arrangement for 8.00 p.m.

People went to the suq every day to purchase food or household items, clothes or tobacco, and paid in cash. Traffic lights did not exist, and policemen did not attempt to reign in unruly motorists. Instead they eagerly guarded ministries and modest banking institutes. Dhababs only appeared in extremely small sizes, and only and could be stopped by using a unique sign language.

Then, slowly and gradually, but increasingly, Arabia Felix began to be modernised. To the average visitor, this process was intriguing. The ability to walk down the street without being shrouded in a cloud of dust was matched by the pleasure of seeing garbage being collected and removed. TV spots instructed the people to make use of towels offered next to wash basins for drying wet hands upon washing and not for blowing their noses. Foreigners venturing into hotels

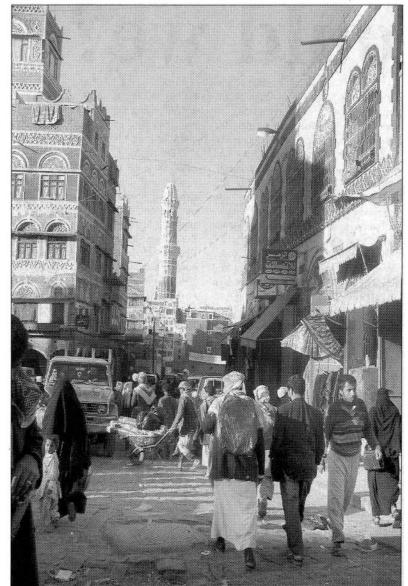
or shops were no longer automatically addressed as a brother or sister ("akhy" or "oukhty"), which Yemen lovers were pleased to accept as honorary titles, but were all of a sudden considered to be "ya sadiq" or "madam" respectively.

Banks have also grown in number and in size. Some even advertise the possibility of getting cash with your credit card, which perhaps patriotically, still accept only Yemeni credit cards. For foreigners it is still impossible to obtain cash with your credit card at a bank counter. This makes the disillusioned foreigner almost crave for the old days when you traveled with all the money you needed on the back of a

While the construction of the underground passage at Tahrir square and the flyover at the Al-Mogly and Zubairy crossing were logistic necessities, the installation of traffic lights was not accompanied by a nearly so ready acceptance from motorists. These lights are considered more as suggestions than laws and are consistently neglected.

Modern dhababs have grown in size and proudly bear plates indicating their destination, the only problem being that passengers waiting for a journey cannot read the destination until the car is almost at eye level by which time it is too late to signal a stop and so often stop every passing van.

There are still intersections with no lights but policemen to direct the traffic instead, the idea of which undermined by their lack of training in actually conducting the passing cars. Particularly at rush hour, they can be seen despairing and flapping their arms in all directions, sometimes becoming so desperate as to leave their posts to lament with a friend, leaving drivers to



The hustles and bustles in old city of Sana'a; something that has not changed

their own devices

For a very long time a prestigious Yemeni would not have left his house without his jambiyya. In modern times another object has become mandatory: the mobile phone. This should qualify as undeniable proof of Yemeni ingenuity to quickly absorb novelties. If not carried in the owner's hand while being listened to or spoken into - a process sometimes rendered all the more difficult with a bulging qat cheek - the mobile is exhibited dangling next to the jambiyya. (There is an impressive number of fake mobiles only used for decoration.) Why make an arrangement straight away or settle for a date at once? Why decide at the end of a meeting when to gather next time - is it not much more convenient to settle such questions via one's mobile? And if, at the very last moment, you reconsider the matter and prefer another time - no problem, your mobile will tell everybody else about this new turn of

In earlier times, when time did not matter (or so we are told) people gathered for a meal or the more modern ones later on for a party and talked to each other and discussed a chosen subject. This is becoming more impossible as every participant keeps being distracted by a ringing mobile diverting the attention of the guest to some other matter. And a true Yemeni is also a born acrobat, managing to use a mobile while dipping bread into steaming salta or attacking a specially juicy mutton bone - a breathtaking new feature in which Yemenis have surpassed the respective development in the socalled industrialised countries.

Modern times are an overwhelming challenge. Who would not want to participate in the race for universal recog-

Mother's Day: something new for me

BY AZIZA ABDULLA AND HODA M. ALAINI halaini@msn.com FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

For me it is something new. To hear something such as Mother's Day. It is different from what I know... I only know that every day is my day.

As long as we live with people, we have to do so. We have to celebrate with them today. But I don't know how! How can I tell my loved ones, today is my day? I want to tell them I am the happiest anyhow. I feel the sun rises only for me. I am the queen all my life, not just now As long as they are healthy, successful and happy. That is enough for me. As long as my stars know. My four stars shining around me in the sky. And my eight diamonds piling through. They are like me

looking for more diamonds to play. Around me and around them too That's what I want to tell my Star today. My loved ones know what star I mean, I am sure they know. He is my goal, my soul. He is the one lighting my way When he does that, my dream then will come through. Then I will have the moon in my

hands all the way. To whom it may concern, I want to show. I just want to tell them, women are not like cows. We are human beings like them anyway. We breathe and feel and think anyhow. We read all the stories of Tolstoy. We like to travel, write, and read about Mao. We like to see our rights That is what will make us then

Bellow, who was ambivalent about believe it's true. whether he believed in God. "No argu-That's what it means ment can be made for it, but it's just as in our real day.

Saul Bellow, US author and Nobel winner, dead at 89

By GREG FROST

aul Bellow, who rose from writing book reviews for \$10 apiece to become one of America's greatest novelists after World War II, passed away on Tuesday at age 89.

Friend and lawyer Walter Pozen said Bellow died of natural causes at his home in Brookline, Massachusetts, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Nobel Prize, and three National Book Awards, Bellow was the author of such novels as "The Adventures of Augie March," "Herzog," and "Henderson the Rain King."

His work touched on the essence of human existence, the experience of immigrants and Jews, and class and social mobility in 20th century America.

"Saul Bellow was not only a great writer, he was also a superb teacher and friend — a whole and marvelous man," said Boston University President Emeritus John Silber, who helped recruit the author to the school in 1993.

Born in 1915 in Canada to Russian immigrants, the young Bellow moved with his family to Chicago, the city with which his work would become most closely associated.

Bellow's mother wanted her son to be a Talmudic scholar, and he could read Hebrew before he entered kindergarten, but young Bellow always knew he wanted to be a writer.

"From my earliest days I had a conviction that I was here to write certain things and so from the age of 13, I kept working at that," he told Britain's Guardian newspaper in 1997.

After serving in the Merchant Marine during World War II, Bellow spent time as a self-described Bohemian in New York's Greenwich Village and supported himself writing book reviews.

His first published novel came in 1944 with "Dangling Man," but his literary career really only took off with 1953's "The Adventures of Augie March," a saga of an amiable but aimless young Chicago man borne along by the forces around him.

Bellow's greatest critical success was 1975's "Humboldt's Gift," which won him the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes.

Themes of death and mortality run through many of Bellow's works, and two near-death experiences marked the early and late stages of the author's life.

The first occurred when Bellow was eight years old and was hospitalized for six months with a respiratory infection.

In 1995, Bellow ate a toxic fish while vacationing in the Caribbean. Bacteria attacked his nervous system, and he spent five weeks in intensive care. It took the aging author more than a year to recover.

Bellow's five marriages resulted in four children. His fifth wife, Janis Freedman, gave birth to daughter Naomi Rose in 1999 when Bellow was

"I learned that the sexual revolution is a very bloody affair, like most revolutions," Bellow told an interviewer in 1997 when asked for his thoughts on marriage.

