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Opposition slams 2004 budget

By Mohamed bin Sallam
Yemen Times Staff

Representatives of opposition parties blocs and independent MPs in Yemeni parliament have called last week on the government to reconsider its policy and the state general budget of the year 2004 and all the steps that it intends to take that would lead to weighing down the citizens shoulder.

A statement distributed to the media last week mentioned that while the Yemeni citizen was looking forward to having a budget mitigating his crises, the government budget for 2004 came far from his expectations and disregarding the interest of the citizen. The statement added that the budget represents a stabilization of increasing unemployment, poverty, inflation, corruption and rise in prices. The budget indicates that the government is far from achieving its declared policies for fighting poverty and curbing unemployment and realizing devel-

opment as well as rationalizing spending.

The statement added that the government has been insisting on following the policy of continued doses and rising prices of goods and services without introducing in return any tangible administrative reform. The statement concluded that what heralds danger and causes anxiety about the future is the increase in volume of foreign debt, retreat of growth rate, shortage in individual income and aggravation of the corruption phenomenon as well as the noticeable retreat in the democratic margin.

The statement added that against all that the opposition parties blocs and the independents at the parliament and out of their keenness on the general interest and responsibility for the citizen confirm their absolute rejection of the state's general budget of 2004 and call the government to reconsider whatever steps it intends to take in the direction of adding burdens on the citizen shoulders.

YT Person of the Year 2003: IRENA KNEHTL

"I feel Yemen in my blood and veins. I cannot imagine myself leaving. I will stay to build bridges between what I believe is my country, Yemen, and the rest of the world" she once told the Yemen Times when asked whether she would return to Slovenia, her home country, after spending decades in Yemen.

Irena Knehtl may have not been a celebrity in the true sense. Many officials or diplomats may not know much about her. But if you visit remote areas in



Mareb, such as Serwah, go to distant villages in the governorate of Sana'a, or pass by the old traditional market of Bab Al-Yemen, you would definitely realize that she is indeed popular. She is a humble person who liked to interact with regular people directly, eat, talk, and spend good time with them.

Then she would reflect those wonderful images to the world through her writings, some of which YT had the honor to publish.

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Aden free of landmines

ADEN, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Yemen on Saturday declared its southern port city of Aden and surrounding areas free of landmines which had been planted during the 1994 civil war.

Thousands of mines were planted in the Gulf Arab state during a two-month civil war in 1994 that was triggered by an attempt by leaders of the former South Yemen to form a new separate state. Landmines killed dozens of people since they were planted.

"Aden has now become free of landmines. This great catastrophe has been lifted," said Yemeni Prime Minister Abdel-Qader Ba jammal.

Around 30,000 landmines have been removed and more than 170,000 landmines, grenades and explosives detonated in the area, a Yemeni official said.

Ba jammal said a programme initiated in 1999 and sponsored by the United Nations and other countries to eradicate thousands of mines in the rest of the country would go on until the whole country was purged of the



Ba jammal

deadly landmines.

Yemen was among many countries that signed a treaty in 1997 to ban anti-personnel landmines.

Sana'a University students acquitted

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The East Sana'a Court ruled that the students of Sana'a University detained on charges of practicing violence and attacking security guards of the university should be released.

Seven students appeared before court on Saturday as they were accused by the prosecution of "practicing violence and attacking hall number 5 of the faculty of education without a permit from the university as well as assaulting the university guards."

The students denied those accusations and said the violent acts that took place

two weeks ago were erupted by the security people. They demanded that they should be set free so as to be able to do their first term final exams which started last Saturday.

The court decided that the students should be released provided that they present assurance that they would come whenever they are wanted.

Other seven students detained at criminal investigations prison who were ordered to be freed refused to leave the prison without their friends who were turned to court for trial. They even started hunger strike in a way to refuse their detention.

Continued on Page 3

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Diesel-fuelled vehicles to be banned in capital

The capital secretariat has decided to ban traffic of vehicles using diesel fuel inside the capital Sana'a beginning from this January. Statistics of the traffic authority mention that passenger buses that use diesel fuel inside the capital secretariat are about 7380 while the general authority for environment protection indicates that

those vehicles cause environment pollution.

The decision had been taken at earlier time but buses owners had staged strikes in protest of preventing traffic of their vehicles and demanded for alternatives, all of which had led to postpone implementation of the decision to a later date.

35 sites for tourism investment in Mareb

Results of tourist survey carried out by the state authority for tourism in the governorate of Mareb last month in cooperation with administration of the governorate and its local council had revealed the determination of 35 sites suitable for the purposes of tourism and tourist devel-

opment investment in the governorate.

This survey is considered a first step for the best use of tourist resources of the encouragement of tourism there and attraction of local and foreign investments for developing the government's various service infrastructures.

Arrested Sudanese students released

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni security forces have released last Saturday nine of the members of the Sudanese Cultural Society after detaining them for three days. The students were arrested last Wednesday in front of the a café in Sana'a as they were about to celebrate the new year 2004.

The members had been at the café in response to an invitation presented by the society to its members and friends to attend New Year celebrations at the Zayzafoon café.

One of the members, who refused to give his name, told Yemen Times that "the arrest has resulted in anger and disappointment among Sudanese families, especially as they were preparing

for a night of happiness and joy."

"Our students have never carried out any political activity either against the Sudanese regime or the Yemeni government. They were not even involved in the recent activities concerning student unions," he added.

The society had demanded the immediate release of the arrested Sudanese students, which are believed to have fallen victims to "unjust rumors spread by some who want to politicize the status of those students."

A source at the society told Yemen Times that security forces were taken into believing a false accusation and acted based on that information.

The society is known to be an active organization in tackling issues related to Sudanese students studying in Yemeni universities.

SAF organizes a round table meeting

Under auspices of human rights minister Ms Amat al-Aleem al-Souswa, Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF), and in cooperation with the International Federation of Human Rights is to hold a round table on 7-8 January 2004 aimed at shedding light on the International Criminal Court and its duties related to trying individuals for committing gross crime such as genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression crimes.

Discussions at the round table meet-

ings would also touch on constitutional legal impediments of the court's system and agreements of bilateral immunity the United States is concluding individually with other countries to protect its troops present in its military bases founded all over the world, against the court's accountability.

The round table event also aims at coming out with civil society strategy for Yemen's approval of Rome basic order regarding the court and following up implementation after endorsement.

Farewell to British Cable & Wireless

A ceremony was held last week at the Ministry of Communication to formally declare the end of the contract between the Yemeni government and British Cable & Wireless in operating Teleyemen. The event was attended by the Minister of Communication Mr. Abdulmalik Al-Muallimi along with H.E. Frances Guy, the UK Ambassador to Yemen, who said "I feel that today is a sad day" indicating that the British company has been operating in Yemen for more than 135 years and indicated the company's history in Yemen, which started during the British colonial rule of the former south.

The contract ended after the two sides could not agree on the renewal terms. Mr. Al-Alimi had said that "the

negotiations were tough and some disagreements and problems occurred. But after we referred to the original contract, we arrived to an excellent agreement."

The company was originally established in 1998 to offer international calls and internet services. It was based on a 49% share owned by Yemen and 51% owned by the British company. The contract was renewed in 1999 for four more years, and was not renewed in 2003.

The government had decided that it would buy the shares of the company to own Teleyemen 100% and has also agreed to give the tender of operating the state-owned company to France Telecom, which will be managing it starting this year.

Minister of Civil Service declares: Unified wage system in Yemen

Mohammed al-Qadhi
Yemen Times Staff

Mr. Hamoud Khalid al-Sufi, Minister of Civil Service, said that the government is to carry out a new wage system for government employees to meet international wage standards. He told Yemen Times the main concern now is not raising the salaries to meet the recent price hikes but to establish a new wage system replacing different wage systems in practice in different institutions.

"This system will not take into account the now and then price hikes but will meet the employees needs, enabling them to live decently and encourage them to improve their performance," he said.

However, he stressed that there must be some measures taken to implement this strategy, mainly finding out real finance sources that will not lead to inflation and then fall of the rial value against the US dollar.

At the level of administration, there must be more steps to apply the pen-

sion system, implementing the Civil Service Fund (CSF) as soon as possible so that surplus labor must be shifted to the CSF and putting an end to the dual and phantom job holders. The Ministry of Civil Service already started doing well in these aspects.

"By then, only hard working and deserving people will be paid handsomely.

But now we can not improve the wage system as working and nonworking people get the salary and will equally benefit from the rise in the salaries," al-Sufi said.

He pointed out that the recent rise in price of some foodstuffs is not because some reforms implemented by the government but due to changes in international prices either in foodstuff or means of international transportation. Consequently, this has affected the price of foodstuffs in Yemen, according to the minister.

He stressed that the parliament when endorsing the 2004 budget, asked the government not to take measures in terms of price reforms which are con-



Mr. Hamoud Khalid al-Sufi,
Minister of Civil Service

nected with the economic and administrative reform package without consulting the parliament. This is because these measures must coincide with rise in salaries of fixed-income government employees.

Youngster killed in Taiz blast

A young man was killed when a bomb exploded in a bakery at the Wadi Al-Madam neighborhood in the early dawn hours of last Friday. The explosion also resulted in the burning of the bakery store and caused panic in the area, especially after neighbors found out that Mohamed A. Al-Sulwi, the son of the bakery owner, died in the accident.

The victim's father and a number of

eyewitnesses said that a person had come the night before the accident with a package labeled "To Mohamed and Mufeed, sons of the bakery owner" and said he would leave the box and come tomorrow to get bread from the store and he also paid YR 400 as down payment.

It was later discovered that the box contained a time bomb and that the attack was planned carefully.

Security forces then arrived at the scene headed by Mohamed Al-Samawi, head of the southern area security zone along with his deputy Ali Abdullah M. The criminal investigation team had also visited the area and did the necessary photographing and preliminary investigation. Police forces were also able to arrest a suspect thought to be behind the blast, which may have been committed due to personal disputes.

New year theft cases in Taiz

YT Taiz Bureau

A gang of thieves had broken into a number of shops and stolen valuable goods in the early hours of Friday 2 January in the city of Taiz. The thefts occurred near Wadi Al-Madam and other areas and used sharp and developed tools to break locks and go through the gates of the shops.

Two shops belonging to local merchants Abdulkhalik Qaid and Abdulwahid Mohamed Al-Odeini at Wadi Al-Madam circle were broken into by cutting off the locks but were eventually not robbed, while an elec-

tronics shop near the Lower Jumhuri Hospital and another near the 26 September neighborhood were both subject to theft.

According to shop owners, thieves were able to take advantage of the lack of street lights at night due to neglect of the Electricity establishment and Public Works Authority.

It is worth noting that the number of theft and robbery cases has increased lately throughout the country. Many attributed this to unemployment, poverty, and the ever-increase in prices.

Hritc accepted member of fidh

The Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) has recently been granted the membership of the International Federation of Human Rights (fidh).

The federation international office issued in its latest meeting in Paris a decision of granting full membership to the HRITC to the federation. According to the decision of the international office the HRITC entertains a distinguished trust and it had during the past five years presented programs

and activities receiving respect and also it is one of the active organisations in the Arab region.

Thus the HRITC would take part in the 35th international conference of the federation due in Ecuador in Mach, as a full member. The HRITC had participated in the previous conference as monitor. The fidh is a Paris-based federation consists of more than 90 organisations from various parts of the world, working in the field of human rights for more than hundred years.

Continued from page 1:

Person of the Year 2003: IRENA KNEHTL

A person who builds bridges

After discussions and an exchange of ideas, Yemen Times decided to dedicate the "2003 Person of the Year" title to a person who has participated in building bridges between Yemen and the world in 2003, which was a year in which such efforts should have been appreciated. The year 2003 lacked tolerance, understanding, and appreciation among people of different countries and origins, especially as it witnessed the Iraq war, which caused substantial damage to international relations.

