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Monday, 22 December 2003 - VOL. XII • Issue No. 696 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## Following the Human Rights conference, Fears from government insistence on passing journalism law

BY MOHAMMED BINSALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of members of Yemeni parliament denied on Tuesday that the parliament had received a written message from the Council of Ministers pertaining withdrawal of the Journalists Syndicate draft law the government claimed to have earlier this month sent to the parliament for approval. Chairman of YJS Mahboub Ali had announced last week that the government requested not to discuss the draft law at the parliament. Parliamentarians have recently affirmed in press statements that the parliament has post-

poned discussion of the draft law for a while but would be put to discussion later for approving it. They urged the journalists to serious and quick action using all media instruments to impede its discussion and withdraw it from parliament as soon as possible. The Yemeni journalists had on 10 December gathered at the Syndicate headquarters openly expressing their rejection of the ill-intentioned law of the syndicate and also announced their determination to continue restraining their profession and hampering voluntary affiliation of trade unionist work. They had demonstrated their resolution to follow up the process of withdrawing and

abrogating the law through carrying out certain activities such as:  
-formation of a "Committee of abolishing the Syndicate law" whose task is to follow up the chairman and the syndicate council and sending messages to the parliament demanding and insisting on refusing the draft law,  
-organizing a peaceful demonstration marching to the parliament building and handing over a letter containing rejection of the law altogether,  
-maintaining contacts with relevant regional and international organizations, urging them on solidarity with Yemeni journalists.

Continued on page 2



The Yemeni journalists had on 10 December gathered at the Syndicate headquarters openly expressing their rejection of the ill-intentioned law of the syndicate

## Al-Ahdal confesses funding role of Cole and Limburg explosions

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

Sources close to bodies conducting investigations with Hamdi Mohammed Hamdon al-Ahdal known as "Abu Assim" who was captured in late November have said he had made confessions regarding the terrorist attacks on the USS Cole and the French super oil tanker Limburg, confirming his being in charge of technical and

financial preparations of the two explosions. The sources further said that Al-Ahdal had received money remittances from Yemenis and non-Yemeni persons inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that he had supervised spending the sums of money in those and other operations. Saudi parties have taken part in the investigations with al-Ahdal with the aim

of getting more information on persons who were buying weapons that had been transported from Yemen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through terrorists. Al-Ahdal had also confessed of technically and financially supervision over other smaller operations and that he had received money transfers in small installments in order to avoid suspicion about recipients and those receiving the money.

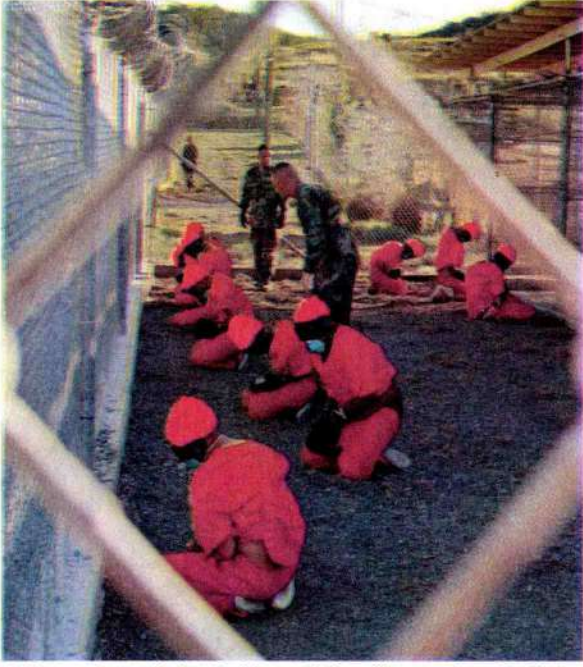
## Second Guantanamo detainee gets lawyer-Pentagon

WASHINGTON, Dec 18 (Reuters) - A Yemeni man being held at a U.S. military

prison in Cuba for al Qaeda and Taliban suspects has been provided with a military lawyer, the second of hundreds of detainees

at the base to receive defense counsel, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

Salim Ahmen Hamdan is expected to meet with his new lawyer, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift, "in the near future," the Defense Department said in a statement.



A Yemeni man being held at a U.S. military prison in Cuba for al Qaeda and Taliban suspects has been provided with a military lawyer, the second of hundreds of detainees at the base to receive defense counsel, the Pentagon said on December 18. Salim Ahmen Hamdan is expected to meet with the lawyer, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay "in the near future," the Defense Department said in a statement. A file photo shows detainees sitting in a holding area watched by military police at Camp X-Ray inside Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during their processing into the temporary detention facility on January 11, 2002. REUTERS

None of the more than 600 prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been charged with any crimes. Most of those at the base were arrested during the U.S.-led war that toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan and many have been held for two years without charges, drawing sharp criticism from civil rights groups. Pentagon officials declined to say when or where Hamdan was arrested. Hamdan is one of six detainees at Guantanamo who has been designated by President George W. Bush to be eligible for possible trial before a military commission in the U.S.-declared war on terror. One of the other six, an Australian, was earlier granted access to a lawyer by the Pentagon.

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## Government backs down from implementing sale tax law

MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni government has lately approved postponement of implementing the controversial sale tax law that angered businessmen and those working in trade as well as opposition circles because of its violation of terms of taxes imposed on consumers and production, let alone the high duties con-

tained in the new law concerning sales. The government has returned the law to the parliament that has agreed to change one of its articles that allows implementing the law at the beginning of the new year, indicating that would give more opportunity for more discussion and studying the previous experiments that had been carried out with regard to sales process.

The government said the purpose of

levying taxes on sales was to protect the consumer while the opposition considered it as doubling the volume of taxes on tradesmen and prices in general particularly on consumer goods, demanding the stop in implementing the law.

The draft law imposes progressive taxation on sales increasing by variant rates on taxes already stipulated in the law of income taxes.

## Scientific international symposium on Socotra archipelago concluded

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES

A three-day scientific international symposium on the Socotra archipelago and other Yemeni islands was concluded in Aden last week. More than 151 researchers from Yemeni universities and Yemeni, Arab and

foreign research centers had taken part in it.

The symposium had discussed more than 100 researches and scientific studies presented on three premises. The symposium came out with a number of recommendations confirming the necessity of preserving the biodiversity and natural environ-

ment in the island of Socotra and the establishment of a Natural Museum there. The recommendations also stressed on the necessity of developing the health, educational and communication situation in then island in addition to encouraging traditional professions and ecotourism in the island.

## Human Rights Conference in Muscat

Minister of Human Rights, Ms Amatalalem Assooswah, represented Yemen in the 3-day Human Rights Conference convened in Muscat on Sunday, 14/12/2003. The Conference was inaugurated by the Omani Minister Ms Ayishah Bint Khalfan Al-Siyabiyah, Director of Handicraft Industries Corporation. Ms Assooswah delivered a speech in which she emphasized support of the Yemeni Government represented by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, for human rights and women in Yemen. The Yemeni Constitution guaranteed women a wide variety of rights which realized important improvements in equality process between genders. The Minister said that the Yemeni Constitution opened the way for women to high ranking positions in the central as well as local governments where she holds posts of minis-

ter, deputy minister, Member of Parliament, diplomat, attorney, academician, physician, engineer, etc.

Yemeni women are also active in leaderships of political parties and civil society organizations, so they could keep abreast of the fast economic, social, and cultural changes, the Minister explained. The Minister gave examples of policies the Government adopted to support human rights in general, and women in particular where it aimed at the process of equality between men and women based on Islamic Shari'a (Law), National Laws, International Human Rights Declaration, and Treaties of Eradicating Discrimination Against Women ratified by Yemen in 1984. In addition, the Government established strategies, which enhance the role the woman as an active and vital social

force creating new work opportunities in some ministries, and improving current ones, the Minister said. She emphasized the importance of cooperation between Yemeni and Omani women. Ms Assooswah was received by the Omani Minister for Social Development where bilateral relations were reviewed especially in the field of human rights. The Omani Minister was impressed by the Yemeni experience in this field, and successes Yemeni women realized. They exchanged wishes for continued successes in both countries. Dr. Swaibiyah Bint Ahmad Al-Barwani, Omani Deputy Minister of Social Development attended the meeting. 35 Governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the Conference including Members of Parliament, and various Deputy Ministers.

## Shores cleaning campaign in Aden

REPORTED BY NABIL GHALIB  
YT ADEN BUREAU

As part of increasing attention the leadership of the governorate of Aden is paying to issues of development and various sorts of services throughout all districts of the districts of the governorate, a large-scale cleaning campaigns of the shores of Aden is kicked off this week aimed mainly at improving services there.

The governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Mohammed al-Shuaibi said the campaign includes the shores of the governorate to protect its environment in all aspects such as removing remains of building from them and other kinds of waste.

In a statement to local media the governor added that there are building works now under construction and these are aimed at building a number of corniches that would help organize vehicles entering the beaches and making them good for entertainment for families and

as a measure to prevent pollution caused by gases emitted from cars exhausts. Mr al-Shuaibi made it clear that the governorate administration has many plans and programs especially pertaining to cleanliness of environment with the aim of giving the city of Aden what it deserves of attention in this regard.

On the parties taking part in this campaign the governor indicated that among those parties are the fund on improving environment and the city cleanliness, the state establishment of roads and bridges, and a number of concerned authorities and institutions.

The governor has called on this occasion on all political, cultural and sport organizations and all civil society activities to effectively take part in this campaign to achieve the aim of its carrying it out, appealing to the citizens to play the major role in protection of the shores environment and also all inhabitants of the city for positive interaction regarding the cleanliness of their city and its status.

## Activities of Yemeni Cultural week in Morocco inaugurated

Activities of the Yemeni cultural week held in the Moroccan capital Rabat were inaugurated Wednesday evening. The Yemeni cultural week is organized by the ministry of Culture and Tourism as part of the program of Rabat, capital of Arab Culture for 2003.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni minister of culture and tourism

would receive the torch of Arab culture so that Sana'a becomes capital of Arab culture beginning of January 2004. The Yemeni cultural and arts delegation would, during the Yemeni cultural days in Morocco, hold a number of cultural, arts and academic activities besides holding an exhibition for photographs and plastic arts, an exhibition for folk costumes and another for books.

### Continued from page 1

## Fears from government insistence on passing journalism law

Meanwhile Mr. Hisham Basharaheel invited last week a number of independent and private sector dailies editors in chief for a large meeting in Aden to seriously discuss the draft law and the attendees had adopted a strong press campaign against the draft law and standing up to it. They were supported by a number of journalists, trade unionists and lawyers who criticized the law which they described as converting the syndicate into a punitive apparatus and watchdog of freedom. They also described the proposed draft law as imposing and levying royalties on party organ, opposition and private-

sector independent newspapers that are in dire need of care, support and encouragement. The participants said postponement of discussing the law by the parliament and not withdrawing it would keep it as a sword drawn against journalists, demanding to keep journalists' vigilance active lest they should be taken unawares.

The council of ministers, ministry of information and the present leadership of the journalists syndicate had agreed on drafting a new law replacing the former one and benefiting from the Arab project presented by Arab Journalists Union. The draft law that had been had been presented to the council of ministers and the shura council was unlike and different from that the journalists had been informed on, a matter that forced them to call for a plenary meeting. A committee was then formed for receiving ideas and remarks from journalists to be redrafted finally before being sent to parliament. But the surprise was that the draft law was referred to the parliament before taking into consideration the journalists remarks and ideas to be in its final draft. This had caused anger among the journalists who decided to defend their rights.

## Readers' Voice

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

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### This edition's question:

Do you think Libya's latest decision of scrapping weapons of mass destruction a wise decision and should other Arab countries follow suit, while Israel possesses the largest weapons arsenal in the region?

I agree with it  
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I don't care

### last 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. 35%
- A person who was exposed to anesthetic gas disabling him from movement. 24%
- I just cannot understand this guy! 17%
- An old, vulnerable and weak person who doesn't have enough strength to resist. 15%
- A shocked & almost insane person who cannot defend himself. 9%

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## The CATALYST Consortium Announcement of Vacancies

The CATALYST Consortium seeks the services of three professional Yemeni staff to help implement a reproductive and maternal-child health program in selected governorates of Yemen, as described below. CATALYST is funded by USAID to undertake a variety of training programs, rehabilitation of health posts and district health clinics, provision of medical equipment and supplies and management systems development in support of providing improved quality primary health care services in underserved regions of Yemen. All positions require Yemeni citizenship and will report to the CATALYST Chief of Party.

The positions being solicited are as follows:

**#1001 Deputy Chief of Party:** The Deputy Country Representative will report to the Country Representative of the CATALYST Consortium in Sana'a. S/he will be responsible for planning, budgeting, coordination with the ROY Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), other donors, NGO's and non-health projects

**Qualifications:** The successful candidate should have at least a Master's degree in Public Health or related field and demonstrable success in designing and managing training programs in reproductive and/or maternal-child health services. The candidate must demonstrate fluency in Arabic and English, with a working knowledge of Government of the republic of Yemen RH/MCH programs.

**#1002 Training Coordinator:** The Training Coordinator will report to the Country Representative of the CATALYST Consortium in Sana'a. S/he will be responsible for all in-country training activities, including planning, budgeting, coordination with the ROY Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), other donors, NGO's and non-health projects. Activities will comprise I-service training for doctors, nurses, community midwives, community health workers, community leaders and private sector entities.

**Qualifications:** The successful candidate must be a Yemeni citizen and should have at least a Master's degree in Public Health or related field and demonstrable success in designing and managing training programs in reproductive and/or maternal-child health services. The candidate must demonstrate fluency in Arabic and English, with a working knowledge of government of the Republic of Yemen RH/MCH programs.

**#1003 Accountant:** The Project Accountant will report to the Country Representative of the CATALYST Consortium in Sana'a. S/he will be responsible for keeping the project books, including budgeting, financial reports and requisite reporting to USAID and the government. The Catalyst Consortium comprises five partners, all of which are worldwide health projects, and which will require different accounting procedures and reporting according to their specific needs.

**Qualifications:** The successful candidate must be a Yemeni citizen and should hold an accounting or associated degree from a national university and have demonstrable experience in double-entry bookkeeping with a national or international organization. The candidate must demonstrate fluency in Arabic and English, with a working knowledge of Government of the Republic of Yemen financial and accounting standards.

**Applications:** Applications should be mailed to:

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Applications should include a cover letter explaining why the applicants feels uniquely qualified for the position, and three references with contact information. Outer envelopes should cite the position number and title of the position. Applications received after January 6, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. will not be considered.

The CATALYST Consortium has a strict policy of a full and open competition for recruiting staff and will only consider applications received through the mail. Candidates who are finalists for specific positions will be contacted for interview. Any communications concerning the above applications received outside the mailing system will be considered negatively.

Girls' education in Yemen

# A steady deterioration

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES

The Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Habtour, declared in a press conference on Sunday, 14/12/2003 that the girls' attendance in schools deteriorated lately to all-time low. Statistics show the male attendance in metropolitan areas is at 55.3%, while female attendance is at 44.7. In rural areas, however, male attendance is at 70.7%, and female attendance is at 29.3%.

Dr. Habtour considered the decline as a result of financial difficulties which most Yemenis experience, especially in rural areas where girls leave schools

after they reach fourth or fifth grades. He blamed the low family incomes, and lack of appropriate school supplies and equipment. Some families send their daughters to work in fields and spend the little funds they have on educating their sons. Dr. Habtour said that some of the problems are teachers who are under-qualified, decentralization, and funds for education. On the other hand, Mr. Ramish Serena, UNICEF Representative in Yemen, said that the U. N. celebrates the completion of its yearly report on children, and every year it chooses a different topic relating to children. This year, it has chosen girls' education as the topic for its report. The

UNICEF representative added: "We still have issues relating to the continuing discrimination against female enrollments in schools. He called on Yemen to re-evaluate and enhance policies governing the distribution of education resources. Mr. Serena, also, called on development organizations, Local Councils, families, and society in general to tackle the challenge of girls' education. He identified a number of quality points which would help resolve the issue of girls' education which encourage the inclusion of girls' education in the National Development Strategy, waiving school fees, merging basic education with National Strategy for the

Eradication of Poverty, and increasing international assistance for education. Girls in Sana'a encountered serious challenges during the current school year where hundreds of girls were forced out of their schools under the pressure of allocating special schools for girls. An example of this is what happened at Jooriah bin Al-Hareth Secondary School for Girls, which forced 750 girls out of the school. Most of those girls were not allowed to continue despite parents' appeals to the Mayor of Sana'a who is alleged to have been behind this move. The Minister of Education did not do anything to reverse this move either.

## German Bundestag delegation visits Taiz

A German Bundestag (parliament) delegation visited Thursday the city of Taiz and toured its historical sites. The delegation was led by chairman of budget committee at the Bundestag and its visit was part of a visit to the republic of Yemen.

During its stay in Taiz the visiting delegation met governor Qadhi Ahmed Abdulla al-Hajari, discussing possibility of contributing to funding the project of protecting the city of Taiz against torrents afflictions. The delegation had also visited the Military Hospital in the city where it opened some departments in the hospital, espe-



cially the X-ray section that had been repaired and furnished with equipment under German funding. The delegation had also seen the medical services the hospital is offering to patients.

The German visiting delegation made a tour of Taiz historical landmarks in Jabal Sabr and Qahira Fortress, expressing admiration of the city's historical

sites. On his part the governor of Taiz evaluated and expressed appreciation for the support offered to Yemen by the German government in various development and health areas as indication of the depth of relations and cooperation of the two friendly countries.

## Workshop on gender and its understanding to the academic student

MOHAMMED SAEED AL-MEKHLAFIA  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden Dec. 15 chaired by governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi, inaugurated workshop on gender and its understanding to the academic student, organized by the national committee for woman - Aden, in coordination with students council in Aden faculty of education. The workshop, lasted until 16 of this month, discussed a number of topics included the insertion

of the social kinds of discriminations against woman. Besides, A workshop paper discussed on social kind from Islamic and educational point, general discussions discussed throughout by the participants and the audience. In a statement to Yemen Times, Dr. Al-Shuaibi pointed out the role played by woman's national committee and its directing inclination towards Aden faculty of education. Being the only resource though which students would spread out guidance amongst students

at schools, where he concluded his a statement, saying "We are struggling in coordination with foreign organizations as well as cooperation with real understandings to give a woman her rights. Qubla Mohammad Saeed, organizer of woman's national committee Horiah Mashhor representative of WNC, Dr. Nasser Ali Nasser Deputy of Aden university rector and number of students of both sex from different universities Aden, Taiz and Ibb attended the workshop.

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# Money laundering workshop concluded

BY: RIDWAN AL-SAKKAF  
YEMEN TIMES- ADEN BUREAU

Organized by the Central Bank of Yemen and the National Bank of Yemen and in cooperation with the Institute for Banking Studies, a 4-day (13-16 Dec.) workshop has been held in Aden on money laundering eradication in Yemen.