He spent his later years teaching literature at Boston University, although he stopped holding regular classes several years ago because of declining health, the school said.

Bellow could be a cantankerous personality, bemoaning the quality of contemporary literature and the decline of reading in American society.

In an interview with Reuters in 1998, Bellow said: "There are only a few wonderful writers around, and then there's the field, as they say in horse rac-

He cited Philip Roth, Don DeLillo and Denis Johnson as contemporary writers he liked, but slammed Tom Wolfe as a "very gifted journalist," but not much of a novelist.

Asked about his thoughts on what happens after death, Bellow offered two scenarios: oblivion or immortality.

"My intuition is immortality," said

Illiteracy still increasing

-Reuters

By Yasser al-Mayaysi YEMEN TIMES STAFF

likely as oblivion.'

The Arab Human Development Report of 2002 confirmed that illiteracy is spreading in the Arab World and is hindering development, making the region less developed than Spain - the least developed country in the EU at that time.

The rate of illiteracy in the Arab world is still over 60 per cent and is increasing, making it the greatest regional barrier to development.

The Yemeni Government announced a long-term strategy for the eradication of illiteracy in Law No. 28, 1998. The strategy is being carried out throughout the country and aims to educate around 5.282 million illiterate people over the age of ten. The implementation of the strategy includes four phases, and will end in 2020.

The majority of illiterate people in Yemen are those who drop out of or do not commence schooling, sometimes due to a lack of classrooms. The number of children who are not enrolled in schools reached around 180030, and the figures of the Central Organization for Illiteracy and Adult Teaching indicate that over 105,000 illiterate people were taught across the country between 2004-2005.

The rate of students who drop out of primary schools ranges from between 20-30 percent, and 40 percent of children do not have access to primary education.

Let's ponder it

What is friendship?

BY MOHAMMED Y. AL-SOFI HODEIDAH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

s the humanity develops, and becomes more dominated by materialism, the meanings of spiritual values are often tangled. People of today are no longer keeping

the morals of the people of yesterday. Of these spiritual human relations that have been negatively affected is "friendship". This sacred relationship is misinterpreted in this age. When we ask someone answers about the meaning of friendship, one often hears pragmatically defined relations and material interests that have nothing to do with the real meaning of word.

A friend is like a spoon to eat with, a book to get knowledge from, a ladder to be used for ascending higher steps or a symbol of showing some social

skills. Many people wonder why a person has great number of friends even though they are poor, and no benefit will be obtained from them. Unfortunately, a friend is often described as a tool you can buy in a

Often you will find someone is flattering you in order to get something from you or to show how sociable and friendly they are.

'The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile... it's the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship.' And as Aristotle said, "What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two

'We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over. So

in a series of kindness there is, at last, one which makes the heart run over.' It is not easy to find a friend and not any one can find it, on the contrary, 'Who finds a faithful friend finds a treasure.' That friend is not available wherever you go for it is the greatest gift that 'is not found in a store nor under a tree, but in the hearts of true friends."

Some philosophers say, "Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget," Therefore a friend is not kept for a week or month, a year or two, but a friend is kept forever. A sincere friend

> Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

Friends look for the good for their friend before looking for themselves. Human history is full of examples: the story of the seven friends who died of thirst while they were passing the cup of water between them, each one preferred his friend to drink first. There are many friends who sacrificed their life for protecting their friends from dangers.

Here is a fantastic poem of friendship by Wordsworth:

"I shot an arrow into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For so swiftly it flew, the sight Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For, who has sight so keen and strong That it can follow the flight of song? Long, long afterward, in an oak I found the arrow, still unbroke; And the song, from beginning to end, I found again in the heart of a friend."

Vacancy for secretaries

A pharmaceutical company seeks to recruit 2 secretaries. The candidates should have the following requirements:

- Diploma in secretary with three years experience.
- Having TOEFL (English writing and speaking)
- Excellent in typing both Arabic and English.
- Must be Yemeni nationality
- Age not more than 30 years

Please send your CV to Yemen Egyptian Pharma Dr. Alsabay Fax: 01402247 Email: y.epharma@yemen.net.ye Assisted dying:

From 'should we' to 'how should we?'

BY DR GEORG BOSSHARD

n the past, intentionally hastening the death of any person was always a crime, no matter the circumstances. But public attitudes have been changing. Assisting a person who has explicitly asked to die is increasingly being seen as a justifiable action, especially in the context of a terminal illness. This is a consistent finding of opinion polls in westernized countries.

Still, legislative bodies are cautious when considering possible changes to the law. So far only the Netherlands, Belgium, and the state of Oregon in the US have put explicit legislation into practice. But serious political discussions on similar legal changes are taking place in many other countries, including the UK, South Africa and Australia.

As adamant opposition to the legal regulation of assisted dying weakens, so the issues of practical applicability become more important. Of course there is the question of who qualifies for an assisted death. Should it be only the terminally ill? Should, for instance, the early stages of Alzheimer's disease qualify? Or even any serious and incurable illness or disability? And what about people whose reason for wanting to die is not related to their medical condition at all?

There is also another central question that has not yet been granted the attention it merits: who should actually take responsibility for the assistance? In public discussions there is often a presumption that it is the task of the medical profession. There are sometimes specific references to the Dutch practice that allows doctors to end their patients' lives if they explicitly ask for it, as long as certain preconditions of due practice are met. Assistance in dying provided by a non-physician remains illegal. In such a medicalized framework it is morally and legally almost irrelevant who finally administers the lethal drug: if physicians are closely involved, there is no reason why they should not administer the lethal drug themselves.

Although Belgium recently followed the Dutch way of regulating voluntary active euthanasia in a strictly medicalized framework, it is precisely this sort of regulation that is increasingly challenged. Doctors have pointed out that, whilst recognizing that an increasing majority of the population wants such a service to be available, to hasten death intentionally is still inherently incompatible with the basic objectives of

In this respect, the Death with Dignity Act in Oregon is an interesting law. Of course, any regulation in this field requires at least some involvement by a doctor but the Oregon Act recognizes the fundamental dilemma faced by doctors confronted with a patient's request to die and strives to keep that involvement to a minimum.

Oregon physicians may write a pre-

scription for a lethal substance on the explicit request of a terminally ill patient, provided they can confirm the fatal prognosis, the patient's decisionmaking capacity, and have informed the patient about any feasible alternative such as hospice care or pain-control options. Physicians are not required to be present at the suicide, and they are not allowed to administer the lethal drug.

In Oregon, the patient decides independently of the physician where and when he or she wants to die, or even at all. Compassion in Dying, a right-todie society and non-medical NGO, participates in a consultative way in most of these cases.

Interestingly, research on the rationales of people who have legally hastened their death under the Oregon Death with Dignity Act reveals that the fear of pain and other distressing symptoms was not a major concern in most cases. Instead, issues of personal independence, retaining control and not becoming a burden to family, friends, or caregivers turned out to be the main reasons

Recent developments in the Netherlands have also shown that euthanasia is discussed more in the context of autonomy, control, and rational choice rather than of uncontrollable medical symptoms. The decision in such cases is based mostly on personal and social considerations rather than medical ones.

Given that this framework extends

far beyond any medical expertise, it is not surprising that no medical association anywhere in the world has so far embraced the Dutch regulation. Whilst the Dutch Medical Association does not oppose the profession's role in the practice of euthanasia, current evidence suggests a continuing unwillingness on the part of Dutch doctors to report cases of assistance in dying to the authorities, and a return to practices that are closer to a medical context, such as terminal sedation.