In evaluating and respecting such efforts, a person's nationality, religion, and fame are of little importance. We have come to realize that Irena indeed fits this category, and hence deserves the gratitude and respect of Yemenis in Yemen and abroad for her role in this respect.

"Some may complain that the selected person is not a Yemeni, others may say she is not famous enough. But as a person who knew Irena closely, I believe she deserves the title and much more," said the Editor of Yemen Times, Walid Al-Saqqa.

"I have seen so many people who know and love Yemen. But I have never seen a person who loved the country and never asked for anything in return. She is truly a Yemen-lover."

Never satisfied

"The world doesn't realize the beauty of Yemen and its people. I believe I owe this country a lot, and what I do is still too little compared to what Yemen deserves," she said.

Irena was and continues to be a person dedicating most of her life to bridging between continents through her spectacular efforts in all fronts to intro-

duce Yemen to the world and serve as a link between nations. She is more than an ambassador of Yemen to the world, because she wrote, and wrote a lot about the country and its people. Through her dedication to Yemen, she was able to make friends in villages that are as remote as one can imagine, yet she was never satisfied.

Background

Irena obtained her degree in economics from Slovenia, in Business Studies from London School for Business Studies, and in International Relations and History from the University of Oslo in Norway.

She is a prominent member of Slovene Writers Association.

She lived and worked in Malta (1975-1977) on investment promotion and Mediterranean economic cooperation.

During 1996-1999, Irena served as the Honorary Consul of Malta to Slovenia.

She came to Yemen twice in 1977/1978 on an UNIDO (UN for Industrial Development) assignment for steel and foundry industries for then Yemen Arab Republic. She also joined the Industrial Bank of Yemen (1979) as economic advisor and head of research department.

She moved to the private sector and worked as a consultant on a number of investment and development projects, including commercial ventures and trade

Irena lived in Yemen through good and bad times ever since the late 1970s.

One needs not to forget that she is also the first ever foreigner to be kidnapped in Yemen in 1982.

Irena became a Muslim at a unique ceremony held

in 1982 at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Sana'a.

Thereafter, Irena studied history of Islam and its people in the Islamic Center of the Old City of Sana'a.

She lived with fellow Yemenis through all the Yemeni wars and witnessed the spectacular Yemeni unification on May 22, 1990.

Irena also won the Marathon for Slovene women writers and poets (1999 and 2000), and wrote her own book of poetry and became among the most prestigious writers for Yemen Times.

She was chosen as the "Slovene for Today" by a prestigious Slovene magazine in 2000. As an independent researcher, she continued researching economic cooperation among Indian Ocean countries and Red Sea countries. She participated in the Australian sponsored Indian Ocean dialogue (1993) with then Minister of Development, and the current PM of Yemen H.E. Abdulqadir Ba Jammal.

During 1991-1996, Irena was affiliated with the Indian Ocean Center at the Curtin University of Technology in Australia.

Yemen is a major part of her life

About Yemen Irena says, "Yemen has become a major part of my life. For a young economist, it was then an incredible challenge. In many ways it felt like Yemen and I had spent childhood together and are going to be the same school."

"Now we have grown up together too."

About her ambitions she adds, "My sincere wish for Yemen is that it gets some recognition for its steady efforts in all fields, and, of course, returns to the prosperous days when it was called Arabian Felix."

Personal website: www.geocities.com/irena_knehtl

Readers' Voice

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

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

This edition's question:

Do you have hope in that the declaration of the upcoming conference in Sana'a will this time be implemented?

- No, I have lost hope
- Yes, I still have hope
- Let's just wait & see

last edition's question:

Do you think that events like the Emerging Democracy Forum of 1999 and the upcoming conference in Sana'a on democracy symbolize Yemen's progress in democracy?

- Yes, they do 45%
- No, they are mere propaganda 44%
- I don't know 11%

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FANA's annual conference, prospective analysis

By Yaser al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

It's been 31 years on the establishment of the Arab Union for News Agencies "FANA". Since 1965 the union's aim was to strengthen professional ties between all the agencies affiliated and to provide a broader scope for them to perform their job and publish news and Arab issues within their nations and to the external world as well, even if relatively. And for doing so, the union attempted connecting between its members through conducting regular conferences and meetings and regular assemblies.

FANA currently includes 19 members of news agencies from various Arab states and conducts its annual meeting for the general assembly, the highest body in the union, in the presence of the managers of all the member agencies. Whereas the general secretariat body meets twice a year in order to discuss the union's activities. 1974 is considered the actual start of the union's activities where it had conducted its second meeting in Baghdad and where it decreed to be functional.

The union since its establishment has succeeded in achieving a number of its objectives which had participated in progressing of the Arab work; one of the main achievements mentioned is the inauguration of a number of centers the most important of which is an Arab office for distribution and transmission of news to Europe through Vienna.

For training and awareness, FANA annually conducts seminars and workshops for the member agencies as well as it conducts round table sessions for the authentication of the credibility of news and the future of and challenges facing the Arab news agencies.

The union was able to win real cooperation of regional and international establishments such as the Arab League, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung the German association, Reuters News Agency, Thomson Establishment, American International Institute for training of journalists, Training Institute for Foreign Journalists in Virginia, the International Institute for Communication in America and many others.

The 31st annual meeting for FANA was conducted this time in Sana'a between the 6th and the 7th of last month. In the meeting, many issues and topics were discussed; in fact it was quite interesting that this conference was rather different than all the ones before due to the urgent crises and the rapid developments in the region. The participants gave their inputs regarding the needs and requirements of their respective agencies and the conditions of the Arab media and how it is important to keeping up with the developments and the advancements in a rapidly changing world.

Previous director of the union, Mr. Ahmed Jasim al-Hamar and head of the Qatari news agency in the conference confirmed that the union aims to elevate with the technical body in the Arab news agencies through the revolutionized technology, because in spite of the high-tech equipment and advancements in the world yet the Arab media which lack true competition and breaking news technologies. The official media especially is a transferring tool more than it is a continuous tool for awareness and the reason behind this is that it always follows the state's policy.

For the sake of advancing the Arab media, Mr. Jasim added, the media should open up politically and not to be confined to a certain policy or affiliation, this way it would become more objective and produce better quality information and analysis.

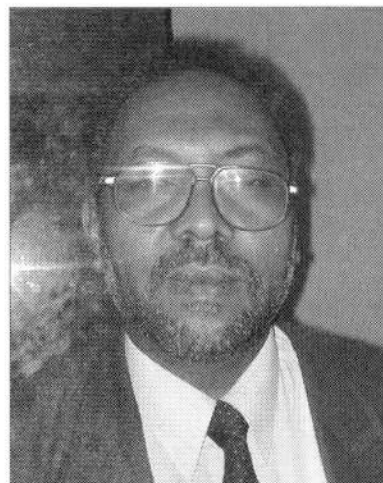
Transparency is another side of the success coin, because only through transparency would the news agency gain credibility and is able to reach higher and better standards in its work, he commented. Mr. al-Hamar said



Dr. Fareed Ayar



Mr. Ahmed Jasim al-Hamar



Dr. Rabi Abdula'ati Obaid



Mr. Nasr Taha Mustafa

about the priorities of the Arab media in the current times that it should be to fight terrorism and work on spreading the dialogue of culture and to take efforts in distinguishing between destructive terrorism and the righteous fighting for freedom and resisting occupation.

Dr. Rabi Abdula'ati Obaid head of the Sudanese News Agency SUNA pointed in the conference that of the priorities that should be concentrated on in the present time is the role which the news agencies should play especially amongst the huge flood of information that is present in this century. And also to take adequate measures towards combating the media attack on the Arab world. Obaid confirmed that

give a negative effect if not attended to.

He continued saying that the role of the Arab news agencies has retarded because of the significant changes in the media arena such as the technological advancement in the communication field. He sees also that news agencies are more credible when it comes to the information presented because it takes more time to ensure the accuracy of its news. Although the news agencies suffer from scarcity of resources because they have a limited market therefore they are not as popular as other media tools such as TV.

Head of the Yemeni news agency SABA current director of the Arab

goes in line with the international standards. The role must work parallelly in two lines; at local and regional levels supporting democracy and development in the Arab world, and then to venture into a wider dimension regarding international competition and to work on removing the negative image that some of the international media produces about the Islamic and Arab world.

Dr. Fareed Ayar, the general secretariat of FANA sees that the Arab news agencies are the activators of the union and that they should work together in endorsing the concepts of democracy and fighting terrorism. As for the media message and the extent of its unity he admitted that the Arab media messages are not united and they work individually according to their state's policies. He added that the books and publications regarding the Arab message remain pointless if no implementing is done, for example regarding the Palestinian case which is the concern of all Arab countries in fact is the main case, and even though the message is not united and there is no common stand towards it and towards many other issues.

And regarding the challenges that face the Arab news agencies and satellite channels he said that the main issue is to be liberated from the government's influence and to leave space for the other points of view. Of the challenges also is the lack of technological advancements and the lack of moral guidance. If credibility is lost then the media tool will definitely lose its value.

The news agencies have a vital role in regaining the glory of the Arab civilization that was long ago, because it could work as a guide and promoting tool to encourage the respectable intellectuals to work more towards reviving the glory. Striving towards promoting human rights and freedoms and to spread awareness among the people about what is going on and the real truths because their understanding influences their actions and behaviors.

The conference concluded with the common understanding of the challenges and obstacles facing the Arab media generally, such as the difficulty in availing accurate information and the slow linking between the event with the news, and how to work on facing them and enhancing the performance of the Arab news agencies.

The other issue about how the news agencies are closely related to the policies of the government was also admitted and common understanding of the need to broaden the scope and allow the other opinion to exist was also agreed upon. Another issue regarding going international was also agreed upon and points regarding how to move in this direction were decided as well as strategies regarding the joint campaigns especially in the present circumstances. Many hopes and dreams had arisen and the reality was also admitted, what will eventually turn up in the future of the Arab media, remains to be seen.

Media tools should open up politically and not confined itself to a certain policy or affiliation, and the Arab message should unite in order to face the challenges!

information and expertise exchange between the various media institutions in the Arab world is essential and it is the foundation stone to establishing a large scale Arab information center which would work on uniting the visions and complete coordination between the individual efforts facing the challenges and to pay more efforts in the dialogues between civilizations.

He added that there are many significant challenges facing the Arab news agencies and that the media and information message needs restructuring of its objectives and references.

Ibrahim al-Abid head of the Emirates News Agency said that the role of the news agencies is limited to presenting news and some reports and that this could be improved if efforts were made at two levels; the first is with regard to the improvement of the quality of newsletters and reports in accuracy, and adequate reference which gives better insight to the case and its background especially with regard to Islamic and Arab cultures. The other aspect or level is to care for the foreign languages newsletters and information produced because it could

News Agencies Union Mr. Nasr Taha Mustafa sees that the Arab news agencies can not escape facing the truth. The truth of its current circumstances and the challenges of today, an issue which demands a united vision and endorsing the good relations between the Arab states and building bridges with various societies whether regional or international. For the present circumstances are unprecedented, especially regarding the gulf crises and Iraqi war. Mr. Mustafa sees also that the current concern is to be present actively on the international arena and to defend vigorously our identity and civilization, to protect fair peace, requirements of security and stability everywhere and to deepen the transparency is dealing with renovation, change in order to embark on competition and internationalism.

