

Overall sorrow and disappointment for the arrest of Saddam Hussein in Yemen:

Saddam's arrest upsets Yemenis

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, Dec. 17 - Yemenis have shown deep sorrow and disappointment for the humiliating capture of Saddam Hussein, and they believe that it is a clear message and hint to all Arab leaders, which could potentially lead to the possible fall of other regimes in the region.

This was the overall conclusion of an extensive survey carried out by Yemen Times in the capital city Sana'a, in sounding the opinion of the public concerning the arrest of the former Iraqi president that took place last Saturday near his hometown Tikrit in Iraq.

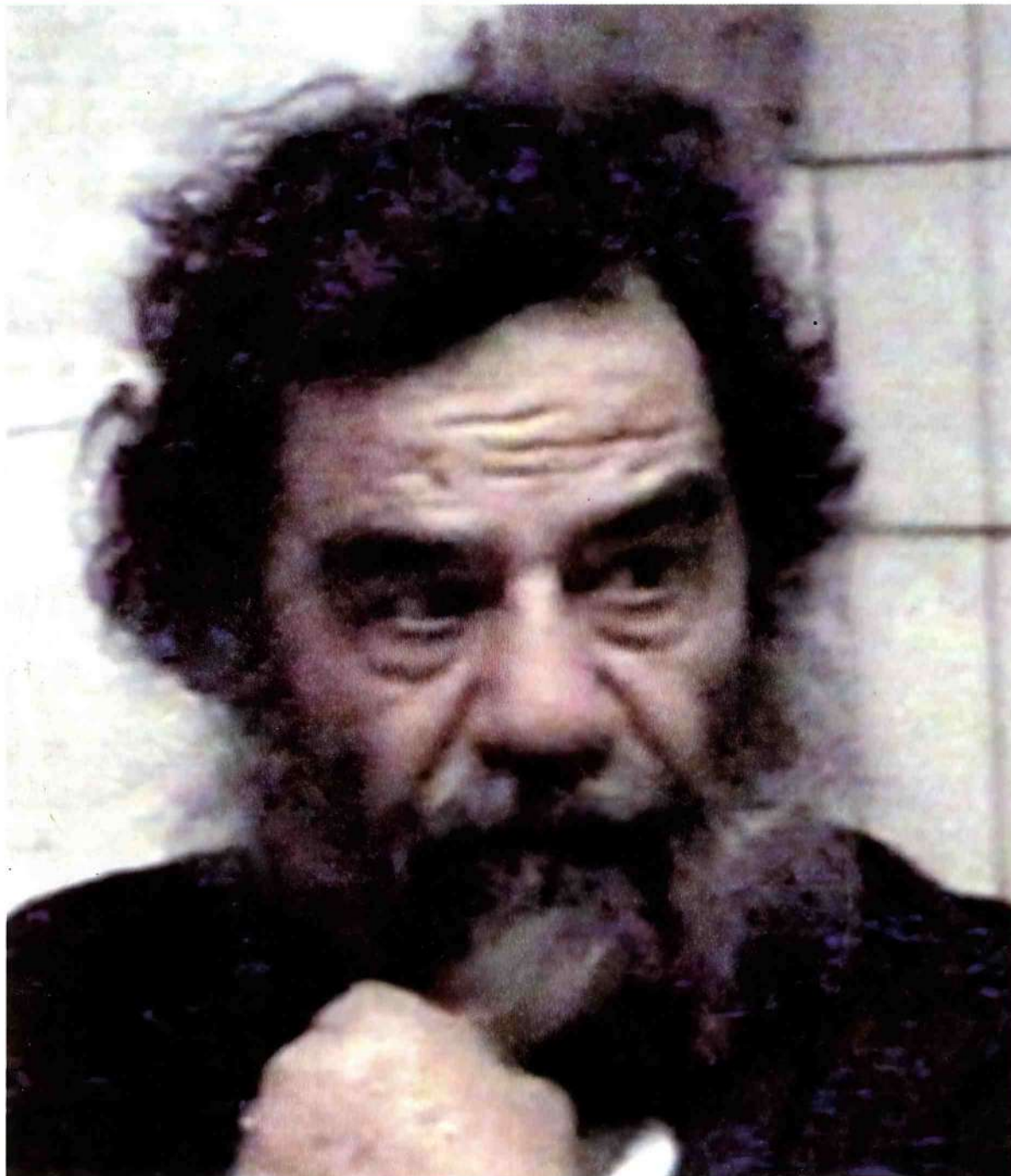
The survey covered several various fractions of the community including ordinary citizens, officials, Islamists, nationalists, officials, and intellectuals.

Public:
Shock, disappointment, and sadness

The overall feeling among regular citizens was mainly shock, disappointment, and sadness for the demise of what they once thought was the Arab idol and hero who set an unprecedented example in defiance of the superpower of the world. But they also said that this could only be the beginning of the fall of other Arab regimes as well.

Many have clearly said that Saddam's surrender in such a humiliating manner had made them realize he was not the man they thought he is. "I thought he would retaliate, would fight back, and would show us how a courageous Arab leader should be. What I saw was not Saddam that I believed in," one citizen said.

Regular Yemeni citizens agreed that the way Saddam Hussein appeared on TV was a humiliation not only to him, but to all other Arab leaders, especially



Saddam Hussein is filmed after his capture in this footage released December 14. U.S. troops captured Saddam Hussein near his home town of Tikrit announced U.S. administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer on Sunday, in a major coup for Washington's beleaguered occupation force in Iraq. REUTERS/Handout

as it happened on the hands of the USA. "At least he should have committed suicide" one Yemeni said with disappointment.

But they also emphasized the need for Arab leaders to learn from what happened and expressed their belief in that it is the people's backing that resulted in Saddam's arrest and not the might of the USA.

However, some citizens have openly suggested that it is the Iraqi people who led to his arrest and claimed that Iraqis have always been insecure and went through many internal wars as the different fractions are always in distrust with each other and could have only been the reason for the fall and arrest of Saddam.

Officials:
Event exaggerated

The President's reaction to the arrest was calm as he tried to reduce the shock felt by most of the population by saying that the arrest is a mere media propaganda and has no meaningfulness as Saddam and his Baath Party have fallen when the coalition forces started their assault on Iraq. He said that the arrest was only intended to achieve political gain and to relieve those who had a dispute with Iraq and its regime.

The President called for a national conference in Iraq representing all Iraqis to have the country recover from its current status.

Officials told Yemen Times that the

event does not concern Yemen very much and said that Iraqis now should look to the future and forget about the past. They emphasized that the Arab countries should now try to reactivate joint Arab action and review the way they plan their partnerships and relations with each other. They said that the current Arab regimes should work on achieving economic and developmental cooperation and look towards opening up their societies and enhance democratic practice.

Islamists:

Normal result, but some sympathy

Islamic figures called the arrest of Saddam Hussein a normal consequence for the weakness and vulnerability of Arab nations. They also considered it a victory for the USA and Israel and humiliation for all Arabs and Muslims. They emphasized on the need to have all Arab leaders learn from what happened and start reforming their regimes and ridding them of corruption, oppression, and injustice. "This is normal for an oppressive Arab leader who ruled his country for 35 years with injustice and cruelty," An Islamist figure said.

However, some less extremist figures have expressed some sympathy towards Saddam considering him the only Arab leader who at least criticized the USA and Israel so openly and courageously more than any other Arab leader.

Continued on page 3

YEMEN TIMES
2004
مسابقة الهلايين الكبرى

الفائز الأول 1,000,000
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الفائز الثالث 250,000
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الفائز الخامس 100,000

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للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كوبون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم قص الكوبون وإرفاقه مع كوبون الأسئلة وإرسالها إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩ صنعاء). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي ينقصها أي من الكوبونين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية ناقصة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.

مستمر المسابقة حتى مارس ٢٠٠٤ ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك أكثر من مرة، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقاً، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢٦٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظاً موفقاً للجميع.....

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2 stabbing incidents of foreigners cause concern

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Security sources told Yemen Times that two incidents of stabbing foreigners by traditional Janbiyas and running away have started to cause concern.

A Dutch tourist was stabbed last Monday while touring Bab Al-Yaman's traditional market along with a tourist group, while another German walking alone in Al-Tahreer

in the middle of the city was also stabbed on Tuesday and this culprit was also able to escape.

Despite intensive efforts by security men, the offenders, who may be the same person have not been arrested.

It is hoped that these incidents would only remain as separate insignificant events, especially as the injuries of the two men were not life threatening. However, such actions can be caused by certain groups who

may attempt to damage the slowly but confidently growing tourism sector in the country.

This comes in a time a Spanish media and tourist delegation of more than 50 members was visiting the country.

What is also of concern to the authorities is the use of the traditional jambiyas in the attacks, which brings to question the claim that they these daggers are merely traditional

costumes and not weapons. But the use of jambiyas may be the alternative to regular light weapons which have been reduced in number in Sanaa after a ban issued by the government years ago.

Furthermore, the fact that the two incidents happened in extremely busy areas in the center of the city is also worrying for the authorities, which are exerting great efforts to bring the culprits to justice.

US Embassy Hosts Yemeni Medical Community Appreciation Dinner

The U.S. Embassy sponsored a dinner at the Waleema Restaurant on December 10 in appreciation of the Yemeni Medical Community.

Nearly fifty members of the Yemeni medical community attended the function, during which twenty awards were presented to physicians for providing support and often lifesaving interventions to the Yemeni and American employees of the U.S. Embassy during the previous two years.

Ambassador Edmund J. Hull officiated at the ceremony. Minister of Health Dr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Noami received the first award for his Ministry's efforts in support of the Embassy. The minister expressed appreciation for the US Embassy's assistance for health improvement projects in Yemen and noted the U.S. government's funding for the equipment in the new President's Hospital in Mareb.

Dr. Mohammed Sheik, Director of Saber Aden Hospital was honored for his help in providing aid to the victims of the injured US service members in the USS Cole attack in October 2001.

Dr. Curt Hofer, Regional Medical Director of the U.S. Embassy thanked the doctors for their assistance in caring for sick American officials and Yemeni patients, adding that the many members of the medical community present were representative of the good physician infrastructure in Yemen.

Source: Press Release from US Embassy



From left to right: Ambassador Hull, Minister al-Noami, Dr. Hofer

Taiz Municipality confiscates goods of street sellers

Administration of public works and housing office and its branches in Taiz have recently carried out repeated campaigns against sellers who display their goods on streets, preventing them from gaining their living and without care for their difficult living conditions and unemployment spread among the citizens.

It has been noted that the campaigns employed a large number of employees and soldiers who joined efforts to confiscate goods of those sellers.

All those measures had been taken whereas he municipality did not take

any measures to propose and carry out solutions or alternatives for those situations. Some of those sellers told Yemen Times that they hoped the government officials in the city of Taiz and the GPC members to implement a true policy proving claims of GPC members in the city in that they are in support of the poor masses of the people and the working class. But, they added, that such promises have not been realized and that they would in future not vote for those leaderships of the GPC in parliamentary or local councils elections.

150 thousand post stamps on: Sana'a, Capital of Arab Culture 2004

The State Authority for Post has approved the printing of 150 thousand stamps depicting Sana'a, capital of Arab culture 2004 in addition to 6 thousand postcards commemorate this historic event.

The stamps included distinguished

artistic paintings depicting old Sana'a. All these stamps and postcards would be available for circulation for the people and visiting delegations on the occasion with the start of the first day of activities in celebration of Sana'a capital of the Arab culture 2004.

Parliament entrusts an ad hoc committee with a draft law

Yemen parliament on Saturday a specialized committee with a draft law amendment pertaining to sales tax and to present a report on it to the parliament after it had earlier accepted to put it on its

agenda. The sales law that had been postponed had in 2002 aroused a big fuss among businessmen and the people in general because of its effect on prices and people's living conditions.

Taiz governor listens to citizens grievances

Governor of Taiz Qadhi Ahmend Abdulla al-Hajri held on Monday his weekly meeting with receiving citizens from the governorate where he listened to their grievances to find out solutions for them. Governor al-Hajri listened in the meeting to the grievance offered by more than 40 female graduates whom were listed among those to be employed as teachers in rural areas by office of the civil service. But the office of education at the governorate had retained their files and did not implement the appointment decision.

Yemen Times had in its issue No. 691 published the problem of the female teachers. The governor had therefore summoned the director general of Taiz education office and discussed with him the problem after which it was arranged to implement the decision taken by the civil service office of the governorate.

The graduates have therefore expressed their gratitude to the governor and the director general of the education office for implementing the governor's decision. There are many graduates still waiting to be able to get job opportunities as a factor for absorbing unemployment among the work force, especially graduates.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

- What do you think of Saddam Hussein from the scene of his arrest?**
- A coward, I never thought he would surrender as such. 69%
 - A shocked & almost insane person who cannot defend himself. 16%
 - An old, vulnerable and weak person who doesn't have enough strength to resist. 11%
 - A person who was exposed to anesthetic gas disabling him from movement. 4%
 - I just cannot understand this guy!

Will there be any implications on the US decision to deprive anti-war nations from reconstruction projects in Iraq?

- No, a little complaint and cries that's all. 69%
- Let's wait and see. 16%
- Yes, but will have relatively little effect on the decision. 11%
- Yes, it could reach to possible sanctions on the US by some countries 4%

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

1st Judicial conference winds up

The first judicial conference on Monday concluded its meetings with participants demand for activation of role of the Supreme Judiciary Council in the manner guaranteeing its undertaking of its tasks as stipulated in the constitution and the laws, especially regarding drawing up general policies for development of judiciary and following up their implementation.

The conferees had called for setting up a committee to study the laws of civil procedures and verification with intention to of amending some of their texts leading not to prolong trial measures.

Recommendations proposed by the conference stressed the necessity of issuing a regulation on judiciary support fund to ensure achievement of the purposes it has been established for

The recommendations also pointed to the necessity of paying attention to commercial judiciary and to seek help of experts in judiciary, mastering English language and well literate in international agreements concerning this matter and also to annex the judiciary inspection body to the Judiciary Supreme Council as part of guarantees of judiciary independence.

Recommendations have also called for heads and members of prosecution to take care of issues of public property and present them at once in coordination with the concerned court. The conferees also demanded the ministry of interior to provide protection for members of the judiciary authority and the necessity of dealing with realities of attacks against judiciary members with required strictness.

Training course on genetically improved agricultural products

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Energy.

A training course on the use of genetic improvement means to enhance agricultural products started in Sanaa last Saturday. The event is organized by the General Committee for Research and Agricultural Guidance in cooperation with the National Committee for Atomic

Around thirty trainee is being trained in the 5-day course, which will include lectures of 20 experts in various fields related to genetic engineering and will focus on establishing the first ever solid foundation for the possible use of means to grow improved agricultural products through genetic improvements.

The Opening Ceremony for the Tuberculosis Control Center in Aden

The opening ceremony for the Aden Tuberculosis Control Center (ATCC) was held today Monday, December 15, 2003, and attended by Dr. Yehya Mohammed Al-No'ami, Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Yahya Mohammed Al-Shu'aibi, Governor of Aden, Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Sana'a, and representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

ON July 10, 2002, the Government of

Japan signed and exchanged notes with the Government of the Republic of Yemen for the execution of the "Expansion of Tuberculosis Control in the Southern Governorates" project to which Japan extended a grant in aid amounting up to \$ 5,000,000 (Five Million US Dollars). With this grant, the Ministry of Public Health and Population has constructed the ATCC and procured medical equipment in order to expand tuberculosis control

activities in the southern governorates. In the field of health, the Government of Japan has been supporting Yemen's endeavors to combat tuberculosis under the National Tuberculosis Control Program, by constructing TB Centers in Sana'a, Hudeidah, Taiz and now in Aden as well as dispatching many Japanese experts to Yemen and receiving innumerable Yemeni trainees in Japan through JICA over the last 20 years.

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Istana hotel	Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	\$680	\$910	Category *****
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Park Inn International	Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia	\$595	\$695	Category ****
Jakarta Hilton International	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$695	\$930	Category *****

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 Infant 10% of the package fair.
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Saddam arrest upsets Yemenis

Nationalists:

Sadness, fear from the future

Nationalist figures were the ones who were the most affected by the arrest of Saddam Hussein. Many of the nationalists, also Baathists, have complained with extreme grief that it is Arabs' inability to support and stand up for Saddam Hussein that led to his fall. However, they also praised Saddam Hussein for his courage and said that he should have retaliated and fought back, but they suspect that he was paralyzed intentionally by using certain gases.

They defended Saddam fiercely by saying that "at least he stayed in his home country and never left it and never surrendered willingly."

They also could not hide their fears from the future of Arab nationalist movements, especially as former Syrian President Hafid Al-Asad also demised, leaving those movements with no leaders, and putting their future at stake.

"Some have told us that the end of Arab nationalism may have come, but we will fight until the end and keep the legacy of Saddam Hussein forever," one of the nationalists said.

"This is the end of the last Arab nationalist leader."

Intellectuals:

Good for Iraq, good for Arabs

The intellectual community comprising of academicians and highly educated Yemenis were the only group that have received the news of Saddam's arrest with joy and pleasure. Most of them have expressed no grief or sorrow for the Iraqi leader, saying that what happened is "a normal result of decades of oppression and tyranny."

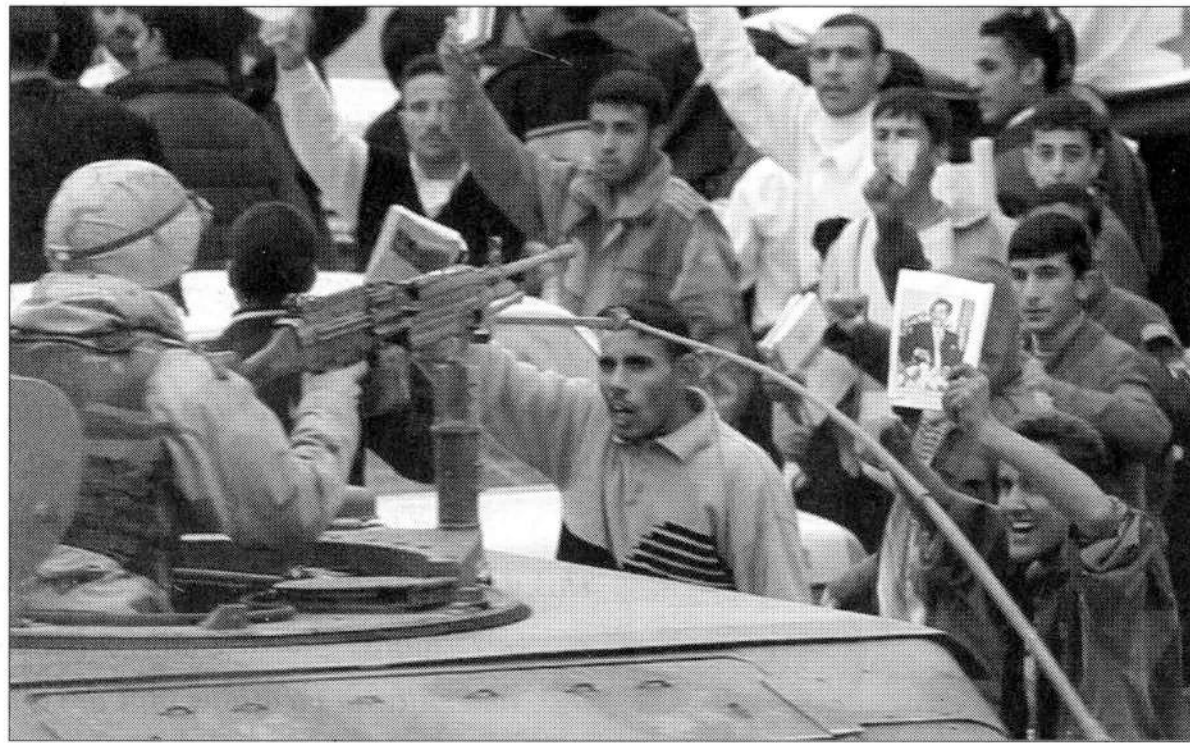
They claim that this will only have positive results on the future of the region in terms of reflecting the fact that no Arab leader is invincible no matter how strong or rich he is. They attempted to focus more on the need to use this to pressure other Arab regimes to carry out major reforms to their democratic values and human rights records.

"The issue is not about who arrested Saddam, it is about he was let down by his people because of his long years of dictatorship and mismanagement of the country and its resources," one of Sana'a University academicians said.

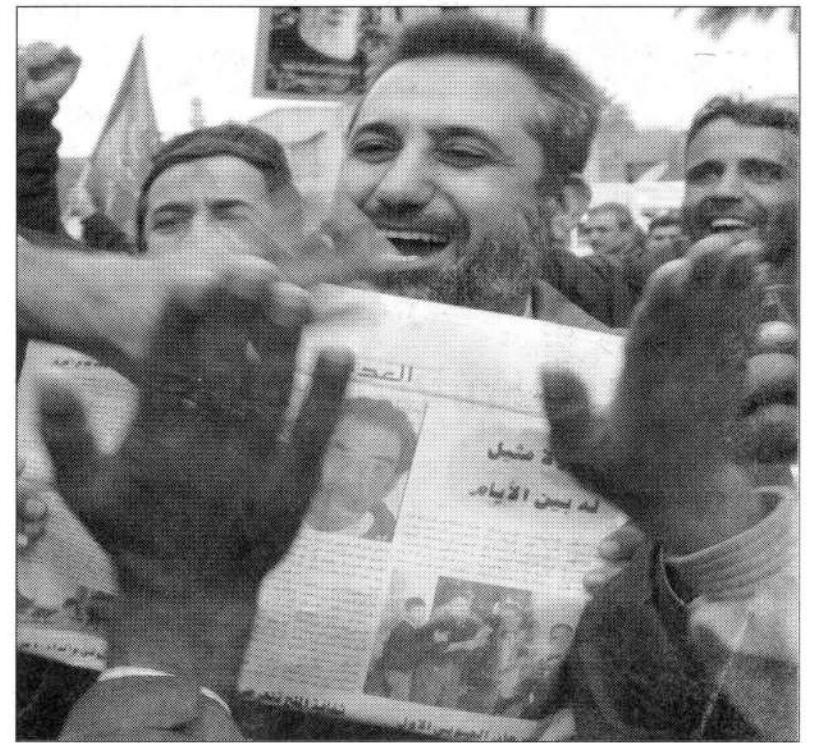
"He should be set as an example for all Arab leaders to realize that their end will be similar if not worse if they continue oppressing their people and depriving them of democracy and better life standards."