So there is great tension everywhere between how the public, and how doctors regard a possible contract in the field of assisted dying. What is happening at the moment could be described as a power struggle over who should be responsible for a service that more and more people wish to be available but where no amount of professional expertise can fully safeguard the right decision. At the same time, any wrong decision has far-reaching and irreversible consequences.

It has been said that assisted dying is pivotal to the discussion about what constitutes a good death; it is also a focal point in the relationship between the medical profession and society as a

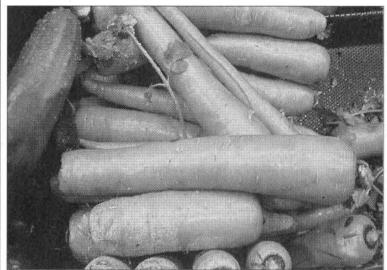
Dr Georg Bosshard is a doctor and researcher at the Institute of Legal Medicine University of Zürich.

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Facts of Life

By JOHN ROBBINS, EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE

Genitically engineered food



magine this: an orange that contains all the nutrients in a multivitamin, a tomato with more flavor as well as cancer fighting substances, sweeter strawberries, a potato that produces healthier french fries as well as allergen-free peanuts! Is it science fiction or could it be true?

An issue that has entered the mainstream media in a lot of countries is Genetic Engineering (GE) or Genetic Modification (GM) of food. A lot of food that we eat today contains genetically modified ingredients and usually without our knowledge.

Supporters of this technology maintain that it ensures and sustains food security around the world as the population increases.

As time goes on, the science behind genetic engineering is no doubt improving. Biotechnology could be the wave of the future and genetically modified foods could really provide alternatives to help increase food production. However, there is a growing wave of concern from citizens, farmers and scientists who question the way the research is currently being handled.

"Genetically engineered crops were created not because they're productive but because they're patentable. Their economic value is oriented not toward helping subsistence farmers to feed themselves but toward feeding more livestock for the already overfed

So, what are the expected benefits of GE food?

There is a problem of food shortage especially in growing countries, and through GE foods this will not be a problem any more. Food shortages and hunger will be — and already are - experienced by the poorer nations, and this will also vanish. Plants can also be engineered to require less irrigation, reducing the demand for water. Longer shelf-life and better flavor and appearance of GE food might take place. Temperature and disease resistant crops could occur, as could a reduction in the use of pesticides and herbicides.

Still, are GE foods safe? The truth is that none of the GE foods on the market are of any significant value. And it is only a hypothesis, scientifically unverified, that genetic engineering will be able to yield really valuable and safe foods. Problems and

difficulties with food biotechnology are numerous and serious. The issue is covered from many different aspects that must be taken into consideration:

Long Term Effects are Unknown. There is very incomplete knowledge about health and environmental effects of GE organisms. GE Food is an expensive technology that the farmers of the developing nations would not be able to afford easily. This is a very young and untested technology and may not be the answer just yet. Crop uniformity will reduce genetic diversity making them more vulnerable to disease and pests. New genetic structure of foods might result in new allergens. Toxicity levels of naturally occurring food toxins might result in new allergens.

Many countries had already forbidden importation of GE food products. In Thailand, for example, Deputy Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi said that Thailand will ban the imports of GE seeds until there is clear scientific proof that they are safe. On Feb. 23, 1999 India's Supreme Court decided that all field trials of Monsanto's genetically engineered Bt Cotton must be halted. In addition, the agriculture ministers of all 27 Brazilian states - unanimously sent a statement to their federal counterpart, Mr. Franciso Turra, asking him to not allow transgenics in Brazil In July 1999, the National Consumer Protection Council called for the ban on imports and sale of all geneticallyengineered food products until it has been proven safe for consumption by

an independent body in Malaysia In the U.S concerned people and some health food stores (namely WHOLE FOODS MARKET) has been informing others since 1992. You can do so by making your favorite manufacturers know how you feel about genetic engineering of our food supply. Tell them you would like to make an informed choice of whether or not to purchase foods that have been genetically modified.

Good luck with your healthy food! For more details about this issue I strongly advise you to go to the fol-

http://www.psrast.org/infomail.htm

John Robbins, Earth Island Institute, Winter 2001-2002, Vol. 16,

U.S. study backs injectable drug for alcoholism

CHICAGO, April 5 (Reuters) - A drug that helps alcoholics stop craving drink is effective as a monthly injection, reducing the chances of missed or skipped treatment when the same drug is given as a daily pill, a study said on

The injectable, time-released form of the drug naltrexone "was well tolerated and resulted in reductions in heavy drinking among treatment-seeking alcohol-dependent patients during six months of therapy," said the study published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study was paid for by Alkermes Inc. which recently filed for government approval to market the injection preparation, called Vivitrex. It would be the first treatment for alcohol dependence in a once-monthly injection if approved, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, company said.

The study, noting that 4 percent of the U.S. adult population is alcohol dependent, said there can be problems getting patients to take oral formulations of naltrexone every day, and acceptance and use of the drug has been limited even though it shows promise.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina said they reached their conclusions on the injectable formulation after a six-month test involving more than 600 alcoholics at 24 U.S. hospitals in 2002 and 2003.

"The long-acting formulation has the potential to improve intervention strategies for alcohol dependence by providing a predictable pharmacological foundation for treatment," the study

Californians' flab costs \$22 billion per year

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5 (Reuters) - Despite California's image as a healthobsessed state, most Californian adults are obese or overweight, and the flab and physical inactivity cost \$22 billion annually, a report released on Tuesday said.

An aging population, increasingly sedentary lifestyles, a car culture paired with junk-food peddling gasoline stations and an abundance of fast-food restaurants in low-income areas are among the major reasons Californians are becoming larger, according to the California Department of Health Services.

"More than half of California adults now are overweight or already obese," the report said.

"We're getting to the point where we're joining the highest obesity states," said Susan Foerster, chief of the health service's cancer prevention and nutrition section. "Employers are bearing the brunt of the cost.'

Obesity has become one of the U.S. health establishment's top concerns because it afflicts all age groups, is the source of many health problems and is on the rise amid soaring health-care costs.

A modest improvement in physical

activity could cut costs imposed on California by its flab, the Tuesday study showed. A 5 percent improvement in rates of physical activity and weight loss over five years could save more than \$6 billion, and a 10 percent improvement could save nearly \$13 billion, the report

Shaving extra inches from waistlines would improve the bottom lines of California employers.

"The total lost productivity cost relevant to physical inactivity is nearly \$7.5 billion, and the cost of obesity is approximately \$3.4 billion," the report said.

With medical care, prescription drug and workers' compensation costs added to lost productivity, the overall cost imposed on California by physically inactive, overweight and obese adults rises to \$22 billion annually, it said.

"On average, a staggering three weeks or more per year of lost productivity can be attributed to the designated risk factors, over 50 percent more time than the average 14.2 days vacation and holiday leave that United States private sector employees averaged in 2000," the report

Diuretics, stress training ease hypertension

CHICAGO, April 5 (Reuters) -Diuretic drugs and stress counseling were found to be at least as effective as other remedies in helping patients stave off the fatal consequences of high blood pressure, two studies said on Tuesday.

One in four U.S. adults has high blood pressure and its prevalence increases with age, putting patients at risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke, the reports published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association said.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the developed world.

A 33,000-patient study comparing a relatively inexpensive diuretic drug with more costly ACE inhibitors and calcium channel blockers found the diuretic — sometimes called a water pill because it eliminates salt and water from the kidneys - was as effective or more effective than the others when judged by how well they staved off serious heart ailments.