Mr. Mustafa confirmed also that the widening gap between the Arab and international news agencies is a result of weakness and contradiction between aspirations and efforts. Therefore it is of great significance to start working on rehabilitation and preparing the Arab news agencies for a stronger role internationally which

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Continued from Page 1

Sheikh of Arhab escapes death

Sheikh Abdul-Wahhab Sinan has a long history of escaping attempts on his life by several adversaries. He has a long history of combat engagements and a phenomenal record of successes even against highly mechanized forces sent to subdue the tribe during the early days of the Revolution (1962). After the Civil War (1962-1970) ended, the Sheikh quickly proclaimed his loyalty to the Republic and continued to play an important role in keeping inter-tribal and intra-tribal conflicts from getting out of hand.

He is also a founder of the Society for Ending Blood Feuds, an NGO

that is active in settling the blood-letting between tribal factions. The Habbari Clan, one of the leading clans in Arhab is seeking to wrest the tribal leadership from the Sinan Clan, and this has led to several violent engagements between supporters of both clans within the tribe. Sheikh Abdul-Wahhab Sinan is highly regarded among his fellow tribesmen for his chivalrous bravery and wisdom, and for keeping the Tribe of Arhab united and peaceful.

They were arrested after the violence as they wanted to run the students union election which the security men refused to let them do.

Sana'a University students acquitted

An interior ministry official last week said that "some students of Sana'a University affiliated to one of the political parties, meaning Islah, backed by armed extremists from outside the university attacked one of the education college halls, crackling doors as well as hitting the guards of the university who were limited in number."

He said they were planning to conduct election for the students union without obtaining a license from the students' affairs department of the university.

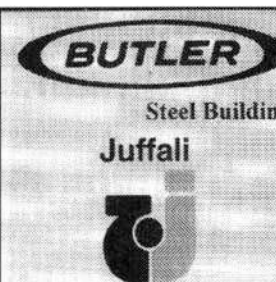
He pointed out that security authorities arrested some of the perpetrators and will arrest others who will

be prosecuted according to the law. A fact-finding committee was set by the parliament.

It recommended in its report that 14 arrested students of the union's leaders should be released, holding the security people accountable for the violent acts inside the university campus.

The opposition accused the government of oppressing students union and attempting to control civil society organizations which are an important element of democracy.

The Opposition demands that security men standing behind the problem should be presented to court.



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Sana'a (267797/245345), Aden (242187/241625), Taiz (285096/210317),
Hodeidah (202890/1/2), Mukalla (304172/73)

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للصحافة والطباعة والنشر



الجمهورية اليمنية - مجلس الوزراء
الهيئة اليمنية للمواصفات والمقاييس وضبط الجودة

دليلك للجودة

الجودة .. أهميتها

الصناعات الوطنية..
أهميتها ودور المواطن في دعمها

... التهريب وأضراره



معارضنا لعام 2004

Dec 30nd - Jan 10th

معرض الإسلام في صقلية
Islam in Sicily Show:
Islamic Culture in Sicily Show

Ministry of Culture
and Tourism
Sana'a Expo Center

Jan 15th - Feb 15th

مهرجان القرية العالمية
Global Village Festival
Yemen Pavilion

Dubai Port Authority,
& Apollo Int'l Exhb.
Global Village - Dubai

Feb 24th - 27th

مهرجان صناعات الثقافى
Sana'a Educational
Show
Performed by:
Amro Khalid

Taif Media Est.
Sana'a Expo Center

Mar 22nd - 25th

إكسبو يمن ٢٠٠٤
Expo Yemen 2004
Yemen's 4th Premier Intl.
Trade Exhibition

Expolink-Duabi
Sana'a Expo Center

Mar 6th - 16th

معرض البناء المصري
Egyptian Construction
Exhibition

Egyptian General Authority
Egypt
Sana'a Expo Center

May 10th - 14th

معرض الأدوية
والمستلزمات الطبية
Medi Pharm Yemen
2004
4th Intl. Medical &
Pharmaceutical Exhibition:
Hospital supplies : equipments
& medicines

Apollo Int'l Exhibition
Sana'a Expo Center

July 4th - 9th

معرض الجزيرة لتقنية
المعلومات والاتصالات
Jitcom 2004
The 6th Int'l Information &
Communication Technology
Exhibition

Apollo Int'l Exhibition
Sana'a Expo Center

July 20th - 31st

مهرجان الصيف ٢٠٠٤
Summer Show 2004
5th Int'l General Trade
Fair

Apollo Int'l Exhibition
Sana'a Expo Center

Sep 1st - 12th

معرض العودة
إلى المدرسة
Back to School
School & office products &
services, training institutes &
schools

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
Sana'a Expo Center

Sep 1st - 12th

معرض المنتجات
السورية الثالث
3rd Syrian Solo Show
in Sana'a
Services & products
made in Syria

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
Sana'a Expo Center

Sep 16th - 24th

المعرض الثامن
للمنتجات المصرية
8th Egyptian Solo
Show in Sana'a
Services & Products made
in Egypt

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
Sana'a Expo Center

Sep 28th - Oct 9th

معرض الكتاب
الدولي ٢١
The 21st Sana'a Int'l
Book Fair

Ministry of Culture
& Tourism
Sana'a Expo Center

Sep 29th - 10th Oct

معرض المنتجات
المصرية الرابع - عدن
4th Egyptian Solo
Show in Aden
Services & products made
in Egypt

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
SEC - Aden

Oct 13th - 24th

معرض المنتجات
المصرية الثالث - تعز
3rd Egyptian Solo
Show in Taiz
Services & products made
in Egypt

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
SEC - Taiz

Nov 1st - 13th

مهرجان العيد ٢٠٠٤
Eid AlFitr Fair 2004
Clothing, footwear, leather
products, home & office
furniture, confectionery
products, gift items.

Apollo Int'l Exhibitions
Sana'a Expo Center

Nov 29th - Dec 3rd

المعرض الدولي للسيارات
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4th Int'l Automobile Show:
Automobiles & motoring
accessories

Expolink-Duabi
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Technical fault blamed

Egypt plane crash kills 148

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Jan 3 (Reuters) - An Egyptian Boeing 737 airliner carrying 135 mostly French tourists crashed into the Red Sea off the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday and a rescue team member said there were no survivors.

"The initial indications are that it was a technical fault, but that is only preliminary," Civil Aviation Ministry Secretary-General Hassan Abo Ghanima told Reuters. He had said earlier "There is no sign of terrorism."

The plane, operated by the Egyptian company Flash Airlines, disappeared from radar screens minutes after take-off from Sharm el-Sheikh airport at 0244 GMT and crashed into deep water a few miles to the southeast, official sources said.

The pilots did not report any problem and the weather was normal with good visibility, official sources said. The plane was heading for Cairo to refuel and change crew before flying on to Paris.

A French diplomat based in Egypt said there were 135 passengers aboard, all but one French, and 13

Egyptian and Moroccan crew members.

The crash coincided with intense U.S. concern about possible attacks involving civilian airliners, which has led to the cancellation of seven U.S.-bound flights in just over a week.

Egyptian military planes, helped by many small boats from nearby diving centres, launched a rescue operation in the morning. Eyewitnesses said they were finding only small pieces of wreckage but no bodies or survivors.

"There are no survivors at all," a member of the rescue team told Reuters by telephone from a boat out at sea.

"There's lots of personal stuff, small bags and toys. We have collected very small pieces of the plane but the body of the plane has sunk," he said.

The plane crashed in the Strait of Tiran, between the Sinai peninsula and Saudi Arabia, where the water is hundreds of metres (feet) deep — too deep for divers to reach the flight recording devices, diving school managers said.

"You can see very small pieces of wreckage. No big pieces of the plane



A file picture taken July 27, 2002, shows a Boeing 737-300 of Egyptian airliner Flash Air at the tarmac of Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris. An Egyptian Boeing 737 airliner crashed into the Red Sea after take off from the seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, on January 4, 2004, killing all its 135 passengers, an aviation ministry source said Saturday. The source said 127 of the passengers on the plane, bound for Cairo, were French. REUTERS

are to be found," said one witness.

Federico Valle, the manager of the diving centre at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Sharm el-Sheikh, said: "They are saying they cannot find bodies, just parts of the planes."

"Plane disappeared"

French President Jacques Chirac telephoned his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak to obtain details of the crash and expressed his "deepest shock" at the tragedy, his office said.

Eyewitnesses in Sharm el-Sheikh said the rescue operation was concentrating on an area about one km (half a mile) off Naama Bay, the site of many large hotels.

An Egyptian armed forces C-130 transport plane and two helicopters were taking part in the search, witnesses said.

The plane had been heading for Cairo, about 400 km (240 miles) northwest of Sharm el-Sheikh, to refuel and change the crew before flying on to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris.

Flash Airlines is an Egyptian charter airline company based in Cairo and flying to European cities. It flies two Boeing 737-300 planes manufactured in 1993, according to its Web site.

The plane was maintained regularly in Norway and there was no sign of any mechanical fault before its last flight, the official Egyptian news

agency MENA reported.

French Transport Minister Gilles de Robien was on his way to Charles de Gaulle airport where relatives of passengers on the Flash Airlines flight were gathering, a ministry spokesman said.

An eyewitness, speaking on Egyptian television, said people heard a loud noise at the time of the crash but he interpreted this as the sound of the plane hitting the water.

"In the morning we were surprised by a kind of slapping noise in the sea, a very loud noise," said the witness, whom the television did not name.

Sharm el-Sheikh, a major diving resort, is considered one of the most

secure places in Egypt because of its isolation and Mubarak's frequent presence. Police man checkpoints on the only paved roads into the resort and check travellers' identities.

The last major crash by an Egyptian plane took place in May 2002, when a Boeing 767 of the state airline EgyptAir crashed near Tunis airport, killing 15 people.

In October 1999, an EgyptAir Boeing 767 dived into the sea off Nantucket, Massachusetts, killing all 217 people on board.

On Christmas Day, a Beirut-bound Boeing 727 smashed into the Atlantic after take-off from Benin, killing 138 people.

Three Palestinians shot dead in Nablus-medics

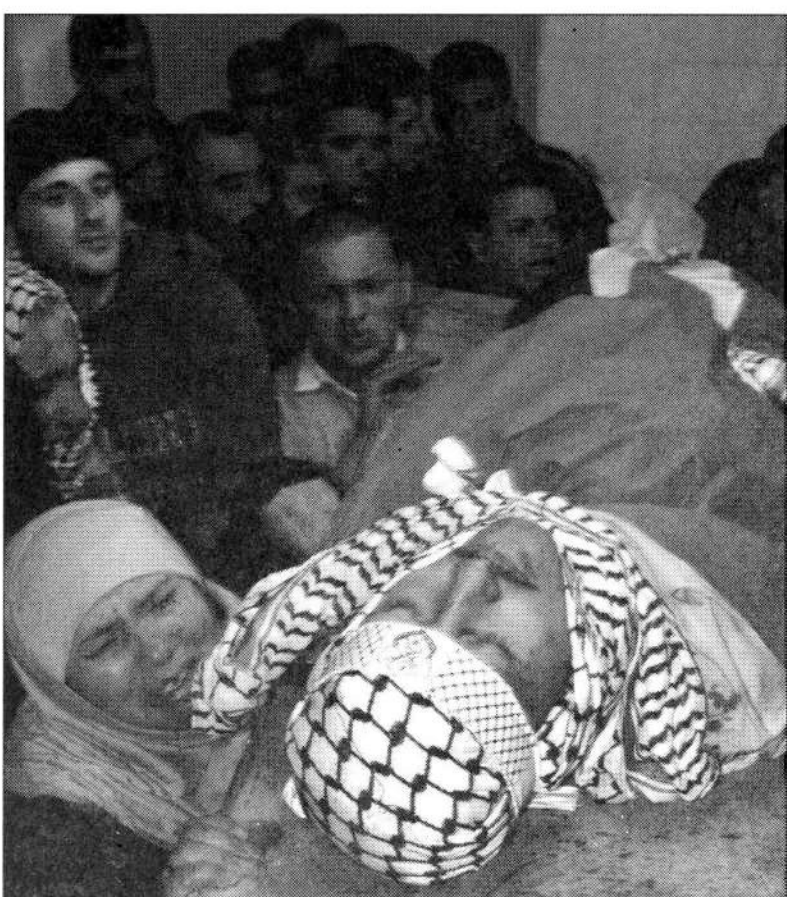
NABLUS, West Bank, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, who were throwing stones in protests around the West Bank city of Nablus on Saturday, Palestinian medics and witnesses said.