Conclusion

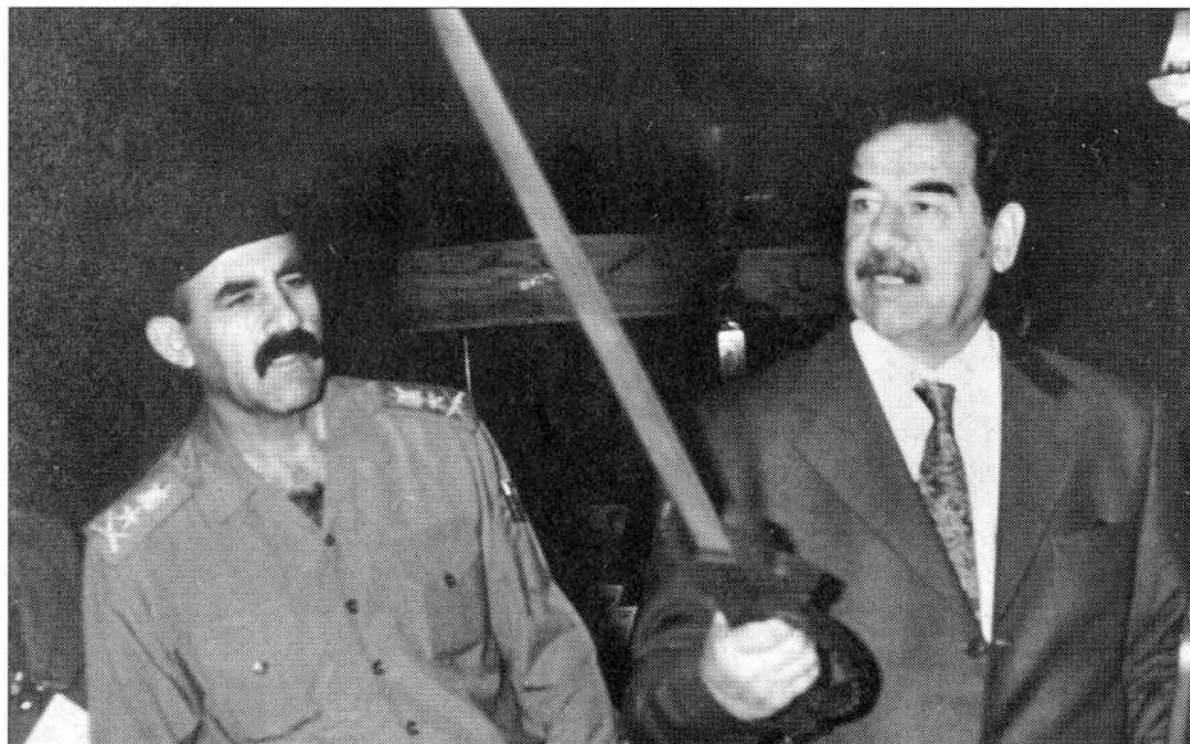
As conclusion, the Yemeni society



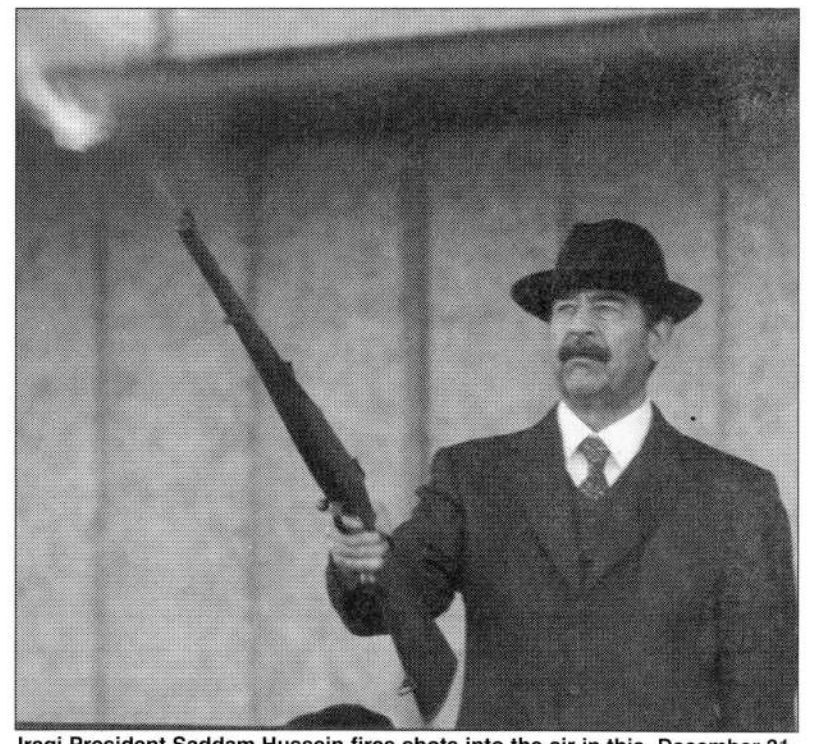
Iraqis shout anti-American slogans at U.S. army vehicle while holding pictures of arrested Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein during a rally supporting him in Mosul December 16. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz



Iraqis celebrate the capture of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad centre December 16, 2003. REUTERS/Alexander Demianchuk



The U.S. Administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer said on Sunday that ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had been captured by U.S. forces near the Iraqi city of Tikrit. Saddam Hussein holds a sword next to his personal secretary and bodyguard Abid Hamid Mahmud Al-Tikriti (L) while celebrating his birthday in this April 28, 2002 file photo. REUTERS/INA

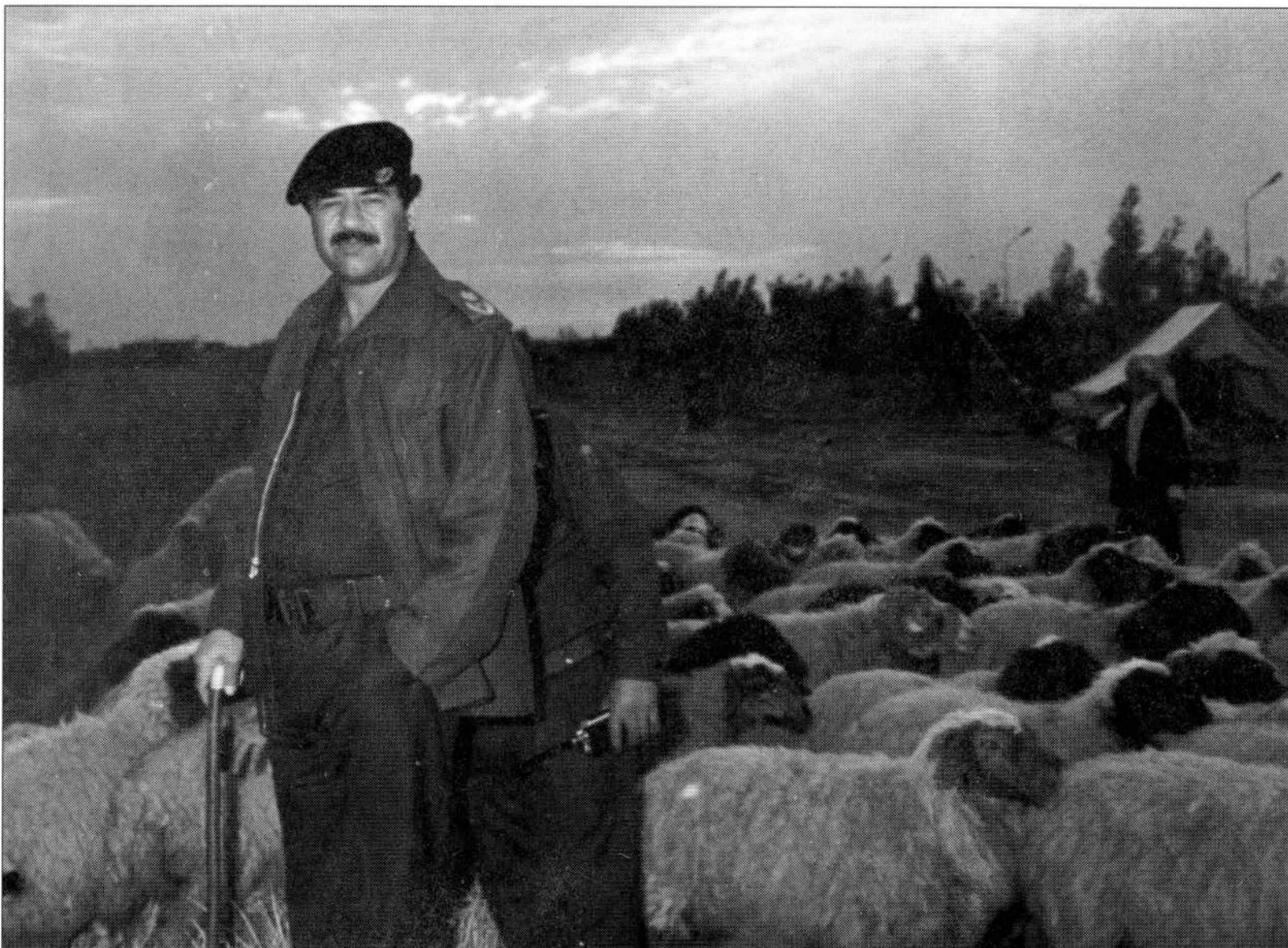


Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fires shots into the air in this December 31, 2000 file photo. Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been arrested, an Iraqi Kurdish representative in Iran said on December 14, but the U.S. Defense Department said it could not confirm the report. ERS/Faleh Kheiber

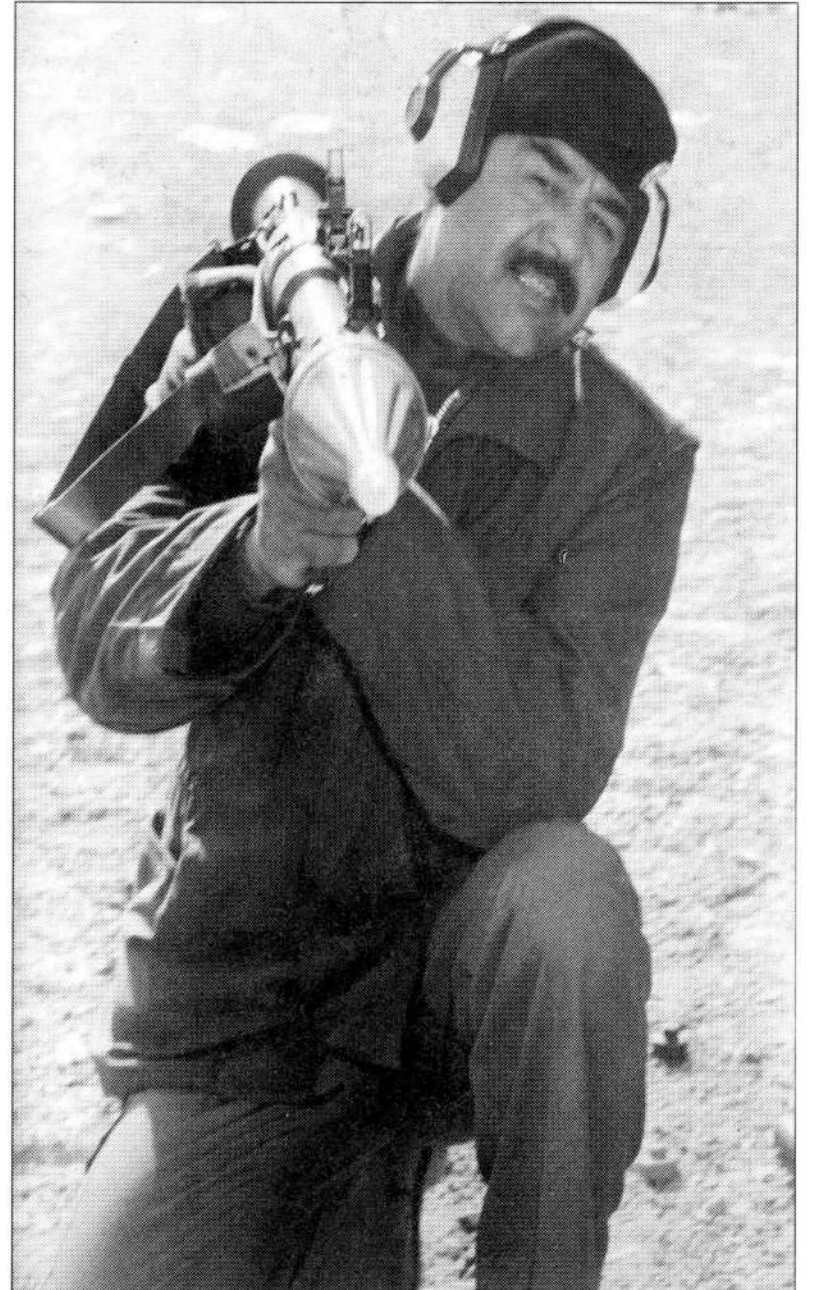
seemed to be sorry for the arrest of Saddam Hussein, but even more upset because of the humiliating way he was arrested in. Shock and disbelief was evident in most Yemeni citi-

zens who at the beginning wished that it could be one of his lookalikes. But when it turned out to be him, they could not hide their sorrow, but at the same time, they used this event

to signal the possible end of other regimes in the near future, especially if they don't reform and improve their countries and conditions of their people



U.S. troops captured Saddam Hussein near his home town of Tikrit announced U.S. administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer December 14, 2003, in a major coup for Washington's beleaguered occupation force in Iraq. Saddam Hussein visits shepherds in his hometown of Tikrit in an undated photo from the private archive of an official photographer for the regime. REUTERS/Str



The head of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim said on December 14, 2003 that DNA tests had confirmed that a suspect detained in Iraq was ousted President Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein practices launching a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) in this undated file photo from the during the Iraq-Iran war. REUTERS/INA

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Cultural & Tourism
Tourism Office Sana'a Governorate

YEMEN

انتقاء عاممة للثقافة العربية
SANA'A 2004

Sana'a Tourism Guide

Executed by:
SMART

As the beginning of the New Year is approaching, the Republic of Yemen will be witnessing the crowning of Sana'a as the Arabian Capital of Culture 2004, and commemorating this occasion Yemen Times through its advertising agent SMART Advertising & Promotional Solutions and with the cooperation of the Tourism and Culture Ministry and Sana'a Tourism Office are preparing for the publishing of the official Guide for this event in both languages (Arabic and English), which will contain various information about the Arabian Capital of Culture that is suitable for this occasion on both local and regional levels.

This guide will also contain a detailed map for Sana'a Governorate showing all significant tourism and cultural locations that are a must-visit.

We in the Yemen Times & Smart are proud to have the honor of preparing and executing such a guide exclusively and we ensure you that it will be designed & executed according to the international standards of tourism guides, and hence we have kept the rights of designing and publishing the guide and we guarantee its distribution in and outside Yemen.

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Third Arab Conference on Human Rights concluded

Yemen Times Staff

The Third Arab Conference on Human Rights concluded in Sana'a on Thursday, Dec 11. The event was organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in cooperation with the German Koaner Adinawer Organization of the Middle East. Minister of State for Human Rights Ms Amatalalem Assooswah attended and complimented the conference on the large number of Arab participants indicating that human rights movement is in constant growth in Arab countries as a result of dedicated efforts of the activists, and continued cooperation between government agencies and civil organizations.

Minister Assooswah said that the government adopted democracy as a way of life, and stressed it by enhancing human rights principles through developing new mechanisms, either by the Ministry of Human Rights, or non-governmental organizations.

The Minister called upon the civil organizations to cooperate fully amongst themselves in preparing a national report on human rights in Yemen. "This report should be prepared in a completely independent, unbiased and objective manner," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Izzaddeen Al-Asbahi, Director of HRITC, said that the Third Arab Conference is a wonderful continuation of the activists work, and its conclusion is a real beginning of the field work. He encouraged activists to transform the theoretical discussions into practical work to enhance the principles of

human rights spreading its knowledge, and defending it. He emphasized that the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) performs its work on a regional level, completely independent and unbiased. He called upon all organizations to join hands in order to realize the common goal of protecting human rights and integrity.

Mr. Sameeh Mohsin of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights spoke on behalf of the training faculty emphasizing the importance of Arab participation in such conferences, trainers of activists, as it represents one of the unique Arab works, indicating that educating the general public about the need to protect human rights were the responsibilities of all.

The Third Human Rights Conference had started on Saturday, 6 December in Sana'a with about 40 participants from Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, and Lebanon.

The training faculty consisted of elite trainers from Yemen, Geneva, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, and Palestine.

Programs included numerous lectures, and intensive workshops dealing with reporting violations, report writing, and project preparations.

Other lectures dealt with U. N. Committees, International Criminal Court, International Human Law and its relation to human rights, and various international treaties.

A large number of human rights activists, diplomats, and representatives of non-governmental organizations attended the conclusion ceremony.



Institute turned over to government

YEMEN TIMES
ADEN BUREAU

National Institute for Technicians and Trainers in the Directorate of Dar Sa'ad, Governorate of Aden, was turned over to the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training on Wednesday, 3 December.

Directors of Technical and Vocational Training Centers and Institutes along with Dr. Ali Mansour Al-Saffah, Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Dr. Yahya Al-Shoabi, Governor of the Governorate of Aden, Mr. Frank Mann,

German Ambassador to Yemen, and a number of German experts attended the ceremony.

The Minister and German Ambassador exchanged remarks complimenting the role of the project in training the Yemeni trainers and cadres in the various fields required by the labor market.

They indicated that the project represented a fruit of strong relations between Yemen and Germany in the field of technical education and vocational training emphasizing on the importance of its continuity by offering short courses sponsored by the Yemeni-

German project supporting small businesses.

It is noteworthy to mention that the agreement for the project was first signed in 1993, and inaugurated by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in November 1995.

The Yemeni government contributed in building internal roads, faculty housing, and training facilities for the project at a cost of YR 150 million.

The German government, on the other hand, contributed with nearly DM 30 million during the three stages of the project where it restored the building, purchased equipment, and trained staff.

Eradication of TB project inaugurated

Yemen Times
Aden Bureau

A Japanese-funded project to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) in southern and eastern governorates was inaugurated on Monday.

The cost of the project is JY 589 million. The director of the project, Mr. Yoshi Hiro Hilashoka, declared to

Yemen Times that the project, which had in fact started in December of 2002, aims at enhancing the services of the Ministry of Health and Population National Project for the Eradication of TB by providing it with the necessary medical equipment.

He indicated that he would start training personnel specialized in

eradicating TB, supervising their activities, performing field researches, and playing a role in ensuring the quality of services.

Mr. Hilashoka said that the contractor, Kitano Contracting, has turned the building housing the project over to representatives of the Ministry of Health and Population and the Office of Health and Population in Aden.

Family murdered by extremists

BY HASAN AL-ZAYEDI
YEMEN TIMES

Reliable sources told Yemen Times on Thursday, 11 December, that a man, his son, and brother were shot dead in his home in Dhila' Hamdan region by a group of armed extremists.

Sources said that the terrorist group was composed of 12 individuals and motives behind the killing are still unknown. Investigations into the case have started.

The phenomenon of family disputes and sometimes murders has become more evident recently mainly due to increasing social problems resulting from financial burdens.

The factor of the wide spread of weapons also contributes to the problem. It is estimated that 50 million pieces of small arms and light weapons are in the hands of Yemeni citizens, making it quite easy to obtain a weapon and use it leading to high numbers of deaths and injuries throughout the country.

Self-proclaimed executors impose fees on poor

BY YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

The government has adopted policies to alleviate poverty from the needy by allocating large sums of money through the Social Security System which is distributed on a regular basis.

However, a group of self-proclaimed executors handling the distribution of these funds impose fees on the poor, especially in rural areas, under false justifications, and threaten to scratch the names of those who refuse to pay such fees.

One of these incidents took place in the village of Al-Mafgar Aqibah Sufia, Directorate of Al-Udain in the Governorate of Ibb where one of those self-proclaimed executors, Mohammad Abdu Saeed, imposed a fee of YR 1,000 on every beneficiary. It is hoped that the appropriate authorities of Ibb would interfere and put a stop to such behaviors.

Workshop in Aden on social gender

By Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri
Yemen Times

The National Committee for Women in Aden in coordination with the Student Council of the University of Aden organized a workshop on the understanding of university students of the social gender.

The workshop, held during 15-16 December 2003, was funded by United Nations Population Fund, and

attended by 60 students of both sexes from the Governorates of Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al-Dhali', and Taiz.

The Workshop discussed a number of issues including the definition of gender in general, and relative to education and religion as it aims to present the student with a better understanding of such definitions.

It also aims to present women with enough proofs so they are better equipped to handle life in the workplace.

أفراح آل الشامي

آل الشامي آل السقاف آل الناصر آل الجلال
آل عبد المغني آل الخطيب آل الشماع
الجميع يهنئون الشاب الخلوقة

نال محمد محمد أحمد الشامي

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون
فتنهائنا له بالحياة الزوجية السعيدة
المهنتون:

الأستاذ/أنور الشامي - أكرم السقاف - خير السقاف
د/عصام الناصر - مقدم/أحمد الجلال
د/عبد الكريم عبد المغني - عصام الشماع
رفيق الخطيب وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

Iraq court founder says no Saddam trial for months

BAGHDAD, Dec 16 (Reuters) - A new Iraqi war crimes court will not be ready to try Saddam Hussein for months, and could let judges from other countries take part in the trial, one of the tribunal's architects said on Tuesday.

Rights groups say a tribunal set up under the U.S.-led occupation smacks of victor's justice in Iraq, though U.S. President George W. Bush has said he would work with Iraqis to ensure any trial meets international standards.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he would not back the death penalty for the former Iraqi leader ousted in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and Britain — the closest U.S. ally — ruled out any role in a trial leading to Saddam's execution.

Dara Nooraldin, an Iraqi judge and member of Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council who helped draft the court's charter, said the court would not be ready to try anyone for months, and that any decision to execute Saddam would be in the hands of a transitional government set to be formed next year.

"The trials will not be conducted for some months, at the time when the judges and the court's administrative employees are appointed," he told Reuters.

"The transitional government may have been formed by then, and the question will be left to that government to decide whether the death penalty is to be abolished or to stay."

Nooraldin, a Baghdad judge imprisoned under Saddam's rule, bristled at the suggestion that Iraq's captive strongman and other potential defendants in the tribunal set up last week could not get fair trials in their own country.

"I am astounded that anyone could judge this court as compromised before the trials begin and the court's procedures are seen," he said.

"These crimes were committed in Iraq, it (the court) concerns Iraq and the Iraqi people. The court and the judges must be Iraqi."

But having Iraqis mete out justice to the leading figures of a government accused of genocide against its own people did not preclude an international role in the process, Nooraldin said.

"The law which provides for the establishment of the court stipulates that there can be recourse to international experts, and even for there to be international judges on the court that conducts a trial," he said.



An Iraqi street vendor cover his head with a newspaper showing former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in downtown Amman December 16, 2003. Many Jordanians expressed sympathy towards Saddam, whom they link with the resistance to the U.S.-led occupation. REUTERS

Nooraldin said the tribunal could hear cases stemming from the complaints of non-Iraqis — including Iran and Kuwait, both invaded by Saddam — and argued that letting Iraqis take

the lead in trials was the best means to prove the court integrity.

"The question is, what is the problem with such a court? Is it that there are no international judges?" he asked.

"How did they acquire their experience, were they born international judges, or did they acquire it? Let Iraq acquire its experience."

Israel likely to bar Arafat from Bethlehem mass

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat expressed hope on Tuesday that he could make a Christmas visit to Bethlehem for the first time in three years, but Israel said it was unlikely to let him go.

Asked by reporters at his battered headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah whether he wanted to travel to the city of Jesus's birth for holiday festivities, Arafat replied: "I hope so. You know that I never missed this opportunity until they (Israel) imposed a siege on this compound."

A senior Israeli official told Reuters the government saw no reason to change a policy under which Arafat is allowed to leave his headquarters but is not guaranteed he can return.

The edict has effectively confined him for nearly two years, following a series of Palestinian suicide bombings.

"He will stay where he is," the Israeli official said, adding that "there is no reason" to change Israel's policy toward Arafat. Israel accuses Arafat of fomenting violence in a three-year uprising, a charge which he denies.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat waves after talking to reporters outside his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah December 16. Arafat expressed hope on Tuesday that he could make a Christmas visit to Bethlehem for the first time in three years, but Israel said it was unlikely to let him go. REUTERS

Until 2001, Arafat — a Muslim — had attended Christmas mass at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity every year since the city was turned over to Palestinian rule in 1995.

Egypt hopes Saddam arrest aids Iraq power transfer

CAIRO, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in remarks published on Tuesday that he hoped the capture of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would help the handover of power to Iraqis. Mubarak was quoted by the semi-official Al-Ahram daily as saying that he hoped the move "will create a good opportunity to shift power to the Iraqi people...in accordance with the precise timetable so Iraqis can rule themselves".

"We are ready to cooperate with all Iraqi authorities as much as we can and as conditions allow to help ease Iraqi pain," he was quoted as telling Al-Ahram's editor.

The president also said there was an opportunity to move forward in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and said Egypt was ready to assist U.S. efforts to resolve the conflict.

"From our side, we will exert every effort to cooperate with the United States of America to reach this target,



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak REUTERS

just as we will exert every effort to bring the Palestinian and Israeli sides back to the negotiating table," he said. In recent weeks, Egypt has been involved in mediation efforts between Palestinian factions, although talks in Cairo between the groups earlier this month failed to reach agreement on a ceasefire with Israel.

Daughter wants international trial for Saddam

DUBAI, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein's daughter Raghda said on Tuesday she and her sisters wanted an international trial for their father caught by U.S. troops this week.

"He should not be tried by the (Iraqi) Governing Council which was put in place by occupiers," Raghda Saddam Hussein told Dubai-based Al Arabiya television by telephone from Jordan.

"We want an international, fair and legal trial," she said in a voice choked with emotion, adding that his family would appoint a lawyer to defend him.

Raghda and her sister Rana, who fled Iraq shortly after U.S. troops took control of Baghdad in April, now live in Jordan which has granted them asylum. The whereabouts of her mother and another sister, Hala, are not clear.

Raghda, Saddam's eldest daughter, said she could not bear to see the images the U.S. administration in Iraq had broadcast of her father, the former Iraqi dictator who appeared grubby and submissive after his capture on

Saturday.

Raghda said her father must have been drugged before his capture — her explanation for the humiliating pictures of a man who was seen by many Arabs as a hero for his anti-Western stance.