The study's initial conclusions focused on the benefits to blacks initially diagnosed with high blood pressure, but the latest findings extended the finding to all races. Blacks have among the highest incidence of hypertension.

"While some other recent studies have evaluated newer therapies (including drug combinations), the weight of evidence, particularly in this multiracial study, supports the diuretic recommendation," said study coauthor Jeffrey Cutler of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Not only was the thiazide class of diuretic better tolerated by patients, but it was more effective in preventing the major complications of high blood pressure such as heart failure, the report said. "It is now time to move beyond

comparisons of diuretics with other classes of (blood pressure)-lowering drugs — that issue has been settled, wrote James Neaton of the University of Minnesota and Lewis Kuller of the University of Pittsburgh in an accompanying editorial.

In a second study of 134 patients already suffering from heart disease, those who participated in a four-month stress management course reduced their risk of developing more heart

In some cases, stress management was more effective than a three-timesweekly aerobic exercise program, the report said.

Learning to handle stress — and the accompanying surges in blood pressure, a major heart risk factor improved the health of their blood vessels by 25 percent, said study author James Blumenthal of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Low iron may be barrier to mom-baby bonding- study

WASHINGTON, April 5 (Reuters) -New mothers who don't get enough iron are more likely to have a difficult time bonding with their babies than women who take their vitamins, according to a study released on Tuesday.

Earlier studies have shown that anemic women may experience postpartum depression and moderate iron deficiency can slow thinking and memory. The Penn State study is the first to look at how iron deficiency affects new mothers' ability to tune in to their children emotionally.

effects of mild iron deficiency ... can disrupt the solid foundation that is established by healthy mother-infant interactions," said the study's lead author, Dr. Laura Murray-Kolb.

Women who forgo vitamin supplements commonly experience iron deficiency after childbirth, the researchers

Researchers videotaped 85 women in South Africa interacting with their infants 10 weeks after childbirth. In that group,

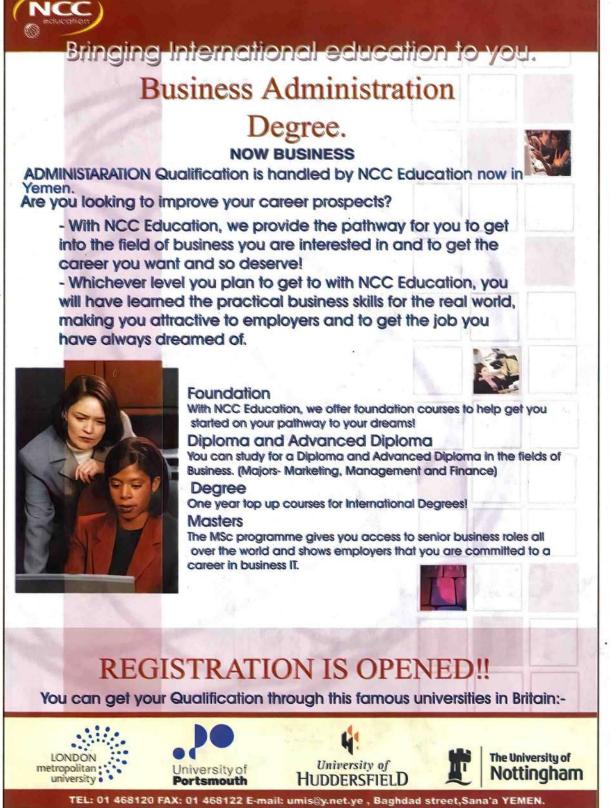
"Our new results suggest that the 64 were identified as mildly iron-deficient; 31 had no deficiency. Half of the iron-deficient women were then given supplements and after nine months, all were again videotaped with their chil-

> Researchers who analyzed the video concluded that the mildly iron-deficient mothers who got no supplements were less sensitive to their babies' cues and scored lowered on measures of emotional availability than did the women in the other two groups.

At nine months, the babies of the three groups of mothers also behaved differently, with the toddlers of the mildly irondeficient moms less responsive and less involved with their mothers, the study

"New mothers should be aware of their iron status, which we now know affects the child as well as the mother." Murray-Kolb said in a statement. "Iron deficiency is easy to correct and could be a big part of postpartum problems with mother-













Liverpool earn deserved win over Juventus

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - On a night when future dreams entwined with past nightmares, Liverpool beat Juventus 2-1 in a Champions League match that suitably honoured the 39 people who died at the Heysel disaster 20 year ago.

The teams' last meeting was the illfated 1985 European Cup final in Brussels 20 years ago but Tuesday's quarter-final first leg was memorable not just for the respect shown to the victims of that night.

Outstanding goals from Sami Hyypia and Luis Garcia gave Liverpool a deserved 2-0 halftime lead before Fabio Cannavaro pulled one back for Juve in the second half to leave the tie delicately balanced before next week's second leg in

It was not just what happened on the field that made this "friendship game" so special.

A banner of friendship was presented to the Juventus fans by Liverpool fans before the game with Phil Neal, the 1985 Liverpool skipper, Michel Platini, who scored the winning goal for Juventus that ill-fated night, and Ian Rush, who played for both Liverpool and Juventus, involved in the exchange.

A minute's silence in honour of the 39 dead and for Pope John Paul II - was also observed before Liverpool's Kop end held up cards spelling "Amicizia" or friendship before delivering a heart-rendering version of their Never Walk Alone anthem.

Not all the Juve fans were won over, many whistling and turning their backs during the ceremonies, but the underlying atmosphere was respectful.

Once the ceremonies were over Liverpool took total control of the first half, Juventus came back strongly in the



Liverpool's Sami Hyypia (R) celebrates his goal as Juventus players react during their Champions League quarter final first leg soccer match at Anfield, April 5. The two clubs met on Tuesday for the first time in a competitive match since 39 supporters died at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels before the 1985 European Cup final.

second - and referee Frank De Bleeckere. significantly from Belgium where the disaster occurred - did not show a single yel-

Quick corner Liverpool, as if collectively letting out a

sigh of relief that the long build-up had finally ended, made the breakthrough from a corner after 10 minutes when Steven Gerrard's fiercely-whipped in kick was flicked on by Luis Garcia on the near post, flew off a defender's head and into the path of the unmarked Hyypia who

gave Gianluigi Buffon absolutely no chance with a fiercely struck left-foot vol-

Gerrard, ruling midfield as if it was his own personal fiefdom, set up at least six other attacks with precision passes to Milan Baros and surprise selection Le

Tallec while Garcia, Igor Biscan and John-Arne Riise snuffed out almost every threat that Pavel Nedved and Mauro Camoranesi attempted to create for the Juve front men Alessandro Del Piero and Zlatan

They were so effective that 19-year-old Scott Carson, playing his first European match in the Liverpool goal in place of Jerzy Dudek, was initially a spectator while Buffon, playing in his 77th European game, was beaten for the second time after 25 minutes.

Le Tallec played the ball into to Garcia who let it bounce once before lashing it home with a spectacularly from 25 metres.

Juventus, who had conceded only two goals in their previous eight Champions League matches this season, had now conceded two inside half-an-hour but then quickly had two chances of their own.

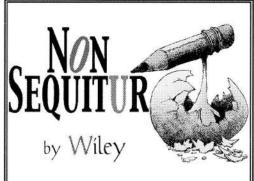
Ibrahimovic hit the post with a low drive a minute after Garcia's goal and four minutes after that Del Piero was brilliantly denied by Carson.