Palestinian witnesses said Amjed el-Masri, 15, was shot in the chest by a sniper as he threw stones at an Israeli armoured vehicle from a rooftop in the old city area of Nablus.

Rawhi Shuman, 19, was shot in the chest in a separate incident, medics said. Both died of their injuries at nearby Rafidiyeh hospital, while a third Palestinian, Amer Arafat, 26, was pronounced dead on arrival. He had been shot in the back in another confrontation with soldiers, hospital officials and medics said. An Israeli army spokesman said the teenager was shot while dropping large bricks on the soldiers from a roof top, which he called a life-threatening assault. He said another of the dead Palestinians had been armed with a pistol while the third was about to throw a lit petrol bomb at Israeli forces.

In a separate incident, an explosive charge was detonated as the troops patrolled the town of Nablus as it was under curfew, causing no injury, the Israeli spokesman said. Later soldiers fired tear gas and hurled stun grenades at protesters who threw stones at them during a tense funeral for the three that was attended by several thousand people, witnesses said. A Palestinian protester was shot and wounded in a further confrontation in nearby Balata refugee camp, where protesters threw stones at a military bulldozer sealed entrances to the camp, witnesses and medics said. "We have a catastrophic situation in Nablus," Mahmoud el-Aloul, the Palestinian Authority's governor for the city, told Reuters.

Nablus has been a scene of frequent fighting between Israeli soldiers and militants in the last few weeks. Fresh vio-



A Palestinian woman cries next to body of a Palestinian boy killed by Israeli army during his funeral in the West Bank city of Nablus January 3, 2004. Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, who were throwing stones in protests around the West Bank city of Nablus Saturday, Palestinian medics and witnesses said. REUTERS

lence flared on Friday when troops shot and seriously wounded a 21-year-old Palestinian man.

The violence came a day after Israeli forces lifted a close to three-year blockade on the northern West Bank city of Jenin, with a removal of roadblocks and reopening of the city's eight entrances.

A limited military presence was

reported again in Jenin on Saturday. A military source said two wanted Palestinians were arrested there on Friday night, and that another 11 Palestinians were held in villages near Hebron and Ramallah in the West Bank.

The Israeli source confirmed reports by witnesses in Jenin that several roads in the Jenin area were blocked intermittently on Saturday by armoured vehicles.

Woman in her 90s found alive in Iran quake rubble

BAM, Iran, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Iranian rescue workers pulled a woman, believed to be in her 90s, alive and unscathed from the rubble in Bam on Saturday, more than eight full days after an earth quake destroyed the city.

"God kept me alive," Shahrbanou Mazandarani, told Red Crescent officials in hospital after her dramatic rescue from the ruins of a collapsed building.

Mazandarani appeared in remarkably good health as she received attention in a Red Crescent tent despite the long odds against surviving for eight and a half days after the quake that killed at least 30,000 people and destroyed most of the city.

"She doesn't have a single scratch

on her face," Red Crescent spokeswoman Masoumeh Malek told Reuters. "She can talk to us and answer our questions. When I ask her something she says 'yes dear'." Mazandarani, found wrapped in a blanket, was located first by sniffer dogs on Saturday afternoon. Iranian soldiers spotted a hand protruding from the rubble and thought it belonged to a corpse.

"It's a miracle," said Red Crescent worker Abdollah Moundehali. "She had been half sheltered in a corner by a bit of wood that toppled on top of her."

Dariush Shirvani, one of the rescue workers who helped dig Mazandarani out, said: "We heard a weak voice from the rubble. It took three hours to dig her out."

The Red Crescent initially said she was "about 60" but later said she was aged 97 and neighbours said she was 98. State television reported her age as 95.

Red Crescent officials said Mazandarani, wearing a dark blue blouse and brown headscarf, was "in her 50s". "Chai" (Persian for tea) was among the first words she uttered.

When handed a cup of tea, she pushed it away and said: "It's hot. Don't give it to me now."

There have been no survivors found in the devastated city since Thursday when three people were rescued. Experts say it is extremely unlikely to survive even beyond three days without food or water in such conditions.



An Iranian woman who was pulled alive and unscathed from the rubble in Bam on January 3, 2004 more than eight full days after an earthquake destroyed the city, receives treatment at a field hospital. The woman, aged about 60, was found in good condition despite long odds of surviving so long after the quake. She was located first by sniffer dogs on Saturday afternoon more than 8-1/2 days after the quake buried her under a building. REUTERS

Karzai optimistic can break constitution deadlock

KABUL, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai insisted on Saturday he was close to a deal on a new constitution, but officials said time was running out to break a deadlock over his U.S.-backed vision of a strong presidency.

Karzai told reporters most of the contentious issues holding up agreement on the constitution at the Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, had been resolved.

But Loya Jirga delegates, in closed-door talks on the other side of Kabul to try to break the deadlock, predicted more demands for a stronger parliament and greater rights for minorities and the provinces.

Many voiced fury at what they saw as Karzai's heavy hand in the debate, which has dragged on for 21 days and exposed potentially explosive ethnic divisions.

"People in government just do what they want," Suliman Hamed, a delegate from the west, inhabited mainly by ethnic minority Tajiks, told Reuters. "The voting does not really count for much as the game is being played outside the assembly."

The Loya Jirga was suspended on Thursday amid chaotic scenes when 235 of the 502 delegates refuse to vote on amendments to the draft charter.

Officials of the constitutional commission said faction leaders would now

try to reach consensus before putting the full constitution to a simple show of hands.

"If something is not resolved today, then this thing could break apart," said one, who did not want to be identified.

Karzai, from the main Pashtun clan, said the aim was a constitution that reflected the views and interests of all the people of Afghanistan. "It is important to have a constitution that comes with a near consensus if not total consensus," he said.

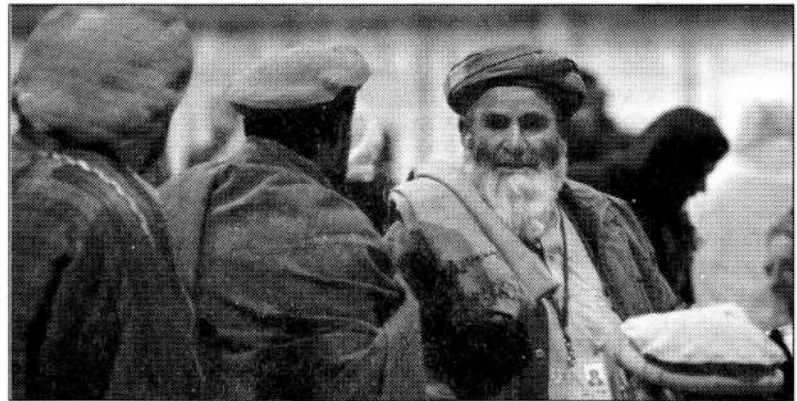
The constitution is intended to take Afghanistan to its first free election next year.

Delegates said the main problem on Saturday was a demand by pro-parliamentary delegates that cabinet ministers should not hold dual citizenship. This would affect the key interior and finance ministries.

Also unresolved was whether the Uzbek language, spoken mainly in the north, would be made official.

The national anthem will be in Pashto only, as in the original draft, while agreement has been reached to hold parliamentary polls within six months of a presidential vote due in June, not within a year as in the draft, delegates said.

Opposition to Karzai has been led by elements of the mainly Tajik Northern Alliance, who want a stronger parliament to limit his power.



Afghan delegates talk before the opening of the day's session at the constitutional Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, in Kabul January 3. Old regional tensions have resurfaced in Afghanistan's constitution assembly amid a boycott by nearly 40% of delegates from ethnic minority groups. REUTERS

Indian PM arrives in Pakistan for historic visit

ISLAMABAD, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee arrived in Pakistan on Saturday for the first time in nearly five years for a South Asian summit seen as a historic opportunity for the rivals to build on peace moves.

Vajpayee shook hands and exchanged a few words with his Pakistani counterpart Zafarullah Khan Jamali as he left his plane in Islamabad, less than two years after the two nuclear-armed neighbours went to the brink of war.

After listening to the two countries' national anthems, the leaders smiled and chatted briefly before clapping hands and turning to wave to the assembled cameramen and photographers.

It was Vajpayee's first visit to Pakistan since a summit in the city of Lahore in February 1999. Since then the two sides have almost gone to war twice over the disputed Himalayan

region of Kashmir.

In 2002, around a million troops were massed on the border after an attack on the Indian parliament which Delhi blamed on Pakistan-backed militants. Islamabad denied the charge.

Ties gradually warmed last year after Vajpayee announced he wanted to make a final push for peace in his lifetime. But the peace process appeared to be stalling until Pakistan proposed a ceasefire on the front line in Kashmir, which has since held.

Vajpayee is in Islamabad for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit from Sunday to Tuesday.

The leaders of seven SAARC nations, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, are expected to sign an agreement to set up a free trade area, a deal which is also expected to strengthen ties between India and Pakistan.



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) and Pakistan Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali wave hand-in-hand after Vajpayee arrived in Islamabad on January 3, 2004. Vajpayee, who is visiting Pakistan for the first time since 1999, is scheduled to attend the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit from January 4-6. REUTERS

Seven killed as ancient Ethiopian church collapses

ADDIS ABABA, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Seven Ethiopians were killed when a 13th century church hewn out of rock caved in as tens of thousands of worshippers gathered for the festival of an Orthodox Christian saint, an official said on Saturday.

Rescuers were still combing through rubble in search of bodies trapped inside after the ceiling of the church in the northern Gondar region collapsed on Monday.

"The rescue effort is still progressing, as it was feared many more may have been buried by rubble after the church caved in without warning," said Tarekenge Emajnu, information officer for the Gondar region told Reuters by telephone.

Tarekenge said most of the worshippers who attended the festival of Saint Gabriel celebrations had been outside the church when the roof fell in. It was unclear how many may have been inside the cave-like structure when it collapsed.

Tarekenge said the Mewa Tsadkan Gabriel church was known to be among three of the first rock-hewn churches built by the 13th century Ethiopian King Lalibella, a ruler famed for his piety.

Ethiopia boasts large numbers of churches carved into bare stone by worshippers hundreds of years ago, many of which are still in use today and draw tourists from around the world.

Swaziland sees crops failing as drought grips

MBABANE, Jan 3 (Reuters) - The tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland could face crop failures due to a drought affecting parts of southern Africa, officials said on Saturday.

Swaziland's National Disaster Relief Task Force met with meteorological, agricultural and humanitarian groups this week and task force chairman Ben Nsibadnze said it would recommend that King Mswati's government declare a drought disaster.

"I would say the current situation has the potential for being the worst in recorded history," Nsibadnze told Reuters on Saturday.

Poor rains across many parts of southern Africa have raised concerns that crops will fail.

In neighbouring South Africa lack of rain has stopped many farmers planting

crops, reducing the potential harvest and helping push maize futures to a fresh 10-month peak.

Swaziland's National Meteorological Service's national early warning unit and vulnerability assessment committee reported the drought gripping the south-eastern portion of the kingdom is the most severe since the 1992-1994 drought, from which the area has never fully recovered.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said in September it already expected to feed 243 000 Swazis — around a quarter of the population — during January. Updated figures were not yet available.