Coming from all around the republic, 150 of interested staff and managers from various banks, insurance companies, tax and customs, the general body for Aden Free Zone, criminal investigations management and the general attorney participated in the workshop.

In the workshop, 12 working papers were presented and discussed on the role of monetary sector in Yemen in fighting money laundering and the ways and means to discover such illegal acts, as well as how to set up the necessarily precautionary measures to control and stop it. Dimensions of money laundering and its effects on economy, politics, and financial and legal issues nationally and regionally were also discussed in the workshop.

In the conclusion of the workshop Dr. Yahya al-Shuaibi governor of Aden said: "I hope that the participants have benefited from this workshop and that

the recommendations and suggestions resulting from it are taken seriously and into implementation. And I hope that we continue to conduct similar events in other governorates so as to detect and make aware about this dangerous phenomenon and its negative effects on the national, regional and international economy. I hope that upon doubt, concerned people directly report any suspected money so that we are able to stop this phenomenon." Dr. al-Shuaibi also expressed his appreciation of all who have worked together in making this event a success.

Mr. Muqbil al-Qawsi general manager of the Central Bank of Yemen also delivered a speech in which he emphasized on the importance of such workshops and to expose this phenomenon which is spreading widely around the world. He added that this is a significant workshop especially that it is being conducted for the second time after the success of the first workshop organized about the same topic.

Mr. al-Qawsi pointed out that law No. 35 for year 2003 has criminalized money laundering and stated on establishing a national committee for combating it and this comes in line with instructions and supervision carried by the Central Bank.

Recommendations issued by the

workshop were read out to the participants and which were about four main issues, legal issues, money & finance, information and security. The recommendations are briefly described below:

The participants view the issuing of legislation No. 35 for year 2003 represents a significant leap in eradication of money laundry. And it also contributes to endorsing Yemen's position in international alliances and so the participants demand the completion of the structural and legislative frames of the law through formatting money laundering eradication committee and issuing the executive board of the law.

The participants see that the essence and value of this law is in execution therefore they demand the immediate implementation of the law.

The participants stress on the importance of establishing an information system and effective monetary measures that prevent any monetary institution from using and getting involved in money laundering.

The participants encourage the monetary institutions to report any suspected money.

The participants are eager to enhance the awareness among the concerned authorities in particular and in the society in general about the threats of



money laundering and their negative effects and how to fight this phenomenon.

The participants emphasize on the importance of the Central Bank and other monetary intuitions and related organizations to carry out training courses, and programs for the person-

nel. The participants see the necessity of the information unit joining the international monetary investigation unit.

On their part, the participants expressed their great appreciation and thankfulness to Dr. al-Shuaibi for spon-

soring the workshop and also of the Yemeni Central Bank represented by Mr. Ahmed al-Samawi. And also to Mr. Abdulrahman al-Kuhali head of the administrative board of the Yemeni Public Bank and all staff for their support and hosting of this event and their efficient organization of the workshop.



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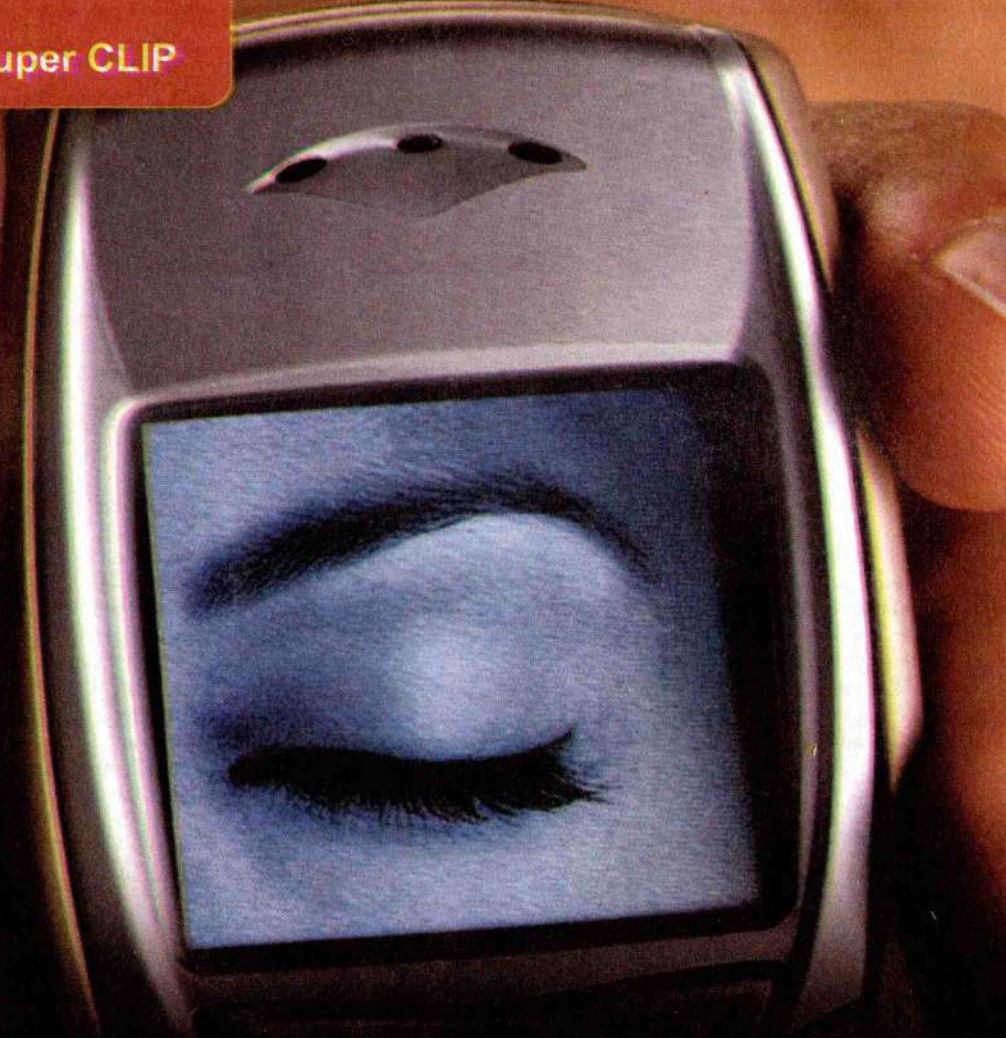
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# Development agency 'meets the media'

REPORTED BY: NADIA AL-SAQAF FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Oxfam, is a charitable British non-governmental organization working to alleviate poverty and suffering amongst people around the world including Yemen. Last Thursday 17th of December 2003 Oxfam (GB) organized a media session. The session was chaired by the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (MEEECIS) Regional Director Mr. Adam Leach, who had been visiting the country, and was conducted by a number of Oxfam-Yemen staff and partners. A

In his speech, Mr. Leach commended the Yemen program, led by Ms. Rajni Khana, Oxfam representative in Yemen. On Oxfam-Yemenis work debrief Ms. Magda El Sanousi, Program Coordinator, explained to the presence the programs that Oxfam is working on in

Yemen. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983 when it responded to the Dhamar earthquake. From humanitarian response it has moved to supporting development work and is currently working through 23 partner organisations mainly from civil society organisations and also the government.

Oxfam in Yemen has 4 main programs, which are the Health program

for private sector. Ms. Nooria al-Khamiri from SOUL and Mr. Masood Hassan from Amer and Uqbi Association have also elaborated on the benefits gained from partnership with Oxfam.

Various questions were raised during the discussion round, and questions relating to Oxfam's work and programs were answered. When asked whether Oxfam is committed to Yemen, Mr. Leach confirmed that Oxfam considers Yemen as one of the important countries for development

and is strongly committed to elevating poverty and suffering in Yemen. As he said, in the Yemeni context:

"Our focus is on improving access to health for the poorest women and men, empowering poor women and men, and marginalized groups to address and voice the different dimensions of poverty affecting them, as they feel it and the way they want to address it. Our partner organisations are also working with us to involve men in helping put women's rights back on the development agenda."

But Oxfam aims not only to change things through our work on the ground. It also believes that it can influence decision-makers at national, regional and global levels through campaigning work. Oxfam is currently campaigning at global level on issues including access to education, the need for conflict resolution and trade.

On what is different about Oxfam from other international organisations working in humanitarian and development issues, Ms. Khanna Country

Program Manager of Oxfam in Yemen pointed out that in addition to working at both the community and national level Oxfam also works through influencing global institutions for policies in favour of the poor.

"Whatever the country, Oxfam's aim always remains the same - to tackle poverty through bringing about change. We want to improve the quality of people's day-to-day lives and we do this in many different ways."

A. Leach Oxfam's MEEECIS Regional Director



Adam Leach and Hooria Mashoor briefing the audience

number of Oxfam beneficiaries and media people also attended the session.

In a press release that was disseminated to the audience Mr. Leach indicated the purpose of the session by saying:

"We've invited you to this briefing in order to explain our work here with our partner organisations and to tell you a little about Oxfam in its wider context."

Oxfam was founded in Great Britain 61 years ago, to provide assistance to people suffering from famine during the Second World War.

Oxfam works to help poor people in more than 70 countries around the world through its humanitarian, development and advocacy work. We have no religious affiliation and our work is driven by one consideration only - humanitarian and poverty needs

The Oxfam International has been formed which is a confederation of 12 Oxfam's working in different countries including Holland, Germany and Hong Kong, Bangladesh among others. Oxfam (GB) has been working in the Middle East since 1949 and we now have a strong programme across the region in the Palestinian Territories, in Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen helping people get access to health and clean water, and improve their means of earning a living.

primarily focusing in Hadramout, the disaster preparedness program, the Gender Equality and ending violence against women program and the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) program through strengthening civil society involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the PRS. Oxfam's partners work in partnership with local governments such as the work of the Yemeni Women Union in Taiz in raising awareness of police, and judiciary on women's legal rights, as well as the work of SOUL with health facilities in Hadramaut. Our relationship with partners is based on transparency, and trust around achieving one goal which is ending poverty and promoting social justice between women and men.

Four of Oxfam's partners attended the session and briefly explained their work and partnership with Oxfam focusing on technical and financial support that Oxfam made which contributed to achieving their objectives. Ms. Hooria Mashoor from the Women's National Committee, elaborated on Oxfam's support to the committee in particular in promoting women's needs in the PRS. Ms. Jamala al-Baidani of al-Tahadi Association for disabled females, elaborated on how the association, following Oxfam's program on PRS gained confidence and succeeded to integrate disabled women in the labour market in particular working



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# Libya seeks reward for scrapping banned weapons

TRIPOLI, Dec 20 (Reuters) - Libya made clear on Saturday it wanted to come in from the cold after decades as a pariah state, and the United States and Britain promised to reward its decision to abandon banned weapons programmes.

Almost 15 years to the day since its agents brought down a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Muammar Gaddafi's state opened the prospect of an end to sanctions and a return of U.S. oil firms with a pledge on Friday to stop seeking weapons of mass destruction. Britain said it had been close to an atomic bomb.

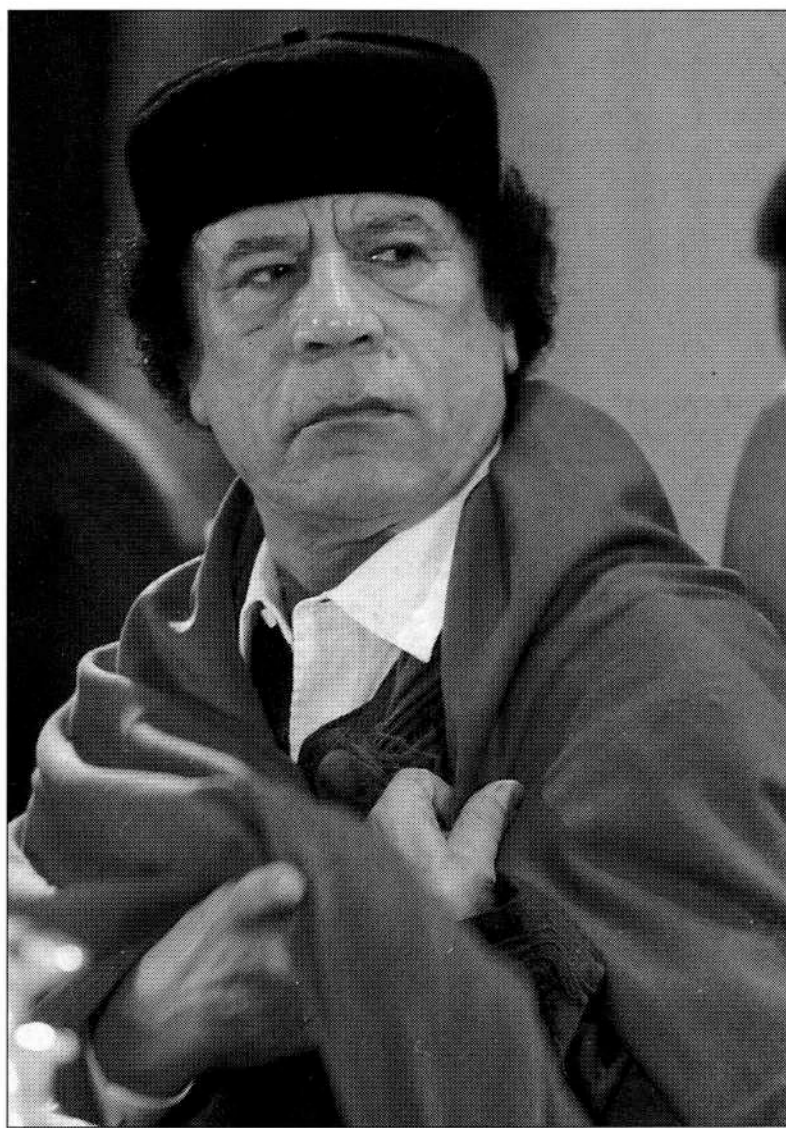
Some U.S. officials cautioned that Libya's move, the culmination of secret negotiations launched around the start of the U.S.-led Iraq war and announced less than a week after U.S. forces captured ousted dictator Saddam Hussein, still left it too early to say when, or if, Washington will lift sanctions.

Britain suggested Saddam's fate could have been different if he had cooperated. U.S. President George W. Bush, who also accuses Iran and North Korea of seeking nuclear arms, said he hoped other leaders would follow the example of Gaddafi, a man once described by one of Bush's predecessors as a "mad dog".

European critics of the invasion of Iraq remarked pointedly that it showed peaceful diplomacy could bring about disarmament.

"Libya wants to solve all problems and we want to focus on development and advancing our country. This (weapons) programme does not benefit our people or country," Foreign Minister Mohamed Abderhmane Chalgham told Al-Jazeera television.

"We want to have ties with America and Britain because this is in the interest of our people," Chalgham said in the first televised comments by a top Libyan offi-



Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi. REUTERS

cial on Tripoli's move.

## Praise for Gaddafi

The announcement came ahead of Sunday's anniversary of the Christmas 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland that killed 270 people. British relatives of the victims welcomed the news that dialogue had brought disarmament, Tripoli's second dramatic step this year to rejoin the international community.

Libya was freed of broader U.N. sanctions this year after accepting responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing and paying billions to victims' families. Washington left its sanctions in place, alleging Tripoli sought biological and chemical weapons.

"We want to defend our peoples' interests," Chalgham said.

U.S. warplanes bombed Tripoli in 1986 after the bombing of a West Berlin nightclub frequented by American soldiers. Gaddafi's home was hit in the U.S. attack and his adopted daughter killed.

Washington bans most economic activity and bars visits to Libya using U.S. passports without U.S. government permission.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw praised Gaddafi, labelled a "mad dog" by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

"He needs to be applauded in unqualified terms for what he has done. I believe it is very statesmanlike and courageous," Straw told BBC radio on Saturday.

"If Saddam had come to us a year ago or more...then the situation in Iraq would have been a very different one."

Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, played down any link with Iraq in the timing of Libya's negotiations. "We started the cooperation before even the invasion of Iraq," he told CNN.

But he added: "It's a critical deal for Libya, because first of all we will get access to defensive weapons and no sanctions on Libyan arms imports any more. We will get access to the know-how and technology in sectors which were banned."

France welcomed the move but Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin urged Libya to "implement without delay" compensation for families of victims of a 1989 bombing of a French airliner.

## Bush, Blair delighted

U.S. officials said Libya's nuclear programme was "much further advanced" than thought and it acknowledged cooperating with North Korea to develop long-range Scud missiles.

Libya said its move showed commitment to "building a world free of weapons of mass destruction and all sorts of terrorism".

Bush immediately praised Libya, saying: "Its good faith will be returned." He also said the United States and Britain would work to ensure Tripoli lived up to its commitments.

"Today's announcement shows that we can fight this menace through more than purely military means; that we can defeat it peacefully, if countries are prepared in good faith to work with the international community to dismantle such weapons," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a staunch U.S. ally.

Bush added: "I hope that other leaders will find an example in Libya's announcement today."

A senior U.S. official cautioned: "We are at the start. The Libyans want to work with the United States, but we take it one step at a time... We're not at the point of discussing how this affects the sanctions regime."

Lifting sanctions could allow U.S. oil companies back into Libya, where they once produced more than one million barrels per day (bpd) and where oil facilities could reach two million bpd within five years, the U.S. Energy Department says.

U.S. sanctions dating from 1982 and strengthened in 1986, ban the import of Libyan crude oil, as well as direct trade and commercial contracts, and keep U.S. firms out of Libya. U.S. companies Marathon, Amerada Hess and ConocoPhillips have extensive assets in the North African state, frozen in 1986.

A U.S. official said Libya approached the United States and Britain in mid-March and this led to visits to weapons sites in October and early December by U.S. and British teams.

# Spanish PM Aznar makes Christmas trip to Iraq

MADRID, Dec 20 (Reuters) - Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar made a lightning trip to Iraq on Saturday to express his support for Spanish troops just ahead of the Christmas holiday.

"I fully back the work that our compatriots are doing here. This is a fight for a just cause, the cause of freedom, democracy, stability and respect for international law," Aznar said at a news conference broadcast live on state radio.

In his first trip to the region since the U.S.-led attacks on Iraq, Aznar visited Spanish troops stationed at Diwaniya, 180 km (110 miles) south of Baghdad, having arrived overnight from Madrid via Kuwait.

Spain suffered its first major combat casualties on November 29 in Latifiya when guerrillas opened fire on two cars carrying Spanish intelligence agents, killing seven.

"Our (troops) are doing an extraordinary job...which is greatly appreciated by the Iraqi people," Aznar said.

The Spanish Prime Minister had lunch with troops and heads back to Spain later on Saturday, a government official said.

Despite strong opposition to the U.S.-led war among the Spanish pub-

lic, Spain has 1,300 soldiers in Iraq. They form part of an international division under Polish command in Shi'ite Muslim areas of south-central Iraq.