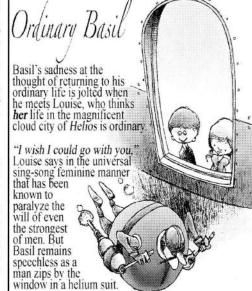
Juventus revived

Fabio Capello brought on Gianluca Pessotto for Manuele Blasi at halftime and he gave Juventus more of a bite in midfield and more of a grip on the game.

They got their reward when a cross from Gianluca Zambrotta, eluded all the Liverpool defenders and was headed down by Cannavaro. Carson misjudged the flight of the ball which bounced down in front of him and was in the back of the net before he could recover.

There were few close chances after that, but it almost did not matter on a night when football was truly the winner, so





Mistaking Basil's stunned silence as resistance, Louise sweetens the pot. "I'll let you take a ride on Beatrice

Basil

if you let me go back with you! "Ummm...."

"who... what...is Beatrice?' 'My pteranodon, of course, Louise replied in a slightly surprised tone, as though everyone has a pet flying dinosaur. Heaving a sigh, to himself, "She thinks her life is





March madness ends, scramble for NBA draft begins

By Roger Lajoie

ST. LOUIS (Reuters) - The 2005 NCAA men's basketball championships may already be consigned to history, but the careers of some of its star performers are only just beginning.

The North Carolina Tar Heels gave coach Roy Williams his first national title Monday, downing the Illinois Illini 75-70 in the championship game, bringing an end to 'March Madness', which now carries into the first week-

The focus of college basketball fans now turns toward June's NBA draft and which players from the NCAA tournament are likely to hear their names called on draft day.

While performance in the tournament is not considered vital to a player's possible draft selection, a really good run at the Final Four — or a really bad one for that matter - might tip the scales one way or the other.

"A good or a bad tournament might help or hinder your draft position, but really these guys have been watched all year," Chris Monter of College Basketball News said.

"A team isn't going to make a decision based on one bad game or even a bad tournament.

"That said, a great Final Four certainly can't hurt a player either."

Marvin Williams certainly did not harm his cause

Williams came off the bench to tip in the winning basket in the championship

game win and his poise under pressure round NBA prospect. will only improve his stock, which was already pretty high coming in.

He was already considered a certain lottery pick before the tournament, but might even go first overall or certainly in the top three come draft day after adding national champion to his basketball resume.

A 6ft-9in freshman, Williams is already known as a team player who can compete under boards and has decent scoring touch.

His North Carolina team mate Rashad McCants, is considered one of the top offensive players in the country.

Nobody questions his scoring ability, but the 6-foot-4 junior is considered a bit of a discipline problem.

Questions about his attitude were answered by a strong Final Four, and with 17 points in the championship game and the accolades of coach Roy Williams, his stock will likely rise a bit, although concerns about his defense remain unanswered.

LEAGUE PROSPECT

Nobody will blame Deron Williams for the Illini losing the title game.

He had 17 points and is considered an NBA prospect, although not a star

He remains a long shot to be a lottery pick however, and failing to win the national title or have an outstanding final game will not help his cause.

Sean May was the star of the final with 26 points and 10 rebounds, but was only considered perhaps a second

His dominance in the final game could turn a few heads and more importantly for him, change a few minds.

Then there are players like Hakim Warrick of Syracuse, considered at one point a sure-fire top five pick.

The 6ft-8in senior struggled along with his Orange team mates, eliminated in the first round by Vermont.

However, his overall potential will keep him highly-regarded and teams will ignore a disappointing tournament.

Of course, there is the European factor to consider when trying to predict where players will be drafted.

Every year, more foreign players are drafted into the NBA, so a U.S. college player's draft slot can change dramatically, depending on how the scouts like the eligible Europeans, regardless of how they fare in the Final Four.

There is also always the debate of how much college play is enough.

Seniors and other veteran players are sometimes overlooked in favor of younger players with more potential who opt out of college early to be drafted, as Carmelo Anthony did after leading Syracuse to the national title in just his first college season.

"Every player I've ever had told me that basketball stops being fun after they leave college," coach Williams

"I personally don't think there's anything wrong with anybody wanting to be a kid a little longer and having more



North Carolina forward Marvin Williams (R) goes up for a slam dunk over Illinois center Jack Ingram (L) during first half action in the 2005 NCAA men's Final Four National Championship game in St. Louis,

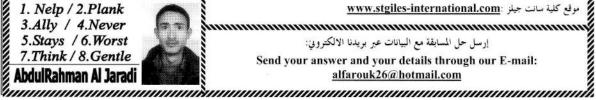


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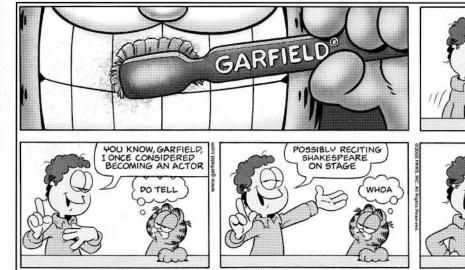
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وظائف شاغرة

١- مصممون اعلانات ولوحات

۲- مدير تسويق

٣- مندوبين تسويق

13 1. 17 - 1.

مطلوب للعمل لدى مطبعة

على برنامج أدوبي فوتوشوب

٢- فني طباعة سلك سكرين

٦٠٤٦٩٢ الاستاذ محمد

مطلوب

لاتقل عن سنتين

وبترول)

١- ان لايزيد عمره عن أربعين عاماً

■ مطلوب لمؤسسة متخصصة في الدعاية والإعلان:

من يجد في نفسة الرغبة والجدية الإتصال على رقم

١- موظف يجيد الطباعة عربي إنجليزي ويجيد التصاميم

فعلى من يجد في نفسة الرغبة التواصل على رقم

■ مطلوب للعمل سائق في العاصمة صنعاء يشترط

٢- أن يكون حسن السيرة والسلوك متحلياً بالأمانة

الرغبة التواصل على رقم ٦٠٤٦٩٢

١ - مندوبات مبيعات خبرة سابقة

بكالوريوس طب بشري وخبرة سابقة

فعلى من يجد في نفسة الرغبة التواصل: ٦٠٤٦٩٣ محمد

▮ الله مطلوب للعمل مهندس معماري غير متفرغ

يفضل لدية خبرة سابقة فعلى من يجد في نفسة

۲- مدراء تجاريين ومبيعات وتسويق - مؤهل

٣- مندوبين ومندوبات علميون مؤهل صيدلة -

٤- مصممين ومصممات خبرة سابقة في نفس

۱- مهندسین میکانیك معدات خفیفة (دیزل

■ مطلوب مدير لإدارة فندق من الدرجة الأولى

يكون لدية شهادة جامعية أو مايعادلها ذو مظهر

■مطلوب مدرس كمبيوتر ومدرسة كمبيوتر

باحثون عن وظيفة

العاقل - بكالوريوس هندسة حاسور

لديهم مؤهل علمي ومطلوب سكرتير لمعهد

■ منير حزام على عبدة - بكالوريوس محاسبة - دورات

في الأنظمه المحاسبية من يمن سوفت - دبلوم سكرتارية

■ ماهر حجر - دبلوم كمبيوتر + دورة في برنامج

الفوتوشوب مع خبرة واسعة فية ، يرغب في العمل في

■طاهر على - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزيه(تربيه) + دبلوم

سكرتارية يرغب في العمل في شركة أو تقديم دروس

■ محمد سعيد على الزايدي - ثانوية عامه - العمر (٢٠)