Other humanitarian organisations like the International Red Cross are also distributing food parcels around Swaziland, sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarchy.

Prequalification announcement

Prequalification applications for the installation of fire fighting and cooling systems for the petroleum bulk storage tanks farm in both Hodeidah and Taiz storage terminals.

In order to be able to make a tender offer all interested contractors have to prequalify. There is no cost to prequalify. Prequalification conditions are as follows:

1. Interested parties should have annual revenues exceeding 5 million US dollars.
2. Interested parties should be a contractor of the same field and should prove they possess the required expertise.
3. Interested parties should submit a profile that should contain among other requirements the following:
 - a. Name and address of the company
 - b. Name, title and contact information of the company's contact person responsible for the tender.
 - c. Brief description of the bidder's business operations in relation with the same business.
 - d. Copy of the last annual report, including financial statements or evidence of the company's revenue.
 - e. Letter signed by an authorized executive stating that the bidder is interested in participating in the tender.
 - f. Three set of these documents should be sent to the finance department – purchasing section of

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Tel No. - 00967-1-215550
Fax No. - 00967-1-209598



Deadline for receiving bids is Tuesday, 10th February 2004.

Public Relations

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تعلن شركة النفط اليمنية بأن على الشركات المتخصصة الرغبة في دخول المنافسة الخاصة بإنشاء شبكة الإطفاء لمنشآتها في كل من الحديدة وتعز التقدم للتأهيل بدون مقابل وبالشروط التالية:

١. أن يكون الدخل السنوي للمتقدم متجاوز ٢٥ مليون دولار.
٢. على المتقدم أن يكون متخصصاً في هذا المجال وأن يثبت امتلاكه للخبرة المطلوبة والخبراء والفنيين المؤهلين لهذا النوع من الأعمال.
٣. على المتقدم تقديم ملف يحتوي ضمن المتطلبات الأخرى ما يلي:
 - أ. اسم وعنوان الشركة.
 - ب. اسم ووظيفة والمعلومات المطلوبة حول الشخص المسؤول في الشركة عن العطاء.
 - ج. نبذة مختصرة عن أعمال المتقدم وعملياته المتعلقة بهذا العمل.
 - د. صورة عن آخر تقرير سنوي مشتمل على الوضع المالي وما يفيد عن دخل الشركة.
 - هـ. رسالة موقعة من أحد المسؤولين التنفيذيين تنص على أن المتقدم راغب في الاشتراك في المنافسة.
 - و. ترسل ثلاث نسخ من هذه الوثائق إلى الدائرة المالية - قسم المشتريات في موعد أقصاه يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٠٠٤/٢/١٠ م في:

شركة النفط اليمنية
صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية
شارع الزبيري ص. ب. ١٨٧
هاتف: ٠٠٩٦٧-٠١-٢١٥٥٥٠
فاكس: ٠٠٩٦٧-٠١-٢٠٩٥٩٨

العلاقات العامة

French families in shock after Egypt plane crash

PARIS, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Many children and entire families were among at least 133 French tourists killed in a plane crash off the Egyptian coast while heading home after a New Year holiday in the sun, a French airport official said on Saturday.

Some 35 relatives of some of those aboard the Egyptian airliner that crashed into the Red Sea early on Saturday gathered at Paris's main airport to grieve and speak with counsellors.

The head of medical services at Charles de Gaulle airport told reporters that many children, who had been holidaying with their fami-

lies, were on board the plane, which crashed shortly after take-off from the popular resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

A rescue team member said there were no survivors of the Flash Airlines charter plane crash, which Egyptian authorities said was caused by a technical fault and not a terrorist attack.

Michel Clerel, who is in charge of counselling for relatives of the victims, said those aboard included a family of seven.

"(The relatives) are in shock," he told reporters at a hotel near the airport, where the plane had been due to land at 0800 GMT on Saturday.

"You have to imagine they were waiting for family members to come back from a holiday, then it was brutally announced to them that they had died."

Asked whether children were aboard he said: "Yes many. They were spending their holidays with their families."

Shock and confusion

Some 35 relatives of up to 20 families were shielded from reporters crowded into a crisis centre in the hotel.

There was confusion, as some scoured the list of passengers on the crashed plane for names of friends and relatives.

"I am very worried. I know my daughter is due to arrive from Egypt today where she is holidaying with her fiancé," said Therese Dupont, her voice trembling. "I came here after I saw the news, but I couldn't find her name on the list of victims. That reassured me a bit but I still don't know what's happening and where she is," she added.

France's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that 148 people were on board, 133 of them French tourists, and proposed that it takes part in an inquiry into the causes of the crash.

The Justice Ministry also said it had asked French prosecutors to open a judicial inquiry for manslaughter.

"It is with shock that I learnt of the terrible tragedy in Egypt," Chirac said in a statement issued by his office.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Transport Minister



Relatives of an Egyptian Boeing 737 charter plane victims walk past police guarding a psychology support unit at a hotel near Charles-de-Gaulle Airport, north of Paris, January 3, 2004. The charter airliner carrying 135 people, mostly French tourists, crashed into the Red Sea shortly after taking off from the Sharmel-Sheikh resort. REUTERS



A video frame grab shows wreckage from a crashed airliner being removed from the Red Sea by an unidentified man near the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh January 3, 2004. REUTERS

Gilles de Robien later met friends and relatives at the airport, where the plane had been due to land at 9 a.m. (0800 GMT).

Chirac's office said the president

had called his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak to obtain full details of the tragedy.

The Foreign Ministry said France was doing all it could to throw light

on the situation and would help Egyptian authorities find and identify the bodies. It also proposed sending a team to take part in an inquiry into the causes of the crash,

Saakashvili mulls corruption push after Georgia poll

TBILISI, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Georgia's Mikhail Saakashvili voiced confidence on Saturday he would be elected president and vowed to funnel the revolutionary energy that helped oust Eduard Shevardnadze into a drive on corruption once he was in power.

The 36-year-old lawyer, who led a "people's revolution" that toppled Shevardnadze in November, seems a surefire certainty to win Sunday's election in the volatile ex-Soviet republic.

Saakashvili, in an interview with Reuters, said victory would give him a mandate to crack down on rampant corruption, open up markets to investors and restore central control over Georgia's breakaway regions.

"I am fully aware that opinion polls give me a tremendous, a huge, lead. Georgia has never been so united about anything and frankly it is quite scary," he said in fluent English.

"(As president) I am going to introduce a package to the parliament including drastic anti-corruption measures... Secondly we need to stabilise the economy and create a good investment climate... we desperately need foreign investment at this point."

He said he hoped a smooth election in the country of 4.5 million would allow the country to reap the benefits from a U.S.-backed \$2.7 billion pipeline due to take Caspian oil across Georgia to Western markets in 2005.

The West and neighbouring Russia are watching the polls closely, both keen to cement their influence in a country seen as a crucial transit link between the Middle East and Europe.

Three lawyers, a former regional governor and the head of an organisation for the disabled will run against Saakashvili though they are given little chance of prevailing against him.

Torn by civil war and separatism after the 1991 Soviet collapse, Georgia is plagued by poverty while a few so-called "oligarchs" have prospered by taking hold of state assets.

Saakashvili, who quit as justice minister under Shevardnadze in protest over government corruption, served notice this was still a cause dear to his



An elderly Georgian woman passes by a pre-election poster of presidential candidate Mikhail Saakashvili in Tbilisi January 3, 2004. Saakashvili voiced confidence on Saturday of victory in Georgia's weekend presidential poll and vowed to use the revolutionary zeal that ousted Eduard Shevardnadze to pursue those who amassed personal fortunes while others starved. REUTERS

heart.

"What is important is to look into the behaviour of former state officials and if they have some illegal funds in foreign banks from corruption or extorting money from investors, those assets should be confiscated," he said.

Grenade attack

A grenade attack on December 29 on the headquarters of an independent TV station that played a part in Shevardnadze's downfall underscores the ever-present threat of violence.

The persistent threat of trouble in Georgia's restless regions and the violence just over the border in Russia's rebel region of Chechnya could also cast a shadow over the vote.

The Black Sea region of Abkhazia will boycott the event, but Saakashvili said parts of wayward South Ossetia would take part.

Western groups, including the rights watchdog the Organisation for Security

and Cooperation in Europe, saw the vote as a chance for Georgia to prove its democratic credentials.

Fraud allegations in a parliamentary election last year triggered the popular anger that brought down Shevardnadze and about 600 observers have been drafted in to monitor the poll.

Election officials say so far about 1.7 million people have registered to vote. About three million have the right to vote.

"Everyone is asking this question. Are the people who came to power in the so-called 'rose revolution' who they seem to be?"

Is this a regime change or a real change in the democratic development of this country? Craig Jenness, head of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, said.

"What we are looking for is evidence that there is a real change in political will to do things differently here in Georgia."

U.S. says flight grounding tied to intelligence

WASHINGTON, Jan 3 (Reuters) - U.S. intelligence picked up what officials believe were specific threats to the spate of in-bound flights canceled in recent days, sometimes only shortly before they were due to take off, officials said.

Such information contributed to the grounding of British Airways Flight 223 from London to Washington on Friday for the second day in a row, two days after U.S. fighter aircraft

escorted it into Washington's Dulles International Airport.

The British airline also scratched a flight scheduled for Saturday from London to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for security reasons, and its flight back on Sunday. A decision was pending for Monday's flight, the airline said.

"In some cases, it's necessary based upon that (intelligence) to cancel that flight," Homeland Security undersecretary Asa Hutchinson told CNN on Friday. "We would not take a step in coordination with another government unless we believe there was specific intelligence."

The Washington Post reported on Saturday that three international flight routes — London Heathrow to Dulles, and Paris and Mexico City to Los Angeles — are the focus of an intense manhunt for al Qaeda operatives being

carried out by intelligence and law enforcement authorities on three continents.

The Post quoted intelligence officials as describing the hunt for al Qaeda operatives as extremely fast-paced. It said the more than 15 flights that have been canceled, delayed, turned around or escorted by U.S. fighter aircraft were identified by an inexact combination of dates, flights numbers and routes obtained through intercepted communications and through interrogations with al Qaeda detainees and other credible informants in U.S. and foreign custody.

The Bush administration boosted the nation's terror alert status to orange or "high" on Dec. 21, citing credible but nonspecific threats that al Qaeda might be trying to outdo the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked airliner attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. Dulles was the take-off point for the hijacked flight that crashed into the Pentagon.

James Loy, the No. 2 official at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the United States often was acting on terror fears judged credible only shortly before flights were

due to take off. "The ultimate tool is cancellation," he said on CNN. The U.S. military also has scrambled F-16 fighter jets to escort

some flights for fear they might be used to crash into a U.S. target.

With the latest British Airways grounding, a total of seven international flights headed to the United States have been canceled since Dec. 24.

British Home Secretary David Blunkett spoke by telephonewith U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Friday about ways of minimizing disruption during the current alert.

Three Los Angeles-Paris Air France flights were canceled on Dec. 24 and 25. Aeromexico Flight 490 from Mexico City to Los Angeles was grounded on Wednesday and Thursday. Mexican airline and government security officials said on Friday they were not sure what exactly caused the U.S. Homeland Security Department to warn of a threat to the flight.

An Air France flight from New York to Paris was diverted to Newfoundland on New Year's Day after a passenger checked baggage but did not board the plane.

U.S. officials have said they were uncertain whether they had yet succeeded in foiling a terrorist plot.

In most cases, U.S. authorities have insisted flights be altered or passengers interviewed but gave foreign officials only minimal evidence for actions.