"A lion remains a lion even in captivity. Do you think they would have been able to capture him if they had not drugged him? I am sure that they could not have done so," she said.

"I am really proud that this man is my father. We all know the reason why he was displayed in the way he was. Where is the democracy, where is the immunity that presidents enjoy?"

In an interview with Al Arabiya in August, the 36-year-old Raghda accused close aides of her father of betraying him, which caused him to go into hiding for almost eight months.

In 1996 Saddam ordered the killing of the husbands of both Rana and Raghda after accusing them of giving information about Iraq's weapons to the West.

Iraqi killed, U.S. soldier wounded in Iraq riot

FALLUJA, Iraq, Dec 16 (Reuters) - An Iraqi gunman was killed and a U.S. soldier was wounded in an exchange of fire during riots in a restive town west of Baghdad, U.S. military sources said on Tuesday.

Witnesses said hundreds of residents protesting the arrest of Saddam Hussein rioted in the town of Falluja on Monday night, overrunning the office of the U.S.-appointed mayor.

U.S. military sources said that during the melee, gunmen fired at U.S. forces in the city, wounding one soldier. Soldiers returned fire, killing one gunman and wounding two.



U.S. soldier uses his gun to watch the area from the top of U.S. army headquarters in the Iraqi town of Falluja. REUTERS, file photo

The protest in Falluja was one of several demonstrations by supporters of Saddam in the mainly Sunni Muslim areas west and north of Baghdad.

Saddam was captured by U.S. troops on Saturday.

Kuwait man identified as shooter in attacks

KUWAIT, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Kuwaiti authorities have arrested four people suspected of involvement in separate gun attacks on two U.S. convoys and a bus carrying expatriate Asian and Arab workers in Kuwait, newspapers said on Tuesday.

They said police arrested a suspected gunman, a 29-year-old Kuwaiti, and three alleged accomplices. The four were seized in the Riqqa area south of the capital Kuwait City.

Al-Watan daily said the Kuwaiti had a police record and an AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifle was found on him, but he was not on the security forces' list of known Islamist militants.

The papers said police believed he was the gunman who fired on U.S.

military convoys outside Kuwait City on Sunday, slightly injuring four soldiers.

These were the latest in a string of attacks, blamed on Islamist militants, on U.S. targets in the Gulf Arab state, which was used as the launchpad for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March.

The papers said the Kuwaiti man was also suspected of shooting at a bus in Shuaiba area south of the capital on Monday, wounding about five Indian and Arab workers of a local company.

The attack took place in the vicinity of Shuaiba port where the U.S. military keeps a presence, and papers said the suspect may have mistaken the workers, who all wore similar uniforms, for American soldiers.

Bush, Sharon to share Saddam's fate, Khamenei says

TEHRAN, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Iran's supreme leader, in his first public comments since the capture of Saddam Hussein, said on Tuesday that George W. Bush and Israel's Ariel Sharon would suffer the same fate as the former Iraqi leader.

Addressing a crowd of thousands in the city of Qazvin, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei expressed joy over the arrest of Saddam, who invaded Iran's fledgling Islamic republic in 1980, starting an eight-year war that left hundreds of thousands dead.

"Now that he has been captured, the Islamic world and all those who know what a savage animal he was feel delighted," Khamenei said in a speech broadcast live on state television.

"The Iraqi nation has suffered greatly under this bloodthirsty wolf. Now it is apparently free of him."

But Khamenei also used Saddam's downfall to take a swipe at Iran's two other great political enemies — the United States and Israel — by condemning their respective leaders, President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon.

"I heard the U.S. president saying the world is a better place without Saddam. I want the U.S. president to know that a world without Bush and Sharon is a much better place," he said.

"All of those who are ruling the world arrogantly like a dictator in the name of improving democracy and human rights... should know that they will not enjoy a better ending than Saddam," he added.

Iran's government on Monday called for Saddam to be tried in an international court and said it was preparing a case against him for crimes committed during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

South Korea's Roh stands by offer to quit over scandal

SEOUL, Dec 16 (Reuters) - South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun vowed again on Tuesday to resign if his camp was found to have received more than a tenth of the illegal political funds his opponent received in last year's election.

Roh said his resignation remarks — made on Sunday to political party leaders and criticised as reckless in the media and in political circles — were "made in full confidence" and designed to quell unfounded rumours about his misdeeds.

"Rather than discussing whether my comment was appropriate, it is proper to judge if it's true or not," Roh told a news conference at the Blue House presidential compound in Seoul.

Roh's opponent last year, former supreme court justice Lee Hoi-chang, acknowledged on Tuesday that his Grand National Party took in 50 billion won (\$42.2 million) in off-the-book corporate donations. Lee vowed to go to jail to take responsibility.

"I didn't mean to surprise the public or use it as a political brinkmanship tactic," Roh said of the second time in two months he has shocked his country with an offer to step down.

When the funding troubles emerged in October with revelations that a close aide had taken 1.1 billion won (\$927,900) from a scandal-tainted firm, Roh vowed to hold a referendum and step down if he lost the confidence vote.

The referendum was proposed for December 15 but never took place. Legal experts said the vote would be unconstitutional.

Electron rivalry

Roh appealed for a bipartisan approach to reforming the political system and urged his country to wait for the results of a widening investigation into the political funding scandal before rushing to judgment.

"Once the investigation is concluded, I'll reveal everything I need to to the public and then ask for a confidence test," said Roh, who began his five-year term in February.

"If it comes to light that the funds exceed one-tenth (of that of the opposition) I will keep my pledge to resign without going through the confidence-vote process," he added.

The scandal has paralysed parliament as recriminations overshadowed policy debate. Rival parties have been

competing to dig up dirt on each other to gain advantage in next April's parliamentary election.

At least two of Roh's aides and a pair of Lee advisers have been arrested since the scandal erupted.

Parliament has overturned Roh's veto and forced him to appoint a special counsel to investigate those cases. He named former military lawyer Kim Jin-hong as the special counsel.

In contrast to the 50 billion won (\$42.2 million) that Lee said his GNP took from top family-owned business conglomerates known as "chaebol", aides to the pro-labour candidate Roh have been accused of taking much smaller amounts last year.

But the scandals among his close aides have been a big blow for Roh, who campaigned by appealing to ordinary Koreans and vowing reforms to end a long history of shady dealings among businessmen and politicians.

The Grand National Party, ignoring Roh's appeal to stop throwing around unsubstantiated new allegations until an investigation is completed, released a statement on Tuesday saying Roh's campaign took 14.5 billion won (\$12.25 million) in illegal funds last year. (\$1=1184.0 Won)



South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun answers a reporter's question during a news conference at the presidential Blue House in Seoul December 16. Roh said on Tuesday he stood by an offer to resign if his camp was found to have received more than a tenth of the illegal political funds that his opponent received in last year's election. REUTERS

Let Iraqis decide Saddam trial fate

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Reuters) - The Iraqi people should decide how their captured former leader, Saddam Hussein, is brought to justice, Malaysia's prime minister and chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference said.

Allowing Iraqis to reclaim their honour and dignity included giving them back their political and judicial power, said Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The people of Iraq should therefore be given the right to decide on the manner and procedure of bringing Saddam Hussein to face justice," Abdullah said in a statement released on Monday.

Saddam must have a fair trial in accordance with the standards of international law, Abdullah said.

Malaysia took over the chair of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Conference in October. The OIC reflects the views of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims but does not have the means or the institutional framework for concrete action.

Saddam was captured by U.S. troops on Saturday near his hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, after a tip-off. He is being held as a prisoner of war.

U.S. President George W. Bush has said the United States and Iraq would organise a fair and public trial for the 66-year-old Saddam, adding Iraqis would decide whether he would face the death penalty.

Mugabe hails China as Beijing promises Africa aid

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 15 (Reuters) - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe urged Africa on Monday to forge closer ties with China and other Asian countries and shun the "brutal predominance" of the United States.

Mugabe, who stormed out of the Commonwealth earlier this month, was speaking at a China-Africa forum in Addis Ababa where Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao promised to increase aid to the world's poorest continent.

"It is taking far too long for most of our business people to realise that the biggest world market, the fastest growing economies are in fact in the East, the largest being China," Mugabe said, hitting out at Western countries he said were "late-comers" to human civilisation cradled in Africa and China.

"China's politics have always been pro-Africa, pro-Third World, anti-imperial and anti-hegemonic," he said. "Historically the People's Republic of China has always been an alternative global power point."

He slammed the "brutal predominance of America, unconditionally supported by Britain, Australia and other nations of Europe recklessly seeking global hegemony under the convenient but false cover of good governance, human rights and democracy".

Mugabe withdrew from the Commonwealth this month after the 54-member group of mainly former British colonies meeting in Nigeria

renewed Zimbabwe's suspension, demanding it reconcile with its opposition and respect human rights.

Zimbabwe is struggling with a deepening economic crisis that many blame on government mismanagement over the last 23 years but Mugabe says the turmoil is a result of sabotage by local and foreign opponents of his land reforms.

At the forum, China's Wen said his country would increase capital investment to the African Human Resources Development Fund by 33 percent, grant duty-free access for some African commodities, encourage tourism and train Africans.

He said China's own development problems limited what it could offer, but said there would be no political conditions.

"China and Africa together have more than one third of the world's population," he said. "China is the largest developing country, and Africa the largest developing continent."

"It is an unshakeable policy of the new Chinese government to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with African countries and other developing nations."

Wen said the Chinese Government had fulfilled its debt exemption commitments ahead of schedule and cancelled 31 African countries' debts worth 10.5 billion yuan (\$1.27 billion).

At least four African presidents attended the forum in Addis Ababa, along with high-level officials from most African states.

Japan junior coalition party head may visit Iraq

TOKYO, Dec 16 (Reuters) - The leader of the Japanese ruling coalition's junior party, which has expressed reservations about the government's plan to send troops to Iraq, is due to leave for Kuwait on Tuesday and may also visit Iraq.

Takenori Kanzaki, head of the New Komeito Party, will decide after arriving in Kuwait whether to continue to southern Iraq to see the area where Japanese troops would be sent in their biggest and most dangerous overseas military mission since World War Two.

The New Komeito, whose tenets include pacifism, is backed by a lay Buddhist group and some members are

opposed to the troop dispatch.

"Kanzaki told reporters earlier that he wants to go on to Iraq, but arrangements must be made with people on the ground there," a New Komeito party spokesman said.

"This is to check the general security situation there ahead of sending any troops."

Japan's cabinet approved a plan last week for the dispatch of non-combat troops to Iraq to help with its reconstruction, but the timing has yet to be decided in the face of widespread public opposition and concern about the security situation.

Scepticism abounds on Myanmar constitution pledge

BANGKOK/YANGON, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Military-ruled Myanmar's pledge to embark on a "road map to democracy" next year with a constitutional conference has not removed doubts about the junta's sincerity, diplomats and the opposition said on Tuesday.

Diplomats in Yangon and Bangkok said the junta's record of broken promises meant it would be premature to hope this one, announced by Foreign Minister Win Aung at an international meeting in Bangkok on Monday, would be carried out.

The United States offered similar scepticism after Win Aung told the 12-nation meeting convened by Thailand that democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) would be allowed to help shape a constitution.

"What we want to see is the kind of action that would demonstrate that they're really going to allow the politi-

cal forces in Burma and the ethnic minorities to participate in Burma's future," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Suu Kyi, under house arrest in Rangoon, was unavailable for comment. But a senior member of the NLD said the party had heard nothing from the ruling generals about reconvening a constitution-drafting convention, suspended since 1996.

"We have not heard anything from the authorities about our participation in the national convention," Lun Tin, a member of the NLD's central executive committee told Reuters.

Lun Tin, 82, and four other central committee members, all in their eighties, were released from house arrest just last week. Suu Kyi is refusing liberty until others arrested with her in May are freed.

Under pressure

Exiled opponents of the generals

who have ruled what used to be called Burma since 1962 said they were equally dubious that the seven-step "road map to democracy", announced by new Prime Minister Khin Nyunt in August, would become reality.

"They are under an extreme pressure not only from the West but ASEAN and like-minded countries," said Soe Aung, spokesman for the National Council of the Union of Burma, an umbrella group of 30 exiled dissident groups.

"Win Aung may have got a green light from Khin Nyunt to give a time frame at the Bangkok meeting to pave a way for them to buy more time for more aid."

ASEAN, the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations which is one of the few organisations that will have Myanmar as a member, is pursuing a policy of "constructive engagement".

Thailand has taken the lead in trying to persuade the generals to move along

a path to democracy, a stark contrast to the sanctions imposed by Washington on an impoverished country once considered Southeast Asia's granary.

Myanmar Foreign Minister Win Aung told the Bangkok gathering a constitutional convention would resume in 2004, in which all political parties, including the NLD, and ethnic minority groups would be included.

Suu Kyi's NLD won a landslide general election victory in 1990, but the military ignored the result.

The military government opened a convention in early 1993 aimed at drawing up a constitution that would enshrine a leading role for the military in politics. Suu Kyi's party walked out of it in 1995. It has not met since 1996.

Suu Kyi and scores of her supporters were locked up at the end of May following a bloody attack on her convoy by pro-government youths. She was allowed to go home after an operation in September.

Afghan warlord tells how he evaded US capture

ISLAMABAD, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein may have been cornered in a dingy cellar in Iraq, but in the remote mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan some of America's most wanted men are thought to be roaming free.

In a video recorded before the Iraqi leader's capture, renegade Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar relates how he narrowly evaded American forces on at least four occasions in the last two years, often escaping by the skin of his teeth.

It is an account that graphically reveals the almost impossible task Americans have in tracking down al Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden and Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, in remote mountains where they have few friends.

"Even if you are using satellite phones or other communication, even then you must believe that American forces cannot catch you," Hekmatyar said in a message to meant to encour-

age other "mujaheddin" or holy warriors.

Hekmatyar may not be a household name like bin Laden or Mullah Omar, but he is thought to be playing a significant role in the opposition movement that has made much of southern and eastern Afghanistan almost ungovernable this year.

A former Afghan prime minister, he repeated his call for a "jihad" or holy war against U.S. forces and their allies in Afghanistan. His fighters are thought to be loosely allied to militants from the Taliban and al Qaeda.

"Look at my example," he said. "During the last two years, there were times when I stayed in a place that was hardly 500 yards from a U.S. firebase."

"The American helicopters virtually flew over my head and we were able to hit them with a Kalashnikov rifle, but they were unable to locate my hideout."

MEASURED TONES

A tall man with spectacles and a graying beard, Hekmatyar wore a

brown woollen hat and a black jacket in the video, looking far from a broken man as he read out a message of defiance against America and its allies in measured tones.

Hekmatyar describes how on one occasion he slipped away by climbing a mountain as U.S. soldiers searched a nearby house.

"They searched our neighbour's house while we were watching them," he said. "We heard their voices. Later, we climbed down and went back to the house."

For the last two years, more than 10,000 U.S. troops and their allies have conducted regular sweeps through southern and eastern Afghanistan, but encounters with their enemy are rare.

More often, U.S. troops find little more than caches of rifles and explosives, their quarry melting away into mountains or back into the population.

In May 2002, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency fired a Hellfire missile at Hekmatyar from an

unmanned spy aircraft.

In the video recorded in an undisclosed location with a grey blanket as background, Hekmatyar tells of how his men watched the aircraft fly overhead for three nights, unaware that it could fire rockets as well as take photographs.

"We knew that ground forces could not easily reach our hideout and we would be able to escape. The rocket fired by the plane landed 70 to 80 metres from me, and all of us survived."

The leader of one of the strongest mujaheddin factions that fought the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s, Hekmatyar is thought to have received hundreds of millions of dollars of American and Pakistani weapons and support.

But his thirst for power led him to fall out with his fellow resistance leaders, and many Afghans blame him for destroying Kabul in the civil war that followed the Soviet withdrawal.

US hopes for UN Council support on Iraq timetable

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 16 (Reuters) - With the capture of Saddam Hussein, the United States hopes the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday gives its support to American plans to hand over power to Iraq and rebuild the country.

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Hoshiyar Zebari, is expected to present the timetable that the Iraqi Governing Council and the U.S.-led coalition devised for a handover of power to a provisional government in June and a constitution general elections by the end of 2005.

"I think an affirmation or affirmations of support for the political, economic and security development of Iraq would be most welcome indeed, and most appropriate under the circumstances," U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said.

The 15-nation council, sharply divided over the war, considers a report on the U.N.'s future role in Iraq by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said Saddam's capture removed a "rather long shadow" over the transition process.

Annan stressed that any court trying Saddam must meet international norms and standards, which meant excluding the death penalty. "As secretary-general, as the U.N., as an organization, we are not going to now turn around and support the death penalty," he told reporters on Monday.

But Annan was cautious about when the United Nations would return to Iraq, following the deadly Aug. 19 bombing of its Baghdad headquarters that cost 22 lives.

"The only thing that will hasten the U.N.'s return is the establishment of a security environment. And if the capture of Saddam Hussein leads to that development, it will be helpful," he

said. Last week Annan, in a 26-page report, ruled out a quick return for safety reasons and said the United Nations must have a clear and independent role in a future Iraq.

Jeremy Greenstock, the senior British envoy in Iraq and a former U.N. ambassador, said Annan was unlikely to name a chief envoy to Iraq to replace Sergio Vieira de Mello, killed in the bomb attack, until spring or summer.

Greenstock, who saw Annan during a brief stopover, said he did not expect a U.N. political presence in Iraq until the summer when the transition to Iraqi self-rule begins.

"The important year for this whole process is 2005, when the direct elections for a constitutional convention and later for a government take place," Greenstock said. "That is when London wants to see the U.N. fully involved, take a leading role."

He said Saddam's capture would probably mean an escalation of violence in the near future by insurgents as a "last gasp to disrupt the system."

"The number of incidents will be constrained but the seriousness of incidents will not go down. The violence will continue and in some ways will get worse," he said.

The Security Council on Monday approved a terse statement welcoming Saddam's capture, reflecting members' wary approach to U.S. pleas to provide political and financial aid for Iraq.

"We are talking here about what is mainly a symbolic event," Russia's deputy foreign minister, Yuri Fedotov, told news agencies in Moscow. "If coalition participants intend to act independently, they can hardly count on the support and understanding of other countries."

Germany to press Baker on Iraq contracts dispute

BERLIN, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Germany said on Tuesday it hoped to use talks with U.S. special envoy James Baker to persuade the United States to drop its refusal to grant major rebuilding contracts in Iraq to countries that opposed the war there.

But Defence Minister Peter Struck said the capture of Saddam Hussein would not prompt Berlin to offer to send troops to help stabilise Iraq.

In an interview with Reuters, Struck made clear that the dramatic weekend arrest of Saddam would not magically dispel the differences between the United States and Germany, which strongly opposed the invasion of Iraq last March.

Relations had improved since the war

ended but "have certainly experienced a slight darkening" since the United States last week announced it was shutting out war opponents like Germany, France and Russia from bidding for prime contracts worth \$18.6 billion in Iraq, he said.

Asked if the U.S. move could be seen as revenge for that opposition, he said: "I can't judge that. But I don't consider this decision as smart."

Struck said Germany would raise the issue in talks with Baker, who visits Europe this week to discuss debt relief for Iraq. Baker is due in Berlin on Wednesday.

"I hope the talks that James Baker will conduct in Berlin will bring a change in the stance of the U.S. govern-

ment. I have no understanding for this position," he said.

On German support for stabilising Iraq, Struck said nothing had changed with Saddam's capture.

"We have offered to train Iraqi police and military, if there is a wish for that. That's what Germany is offering in this area," he said. "It makes no sense now to speculate over any change of stance."

Struck said Saddam's arrest should help calm the situation in Iraq by destroying any residual hopes of his supporters that he could seize back power.

But he said the threat to Germany and Western countries from al Qaeda or its sympathisers remained undiminished, and attacks could never be ruled out.

French police swoop on paedophile network

PARIS, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Police carried out raids across France on Tuesday on a suspected paedophile network as part of investigations into the disappearance of a nine-year-old girl, a prosecutor said.

Estelle Mouzin went missing on January 9 as she returned from school in the village of Guermantes. Her parents launched a high-profile campaign to try to find her and her picture has appeared on flyers and posters nationwide.

They got involved after an extensive police search of homes in the village of 1,400 residents failed to yield any suspects.

French media said Tuesday's raid targeted 85 people, of which the majority were arrested for questioning.

YUKOS, Sibneft sign divorce deal, haggle over terms

MOSCOW, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Russia's oil major YUKOS and smaller partner Sibneft have signed a preliminary deal ending their planned merger, but it will take at least a month to nail down details of the divorce, sources close to both firms said on Tuesday.

The sources said the preliminary deal was signed over the weekend between both parties in London, but YUKOS was still insisting on huge compensation from Sibneft, which unilaterally suspended the merger last month.

Russian business daily Vedomosti reported on Tuesday YUKOS agreed to scrap the merger but was not insisting on payment of \$1 billion compensation from Sibneft anymore.

However, a source close to YUKOS said the company still wanted compensation.

"It will take the two sides at least a month to draw up the divorce structure. YUKOS agreed to scrap the merger, but it is still talking about the need for compensation from Sibneft," said a source close to YUKOS.

"I can only confirm that the two sides agreed to scrap the merger," a source close to Sibneft said.

YUKOS and Sibneft agreed to join forces in April 2003 to create the world's fourth largest oil firm. YUKOS paid a total of \$3 billion and swapped 26 percent of its shares for a 92 percent stake in Sibneft.

But last month, Sibneft called a halt to the merger, which was almost fully completed, following the arrest in October of YUKOS's main shareholder Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The arrest of Russia's richest oil tycoon was widely seen as an attempt by the Kremlin to punish the billionaire for his political ambitions.

Analysts have said that by abandoning the merger with the well-connected Sibneft, YUKOS would make itself more vulnerable to judicial attack from state authorities.

YUKOS's offices have been raided on numerous occasions on the orders of state prosecutors and the tax ministry has said the company may owe up to \$5 billion in back taxes.

The State of the World's Children 2004- Girls' Education and Development

UNICEF says getting more girls into school is first step to reaching global development goals

GENEVA/ CAIRO/ NEW YORK,

11 December 2003 - International development efforts are drastically short-changing girls, leaving hundreds of millions of girls and women uneducated and unable to contribute to positive change for themselves, their children, or their communities, a major UNICEF report released today contends. The agency said that without accelerated action to get more girls into school over the next two years, global goals to reduce poverty and improve the human condition would simply not be reached. Conversely, it said that bringing down the barriers that keep girls out of school would benefit both girls and boys - and their countries. UNICEF argued that the adjustment in development strategies needed to get girls in school and keep them there would jump-start progress on the entire development agenda for 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals. "International development efforts have been glaringly inadequate at getting girls into school in too many countries," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, releasing UNICEF's flagship report, the State of the World's Children. "We have to ask ourselves why this is, and what the consequences are. In this report the findings are clear: Gender discrimination is hampering development efforts, starting with the fundamental right of every child to go to school". UNICEF noted that illiteracy rates are still far higher among women than men, and at least 9 million more girls than boys are left out of school every year - statistics that have lasting implications not only for girls and women, but for their children and families as well. "We stand no chance of substantially reducing poverty, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and other diseases if we do not ensure that all girls and boys can exercise their right to a basic education," Bellamy said. "In daily life, knowledge makes the crucial difference". The report presents compelling evidence that enabling girls to get a basic education of good quality would improve other indicators of human well being. For instance, it shows that the majority of countries with the lowest secondary enrolment rates for girls also have among the highest rates of child mortality - where more than 15% of children die before age five.

Why it matters

The report shows that girls denied an education are more vulnerable to poverty, hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking. They are more likely to die in childbirth and are at greater risk of disease, including HIV/AIDS. But according to the State of the World's Children, the positive impact of educating girls is equally dramatic: As mothers, educated women are more likely to have healthy children, and more likely to ensure that their children, both boys and girls, complete school. "A child's lack of education not only limits her individual potential, but dramatically reduces hope that her children will be able to escape a lifetime of poverty and hardship," Bellamy said. "That's why UNICEF recognizes this issue as crucial to the entire development agenda. It prevents the loss of vast amounts of human potential". In example after example, the UNICEF report details how bringing down the barriers that keep girls out of school makes schools more welcoming for boys as well as girls. Those barriers include schools that are too far from home, lack clean water and separate toilet facilities, and where the threat of violence is ever present in and around the schoolyard. "This is not about choosing to put girls into classrooms instead of boys", Bellamy emphasized. "It's about approaching a key development challenge with strategy, sensitivity, and smarts. The things that get more girls into school, and keep them there, are the things that make schools better. And they make development efforts better, too".