■ محمد عبدة إسماعيل - خريج معهد المعلمين -

■رشيد محمد أحمد على– بكالوريوس محاسبة – تقدير

عام جيد - دورات في مجال الكمبيوتر-خبرة في

التسويق- يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية -يرغب في العمل في أي

■على قائد - دبلوم هندسة كمبيوترمن جامعة دمشق -

■مترجم محلف ((للغتين الإنجليزية والفرنسية))

للتواصل: ۸۸ ،۷ ۲۲ ۷۷ – ۲۲ ۹۸ ۲۷

لائق ولدية رخصة قيادة

للتواصل: ٢٢ ٨١ ٨٢ ٧٧

الصيانة والشبكات - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية

يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصة

للتواصل: ٥٠ ١٢ .٠٠ / ١٠

وصناعيه لمدة سنتان ونصف

للتواصل: ٥١ ٢٢ ٢١ ٧١

شركة أو أي مجال أخر

للتواصل: ٧٠ ٥٥ ٧١ ٧١

للتواصل: ٧١٢٥١١٣٢

خصوصية في مادة اللغة الإنجليزية

والسواقه - لديه خبره ورخصة قيادة

الحديدة - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال

للتواصل: الحديدة ت/ ٢٥ ٢٢ / ٢٣.

للتواصل : ٦٢ ٦٠ ٥٩ ٧٣

مجال وفي أي محافظه. للتواصل: ٨٦ ٨٩ ٢٢ /٤٠

للتواصل: ٩- ٢١ ٢٢ ٧١

دورة اوراكل ولغات برمجة وصيانة.

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E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

معاهد

شركات للتأمين

7.711./1/1/1/5/0:0

الشدكة الممنية الاسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين

ورلد لينك ITS العالمية

(+

حده تاون

فندق إليفنت بي بيتش

معهد اللغة الالمانيه

مأرب للتأمين

شركة اليمن للتأمين

المداسه الكنديه الدوليه

مدرسة التركيه الدوليه

مدرسة الحسين الوطنيه مدرسة الماجد اليعنيه

مرجان للسفريات

Sky للسفريات

العالمية للسفريات والسياحة

المعهد البريطاني للغات

المستشفى اليمني الألمانم (عمليات القلب)

الحديده ت: ٢٢٤٩٨٢

المكلاء ت: ٣٠٢٦٤١

ميون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

ت: ۲۹۰۰غ ت:۲۹۲۵غی، ۲۹۲۵غی۔۱

C: 73/A/7 C: A/0A.3-APAA.7

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فاكس: ٦/٦٨١٠/٦

تعزت: ۲٦،٧٤٤

المكلاء ت: 33٧٤٠٢

عدن ت: ۲۰۵۹۲۸

تعزت: ۲٤٠٩٣٧/٣٤

صنعاء ت: ۲۸٤۱۹۳.

عدن ت: ۲٤٤٢٨٠

تعزت: ٢٥٠٣٤٥

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E: 17/PA0/133

مدارس

سفريات

مركز أبولو للتجارة والسفريات ت: ٨٨٨/ ٤٤٤٠٠٠ ر مربور بروي مربور و السياحة ت: ٩٣٠، ٤٤٠ ، فاكس: ٩٣٩ ، الإشطل للسفريات و السياحة ت: ٩٣٠ ، ٤١٤٧٥ - ٤١٠٠٠٠

الحديدة ت: ١٩٥٤٥/٨

سنعاه د: ۲۱/۲۲۹۲۷/۲۰۸۲۷۷۲

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عدن ت: ۲۹۰۸۲۷–۲۸۷۸۵۲

الحديدة ت: ٢٧٩٦٧٢/٢

صنعاء ت: ۲۰۲۱۲۹/۸/۱۲

ت ۸۰۰۰۰/۱۰۰۸

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مراسلات تجارية - ترجم

علمية-مهارة في الطباعة على

للتواصل: ٩١ ٥٥ ٧١ ٧١

للتواصل: ٤٥ ٢٣ ٥٩ ٧١

للتواصل: ۲۰ ۳۲ ۲۰

محمد عبد الحافظ العسلى

Auto) في معهد في تعز أو في إب

في مجال تخصصة أو أي مجال أخر

للتواصل: ٤٨ ١٧ ٥١ ٧٠ - ٦٦ ٦٦ . ٥ - ١٠

للتواصل: ٤٣ ١٨٧٥ ٧١ أو ٥٠ ٩١ ٧٨ ٧١

ثلاث سنوات مدير مبيعات - عمل في مؤسسة تجارية

■ هاشم سيف بن سيف - بكالوريوس محاسبة - دورات

للتواصل: ۸۳۹۸۰۲ /۶۰ تعز

العمر: ٢٠ سنة (محافظة تعز) . للتواصل: ٨١ ٥٧ ٦٤ ٧٧ - ٥٢ ٨٨ ٢٢

العمل في أي مجال (محافظة تعز)

الانجليزية أو الترجمه

للتواصل: ٧١ ٨٥ ٨١ ٧١

للتواصل: ٧١ ٨٥ ٨١ ٧١

للتواصل: ٤١٦ ٧٠٧ ٣٣

أي مجال وبمرتب جيد

للتواصل: ٧١ ٢٧١ ٨١٢

ت/ ۷۲۷۲.٤/٥٠ - ٦٨٩ ٨٦٥ ٦٧

في نفسه الرغبه الإتصال بالرقم التالي: ٧٤١ ٧٨١ ٧٣

■سليم عبدالله الرميم: حاصل على شهادة الصف

للتواصل: ٥٩ ٨٩ ٢٢ - ٨١ ٧٥ ٦٤ ٧٧

دروس خصوصية للمواد التالية ١) لغة عربيه

لجميع المراحل انجليزي للاعدادي واالأساسى

٦- مخلص جمركي مؤهل جامعي وإجادة اللغة كبرى في مجال المحاسبة ورقابة المخازن.

(سوريا) تخصص شبكات ونظم - خبرة في مجال ■حسين مختار - مترجم ومراسل تجاري - خبرة

خريج هندسة معماريه ومحترف في الرسم المعماري

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Awdi Building, Behind Arab Bank, Sana'a Tel: 272976 شارع القصر، رقم ١٣ عمارة العودي، خلف البنك العربي، صنعاء، تلفون: ٢٧٢٩٧٦ ■عدد ثلاث طاولات كمبيوتر مميزة جداً دورين السعر: ٥٠٠٠ للواحدة أو ٤٥٠٠ للثلاث طاولات

٢٢٤٦٦٦ – ٧٢٧٧٢٦٨٨ عبد الله أحمد

■للبيع: مستلزمات محل كوافير(تسريحات - تلفزيون صغير - ستائر - كراسي) للتواصل: ٢٤٤٣٤٦٦ – ٨٨٢٣٧٧٧

■ للبيع: وكالة حصرية لمنتجات إنارة راقية ومميزة ((للتجار وأصحاب محلات المواد الكهربائية)) للتواصل: ٩٩ ٠٠ ٨٢ ٧٣

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للتواصل: ٦٦ ٢٤ ٧٧ ٥٧ – ٨٨ ٣٦ ٧٧ ٧٧

مفقودات

■تعلن فاطمه عبد الله محمد عيسى عن فقدان بطاقه شخصيه صادره من محافظة عدن برقم شخصي ٢٤٢ ورقم مطبعي ٦٩٣٤٣ يرجى على من يجدها الإتصال برقم ۷۱ ۱۲ ۸۲ ۹۲ ص.ب ۶۸۸ ■سيارة سوزوكي أربعة أبواب موديل ٩٥ محول أوتاماتيك - لون كحلى - الحالة: ممتازة للتواصل: ٤٩ ٥١ ٥٩ ٧١