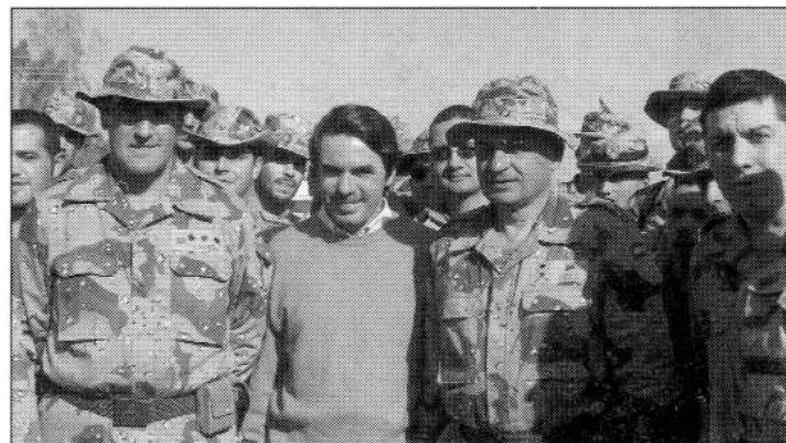
Aznar was one the strongest supporters of the United States in its campaign to oust former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, captured by U.S. forces last week.

After the Latifiya attack, Spain reaffirmed its commitment to stay in Iraq until peace was restored.

Aznar's trip follows earlier visits to Iraq by U.S. and Lithuanian presidents and British and Polish prime ministers. Portuguese Interior Minister Antonio Figueiredo Lopes also flew to Iraq on Saturday, to visit a Portuguese National Guard contingent of 128 based at Al-Nasiriyah since November.

Portuguese news agency Lusa said Figueiredo Lopes, whose visit had been kept secret until his early morning departure, was expected to stay for several hours only.

Portugal hosted a summit for U.S. President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Aznar in the mid-Atlantic Azore Islands just days before the U.S.-led invasion began.



Spain's Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar (C) poses with Spanish soldiers serving in Iraq, during his visit to meet Spanish troops in Diwaniya, 110 miles south of Baghdad December 20. Aznar surprised Spanish troops in Iraq with a visit on Saturday as U.S. troops mistakenly killed three Iraqi policemen. REUTERS

# Saudi says crushed most militants behind attacks

RIYADH, Dec 20 (Reuters) - Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz said the kingdom had crushed most of the militants behind attacks and deadly bombings in the country and vowed to root out the few that remained, newspapers said on Saturday.

"Praise to God most (militants) have been annihilated and only a few remain. This few, God willing, we are chasing them and anyone behind them if takes 10, 20 or 30 years," he said in remarks published in the official Al Riyadh newspaper.

"This malignant germ must be eradicated. Anyone supporting this deluded faction or has mercy on them, we will consider him one of them," he warned.

Crown Prince Abdullah will head the Saudi delegation to the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Kuwait in the coming days which will discuss

an agreement on fighting terror attacks.

Saudi Arabia, cradle of Islam and birthplace of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, launched a crackdown against militants after triple suicide bombings in Riyadh killed 35 people in May.

Last month, suicide bombers killed 18 people in an attack on a foreign residents' compound in the capital. Both the United States and Britain have warned their nationals in the Gulf state that more attacks could be planned.

"Foreigners have come to serve and benefit this country. Like all citizens they too must enjoy safety," Crown Prince Abdullah said.

The kingdom is offering cash rewards for information which thwarts militant attacks and has paid \$270,000 for a tip-off which led to the killing this month of one of the country's top suspects on a list of 26 wanted militants.

# Arab League chief said hopes to end row with Kuwait

KUWAIT, Dec 20 (Reuters) - Arab League chief Amr Moussa, embarking on his first official visit to Kuwait since the Iraq war, said in remarks published on Saturday he hopes to achieve reconciliation with the Gulf Arab state.

"I have big hopes that this page will be turned, for the interest of our common work and to support common Arab work," Moussa was quoted by Kuwait news agency KUNA as telling reporters in Cairo ahead of flying to Kuwait City.

Adding that reports of his row with Kuwait have been blown out of proportion, he said: "It's a summer cloud."

Moussa, one of the fiercest opponents of the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, was accused by Kuwait in the run up to the war of showing bias towards Iraq.

Kuwait's foreign minister said Moussa had offended the oil-rich

country, which was freed from Iraqi occupation by a U.S.-led coalition in 1991, and a Kuwaiti parliamentarian had said Moussa had "sold" himself to Saddam.

Moussa had accepted an invitation from Kuwait to attend a summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to be held in Kuwait on Sunday and Monday.

An Arab League spokesman has said it would be the first time a League chief attends a summit of the six-country group comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

According to some analysts, Kuwait had been angered by Arab League statements calling on countries to deny Washington assistance in the war, a touchy subject for Gulf states such as Kuwait which was used as a launch pad for the war on Iraq.

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# Afghan assembly leans towards strong president

KABUL, Dec 20 (Reuters) - A week into a crucial meeting charting the future of post-Taliban Afghanistan, the U.S. envoy to Kabul said American-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai was winning support for a strong presidential system.

The constitutional Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly in Kabul, has occasionally descended into chaos over women's rights and Karzai's calls for a strong presidential government without which he said he will not run for office in elections next year.

The United States is a staunch supporter of the Western-educated leader, and believes he is the only person who can unite his war-shattered and chronically unstable country.

"At this stage it looks like there is a preference for a presidential system," Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, told reporters on Saturday. "So far things have been moving reasonably well and difficult issues and situations have been managed relatively well. There must be a sense of satisfaction I think in terms of what has happened so far."

Khalilzad was speaking shortly after meeting Karzai, who has seen his vision for Afghanistan challenged by noisy protests from a faction that was crucial in toppling the hardline Islamic Taliban regime and still holds key offices in government.

Delegates supporting the Northern Alliance of mainly ethnic Tajiks threatened to boycott the assembly if they were not allowed to debate the powers of the president first, but the crisis appears to have passed for now.

They are led by ex-President Burhanuddin Rabbani and General Abdul Rashid Dostum, a key ethnic Uzbek strongman. They have been demanding a stronger parliament with a prime minister to dilute presidential powers.

Khalilzad said support for a monarchy was "non-existent" and those hoping to see a parliamentary system to oversee presidential affairs were "not doing well".

Karzai needs only a simple majority in the 502-delegate assembly to endorse the draft constitution.

The Loya Jirga, held in a giant tent on a Kabul college campus, is turning its attention to some of the most contentious issues in a draft designed to pave the way for the country's first democratic elections in June next year.

Among the most sensitive issues are the role of women in the deeply conservative Muslim society and the role of Islam.

Delegates from the 100-strong female contingent have been shouted down while speaking at the assembly, and some have voiced anger at the limited role envisaged for women in politics.



Officials and a delegate of the constitutional Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly walk outside the tent of the assembly held in Kabul December 20. A week into a crucial meeting charting the future of post-Taliban Afghanistan, the U.S. envoy to Kabul said American-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai was winning support for a strong presidential system. REUTERS

# Singapore lifts SARS quarantine orders

SINGAPORE, Dec 20 (Reuters) - Singapore sounded the all-clear after its latest SARS scare on Saturday, lifting mandatory home quarantine orders on 75 people who came into contact with a visitor from Taiwan with the deadly flu-like virus.

The health ministry in the Southeast Asian city-state, the only other country to report a case since an outbreak that killed hundreds of people worldwide was pronounced over in July, said six people who fell ill did not have SARS.

In Taiwan, initial findings showed that the military scientist diagnosed with SARS was likely to have contracted the virus on December 6, a day before he left for Singapore, as he tried to disinfect a trash bag in his lab.

Singapore's health ministry said 75 people who came into contact with the scientist during his four-day visit to the city-state had been released from 10 days home quarantine overnight.

"Everyone who was on home quarantine in line with the 10-day virus incubation period was released from quarantine at midnight and can go back to normal activities immediately," a spokeswoman said.

To date, no one has developed a vaccine against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), or a cure.

The Taiwan case is only the second since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared in July that the latest outbreak of the disease was over — and both have been traced to laboratories.

A 27-year-old Singaporean medical student who tested positive for the potentially lethal disease after a laboratory accident in September 9 has since recovered.

Singapore was the first city to begin mass quarantines in the last SARS outbreak, isolating 8,000 people, monitoring some with cameras, and threatening jail time and fines if they left home.

The 44-year-old Taiwan scientist tested positive for SARS this week, fan-

ning fears of a resurgence of the disease in Asia, which bore the brunt of a virulent outbreak of the virus earlier this year. The man is now in stable condition.

After emerging in southern China in late 2002, SARS infected 8,000 people in nearly 30 countries, killing about 800, mostly in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Canada. Many of Asia's economies were battered.

Of the 75 quarantined this time in Singapore, six had fallen ill and were admitted to the city state's Communicable Disease Centre, the ministry spokeswoman said. "All the six have been diagnosed as non-SARS. They remain well but are being kept under observation," she added.

Although criticised by some as draconian, Singapore's measures to contain the spread of the virus earned the nation of four million won praise from the WHO for bringing the outbreak under control.

"In the latest outbreak what Singapore has done has WHO's full support and we congratulate them on the swift conclusion to this scare," Peter Cordingley, WHO spokesman, said in a telephone interview from Manila.

Since the first outbreak of SARS, when Asian countries exhibited varying degrees of efficiency in handling the crisis, the WHO has stepped up its long-standing encouragement of cooperation between laboratories working to create vaccines.

"We always said that if there were a new infectious disease, labs should work together. And they did work together," Cordingley said, adding that the labs' cooperation had slackened.

"Since the outbreak ended in July, an element of competition and commercial rivalry seems to have been introduced into the scenario," he added.

"We understand this, but we're hoping we can return to the days of full cooperation between the member labs," he said.

## Nigerian union says leader beaten by police

LAGOS, Dec 20 (Reuters) - A Nigerian union leader and several workers were beaten by police and arrested on Friday in the commercial capital Lagos while protesting at what they called unfair work practices, the union said on Saturday.

Workers at generator company Mikado Nigeria Limited went on strike on Tuesday after a dispute with management. The head of the

National Union of Shop and Distributive Employees, Bright Anokwuru, went to address the picket on Friday.

"The police arrived with more than 200 reinforcements and started shooting live ammunition and tear-gas. Anokwuru was dragged and beaten and put in a pick-up van," said John Odah, secretary-general of the Nigerian Labour Congress

(NLC).

A police spokesman was not available for comment.

Anokwuru, who is also a member of the NLC national leadership, was released on bail on Friday night with other workers on condition they report back on Monday, Odah said.

Anokwuru received medical attention for his injuries and was resting at home on Saturday.



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# At least 12 dead in bus crash in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Dec 20 (Reuters) - At least 12 people were killed and 37 injured early on Saturday when a bus travelling from Germany to France careered into a highway crash barrier in southern Belgium and burst into flames, judicial sources said.

The bus crashed near the Belgian town of Hensies, close to the Franco-Belgian border post of Saint-Aybert. Belgium's RTBF radio said the bus was seen zig-zagging along the highway before hitting the concrete barrier.

Some of the victims survived the initial crash but were then trapped by the ensuing fire which erupted at the back of the bus, RTBF said.

"People were screaming and trying to get out," a witness told the radio. "People were breaking and getting out of the windows," another witness said.

The bus was carrying 49 passengers of mixed nationalities including Germans, Bosnians, Turks, Croats, Mongolians and one American, judicial and rescue officials said.

In Berlin, the Foreign Ministry said Germany's ambassador to Belgium was on the way to the crash site.

RTBF said one of the two bus drivers was killed in the crash. The second was taken to hospital where police were expected to question him about the cause of the accident.

Mons public prosecutor Pierre Marleghem, who is helping to investigate the crash, said the bus had started its journey in the western German city of Cologne and was bound for France, possibly Paris.



Firefighters extinguish a fire in a German coach on the Paris-Brussels motorway near Hensies on the border between Belgium and France December 20. At least 12 people were killed and 37 injured early on Saturday when the bus, travelling from Germany to France, careered into a highway crash barrier in southern Belgium and burst into flames, judicial sources said. The bus was carrying 49 passengers of mixed nationalities including Germans, Bosnians, Turks, Croats, Mongolians and one American, judicial and rescue officials said. REUTERS

# Helicopter record bid ends with Antarctic crash

LONDON, Dec 20 (Reuters) - A British grandmother's bid to make a record-setting pole to pole helicopter flight ended with a crash landing in Antarctica on Saturday morning in which she and her fellow British co-pilot were injured.

Jennifer Murray, 63, broke her arm in the crash 120 miles (193 kilometres) north of the Patriot Hills base and Colin Bodil suffered more severe but unspecified and non-life threatening injuries.

"They are both injured, but both are in good spirits and in the care of a doctor," a spokesman for the support team told Reuters by telephone.

The pair were rescued by a team sent out from Patriot Hills and taken back there to wait for a plane to take them to hospital in Punta Arenas in Chile for treat-

ment.

The crash happened just four days after they arrived at the South Pole, about one third of the way through their planned 32,000 nautical miles aerial marathon.

Murray — who on Monday briefly stopped off to visit her husband Simon, also 63, who is walking to the South Pole with intrepid fellow Briton Pen Hadow — set off with Bodil from New York on October 20.

Since then they had flown down the east coast of the United States, across the Caribbean and central Brazil and down the east coast of Argentina to the frigid south.

They arrived at the South Pole on the centenary of the first powered flight by the Wright brothers after braving a blizzard.

The next leg of the epic flight would have taken them 16,000 nautical miles up the west coast of Chile over Peru, Central America and the west coast of the United States and Canada, over Alaska to the Arctic and the North Pole where they were due to arrive on April 8.

They had planned to finish the record-setting journey on April 15 after flying down the U.S. east coast back to New York.

The main aim of the journey in a Bell 407 helicopter was to set the world record, with a subsidiary goal of raising awareness of conservation issues along the way.

Murray set the world record for the fastest female solo helicopter flight round the world in 2000, covering the distance in just 99 days.

# UNHCR asks Australia to treat asylum seekers humanely

CANBERRA, Dec 20 (Reuters) - The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) appealed to Australia on Saturday to treat asylum seekers staging a hunger strike on the Pacific island of Nauru with humanity and to end their lengthy detention.

A group 35 men — 34 Afghans and one Pakistani — have been refusing food for up to 10 days to protest the government's refusal to allow them into Australia, and eight of them are in hospital, an Immigration Department spokeswoman said.

Four of the detainees, all of whom have been refused refugee status by Australia, have sewn their lips shut.

Two UNHCR representatives visited the Nauru centre, which currently houses 192 adult asylum seekers and 93 children, this week for a review planned prior to the hunger strike.

"(The hunger strike is) symptomatic of a general degree of despair that

must be addressed with a view to responding humanely to what is becoming a human tragedy," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told Australian Associated Press.

"Until such time as conditions improve in the areas of origin of these persons, UNHCR appeals to all concerned authorities to treat them with humanity and redouble efforts to find a dignified and proper solution which does not involve continued, prolonged detention in harsh conditions, including of children."

Australia's conservative government set up a fenced camp on tropical Nauru, a remote, 21-square-km (eight-sq-mile) island, in 2001 when it toughened its stance against asylum seekers arriving by boat by deploying the navy to intercept and divert vessels.

Human rights group Amnesty International on Friday called for the

government to close down the camp on Nauru because detainees were denied basic human rights and living standards.

Australia has one of the world's strictest immigration policies, detaining all asylum seekers, illegal workers and anyone overstaying their visas in guarded camps while their cases are handled, a process which can take years.

The hunger strike is the latest in a string of protests, riots, escapes, and suicide bids at Australia's five onshore and two offshore immigration centres, which are currently housing about 1,200 people.

The Australian government plans to send two representatives to Nauru early next week to speak to the protesters and to camp manager, the International Organisation for Migration, to try to resolve the situation.





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# YT Business



## Yemeni-American relations

# Present and future

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, chairman of Shura Council and honorary member of FAAAY reviewed in his address to the activity on "Yemeni-American Relations Present and Future", held in Sana'a Wednesday stages witnessed by the two countries relations which first started with trade relations in late of the 18th century when America was one of the main importers of Yemeni coffee, through diplomatic relations in the mid of the forties and then the U.S. recognition of the Yemen revolution in 1962. Mr. Abdulghani indicated that despite of impact of the second Gulf war on those relations the United States adopted a positive stand towards the Yemeni unity during the secessionist war and international variables, indifferent of 9/11 events.

He said the Yemeni-American cooperation in fighting terror proceeds basically from the fact that Yemen has suffered much from terror and the cooperation in this area would serve Yemen's need for eliminating that phenomenon that inflicted great damage on the Yemeni economy and affected Yemen's international relations. The symposium that was attended by a group of intellectual, politicians and academic personalities who had studied in the United States had listened to a lecture in the economic field delivered by Dr. Ali Abdulrahman al-Bahr, head of the housing bank, the FAAAY executive president, the main of which is to follow and also there had been two working papers, one on cultural and educational issue presented by Dr. Mohammed Motaher, vice minister of higher education and scientific research and the second on by Dr. Abdulrahman Abdrabou, professor in Sana'a University.



Dr. Ali Abdulrahman Al-Bahr

vided Yemen with a total of (101 Million US Dollars). The United States agreed to reschedule the amount of (71 Million Dollars) that was due to be paid in 2002. Japan agreed to reschedule the amount of (156 Million Dollars).

The Arab Countries as a block provided Yemen with loans totaling to (728 Million Dollars).

Arab countries channeled their finance to Yemen through their respective specialized development funds as "Saudi Development fund, Kuwait Development Fund & Abu Dhabi Development Fund".

### 2. Multilateral Lending Activities:

Whenever we study economic cooperation with USA, we have to touch on international financing banks and agencies. The most important are:-

- 1- The World Bank
- International Development Agency "IDA"
- International finance corporation "IFC"

- 2- International Monetary fund "IMF"

Discuss the role of the World Bank and international monetary fund in the context of Yemen USA development cooperation is not with out reason. The reason is very simple the USA is the biggest share holder of both the Bank and the fund, it owns about (36%) of their capital hence the decisive voting power in the boards of both institutions, it can lead and direct lending policies, loan allocation to countries and regions of the world, including ranking priorities of different countries and projects. USA was very helpful in introducing Yemen to both the Bank and the fund when Yemen was trying to join the group as a full member country in the beginning of the Seventies of the last century. (1973). The effect of IDA was felt in every sector of Yemen Economy Education, Health, Agriculture, Water, Infrastructure and institution building, it provides Yemen with quite substantial amount of loans at concession rates with long grace periods and soft conditions. The total amount of committed loans of IDA stands at (1.78 Billions US Dollars). Most of this money have been used except about (392 Million Dollars) still unutilized. IDA role was to strengthen the physical production capacities of Yemen Economy and to improve education and



FAAAY during the seminar held at Sheraton hotel

the quality of labor force through education and training. Yemen adopted and implemented the first second Economic Development plans under the close support of the World Bank and IDA in particular. They financed so many projects in that plan, such as: Tehama Valley Authority, Zabied dam and irrigation system, Sorded Valley, Wadi-Mor dam and irrigation, Electricity Generation, Transmission and distribution system. A large number of education projects including a lot of schools, Buildings, Technical Teams, Collages and Training centers.