What's Gone Wrong

The report argues that the standard approach to achieving universal education has fallen short because it assumed that generic effort to enrol more children would benefit all children equally, an assumption that has not examined or addressed the specific barriers faced by girls. Although global enrolment rates show gradual

improvement in gender balance, 9 million more girls are still left out of the classroom completely, and girls who are enrolled drop out faster, on average, than boys. "Because of the persistent and often subtle gender discrimination that runs through most societies, it is girls who are sacrificed first - being the last enrolled and the first withdrawn from schools when times get tough," the report states. The report argues that education must be approached as a human right rather than a privilege or an expected outcome of economic progress. When education is considered a right, governments are obligated to mobilize the needed resources so that all children can complete a quality education. And parents are more likely to hold their governments accountable for failing to do so.

Millions of girls are left out every year, with major consequences for nations

What must change

The report presents an agenda for action, calling on development agencies, governments, families, and communities to focus and intensify their efforts on addressing the challenges that keep girls out of school. Essentially, the report calls for adjustments in how development is approached from the start.

Among specific measures, the report calls for:

- creation of a national ethos recognizing the value of educating girls as well as boys
- education to be included as an essential component in development plans
- the elimination of school fees of every kind
- the integration of education into national plans for poverty reduction
- increased international funding for education

The report found that, with few exceptions, industrialized countries and international financial institutions have failed to meet their commitments to fund education. "Despite donor nations' 1990 promises for

extra funding for education and their 1996 commitment to ensure universal primary education by 2015, total aid flows to developing countries actually declined during the 1990s, and bilateral funding for education plummeted even further," the report states. The greatest need is in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of girls left out of school each year has risen from 20 million in 1990 to 24 million in 2002. (Eighty-three percent of all girls out of school live in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and East Asia & the Pacific)

Why It's Urgent

The first of the Millennium Development Goals to come due is the goal of gender parity in education by 2005. UNICEF argues that major progress towards achieving that goal is still possible with the strategic acceleration of national efforts and international support. One year ago, UNICEF made its own commitment to achieving the goal by launching "25 by 2005" - an urgent campaign to help 25 gender-gap and low enrolment countries eliminate the barriers that keep girls and boys out of school. The report details the progress of the campaign thus far, with a comprehensive set of examples of what's working and why. "Educating girls on an equal basis with boys, addressing the needs of all, is not an optional investment," Bellamy said. "None of the world's wealthier countries developed without making a significant investment in education. That's a lesson we need to keep in mind if we're serious about really doing things differently in this world. This is a test for us. Whether we pass or fail will have major and lasting consequences". Officially launching the State of the World's Children at the World Summit on Information Society in Geneva, Bellamy said that technology could help children, but that it could not replace basic literacy and learning. "It's truly amazing how far information technology has come in the past 25 years, and yet every year more than 121 million children never see the inside of a classroom," Bellamy said. "All the technology in the world cannot replace what these children are losing. Which just shows that it comes to ensuring every child a quality basic education, we don't need a revolution, we just need to take responsibility".

N.Cyprus waits for coalition deal after tied polls

NICOSIA, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Turkish Cypriot politicians were wrestling on Tuesday with how to form a government after landmark elections that were seen as crucial to hopes for a solution to the island's division ended in a dead heat.

Sunday's cliffhanger parliamentary poll was effectively a referendum on veteran leader Rauf Denkash's hawkish stance against a U.N. blueprint to reunify the island, with opposition parties vowing to seek a swift deal with the Greek Cypriots.

The hung result, giving the pro-Denkash and anti-Denkash camps 25 seats each, leaves the breakaway Turkish Cypriot mini-state in political deadlock and peace prospects in limbo. It could also hamper the ambitions of Turkey, the only country to recognise the enclave, to join the European Union.

Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu met Denkash on Tuesday for the formal business of submitting his government's resignation, but the real politics were going on in party back-rooms.

Denkash said he would hold individual meetings with the leaders of the four elected parties from Wednesday to discuss who might be capable of forming a new coalition.

"There's no line-up of whom I'll meet first," he told reporters at his colonial-style presidency in the north part of Nicosia, warning against reading anything into the order.

Denkash said on Monday fresh polls would have to be called in two months if no stable government could be formed.

Turkey, which invaded in 1974 after a Greek Cypriot coup backed by Athens, is under heavy EU pressure to force the Turkish Cypriots back to talks before the internationally recog-



Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister and leader of the National Union Party (UBP) Dervis Eroglu talks to the media and his supporters at the party headquarters in Turkish part of Nicosia early December 15. More than 140,000 Turkish Cypriots went to the polls on Sunday in parliamentary elections in the north of the divided Mediterranean island. REUTERS

nised government in the south joins the bloc next May.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said on Tuesday Ankara was working with the enclave to map the way ahead and end nearly three decades of division along ethnic lines.

"We will bring out concrete measures next week. Right now we are in preparations for a compromise (with the Greek Cypriots)," Anatolian news agency quoted him as saying on a trip to Japan.

"But compromise cannot be one-sided. We expect the other side to be in a mood to compromise. Only then can we get a result."

YT Business



An official report:

Sudden rise in inflation rates

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An economic report issued recently by the Yemeni ministry of planning and international cooperation mentioned that the rate of inflation recorded at 4.3% in December 2002 resumed its rise again suddenly in January 2003 to reach 11.6% and then another rise in February of the same year to hit 15%.

The report has attributed the deterioration in inflation rate to four main factors altogether, namely, the increase in monetary supply due to rise in public spending because of an additional appropriation in the budget at the end of the fiscal year. That consequently had led to an increase in demand for commodities and services and also an increase in prices.

The second factor causing this deterioration of inflation rate is the emergence of a form of speculation on the dollar ascribed to government spending increase to pay government commitments that have been invested by beneficiaries benefiting from banking speculation instead of channeling them into actual and productive investments.

The third factor is the drop in the rate of foreign remittances by expatriates. As for the fourth factor it has been ascribed to impact of political and security developments on the Yemeni



economy and economies of the Middle East region resulting from the war on Iraq.

The report has also mentioned that the Central Bank of Yemen has interfered this time by providing the foreign currency market with huge sums of dollars, not less than \$80 million. The Yemeni Bank has also increased proportion of foreign currency reserve from 10% to 20%. Despite of that monetary rapid measure it has not been able to absorb local currency liquidity or covering the increasing demand for hard currencies.

June 2003 has witnessed a drop in

inflation rate by 6.8% but to resume its rise to 10.5 last August. Among the most significant causes why the rate of inflation had fallen in the period February-June was the fall in prices of foodstuffs by 13%. As for the rise in the rate of inflation during the period June-August it could be attributed to the increase in rent prices of hotels and houses as a result of the return of large number of expatriates to spend summer vacation in Yemen and also to the increase in communication costs.

Exchange rate price is greatly affected by events and crises taking place in the Middle East and because Yemeni

production industries depend by 80% on foreign requirements of production, therefore any deterioration in exchange price would produce a big increase in prices of local and imported products.

The report has expected that the economic circumstances during the coming months require direct coordination between monetary and financial policies. As the inflation rate continued its rise since its relative drop last June when it reached 10.5% in August, it is then expected that some seasonal inflationary pressures to happen that would impede realization of the least inflationary target at 10%.

Yemen-China, distinguished economic relations

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Meetings of the 6th session of the Yemeni-Chinese joint committee express and indicate of distinguished relations between the two countries as they are connected by trade, economic and cultural agreements and protocols.

Roots of Yemeni-Chinese relations can be traced to mid fifties of the last century, and they had been founded on bases of partnership and fruitful cooperation. Those relations had begun in 1956 and then when the two countries had signed a treaty for friendship in 1958.

Visits to Peking by resident Ali Abdulla Saleh in December 1987 and 1998 as well as the visit to Peking by vice-president Abdah Rabou Mansour Hadi in 1999 had engendered and developed new relations in the course of cooperation between Yemen and China.

China has offered Yemen financial loans and assistance for funding projects in industrial, educational, trade, agriculture, health and arts fields and others. During the course of Yemeni-Chinese cooperation, the two side have concluded 79 agreements, meeting minutes, protocols, memoranda of

understanding and executive programs. The Yemen-Chinese joint committee was established in 1987 and since then it has held five sessions that produced many agreements in various areas.


Recently a group of Chinese companies have inaugurated investment activities in Yemen while 12 Chinese companies have entered the Yemeni market carrying out contracts and constructions.

Among the important Chinese projects implemented in Yemen is the Friendship Bridge in the capital Sana'a and several other vital projects.

Figures issued by the Central Apparatus for Statistics indicate that the value of Yemeni exports to China in 1980 have risen to around YR 50 billion and to top YR 125 billion in 2002.

Yemeni exports to China are mainly crude oil, fish, and aluminum, while the Yemeni imports from China have witnessed a great qualitative development. Indicators of the value of Yemeni imports have registered an amount of around YR30 billion.

China occupies the 8th place among the countries exporting to Yemen, therefore the scheduled 6th meeting of the joint committee would enhance and consolidate future cooperation of the two countries in various areas.



SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان

**The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of
Operations Manager**

Under the guidance of the country office representative the operation manager provides leadership and advise in all aspects of management and operations, finance, administration, procurement and information technology as well as human resources. His/her role is to ensure a fully accountable, smoothly functioning, well-managed, and result-oriented Country Office and to facilitate programme implementation and delivery by providing for the operational needs of programme and projects.

The Operations Manager:

- Assesses and anticipates operational and staffing requirements for the implementation of the UNFPA supported country programme in Yemen and supports the achievement of programme and project results facilitating operational aspects of project inputs in terms of personnel, sub-contracts, equipments, fellowship, study tours and other project related events.
- Ensures the strategic and efficient management of office and programme financial resources and oversees the application of financial and administrative systems, policies and procedures.
- Ensures optimal staffing of office and projects applying cooperate Human Resource (HR) policies, best practice HR tools, mechanism and systems including performance management.
- Oversees the implementation of corporate Information Technology (IT) systems and applications in support of finance and human resource management and country office operations and ensures training of staff and project personnel.
- Promotes network relationships for knowledge sharing ensuring continuous and accurate information and data flows.
- Manages the provision and goods and services for office and projects and oversees management of UNFPA assets and facilities.
- Represents the UNFPA in operational inter-agency activities.

We are looking for Yemeni candidates who have:

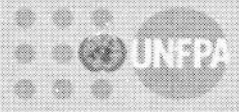
- The necessary business acumen for the position.
- Experience in the implementation of modern management system.
- A strongly client oriented attitude
- Integrity, commitment and respect for diversity
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a master's degree in business administration, public administration, finance, information technology, and economic or related fields. We expect professional experience of 5 to 8 years, preferably in administration, finance, or office management in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications and corporate IT system.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience (Post level: NO-C organization reserves the right to recruit below this level)
Please send your application to: UNFPA, Sana'a, P.O. Box 7272
Deadline for application: 5th of January 2003

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.



SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان

**The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of
Finance/Administrative Associate**

Under the guidance of the Head Office and direct supervisor of the Operations Manager, the Finance Administrative Associate ensures the effective functioning of administrative and financial operations and systems in support of the programme and office management. He/She works closely with programme and project staff and delivers quality services to internal and external clients mastering relevant rules, processes and procedures

The Finance/Administrative Associate:

- Anticipates and assists in managing operational requirements of programme projects and office inputs, in terms of personnel, sub-contracts, equipment, fellowships, study tours.
- Assists in managing recruitment, selection, contracting modalities, performance review and training processes of national staff applying best practice HR tools and policies and procedures
- Supports the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results.
- Prepares and monitors the administrative office budget and develops tools and mechanisms for efficient monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinates compilation of financial data and provides accurate and up-dated financial information
- Reviews procurement requests and initiates procurement procedures for office and project equipment, supplies and services
- Proposes procedures to improve internal controls and efficiency and responds to audit issues. Interprets financial policies and procedures particularly relating to national execution and provides guidance and training to staff and project managers.
- Ensures the effective day-to-day financial recording, accounting and reporting system, internal control and audit follow-up and processes financial transactions in an accurate and timely way
- Implements corporate systems and applications in support of finance and human resource management, fin and country office operations
- Assist in reviewing and monitoring for common UN system activities related to common services cost recovery, privileges and immunities, security and represents UNFPA's interest in related inter-agency meetings and working groups as instructed by supervisor.

We are looking for Yemeni candidates who have:

- The necessary business acumen for the position.
- A client oriented approach to their work.
- A capacity for implementing modern management systems, including IT
- Integrity, commitment and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a bachelor's degree in public/business administration, finance/accounting, economics or related fields and 3 to 5 years of relevant experience in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience (ICS7/G7)
Please send your application to: UNFPA, Sana'a, P.O. Box 7272
Deadline for application: 5th of January 2003

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator. The children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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

OUR OPINION

Saddam's journey from a castles to a hole: Possible fate of every oppressive ruler

All those who watched the drama of the capture of Saddam Hussein were probably amazed at how, the once super powerful leader, Saddam Hussein was hiding like a rat in a filthy underground hole. Looking at how his people abandoned him one after another, and seeing how he easily surrendered himself to the American forces without the simplest resistance, one can just hope that he could serve as an example to all oppressive leaders in the world.

Yes indeed. If Saddam had not been an oppressive and arrogant leader, he would have been loved by his people and protected from any foreign forces trying to get him. But what happened was the total opposite. Because of his injustice to his people, and because of the extra lavish lifestyle he enjoyed in a time most of the population was below the poverty line, he only got what he deserved, and it is the same fate awaiting every tyrant on this planet.

This is an eye opener for all other Arab leaders, who are somewhat distant from their people and not feeling their suffering and pain. I would like to tell our oppressive Arab leaders that, "Yes, you are now in magnificent palaces, eating the best of food, and wearing the best of clothes, but what about your people? Have you made sure they get what they need in terms of food and basic rights? Have you ensured that their children receive proper education and healthcare? Have you ever thought of what they would feel while watching you on TV every day in your golden chairs laughing with your guests while those very citizens who are watching you are homeless, with not enough food to eat, and with the inability to make both ends meet?"

This is a time all Arab regimes in particular and all regimes in general, should look into their relationship with their people. I want to request them to "let there be a moment of thought of how your people think about you. Let there be a moment before you sleep when you imagine the many poor people that are sleeping out in the cold, while you enjoy sleeping in a luxurious soft king size bed."

A response like "Just because they are in the street doesn't mean I should leave my bed!" a spontaneous response may come from those leaders. But nevertheless, "it is your policies that made them suffer. It is your negligence, inefficiency that made those people become poorer and poorer every day. Why are you forgetting that you are the main person responsible for the conditions of your people?"

I can imagine that most oppressive Arab leaders who watched the scenes of Saddam captured, went through a moment of fear and distress, because they know for sure they are not much better than he was, and that they would probably be let down by their people when the moment of truth comes.

I need to stress, however, that who took over Saddam and arrested him is not that important. But what is most important is to realize that a hated leader will certainly not win his freedom in the end because he lost the love and trust of his people.

Hence, it is only natural to believe that any oppressive leader could find himself in the position of Saddam one day, regardless of the 'achievements' he thinks he has accomplished for his people during his ruling period because people's trust and love is what is the most important achievement that can never be compared to others.



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Another step in the country's reform

Strong unions may build Yemen



By ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The issue of administrative and financial reforms has been at the forefront of government priorities since the beginning of the revolution, and people kept searching for lessons learned by those with similar situations before us.

One of the mechanisms that were adopted was the creation of union committees in the workplace in public, private and mixed sectors as they represent the sole guarantor for workers' rights and obligations, and a means for its growth and prosperity.

Unions are adjacent management forces to the administration, ensuring the proper use of public resources respecting the constitution, laws, regulations, and prevailing instructions in this regard.

The selection of new and active leaderships for those unions in all facilities

and establishments guarantees to eradicate financial and administrative corruption which is spread in many government agencies, and the society as a whole, and will stop anyone who tries to build personal wealth on the account of the workers by stealing from their departments' annual budgets, misallocating funds, taking commissions and contracts, and other illegal dealings.

The political leadership has announced that it was in need of a financial and administrative revolution, and sees that the creation of union committees in their new structure may indeed form the administrative nucleus for eradicating corruption and the corrupted, financial embezzlements, bribery, and preventing the waste of public funds. The unions need more attention from the political leadership in making them a tangible reality in the work practices of our establishments and modern government.

It is time to start working on eliminating the corrupted elements in our society, speeding up the development process of our establishments, and enjoying a lifestyle full of law, and stability, and

based on reward and penalty.

Some might contend that elevating the powers of these committees in individual establishments is contingent upon the elevation of powers of the general unions.

I disagree. I think that the initiative of elevating the power of those unions in every facility will make the unions a bridge for the continuity of the same approach until the end. If this were to be implemented, we may find ourselves in a few months or years enjoying a much better lifestyle in our workplace and living standards free of frowning and complaining moods because we have entered the range of implementing the proper solutions.

I find it an opportunity here to call upon all good citizens in my country to join hands in launching this initiative based on individual and group responsibilities, and work together in a planned and organized method to create better administration for our affairs under our own supervision.

This is one of the goals of the Revolution, the Republic, and indeed Yemen's unification and democracy.

Letters to the Editor

Initiative accepted

In response to Walid Al-Saqqaf's article titled "Lessons to learn", I would like to take him up on his offer. If he would like to share his personal sentiments with me about the US role in the world, or whatever, please contact me via email. I think dialogue and empathy can go a long way to building bridges of understanding. I also think he may be pleasantly surprised to find out that plenty of Americans do look at these individual role in the world as well as that of their government.

I do not agree that our presence in Iraq is now, or ever will be a failure. Saddam is out of business and 25 million Iraqis are better for it. I also would like to point out your misrepresentation of the facts regarding President Bush's visit to Great Britain. The overwhelming majority of Brit's welcomed the President and support our efforts in Iraq. There is a large contingent of socialists, anarchists, and radical Islamists living in Great Britain, and that is who you saw demonstrating.

Those same groups show up at demonstrations in this country as well. That is OK here and in Great Britain because these people have a right to assemble and speak. Just like those now demonstrating in Iraq for the first time. Freedom! It comes with a price, and you have to be willing to make sacrifice's to keep this God given right.

Scott M. Youngren
scott.youngren@vmcc.org

Al-Haifi's 'conspiracy theory' needs revision

I was surprised by the twist at the end of Mr. hissing Al-Haifi's article about the Istanbul bombing where he introduced a "conspiracy theory" claiming that Zionists might have done it. It was really sad, I don't know how else to describe it. I ask brother Hassan to really reflect on the things he has been writing because it seems that his anger at Israel have blinded his judgments lately and he doesn't make any "sense" anymore.

His main argument is that no Muslim in his right mind would condone such a thing! This is really strange; so just because Islam doesn't allow it means that it is not done by Muslims and therefore it is the Zionist who did it! Now what about the Sept.11 and the bombings in Saudi Arabia and in Bali and before that a decade of terrorism in Algeria and Egypt, was it also done by the Zionists?! Is every Muslim in the world following your interpretation of Islam?

I am a Yemeni and I am not in the business of defending Zionism. I am trying to defend our future as Arabs and Muslims because in the last few decades this way of thinking, "the conspiracy theories", have hurt us so much; it take us away from reality and seeing the world as it is and make us see it the way we want it to be! It limits greatly our ability to solve our problems if we aren't even willing to admit them! And I hope that the irrational way of thinking of Saddam and Bin Laden and their disastrous results will force us to use our minds instead of our emotions as we have done often.

A.Saleh Barakat
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Recalling the aftermath of the 1994 war



By MOHAMED GHALIB AHMED
MEMBER OF THE YSP
HEAD OF PARTY AFFAIRS DEP.

Almost ten years have past since the 1994 war ended, and since the displacement and deportation of the simple laborers, farmers, factory workers, employees, and civil and military qualified cadres from their work in the governorates that were ruled by the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) before unity. But even today, certain orders are still being issued to deport those remaining with the excuse of excessive labor. This is in addition to the forced retirement procedures carried out today and that violate the law and are not only human rights violations, but also the cause of destruction to the brotherhood and peace in the Yemeni society.

An example of this is the claim of the release of prisoners. There were three prisoners of the YSP held in Dhamar jail since 1980, and are yet to be released until this present day despite the verdicts and orders issued in this regard.

The preparations for the upcoming international conference in January under the supervision of the European Union (EU) and the government of

Yemen, in the name of the law to protect democracy and human rights, brings the illusion that the authorities in our country are responsible for the protection of human rights in Siberia and islands of the Pacific Ocean and not in Yemen. This is also the case for the democratic experience in Yemen as the YSP is currently under siege and has been so since the 1994 civil war. The ruling party's people are still controlling more than 100 centers legally owned by our party and are investing the funds of the YSP illegally confiscated following the 1994 war.

If you truly believed in democracy, why do you refuse establishing dialogue with the YSP since 1994 until today? If you were concerned about the protection of human rights, why haven't you taken a clear and serious position concerning the Islamic fatwa authorizing mass murder, infidelity accusations, and the slaughter of innocent people? Yet the fatwa is still effective till today.

If the intentions behind starting such an activity -the international conference- are to export democracy and human rights out of the country, then the local political arena is in dire need for it more than the Europe or the international community. This is needed for our country to earn credibility and respect of others.

This is what we hope for and wish from the bottom of our hearts

Aden's new governor is wildly popular Viva Al-Shoaiby!

By MUSTAFA NAGI
mustafanagi@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It so happened that I visited Aden during the Eid festival several days ago. To my surprise, I have seen the city show quite tangible improvement since the new young, the well educated governor Al-Shoaiby took over to lead the governorate.

While visiting, I saw the governor walking in to his office without any police escort, with a smiling face and everybody around showing him respect and proudly wanting to shake his hand.

Within few minutes, I saw one of his senior staff coming into the office (after the governor), with a military escort (around three of them) with arms. I thought he must be one of government seniors. But, no, he is working with the governor.

I am wondering, why is the governor not escorted, whereas this junior staff to the governor is?

I can't get an answer, except one person next to me and he said to me

"he is from the old troops" or in Arabic "Aljunoud Al-qudama".

So, if he can't perform without a military escort, and if he is not punctual, then I would say: We don't want such people. They should go back to their camps, and let us get relieved from him, and he get relieved from the community he can't trust.

Let's back and encourage the new governor, while I have seen in one afternoon going to the fields to monitor work on the ground, while others sit and chew qat. I have seen him looking after the projects that were underway, in preparation for the festivals.

While he is passing the road, I have seen some crowds on car chanting him "Viva Al-Shoaiby".

I hope Governor Al-Shoaiby, will keep up this enthusiasm and his sincere willingness to perform his duties.

I also hope the government will encourage to do more by cleaning the crooks of the "old troops" from him management team. Also I hope the higher government will not get rid of him because of his popularity and sincerity.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Iraq takes on a new unpredictable turn?

After thirty-five years of Iraq with Saddam, there is no question that with his recent "capture", Iraq has taken a totally different turn. How different? It is really anybody's guess. For sure, there will not be any significant modifications to the overall situation, as for all practical purposes, the fall of Saddam came with the fall of Baghdad. The capture of Saddam Hussein raises even more serious questions to the allegations by the United States that he represented the major stumbling block to a smooth invasion turned to occupation and that his capture will represent a major turning point both to the ability of the Iraqis to exercise their freedom and sovereignty and for the US to instill the democratic regime it has visualized for Iraq. For one thing, there is no doubt that the physical attributes of the occupation will remain for a long time. Judging from the way Saddam Hussein was captured, the observer finds it difficult to believe that the resistance to the invasion was either managed or coordinated by the seemingly sluggish leader, who was far too contained by the sheer drive for survival, it seems, rather than the complicated effort to resist a well equipped occupation force of over 150,000 troops. Thus the White House was really playing games with our minds again, since May 2003, trying to convince us that Saddam was keeping all this massive force in constant fear. The observer is also inclined to believe very strongly that the White House joy ride in Iraq is far from over. On the contrary, one might even conclude, as Abdul-Bari Atwan of *Al-Quds* newspaper did, for all practical purposes, with Saddam out of the way, the resistance against the occupation is bound to take on a stronger turn for the worse, as far as the Americans are concerned. Saddam may have represented an embarrassing association for many people who might be inclined to take part in the resistance, as they are anti-Saddam by tradition and rightly see no reason of grandeur to be associated with one they have fought against for so long. On the other hand, many Iraqis were even suspicious of Saddam as part of the long term American scenario (it was the CIA that initially recruited and helped to prop up Saddam as he gradually tightened his hold on his people) for the region. He was more important to them than the much more democratic regime that Ayatollah Khomeini set up in Teheran. The ease of Saddam's capture may have added strength to this supposition, as he apparently put up little or no resistance, and allowed his children to prove themselves more "courageous" and steadfast even to the Third in line. Whatever the case may be, Iraq will continue to present a clear headache for George W. Bush and his neo-con clique, notwithstanding the fact that Halliburton can go on charging whatever it likes for the services it renders to the occupier and presumably to Iraq.