■للبيع بغرض السفر سيارة مرسيدس لون أسود ٢٢٠ بحالة ممتازة موديل ٩٦م جير اتوماتيك فتحة سقف نوافذ كهربائية ، مكينة شبح مغلفة (بدون جمارك) السعر: ١٢٠٠٠\$ قابل للتفاوض

■للبيع: سيارة مرسيدس موديل ٢٠٠٠ فضي اللون – المسافة المقطوعة ٢٠٠٠٠ كيلو - إستخدام دبلوماسي -الحالة ممتازة جداً - جير عادي - نوافذ أوتوماتيك

للتواصل: ٦٦ ٢٤ ٥٧ ٧٧ – ٨٨ ٢٦ ٧٧ ٧٧ ■للبيع : سيارة جيب جراند شيروكي موديل ٩٨ ثمانية سلندر - الحالة جيدة جداً

> للتواصل: ٦٦ ٢٤ ٧٧ ٧٧ – ٨٨ ٢٦ ٧٧ ٧٧ للبيع: سياره سوزوكي في حالة جيد جيداً

■سیارة مرسیدس دمعه فل ابشین مودیل ۲۰۰۲ بدون

للتواصل: ٧١ ٢٣ ٢٣ ٧١

■ نهاد الشمرى - دبلوم تصاميم - دبلوم سكرتارية-■ محمد محسن: خريج جامعه أمريكيه - مترجم عربي تريد وظيفة نصف دوام في نفس مجال التصميم إنجليزي كتابتاً ونطقاً يبحث عن عمل مناسبللتواصل:

■فتاه لديها خبره في مجال المبيعات لأكثر من ثلاث

■حاصل على دبلوم عالى ((تربية)) للغة الإنجليزية + يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي مجال دبلوم سكرتارية جامعة تعز يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بشكل للتواصل: ٣٣١٩٢٣ - ٧٣٨٠٢١٢٦ جيد يرغب في العمل في أي مكان مناسب حسب

■ د/ خالد عبد الرحيم النعيمي -دكتوراه في النفط مع خبره ۱۰ سنوات (میاه غازیه) -خریج روسیا- یرید

للواصل: ٦٢٦ ٦٢٦ ٧٣

■ للإيجار: شقة مكونه من أربع غرف وحمام ومطبخ + عدد ٢ خطوط هاتف - تنفع لأن تكون مكتب في موقع

عائلي- تصلح لإمرأة مع أطفالها أو لطالبات للتواصلُ: ٧٦ ٤٤ ٠٠ مراد عبد الله وصالتين على مساحة ١٤٦٧ متر مربع على شارع

تجارية كبيرة أو موستوصف ■ بناية من دورين للسكن ومكاتب تحت التشطيب في

موقع ممتاز (الحي السياسي) المساحة: ٢٥٠ م.م + دبلوم لغة إنجليزي- خبرة في حسابات تجارية للتواصل: حضرموت - سيئون - فاكس ٤٠٣٦٢٣ /٥٠

للتواصل: ٩٠ ٤١ - ١٠ أو ٥٠ ٧٤ ٩٠ ٧٧

عشرلبن وقريبة من البحر - تصلح شركة أو استراحة ■مدرس متخصص في اللغتين العربيه والإنجليزيه يريد شركة

إعطاء دروس خصوصيه لجميع المراحل فعلى من يجد الإيجار: ثلاثمائة دولار قابلة للتفاوض

الثامن - يرغب في العمل كاتب أو سائق أو حارس لدى أي شركه أو مؤسسه للتواصل: ٨٥، ٣٤ ٧١ ■ وفد المشرقي : حاصل على شهادة في إدارة تنميه -

> ■ صادق على أحمد مهيوب - دبلوم محاسبة + دبلوم للمجمع دبلوم تخصص برمجة حاسوب - تعز- خبرة في صيانة سكرتارية + نظام محاسبي متكامل (يمن سوفت) + الكمبيوترات ويجيد استخدام الانترنيت دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - قادر على إحضار ضمانة للتواصل: تعز ٢١٠٢٠ - ٢١٠ ٢٥٤ ٧١

تجارية - خبرة في مجال الحسابات - يرغب في العمل ■ شخص ذو خبرة يبحث عن عمل في مجال التسويق في الفتره الصباحيه للتواصل: ٧٣٨١٠٤٤٢

■ حسن محمد حسن حمود - ثانوية عامة-خبرة مبيعات سنوات تبحث عن عمل مناسب - يجيد قيادة جميع أنواع السيارات - يرغب في العمل للتواصل: ٧١٦٩١٦٢٩

■ عبد الباقى عبده سيف: حاصل على بكالوريوس محاسبه +شهادة التوفل الدوليه +دورات في اللغه الإنجليزية حتى مستوى سادس في المعهد الأمريكي

■ أنور سيف بن سيف - بكالوريوس محاسبه - دورات وظيفه في نفس المجال أو الإداره ٥- مدير إداري مؤهل جامعي وخبرة سابقة في الكمبيوتر ونظام يمن سوفت في المحاسبة - خبرة للتواصل : (٢٠٦ ١٧٤) أو (١٦٧ ٢٩٩ ٧١)

■ برندى محسن أحمد باشعيب : طالبة في الصف الثامن -ترغب في العمل كاتبة في مكتب

في اللغة الإنجليزية والكمبيوتر والتسويق - يرغب في

■ مدرس لدية خبرة طويلة في تدريس اللغة الانجليزية للتواصل: (١٦ ٥ - ٢١ - ١٠) يحمل مؤهل تمهيدي ماجستير يرغب في العمل في ■للإيجار: عمارة تتكون من خمس شقق كبيرة مع حوش مدرسة خاصة او اعطاء دروس خصوصية في مادة اللغة للسيلرات بسعر مناسب عدن - طريق عدن تعز جوار

للتواصل: ٧٢٨٠ ٢٣٤ - أو ١٨ ٨٤ ٨٢ ■ شقة من غرفتين - شارع أمناء الشرطة - مدخل

■ معلمة ترغب في العمل بالمدارس الخاصة أو أعطاء ■للإيجار أو للبيع : مبنى دور واحد بعشر غرف

رئيسي مدينة التواهي - عدن - يصلح لبنك أو مؤسسة ■يحى محمد على الكحلاني - ثانوية عامة - أدبي - للتواصل: ٨١ .٥ / ١ / ١٠

خبرة طويله في مجال الفندقة والسياحه يرغب العمل في

الإيجار: ١٠٠٠ دولار قابلة للتفاوض

■ مدرس كيمياء صاحب خبره طويله يبحث عن وظيفه كمدرس خصوصي في الصفوف التاليه من الصف ■ فيلا في مكان راقي في الحديدة - مكونة من أربع الخامس الي الثاني عشر لكل المواد العلميه.إستعداد تام غرف وحمامين ومطبخ وصالة واسعة جدأ فيها حوش للتحضير وتقييم الطلاب ووضع اختبارات تقييميه. ومكان خاص لجراش السيارات - البيت على مساحة

للتواصل: ٤٤ ٢٢ ٥٩ ٧١

سيارات

السعر: ۲۲۰۰۰\$

السعر ١٣٠٠٠

للتواصل: ٦٨ ٦٢ ٢١ ٧٣

السعر: ثلاثون ألف دولار غير قابل للتفاوض للتواصل: ١٦ ٢٧ ٨٦ صنعاء - خالد عبد العزيز