YT Business

Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen to set up a "Free Trade Area"

A charter signed early this week in Addis Ababa by the regimes of Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen formalizing the Tripartite "Sana'a Cooperation Forum" was on an "all-round cooperation", including the setting up of a free trade area, according to Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin.

In a statement published in the Ethiopia state press Thursday, he said: "The free trade area would be a step forward for the three countries and the interests of their respective people."

Seyoum stated that the establishment of a "free trade area" would be among activities to be undertaken in 2004 in line with the decision of the Second Tripartite Sana'a Cooperation Forum that was held on 29 December in Addis Ababa.

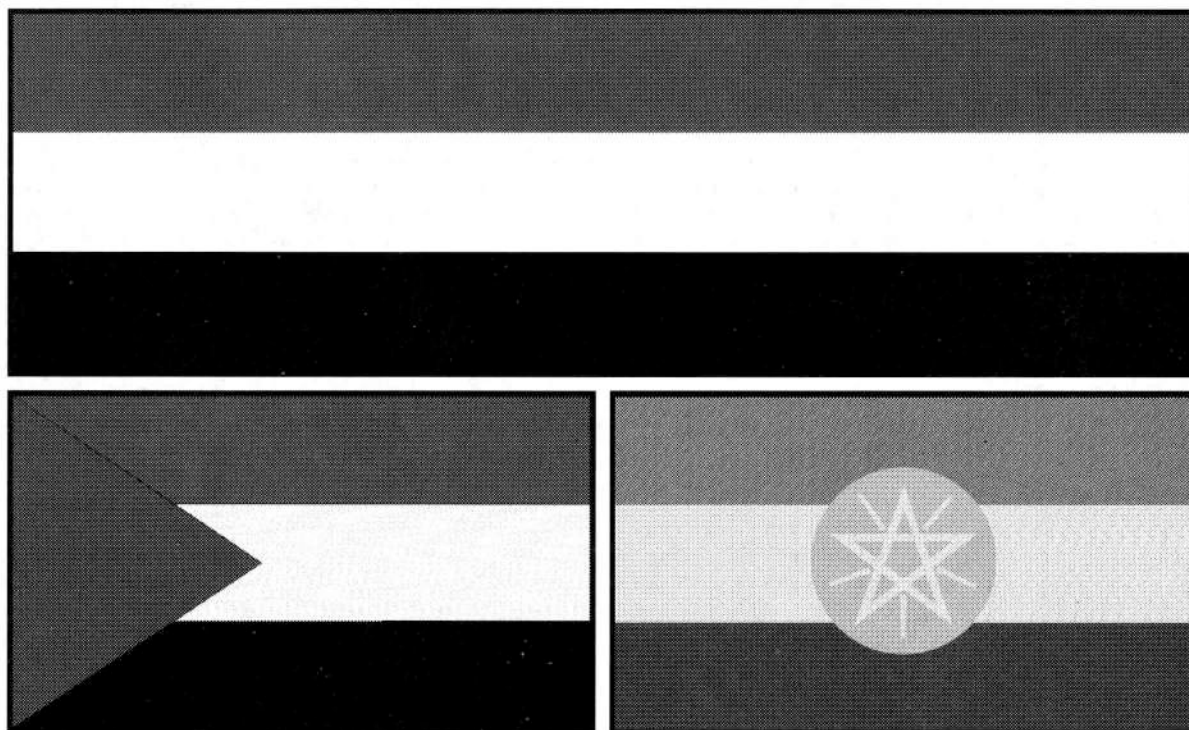
He stated that Ethiopia and the Sudan have already started implementing "zero tariff" trade exchange

after establishing a free trade area between them earlier in 2003.

"Yemen has now consented to come onboard, and the deal would enhance people-to-people relations of the three countries and would also provide greater value for the benefit of the people of Ethiopia, the Sudan and Yemen," he said.

The Ethiopian Foreign Minister further stated that the three countries have also agreed to establish joint Business Council involving the private sector with the objective of enhancing trade exchange and promoting investment and joint ventures.

However, the agreements also included stepping up a campaign against neighboring Eritrea, with Sudan bizarrely accusing Eritrea of being behind a rebellion on the opposite side of Sudan, in Darfur, and Ethiopia reneging upon an internationally brokered border agreement with Eritrea.



Apollo, a series of continuous successes

Following a series of successful exhibitions organized by Apollo company for international exhibitions based on the years of experience it has acquired in well organisation, and out of its faith in the important the international exhibitions play in supporting the exchange of trade between Yemen and participating countries, and also out of keenness on acquainting the Yemeni citizen with latest developments in world markets, director of the company's marketing has given this statement to the Yemen Times business page.



Omer al-Nahmi

Mr. Omer al-Nahmi, marketing director of Apollo Company for International Exhibitions says the ExpoSana'a Center is seizing the opportunity of the activities of Sana'a Capital of Arab Culture 2004, is embracing and hosting the biggest activities on this occasion. Among these activities are (Sana'a International Exhibition for Books and Islam in Sicily), and other international exhibitions for a number of Arab and foreign countries, taking part in them for the first time Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Thailand. In addition, there is the holding of specialized exhibitions, most important of which are; Jitcom 2004 for computer and communication and Medfarm 2004 for medicines and medical supplies, the international exhibition for cars-Expoyemen and the organisation of exhibitions outside Yemen; in Dubai, Cairo and the Horn of Africa countries.

Mr al-Nahmi also said that the number of exhibitions for this year is to exceed twenty, i.e. double the exhibitions held in 2003. He says this is a good herald especially under government directives that encourages such economic occasions that contribute to supporting the movement of economy and also acquainting the Yemeni citizen with the latest products exhibited by those fairs.

Year 2003 in review and outlook for 2004

WRITTEN BY: EBRAHIM AL-HASHIDI
YEMEN TIMES TAIZ - BUREAU

Throughout 2003, the global economy improved despite significant geopolitical uncertainty and the war in Iraq. Among the major industrialized countries, the United States once again displayed its great capacity to rebound rapidly, while consumers kept economic activity afloat in America for a long time, business leaders have become more optimistic and have started to invest again. Thus US growth has been under printed by nearly all of its component parts since the summer. In Europe, the situation improved at a slower pace as Germany and Italy dragged economic activity downward at the beginning of the year. Since then, the renewed vigor of foreign trade has allowed the German economy to pick up and thus the economic situation has gradually improved in Continental Europe, albeit to a lesser degree than in the United States. Japanese growth benefited from a satisfactory upturn in exports due to the major upswing in other Asian countries, notably China. This permitted the "land of the Rising Sun" to put out from the doldrums. In addition to this external boost, domestic demand gathered steam during the year, and while 2003 will certainly not be a bumper year. It will have made it possible for global growth to shift into a higher gear.

Equities: confidence is back

In reflection of improving circumstances, stock

markets started to move upwards.

In October 2002 markets entered a consolidation phase with a persistently high level of volatility after which investors regained their appetite for risk and the markets enjoyed a dramatic recovery. Several factors supported stock market prices and rekindled investor confidence.

First, liquidity was abundant after several years of stimulative monetary policies. Second, company earnings improved as a result of restructuring and cost cutting. And finally, equity valuations regained attractive levels.

Cyclical sectors perform best in this environment. Barring any exceptional events during the last few days of the year, major stock markets should post positive performances in 2003, a first since the bursting of the speculative bubble in high-tech stock March 2000.

Bonds: laughter and tears

In the first half of the year the sovereign risk bond market priced in a scenario of deflation which caused yields on the 10-year US Treasuries to move from 4% to nearly 3% a level not seen since the early 60s. Bond yields in other industrialized countries followed a similar trend. In mid-June, and almost overnight, bond investors changed their expectations as to economic developments.

The yield on 10-year US Treasuries jumped to 4.6% in a matter of a few weeks, since when it has oscillated between 4% and 4.5% as the market consolidated.

Currencies: US dollar falls from grace

Despite cyclical improvement, the US dollar has continued its slide, which began in early 2002. Against the Euro, it weakened from 1.04 in early 2003 to 1.08 in late May.

Subsequently it has fluctuated within a wide range between 1.10 and 1.19. The twin deficits, i.e. the current account and the budget have worried international investors as have statements made at the September G7 meeting in Dubai indicating the potential for further weakness in the dollar. This also weighed heavily on the US dollar's exchange rate. Finally, gold continued to strengthen, and at times drew close to USD 400 an ounce.

Also the prices of several primary metals as well as that of all remained firm throughout 2003. Primaries due to the combined effect of the economic recovery and the weakness of the US dollar.

Cyclical upturn in the first half

The improving global economic environment is expected to continue during 2004. The positive effects of accommodating monetary policies will further boost growth.

Furthermore, several Western nations have implemented tax cuts with the United States being the first to act in this regard as it voted in a major tax-cutting program commencing in 2003. Finally, 2004 is the year of the US presidential election, and historically the run-up to such an election is positive for growth.

Continental Europe on the other hand appears set to remain lagging behind the United States as its

more rigid structures and reduced capability of introducing fiscal stimulus packages due to the Maastricht criteria will curtail the possibility of a recovery.

Nevertheless, European economies did bottom out in 2003. And growth should return Asia is expected to continue benefiting from this upswing thanks to an increase in exports. A major question mark hangs over 2004 however in 2003 the economic recovery was mostly financed through rate cuts by central banks and by more tax control over government expenditures.

The private sector will have to take over the relay in the second half of 2004 otherwise the upswing might be short-lived. For the time being consumption and private investments appear to be the driving forces.

Although it is still too early to know whether or not the current positive trend will endure beyond the summer of 2004.

Equities: still some upside potential

Major stock markets took set to continue doing well, although the significant rise experienced in 2003 will probably limit prospects for 2004. Earnings growth should become the main driving force behind prices as we have entered the second phase of the cyclical upturn when after liquidity; earnings sustain stock market prices.

2004 performances are expected to be close to the historical returns recorded on the major stock markets with most of the rise likely occurring during the first few months of the year.

Emerging markets will likely post better riggers than those of the industrialized countries, as they are more exposed to the cycle and will benefit to a greater extent from a catch-up phase.

Bonds: even slightly higher yields

After the initial rise in yields last summer, government bonds could continue their consolidation phase started in the fourth quarter of 2003.

The strengthening economy however, will likely lead central banks, and notably the Federal Reserve, to tighten the monetary screws during the second half of 2004, which the bond markets will anticipate well in advance. The target yield for the 10-year US Treasury could be around 5%.

Currencies: the dollar remains weak

The dollar should remain relatively weak, as external deficits will not encourage an appreciation in the US currency for the time being. In theory, the improved dynamics of the US economy should support the greenback and prevent it from deteriorating to the levels experienced in 2003 (around 1019 against the Euro), although continued volatility could drive it down temporarily.

In conclusion, and barring any unforeseen negative external events, 2003 looks promising for the financial markets.

We remain at your disposal should you wish any further information. We would like to thank you for the trust you continue to have in us, and we would like to wish you all of the very best for 2004.

New bureau for boosting Yemen-GCC trade exchange

By: Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

It has been announced in Kuwait recently that a Bureau for International Cooperation between Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council has been established aimed at enhancing the exchange of trade and expertise in agricultural and fish production fields.

The announcement on the new cooperation bureau came in the wake of an initiative Yemen had offered during a meeting held by the Arab Cooperative Union in Kuwait in 2000.

The idea had then received a good welcome from the State of Kuwait and now agreement had been reached anew on founding the bureau in a tripartite meeting grouping representatives from Yemen, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The meeting was held on the sidelines of meetings of the Arab Cooperative Union held in Cairo in April 2002.

The Gulf states have expressed willingness to

open markets of their countries to Yemeni products especially agricultural and fish through coordination between the cooperatives and unions and also to agree on specifications and products on demand in those markets.