Even with Saddam "out of the way", most Arabs still regard the American occupation as no more than fulfillment of Zionist wishes, since the occupation of Iraq creates a wedge between the more feared regime in Teheran than Saddam ever symbolized for Israel. The Washington Post on Friday December 4, 2003 cited a report from a former Israeli intelligence official that claims Israel was a "full partner" in US and British intelligence failures that exaggerated Saddam Hussein's weapons programs before the war. The article pointed out that the Israeli intelligence services and political leaders provided "an exaggerated assessment of Iraqi capabilities," raising the possibility that the intelligence picture was manipulated", as the report says. The item can be found stuffed inside the WP of the same date, which was "stuffed", as *Slate Magazine Today's Papers*, aptly puts it, to avoid too much of an outcry from Zionist lobby groups in the USA. Nevertheless, it was brave of the WP to point this out at all, even if it has to be dug out with an effort.

Thus, it is safe to assume that US troubles in Iraq are far from over, even with Saddam in US custody. The question, however, does arise as to which institutional or organizational shape the anti US invasion resistance will take over the next couple of months, and it is an open field. One should not rule out that the resistance will now extend beyond the "Sunni Triangle" as the stigma of being associated with a resistance run by the shadow of Saddam Hussein, was just unbearable for the Shia'as to be associated with, and the same may even hold true for Kurdish resistance as well. On another note, the political ramifications of the capture (or probably voluntary surrender) of Saddam Hussein may be a short-lived PR triumph in the domestic politics of the United States, but for most of the grass roots Arabs, whether in Amman or in Sana'a there is a strong feeling that the ordeal of an American invasion is bound to face insurmountable resistance by the Iraqi people, with probable repercussions in the rest of the Arab World as well. The "ACE IN THE HOLE", may still turn out to be a "JOKER" Card for the US in the region. Only time will tell.

The devil in the details:

The CIA and Saddam

EDITORIAL REPRESENTATIVE PRESS

The coup that brought the Ba'ath Party to power in 1963 was celebrated by the United States. The CIA had a hand in it. They had funded the Ba'ath Party - of which Saddam Hussein was a young member - when it was in opposition.

US diplomat James Akins served in the Baghdad Embassy at the time. Mr. Akins said, "I knew all the Ba'ath Party leaders and I liked them".

"The CIA were definitely involved in that coup. We saw the rise of the Ba'athists as a way of replacing a pro-Soviet government with a pro-American one and you don't get that chance very often.

"Sure, some people were rounded up and shot but these were mostly communists so that didn't bother us".

This happy co-existence lasted right through the 1980s.

One thing is for sure, the US will find it much harder to remove the Ba'ath Party from power in Iraq than they did putting them in power back in 1963. If more people knew about this diabolical history, they just might not be so inclined to trust the US in its current efforts to execute "regime change" in Iraq.

Here then are some quotations that I've gathered on this fascinating early history of CIA involvement in the vicious history of "regime change" in Iraq: In early 1963, Saddam had more important things to worry about than his outstanding bill at the Andiana Cafe. On February 8, a military coup in Baghdad, in which the Baath Party played a leading role, overthrew Qassim. Support for the conspirators was limited. In the first hours of fighting, they had only nine tanks under their control. The Baath Party had just 850 active members. But Qassim ignored warnings about the impending coup. What tipped the balance against him was the involvement of the United States. He had taken Iraq out of the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact. In 1961, he threatened to occupy Kuwait and nationalized part of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), the foreign oil consortium that exploited Iraq's oil. In retrospect, it was the CIA's favorite coup. "We really had the ts crossed on what was happening," James Critchfield, then head of the CIA in the Middle East, told us. "We regarded it as a great victory." Iraqi participants later confirmed American involvement. "We came to power on a CIA train," admitted Ali Saleh Sa'adi, the Baath Party secretary general who was about to institute an unprecedented reign of ter-

ror. CIA assistance reportedly included coordination of the coup plotters from the agency's station inside the U.S. embassy in Baghdad as well as a clandestine radio station in Kuwait and solicitation of advice from around the Middle East on who on the left should be eliminated once the coup was successful. To the end, Qassim retained his popularity in the streets of Baghdad. After his execution, his supporters refused to believe he was dead until the coup leaders showed pictures of his bullet-riddled body on TV and in the newspapers.

The CIA has been organizing "regime change" for 50 years. They have removed many governments that are unfriendly to US corporate interests and replaced them with regimes that are more likely to work closely and slavishly to carry out the economic and geopolitical desires of the US corporate elite.

But the CIA's crimes don't end when a right-wing coup has succeeded. The CIA then has to keep its repressive despots in power in order to ensure that they can put into place and then maintain a variety of unjust economic systems and structures. This is done with arms sales (and outright gifts of "surplus" weapons), glowing diplomatic support, "intelligence support" (sic) and massive economic investment (i.e., pillaging as much profit as possible by exploiting the natural resources that drew them in there in the first place, and handing out some of the spoils to a loyal local elite).

When the corporate media describe the CIA's use of political assassination as if it exists in isolation from mass imprisonment, torture and murder, they cover up the horror, pain and suffering experienced by thousands of ordinary people in countries where CIA-backed blood baths have taken place. They neglect to reveal that when the CIA carries out its high-profile assassination efforts, they also carry out murders of thousands of lesser-known political figures.

Stephen Zielinski from Allison Park, PA United States reviewed "Out of the Ashes": To paraphrase the philosopher Walter Benjamin, "hope was given to us precisely for the sake of the hopeless." I recall here Benjamin's brilliant apercu because there might not be another people so utterly lacking in hope and so desperately in need of the consolations and opportunities provided by such hope as the Iraqis. These people have been fated to suffer not only the murderous clan led by Saddam Hussein but also the scheming and witless 'help' of their morally defective 'protector,' the United States. This conclusion is given ample support

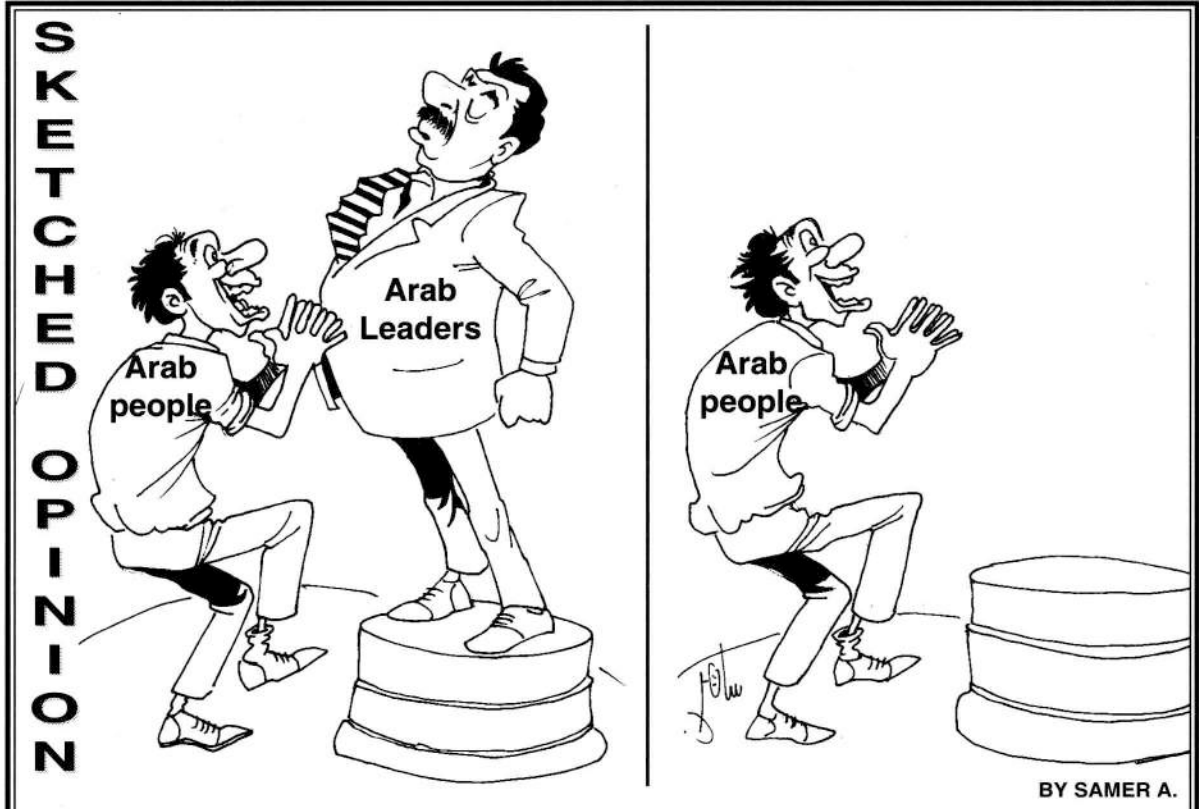
by Andrew and Patrick Cockburn's fine book on Saddam Hussein's Iraq, 'Out of the Ashes.'

The authors cover all of the relevant topics, including: The sanctions regime and the dreadful effects the regime has had on most Iraqis. The British creation of Iraq and its Monarch. The rise of Iraq's Baath party and Saddam Hussein. The mindlessness of Iraqi nationalism as represented by the Baath party. The nature and extent of Iraq's police state. Gulf war I and the many American betrayals of the Iraqi people. Hussein's pursuit and use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Palace politics in Baghdad and Washington. The vicious fools at Langley, with their telling preference for dictators and military men.

It all makes for a dreary read, although the authors cannot be faulted for this since they keep the story moving along with clear prose and adequate organization. It's the story they tell. At the very least a million Iraqis have died because of the Baath party and Saddam Hussein. Many more will die because of Gulf War II. There was nothing inevitable about the catastrophe just as Gulf War II will be the product of the ill-formed men and women willing it into being.

The Cockburns end their book on a hopeful note by asserting that only the Iraqi people could effect the downfall of Saddam Hussein and Iraq's Baath party. But they published their book in 1999 and could not know that fate would again deal the Iraqis another disastrous hand with the election of George W. Bush to the presidency. Harboring the sinister men of The Project for the New American Century and using the horror veiling 9.11 as political cover, the Bush administration now seeks to transform the remnants of America's Cold War system of alliances, treaties and institutional commitments into a self-conscious and self-perpetuating emporium founded on the control of oil and an overwhelming military power. The coming war is merely a part of that grandiose effort. Given the sorry record of those now leading the country, it is also prudent to expect the American effort in Iraq to undermine any revolt of the Iraqis themselves just as Desert Storm ended with the United States enabling the Republican Guard to crush the rebellion that arose in the wake its victory. Neither democracy nor Iraqi sovereignty will be a war aim of the United States, notwithstanding Bush claims to the contrary.

But, then again, these are matters to be decided by the Iraqis themselves. The next war will only delay the just settling of accounts.



Who armed Saddam

BY CLINTON FERNANDES FOR ISA FOREIGN POLICY

After extensive research, there could be concluded that former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was armed heavily by different fractions throughout different stages of history. Here is the summary of the findings.

1. The British Foreign Office's "Report on Strategic Export Controls" released recently shows that:
 - a. Arms sales to Indonesia increased from £2m to £15.5m. Licences include all-wheel vehicles, components for aircraft cannon, combat aircraft and military aero-engines. This to a country that committed state-sponsored terror in East Timor.
 - b. Arms sales to Pakistan increased from £6m to £14m. This to a military dictatorship that created the Taliban.
2. In light of these figures, and the rhetoric of war against Iraq, some points need to be made. Given that Saddam is often described as "a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons", it's worth examining who armed him in the first place.
3. In the 1970s, Saddam approached the USSR, until then his conventional weapons supplier, to buy a plant to manufacture chemical weapons, but his request was refused. Saddam then began courting the West, and received a much more favourable response.
4. An American company, Pfalder Corporation of Rochester, New York, supplied the Iraqis with a blueprint in 1975, enabling them to construct their first chemical warfare plant. The plant was purchased in sections from Italy, West Germany and East Germany and assembled in Iraq. It was located at Akhshaf in north-western Iraq, and the cost was around \$50 million for the plant and \$30 million for the safety equipment.
5. British, French and German multinationals turned the request down on moral grounds or because the Iraqi delivery schedule couldn't be met - not

because their governments objected.

6. The United States took other steps to ensure that Saddam's rule was strengthened. Mobile phone systems were mainly in the military domain at the time, but the United States government approved the 1975 sale by the Karkar Corporation of San Francisco of a complete mobile telephone system. The system was to be used by the Ba'ath Party loyalists to protect the regime against any attempts to overthrow it.

7. The United States also supplied Saddam with satellite pictures of Iranian positions during the Iran-Iraq war.

8. France provided Saddam with extended-range Super Etendard aircraft capable of hitting Iranian oil facilities in the lower Gulf.

9. While Britain's Margaret Thatcher mouthed platitudes about not supplying either Iran or Iraq with lethal weapons, Britain's Plessey Electronics supplied Saddam with an electronic command center.

10. Iraq was also able to buy French-built Mirage-1 aircraft and Gazelle and Lynx helicopters from the British company Westland.

11. In 1976, while on a visit to France, Saddam concluded the purchase of a uranium reactor. Jacques Chirac, then the Prime Minister and now the President, approved the deal. The supplier was Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA) and the plutonium reactor was called Rhapsodie. France also signed a Nuclear Cooperation Treaty with France, providing for the transfer of expertise and personnel.

12. In 1978, the Italian firm Snia Technit, a subsidiary of Fiat, signed an agreement with Iraq to sell nuclear laboratories and equipment.

13. Whenever the declared policies of the Western countries stood in the way of an arms deal, Western governments used two methods to get around their own rules and thereby manage public opinion.

a. The first method was the well-established use of the 'front'. Thus, Western governments supplied Saddam through the pro-West countries of Jordan and Egypt, which acted as a front for Iraq. This was done to overcome Congressional, parliamentary and press hurdles, even when it was obvious to military experts that Jordan and Egypt had no use for the weapons in question. Saddam also set up his own weapons buying offices in the West, with the knowledge of the host governments. For example, Matrix Churchill was a weapons purchasing company set up in Britain.

b. The second method was to extend Saddam massive credits which he could then use for military purposes. Thus, the Banco di Lavoro in the United States gave Saddam US\$4 billion worth of credits, ostensibly to buy food, but which was diverted to buy weapons with the knowledge of everyone involved. Britain's Export Credit Guarantee department kept increasing his credit and much of the money went to the direct purchase of arms. The French government guaranteed US\$6 billion worth of loans to French arms makers to sell Saddam whenever he wanted. Whenever the declared policies of the Western countries stood in the way of an arms deal.

14. When Saddam did in fact "use chemical weapons against his own people", he did so on the afternoon of 17 March 1988, against the Kurdish city of Halabja. The United States provided diplomatic cover by initially blaming Iran for the attack. The Reagan Administration tried to prevent criticism of the atrocity. The Bush (senior) administration authorised new loans to Saddam in order to achieve the "goal of increasing US exports and put us in a better position to deal with Iraq regarding its human rights record".

15. The US Department of Commerce licensed the export of biological materials - including a range of pathogenic agents - as well as plans for chemical and biological warfare production facilities and chemical-warhead filling equipment - to Iraq until December 1989, 20 months after the Halabja atrocity.

Saddam's capture won't ensure end of fighting

BY MAX BOOT FOR USA TODAY

The reaction Sunday to Saddam Hussein's capture - jubilant Iraqis flooding city streets, firing guns into the air, shouting "Death to Saddam" - should put to rest the notion that the Iraqi people feel occupied, not liberated.

A few thousand hard-core loyalists may be in mourning now that the former dictator is behind bars, but the overwhelming majority of Iraqis are overjoyed, and no doubt grateful to the U.S. Army for nabbing him.

Even the leaders of Germany and France, who did so much to try and keep the Baathist big shot from being toppled, had no choice but to congratulate American forces on their coup. When German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac are praising the United States, clearly something pretty signif-

icant has happened.

But how significant? While it's too early to tell how big a deal Saddam's arrest will turn out to be, history suggests his capture does not necessarily mean the end of the war is near.

There is a temptation to compare this event to similar episodes in conventional conflicts, but in truth, there is little comparison. On April 30, 1945, Russian forces seized the Reich chancellery in Berlin where, a few hours earlier, Adolf Hitler and his immediate entourage had committed suicide. On Sept. 11, 1945, U.S. forces arrested Hideki Tojo in Tokyo, two months after he had resigned as Japan's prime minister and just minutes after he had tried, but failed, to kill himself. The fall of the leaders of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan spelled the effective end of their resistance. Hitler's and Tojo's successors made peace with the allies and their soldiers laid down their arms.

The problem in an insurgency is that

there is seldom any leader capable of signing a cease-fire and making it stick. Guerrilla forces are, by definition, more decentralized than conventional armies. This can be a source of weakness, making it hard to coordinate attacks, but it also can be a source of strength, because the elimination of a few individuals, no matter how highly placed, can seldom shut down the movement altogether.

The Philippine War, one of the biggest counterinsurgencies ever waged by the United States, offers some perspective on what capturing an enemy leader may - and may not - accomplish. Starting in 1899, Emilio Aguinaldo led a tenacious resistance against the U.S. occupation of the Philippines, which had occurred as a consequence of the Spanish-American War. He finally was captured on March 23, 1901, in a daring raid led by Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, who dressed up local allies as insurrectionists and pretended to be their prisoner in order

to infiltrate the rebel stronghold. The U.S. went wild with excitement, especially when Aguinaldo issued a proclamation from captivity calling on his comrades to end their struggle. Four thousand did join him in surrendering. (Could Saddam be induced to make a similar statement?)

"The armed insurrection is almost entirely suppressed," crowed Gen. Arthur MacArthur, the commander of U.S. forces in the Philippines (and father of Douglas MacArthur). But the war did not end overnight. In fact, six months later, U.S. forces suffered their worst single loss of the entire conflict: An infantry company garrisoning an isolated village on the island of Samar was surprised and massacred on Sept. 28, 1901, by insurrectionists armed with long bolo knives. More than 40 soldiers were killed in one grisly Sunday morning.

It was not until July 4, 1902 - more than a year after Aguinaldo's capture - that President Theodore Roosevelt pro-

claimed the Philippine Insurrection at an end. And, even after that, scattered resistance dragged on for years.

Gen. John J. Pershing, who went on to command U.S. forces in World War I, made his reputation with his successful campaigns against Philippine Muslims known as Moros from 1907 to 1913.

The moral of this story - that capturing a high-profile guerrilla leader is important but will not necessarily end a war - is confirmed by more recent experience in Iraq. On July 22, U.S. forces killed Saddam's sons, Uday and Qusay. Many hoped that this would spell the end of our problems in Iraq, but the insurgents actually did far more damage after July than before. Saddam's capture is more important than the death of his sons, but it, too, hardly represents the end.

The former Iraqi dictator was no more in direct control of the terrorists and guerrillas than his sons were. All indications are that this is a relatively

decentralized insurgency run by colonels and lieutenant colonels from Saddam's intelligence services in cooperation with some foreign loyalists. Thugs facing war crimes trials are not likely to surrender. That means U.S. forces will have to continue what they're doing: hunting down the cells one by one.

It would be nice if there were a shortcut to victory, such as capturing Saddam, but this is wishful thinking. This struggle will, in all likelihood, continue to drag on, and we will continue to suffer casualties.

What Saddam's capture does indicate, however, is that all the doomsayers are wrong: The war in Iraq is not hopeless. This is not "another Vietnam."

By developing intelligence and staging pinpoint raids - the tactics that captured Saddam - U.S. forces can have tremendous success.

If Saddam could be snared, no terrorist is safe in Iraq.

Sana'a anticipating the 'Capital of Arab Culture' title



By YASSER AL-MAYASSI
YEMEN TIMES

Less than a month remains before Sana'a official becomes the Capital of Arab Culture. This is an extraordinary event for Sana'a, which always represented the Arab culture, civilization, and ancient heritage.

However, many years of neglect and carelessness tried to obliterate this role and beauty. Not any more thought! Lately, many government officials and ordinary citizens determined to work together in helping Sana'a portray its beauty once again, and look its best.

Government efforts were magnified by efforts of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Vice-President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, Minister of Culture, Mr. Khaled Al-Ruwaisan, and officials of the Committee of Declaring Sana'a the Capital of Arab Culture 2004 when a report on proposed cultural activities was reviewed.

Those activities will adhere to a well-planned and organized scheme, and include the construction of a cultural city to house the various artistic and innovative activities such as theaters, cinemas, units of art, heritage, calligraphy, Yemeni construction and garments.

The plans also call for restoring and providing equipment for new halls of the National Museum, restoring and providing equipment for Sana'a Art Museum, and repainting the houses in Old Sana'a.

Construction of open-air theaters in the 70 and Al-Thawrah Parks, paving the entrance of Kawkaban city, restoring the Old Market, preparing for Kawkaban yearly cultural activities, and constructing a theater for children are

also in plans.

Convening of forums and delivering lectures are among the planned activities, which include the Sana'a Arab Forum for Sculpture, Sana'a Arab Forum for History and Heritage to which a number of Arab and foreign academicians were invited from various countries.

The Yemeni - German Forum is also scheduled to convene on the same occasion as well as other lectures dealing with Yemeni and Arab art and theater activities.

Other conferences will also convene as the Conference for Law, Democracy, and Human Rights, Conference of Cultural Dialogues, Conference of Arab Architects, 14th Conference of Arab Ministers of Culture all of which have been well planned and organized.

Almost all arts are present in the plan for Sana'a, the Capital of Arab Culture including handicraft, and clothing exhibitions.

The cultural events will not be limited to efforts of Sana'a participants only, but will include contributions from all Governorates of the Republic which add to the beauty of the city, each with their own style, but all stemming from one central point: Sana'a.

Great efforts have been exerted by both civilians and government officials to make these cultural events a success portraying Sana'a, and Yemen in general, with its rich history, civilization, culture, art, architecture, human, Arab and Islamic heritage.

Yemen has a good variety of culture and architecture, and Sana'a is considered one of the oldest cities of the world, a life museum of history, and unique specimen in its architectural art in the world.

Hopes remain that all efforts in presenting Sana'a as the Capital of Arab Culture 2004 succeed.



Yemen has a good variety of culture and architecture, and Sana'a is considered one of the oldest cities of the world

Graduation of fourth class of handicapped

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN BUREAU

The third class of students with special needs graduated on Tuesday, 9 December in the Vocational Training Center for the Handicapped in Aden, and the fifth class was received for the training year 2003/2004.

The ceremony coincides with the International Day for the Handicapped for which funds were donated by the Society of Special Needs for Development.

Dr. Yahya Al-Shoabi, Governor of Aden, Abdulkareem Shayef, Secretary-General of the Local Council of the Governorate, and Ms Jackleen, representative of the Belgian International Organization for the Handicapped attended the graduation ceremony.

Ms Laila Bashmailah, Director of the Center, explained the role of the center in training the handicapped and offering them the necessary vocational skills suiting the labor market. She pointed to the more than 20 with special needs as well as commercial activities in the center in the field of training and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Meanwhile, one the graduates delivered a speech on behalf of his colleagues expressing their happiness on this occasion for coinciding with the International Day for the Handicapped. He called on authorities to implement the laws concerning the handicapped which require that 5% of work opportunities be granted to them.

Ms Jackleen, also delivered a speech on this occasion shedding light on the creation of the Belgian International Organization for the Handicapped in

1994. This Organization supported the creation of four rehabilitation centers in Yemen, and artificial limbs workshops in Taiz and Aden.

These facilities provide much needed services to the physically handicapped such as artificial limbs, canes, and physical therapy which contribute greatly to their independence.

Ms Jackleen assured that the Belgian International Organization for the Handicapped is fighting for the rights of the handicapped, and that there is an international network comprising of international organizations, societies, and agencies as well as Yemeni human rights establishment who try to coordinate various activities benefiting the handicapped in Yemen.

On their side, a group of handicapped presented some artistic plays, and diplomas and presents were distributed.

Conference against spread of small arms concluded

By HASAN AL-ZAYIDI
YEMEN TIMES

The International Conference against the Spread of Small arms, which was attended by a number of international experts, concluded in Sana'a last week.