أثاث ، أدوات كهريائية ، تليفونات، وأشياء أخرى



الإستعلامات ۱۱۸، حوادث (المرور) ۱۹۶، الشنون الخارجيه ۲۰۲۰۶۰۸، الشنون الداخليه ۲۰۲۷۰۱/۰، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧٦١٢، وذارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢، الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٢٢٢٠٠١/٢ ونسسة الباصات للتنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات ۲۰۲۰/۱/۲۴، السياحه ۲۰۶۰۳۲، الصليب الاحمر ۲۰۲۱۲۱/ تليمن ۷۰۲۲۲۲۷

974-1-17.477 كريتد اجريكول إندوسويز TVETV1/1/T/T :-E: 3/7/7.3737/7. =: V/1.0917/7. ./Y1.07A/9/0. :

0. MOTAIV-T. 707. := مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل

** Y. V3 FY, 0 VV3 FY فاکس: ۲٦٤٧٠٠ ، ١٤٧٠٠ فاکس

> تأجير سيارات

صنعاء تا ۲۰۹،۵۶-۱۰ هرتز لتأجير السيارات عدن ت: ۲۰۲۰ ۲۰۳۰. FIVES-VATVAY. يموزين لتاجير السيارات سحاري لتأجير السيارات C: 773.10, 7V10 [ATV

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

U17777.9.777701: المعهد الأمريكي التطبيقي ابتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) مستعاد ت: ۱-۶۶۶۸۸۰ مستعاد م

. 5-40. TET : 5 W المكلاء ت: ۴۹۲،۳-۰. الحديدة ت: ١٩٩٨-٢-٣٠ 17V- (.) 1-0177EA

نيو هرازون لتعليم الكمبيوتر ٨/٨/٧/٤٤٩٣٥٦/٧/٨/٩

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عدن ت: ۲٤٣١٩٤ الحديده ت: ۲۱۹٦٤٢ 8 - TAMY : 5 L لمكلا، ب: ۲۰۹۱۹۰

عدن ت: ۲۲۷۱۹۹ -۲۰ CMT House Infinit Education C: 74.733-V/A/co33 NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر البريد السريع

FedEx.

صنعاء ت: ١٧٠٤٤

البنوك

فاكس: ٢٦-٨٣٤ البنك اليمن والخليج ش. الزبيري ش القصر ش. عدن المعلاء ش. ٢٦ سبتمبر الحديده ش. هي اديس الشارع الرئسي المكلاء

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72 hours in Socotra and 24 hours in Mukalla

BY AMIN DIRHEM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ince Yemeni unification, I have been longing to visit the Island of Socotra but it was not until

I read a lot and watched films about Socotra but it was even better than I

this month that I was able to

Roads are paved and asphalted according to international standards.

I visited the natural sanctuaries defined under the Republican Decree No. 277 of the year 2000.

On the island, the Environment Protection Authority has set up its own bureau in the capital city of the Island,

There is also the Socotra Development and Protection Project which works enthusiastically to protect the local environment and achieve sustainable develop-

I found unmatched tourist attractions on shore and in the mountains

There are indigenous trees and birds that cannot be found anywhere else.

There is a cave in the upper portion of

to Socotra which will keep the new

generation of Soctora very healthy and away from such a bad habit as well as keep the island clean in very respect. On my way home, I stopped in al-

Mukalla and found that despite the excellent works such as streets and corniches, Mukalla lacks public parks and children's playgrounds.

I suggest to the governor not to forget the cultural aspect.

It is needed to establish a modern theatre as well as a public library and two cinemas accessed by the public throughout the year.

There is only one good cultural center bearing the name of great singer Abu Bakr Salem Bal-Faqih who deserves such a token of respect._

During my stay in Shahr, I tried to visit the Museum of renown poet Hussein al-Mihdhar but I was told it had been closed officially since the day of its inauguration.

I would like the governor to order the Museum to be opened to the public and to add the names of artists Juma'ah Khan and Bakathir to the name of the museum.

that there has been a healthy competition among capitals of provinces across the country.

It is perceived during the recent years

In this regard, I have some comments, which I hope would please the concerned authorities:

Establish a tradition of annual contest among Yemeni cities for the title, for instance, "The Cleanest Yemeni City" or "The Nicest Yemeni City."

Arbitrators should be experts and should set up standards and conditions for the contest as well as the assessment. Money allotment should be taken from

the budget of local cleanliness funds to cover the expenses. Assessment and announcement of the

winner city is to be in May every year and the prize is holding the festivals of the Reunification Anniversary in the honored city each next year.

During the one-year period, the city shall have enough time to prepare itself for the great anniversary.



The unkown paradise



The writer is looking optimistically forward to seeing the future of socotra island







طلب الخدمة 88 88 48 01 خدمة العملاء 88 11 44 10

the mountain extending for three kilome-

It has the potential to be a very significant tourist attraction.

Along the land from Mouri near the capital Hadiboh, the runway stretches proud of its international standards.

The airport, however, needs to be supplied with equipment so that it receives different airplanes from different international destinations. The government should permit interna-

tional planes to land on Socotra airport in order to promote it. If this is done, the island will beat

Sharm al-Sheikh, Sishel Archipelago, and other famous tourist resorts. We should make use of others' experi-

ences and avoid repeating their mistakes. I perceived that price of tourist tickets for foreigners reach \$US317 while a ticket plus one-week accommodation at a five-star hotel in Kuala Lumpur costs \$700-800 and on the same airline, Yemenia.

The Company should reconsider its prices in order to encourage tourists and foreigners residing in Yemen to visit Socotra.

I call on Yemeni, Arab and foreign investors to come and invest on this island as its future is very promising particularly in environmental tourism.

They must, however, adopt international standards to preserve biodiversity.

Hadiboh is the capital of the Island. Nice buildings are emerging, including four two-star and three-star hotels.

It is painful to see that the city is not

Cleanliness is a major issue and infrastructure should be provided for such as water, electricity, sanitary disposal network and urban planning.

The area of the Island is estimated at 3650 square kilometers extending for 135 kilometers from east to west and 42 kilometers from north to south.

The population is between 40 and 50 thousand people.

The lowest temperature degree ranges between 17-25 and the highest 27-37 and the temperature peaks in May. Strong winds last between June and September annually and heavy rains fall in October and November.

Socotra's people are very friendly and modest.

They look forward to knowing the new with a sincere spirit. They have a special language in the

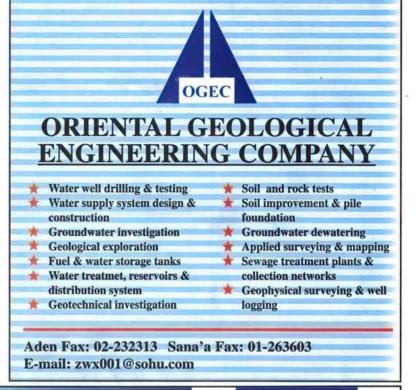
spoken form only called Socotri language. They also speak fluent Arabic.

I other problem that I observed was the number of people chewing gat in the capital Hadibo and also in the mountains. I asked them how gat is transported to

the island and they told me that Yemenia transports qat twice a week from Sana'a to Socotra and they chew gat the whole week. Isn't it awful that gat is transported by

government carrier to this clean virgin island to spoil the Socotrais who should be kept away from gat.

I urge Yemenia to stop transporting qat



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