**IFC:** International Finance Corporation is the private business affiliate of the World Bank. It deals with private businesses and companies in member countries. Their role is to provide finance and know how, they participated in three important private companies in Yemen through share holdings and money lending. Those are: milk and dairy products in Hodiedah, Ghee & Soap Company in Taiz.

**IMF:** International monetary fund is the twin sister of the World Bank, both were created by britenwood agreement after the second world war to rebuild the world monetary and trade system, over and above reconstruction of Europe. The fund played an important role in building the ministry of finance by providing a general financial reform the monetary system. Technical assistance and on job training to Yemeni personal in the finance ministry and its subsidiaries such as, Tax authority, customs authority, they help training the central Bank staff, help drafting rules and monetary policies and exchange regulations. They help supervising Commercial Bank operating in Yemen and bringing the whole monetary and banking system in line with international rules and regulations as set by the fund and major international trading nations. The fund also provide Yemen with short term loans to help it finance foreign trade and imports. The fund loans stands at (384 million Dollars).

**Trade:** the USA comes in the third place, next to Saudi Arabia and United

Arab Emirates in exporting to Yemen. Total American Exports to Yemen reached (17.5 billion Yemeni Rials) in 2000 that is about (4.5%) of Yemen total imports. In return Yemen Export to USA recorded (40 Billion Rials) in year 2000, it represented (6.5%) of Yemen total exports in the same year. In 2001 Yemen export declined to (23 Billion Rials) imports from USA declined also to (20.6 Billion Rials). This is the balance of trade which represents the exchange of goods, mainly grains, Oil and Oil products. There are other components in the balance of payment reflecting economic cooperation between the two countries; it is normally reflected in the current account of the balance of payment. Those figures reflects income of Yemeni capital invested in the USA stock exchange and money market, the total declared income from Yemeni assets reached (110 Million US Dollars) in 2001 about (70-80 Million Dollars) came from Yemen Central Bank investment which amount to (4.29 Billion US Dollars). Our own estimation of Yemen private capital "Including Yemen Commercial Banks & private capital" invested in the American capital market range between (4-5 Billion US Dollars). There are also income from tourism and Yemenis working in USA. The number of American tourist who visited Yemen in the year 2000 reach 12,000 out of 65,000 tourists visited the country that year, this numbers gave USA 20% of the tourism industry of Yemen. The Yemeni society in the United State, i.e.. Yemen Americans exceeds 80,000 people in number. This brings us the strongest step closer to the American people and American society. 5% of the American people are Moslems, they are totally free "under American constitution" to worship ALLAH. They are equally recognized like their American fellow citizens, they have the rights to go to school, to get a job, to join the US army, to vote in elections and to be candidates for the white house as presidents of the United States of America. Yemen have a big students society in the USA some of them are financed out of their own family resources, this presents a clear evidence of how proud and trust people are of education in the United States of America. This is alive whiteness of Yemeni and

Moslems old wisdom "go for education even at the remotest part of the globe". The USA is afar distance but it is very close to our hearts and minds, we owe these young men & women the highest respect, they deserve not less than a full cooperation in providing them with information, education advises, education support and at the least the moral support. Those are all within FAAAY mandate and duties. Yemen and FAAAY will reciprocate the same way towards any American friend or scholar who may be interested in studying or coming to Yemen.

### 3. Private investment:

This is probably the most effective, enduring and fast in bearing its fruits. USA is the largest home of private business, capital market and private initiative. Oil and Gas industry comes under this platform. The Oil & Gas cooperation started by signing production sharing agreement between Yemen and Hunt Oil Company in March 1982. Oil & Gas was produced in commercial quantities in July, 1984. The first well "Alef One" tested and was able to produce 10,000 barrel of oil per day, by that date Yemen put most of its economic and prosperous economic future. Oil discovery was a real break through and cutting edge victory for Yemen in its relentless quest for viable and better human way of life, based on higher income better education better health and better chances to get a job. It was a great achievement for Hunt Oil Company and a corner stone in Yemen American cooperation. Hunt Oil Company celebrated its 20th anniversary and granted an extension period of 5 more years. There is also Canadian Oxidental Oil Company working and producing Oil & Gas from more than one concession area. Canadian Oxie is the Canadian sister Company of the USA based Oil Company "Oxedenatal". Oil & Gas production and Export changed the economic structure of Yemen beyond recognition. It changed Yemen agricultural traditional economy into a new structure where Oil & Gas production contributes more than 50% of Yemen gross domestic products. It provides the country with more than 80% of foreign exchange to finance imports and 80% of government budget.

BY DR. ALI ABDULRAHMAN AL-BAHR  
HEAD OF HOUSING BANK  
FAAAY EX.

Before turning to the hard task of numbers and figures of Economics let me go back to the early stages of Economic and political contracts between the two countries. It was in 1923 when two American geologists from "Standard Franco American" arrived to Yemen. They run Geological survive in Tehama and the Red Sea. Between 1927-1932, Mr. Karl Twitchell, an American geologist and mineral engineer from, USGS visited Yemen so many times trying to secure an agreement on Oil, Gas and Mineral resources exploration. He also discussed exporting salt from salif and producing electricity generated by waterfalls. It was then said the same person went after that to Saudi Arabia and set the stage for the first Oil agreement between Saudi Arabia and American Oil Companies:

- In 1961 the first oil agreement was signed between Yemen and the American Company "John.W.MECOM" 5 wells were drilled in Tehama under that agreement

- In 1958 USA started the construction of Mokha - Taiz - Sana'a road. This road was one of the first links between Yemen capital and the external world.

- In 1958 USA provided Yemen with the wheat donation to help it getting over drought and economic hardships. USA is a great power, a great country and the world greatest economic & financial powerhouse. USA produces a GDP of 10 Trillion US Dollar per Year. That is about 30% of the world GDP which is 33 Trillion US Dollars in 2002. It hosts the world biggest capital market. US bourses value exceeds 12 Trillion Dollars in shares, Bonds and other assets. That is one third of the wealth of the world.

- The populations are 300 Million that is 5% of the world population.

The American people strongly believe in Democracy, Freedom & Human integrity. Free market economy is probably at the heart of the American Economic might. They embrace their ethnic diversity and believe that to be one of the main sources of American strength. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the right to political participation are the common values of the American society. Cooperation between Yemen and United States covers a wide range of activities over a long period of time. The following list may reflect the most important fields of cooperation.

- The fields of cooperation:**
- Education and technical training
  - Health and disease control
  - Agriculture, Water and Marine Resources
  - Infra structure projects
  - USA wheat program

- Oil and Gas industry
- Trade and finance
- Tourism and environment protection

As it appear it is hard to tackle every sector fairly enough within the limited time of this good event. I think it is also as effective and convenient to analyze economic cooperation along three important institutional axis, they are as follows:

**1. Bilateral:** Or government to government cooperation.

**2. Multilateral:** i.e.. Cooperation through trans-national financial agencies and organizations of a world scope such as IBRD, IDA, IFC, IMF.

**3. Private investment:** The task here is done by private multinational companies private Banks and financial groups. Most of heavy duty role under this listing endured and carried out by oil companies.

### 1. Bilateral Cooperation:

When ever we talk about economic cooperation it comes directly to out minds the issue of loans. What different countries has provided in term of development finance at what conditions in what sectors of Yemen National Economy. How conducive and stimulating to economic growth. What employment and job chances it creates.

### Partners in Economic And Social Development

The total amount of Yemen outstanding foreign loans as on December 31st 2002 stands at 5.477 Billions US Dollars. Out of this total 4.045 Billion US Dollars is disbursed and out standing. 532 Million is undistributed. Government to government loans stands at 1.766 Billion US Dollars; it represents 32% of the total foreign dept. The creditor countries are as follows:

- Japan comes in the first place with a total of 262 Million US Dollars.

- The United States of America is the second creditor country to Yemen, it pro-

Yemen foreign Debit 31st December 2002 in Million US Dollars

Bilateral of Expor.Credit	Disposed & Out Standing Loans	Non Disposed Amount	Contracted loans
Bilateral	1760	6	1766
Denmark	3	0	3
France	68	0	68
Germany	1.5	0	1.5
Italy	24.5	0	24.5
Japan	262.	0	262.
Netherlands	2.25	0	2.25
USA	101	0	101
Spain	15	6	21
Russia	1283	0	1283
Arab Countries	728	0	728
Algeria	19	0	0
Saudi Development fund	245	0	245
Kuwait Development Fund	324	0	324
Abu Dhabi Development Fund	48	0	48
Iraqi Development Fund	92	0	92
Other Government	208.34	38.21	246.46
Multilateral Lending Agencies	2249.11	487.64	2736.75
International Development Agency IDA	1384	391.98	1775.70
International Monetary Fund "IMF"	384	0	384
Others	482	95.66	577.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>4945</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>5477</b>

Source: Yemen Central Bank Annual Report 2002. P.48

Balance of payment Millions US Dollars

2002	2001	
3584	3369	Exports
3122	2905	Oil Exports
1600	1585	Government Share
1522	1320	Companies share
2805	2600	Imports
733	-678	Services "Net"
165	170	Credit
898.5	-848	Debit
765.6	-691	Factors income "Net"
135	178.5	Credit
900.6	-869.4	Debit
1239	1273	Current transfers "Net"
1312.2	1344.3	Credit
73.1	-71.4	Debit
519.5	670.9	Current Account
57.2	96.5	Capital account "Net"

\*765.6 690.9 Capital invested income "Portfolio income"

\*74 109 Other income

source: Yemen Center Bank P.72

**Words of Wisdom**



Individuals must be held accountable for the way they handle property, especially if it is publicly owned. Thus, drivers of government vehicles, operators of machines, an other people who have direct responsibility for government assets have to be constantly brought under supervision. By the way, this would also apply to traffic violations by government drivers. They should be made to pay for the tickets.

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

**OUR OPINION**

**The EU can help Yemen's media**

Two consultants of the European Commission were present in Sana'a last week for discussions on EU assistance to the civil society in Yemen. In an informal session held by our sister newspaper Yemen Observer to highlight the possible assistance of the EU to Yemen, a fruitful discussion took place between editors and the two consultants with the aim of answering the questions "Can the EU assist Yemen's media? How?"

The answer was a definite "YES". It is possible and will always be possible to help the media in Yemen in many ways. The EU consultants were kind enough to note down a lot of comments presented by the attendants, who were mainly representatives of nongovernmental newspapers.

I take this opportunity to write this column in dedication to this initiative, and thank the EU for their clear intentions to involve the media in their aid program because we are truly in need for their support.

We explained in the meeting that the media in Yemen is categorized into printed press, which includes partisan, private, and governmental newspapers, along with the electronic media represented by the governmental TV and radio stations. Taking into consideration the fact that the governmental newspapers and media organizations enjoy a lot of privileges for having their own budgets from the government along with several aid packages from the international community, and bearing in mind that the partisan newspapers are usually propaganda newspapers for political parties that finance and support them for their own interests, we find that the private media is left in the blue.

Professionally run private media enterprises in Yemen tend to take a balanced line, and prefer to report in an honest, free and independent manner away from political struggle and bias in favour of any side. This is why they do not receive substantial aid from either the government or the active political parties. On the other hand, they have not been offered any aid from any international donors including the EU. They had to rely on advertisement revenues and sales income to get them running. And in such a country of extremely low GNP and purchase power, surviving with such resources is extremely challenging, but possible.

Nevertheless, the free press in Yemen has gone a long way, and is now asking for help from the EU.

We proposed that the EU aid concentrate on capacity building of newspapers as entities. This is in my opinion the first step that should be taken to enhance the free media in Yemen. Building a media institution in a proper manner will open the way to the development of efficient and professional sales, marketing, administration, and journalist staffers. This is because a newspaper is composed of all of those elements, and promoting a media institution involves helping all of them.

The point I aimed at delivering in the meeting is that even though training sessions for journalists are helpful, developing the media in Yemen is much more than that. It also involves analyzing needs of newspapers and helping them establish stronger infrastructure and maintain professional standards even in the administrative tasks least relevant to journalism, because for a journalist to work efficiently, he/she needs to get a decent salary, and for that to happen the hiring institution should be fit financially, and that can only be achieved if management is effective and work is professionally carried out.

We left the meeting with ambitions and hopes in that the EU would indeed look into this matter seriously.

"We have hope in that you will deliver the right message to Brussels" I told the consultants, and I believe they will certainly do.

*The Editor*

**Obstacles are everywhere**

**Researchers need support**

BY MOHAMED FADHALI  
MFADHALI@HOTMAIL.COM  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I am a Yemeni staffer in faculty of science, Ibb University. I had completed my study for getting a Masters degree in physics in India.

I wanted to draw your kind attention that the scientific research and scientific researchers do not get the adequate attention from both the government and the media. I mean there are many researchers devoting their life for scientific research and actually most of them could achieve many important things. Even when their work is outside the country, it belongs to the universities where they are doing their research.

If one wishes to get a chance for pursuing higher studies, especially in the field of science, he must face many obstacles and frustrations. And after getting the chance for that, other obstacles appear. These obstacles are not related to the research work but related to his stipend and other formalities which most of them coming from the home country.

After completing the study, another

problem will arise for getting the return tickets. One may have relatives to do the required formalities for that, or he may wait for long time. After waiting for long time, a negative reply will come that Yemenia refuses to issue the ticket since that university or organization did not pay their credit and so on.

Another important thing is that many researchers do is they perform very well during their Master degree, and they are getting admissions for pursuing research for doctorates (PhDs), but they will find that if they have no resources, it is impossible to get permission for continuation in spite of the full desire and motivation and admission with the lowest cost.

So what does our country need? If we are not going to build a strong scientific research base in the near future, what will be the case of our universities after 10 years?

I haven't read even one article about this issue in any of our newspapers. Moreover, there was a decision to increase the salary of all teaching staff in universities, but after a long time of debating and discussions they reached a solution that only those who hold PhD and above will be included for this increase.

Even those who have a Masters degree are now not getting the equivalent to teachers in schools. They said that was because if the salary increased, no one will tend to compete to get PhD!

What is going on? There's no encouragement for completing higher studies, and if you say OK I will wait for my chance, you will get a salary with an amount scarcely enough for living.

That means during your waiting, you will not be able even to search the Net and be in contact with your field of interest, simply because you have no money for that. This waiting will be only for memory clearance, nothing more.

Of course the exception to all what have been said is the person who has some support (by pass) can get what he wants easily with a warm welcome.

Please sir make your quality newspaper is a mirror for all scientific activities, and be in touch with the problems as well as the achievements of our researchers abroad. Give the correct picture to our people about this important sector.

My hope is that this issue can be made a subject of discussion.

**Art of communication**

BY MOHAMMED ALKHULAI  
Mohammed\_Alkhulaidi@hotmail.com

Many of the world conflicts, which often lead to catastrophes, are the results of miscommunication. People are in dire need to learn how to communicate effectively with each other, especially in countries where economic difficulties or confusion make life a bit more difficult than usual. Individuals seem to have a predetermined set of goals to accomplish, and frequently overlook true opportunities, which could facilitate and speed up their accomplishing process considerably.

Sad as it may sound, but those individuals keep overlooking such opportunities over and over again embracing a

certain set of principles which may not necessarily suit every stage in their lives. They seem to be following a hibernating mode that obstructs their vision from seeing anything different in terms of communication. Could it be the Qat in the case of Yemeni society? Hardly the case! My friend, whom I should call Majed, and I am are at odds on this issue. He contends that social and economic pressures in our society take their toll on one, and hardly leave any room for intellectual or communication improvements. These pressures cause one to remain in a 'rat race' state in which he/she is in a constant struggle to make both ends meet, and as a result, people seem to remain in that closed infinite loop. I, on the other hand, disagree with my friend. I think people have the capability of constantly updat-

ing their information and communication skills based on prevailing changes. There are no excuses for not listening or reading carefully to fully understand the significance of what has been said or written. It is in human nature, however, to simply blame others, be it people or events, instead of taking the responsibility for truly investigating the real causes of what one is going through. One could verily be the reason for one's miseries! But if one never bothers to investigate, one would never know. A wise man once said: 'To talk or write well, one needs to be knowledgeable and artistic in constructing phrases and sentences that are appealing to the listeners or readers, but one must be shrewd to listen, or read well and comprehend the true significance of what has been said or written.'

*Letters to the Editor*

**We have a noble mission in Iraq**

After World War II, the AUS occupied Germany, and Japan. US troops were stationed in South Korea.

All now have democratic governments. If we are to believe the editor, democracy under these conditions is impossible. Yet, democratic they are.

The US has occupied Iraq, and has legal obligations to fulfill. Nominally, we are in charge of roads, ports, water and waste treatment.

We have no authority over the beliefs of Iraqis, their religious faith or how they treat their families and neighbors.

We will be there a short time, while physical infrastructure is rebuilt, governance is restored and civil institutions, press, educational system and judiciary are rebuilt.

And then, we leave. What seems certain is that for some Iraqis, they feel better with no water, life is better without fuel, having heavily armed troops is to be preferred over local police, chaos in government (murder and vandalism) is better than reliable services.

The truth is, I don't live in that world. When I turn the faucet, I'm glad to get water. And these violent, ill-mannered killers are attempting to share their view of the world with the children, mothers and fathers of Iraq. It seems too difficult for

them to run for office, or to be successful in their own businesses - just to spite the US.

So, we will do our best to leave Iraq better off than when we arrived. Ready and able to join the rest of the world economically and socially. With an elected, Iraqi government.

And I hope that not too many of Iraq's best are not killed by these angry, empty men.

*David Lockhorn  
nightsift@fuse.net*

**Pakistan should come first**

Pakistan not doing enough to curb terrorists: 'Zalmay' (The Washington Post, November 19, 2003). It's really disgusting and annoying to see that almost all the Afghan leaders, viz, Mr Hamid Karzai, Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Mr Abdul Wakil and now Mr Zalmay Khalizad (US Ambassador to Afghanistan) have been highly critical of Pakistan role for Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, notwithstanding, Pakistan's efforts to curb the national and international terrorism is being ignored. I think they are of the view that perhaps Pakistani authorities are sitting cross-legged and have finger in what's going on over there. Some questions arise:

First, let's know whether Taliban are in Pakistan or in their sweet home? Second, what can now

*Letters to the Editor*

Pakistan do when Taliban are no more in power?

Third, what for the US Marines, NATO and other coalition forces have been deployed over there?

Fourth, whenever Pakistan says or does anything else, then it stands sheer interference. Why?

Fifth, being imported from USA, when they themselves are unable even in the presence of foreign troops to tackle Taliban, then what can Pakistan do?

And finally, do they want Pakistan Army (from A-Z) to be shifted and deployed in Afghanistan to fight off Taliban now as they had fought against USSR Red Army?