Mr. Atef Al-Ghudhayan, Director of the Regional Center for Human Security, presented a paper on small weapons from human security standpoint emphasizing that these weapons kill approximately half a million individuals, and 90% of war victims are innocent civilians.

Mr. David Jackman, an international

expert, also presented a paper dealing with the role of non-governmental organizations in the U. N. Conference relative to weapons.

The conference touched on Yemeni studies relating to weapons, and discussed a paper presented by the Swiss Organization against the Use of Weapons.

The spread of light weapons and the role of non-governmental organizations in preventing it were also discussed.

Mr. Al-Ghudhayan, indicated that weapons are easily available in Yemen, and reports show that there about 50 million pieces of light, medium and heavy weapons in the hands of Yemenis.

Workshop on family and women issues

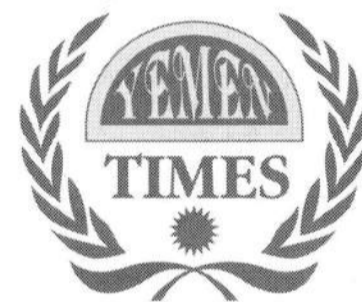
By HASAN AL-ZAYIDI
YEMEN TIMES

On Tuesday 9 December a workshop on family and women issues was organized in Sana'a by the High Council of Motherhood in cooperation with the Preparation Committee of International Year for Family.

The workshop was attended by 22 non-governmental societies, and dealt with problems, sufferings, and means to resolve issues concerning Yemeni women and families.

Economic, health-related, social and legal issues of the Yemeni family, as well as future strategies to enhance living standards of Arab families were reviewed.

A number of recommendations relative to Yemeni families and their future were also produced.



Important warning

Yemen Times received complaints from a number of readers saying that they have not been able to receive newspaper copies during the eid period and during other times. They said that they were upset because they subscribed to Yemen Times through newsstands and bookstores, who told them that they would provide them the papers on time but failed to fulfill their commitment.

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إعلان هام

وردت الصحيفة شكاوي من عدد من القراء التي لم يحصلوا علي نسخ الصحيفة في فترات العيد وما بعدها بسبب نفاذها من السوق وقولهم أن لديهم اشتراكات المكتبات نود التنويه بأنه توجد وسيلة واحدة فقط لتجنب عدم وصول الصحيفة وهو عبر الاشتراك المباشر مع الصحيفة وليس عبر الأكتشاك أو المكتبات التي تحصل علي عدد متفاوت من النسخ وبالتالي لا يمكن أن تضمن حصولها علي الصحيفة بالكميات الكافية.

لذا من يود الحصول علي نسخته بشكل مستمر عليه الإتصال بقسم الاشتراكات في الصحيفة

هاتف: ٢٦٨٦٦١، تحويلة ٢٠٤ أو هاتف محمول: ٧١٧٠٨١٤

أو عبر مندوبي وموزعي الصحيفة شاكركم لثقتكم فينا.

The perils of cloning

Little sheep, little sheep: Who made thee?

BY AMJED NASEEM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

This past February the unexpected deaths of two cloned sheep hardly made the headlines amidst all the drumbeating toward a war in Iraq.

The deaths, which came only weeks apart, were of Dolly, the famous sheep who became the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, and Matilda, the first cloned Australian sheep born in 2000. The proximity of the deaths was not as surprising as the way in which both sheep died, Matilda found in a gross, decomposed state, and Molly euthanized after a long bout with lung cancer.

Earlier this month, when a UN committee postponed a US-led drive for a global ban on human cloning, including medical research on stem cells, it may have been unwise for the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to propose the delay.

Although embryos don't have the same sanctity for Muslims as they do in the Christian faith, the potentially disastrous effects of cloning on human society should have been enough for Muslim countries to support the ban, especially in light of the following parable of the sheep.

Back in 1996, Dolly's birth was considered one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the decade. Her life, however, was far from promising. In a period of six years, half the life span of normal sheep, she suffered from a slew of medical problems from severe arthritis to abnormal obesity.



Most clones are plagued by bad health and have higher mortality rates than non-clones. Dolly died in 2003 due to lung failure.

In 1999, it was discovered that Dolly's chromosomes were 20% shorter than that of other sheep her age. This meant that Dolly's biological age could be twice that of her mother's. Autopsy results showed that her death was actually linked to premature aging and other genetic defects that

were caused by the cloning process.

But as it turns out, Dolly's fate is no less different from other clones. From the time of their conception, most clones are plagued by bad health and have higher mortality rates than non-clones. Studies in mice have shown that health problems are prevalent and

that genetic defects are commonplace. Matilda's death was more unusual because she died in a decomposed state, which is far more alarming. The causes of her death still remain a mystery because she was cremated not soon after. One of the other major drawbacks to cloning is that success rates are extremely low. In fact, Dolly was the sole surviving adult from over 270 attempts.

Both sheep, which were first paraded around as mascots for human cloning, have now become a caveat for scientists, who may need to look twice before crossing this dangerous street again. As efforts continue to result in deformed fetuses and stillbirths, it seems ever more important to reevaluate the direction in which cloning is headed. Considering that Islamic countries would probably be the last to benefit from this science, it is unimaginable to think why they would oppose the ban brought to the UN.

To sacrifice what is right for the sake of politics should never be our preferred course of action. Besides, in 1997, it was determined by the Islamic Fiqh Academy, that cloning human beings would create extremely complex and intractable social and moral problems.

Now that the OIC has delayed the proposition for a UN ban for two years, there is no telling what kind of anomalies we may have to witness, perhaps on our own species. Some scientists, who are avidly pursuing this line of field, have said that improvements in technology can make human cloning possible very soon, so two years, in fact, might prove a little

too late.

According to Ben Mitchell, a bioethics professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in suburban Chicago, cloning human beings is not only immoral but should be made against the law. "To subject a sheep to the consequences of cloning was cruel; to subject a human being to those consequences is criminal. And our laws should reflect that fact," he said.

It seems that before cloning can go any further, the global community should rein in this enterprise if not to consider the ethical implications involved but more importantly to protect

the subjects of its experimentation. The public should also join in on this debate and the OIC should be encouraged to reverse its position lest we all suffer the fate of poor old Dolly and Matilda.

Editor's note: Our dear brothers, Hamza Yusuf and Zaid Shaker at Zaytuna Institute are looking to reach a goal of 500 contributors to their Institute of merely \$100.00 per month. Please show your support and help them make this goal a reality by signing up online at <http://www.zaytuna.org/donation.html> or calling (510) 582-1979.

New campaign for elimination of polio to begin next week

REPORTED BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YT STAFF

The national program for elimination of polio of the ministry of public health and housing has to start beginning of next week a 3-day first round of complementary campaign for elimination of polio starting with 123 districts of the country.

An official statement has indicated that the campaign would be in continuation of previous campaigns for fighting polio and declaring Yemen a polio-free

region by the year 2005. The campaign aims at giving vaccines to all children under the age of 5 years with two doses each in addition to a vitamins dose. The statement mentioned that the number of children included in the campaign is 1,478,264 in 123 districts throughout the republic.

The national program and the ministry of health have called upon parents to benefit from this campaign and to positively respond to it for safeguarding their children and protecting them against the disease especially by taking their children centers of vaccination.

State-of-the-art modern building now available

Al-Hashedi building:

A spectacular opportunity for investors

Al-Hashedi building is a well-designed 5-floor state-of-the-art building harmoniously built in accordance with the most advanced civil engineering specifications to meet the needs of investors. It is situated on the Khartoum Street (formerly, Mujahed Street), one of the most lively streets and heavily populated in the Capital, Sana'a. The building overlooks another paved street (parallel to Khartoum St.) on the southern side of the building. The building is built on an area of 30 x 42 square meters and is located in one of the desirable housing neighborhoods in the capital of Sana'a.

The building comprises the following floors:

- A spacious basement (underground) floor which can be used as a car park, or for trade emporium exhibitions.

- The ground floor is also designed in unique architectural style in order to be used as a trade exhibition hall to provide expanded domain of movement. It is also well ventilated.

- The first floor is designed to make use of the whole area of the building, and hence can also be used for trade exhibitions or can be used as apartments based on high international standards and well-designed divisions.

- The second and third floors consist of 13 apartments, which are also divided and distributed in a stylish and practical matter, making it among the few in Yemen that meet international standards.

- An allotted space is also available for possible installment of an elevator that can be used from the basement floor to the last floor.

The flexible and convenient design of the building is based on international standards of today and makes the building a perfect choice for businessmen and investors who wish to furnish it to be used as a hospital, an exhibition center, shopping mall, housing apartments, or a superior emporium.

This announcement is a great and alluring opportunity for investors, who have been waiting and looking for a well-designed and distinguished building to meet their investment needs, and at the same time enjoy a splendidly strategic location.

شقة سكنية تم توزيعها وتقسيمها وفق مواصفات عالمية راقية.

يوجد في المبنى مساحة يمكن تركيب فيها مصعدين (أسنسيرين) من البدروم وحتى الدور الأخير.

ويتيح هذا التصميم العالمي الهندسي المرن استخدام المبنى كمستشفى أو بنك أو شقق سكنية فاخرة أو محلات تجارية راقية.

إنها فرصة تاجير مغرية للتجار والمستثمرين الذين يبحثون عن البناء التجاري الجيد والموقع المتميز.

بدروم واسع. بمساحة المبنى يمكن استخدامه كموقف للسيارات، أو مخزن تجاري واسع. أو معارض تجارية.

دور أول صمم، على ذات المساحة. ليكون معارض تجارية وفق تصميم خاص تم فيه مراعاة مجال الحركة الواسع والتهوية الجيدة.

دور ثاني صمم، على ذات المساحة. ليكون معارض تجارية أو شقق سكنية على مواصفات عالمية وتقسيمات متميزة.

دورين علويين بهما ثلاثة عشر

بناء هندسي رائع، وتصميم متناسق أو نشئ وفق أحدث التصاميم الهندسية الحديثة.

خمس أدوار تم تصميمها للاستثمار التجاري في شارع الخرطوم (مجاهد سابقاً): أحد أكثر الشوارع حركة، وازدحاماً بالسكان، في أمانة العاصمة، وتطل على شارع خلفي مسفلت.

على مساحة مقاديرها (30x42) متر مربع، وفي إحدى أهم المناطق والأحياء السكنية في العاصمة صنعاء، ينتصب هذا البناء التجاري مقسم على النحو الآتي:

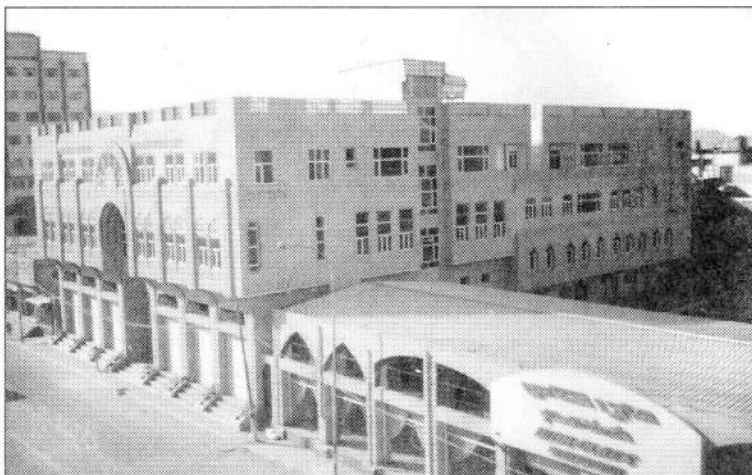
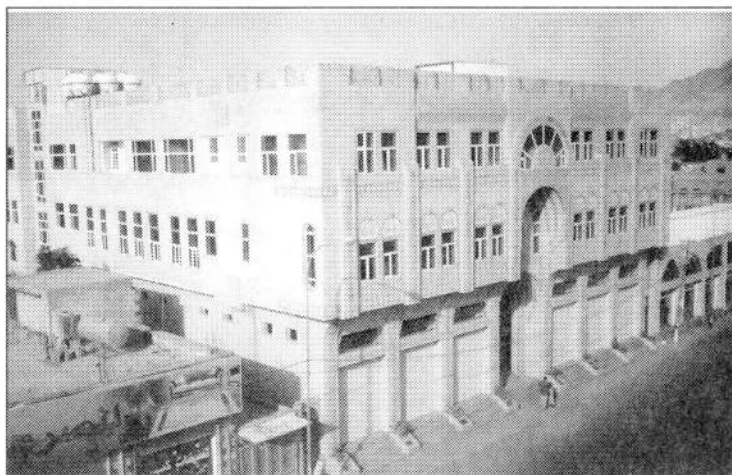
على مساحة مقاديرها (30x42) متر مربع، وفي إحدى أهم المناطق والأحياء السكنية في العاصمة صنعاء، ينتصب هذا البناء التجاري مقسم على النحو الآتي:

على مساحة مقاديرها (30x42) متر مربع، وفي إحدى أهم المناطق والأحياء السكنية في العاصمة صنعاء، ينتصب هذا البناء التجاري مقسم على النحو الآتي:

على مساحة مقاديرها (30x42) متر مربع، وفي إحدى أهم المناطق والأحياء السكنية في العاصمة صنعاء، ينتصب هذا البناء التجاري مقسم على النحو الآتي:

على مساحة مقاديرها (30x42) متر مربع، وفي إحدى أهم المناطق والأحياء السكنية في العاصمة صنعاء، ينتصب هذا البناء التجاري مقسم على النحو الآتي:

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For further information, please contact Mr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Hashedi Corporation, Tel: (01) 267964/ 510061 or Mobile: 71202133

للاستفسار: (مؤسسة محمد يحيى الحاشدي)
تلفون: (01-267964، 01-510061) سيار (71202133)

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen,
14 Dec.2003.

Main headlines

- For six months they chant slogans against America and Israel, detainees of the Grand Mosque rises to 200 people
- Al-Jawf teachers without salaries for three months, education at standstill
- Higher Institute for International Studies: Poverty and backwardness enhance use and demand for small arms
- Courses on Human Rights
- American court issues sentences against 6 Yemeni origin people between 8 to 10 years
- Financial corruption stopped activity of Wadi Sahn Cooperative society

Columnist Nasr al-Shar'bi says in his article the judiciary apparatus suffers from weakness and low level of all courts' performance and they are the focus of accusations against them as being the cause behind spread of corruption, bribery and nepotism. And above that the judiciary authority is liable to interference and a foothold for those who want to manipulate with justice. It is eye-catching that the first judicial conference recently held would not succeed unless its goals and recommendations are translated into practice and the concerned authorities work for upgrading performance of courts and

diagnosing the ills the judiciary is differing from. This orientation necessitates more exertion of more efforts for solving the cases presented before courts and a quick decision of issues of investment and trading disputes as well as paying attention to issues related to public property. The conference in itself is not enough to bridge the harm resulting from imbalance of justice and distancing from law and regulations in courts. It is required from the conference regarding the judiciary authority and its reform is the stabilization of elements of security, investment and stability in the country.

Al-Isbou weekly,
11 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- YSP organisation in Hadramout, deals involved offices in Douan and Hureidha
- Bomb last in front of criminal investigations building in Ibb kills two soldiers
- Journalists solidarity to abort a law restraining the freedom of press

Columnist Nouman Qaed Saif says in an article seven years ago the president of the republic declared keenness on leading a revolution against corruption. He would not have taken the initiative to declare his daring decision had not been for the increased voices of protest all over the country and his realization of the conditions of the people due to spread of corruption.

Days and years have passed since that declaration but during the dividing period between and the present time official voices continued repeating the so-called revolution and the people have not yet tangibly felt any kind of change

The fact is that the mentioned revolution would not have subsided if it was not for the overwhelming strong will of corruption which controls over all institutions of the state.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC, 15 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- Visiting the center for training and rehabilitation of orphans, President Saleh confirms his interest and care for the center sand development of revenues allocated to it
 - Official security source refutes reports published by "al-Wahdawi" weekly
 - Electricity establishment DG al-Junaid: Asr Power Station starts operation beginning of next week
 - Declaring Aden as mine-free area, the national demeaning committee enhances activity in the central region
 - National symposium on investment in Yemeni islands
- Columnist Dr Abdulmajeed al-Maqaleh says in an article as if it is not enough forth Palestinians the ongoing grinding war on their land to add to it other kinds of wars in form of initiatives and negotiations and meetings of the political

Main headlines

- Extensive changes in the diplomatic career and foreign missions beginning of next year
- UNICEF interferes to save Yemeni children smuggled to Saudi Arabia
- President urges public property prosecution to open its files to various media
- Journalists barred from attending judicial conference opening session
- Two Yemeni and Saudi tribes end an 8-year dispute
- Vacancies for journalists and jobs at Sciences University
- PM Bajamal halting price reforms resembles a stop in driving a bicycle
- At the hands of Americans and Israel, the capture of Saddam the biggest insult to all Arabs
- After the capture of Saddam, Bush telephones Saudi crown prince
- Withdrawing the law, absorption of journalists anger to after elections
- Due to American security harassments, human rights minister al-Sousawa cancels a trip to America
- Festival, demonstration, symposium at Jaralla assassination anniversary
- Sweeping victory for GPC candidates in local councils by-elections
- Shuja'a al-Din: Elections carried out in streamline way
- Al-Hattar: Release of 128 persons and 54 enjoy safety
- Free zone in Socotra, rehabilitation of Kamaran and Miyoun

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers *Provided by Xinhua*

Germany

Die Welt
Germany's painfully reached compromise on social reform was greeted Monday by ruling and opposition parties without euphoria.

Handelsblatt
The agreement between ruling and opposition parties on social reform

has learnt generally positive response.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung:
Six net paying countries in the European Union have spoken against budget increase after the failure of the bloc's summit over the weekend in Brussels.

Pakistan

The Dawn
Pakistan and Indonesia on Monday pledged to expand bilateral ties in all areas and agreed in principle to initiate the consultation process for a preferential tariff agreement that would ultimately pave the way for a free trade agreement.

The News
Security forces went on high alert in Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad and its twin-city of Rawalpindi on Monday as they investigated Sunday's attempt to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf.

Britain

The Times
Britain was on Monday caught in a widening transatlantic rift over the use of the death penalty against Saddam Hussein.

American president George W. Bush sent a clear signal that he privately favored execution for the former Iraqi president, but British Prime Minister Tony Blair's envoy to Iraq said Britain would take no part in a tribunal that could lead to a death penalty.

Monday, arguing that the seizure of the former Iraq president has not made America safer.

The Guardian
The US and Britain on Monday gave their backing for an Iraq tribunal to try Saddam Hussein next year, even though human rights activists warned against the appearance of a "show trial" and called for the involvement of international judges.

The Independent
Despite the huge policy bonus handed to US President George W. Bush by the capture of Saddam Hussein, his most likely Democratic challenger for the Presidency kept up his criticism of the Iraq war on

The Financial Times
The end of the seven-year consumer boom will be marked by figures showing that 2003 will have been the worst for spending growth since the mid-1990s.

France

Le Figaro
US President George W. Bush has news cards to play in the wake of the capture of Saddam Hussein. He said he would allow the Iraqi people to determine whether their former leader should be executed. The transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis will be accelerated and Bush will try to gather more support for his Iraqi strategy.

Le Monde
The capture of Saddam is a chance for Bush, who listed a series of accomplishments in what appeared to be a prelude of his re-election campaign.

La Croix
The guerrilla in Iraq continued with their attacks on Sunday and Monday despite the capture of Saddam.

India

The Hindustan Times
Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Monday briefed President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam of the government's assessment of the situation in Iraq following the arrest of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The Times of India
Pakistan has said it suspected groups opposed to peace moves with India were behind Sunday's blast apparently

targeting at Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

Japan

Asahi, Yomiuri
The ruling Liberal Democratic Party gave up Monday the idea to transfer tax income resources on tobacco from the central government to the local governments.

Nihon Keizai
The Liberal Democratic Party mulls shifting power to levy income tax from state to local governments from fiscal 2004.

Philippines

The Philippine Star
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will temporarily assume the foreign affairs portfolio until a replacement for late Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople is found. Ople will be given full state funeral honors on Saturday in his hometown, Arroyo said Monday.

Manila Bulletin:
Inflows of dollar remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) sustained its monthly, healthy growth, yielding a 12.29 percent hike to 673.217 million US dollars as of end-October, due to increased deployment of higher-paid OFWs. According to

the central bank, the continued robust performance in OFW dollar remittance inflows brought the cumulative inflows to 6.336 billion dollars for the 10-month period or a year-on-year expansion of 5.67 percent.

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said Monday the 4.4-percent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) in the July-September quarter, though better than expected, has not mitigated the national budget deficit.

Kenya

Kenya Times
Two Kenyan ministers and a member of parliament implicated in alleged prostitution along a Nairobi street denied being involved on Monday and threatened legal action against two media houses.

East African Standard
Nineteen Kenyan young women were charged Tuesday in court with loitering on Nairobi streets for purposes of prostituting.

People Daily
The US government has expressed regret over the recent travel advisories that discouraged travel to Kenya.

Daily Nation
Former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi has been summoned to appear before members of parliament investigating the disappearance and death of his foreign minister, Robert Ouko, 13 years ago.

factions. The aim of these activities may be to subjugate them and justify what is going on the ground. In an attempt to deceive the Arab public opinion that those initiatives and attempts are a guarantee to extinguish the blazing fire. Perhaps the worst of those initiatives at the time being are those coming in the form of a document according to which the Palestinians relinquish their right to return to their land.

A number of Palestinians have previously held meetings with Israeli individuals described as doves and claiming they desire the establishment of peace. Among those "doves" were officials of the occupation authority but the days have proved that those groups were just a deceit aimed at misleading the world and make it know that there is inside Israel advocates for peace and that the Palestinian resistance is conflicting with the desire for preparation for dialogue, as if the dialogue in itself is alternative to meeting the inalienable rights and liberation from domination of the aggressive force that continues killing and sabotage and invading Palestinian areas.

- Number of crimes in Mahweet increases

Columnist Khalid al-Hamadi says with the approach of countdown for holding the general conference of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate scheduled on 8 December, visions, ideas and maybe political confrontations began to escalate regarding demands and gains the journalists are looking forward to getting in addition to form of the coming syndicate.

What has doubled these political confrontations is the standoff between the syndicate and its members because of the draft law that the government has approved lately and referred to parliament to be discussed in prelude to endorse it. The journalists outright objection to the law managed to foil it and forced the government to withdraw the draft law from the parliament.

Despite the immediate response of the syndicate to its members demands, however the draft law has aroused a host of queries and resentment by others, describing it as a government draft law.

There is always a big question mark put before the syndicate leadership and it would remain repeated with every syndicate session, i.e. what do the journalists want from their syndicate? I think that among the tasks of any syndicate leadership is to comprehend this question deeply and think of it always in order to try to achieve at least part of it. In this case any journalists electoral session would not end up to the same condition when it has begun its period, as is the case of the present syndicate.

Annas weekly,
15 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- Gang kills a citizen in Bu'dan
- Yemen and Saudi tribes end long-standing dispute
- A number of people killed in a fight over pieces of land in the capital
- In Shara'bi: A girl kept in prison cell for one year

مطلوب للعمل

مترجم (متفرغ) يماني الجنسية يجيد الانجليزية كتابة ونطقا،
كما يجيد الطباة على الكمبيوتر.
فمن يجد في نفسه الرغبة والكفاءة عليه ارسال السيرة الذاتية
مرفقة بصورة شخصية (٦x٤) وأرقام هوائفه على العنوان التالي:
ص.ب. ١٦١٣٧، صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية
ومن ثم سيتم الاستدعاء لإجراء المقابلة الشخصية

Indian Poetry in English:

Turn-of-the-Century Signposts (PART 2)



By Dr. MURARI PRASAD SANA'A UNIVERSITY

A. K. Mehrotra's recent collection *The Transfiguring Places* (1998) ushers in a style of refreshing versatility. His earlier verse was somewhat marred by over-insistent, sometimes bizarre, imagery but the later poems are chiseled and tidy with plenty of arresting images and commendable control over craft. The fleeting passage of time and inevitable evanescence of youth weave through many of these poems. Mehrotra can voice valid concerns and evoke a sharp and palpable ambience for a good measure. Sure enough, these poems do have a certain roundness.

Among relatively young poets who have made impressive running Vikram Seth prominently stands out. *The Golden Gate* (1986), Seth's spectacular work, is the glittering tiara of the English-language poetry from India although there is nothing Indian about it. The poet's inspiration for this verse in novel was Sir Charles Johnston's translation of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* which "he stumbled into a book store" and found unputdownable. Feroza Jussawalla has accused Seth of being a

totally assimilated yuppie... [with] no hint of Indianness except the name and the language of Anglo-Indian education expressed in his various intellectual references.