Kuwaiti cooperatives have expressed readiness to open special shelves for marketing Yemeni products in return for getting 10% of profits. According to Yemeni sources a number of Kuwaiti financiers and businessmen have shown their desire for building and funding agricultural and fish cooperative projects in Yemen and also their desire to visit the Yemen Republic to meet their businessmen counterparts and to get acquainted with available investment opportunities in Yemen.

Establishment of the new cooperative bureau would open for the Yemeni cooperatives and unions an opportunity to work for upgrading quality of their fish and agricultural products in a manner compatible with Gulf markets and also to encourage fishermen and farmers as well as funding strategic projects

and facilitating the process of exportation.

The new plan necessitates providing speedy transportation means, large refrigerators to transfer the products across the joint Yemeni-Gulf land roads.

Yemen's joining as member in the Gulf Cooperative Bureau is considered a significant step on the way of consolidating areas of economic, investment and trade cooperation between Yemen and the GCC countries.

By this membership Yemen would be able to develop the Yemeni-Gulf cooperative work and to benefit from the Gulf experiences and exchange of expertise in all productive areas.

Yemen seeks to diversify its exports in order to increase revenues of its national income that depends mainly on exporting oil and its products. Therefore the Yemeni fish and agricultural products would find their way easily into the Gulf markets and that would develop and evolve the movement of production and increase Yemeni exports.

Words of Wisdom



Many foreigners keep asking about the degree of freedom enjoyed by the press. They are confused because of different allegations. On the one hand, the authorities claim that the press is fully free. They point to the aggressive and critical reporting prevalent in the few independent and opposition newspapers.

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



OUR OPINION

Conferences are important, but not enough

The upcoming conference on "Sana'a Inter-Governmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court" is indeed a spectacular event that would bring a great deal of attention to our efforts as a developing country to carry out reforms deeply needed.

In today's world, democracy is no more an option. It is a must, and any person who doesn't think this way will eventually be marginalized in a global trend pushing for more openness and communication and not closure and isolation.

The conference, which will start within a week from now, is indeed a step towards bringing into focus how we can work together as governments, civil society organizations, and people of the region to bring about the change necessary to accelerate the pace of democratization.

There is no doubt that Yemen is willing to adopt more democracy and freedom. But becoming a fully democratic country is nothing that can be done overnight. It is in fact a painfully slow process. This is why friends and neighbors are coming together to discuss with Yemen how to make this happen. The conference is in the same light of the earlier emerging democracies forum the country hosted in 1999. But on the other hand, what makes this event unique is its intention to bring together decision makers and civil society together. We have come to realize that civil society organizations are a major pillar of democracy, and that is why their presence and participation with decision makers in their regions is also of major importance.

But yet again, is the conference as an event enough? Of course not! The conference is a mere starting point in which ideas and opinions can be reflected and exchanged to formulate an introductory phase needed so we can build upon it in future activities.

Not only this conference, but any other conference, congress, summit, or regular meeting should be followed by solid steps to implement the recommendations or resolutions that the events come up with.

Let us not forget that talking must always be followed by action. But for some reason, I fear that this event may not be followed by the solid steps we are anticipating. Nevertheless, one needs to be hopeful and optimistic that such events will indeed be followed by deeds.

What happened following the Emerging Democracies Forum in 1999 was for an example a disappointment in all points. The event itself was perfect, but it was never followed by the desired steps.

It is not me who is saying this, it is the organizers of the event themselves, including governmental officials who have expressed their frustration for the little outcome in reality that has been observed following the event and until today.

Excuses presented including: turmoil, regional conflicts, instability, wars, and other issues. But in my opinion, all those issues could have been dealt with independently and should not have affected the democratization process in the country.

I have high expectations concerning this event, however, and wish that it will be indeed an arena of freedom of expression and opinion that would reflect our desire to bring democracy and freedom to every aspect of our lives. WE, as the media and civil society organizations must have a greater role to play in this event, and can be the ones who would push for the desired change more than anyone else, because governments cannot do everything alone.

Hence, let us work together to make this event a success, and participate in ensuring that its recommendations would be implemented.

The Editor



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Conspiracy theory:
Arabs' favorite excuse

By HAZEM ALTAWHEEL
anaa71@yahoo.com

For centuries we have been plagued by "conspiracy" and it continues to dominate our lives, the headlines and even our homes. Rather than to take responsibility for the situations we are in, our leaders, people and family members have fought vigorously to defend this theory. We blame our failures on our enemies who conspire on us (Israel). We seek to blame anyone rather than let the responsibility fall on our shoulders. Our leaders have marketed this idea to the people in order to cover up their own failures. They have failed us all and worse we have failed ourselves in this nonsense. No one denies that world politics and military strength have played a role. However we seem to blame conspiracies on a daily basis. This is a sickness, and what is most sad is that not only ignorance is to blame but even our brightest people

seem to embrace this idea. We cannot grow and flourish with these ideas. Time has proven us wrong and our place in the world has left us behind. Our news is filled with conspiracies; our lives are built around it. From the local headlines to the local gossip.

When are we, as a people, going to shed this cancer that has taken root in every Arab State? When are we as a people are going to take full responsibilities for the situation we are in?

The word trust is no longer in our dictionary; we have replaced it by mistrust. An Arab's word was known to be his honor. What happened to dignity and pride, the foundation our history was built on? On my last trip to Yemen I was astonished to see young and old chew gat for hours and speak nothing but politics, rather than to find ways to better their lives. Everyone seemed to have an answer to the mess we are in, every one becomes a philosopher. I was ashamed and saddened that friends, relatives and even brothers refused to sit

with each other on qat chews, because they held different political views. This scene is played out through Yemen from the cities to the villages. Are we as a people this ignorant? Have we left reality for another realm? Since when was it morally and ethically correct to talk about your neighbor in disrespect? Why do we seem to remember people by their political names, and not by their actions? Why can't we express our thoughts without having everyone questions our intentions? We are living in a dream, it is time to wake up and smell the coffee as the Americans say. We are only lying to ourselves and hurting our own people. We cannot be proud and productive people if we are not true to ourselves. How can we look our women and children in the eyes and say we have done our best. How can a man sit for hours chewing gat while his children have no shoes. We are heading towards a path of self-destruction and yet most will insist it's a conspiracy against us.

Yemen has gone a long way

AHMED ALMASS
almassinter@yahoo.dk
DENMARK

No doubt that the achievements and the developments happening in our Republic of Yemen are great and remarkable. And this goes to the credit of our government headed by our beloved President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

It is true that there are a lot of gaps and wrongdoings here and there, which happen everywhere in the world; but compared to our Yemen, I believe, they are minors, if we take into consideration the great differences between the period in the early 60's and now, from every angle, say for example the standard of living, education, transportation and the most important thing the thinking and the minds of the people (we Yemenis).

No one could deny that all these huge projects and these big schemes happened during the regime of our President, Saleh.

In fact, that a political issue or law when passed, could be implemented immediately as it is mentioned in the issue or the law. For example, the

Government passes a law stating no more political relationship with so and so country; all the ministries will, without fail implement the law and will cut relationship. The same thing applies to economic law. For example the Government passes a law stating that next week the tax on cigarettes shall be 50% more. All Departments concerned will take action and prices will rise immediately and more than 50%. But, it would be rather hard and not the same with the law passed by the Government related to the Yemeni society. For example, if the Government passes a law stating that all Yemenis should start eating with spoons with effect from next Ramadan. I believe, not all the people will implement that, because this law is related to customs, habits and traditions etc., etc. Then, we come to a fact such laws related to society need very long time, patience and perseverance. This type of laws needs ages of generation.

Let me take Democracy law in our country, which was presented courageously by our great President. A few learned people cruised bitterly and said what this Democracy for Yemen at this stage? Practically, they are a lot of misused here and there. Additionally, a lot

of violations are happening every day and night, not by Government Departments only, but also among the citizens themselves. Democracy is not only a subject to study, or a course to attend, or a book to read, it is also the practice since childhood. But, we are glad that our President Ali Saleh presented it. And we are quite sure it would be better and better in the near future. We are proud to mention that all countries in Middle East and some in Africa are missing what we gained in our beloved Yemen.

Finally, let me come to the conclusion of what I want to suggest. From my close contacts in Europe with my countrymen and the great number of them outside our Yemen, feel it is high time they should share in voting for Presidency in the near future, (inshallah) through our embassies and internet too. Of course, this is not easy; it needs a lot of hard efforts and time to arrange. There would be certainly a lot of wrongdoings and mischievous things too here and there at the beginning, never mind, let us start and then will improve and push forward our Yemen Democracy. Let it take 5 to 10 years.

This comes as credit to our President.

Letters to the Editor

Islam is greater

I am a Yemeni residing overseas. I would appreciate if through the columns of your newspaper or editorial you will take the initiative to explain to the whole world that Islam is not incompatible with the West as portrayed by some self-proclaimed pundits like Samuel Huntington in his book, 'Clash of Civilizations' and many other writers who follow his trend of thoughts like parrots. Both can co-exist for mutual benefits.

Only bigotry and fear separate different cultures and drive them apart. This wrong perception should be nipped in the bud and corrected by responsible media such as Yemen Times.

If it not done and left unchecked - and allow us to bury our heads in the sand - this distorted views or conclusions would eventually be catastrophic for the whole world.

Your newspaper should highlight more articles or books written to contradict such naive and simplistic views or thinking whether it be in the West or the East.

There are many writers who have criticized such jaundiced views of Islam and its cultures in refuting the simplicity of Huntington's conclusion. In this context, we Yemenis living overseas and our native land Yemen has been unfairly labeled and targeted as terrorists etc. Terrorists exist all over the world be they Christians, Hindus, Catholics or Buddhists. Yet the world media has not adopted the same prefix. Religion has nothing to do with such deviant and criminal practices. Islam should not be re-defined

by the West or the East.

We should not be apologetic and your newspaper should tell the world that Yemen is civilized country with an ancient culture and traditions that has played a great role in history by disseminating Islamic civilization throughout all of Southeast Asia and Africa. These achievements should not be forgotten and we are not barbarians or bandits as portrayed in the West and the Far East.

There are writers like Fred Halliday of London School of Economics and Professor Renard of Harvard University in the West defending Islamic culture and civilization. So why can't Yemen extend the courtesy through your newspaper their thoughts to disseminate the fair comments and reporting that makes responsible journalism.

In this way, you can proudly present the true image of Yemen as the fore bearers of Islamic and Arab civilization.

Mohammed Ahmed Talib
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How Americans justify revolutions

In order to justify the American Revolution, the US founding fathers disputed the divine right of the British crown to rule and instead postulated that legitimacy and divinity is inherent in the populace, rather than the government.

This may be a particularly Western construct.

Jane Novak
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Not all Americans are pro-war

As an American citizen, I wish to state that not all

Letters to the Editor

Americans are in favor of this war with Iraq. Nor do I support the idea making all Muslims good Christians as apparently some think. I do not support our President's way of thinking. I do appreciate the opportunity to learn of other countries customs and right or wrong we are all entitled to our own opinions.

Al Perkins
Florida USA
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Iraqi chaos - Keyword "Injustice"

I am an American citizen who opposed the war. I once lived in the North Dallas area. This is how I see the Bush White House.

George W. Bush is spamming Iraq daily with over 150,000 unwanted Coalition troops. He linked up with Blair, and they downloaded their pernicious Second Gulf War - despite warnings from the global peace movement and religious leaders - with files attached that have opened: epidemics, the collapse of the infrastructure, orphans, kidnappings, suicide bombings, the nightmarish block raids, and despair.

With their "evil" search engine, they found millions of matches for their criteria; but not WMD's. Instead, the evils are the miseries of the Iraqi people. Second Gulf War keyword: INJUSTICE.