I am afraid Pakistan is engaged by its domestic mess, and unable to poke its nose into Afghanistan affairs. So please let's solve first our own problems as 'Pakistan comes first'. I believe Pakistan position has been quite critical in terms of terrorism because the world, specially Western countries, are facing up only terrorism while Pakistan is fighting on three fronts, i.e., terrorism, extremism and sectarianism.

*Barkatullah Marwat  
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**Canadians patronized too**

I live in the centre of Canada, about seventy five miles from the American border so I've heard plenty of comments

like that of Peter Ireland-born who wrote in a letter to the editor:

"When you have finally grasped the problems in your backyard, we will have leaped ahead again leaving you even further behind culturally and economically."

We Canadians are exposed to their (Americans') patronizing sense of superiority all the time, so I'd like to relate a saying used by our North American Indians: "When you say you are leading us, you are not considering that we may not be going the same way as you."

Patience and a thick skin is needed around that kind of person.

On another issue, as a Canadian, my country enjoys the pleasure of membership in the Commonwealth. I cannot express how desperately disappointed I was that Yemen was not admitted as a member of the Commonwealth.

Of all the countries I would have wanted to be aligned with as a sibling state, Yemen rates first.

I fervently hope Yemen applies again. I am at an absolute loss on this. If there was a problem, of all the countries I would have welcomed an exception for, it would be Yemen.

Please encourage your leaders to come again with an application.

*Bigroy M.  
bigroy@mts.net*

**COMMON SENSE**



By Hassan Al-Haifi

**Ariel Sharon fools no one but himself**

For almost a week before Ariel Sharon's speech of Thursday, December 18, 2003 at a "security conference" (of all places) at Herzilya, Israel, a great PR effort was launched to announce that Ariel Sharon was about to make a "dramatic speech", in which he will outline his "agenda" for a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. This PR blitz included expectations of "significant concessions" to be made in order to reach a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. Then the speech came, which incidentally very few Arab channels even bothered to broadcast. Sure enough Ariel Sharon was unflinching in showing how peace in the Holy Land remains the farthest thing in his mind and reflecting his acumen for stalling any real genuine serious effort to achieve peace. The speech was neither dramatic or even hinting that indeed the Israeli Government was fully prepared to engage in effective negotiations towards getting the Roadmap to Peace or any of the many peace accords already worked out with the Palestinians, under international or American auspices, on the right track towards full implementation.

Any objective observer would be at pains try to find any meaningful content to the speech, which was clearly characterized by a tone that hardly invoked any genuine striving for peace. The "dramatic" speech for peace was more an ultimatum and a dictation of "surrender terms" than a convincing indication that Mr. Sharon had any real indications of ending his pogrom of the Palestinians in whatever remains of the Palestinian territory. Though he talked about the achievement of a peaceful settlement based on the Roadmap, he put forth a threat that, unless a settlement based on the Roadmap is implemented within "several months", Israel will "unilaterally" sever itself from the Palestinians on its own terms. This would mean, he pointed out, that the Palestinians would be getting far less than they would under the proposed Roadmap. On the other hand, in reference to the Roadmap, he did not indicate what steps he and his Right Wing Government would take to start the Roadmap talks. In fact, he was insistent on the continuation of his activities in the occupied areas (settlement building, "security wall building" and the continuation of the "hot pursuit" of what he calls "terrorist suspects"). How dramatic can you get? Yet, he set forth in general terms what he intends to proceed with in the "disengagement" process (all of which are contrary to the spirit and letter of the Roadmap and all the United Nations resolutions vis a vis the illegitimate occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip). His reference to the Palestinian Authority was a contemptuous one and hardly drove across any resolve to achieve agreement with the PA, or to end the suffering of the Palestinians or the occupation and systematic gradual annexation of Palestinian territory under different wishy-washy pretexts.

Where is Washington in all this orchestrated fanfare? The White House credited Sharon with some positive points, and only coolly showed disfavor to the "unilateral" approach Sharon was promoting. The timing of the Sharon speech could not be ruled out as placing a heavy significance to the oncoming US Presidential elections. Mr. Sharon knows well that all the candidates would not be inclined to express any disapproval for the approach Sharon was unilaterally declaring. On the other hand, Ariel Sharon wanted to take the limelight out of the international community's disfavor with the obvious stumbling blocks that Sharon was putting ahead of the Roadmap, or the several efforts by unofficial and quasi-official elements from the Palestinian and Israeli sides that reflected a more realistic approach towards reaching a genuine settlement, in keeping with the Roadmap and all the other agreements that have been reached in the past.

In effect, Sharon was factually revealing to the whole world that the Israeli Government has no real intentions to implement the Roadmap, since he has already drawn a comprehensive scenario as to the outcome of non-implementation; i.e. the kind of "peace" that Israel will impose on the ground, in keeping with the long term Zionist aims for the full eventual annexation of all the Palestinian territory. This would entail that Israel will do all it can to superficially placate the efforts towards getting the Roadmap on track, while carrying out all the activities on the ground that will make the implementation of the Roadmap almost impossible to realize, resorting to the usual stalling tactics and excuses that the Israelis have a good track record of using in leading to the failure of other peace accords reached in the past. In essence, Ariel Sharon was underscoring the continued insistence of rejecting any drive for peace that has any international involvement in it, because that could put a valve of sorts to the freedom of the Israelis to carry on with their long-term plans for the Holy Land. Moreover, Sharon was speaking the language of an occupier, who will continuously insist that he shall dictate the terms that the guns he holds shall impose and enforce, without regard to the international legislations and conventions that have been developed over the years, or the feelings of the international community, even if it means going against the wishes of Israel's major sponsor and ally, the United States. We knew what Sharon was really after and thus where under no illusions of finding anything that Sharon could say that might be enlightening or in the interest of real peace. The example that Washington is setting in Iraq is of tremendous help in deciding the real course that Ariel Sharon and his likes would be interested in pursuing.

# Catching Saddam and giving Iraqis their country back

By MICHAEL YOUNG \*

Last Sunday, as television stations showed footage of a captured Saddam Hussein, a Damascus shopkeeper turned to me and said: "We got rid of him, but there is one left. Do you know who?" I hesitated: "No, you tell me." He answered: "Osama bin Laden." When someone in my group said: "and Bush," the shopkeeper feigned shock and, smiling, replied: "I know nothing about politics!"

On that day, the Syrian didn't care about punishing George W. Bush, even though the US president had just signed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. He was just enjoying the disgrace of an Arab despot.

The reaction was interesting, because it contrasted with a purportedly more general Arab feeling of humiliation that Saddam had not gone down in a hail of gunfire. Consider this lament from that tragicomic distillation of Arab pathology, Abdel Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based Al-Quds al-Arabi: "It was a shock to us, and an insult to millions of other Arabs watching ... the Iraqi president submitting to the humiliating (American) medical examina-

tion; we would have liked to see him fight to the end and die a martyr like his sons and grandson, or choose the death of Hitler by firing a bullet into his head or swallowing poison."

Leave it to the Arabs, or more specifically to their Pan-Arab publicists, to miss out on history and transform their potential triumphs into perceived failures. The image of a brutal and cowardly thug cowering in a hole should inspire an Arab renaissance and invite Arabs to break free from the patronizing intimidation of their leaders; yet many persisted in seeing Saddam's downfall as an illustration of the region's failings.

Evidently, someone forgot to explain this to the Syrian shopkeeper.

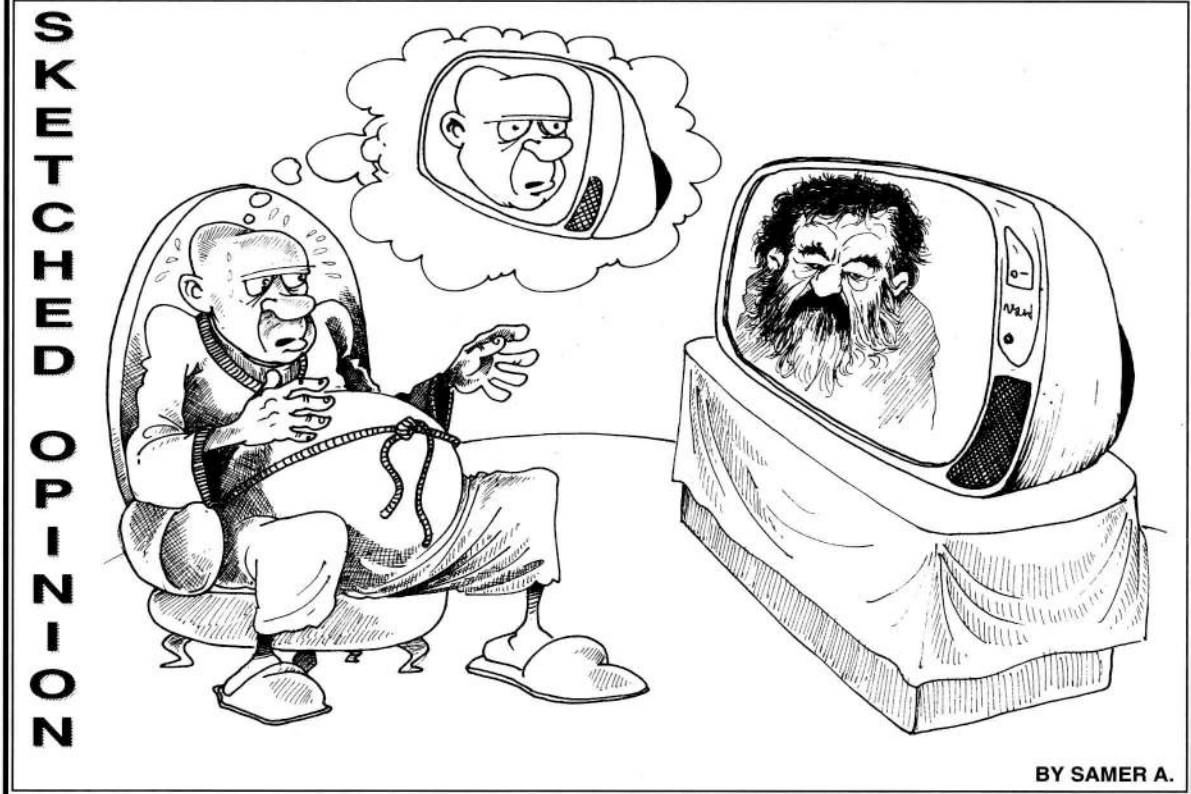
In its often-simplistic belief in core democratic values in the Middle East, the Bush administration may be closer to the truth than its critics give it credit for. Many Arabs will have seen in Saddam's downfall something personally liberating, even if the subtleties of Middle East academia prepare one for more than the unrefined deduction that Arabs, like most other people, don't appreciate regime goons staring over their shoulders, raping their wives, shooting their husbands, brainwashing their children or razing their villages.

Yet it is precisely by reaffirming such

core liberal values, by restating its belief in the dictum "live and let live," that the US will emerge successfully from its stumbling Iraqi entanglement. Saddam's capture bought the US valuable time, and his trial will surely cast light on what a service the Bush administration did when it ended the long Baathist nightmare. However, this time must be put to good use as the US lays the groundwork for a truly independent, open and representative Iraq.

But what of the Arab world? Even America's harshest critics showed little nostalgia for Saddam, though many of them had explicitly or implicitly praised him in the days when he was custodian of the "eastern flank of the Arab world," to use author Christine Moss Helms' injudicious phrase. How revealing, and relieving, it was to read Talal Salzman, an unrepentant Pan-Arabist, writing in Beirut's As-Safir on Monday: "It was an end worthy of a despot, an oppressor of his people, weak in the face of foreign occupation ... Every dictator is a coward, he kills but doesn't fight."

Indeed, and yet many are the dictators still thriving in our region, simultaneously criticized and defended by Pan-Arab intellectuals and polemicists, who regard them as indigenous ills, and, therefore, more palatable than the



BY SAMER A.

Americans.

Keeping America out of the Middle East would not be a bad idea if Arab governments didn't invite the contempt that makes outside intervention in their affairs so tolerable. In many a conversation at the start of this year, Arab and Western opponents of an Iraq war insisted that transformations in the Middle East must be homegrown, and that what the US was planning was unacceptable. What they couldn't answer was why Saddam had for so long been deemed acceptable, but also how domestic reform was possible under a near genocidal regime. In their zeal to censure America, the critics

were reduced to peddling an absurdity.

That's why Saddam's removal and arrest were a logical conclusion to an illogicality, even if one might question the Bush administration's intentions. At the end of the day, however, these intentions will be checked by the Iraqis' desire to fashion a country that is to their own liking, thanks to the liberal values the US has claimed to be advancing. Saddam's capture will only reinforce such values, and through them the wish of Iraqis to avoid seeing their country turned into an American colony. On Sunday the US told the Iraqis: Saddam is history; your country is now truly yours.

There is a paradox in colonialism - since some insist on seeing the US presence in Iraq as a neocolonial venture: It is that indigenous elites established by colonizers usually end up leading national liberation struggles. The Americans know this and are also aware that they are giving their Iraqi allies a stake in a new system that will surely reject absolute American control.

If you have any doubts, then ask yourself where else could Saddam's delectable televised humiliation lead?

Michael Young is opinion editor of THE DAILY STAR. His weblog is www.beirutcalling.blogspot.com

# Israel knows it can always say no and get away with it

ESSA BIN MOHAMMED AL-ZEDJALI\*  
ARAB NEWS

Since its creation, Israel has been rejecting anything and everything. There is nothing to halt the Israeli arrogance.

Israel sees itself above the law and thumbs its nose at international laws.

Small wonder, Israel has no qualms in throwing to the winds resolutions passed by the UN and other international organizations. Kicking them out of the narrow window, as and when they are adopted, has become a habit with the Jewish entity.

The fact that it does all this despite having to live in total isolation from the world shows the height of its arrogance.

Meanwhile, the whole world strongly rejects the Israeli arrogance. The pacifists in Israel have so often expressed their displeasure, nay, dismay over the abhorrent practices of the world's No. 1 terrorist, Ariel Sharon.

Thus, we can safely say that Israel is like rotten food; nobody wants to come near it. The UN members have met so many times and discussed in depth the events in Palestine. Every time they met, they issued resolutions detailing the rights and duties of each party, paving the way for a just future and an end to the daily bloodshed in the occupied Palestinian lands.

But Israel gives a damn about these resolutions, and instead, continues the killings, destruction of homes; in parallel, it keeps on with the construction of settlements.

This policy of kicking international laws and resolutions in the teeth has been going on since 1948 when Israel was established. The latest is Israel's rejection of the Geneva Initiative, which is approved by the Palestinians and all the peace-loving people of the world. What is more, even the US, which drew up a peace plan of its own - the road map - with the UN, EU and Russia, is inclined to approve of the Geneva Initiative.

The world's positive response to the initiative is based on the fact that it holds some hope for an end to the long, festering conflict, which has killed thousands of people.

Why does Israel reject all the international resolutions and give no attention to the will of the world?

This is an important question and the

reason for such abominable behavior is: Israel knows full well that its rejection will cause no problem for it. The US administration, Israel's first and permanent ally, stands guard in protection of Israel, America's pampered and spoilt child. Another question, which springs to everybody's mind, is: Why is it that the UN Security Council is not

imposing economic sanctions on Israel? Has not the Security Council imposed sanctions on many erring countries and for long periods of time?

Answering such a question is both easy and difficult.

Israel knows well that the UN Security Council, or any world organization for that matter, cannot impose

sanctions without US consent. No wonder, Israel has so far rejected more than 31 international resolutions. In short, Israel will continue rejecting anything and everything.

— Essa bin Mohammed Al-Zedjali is editor in chief of The Times of Oman.

## The danger of multilateralism

# Who can the U.S. trust?

By JANE FRANCES NOVAK\*

There are two Iraqi reconstruction funds: the \$13 billion dollar international donor fund and the \$18.6 billion dollar fund donated exclusively and willingly by American taxpayers.

The US Department of Defense has released guidelines for bidding on the Iraqi reconstruction projects financed by the American people. The Pentagon announced that it will award contracts from the American fund based on the "protection of essential security interests of the US."

The major contracts are open to the 61 countries that are participants in the coalition. Contractors may award sub-contracts to non-participants. The 13 billion dollar international donor fund, which is separate, has no criteria attached for participation.

This development is derided by some in the US and internationally as a vindictive measure that punishes those who opposed the Iraq War.

Kofi Annan believes "we should pool our efforts" but this advice only seems to apply to US resources, as the UN continues to operate from Cyprus. US presidential candidate, John Kerry has labeled the guidelines as "dumb and insulting." The EU is investigating if the requirement is legal and in compliance with World Trade rules.

Putin has responded by punishing the Iraqi people (refusing to restructure Iraqi debt). German foreign minister Fischer was "astounded." The

Canadians point to a friendly fire incident in Afghanistan, which tragically killed several Canadian soldiers, as reason for declining to join, for the first time, in major military efforts that the US, England and Australia all deem as worthy.

According to the White House, the restriction to coalition members is intended to protect Iraqi and American security and to encourage participation in the coalition. Not vengeance or retribution but enlightened self-interest is said to motivate US actions. The logic of the decision is self-evident to President Bush: American money will be available to those members of the friendly coalition who risk their lives supporting the freedom of the Iraqi people.

Based on France's recent actions, the US may be wise indeed to protect itself and its money from France, with its stated intention creating a "multi-polar" world with itself as an antagonistic counterweight to the US's democratic aims.

Dominique de Villepin, months ago, was evasive on whether he wished to see a US or an Iraqi victory, while claiming the Middle East is "Europe's back yard" and not an area suitable for American action. In addition to actively lobbying Security Council members to oppose the US, in essence supporting the genocidal Saddam, French priorities were revealed by the position it took during the build up to the Iraq war. France vetoed the installation of defensive missiles in Turkey, a NATO member in good standing. The collective defense of an ally

(against possible WMD) was subordinated to the determined anti-American posture of France.

Why would the American people, military and administration be now comfortable trusting France, Germany, Belgium, Mexico and Canada? In such an important venture, with the future of both America and Iraq on the line, who can Bush trust completely: Blair, Howard, and Aznar.

It is in the US and Iraq's interest to prohibit certain countries from gaining influence over the reconstruction process. Ulterior motives, self-interested actions, ideological sabotage, and counterproductive actions are all familiar when dealing with France and some other countries.

The world positions itself for the coming US elections: Hamas has said it does not want to strengthen Bush with a ceasefire. The EU, in opposing steel tariffs, contemplated economic retaliation targeted at key "swing" states like Florida.

Presidents Carter and Clinton, both of the Democratic Party, continue their derogatory statements. Politically, President Bush may be positioning himself as well, understanding that permitting France, Germany and Russia to spend American money, and to profit from American blood spent in the cause of freedom, made more hazardous by allies than by internal opposition, is unacceptable to the American electorate.

\* Jane Frances Novak is a columnist and an e-student of international relations.