Of course, Seth's verse novel is thank-

fully free of all Indian connections, and he makes no bones about it being Indian but in all fairness his astonishing experiment in handling a long sonnet sequence with sustained competence and innovative technical devices deserves full marks. In agreeable vindication of its virtuosity the book bagged the Commonwealth Poetry Prize as well as the Sahitya Akademi Award in India. Seth's follow-ups to his best-selling *The Golden Gate* were *All You Who Sleep Tonight* (1990) and *Beastly Tales from Here and There* (1992). In the former, the scene shifts from America to China while the latter is a retelling of animal fables from India, China, Russia and Greece. In the succeeding years Seth has produced substantial fiction but poetry is arguably one of his deepest passions, and he has the energy to put the English-language poetry in India at the forefront in coming years.

A postcolonial constellation of Indian Poetry in English has emerged prominently, proliferating around expatriate voices such as Agha Shahid Ali (died in 2001), Amitava Kumar and Tabish Khair. Shahid's poetic answers to postcolonial questions, namely diasporic angst, divided consciousness lodged in immigrant imagination, cultural crossover etc. inform his collections such as *The Half-Inch Himalayas* (1987), *A Nostalgist's Map of America* (1992), *The Country Without a Post Office* (1997) and *Rooms are Never Finished* (Posthumously published in 2002). The poet's pronounced migrant dislocation is caught alive in the "Knotted and tensile fabric" of postcolonial poetry as he seeks to reclaim indigenous landscapes and to constitute 'imag-

ined communities' while driving from Pennsylvania to Arizona:

"When on Route 80 in Ohio
I came across an exit
to Calcutta
the temptation to write a poem
led me past the exit
so I could say
India always exists
off the turnpikes
of America
so I could say
I did take the exit
and crossed Howrah."

The images of India and America in split perception do lend to explorations of the figurative dimensions of postcolonial aesthetics. Equally, the memory of Kashmir (the poet's native place) feeds into the memory of his mother in the Lenox Hill Hospital in Massachusetts. In the poem 'Lenox Hill' (included in *Rooms are Never Finished*), which Shahid wrote about the last days of his mother, the sirens of the hospital are compared to the image of Mihiragula's screaming elements (Mihiragula is believed to be the Hun who invaded Kashmir in the 6th century A.D.). Multiple passions get melded in these lines:

"O destroyer let her return there, if just to die.
Save the right she gave its earth to cover her, Kashmir
Has no rights. When the windows close on Kashmir,
I see the blizzard-fall of ghost-elephants."

TO BE CONTINUED

A pragmatic-pedagogic perspective

Constraints on translatability of Arabic (PART III)



By DR AYID SHARYAN DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH FACULTY OF EDUCATION SANA'A UNIVERSITY

The use of address forms differs not only in its linguistic form but also in its conceptual perception. In an Arab educational situation, a teacher is called by his professional name, e.g. *يااستاذ* [ya *austath*= O teacher! a vocative sound plus the word 'teacher']. For an Arab, it is recommended to address a teacher with his professional title, e.g. teacher. But this is not common in English to address someone as 'teacher or student'. The problem arises when a foreign teacher comes to teach Arab students and finds those students address him with 'teacher' or *austath*.

The students think they respect the teacher with such a form of address. The teacher who does not understand the Arabic code of respect finds it hard to accept such a form of address. The word teacher also means *معلم* [mu'*alim*= professional in something]. *Mu'alim* or *alim* and *alama* or *ulma'* carries within it a traditional respect where there is an association between the one carries this title and the prophets. *mu'alim* is used as a form of address with other connotations too. It becomes difficult for non-Arabs to absorb the implied politeness in the use of *mu'alim*. This is due to the different conception of politeness. The translator, a non-Arab, of *زقاق المداق* [zuqqaq al madaq=*Midaq Alley* (1975: 65)] avoids translating it due to its cultural. It is replaced by 'please' due to different linguistic systems of Arabic and English. And the translator states in the introduction that Arabic is rooted in its socio-cultural context that makes it difficult to translate. Another form of address that has no parallel in English is *شيخ* [shaykh]. It is a form of deference for someone who is old and religious. Thus forms of address in Arabic relate to kinship, profession social or religious status, e.g. *Umm Hamida See, Umm Hussain, Shaikh Radwan, Mu'alim Kirsha, abu Ahmad*, etc.

Another feature of Arabic politeness is the use of hedges. It is typical of Arabic to use less hedges. Arab speakers avoid the use of hedges as a sign of being straightforward and honest for hedges are used to weaken the force of statement. It is noticed that *tag questions* as hedges are not frequently used. In addition to straightforwardness, the infrequency of hedges and particles is probably due to the uncommonness of this linguistic phenomenon in Arabic.

These words and expressions, therefore, need to be explained for an outsider who wants to understand the text fully in footnotes, for instance. However, to overcome the cultural connotations of Arabic, translators tend to replace or ignore Arab formulaic expressions that have no equivalence in English.

Pedagogical Implications

Educational implications that are sought after in this study need to incorporate the Arab's politeness strategies while teaching Arab learners a foreign language. The assumption is that if Arab learners are exposed to the cultural and pragmatic aspects of the target language, they will be better equipped in understanding and dealing with the native speaker of the target language. Cultural differences make it difficult to have effective communication without touch-

ing on some pragmatic attributes. A prevailing example is when Arab students mix with foreigners, they tend to discuss 'ages and wages' which is tactless in the context of the western culture (Sharyan, 2002) 2.

Bringing in politeness strategies to teaching English situations is likely to draw students' attention to veiled aspects of language that is part of the native speaker's competence. Without such inclusion learning English is wanting for the output lacks the native speaker's diplomatic and linguistic manoeuvres. Some practices in teaching may be offensive. If non-Arab teachers are made aware of the difference, they can be more susceptible to avoid culturally offensive material. For example, a reading passage that contains the process of making wine in an Arab educational setting is bound to be offensive due to the lack of cultural appropriateness. From the politeness perspective, this conflicts and clashes with the prevailing attitudes and value system of the target audience. Offering wine or pork to an Arab in a party is like offering cow meat to a Hindu or pork to a Jewish.

This is because every culture has its own set of commonly shared values, customs, habits, attitudes and views of life. Arabic is no exception. Considering such values positively paves the way to integrate the human society at large. Some untrained speakers of English, for example, come to teach in the Arab World with preconceived stereotyped ideas about the Arabs with no regard to the linguistic and social tactics of Arabic culture. This increases the social distance and creates barriers in the way of a congenial dialogue. Preconception involves overgeneralization, assumptions and a rigid set of prejudices against the local people. These misconceptions are numerous. Arabs, according to El-Araby (1983)3, 'do not mean what they say'. This is obvious when an Arab invites or promises something to adhere to the social obligations more than a real invitation or promise. Arabs, like Indians, would invite you or say they would visit later. This statement is to be taken as a social politeness, not a real invitation or a real promise. To take it on its face value is to misunderstand the cultural necessity of that community. Therefore, one finds the Westerners confused in such a situation. They do not know whether to take it as a genuine offer or a social obligation.

Foreigners also find that Arabs (like Indians) tend to refuse offers at first, only to accept them later. Thus an initial refusal of help food should not be taken literally. This refusal, in fact, is a politeness strategy to get it confirmed whether the invitation is just a formality, a social obligation or whether the person is genuinely, and warm-heartedly invited. They, unlike their western counterparts, would insist on insistence, so to speak.

Cultural traits and differences need to be considered when one is mixing up in a multi-cultural gathering where awareness of cultural prohibitions is a must. In an Arab context, for example, certain cultural codes have to be observed so as not to hurt one's host or interlocutor. Some of taboos and bans are: asking about female members of an Arab family in public; mentioning names of female members unless one is a relative or a close friend.

Raising awareness of politeness that is reflected through linguistic or social behaviour is likely to help gaining good command of English. This is because at first one responds to the situation on the basis of his own cultural upbringing. Training students on the pragmatics

aspects of the target language prevents offending interlocutors from the other culture.

Arabs who are not trained on the western politics of expressions often do not use, or misuse, some politeness markers generally used by non-Arabs, e.g. *sorry, thank you, you are welcome, and please*. Speakers of Arabic tend to take it for granted that their addressee is to understand the intended politeness without putting emphasis on it. They believe that excessive use of such words may lead others to take one to be hypocritical more than polite. This contrasts with straightforwardness as a politeness strategy in Arabic. Non-Arab speakers find it hard to understand the intention of an Arab who does not apologise or use a variety of compliments as it is used in other cultures.

The realisation of such behaviour, the paper upholds, helps readers to bridge up the gap. It is helpful in an age of globalisation where a need for social contact is a must. Everyone needs to come into contact with others in this age of information explosion. The fast growth and advancement of telecommunication and Internet make the world a small place. The net as an information superhighway breaks physical, geographical and cultural distances. The need to understand other's viewpoints, positions, beliefs and cultural biases is essential in the present era. Needless to say that interactional relationship is part and parcel of all walks of life: business, education, cultural interactions, national and international trade transactions, media, etc. In the net we chat, make friends, negotiate deals and correspond with people from different places and different cultural backgrounds. To be successful in all these transactions, one has to know about the cultural preferences and *ad* inconveniences. It is only with such knowledge, we minimise the differences and face-threatening acts to our interlocutors. As a result we benefit in strengthening our understanding and our transactions become more pleasant and hence our education becomes effective and goal-oriented.

Translating expressions as the ones above is not easy due to the cultural values of Arabic. However, understanding this aspect (on the part of teachers and students) is likely to lead to a better understanding of the target language and culture.

Conclusion

The study has attempted to bring to focus the problems in translatability of Arabic from a pragmatic and pedagogical viewpoint. The assumption is that lack of understanding of this aspect of Arabic leads to misinterpretations of Arabs by non-Arabs. This is due to the difference in the cultural code of Arabic speakers and non-Arabs. The reason, the reason lies in the unlearned pragmatic aspect of Arabic. This is also a common problem in translating expressions deep-rooted in culture, formulaic and non-formulaic. The paper ends with a pedagogical slant to draw the attention of translators and educators so as to exploit this phenomenon in the educational context. This can be achieved through raising students' awareness to these distinctions. Implementing this uniqueness in pedagogical situations is likely to result in a better understanding of the 'otherness'. If this is made obvious for non-Arab speakers, they will be in a better position to avoid embarrassment while interacting with Arab speakers.

CONCLUDED

Book Review

Making Sense of Idioms

By Jake Allsop & Louise Woods. Published by Cassell Publishers Limited, GB, 1990

REVIEWED BY SA'EEDA OBAID ALI OBAID DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH UNIVERSITY OF HODEIDAH

"Great minds think alike", "Bang your head against a wall", "That'll be the day!" are extracts from Jack Allsop & Louise Woods' *Making Sense of Idioms* published by Cassell Publishers Limited. The book aims at making one of the most challenging parts of language, easy to acquire by learners of English. In view of the saliency of idioms as well as the interest and variation they add to speech, the authors have selected some commonly used idioms and have contextualized them for students of lower intermediate level.

The content of the book is perceptively divided into units covering different topics and situations that students usually come across in their day-to-day communicative contexts. Some of these are:

- Loving and hating
- Getting angry and not getting angry; believing and not believing
- Being safe and taking risks
- Making comparisons which emphasise or exaggerate

- Keeping things quiet and not keeping things quiet
- Describing certainty impossibility
- Praising and criticising; right and wrong
- Making comparisons about states
- Sayings connected with people's attitudes 1
- Succeeding and not succeeding
- Achieving and not achieving
- Making comparisons about people's appearance
- Sayings connected with people's attitudes 2
- Knowing and not knowing
- Conforming and not conforming
- Making comparisons about actions
- Sayings connected with people's attitudes 3

The idioms are presented in an interesting format to make them easy to acquire. For instance *Question 1*, consists of some pictures. Each picture coincides with one idiom, which students have to find out and put in a sentence. The second type of questions is to replace the underlined sentence, which has the same meaning as the idiom. *Question 3* is more interesting, because students are asked to find out an appropriate column in which a particular idiom fits in. The last question entails a review of all the idioms and expressions presented in the unit.

The authors have devoted three units for an accurate learning and understanding of the contextual features of some of the famous idioms. For example, 'make a mountain out of a molehill' means exaggerating and making a lot of fuss about nothing.

Three more units are earmarked to help students use appropriate phrases and sentences in conversation. Students are given exercises of real situations in the form of dialogues. The following conversation is an extract from unit 18:

Val: Let's face it.
Bob, you'll never get

any work as a draughtsman in this town. So, what about going on one of these government re-training scheme? Learn to be an electrician or something.

Bob: Training schemes are all very well, but the fact of the matter is, I'm a draughtsman, and a good one at that. Why should I train to be an electrician?

Val: Put it this way; why shouldn't you? After all, lots of people train for other jobs nowadays.

Bob: I'll tell you why not. For a start, I'm too old.

Val: Rubbish! People in their fifties on training schemes. If you ask me, you're just looking for excuses. Let's face it, you just don't like change.

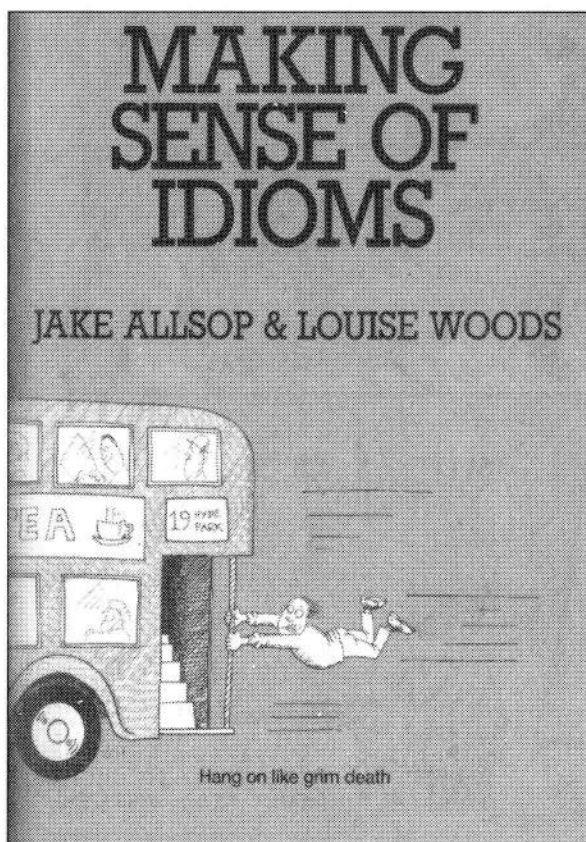
Bob: Nothing of the sort! It's just that I don't see why I should have to change my trade.

In order to further reinforce their understanding and successful acquisition, students are given the same conversation, but without expressions, and are asked to study the difference when conversational phrases are added. The last three units containing Conversational phrases 1, Conversational phrases 2, Conversational phrases 3 follow the same pattern.

The book is also provided with an alphabetical reference section to all the entries in the twenty units along with the meaning and example for each expression. Moreover, entries that have the same meaning are put together, such as 'not bat an eyelid' and 'not turn a hair'. Adding this section is really icing on the cake, for it will peter out any doubt students may feel when using the expressions.

The book is organized in a way that would capture readers' interest and attention. As it is, in the first place, meant for students of lower intermediate level, authors have tried their best to make it easy to access. Its cover page with its colour, drawing, and caption are well laid out. Keeping in view the students' communicative needs, the authors have scrupulously selected 200 common idioms and express the hope that other everyday phrases they will be able to add to their active knowledge and gradually build up a store of useful colloquial expressions.

Considered from an overly pedagogic point of view as well as a general language learning point of view *Making Sense of Idioms* is undoubtedly an indispensable and handy companion to every learner of English who desires to build up a fair command of idioms in English.



YOUTH FORUM

The Use of ET in Teaching

Educational technology (ET) is a term which is applicable to any aid that makes teaching and learning easier, more interesting, effective, and valuable. It is undoubtedly of an immense value to teaching and learning. Researches have demonstrated that ET strengthens the learner's retention. The percentage of comprehension increases as more senses are involved. In addition, ET provides learners with concrete experience, which helps them to understand the abstracts. It also attracts their attention and makes them eager to learn. It trains them how to listen and observe things carefully and realize the relationship between them. Furthermore, it saves time, efforts and money. However, despite all these facts, many

teachers are indifferent to ET. Some of them haven't yet realized its value in teaching. Some others are not confident and efficient enough to try to use it in the classroom. Yet some others claim that they don't know the rules governing the choice, preparation on presentation and evaluation of the educational aids. Consequently, many teachers devote much time to the theoretical part of teaching.

Bassim Mohammed Al-Soqair
Level 3, Department of English
Faculty of Education, Al-Mahweet

Weak Words

Well, let's admit it. For years it has been a secret that I was careful not to whisper even when I was alone. I kept it in the bottom of my heart lest someone might feel or notice it. I trained my eyes not to talk and my lips not move, my brain to stop

thinking and even my heart to stop beating. Well, I love her. Yes, her eyes took me to a man's land, her name inspired me to write a thousand poems. For me, her face is so beautiful that I forced myself not to stare at it for fear of scratch it with my hard eyes. I forced myself not to talk to her, not to harm her ears with my hoarse voice. But I still love to be where she is. I love feeling her around. I would sit very calm as stone just enjoying the presence of her. Once she talks I would listen not to the words but to the voice. When she writes I would read not the sentences but the shapes and the dots. The whole of my life I have believed that I would never love. I don't know if that is right any more... just still wondering with a satisfied smile.

By Waheed Bin-Sallam
Faculty of Engineering
e-intrinsic@hotmail.com

Five World Cup winners in England XV

By MITCH PHILLIPS

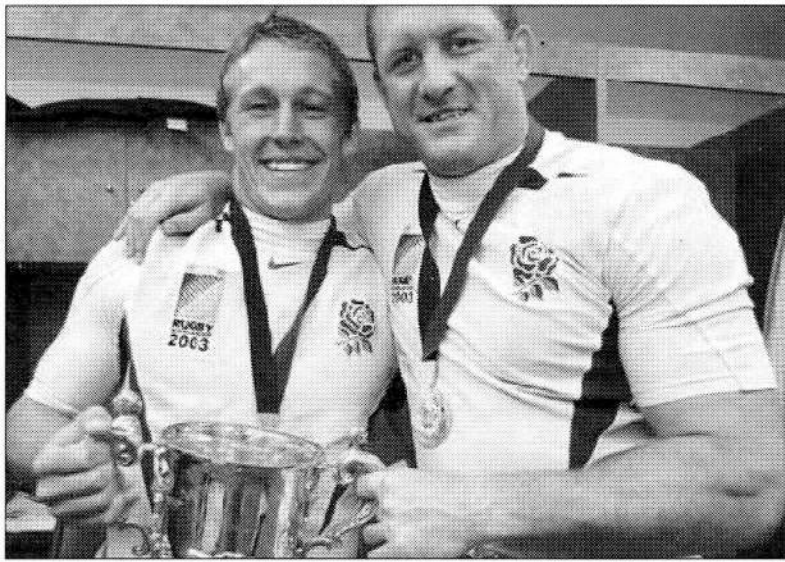
LONDON (Reuters) - England's starting XV for Saturday's non-cap match against the New Zealand Barbarians includes five players who featured in last month's World Cup final, coach Clive Woodward says.

Flanker Richard Hill captains a team that also includes Jason Robinson, England's try-scorer in the final against Australia, fellow winger Ben Cohen, prop Trevor Woodman and hooker Steve Thompson.

Centre Mike Tindall, the only other World Cup finalist in the squad, starts on the replacements bench.

Woodward has used the game to introduce one or two youngsters but his starting team includes a total of 12 players from the 31-man World Cup squad.

Winger James Simpson-Daniel and centre Ollie Smith, both unlucky victims of Woodward's final pre-tournament cull, and uncapped prop Matt Stevens, called up as a squad replacement on Monday,



Jonny Wilkinson (L) and Richard Hill celebrate with the William Webb Ellis trophy after winning the world cup final. Hill will captain England in Saturday's match against the New Zealand Barbarians. Wilkinson will miss the game through injury but he will be present for a post-match lap of honour. REUTERS

complete the starting team.

Smith teams up with Stuart Abbott in a livewire centre partnership and Gloucester's Simpson-Daniel, one of the form players in the Premiership, is another to bring pace and verve to the backline.

Paul Grayson, Jonny Wilkinson's back-up in Australia, gets a chance at number 10, while Andy Gomarsall starts at scrumhalf with Kyran Bracken on the bench.

Danny Grewcock, who was forced home from the World Cup through injury, and his replacement Simon Shaw, the only man in Woodward's squad not to taste World Cup action, pair up in the second row.

Most of the rest of the World Cup squad, including Wilkinson and captain Martin Johnson, will be at Twickenham to take part in a post-match lap of honour.

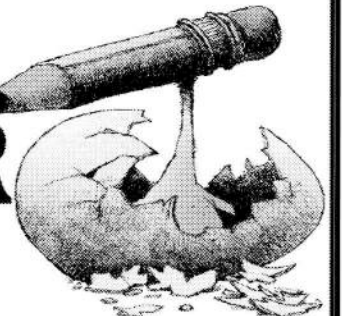
The day will also feature presentations to prop Jason Leonard, who won a world record 113th cap during the World Cup, and to Wilkinson and Bracken, who earned their 50th caps at the tournament.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	24	24	24	23	22	23	23
Lo	2	3	3	2	1	1	2
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Lo	20	20	20	21	20	20	18
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



Dravid delight as India stun Australia

By JULIAN LINDEN

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - An emotional Rahul Dravid hit the winning runs as India completed a remarkable comeback by beating the world champions by four wickets to claim their first victory in Australia for 22 years.

Set 230 for victory in the second test, the Indians reached their target after tea on the final day at Adelaide Oval as Dravid, following up his first innings 233 with an unbeaten 72, cut spinner Stuart MacGill square to the fence.

The tourists resumed on Tuesday on 37 without loss and the result was never really in doubt as the top order all chipped away at the target.

"There's no reason why we can't do it again if we play like that," said India captain Saurav Ganguly, who has now won 14 tests in charge of the side to equal Mohammad Azharuddin's national record.

India have only won three previous tests in Australia and never won a series there in seven attempts. Their last two visits ended in a 4-0 thrashing in 1991-2 and a 3-0 whitewash in 1999-2000.

Vice-captain Dravid, overcome by emotion as the enormity of the achievement sunk in, added: "Australia will come back fighting but we will take confidence from this."

Opens Akash Chopra (20) and Virender Sehwag (47) gave India a strong platform to work off, then Sachin Tendulkar (37), captain Saurav Ganguly (12) and Vangipurappu Laxman all combined to steer them towards victory.

'Can't lose'

India had won just six of their last 69 tests away from home and they had not won a game Australian soil since 1980-81.

Their hopes of ending their drought in Adelaide and going 1-0 in the four-match series appeared to have dried up after Australia's batsmen piled on 400 runs on the first day.

The back page headline on one of

Australia's best-selling newspapers the next day read "Can't Lose" and local bookmakers agreed, offering extravagant odds of 33-1 on an India victory.

That forecast seemed to be justified when Australia finished with a massive first innings total of 556 and India slumped to 85 for four in reply.

But Dravid and Laxman, whose 376-run partnership at Eden Gardens two years ago broke Australian hearts and set up a 2-1 series win, repeated the so-called "Miracle of Calcutta" in Adelaide.

They put on 303 for the fifth wicket with Laxman making 148 to help India post a formidable first innings total of 523, just 33 runs behind.

From a seemingly hopeless position, India were suddenly chasing a relatively small target to win after Australia, several of their players throwing away their wickets, folded for 196 in their second innings, with fast-medium seamer Ajit Agarkar snatching career-best figures of six for 41.

Gillespie set back

Australia, without frontline bowlers Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne and Brett Lee, suffered another setback before lunch on Tuesday when lanky pacer Jason Gillespie left the field with a groin injury.

Gillespie gave Australia a good start when he trapped Chopra leg before wicket with the total on 48 but limped off soon after.

Leg-spinner MacGill kept Australia in the game when he had Sehwag stumped before lunch, then Tendulkar went lbw before tea without offering a shot.

Simon Katich held a sharp catch at gully to get rid of Ganguly and pacerman Andy Bichel dismissed Laxman and wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel after tea but the magnificent Dravid, offered two lives by Adam Gilchrist on nine and Ricky Ponting on 20, kept his cool.