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## The View From Here

BY JAMIL ABDUL KARIM\*

Truth?  
What is that?

I was recently at a Canadian-run English Language school here. The topic was the media.

A North Korean student said the media is deceptive. Especially CNN. A Yemeni gal said she prefers the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera News. Someone noted that CNN beats BBC. Then, finally, a question about newspapers.

"How do we know that what's in the Yemen Times is true?"

Ah, truth. "Well," I proudly assured everyone, "the Times is independent. So the government doesn't tell us what to say." Yes sir, free as a bird, not like political organs or state-sponsored papers in Saudi or Oman or around the Arab world or heck, across town.

I refer to the Yemen Observer, which you likely know as this country's other English paper, one that happens to be headed by a publisher who is the former secretary of Yemen's president. Not that we at the Yemen Times mind the competition.

Indeed, the Times, just 13-years-old, will soon be the only independent paper in Yemen with its own printing press on-site. But what can we say about the recently proposed law that's obviously been cooked up over too much qat?

If it goes through (and we're still fighting that it does not), this law would force all Yemen's media to forfeit some profits, to protect journalists harassed by officials for saying bad things. So, if you pay me, then when I slap you around, there's money's available for your legal defense. The logic is stunning. And Yemen's independent press, reliant on ads rather than free political handouts, becomes more vulnerable.

So my suggestion is that the Times now move into the TV news business. I'd call the network, Yemen's TV Times. For one, viewers won't have to read English. Those ESL students show that once folks here learn English, they just turn to TV anyway.

And the added beauty of this plan is that truth won't matter. That's because TV, in both the free and not-so-free world, is a funny little box that somehow blends fact and fiction into a very smooth froth. That's why Private Jessica Lynch became the Mona Lisa of

the Iraq war after news reports of a daring rescue that never was.

Look at "Quiz Show," a Robert Redford-directed movie, which, like Jessica's story, means it must be more accurate than real-life. The story follows a real professor on a real TV game-show in the 50s, who made a mint by lying and... I can't tell more. The important thing is the masses were entertained: both then and now.

Or take "Rules of Engagement." It shows how an angry mob, with gun-toting grannies and a one-legged girl, storm the U.S. embassy here in Sana'a. Marines blow in to save the day, but have to slaughter 83 Yemeni. Written by a former Secretary of the U.S. Navy, the movie follows the commanding officer's court-martial. Stunned viewers learn the final fate of key characters during the show's endnotes.

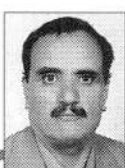
The thing is, it never happened. The fictitious script was intended for an unknown Latin-American country, but the studio thought that might p-off 30 million American Latinos. So producers went to Morocco, where they created the worst Arab stereotype, and strangest set, in memory.

Typical was the tiny, hand-painted sign in a dirty Sana'a alley for the Taj Sheba Hotel. Strange thing. I was recently there with Yemen Times' publisher Walid al-Saqqaf, and the five-star hotel seemed swanky as ever. Interestingly, Walid mentioned that he saw the wild movie-portrayal of his homeland while in, of all places, Washington.

So, really, what is truth? This would be the motto of Yemen's TV Times. While others in TV-Land are stuck on fluffy half-truths, we'd report the hard lies. Like, "Little green men have landed in Qatar, and are moving towards the space needle in Dubai, from where they'll take over the world."

Sure, diehard TV watchers will believe it and jump off of tall buildings. No problem. That's a great newswatch. Then a movie. With our shiny new printing press, the Times will still have a newspaper - hopefully - to set everything straight. And we'll still bury the Observer.

Jamil Abdul Karim comments on Arab and western issues. Email: [jamil@yementimes.com](mailto:jamil@yementimes.com)

Government required  
to give tourism  
development a priorityBY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In its overall meaning the tourist activity in general does not differ from comprehensive development within the complete economic and social framework in any country that has given the tourist activity a priority among its sectors composing its national economy. Tourism development and its goals represented by its programs increases tourist and productive revenues in the tourist sector continued effort in planning to the best utilization of all elements of production forming the tourist sector, such as natural landscapes and civilization landmarks and heritage. Related to that are basic tourist services, material and human and the connection and coordination between all that and projects of infrastructure, as an urgent necessity for the establishment of tourist development and capacity for compatibility between the two aspects of tourism and tourism in general as are characterized by supply and demand.

Here lies the scientific task of planning for development and sound anticipation for future that is essentially based on facts, results, studies actual statistics and future vision through reality and economic, tourist and security indicators, locally, regionally and internationally.

Upon this Yemen entertains multi-advantage; natural and civilization-related ones and rather a unique advantage regionally, let alone that those advantages have not been paid the attention they deserve, as tourism is up till now at a level lower that it

should be because of certain circumstances that Yemen has undergone. Nevertheless, government and private sector attention has been channeled towards this activity and therefore now it is the prime time that we focus on Yemeni tourism and develop them with more spacious vision and bigger effort based on assets of this country of tourist components and volume of expected proceeds produced by this activity. It is also expected that this activity contributes in the economic and social comprehensive development as it is a productive and service sector.

Diversity and multiplicity of tourist attraction elements in Yemen and their geographical spread and their lacking of tourist services; land and sea, makes providing material and human services at every tourist site or nearby a historical tourist landmark something necessitating priority and importance, such services can be specified as lodging, food facilities, parks and various sport activities, transport services and security. Most important of projects are those related to basic infrastructure in those areas especially still lacking fully or partially of basic infrastructure projects especially if it is taken into consideration that Yemeni tourism is in essence a cultural one.

Out of this reality and understanding the tourist development requires the government attention as fundamental in tourist structure in Yemen and its role in increasing the country's wealth and improving the people's conditions. We would therefore continue demanding for a tourist development all over Yemen and this development would remain an urgent demand till tourism in Yemen reaches an advanced stage and takes its position in this area at both regional and international levels.



Shehara bridge fascinating architecture leaves brains bewildered about how the old Yemenis achieved this masterpiece of work

Yemen enhances  
tourismBY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni Government is adopting a strategy it hopes will attract close to 500,000 tourists in 2004 and eventually one million tourists a year thereafter. Yemen is trying to win a share of about 20% of Southeast Asian tourism market, which has a concentration of Yemeni population. The Government spent U. S. \$80 million during this year compared to U. S. \$76 million in 2000, and U. S. \$85 million in 1998. Reports show that there is a potential that 90,000 tourists may arrive in Yemen prior to the end of the year compared to 80,000 and 82,000 in 1997 and 1998, respectively. Yemeni tourist companies announced in several conferences losses of 40% to 60% of their revenues as a result of terrorist acts in Yemen lately as the attacks on the USS Cole, the French oil tanker Limburg and kidnapping of tourists. These attacks and others witnessed by some Yemeni cities negatively impacted tourism since the 1990s when tourist numbers declined by 40%, and 90% of reservations were cancelled. This almost paralyzed the tourism industry in Yemen. Tourist companies are now trying to win back their share of the world tourism market by concentrating on East Asia, the Arab Gulf, and Africa. Prime Minister

Abdulgader Bajammal, emphasized on a number of occasions lately on the importance of tourism promotion especially relative to Yemeni islands as they represent important attractions to support the Yemeni economy.

Yemen has a number of islands along its 2,500 km coastal line. The largest group of these islands is Socotra archipelago islands, Hunaish which became famous as a result of the conflict over it between Yemen and Eritrea, of which Yemen proved its ownership. As a result of the importance of the role these islands play in the Yemeni tourism industry, the Government formed a committee to oversee the development and preservation of the islands. The Committee drafted legislation governing the development, services, and investment mechanisms in those islands as well as turning them into natural sanctuaries. Tourist promotion campaigns have begun about Yemeni islands on the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea, which will not only benefit the national economy, but enable the central government to better control and protect them from potential terrorist groups. Some of the potential investment projects for these islands are building refueling stations for ships, hotels, tourist resorts, and factories for canning fish and exporting directly from there. The construction of a YR 1.5 billion worth airport on Socotra Island, and providing it with a number of other investment attraction projects are proofs of the interest of the Government in those islands.

Yemeni folkloric  
clothes, disappearing

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni industry of folkloric clothes and fashion are fading away gradually from the market and imported fashions are slowly taking their place. Yemen has a variety of designs for its traditional clothes based on the region, its weather patterns, and agricultural products used in clothes industry. Studies conducted by professionals in the field, centers tasked with preservation of heritage, and westerners who worked in Yemen, define garments based on regions.

The escarpment inhabitants, for instance, use clothing characterized by fine workmanship in the material. A typical garment covers the body completely, with an opening on the chest that may be buttoned up, long and widely open-ended sleeves sometimes reaching below the knee. Grooms often use this type of garment. In the same regions, a part of the garment is a headgear, which differs from males to females. Men use a hat and wind a wool piece of cloth to represent a turban, and women a silk scarf, and a piece of semi-transparent black cloth to cover the face. These clothes are characterized by a high degree of artistic embroidery, a famous Yemen traditional handicraft. Coastal regions, on the other hand, use clothing that is largely made of cotton be in harmony with hot weather with some parts of the body may be exposed. Whether in mountainous or coastal regions, Yemeni traditional dresses have a great deal of yarn or metal embroidery with varying densities relative to the

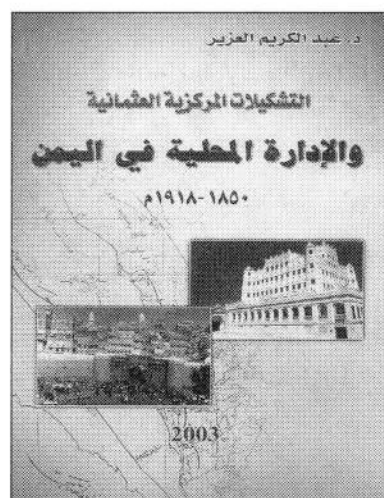


PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

region. Traditional garments are still in use in weddings, holiday seasons, and even death, and fabric industry and handicraft have been associated with superstition in some regions. Traditional garments are also essential components of tourist attraction schemes where tourists take them back home to display Yemeni art. Today, these beautiful garments are slowly fading away as a result of abandoning handicraft professionals due to lack of support. The decrease of demand in the local market, lack of proper promotion campaigns, and non-participation in regional and international exhibitions are some of the deterioration factors.

Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Qurair  
Releases a New BookBY ALI AL-GHABRI  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Qurair released his latest book titled Ottoman Central Formation and Local Administration in Yemen (1850 - 1918) for the year 2003. This book contains six chapters. First chapter discusses Ottoman administrative organization and its central political, legislative, and control formation and delegated authorities. Second chapter discusses the administrative division of Yemen and its criterion which was implemented during the period 1872 - 1918 emphasizing the various orientations relative to security and stability of the country. Third chapter discusses the local councils in Yemen during the same period, 1872 - 1918, pointing to the various political trends, and ideal organizational approaches to control Yemen. Included in that is the implementation of the 1871 Law of General Administration of States, and the 1913 Temporary Law of States. Fourth chapter explains the formation of legalization protection (judiciary, secu-



rity and military authorities), and their role in stabilizing the principle of sovereignty of law and order. The distribution of tasks in implementing above principle was also discussed. Fifth chapter was dedicated to discussing the British occupation plans, and administrative posture in the nine regions during the period 1839 - 1918. The last chapter discussed the formation of financial resources and expenditures in regions, and deficits or surpluses thereof.

## Sheraton Gold Mohur - Aden

I was so much intrigued by the teaser advertisements concerning the opening of a new Chinese Restaurant in Sheraton Gold Mohur Hotel & Resort Aden that I took the chance of weekend to rest after a long time with no break to visit this hotel and explore it after all the renovations that I heard about, The hotel cordially invited me and family to spend two nights to judge for myself.

I was picked up from the airport by an air conditioned coach, and to my surprise it only took us 10 minutes to get there, for I had the idea that it was going to take longer. The hotel is built on a peninsula surrounded by turquoise blue water overlooking the beautiful Elephant Bay.

The hotel has 130 comfortable Sea or Mountain View rooms including 16 suites and one Presidential suite. The hotel is equipped with facilities for both leisure and business travelers." We have every convenience available, from satellite televisions to the state of the art fitness center" said the general manager." In addition families will appreciate free Meals for children under the age of three, and half price for those between the age of four and 12," he remarked,

A 24- hour room service is available. Facilities include a business center with internet access, and a health center with a gym, sauna and steam room. A private sandy beach with available water sports, along with a swimming pool for adults, and for children.

"A great deal of focus was put on combining the local and foreign cultures in the hotel. which has been well received by customers, said the Director of Sales & Marketing.

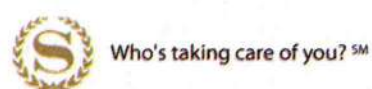
The hotel offers 2 conference rooms to accommodate from 10 to 100 guests, a 24 hour Coffee Shop, Pizza & Pasta Italian restaurant Souk Assamak Fsh restaurant, Al Jabal Lebanese restaurant, and of course the newly opened Pink Pearl Chinese restaurant overlooking the beach with an open air terrace.

"Pink Pearl is a dream come true. It is the only place in Yemen to have a decent Chinese meal with moderate prices in a luxury atmosphere while overlooking the magnificent view of Elephant Bay". The restaurant is Supervised by Chef Chung Wu who would like to be called Peter who flew all the way from China to ensure the quality of food we are famous for," said the General Manager.

Sheraton Gold Mohur is a blend of International luxury, natural beauty in a warm friendly environment.



Pink Pearl



Who's taking care of you?™

**Sheraton Gold Mohur**  
HOTELS & RESORTS  
Aden

# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Balagh weekly,  
16 Dec.2003.

## Main headlines

- A source discloses to al-Balagh reasons behind the human rights minister's cancellation of her visit to America
- America senator accuses Saudi Arabia as the major financier of al-Qaeda after September events
- Saddam Hussein capture, would it open the door of more comprehensive and stronger resistance?
- Volume of Saudi-Yemeni exchange of trade; YR37 billion, 980 million

The newspaper's political editor says it is normal that reports of capturing Saddam Hussein in the hands of the American occupation forces arouses many questions, some dealing with the event itself and some about its results and consequences. Away from what it should and what shouldn't there remains the question about post-Saddam arrest Iraq in that whether by the arrest of Saddam America has ended cards of the political game and the American soldiers have begun preparing for departure or that the White House would surprise the international community with the decision of staying for a longer period? Of course it is not difficult for the White House to find the justification or trick for that.

If the American forces did not leave Iraq how would the situation in it be? The writer says in case the coalition forces decided to stay the success achieved by the occupying troops would confirm it would be an introduction to a bigger failure even if that success represented a card for Bush to play in elections propaganda. But continuous rise in number of American soldiers killed in Iraq would affect negatively Bush's stance inside the United States. The event's strategy inside Iraq it would be a better situation for the resistance that would be logically fiercer for many reasons. Among those reasons is that Saddam Hussein's continuous being out of the reach of the American troops was giving American politicians an opportunity to link between the resistance in

Iraq and Saddam Hussein and to intensify the claim that resistance operations are connected to the person of Saddam.

The arrest of Saddam has made the occupation forces the possibility of linking resistance to Saddam supporters and closes the door before the interim governing council to adopt the pretext of the occupation policy and moreover the absence of Saddam may open the chance for a comprehensive resistance.



Al-Wahdawi weekly,  
organ of the Nasserite  
Unionist Organisation, 16  
Dec.2003.

## Main headlines

- Unidentified person attacks a Dutch citizen
- 3 persons killed in tribal fighting in Shuaib district
- In Dhalie, Unknown motives behind attacking services director residence
- French company begins operation of Yemeni communications
- Human rights solidarity committee in Taiz accuses criminal investigations of abusing prisoners' rights
- Fire devours seven trade shops in old Sana'a

Columnist Ali al-Saqqaq says in his article I do not think that any solicitous Arab has not felt the disdain while watching the film broadcast by the Americans and reported by TV channels of president Saddam Hussein in that tragic image. However we differ or agree with policies and style of Saddam Hussein's rule the desperate scene portraying him would inevitably harm feelings of most of the Arabs. Those who know Saddam Hussein, even his enemies, testify he is a courageous man and could not surrender easily. What happened is more like a mystery though it is more possible that the Americans have taken Saddam unawares in depending on reports and surprised him with a material paralyzing his ability to act as a man who knows well what would happen to him incase he surrendered or fell in his enemies hands.

In fact the goal behind the American

## Main headlines

- President Saleh confirms no development without security and strong armed forces
- U.S. administration appreciates Yemeni cooperation in security
- PM: New bunch of financial and economic reforms
- Justice Minister: 13 judges sacked, new judicial moves in July 2004
- Interior minister: Crime rate dropped by 18%
- New oil discoveries in sector 51 of Nexen Company
- HR minister Sousawa: Democracy conference a chance for explaining Yemen's efforts in human rights field
- Preparatory committee of Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council convenes late this month
- Following Saddam capture, German and Dutch persons stabbed in Sana'a
- YSP prisoners, forced pension, coercive expulsion of remaining civilian and military cadres
- 4 days following Saddam capture, former Iraq governor Boudine in Sana'a
- Yemeni students in India maintain their strike
- First judicial conference fails in budge its corruption
- Local councils by-elections, bad repetition of bad parliamentary elections
- UNICEF report, Yemen bigger expenditure, less education
- Arab attempt to outflank the international convention for fighting corruption
- Democracy conference withdraws Journalists Syndicate's draft law
- British ambassador criticizes exaggeration that Yemen possesses 50 million pieces of weapons
- Deputy Chairman of chambers of commerce and industry union: Looking forward for Chinese investment in tourism and oil
- Saddam capture ignites Iraqi people wrath
- Parliament approves treaty against war and genocide
- Police stations change minor cases into dangerous crimes
- Strategic road project to link seven governorates
- A demand for treating Yemeni teachers at the same footing with GCC teachers
- Repercussions of Saddam arrest, Emergency in Sana'a, abolish of American ambassador visit to al-Jawf
- Tagamou condemns violation of the law and, refuses journalism law
- Al-Ahdal: Organization keeps "cluster cells" in Yemen
- Holland reduces its aid to Yemen to half
- Washington in a test to prove creation the democratic example in Iraq
- In Yemen, death without explained reasons
- Saddam capture, a beginning of America involvement in Iraqi quagmire or end of occupation?
- Former American State Department official spokesman: Al-Qaeda members regain activity in the Arabian Peninsula
- Iraqis continue resisting American occupation
- Dutch tourist stabbed, 5 killed in Dhalie and Sana'a
- Al-Attwani: Saddam arrest not the end of Iraq
- Police continues detaining worshippers at the Grand Mosque
- Yemeni students in India, sit-in
- Yemen to hosts the biggest world democratic demonstration
- Parliament budget committee questions the government
- Yemeni-Chinese committee discusses modernizing weaving factory

operation is humiliating all the Arabs in person of Saddam and for the interest of the Zionist entity whose prime minister was the first congratulators. The Arabs and Muslims have nothing now but resistance and nipping the American-Zionist project in the bud so that the day won't come when we find ourselves under the American heavy boots tramping on our necks. Iraq and Saddam are but he very beginning.