The third test starts in Melbourne on December 26 with the final match beginning in Sydney on January 2.

Zidane named FIFA Player of the Year

By TIMOTHY COLLINGS

BASEL, Switzerland (Reuters) - Frenchman Zinedine Zidane of Real Madrid has won the 2003 FIFA World Player of the Year award — the third time he has collected the prestigious accolade.

He earned 264 points from the votes cast by 142 national team coaches to beat off the challenges of French team mate Thierry Henry of Arsenal and his Real Madrid club mate Ronaldo of Brazil, last year's winner.

Zidane was voted in first place by 35 coaches, Henry was voted first by 21 coaches and collected 186 points while Ronaldo was voted first by 26 coaches for a total of 176 points.

"It doesn't matter how many times you win an award, it is always very special," said Zidane, "and it is even more special when it is voted by the coaches. It is a major honour for me and I am very proud to have won it."

Zidane's success in the prestigious event means he equals Ronaldo's feat in winning the award three times, the only three-times winners since it began in 1991.

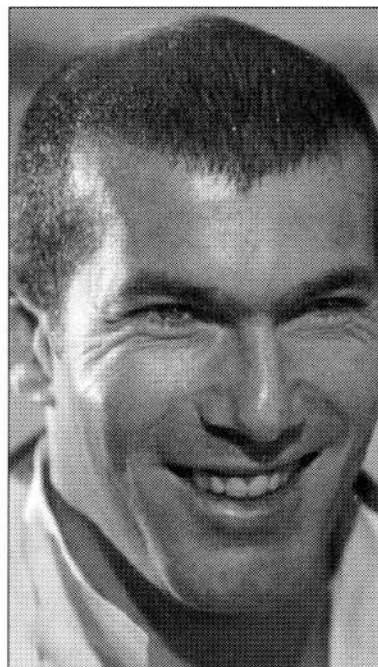
It also represents a hat-trick for Real Madrid following Luis Figo's victory in 2001 and Ronaldo last year.

Zidane, then with Juventus, was winner in 1998, when he won the World Cup with France, and again in 2000, when France won the European Championship. Ronaldo won the award in 1996, 1997 and 2002.

Henry was a popular pre-event favourite to break Real Madrid's grip on this prize and to become the first player from an English club to be the world player of the year. The 13 awards have now been won seven times by Italian clubs and six times by Spanish clubs.

Pavel Nedved of the Czech Republic and Juventus was fourth with 158 points and Roberto Carlos of Brazil and Real Madrid sixth with 105.

Ruud van Nistelrooy of Manchester United and the Netherlands was sixth and David Beckham of Real Madrid and



Frenchman Zinedine Zidane of Real Madrid has won the 2003 FIFA World Player of the Year award — the third time he has collected the prestigious accolade. In this file photo from November Zidane is shown smiling as he listens to journalists' questions during a news conference in Bochum before France played Germany in an international friendly. REUTERS/Ina Fassbender

England was seventh ahead of his club-mate Spaniard Raul and Italian Paolo Maldini who captained AC Milan to their European Cup triumph this year.

The winner of the FIFA women's world player of the year was Birgit Prinz of Germany.

Celtic won FIFA's Fair Play Award for the behaviour of their supporters throughout their run to the UEFA Cup final last season and especially for their sportsmanship following their defeat to Porto in the final in Seville.

The Iraqi football community was awarded the Presidential Award.

Panel 5: 'CRAMMING FOR FINALS, EH?' 'OH, BE QUIET'

Panel 6: 'UM... WHAT ABOUT MY "BAD" CHART?' 'OH, YOURS IS LEGENDARY! IT DOESN'T GO FURTHER THAN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY'

Panel 7: 'OH, 'CUZ I WAS SO GOOD THE REST OF THE YEAR?' 'UH... NOT EXACTLY...'

Panel 8: '...CUZ IT EXPLODED' 'HMM... ISN'T THAT WHEN YOU SAID, "IF IT'S NOT ILLEGAL, IT MUST BE MORAL"?'

Panel 9: 'WELL, EXCU-U-USE ME FOR EMULATING ADULT STANDARDS...'

The comic is signed 'WILEY' and dated '12-14 03' in the bottom left corner. At the bottom, it says 'UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND. WILEY@NON-SEQUITUR.COM WWW.UCCOMICS.COM'."/>


THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

By Eugenia



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Be prepared to deal with someone who is on the rampage. Emotions may flare up if you have forgotten to do something you promised. Be affectionate and kind.



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
You may have to take on some extra work today. Do it gladly. You may be tired, but the end result will be well worth it in terms of financial gains.



Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Socializing will lead to all sorts of new adventures. Creative pursuits or activities involving youngsters will be successful and bring you greater popularity. Short trips will lead to great buys.



Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
You will be feeling a bit frazzled today. You may feel the need to make changes in your personal life. Disillusionment regarding a partnership is likely to develop.



Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Helping those less fortunate will make you feel good about yourself and bring you in contact with interesting people — maybe even a future partner. Your good will could lead to all sorts of interesting possibilities.



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Your restlessness could lead to making a rash decision. Bide your time and don't be too quick to think that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.



Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Disharmony in your personal life may lead to your feeling ill or stressed out. Take time for yourself or you will discover that you are too flustered to get anything done.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Focus on what you can do to make life easier for the older members of your family. Money matters can be resolved, but may cost you more than you anticipated.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Your ability to help the needy will make you look good and should impress someone to whom you want to get closer. This is a great day to socialize.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Protect yourself both personally as well as in business. You will attract those who may not be the best influence, so be careful not to believe everything you are told.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You'll be in the mood to party and have fun. Your joy will make those around you happy and lead to positive interaction. The future looks bright.



Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Watch your spending habits. If you lend money or possessions, don't expect to get it back. The better you prepare for change, the better the changes will be.

Human Clone Experiment Repeated Successfully

By Maggie Fox, Health and Science Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The only researchers to publicly show that they have cloned a human embryo said on Tuesday that they had successfully repeated the experiment, growing an embryo to the 16-cell stage.

Researchers at Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Massachusetts, have also repeatedly created embryos using a process called parthenogenesis — using only a human egg cell and no sperm, and without cloning.

The company says the experiments, reported in the January issue of Wired magazine, are not breakthroughs but a natural progression of its efforts to create human embryonic stem cells to use for medical treatments.

"It's not a scientific advance," ACT medical director Dr. Robert Lanza said in a telephone interview.

But he said the researchers had managed to replicate experiments reported in late 2001, in which they used cloning technology to create a human embryo that grew to the six-cell stage. They also created more advanced embryos, called blasto-

cysts, using parthenogenesis.

Sheep, cattle and pigs have all been cloned using an egg cell and an adult cell from another animal.

But critics had questioned whether the cloning process known as nuclear transfer has ever worked with humans. Lanza said the new experiments, which began last June, suggest they were successful.

Parthenogenesis means "virgin birth"

Even more successful were the parthenogenesis experiments — in which five of eight human eggs were coaxed into growing into blastocysts. At this stage — approximately 100 cells — an embryo can be mined for its stem cells.

The stem cells — nature's template for all cells — can become any sort of cell or tissue in the body.

Scientists hope the cells may one day allow custom-made tissue transplants to heal damaged hearts or cure diabetes by replacing dead pancreatic cells.

Opponents raise moral objections, saying that cloning technology involved in making embryonic stem cells creates a living human being.

The U.S. federal government refuses to fund embryonic stem cell

research beyond a few limited cultures, while Congress and some members of the United Nations have made several failed attempts to ban so-called therapeutic cloning outright.

Lanza says parthenogenesis can bypass these objections. Parthenogenesis is not known to lead to the development of a fetus in mammals.

"If implanted into a woman's uterus, we don't think it would develop into a child," he said.

But the resulting blastocyst, called a parthenote, can be a source of embryonic stem cells. Tissue from such cells would be easier to match with patients and less likely to be rejected, Lanza said, because they contain only one person's DNA.

It also would be more readily available than tissue from a patient's cloned cells, which would take months to prepare.

"For many therapies you don't have time to start from scratch," he said.

It would take just 40 batches, or lines, of parthenote-generated stem cells to create tissue matches for 70 percent of the U.S. public, Lanza said. Embryonic stem cells are immortal, so it would not take many human eggs to create several dozen lines.

Camera phone bans seen as aiding privacy

By Solarina Ho

TORONTO (Reuters) - The camera cell phone, one of the hottest items on this year's Christmas gift list, is a growing privacy issue for both consumers and organizations.

The phones, with their discreet lens, tiny size and ability to immediately transmit images onto the Internet or other cell phones, are a voyeur's dream.

The phones first appeared on the market in early 2001, and for the last several months, media reports out of Asia have called attention to incidents such as nude photographs of unsuspecting victims turning up on the Internet.

Their growing popularity in North America since their debut late last year has sparked similar concerns, prompting fitness centers across North America, from Los Angeles to Toronto, to begin banning or limiting cell phone use on their premises.

With locations including Beverly Hills and New York, The Sports Club/LA — one of the most luxurious fitness centers in the world — was among the first to ban all cell phones in July, limiting their usage only to the lobby.

Privacy is a priority for the center, whose high profile clientele include celebrities and other prominent figures, company spokesman Rebecca Harris explained.

Other clubs have outright banned all cell phones because of the difficulty in distinguishing between regular cell

phones and camera phones.

But not all clubs are taking such a hard-line stance.

In Calgary, where widespread bans and limitations drew media attention in Canada, the YWCA took a more moderate approach.

Common concerns in clubs

"Essentially we're basing it on the honor system, because we're not going to ask every single person who walks into the door, 'Do you have a camera cell phone?'" and 'You need to check it,'" general manager Jan Bloemraad said.

The clubs know that members rely on their phones to stay in contact with children or work, and to ban them outright would not be in the members' best interest. But clubs are keeping a close eye on what goes on in their gyms and say that members are happy they are taking action.

At a number of gyms, it was recent inquiries by the media that prompted them to consider the issue, rather than any particular incident.

"Certainly the media attention required us to be a little more forward in our approach," Jack Kinch, YMCA spokesman for the seven Greater Toronto Area centers, said.

Concerns over camera phones have also seeped into businesses as companies fear corporate espionage. South Korea-based Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics have reportedly banned visitors from carrying camera phones, according to South Korean domestic media.

Concerns raised by the camera phones are unlikely to go away as technology improves and sales jump.

The next generation of phones making their way onto Asian markets and trickling into North America are video cell phones, which have the ability to record 15 to 30 second clips.

In North America, analysts project that camera phone sales will more than double next year, while the overall cell phone market will only see a small increase.

Of the 90 million handsets sold in North America this year, camera phones made up 3.3 percent, or three million units. That's out of the 65 million camera phones sold worldwide, according to David Kerr, an executive with Strategy Analytics, a Boston-based consulting firm.

South Korea, which has one of the world's highest concentrations of cell phone users, is already drafting regulations to protect consumer privacy. Beginning next year, new camera phones will be required to emit a loud sound whenever pictures or videos are taken.

Still, the banning strategy may be an uphill fight, particularly with cameras and videos expected to be standard in half the cell phones available by 2008.

"The evolution, the penetration, the spread of digital capture capabilities in phones is going to be so fast, so wide that it might be a losing battle ultimately," said analyst Alex Slawsky of IDC, a leading technology industry analysis firm.

Bush signs first anti-spam bill

By Andy Sullivan

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bush has signed the first national anti-spam bill into law, outlawing some of the most annoying forms of junk e-mail and setting jail time and multimillion dollar fines for violators.

The law also lays the groundwork for a "Do Not Spam" registry similar to the "Do Not Call" anti-telemarketing list that went into effect earlier this year.

Bush's signing marks the final legislative step in a six-year struggle to curb the unsolicited commercial offers that threaten to overwhelm the e-mail system.

But the law is unlikely to provide much of a Christmas present, at least this year.

Experts say it will not immediately stop the torrent of unwelcome e-mails touting unbelievably low mortgage rates, get-rich-quick schemes and sexual enhancement offers that now account for more than half of all e-mail traffic.

Skeptics say it will only encourage businesses to send out more unwanted e-mail, as the new law allows mar-

keteters to send messages to anyone with an e-mail address as long as they identify themselves clearly and honour consumer requests to leave them alone.

Supporters say the law sets a helpful framework for acceptable e-mail practices, but acknowledge it will need to be enforced aggressively to have any impact.

"This will help address the problems associated with the rapid growth and abuse of spam by establishing a framework of technological, administrative, civil and criminal tools and by providing consumers with the options to reduce unwanted e-mail," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

The new law requires pornographic e-mail to be clearly labelled, and commercial "text messages" to cell phones will be prohibited unless users expressly permit them.

It encourages but does not require the Federal Trade Commission to allow Internet users who don't want to receive any unsolicited marketing to place their e-mail addresses on a list that marketers would be required to check. FTC officials have said on several occasions that a do-not-spam registry would be difficult to enforce.

The law will override some tougher state laws, such as one in California that would prevent all unsolicited commercial e-mail, and will prohibit consumer lawsuits.

Already arrested

Internet marketers have begun to feel the heat as the skyrocketing volumes of spam have strained computer networks and outraged consumers.

Prosecutors in New York and Virginia have used state laws to arrest a handful of spammers, and large Internet service providers like Time Warner, America Online and EarthLink have sued dozens more for damages.

Microsoft Corp. and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer are expected to announce another anti-spam action on Thursday.

At the national level, the Federal Trade Commission has used deceptive-business laws to go after spammers, though settlements generally involve promises to avoid spamming in the future rather than fines or jail time.

Large Internet service providers and marketing and technology trade groups praised the new law, though

many said it would need to be coupled with better filtering methods.

Forrester Research analyst Jim Nail said the law would have little effect as spammers would simply move offshore and come up with new ways to evade filters and cover their tracks. A better solution would be to force all e-mail users to pay a fraction of a penny for each message sent, as a way to discourage indiscriminate mass e-mailings, he said.

Civil-liberties advocate Ari Schwartz said the bill would likely make it easier for Internet service providers and prosecutors to go after spammers, though it was not without flaws.

Spammers who already violate existing fraud laws are unlikely to honour opt-out requests, and the anti-pornography provisions could prove difficult to enforce, said Schwartz, an associate director at the Washington-based Centre for Democracy and Technology.

And by preventing individual lawsuits, Congress shut the door on an effective way to harness consumer anti-spam sentiment, he said.

"There shouldn't be extremely high expectations for this law," he said.

Microsoft revamps for next major Windows release

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Microsoft Corp. said on Tuesday that it is reshuffling its Windows business and creating a new group that would dedicate itself to developing Windows, the world's largest software maker's core operating system.

A new group, the Windows Core Operating System Division, will focus its efforts on developing technology for the next release of Windows, code-named Longhorn, Jim Allchin, group vice president in charge of Microsoft Platforms Group, said in a memo sent to employees.

Longhorn, Microsoft's next big bet in software, will involve an overhaul not only of Windows, but also

Microsoft's next largest franchises, its Office and Server software products. Microsoft has declined to provide a launch date for Longhorn, but many expect it to debut in 2005 or 2006.

Windows is Microsoft's largest group, where the software for desktop computers alone accounted for \$10.4 billion, or nearly a third, of the company's revenue in its latest fiscal year.

The new division will focus on development of Windows while the other groups will be aligned along product lines.

Other Windows subdivisions managed by Allchin will be grouped along product lines, and Brian Valentine, a Microsoft veteran, will head up the

new Windows Core group, according to the memo obtained by Reuters.

Analysts covering Microsoft have pointed out that the software giant's products were becoming increasingly diverse and harder to integrate despite the fact that they need to work more closely together to compete in the market place.

The reshuffle was aimed at integrating development more closely, Allchin said in his memo.

Such integration is also a key part of making Microsoft's software more secure and reliable, a promise that Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates made in his Trustworthy Computing initiative launched in early 2002.

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فرع عدن: سافيلو سنتر، كورنر الزعفران ت: ٢٦٠٢٦٢
بريد الإلكتروني: cnp@y.net.ye

Sana'a, Hadda Str. Tel: 263602, Telefax: 263637, Pager: 5830590, Mobile: 7903445, P.O.Box: 8130, Hodeidah Branch: Tel. 2011712
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شهادة ايزو ٩٠٠١
صناعات: ٤٤١-٤٤٣٨٠
عن: ٢٠-٢٣٧١٩٩

شركات للتأمين
الشركة العربية للتأمين
صناعات:

٦٠-٣٨١٠/٧٧٣/٤/٥
٦٠-٣٨١٠/٦
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٢٥٧٨٧٥-٦١-٨٧٧
عن: ٣٦-٧٤٤
الصناعات: ٣٧٩٧٧٣/٣

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عن: ٢٤٠-٢٤٠
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عن: ٢٥٦٦٨
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IMPORTANT Numbers
لكل خط سنويًا \$٣٠٠ فقط

طوارئ الكهرو، ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة، ١٩٩
الإطفاء، ١٩١، طوارئ المياه، ١٧١
الإستعلامات، ١٧٨، حوادث (الموتور)، ١٩٤
الشرطة الخارجية، ٢٠٠٣٤٤، الشئون الداخلية، ٢٥٣٧٠١٧

الخطوط الجوية
خطوط كورنتنتل الجوية
الخطوط الجوية المصرية
للتقارير

البنوك
البنك اليمني والخليج
كريديت ايجوركل انديسوزيز
المكتب الرئيسي

مصرف اليمن الجبرين الشامل
٦٦٥٧٠٠، ٦٦٥٧٠٠
٦٦٥٧٠٠، ٦٦٥٧٠٠

البنوك اليمنية
البنك المركزي اليمني
البنك الاسلامي اليمني

تأجير سيارات
هزرت لتأجير السيارات
ليومين لتأجير السيارات

معارض السيارات وقطع الغيار
فوردي هونداي
مرسيدس بنز

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر
ابتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر تركز على الانترنت، مواقع، تجارة إلكترونية

Restaurant
مطعم الفيمة
ALKhimah Restaurant

شارع جدة، مقابل السفارة البريطانية
تلفاكس: ٤٤١-٤٤٠٨٩، صان: ٧٣٤٨-٧٨

السادة المعلنون:
قليل من النقود

الداعري
لتأجير وشراء
الأخشاب للخرسانة
المسلحة

مساحة حوالي ٢٠٠ لينة، مسورة، تقع على شارعين
عربي جنوبي، سعر اللينة ٧٠٠٠٠

مطلوب للأجبار:
أجبار محل على شارع رئيسي
فئة واحدة لإنتاج ١٠٠٠٠

مطلوب للتأجير:
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Opticals
مطعم الفيمة
NADIM OPTICIANS

متخصصون في العدسات
اللاصقة
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الداعري
لتأجير وشراء
الأخشاب للخرسانة
المسلحة

مساحة حوالي ٢٠٠ لينة، مسورة، تقع على شارعين
عربي جنوبي، سعر اللينة ٧٠٠٠٠

مطلوب للأجبار:
أجبار محل على شارع رئيسي
فئة واحدة لإنتاج ١٠٠٠٠

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عربي جنوبي، سعر اللينة ٧٠٠٠٠

مطلوب للأجبار:
أجبار محل على شارع رئيسي
فئة واحدة لإنتاج ١٠٠٠٠

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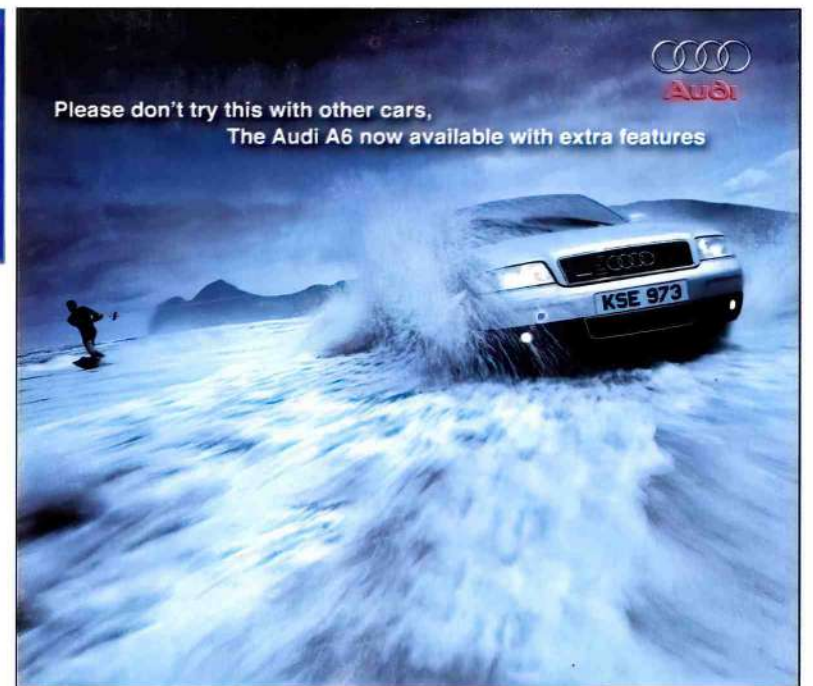
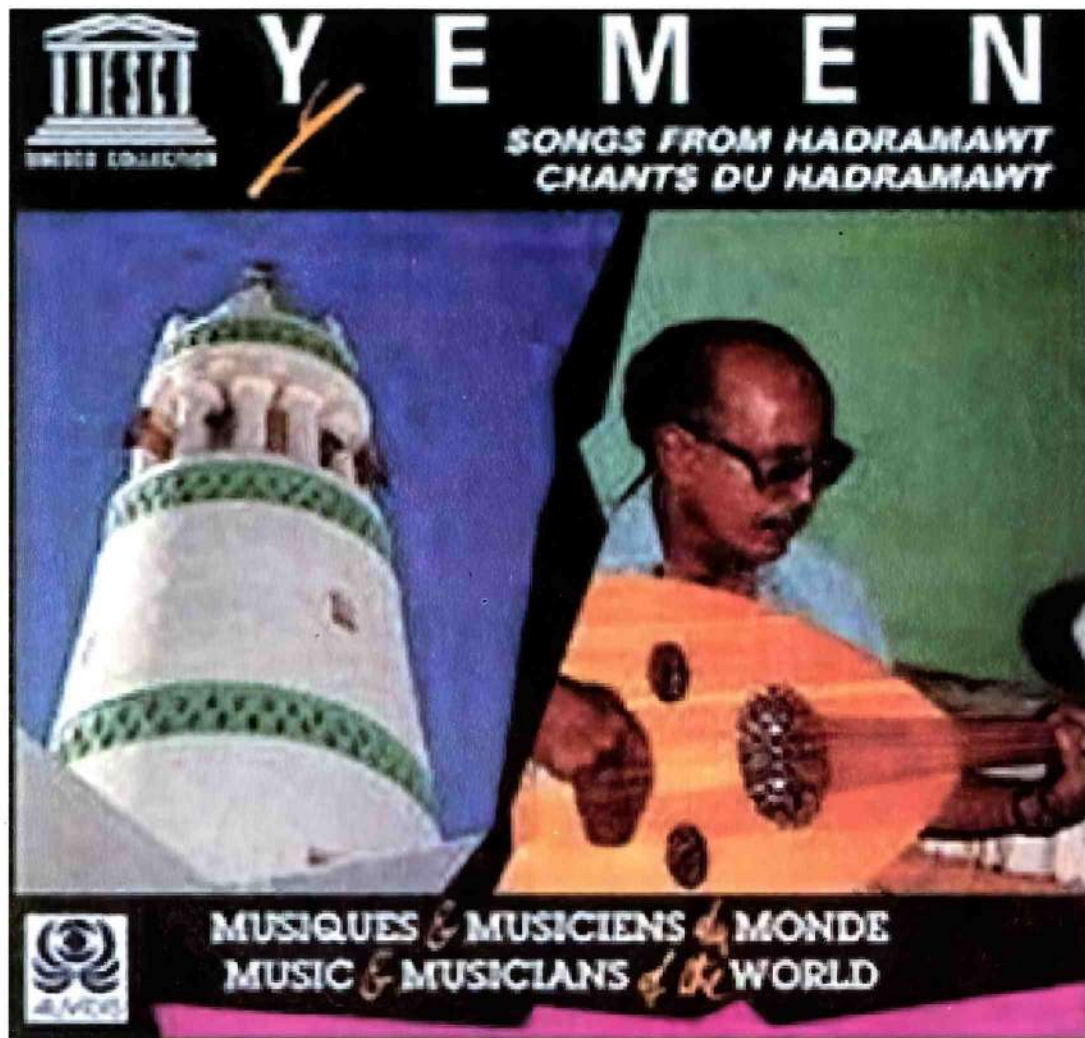
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