RAY weekly, organ of Sons  
of Yemen League party,  
16 Dec.2003.

## Main headlines

- Faithful Youth group leads enmity campaign against America
- Symposium on Yemen and the GCC
- Population change in the Middle East motivates peace efforts

Columnist Khalid al-Harwaj says in his article there is a seven-year space of time between the first judiciary forum and the first judiciary conference. This is a long period of time if looked at through the perspective of events and changes the world has witnessed.

Along all those years the only thing that changed was the title as the word forum was replaced by conference. The regrettable thing is that all the problems discussed by the forum seven years ago and considered the main and direct cause of the shaken picture of this vital apparatus have today been submitted to the first conference. and the visions and solutions the conferees see as the way for the solving judiciary problems are the same that had been submitted at the forum.

Since the first forum and the forums that followed could not change the condition of judiciary, I dare confirm that this conference would not be able to effect a change. Perhaps there would be a second and a third conference and situations of judiciary would remain as they are and would not differ from those of the rest of the state institutions.



Al-Sahwa weekly,  
18 Dec.2003.

## Main headlines

- President: Democracy not for the army
- Military men threaten to resort to judiciary if Kuhlani does not apologize

Columnist Abdulmalik al-Shaibani says in his article though I admit that Saddam had very negative impact on the Iraqis and others, but is it right to shorten Iraq and its concerns and

issues and problems to be personified in one person called Saddam? Or is not this a matter disagreeing with logic of things and nature of issues? It seems that arresting Saddam does not form an end to the bad conditions in Iraq and the Iraqis. As a nation, peoples and states, we are accused of being dragged and tied to the past and we get preoccupied with it at the expense of our present and future. Whatever the case might be it seems the very important is not to indulge deeply in the past but rather turn our attention to the future that might be more tragic if the Iraqis have not been aware because none of their Arab and Muslim brothers could not come into their support as each of our peoples are under huge burdens of woes and problems.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ  
of the YSP,  
18 Dec.2003.

## Main headlines

- Ten days after the attack on HRITC offices in Taiz, JMP holds security responsible for delay in capturing perpetrators
- The poor in Zuraika subject to extortion of specialists and oppression of local council

On government inability and opposition misery columnist Abdulla al-Dahmashi says the government of prime minister Abdulqader Bajammal announced the state budget draft for the year 2004, admitting a deficit amounting YR 63 billion I hoped that I would read in the opposition newspapers some scientific analysis by economic experts disclosing for the reader the truth about the financial deficit in the draft budget so that the citizen would know the necessity that imposed on the government additional costs exceeding its revenues by more than YR63 billion. The opposition condemned the government inability and assailed its tendency towards a new increase in prices but did not touch on the absence of development indicators in the budget. Expenditure exceeds revenues and the deficit is bigger than the government ability to provide what its public spending require. The opposition is parallel to the authority in democratic systems, it is a shadow government supposed to issue a budget parallel to the government draft budget explaining with it the best it would have offered if it were in power. If we concede that the Yemeni opposition is lagging behind such a forward position, the absence of scientific analysis of the budget draft and demonstration of the corrupt draft of the revenue and expenditure is an indication of the political awareness misery and despair of the opposition parties.

# World Press

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

## India

### The Hindustan Times

India and Pakistan decided on Friday that they would restart services of the Samjhuta Express from January 15, 2004, after a gap of two years. The decision came after two days of talks between delegations of the two countries.

### The Times of India

The Bombay Stock Exchange's

benchmark 30-share sensitive index closed at 5,541.35 points on Friday, up 86.35 points.

### The Hindu

Costlier fuels in India pushed up inflation to 5.38 percent for the week ended December 6 - the fourth week in a row that saw rising inflation - even as prices of vegetables, rice and some edible oils declined.

## Germany

### Die Welt

Germany's IFO economic research institute said Friday it expects the German economy to grow by 1.8 percent next year.

### Sueddeutsche Zeitung

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said more reforms are needed to help economy recovery

after the parliament approved on Friday a package of reforms.

### Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Germany's two chambers of parliament overwhelmingly approved an 8.9 billion euros (11 billion US dollars) tax cut and welfare reform program aimed to revitalize its staggering economy.

## Philippines

### Manila Bulletin

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday named Cesar A.V. Purisima, chairman and executive officer of the auditing firm SGV & Co., as the new secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry to replace Manuel Roxas II, who resigned last week to pursue his senatorial bid in the May 2004 elections.

### The Philippine Star

Socio-economic Planning Secretary

Romulo Neri said Friday that the country's economy is estimated to have grown by 4.2 percent this year, lower than the 4.4 percent growth posted last year mainly due to the drop in exports and a slowdown in industrial activities.

### Philippine Daily Inquirer

President Arroyo Friday reminded the military of the largesse it was receiving under her administration, leading some soldiers to conclude that she was courting their support in next year's

## Pakistan

### The Dawn

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said on Friday that Pakistan had not dropped its demand to solve Kashmir issue based on the United Nation's resolutions.

### The Nation

Prices of natural gas are likely to go

up in March in Pakistan, due to rising international oil prices.

### The News:

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has almost decided to vacate the post of the Chief of Army Staff and appoint his successor before October, sources said on Friday.

## Nigeria

### This Day

Nigeria's treasury will shortly be boosted with 88 million US dollars, the Swiss government having approved repatriation of the sum traced to funds looted away by former head of state the late General Sani Abacha.

### Weekend Vanguard

Seven labor leaders including the Internal Auditor of Nigeria Labor Congress Bright Anokwuru as well as dozens of workers were on Friday severely beaten up and arrested by a

combined team of policemen and soldiers from Area G police command, Ogba, Lagos.

### Saturday Punch

While commending the investigation of some former ministers over the 214 million US dollars National Identify Card scam, National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria Peter Akinola insisted that there were still corrupt ministers in Obasanjo's cabinet and civil service.

## Kenya

### People Daily

Kenya has signed 10 treaties with the African Union, which are set to place the country in a more active role in the promotion of law and order on the continent.

### East African Standard

A total of 10 diplomatic missions to Kenya said on Friday that they expect

the east African country to implement a new constitution in the next few months.

### Daily Nation

Negotiations on ending the Sudan's civil war are stuck on the key issue of sharing oil revenues, but the gap between the two sides is narrowing.

## Britain

### The Times

Libya on Friday night took a significant step towards full international rehabilitation when its leader Colonel Gaddafi indicated that he would dismantle his nation's program of weapons of mass destruction and limit the range of long-range missiles.

### The Guardian

The US chief administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, survived an apparent assassination attempt when a roadside bomb exploded near his armored convoy and gunmen fired on the vehicles as they sped away, it emerged

on Friday.

### The Independent:

Pop star Michael Jackson was expected to fly to Britain on Saturday night on a promotional tour that will go ahead in spite of his forthcoming court appearance on child sex charges.

### The Financial Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced fresh accusations of cronyism after David Triesman, the Labor Party's outgoing general secretary, was made a life peer and appointed a whip in the Lords.

## Japan

### Asahi

one-quarter of the Ground Self-Defense Forces to be dispatched to Iraq will serve exclusively as guards for their colleagues, reflecting the dangers they will face there.

### Mainichi

The Ground Self-Defense Forces will hire Iraqi security assistants and liaison personnel while carrying out operations there.

### Yomiuri

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry has begun to call on vaccine makers to distribute the product to medical institutions where it is particularly scarce to cope with the current shortage.

### Nihon Keizai

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI) will take control of Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd. (MEW) by increasing share-holding.

# Improve Your English



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# 215

## I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (59):  
Expressing condolence and comfort (I)

**B**ereavement is one of the worst experiences. Suffering the loss of the loved one is one of the saddest moments in one's life. At such a terrible moment, words of condolence, sympathy and comfort from friends and relatives go a long way to soothe the inflamed spirit of the bereaved because, as it is said, 'Sorrow shared is sorrow halved.' They make the bereaved feel that they are not alone at the moment of intense grief.

Condolence messages must be sincere, brief and appropriately worded. We present below a selection of condolence messages which are marked by sincerity of emotion and economy of expression.

- A message of comfort in the loss of your loved one. A life is measured by the joys one brings to others. Though sorrow comes to our lives when those who we love must part, love lives on for ever in warm memories of the heart. The warmly cherished memories which fill all hearts today are a special tribute to the beautiful life of our loved one.
- With sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Within the heart that love has touched, no cherished moment's gone, for all that's bright and precious in memory lives on. Though others cannot truly share the loss that's come your way, our warmest thoughts and sympathy are with you today. And may it comfort you to know that one so dear to you is missed and well-remembered by so many others, too. Deepest sympathy.
- With sincere sympathy. May God give you the strength to face your great loss with courage and may the love and prayers of those who care bring the sunshine out for you once again.
- No matter how dark today maybe, there's always a brighter tomorrow. God knows that each of us would need some help from day to day and so He gave us prayer - a gift that smoothes our troubled way - and surely as He hears each prayer that's being said for you, He will bless your heart and send you strength as only He can do. With deepest sympathy!
- Your loved one made a difference. Take comfort in the many lives your loved one surely touched. Take comfort in the special ways your loved one meant so much. God is near during this difficult time. May His loving presence touch your heart, fill your soul, and bring you comfort. Deepest sympathies.
- In this time of sorrow may peace fill your heart and faith light your way. May hope turn your thoughts to a happier day.
- With deepest sympathy and warm thoughts. "A time of sorrow is easier to bear when others show how much they care."
- "When the stream which overflowed the soul was passed away, a consciousness remained which it had left... of memory, images and precious thoughts that shall not die, and cannot be destroyed."

(Wordsworth)

## II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the sentences

- The question of human cloning is still hanging in the fire.
- You should keep yourself abreast with the happenings around you.
- Learning by rote is not real learning.
- Can you lain aside your work for some time.
- He talks as if he was my boss.

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The speaker would have cut a sorry figure, if he had not come prepared.
- I would have taken him to task, if he had not apologized for his folly.
- The two friends violently argued with each other.
- Kashmir is the apple of discord between India

and Pakistan.

- Love of children is a great virtue in him.

## III. Increase Your Word Power

- (A) How to express in one word.
- That which cannot be reconciled.
  - That which cannot be recovered.
  - That which cannot be seen.
  - That which cannot be read.
  - That which cannot be heard.

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- That which cannot be destroyed: **indestructible** (adj.)
- That which cannot be altered: **irrevocable** (adj.) or **unalterable** (adj.)
- That which cannot be dispensed with: **indispensable** (adj.)
- That which cannot be burnt: **incombustible** (adj.)

### (B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Give the sources of origin and meanings of the following.

- espouse
- Errare est. humanum
- ethos
- etoile
- estancia

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- en rapport** (Fr.): In direct relation; in sympathy with.
- en route** (Fr.): On the road.
- entente** (Fr.): Understanding.
- entrepreneur** (Fr.): Builder.
- en Ville** (Fr.): In town.

### (C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- canvas, canvass
- farmer, former
- mail, male
- Preposition, proposition
- root, rout, route

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- story** (n.) (an account of real or imaginary events): The story of the progress of human civilization is fascinating.
- storey** (n.) (floor or level in a building): I live on the first floor of a multi storeyed building.
- vain** (n.) (without use, value, meaning or result): I made a vain attempt to recover my lost purse.
- vane** (n.) (arrow or pointer on the top of the building, turned by the wind so as to show its direction): There is a vane on the top of the meteorological building.
- vein** (n.) (blood-vessel along which blood flows back to heart): This injection is meant to be given in the vein.
- scene** (n.) (place of an actual or imagined event): The scene of the ghastly murder presented an awful view.
- seen** (pp. of 'see'): Have you seen Socotra island?
- dear** (adj.) (loved, loveable): She is much attached to her dear mother.
- deer** (n.) (a kind of quick-running animal): There is a deer park here.
- cattle** (n. pl.) (bulls, cows, etc.): Cattle are grazing in the open.
- kettle** (n.) (metal vessel for boiling water): She is boiling water in the kettle.

### (D) Phrases and Idioms

Illustrate the meaning of the following phrases in sentences.

- a cold reception
- black sheep
- a bird's eye view
- a burning question
- a bed of roses.

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- done for** (ruined): If my enterprise fails, then I am done for.
- a wild goose chase** (fruitless endeavor): The effort of the police to nab the culprit ended in a wild goose chase.
- a red letter day** (an important day): 14th October is a red letter day for the Yemenis.
- kith and kin** (relatives and friends): He invited

his kith and kin to his wedding.

- a hard nut to crack** (difficult task to deal with): The Palestine crisis is a hard nut to crack.

## IV. Grammar and Composition

### A. Grammar

Report the following short dialogues using 'ask if', 'ask to' or 'tell to'

- 'Would you mind if I opened the window?' The boy said to the teacher.
- 'Make sure that you look to the mirror before you turn right', the driving instructor said to me.
- 'Please don't tell any one the news, because I want to keep it a secret,' Janet said to her sister.
- 'Don't drive so fast!' said Henry to his wife.

### Suggested answers to last week's questions

- | Noun   | Verb   | Adj.     |
|--------|--------|----------|
| injury | injure | injured  |
| harm   | harm   | harmful  |
| damage | damage | damaging |
| ruin   | ruin   | ruinous  |
| hurt   | hurt   | hurtful  |
| spoil  | spoil  | spoilt   |

- The **injured** (adj.) motorist was taken to hospital.
- The man was suffering from severe **injuries** (n.)
- The soldiers captured the terrorist without **harm** (n.) to the hostages.
- Cigarette smoking can **damage / ruin** (v.) your health.
- It's only an injection! The needle won't **hurt** (v.) you.
- You've **spoiled** (v.) the surprise by telling him.

### B. Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

#### 47. OLD IS GOLD

### Last week's topic

#### 46. BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT

A wise man is brief and measured in his speech. He doesn't talk uselessly or at random. He knows how to present his point precisely. He cuts down on unnecessary or irrelevant details. He has mastered the art of where to begin and where to end in a focussed manner so as to spare the hearer the boredom and monotony of a long speech. In other words, he is precise and deals with the cardinal issues with bare minimum details in a clear, concise and lucid manner. However, economy of expression shouldn't mean reduction of the essential facts. That is to say, a wise man does not sacrifice clarity or adequacy in the name of brevity. He knows what to say and how to present it. He scrupulously selects the essential points and puts it in a clear, straightforward manner without beating about the bush. However, one has to cultivate the art of efficient communication to be able to say succinctly what one intends to say.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



## VI. Words of Wisdom

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar,  
Carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of Peace on earth,  
Good-will to men."  
—Longfellow

## A letter to the teachers of English: 36

# Understanding and memorization



**DR. M.N.K. BOSE**  
(BOSE@y.net.ye)  
Associate Professor of English,  
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

**W**riting in the Culture section, Mr. Rayan Mohammed (Yemen Times, 25 August 2003), has convincingly argued that memorization is overtaking understanding these days in the classrooms, mainly because there is a lot of memorizing in the learning culture of Islam such as memorizing the verses of the Holy Qura'an and the sayings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). He has, rightly I suppose, pleaded for changing the classroom teaching and testing methodologies in order to develop understanding of the learners. I would like to thank him for his thoughtful suggestion, for such suggestions coming from the public would definitely make our classroom teaching easier.

One of the reasons why most of the teachers load the students with materials for memorizing is to satisfy the parents, especially in the private schools. I still remember my teacher friends who were severely blamed by the parents for not giving a lot of homework to their children specially for memorizing. Some of our elders equate memorization with learning, wrongly I think, for that has been the learning tradition in many cultures. In India, for example, in the past, learning was nothing but memorizing what the ġurus' recited from the Vedas and Scriptures. Such a tradition has taken strong roots in the educational system and we find it difficult to root it out.

Another reason for memorization to occupy the front stage is that it demands less work from the teachers. On the other hand, making students understand, especially in English classes, is really a difficult task and the teacher has to work hard to achieve it. Most of the teachers take the easy

way out: read, translate and ask the students to memorize the answers for the sake of examinations. Most of the time, the exams demand only memorization and very little understanding.

But, as pointed out by Mr. Rayan Mohammed, understanding has clear advantages over memorization. First of all, it has a long-term benefit, helping our students lifelong; secondly, it gives our students a good support in life, because one has to understand things for better living; thirdly, a language is meaningfully learnt only when the learner understands it, not just memorizes something; fourthly, how long can one memorize and how much? It may be possible for someone to memorize answers when he/she is in the preparatory or secondary classes, but it is not going to be possible in higher classes, is it?

So, why don't we teach English in order to develop understanding? How to do it? The use of the mother tongue is helpful in this regard, BUT, as I have already pointed out, using it only when necessary. The use of teaching aids such as drawings on the blackboard, pictures in the book, pictures cut out of magazines, real objects etc. will improve understanding. Using English in situations familiar to the learners is an important technique in the development of understanding. In addition to introducing Fatma's family (Unit 3 Pupils' Book 1), make them say something about their own families through questions such as 'How many brothers do you have? What is the name of your sister?' In addition to Saleh telling Tim where he can buy orange juice (Unit 7 PB1), let Wafaa (in your class) tell Fatma (in your class) where she can buy a good dictionary. Activities of this kind will ensure and enhance the learners' understanding in the English classes. After all, the main objective of teaching English is to make our learners understand, isn't it? Try your best. Good luck.

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

## Poetry Corner

# Ramadan in Mukalla



**BY DR. N. RAMACHANDRAN NAIR**  
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The simple folk of Mukalla  
soulfully  
Rooted in Islam, changed Mukalla  
utterly  
By their fast during the Ramadan,  
holy,  
Days became nights and nights  
days, everything changed completely.

An outsider is impressed by their  
trust and thrust on Ramadan  
Prayer times are meticulously  
announced  
People unfaithfully move to  
mosques with a vow pronounced  
To pray and do good for all to the  
extent they can.

In the night, Mukalla market of  
diverse sorts  
Becomes packed with men, women  
and children  
The buying spree lingers on to the  
small hours,  
No sense of fear or insecurity, only  
joy and freedom glisten.

Goods of all kinds... dress,

cosmetics, ornaments,  
Food articles, soft drinks, spices,  
electronic appliances  
Carpets, mats, drapery, hosiery  
items, brought from all corners  
Are bought with ease in big  
measures.

Ramadan days here for all make  
A rare occasion to give and take  
Ramadan days make them pure and  
wake  
Them to part with or share  
whatever they have.

With their kith and kin near and far  
Who may need their help and  
wishes  
To fare forward and make gains  
In their onward march of life near  
or far.

Eid, the finale of Ramadan at  
Mukalla  
Is celebrated for five days in a  
jocund way.

The beaches stretching from  
Mukalla to Fua  
Become filled with men, women  
and children, gay.

The people of Mukalla affirm  
Their re-dedication to Allah in one  
voice  
Their words and deeds confirm  
Their awakening and wholesome  
rise  
Do awake, arise and act.

## WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

### MESSAGES AND NOTES

Solution: 7 letters

T	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	U	N	D	E	R	L	I	N	E	D	T	T
N	P	V	C	D	E	R	E	P	A	P	C	G	K	I	N	D	N	S	S
E	S	A	Y	I	N	G	O	L	R	O	F	L	A	L	E	A	V	E	E
I	L	L	R	A	S	O	M	E	M	S	A	V	E	N	T	R	C	U	
P	C	U	M	E	Y	P	A	H	T	X	D	E	R	A	I	O	R	Q	
I	O	E	I	E	N	L	H	S	U	R	E	W	O	T	E	M	K	E	E
C	D	F	N	M	Y	T	K	A	E	P	S	P	I	S	P	I	N	T	R
E	E	N	F	A	L	S	E	N	Y	R	M	G	N	O	L	N	A	A	E
R	D	D	O	I	W	R	I	T	E	I	P	L	S	L	D	G	H	R	C
D	A	E	R	L	C	E	M	O	H	N	A	E	T	U	O	R	T	Y	E
N	T	T	M	O	L	V	E	C	T	C	L	A	R	O	V	A	F	P	
E	E	X	A	E	W	T	A	M	E	E	T	I	N	G	M	I	E	C	T
S	S	E	T	D	E	T	E	L	E	D	L	O	T	E	R	G	A	I	
V	I	T	I	N	O	T	E	K	P	S	P	L	A	N	N	I	N	G	O
E	E	G	O	R	E	G	A	P	S	N	E	N	E	T	A	D	D	E	N
R	Y	H	N	P	R	P	R	I	V	A	T	E	P	O	E	M	O	S	E
B	P	H	R	A	S	E	T	O	D	F	B	F	E	L	T	T	O	B	C
A	O	S	M	I	L	E	S	P	U	E	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	R	I
L	C	E	S	N	E	S	S	E	R	P	A	S	H	O	R	T	E	A	O
S	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	L	U	E	S	G	V

### CLUES

- |                |             |          |           |            |
|----------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Agnes          | Good        | Meeting  | Press     | Smile      |
| Arts           | Greet       | Memos    | Printed   | Speak      |
| Basket         | Group       | Name     | Private   | Speech     |
| Bottle         | Happy       | News     | Read      | Talk       |
| Brag           | Home        | Note     | Reception | Telegram   |
| Card           | Idea        | Official | Recipient | Text       |
| Clues          | Important   | Open     | Repeat    | Thank      |
| Coded          | Information | Oral     | Reply     | Timing     |
| Communications | Instant     | Pact     | Request   | Told       |
| Compose        | Kind        | Pager    | Respond   | Typed      |
| Copy           | Late        | Paint    | Romantic  | Underlined |
| Courier        | Lead        | Paper    | Rush      | Urgent     |
| Dates          | Leave       | Parent   | Save      | Value      |
| Deleted        | Letter      | Phone    | Saying    | Verbal     |
| E-Mail         | Live        | Phrase   | Secretary | Voice      |
| False          | Long        | Place    | Send      | Warning    |
| Fans           | Lost        | Planning | Sense     | Word       |
| Faxes          | Love        | Pleasant | Series    | Write      |
| Felt           | Manage      | Poem     | Short     |            |
| Friends        | Mean        | Post     | Signals   |            |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Attachments

# Injury bites deep into Chelsea squad

BY CLARE LOVELL

HARLINGTON (Reuters) - Injury, sickness and suspension are eating into Chelsea's ranks at one of the busiest times of the season and Claudio Ranieri says he has few tinkering options left when his side meet neighbours Fulham on Saturday.

The Italian coach, who with the help of Roman Abramovich's millions has forged a side to challenge Arsenal and Manchester United at the top of the premier league, is notorious for switching his players each match.

But he has lost strikers Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to suspension and Eidur Gudjohnsen to ankle ligament injury as well as midfielders Emmanuel Petit, who is recovering from knee surgery, and Juan Sebastian Veron with a back ailment.

On Friday he learned at the team's training session that Claude Makelele, the dynamo of Chelsea's midfield this season, had a temperature and might also miss the derby.

"I may have lost my battery," Ranieri said referring to the France international. "It leaves me with very few possible changes to make."

Chelsea have slumped in the last week, losing to Bolton at home last Saturday, only their second league defeat of the season but one that knocked them off the top of the table.

On Wednesday they were knocked out of the League Cup by Aston Villa.

"I don't want to make excuses. There are no excuses. We have a squad of 22 champions. If some champions can't play the other champions will play," Ranieri said, adding that he looked to his highly paid side to rise to the occasion after the unaccustomed double defeat.

### Rocky patch

Last season the south west London side went through a rocky patch in December and never recovered well enough to challenge the top two.

This season they have more than \$170 million (96 million pounds) worth of new talent to call upon, but Ranieri said he had not expected to start the season so well.

"We have already exceeded my expectations," he said. "With 10 new players you cannot expect us to have the consistency of Manchester United or Arsenal."



Chelsea's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri, pictured in a file photo, says he has few tinkering options left when his side meet neighbours Fulham on Saturday. Chelsea have been hit by injury, sickness and suspension at one of the busiest times of the season. REUTERS/Mike Finn-Kelcey

Fulham, 11 points behind Chelsea in fourth place, have never beaten their glamorous neighbours in the premier league but will see a chance to end that record at Loftus Road on Saturday.

lham will be difficult," Ranieri said. "The new manager (Chris Coleman) is very clever and has done a terrific job. Derbies are tough matches."

# United decide on Ferdinand

BY BILL BARCLAY

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson must decide whether Rio Ferdinand is in the right frame of mind to play against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday after the defender was banned for eight months over a missed drugs test.

The severity of the ban, described as "savage" by United, has left a question mark over Ferdinand's readiness for top level soccer even though he can play until January 12 when the suspension comes into force.

The England centre back, who was also fined 50,000 pounds, will miss Euro 2004 and the rest of United's season if the club's planned appeal fails to shorten the suspension.

As United marshal their arguments, they must also weigh the fact that Ferdinand's ban could be increased. The maximum possible ban for his offence is two years.

United's squad gathered at their Carrington training base on Saturday before the premier league match at Tottenham.

Before the ban was announced,



Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand faces the media as a statement is made by his solicitor after his Football Association (FA) disciplinary hearing at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton. REUTERS/Darren Staples

Ferguson said he intended to play Ferdinand against Spurs whatever the outcome of the hearing.

### Wake-up call

The British media on Saturday were almost united in shock at the severity of the penalty.

Some drew attention to the fact that

Ferdinand's ban was longer than that handed out in Italy to Dutch players Edgar Davids and Jaap Stam after they tested positive for nandrolone.

Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich was banned for nine months in April for testing positive for cocaine while at Chelsea.

Ferdinand was found guilty of "failure or refusal" to take a test on September 23 at Carrington. The 25-year-old passed a doping test conducted 36 hours later.

But one Daily Telegraph writer described the verdict as "a wake-up call for English football's small narcissistic fraternity who are more interested in enjoying the trappings of their profession than in fulfilling responsibilities to the game that rewards them so handsomely."

Soccer's world ruling body FIFA, meanwhile, remained silent. FIFA president Sepp Blatter had come in for criticism after urging firm action by the FA against Ferdinand and his wish appeared to have been granted by Friday's verdict.

FIFA's head of communications Markus Sieglar said on Saturday that the ruling body would not comment until it had received all the documentation on the case from the FA next week.

### 7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	23	24	24	24	24	23	23	Hi	31	31	31	29	29	31	31
Lo	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	Lo	21	21	21	21	21	19	19

### THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
You won't have much time for rest, but with your energy and high-spirited approach to life, you will make a difference to everyone you encounter today. Kind words do make a difference.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
Help the older people in your life prepare for upcoming events. Someone will be reluctant to ask you for something. A little thoughtfulness will go a long way today.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**  
There will be plenty of activity in the romance department today. Getting involved with someone you work with could lead to trouble in the new year. Don't take a foolish risk.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
This can be a perfect day if you don't stop. Work-related events will prove to be beneficial. Remember: Doing well professionally will help your family in the future.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**  
Your ability to organize will make a good impression on those who could make a difference to your career. Romance will lead to a little adventure.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
Things may be tense around home, so avoid nasty conversations. Take younger family members out of the house rather than try to keep them busy and out of trouble at home.

**Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**  
Running around to pick up last-minute items will turn out to be fun and will likely lead to a chance meeting with someone you have been thinking about. Pleasing others will make your day even better.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
This will be a vital day to tie up loose ends. Double-check your bank account before you go out. Don't buy anything until you have considered how much you really need it.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You will be excitable, anxious and willing to go the extra mile today. Channel your energy into a worthwhile cause. Romantic possibilities are present.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You may want to watch your back today. If you have been working on some deals and feel someone is jealous of your progress, cover all the angles yourself. You may make promises that are hard to live up to.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
Focus on what you can do for others today. Your generosity will be welcomed. New partnerships may form or a romantic encounter may develop.

**Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**  
Don't expect things to run smoothly today. Someone may try to confuse you about what you are supposed to do. Ask questions and you can avoid mistakes. Don't panic.



# Sony Unveils World's First 'Running' Humanoid Robot

By Edwina Gibbs

TOKYO (Reuters) - He may not be able to give you a run for your money but one quick step for Sony Corp.'s Qrio humanoid robot is one big step for robots in general.

Electronics and entertainment giant Sony said on Thursday that it had developed the world's first running — okay, jogging — robot.

"All around the world, universities and think tanks have been researching how to make robots run but we are pleased to announce that we have done it first," Toshi Doi, an executive vice president at Sony told a news conference.

The sleek and diminutive Qrio,

which until recently had been known as Sony's SDR robot entertaining crowds with fluid and funky dance motions, can now trot at a speed of 15 yards per minute.

If 23-inch, 15-pound Qrio were average human-size, that would translate into 1.5 miles an hour.

The big technological breakthrough, says Sony, was in getting both the robot's feet to lose contact with the ground at once. Up until now humanoid or two-legged robots have needed to have one foot on the floor to move stably.

"The hardest part was theoretical. Humanoid robots like Sony's older Qrios and Honda's Asimo have been based on a theory which dictates that

there must be contact with the floor. We had to develop a new theory," said Doi.

Other enhancements for the latest version of Qrio include more advanced finger control that allows him, swiveling like a baseball pitcher, to throw a light ball some three to four yards, and hold fans while dancing.

Sony's robot developers admit however that Qrio's running prowess has some way to go.

Its running distance is still short and it is not yet ready to join older models that entertain at Sony's promotional events because the technology that allows those models to get up when they fall needs to be enhanced for the new Qrio.

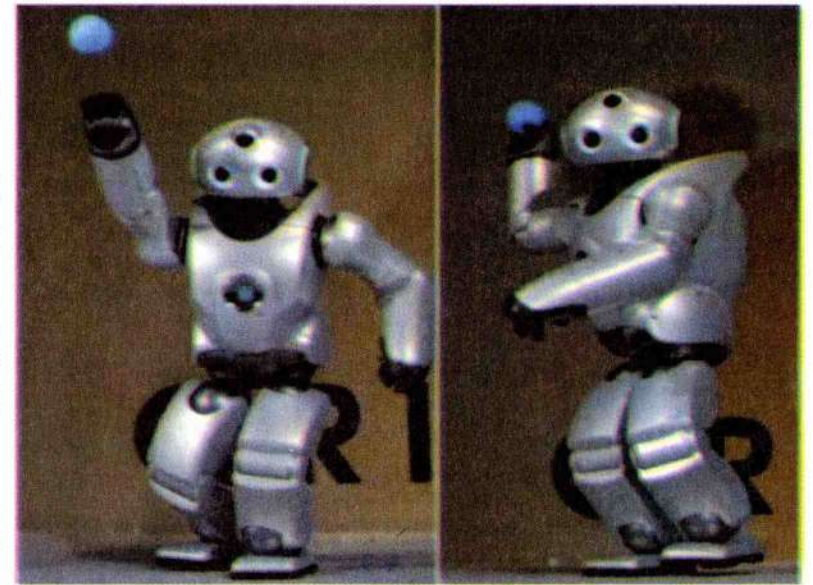
The next challenge, said Doi, is to make Qrio's running motion less jogging-like and more like an athlete's.

At the moment, Qrio's time with both feet off the ground is only 40 milliseconds, compared with around one second managed by athletes, he said.

Sony, which also makes the Aibo robot dog, a sell-out success when it debuted in 1999, said it still doesn't have a timetable for commercializing Qrio, whose name is short for "quest for curiosity."

And Doi admits a running Qrio is not necessarily a helpful product.

"It's not useful. Sony doesn't make useful robots. Sony makes robots that entertain," he said.



# Spitze probes outer space



Image shows multiwavelength composite of Messier 81, a nearby galaxy located in the constellation Ursa Major, one of the first images from the Spitzer Telescope released by NASA on December 18, 2003. The new Spitzer, which looks at the cosmos with infrared detectors, has lifted the dust veils from newborn stars and a bumptious comet, and revealed the detail in the spiral arms of a neighboring galaxy. Unlike the Hubble Space Telescope, which takes pictures of the universe from high in Earth orbit, Spitzer makes its observations as it trails behind Earth as our planet circles the sun. REUTERS/NASA

Image shows composite image of Elephant's Trunk Nebula, an elongated dark globule within the emission nebula IC 1396 in the constellation of Cepheus, one of the first images from the new Spitzer Space Telescope released by NASA on December 18, 2003. The new Spitzer Space Telescope, that looks at the cosmos with infrared detectors, has lifted the dust veils from newborn stars and a bumptious comet, and revealed the detail in the spiral arms of a neighboring galaxy. Unlike the Hubble Space Telescope, which takes pictures of the universe from high in Earth orbit, Spitzer makes its observations as it trails behind Earth as our planet circles the sun. REUTERS/NASA

YEMEN TIMES

# مسابقة الهلابين الكبرى 2004

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بجوائز نقدية وعينية قيمة

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150,000

100,000

الفائز الأول

الفائز الثاني

الفائز الثالث

الفائز الرابع

الفائز الخامس



كوبون اسئلة رقم (٧)

للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الهلابين الكبرى 2004 تعبئة المعلومات الشخصية في الكوبون المرفق وقص الكوبون ومن ثم عليهم ترقيع عدد الخميس القادم للإجابة عن الأسئلة التي وردت في هذا العدد ثم جمع الكوبونين معا وإرسالهما 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. 2079، صنعاء).

ستستمر المسابقة لعدة أشهر ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشاركوا بأكبر من كوبون، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على 288661 (٠١) في أوقات النوم. حظا موفقا للجميع....

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التلفون: ..... العنوان: ..... المدينة / المحافظة: .....

٤- ماهي المادة الفعالة التي يحتوي عليها مشروب

الطاقة باورهورس؟

٥- ماهو الرسم بالضوء؟

١- متى دخلت خدمة البريد الإلكتروني في خدمات

سبيستل؟

٢- أين يقع مقر شركة CCC في العاصمة صنعاء؟

٣- اذكر جهاز واحد من منتجات canon ؟

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# Fliers fail to match Wright brothers first flight

By JIM LONEY

Modern-day aviators failed on Wednesday to duplicate the pioneering flight of the Wright brothers a century ago as a replica of their primitive 1903 flying machine flopped into the mud in the birthplace of powered human flight.

On a rain-soaked field in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, where the bicycle mechanics from Ohio achieved the age-old dream on Dec. 17, 1903, an exact copy of the wood-and-cloth Wright Flyer trundled down a wooden rail but failed



The replica of the original Wright Brothers crashes while attempting to recreate the Wright Brothers' original flight on December 17, 2003 as part of the First Flight Centennial Celebration that is taking place at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. REUTERS



The Wright Experience team rolls a replica of the Wright 1903 Flyer off the field after a brief launch and subsequent crash, at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, December 17, 2003. Orville and Wilbur Wright made their groundbreaking first flights here 100 years ago. REUTERS

to generate the speed and lift it needed to fly in an unreliable breeze.

On another attempt hours later, the engine was cranked but the wind died and the aircraft did not try a takeoff.

The two attempts, part of a celebration of the first century of flight that lured astronaut Neil Armstrong and a host of aviation luminaries to North Carolina's Outer Banks, came hours after U.S. President George W. Bush lauded Orville and Wilbur Wright's achievement as a triumph of American ingenuity.

"The Wright brothers' invention

belongs to the world but the Wright brothers belong to America," Bush told a crowd of soggy spectators at the Wright Brothers National Memorial. "We take special pride in their qualities of discipline, persistence, optimism and imagination."

Downpours hit Kill Devil Hills early Wednesday and light winds that followed forced organizers of the weeklong event to postpone its highlight, an attempt to reenact the Wrights' original 12-second, 120-foot (36 kms) flight in the muddy field where they made history.

The Wrights made four flights that day. The last, by Wilbur, measured 852 feet (260 meters) and lasted 59 seconds.

The reenactment was to have been made at 10:35 a.m. EST (1535 gmt), the same time Orville Wright lifted off a century ago, but was delayed for nearly two hours by light winds. Organizers said the replica needed 10-22 mph (16 to 35 kph) of wind to fly.

Following a series of unsuccessful attempts to crank the balky engine, the Flyer's twin propellers came to life. Kevin Kochersberger, a 42-year-old flight instructor and engineering professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, guided the replica across the field.

### Unsteady wind

The machine moved slowly down a wooden track but failed to get the needed lift in an unsteady wind, organizers said. Its nose rose briefly before it settled into a mud puddle. The replica crashed once in trials

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but flew on two other occasions.

The weeklong festival attracted and thrilled tens of thousands of aviation buffs, who saw some of the greatest aviators and aircraft of the age.

The U.S. military's B-2 Stealth bomber and the Osprey short-take-off-and-landing craft made appearances, along with Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the first men on the moon, Chuck Yeager, the pilot who first broke the sound barrier, and John Glenn, the former senator and astronaut.

"Here at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, we remember one small machine and we honor the giants who flew it," said Bush, who flew to North Carolina to take part in the festivities but left before the reenactment was to take place.

Air Force One, with the president on board, flew over the Wright Memorial before heading back to

Washington.

The failed reenactment after a century of giant leaps in aviation highlighted the ingenuity of the brothers, who constructed a primitive 605-pound (274 kg) biplane out of spruce, ash and muslin.

The Wright Flyer had a 40-foot (12-meter) wingspan, was powered by a 12-horsepower engine and had a top speed of just 30 mph (48 kph).

"We salute Orville and Wilbur Wright, who may have the best seat in the house (today) - a view from above," said Amanda Wright Lane, a descendant of the brothers.

The location where the Wright brothers flew was part of the area known in 1903 as Kitty Hawk, which became famous as the birthplace of powered flight. But the site is now part of the town of Kill Devil Hills, which was created in 1953. Kitty Hawk still exists as a town just north of Kill Devil Hills. **Reuters**

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