David Lawrence Cade
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Why Saddam's arrest was saddening

The reason why many "Yemenis aren't happy for Saddam's arrest", is the very same reason why the

Americans loved and held Saddam as their hero in the early eighties. For around two decades, in the seventies and eighties, Saddam served American interests and was, in all sense, cooperative and friendly with the West - all the time executing his people. Since he never harmed the Western interests, he was an ally.

Now, consider this, for the last 4 decades or so, Saddam's government had been one of the true friends of Yemen. He never betrayed Yemen, nor did he do anything to upset Yemenis. For all Yemenis know, Saddam was the ONLY head of state to officially announce his support for the current Yemeni head of state, Ali Abdullah Saleh, during the fight for Yemeni Unity in 1994. Saddam's government absolutely and unconditionally supported the Yemeni people in all their struggles: from the economic downfall of the first Gulf War to the military conflict of 1994.

Yemen, a country who everyone deserted in the 1990's, was always respected by Saddam. In other words, despite his wrong doings to his own people, Saddam showed nothing but support, love, respect, and sincere friendliness to the people of Yemen. You now wonder why the Yemenis are upset that the one and only human to stand with Yemen in all its good and bad times has been arrested. Stop wondering, it is no wonder. It is simple human nature: you respect and love people who respect and love you, irrespective of how they might treat others.

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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Even without Saddam, the nightmare goes on!

The Bush and the Neo-con clique in the United States will never seem to come to an end to their list of mis-accomplishments. It is as though this mysterious lot of troublemakers for the United States and for the rest of the world thrives on continuous misery and death for everyone save themselves. In recapping all the events of the jinxed year 2003, we can safely assume that for all intents and purposes, this incongruous lot of behind the scenes masters of plots and counter-plots will stop at nothing to put the rest of the world on edge while they continue their ugly schemes of finding ways to enrich their political sponsors, notwithstanding the misery, the cost and the swagger of the human intellect in a sea of unpredictable outcomes amidst strategies of a big bully, who has not the faintest of ideas about human rights, human decency and human integrity.

Yes, 2003 is over and done with, but those of us who still have an inkling of idealism and hope for the betterment of life for all human beings on this planet are really thrown off balance, for the simple reason that Mr. Bush and his ugly organized mafia are simply not in the mood for such idealism and simply have no intention to have a quiet peaceful world, where the discontent of the world can find avenues for escaping their unfortunate lot. It goes without saying that this status of les misérables is now a direct outcome of the venom that this neo-con establishment has spread throughout the world.

They told us, and they told us and continue to tell us that only they know what is right for the world, because, as they say it is right for America. Well, America has seen for itself that there is nothing that is right in these people's minds for America as its boys are laid to waste in an ugly guerilla war, with an enemy that is none of the fancy talk and despicable lies laid out by this clique for more than a year - actually for three years - with not one truth to cling to in a desperate attempt to convince us that they know what they really are doing. They told us all they need to do is overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime and the troubles of the US and the rest of the world - Leave Osama alone for a while, the cake is a lot bigger in Iraq - are over. Their logic was that Saddam Hussein was hiding a mysterious quagmire of destructive weaponry. Even when told in advance that Saddam hardly had enough to harm a fly, let alone pose a threat to the mighty United States of America, George and his war game hobbyists went on their misadventure in the swamps of the Tigris-Euphrates valley. The regime was toppled - but no wait, Saddam is still loose: the war must go on. It went on with more adverse consequences than the classic war of tanks against rusty tanks and bombers, rockets and missiles against nobody. When it was clear that the troubles of the "coalition" was not the workings of an "ace in the hole", we now come back to the song of terror and bringing democracy to the rest of the world. The rest of the world is perplexed by how the American people can stand to be fooled again and again. They themselves are seeing as clear as daylight that all this hogwash is only good for those few but super-rich, who are churning at their hard earned incomes through high taxes and "pork" that is laid out in the open for anyone ready to grab and give a token gesture of backing to the new mafia reigning in America and their pet pals in Tel Aviv. What has America come to be in 2003, would have never entered the minds of people of greater intellect and broader visions like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and William Clinton. In fact, these people cherish their capacity for destroying the achievements of the latter in a whirlwind of blundering and contempt for sincere honest government that boggles the most astute of dreamers and pleaders for the good of mankind.

Saddam is out of the picture, yet bombs and death are thrown in random fashion where the enemy is a mass of evil thrown by all parties with the final outcome being death, death and more death. Yes, death is a good thing is what these behind the scenes plotters of international evil thrive on. The smile never leaves their faces in front of the cameras and as they eat their fake turkey dinners. Death is healthy if America is to be kept safe. Safe from what? Nobody really knows - not even these war mongers, all of whom seem to have a record of achievement in deception, fraud and contempt for law, if it stands in their way at achieving their mysterious goals. For a year they kept us busy in their wild chase against a seemingly harmless rogue, who himself must be astounded that anyone could find a niche in the world of demonic intrigue that is bigger than he ever hoped to realize in his horrendous criminal record against his people and the people around him. If Saddam's evil was regionally localized, we now have a clique in Washington and Tel Aviv that can show the world how easy it is to bring havoc to every corner of the world.

Happy New Year world and brace yourself for more of the same ugliness - if not worse - shown in the past year. The nightmare is not yet over!

2004: Year of decision

By Gwynne Dyer

History normally runs on rails, with one development following another in fairly obvious succession. Colourful personalities and dramatic events abound, and it may seem like a roller-coaster ride at times, but twenty years later the outcome is just about what you would have expected at the start. Once in a while, however, history goes right off the rails — and this may be one of those times. We'll probably know for certain by the end of this year (2004).

Two years ago we were being told that 9/11 had changed everything, but that was just media hype. In reality 9/11 changed nothing except Americans' mistaken belief that they were invulnerable to foreign threats, and normally the 'terrorist threat' would have faded into the background in a year or so, to be replaced in the headlines by some trendy new problem. But a hijack has occurred, and the course of history really may have changed. That would be very bad.

Americans are still largely invulner-

able to foreign threats, but a tiny chink labelled 'terrorism' has opened up in their armour, and both the US government and the Islamist terrorists who planned 9/11 are working overtime to make that the central issue in global affairs. They are pursuing their own private agendas, of course, but the combination of huge American power and extreme Islamist violence has persuaded far too many people that the 'war on terror' is what global politics is really about in the early 21st century.

The 'war on terror' is a huge distraction from the real priorities that face the world. The human population of this planet has tripled in the past sixty years. Even if it never doubles again, that puts enormous pressure on both resources and the environment. The pressure is mounting even faster because many of those who have been poor (including most Asians) are rapidly industrialising and raising their consumption levels.

Meanwhile, those who are left out of the prosperity, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, become ever more desperate and resentful. The

tightly interconnected wealth-producing machine that is the globalised economy is tremendously vulnerable to environmental catastrophes, political shocks, or even financial mismanagement. There is a full agenda that needs our undivided attention if we are to get through the next half-century without a really big blow-up.

Until recently, things were looking pretty hopeful, because the biggest obstacles to global action on these issues had been removed one after another. The Cold War ended, and the great powers began to cooperate. Democracy spread around the world by non-violent means, and with the help of globalised mass media something that you could call world public opinion began to emerge. Complex multilateral deals were made on difficult issues like trade and climate change.

During the 90s, the way the world worked was changing fast enough that we seemed to have a chance of making it through the first half of the 21st century without a big smash and a massive die-back of the human population. Bad things happened in small, out-of-the-way places like Bosnia and Rwanda, but the broad trend was reassuring. It still is, but broad trends have been dislocated by relatively local events in the past.

China was not doomed to go into centuries of isolation and stagnation in the early 15th century just as its



immense wealth, technological prowess and ocean-going fleets had positioned it to dominate the entire planet. Europe didn't have to throw away a century of relative peace and rapidly rising prosperity in the needless cataclysm of the First World War. If the emperor Zhu Di's favourite concubine had not been killed by the lightning strike that burned down the Forbidden City in 1421, or if Gavrilo Princip had gone home after failing to assassinate the Archduke Franz Ferdinand on his first try in Sarajevo in 1914, everything might have been very different.

Things would certainly be very different now if the al-Qaeda hijackers had been caught before they carried out 9/11, or if George W. Bush had not

been awarded victory by the US Supreme Court after the 2000 election. What we are living with now is a runaway fluke.

A small band of Islamist fanatics is trying to provoke a global confrontation between the West and Islam as a way of levering themselves into power in Muslim countries, and a US administration dominated by neo-conservative ideologues is using this threat to justify their own project for global American hegemony through military power. Neither is likely to succeed, but between them they could wreck both the institutions and the spirit of multilateral cooperation that were going to ease our way through the real crises that are coming.

For every fluke that actually details

the train of history, hundreds do not. Both the United Nations and the NATO alliance are already in a potentially terminal crisis, but it is still too early to say whether this one will change our future for the worse. It could all be over by next year.

By this time next year, we will know whether the Bush administration's adventure in Iraq has succeeded or failed, and whether Mr. Bush himself has been re-elected or defeated. Without the neo-cons in Washington to inflate their importance, the Islamist terrorists would dwindle to a minor policy problem, and normal service would be resumed on all the important global issues. Decisive years are generally something you would prefer to avoid, but this is going to be one.

We got him! Now what?

By RUSS MANEY

The pictures showed U.S. troops pulling Saddam Hussein — this century's ultimate criminal — out of the ground, looking like a leftover that's been in a broken refrigerator eight months too long.

Now the question is, what do we do with him?

Of course, we would love to see him tortured, the kind of torture he and his henchmen inflicted on so many of Iraq's citizens. As satisfying as that would be, it would also bring us down to his level, albeit on a much smaller scale.

Instead, he will rightly be put on trial (somehow) for his horrific crimes. The tougher, lingering question is, who should be the judge and jury? The United States, the new government in Iraq or the United Nations?

While we were certainly the "police" that "arrested" Hussein, President Bush has already rejected a U.S.-led trial. The rest of the world, and particularly the Arab world, would see this as more of the same — the U.S. doing what it wants to, the way it wants to, the rest of the world be damned. If we want peace in the Middle East and good relations with Arab nations, we must show them that unilateral action (like the war itself) is our last resort. Not trying him ourselves shows them that, once the threat to our security is past, we're once again willing to be a world citizen, instead of the world's judge and jury.

The option that President Bush and many others appear to prefer is having the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council try Saddam. The Associated Press quoted President Bush as saying that it was up to the Iraqis to determine Hussein's fate, but that the U.S. will "work with the Iraqis to develop a way to try him that withstands international scrutiny." According to a quote in the same AP story, one council member is predicting that the trial will begin "very soon, in the next few weeks."

Having the Iraqis themselves try Saddam avoids the imperialism perception a U.S.-led trial would perpetuate. The victors won't be trying the vanquished, the people Hussein terrorized will. Iraqi council members have assured their citizens they will televise the trial, so that everyone can see Saddam getting his day in court and understand the depth and breadth of the atrocities he and his regime committed. Many experts believe the Iraqi people need this public airing of Hussein's sins, in order to "move on" and really begin living in a post-

Saddam world. A state department official was recently quoted in Time magazine saying, "There's an Iraqi catharsis that needs to take place."

While the Iraqis trying Iraqis option has a lot of merit — and perhaps now unstoppable momentum — it has drawbacks that President Bush, England's Prime Minister Tony Blair and others may be missing. First, the focus would be on Saddam's crimes against his own people. While they are worthy accusers, they're not the only people against whom Hussein committed crimes. Iran wants Saddam tried for starting the Iran-Iraq War in 1980. Kuwait wants him tried for invading that country in 1991. Israel wants to know whether scud missile attacks are war crimes.

The other —and ultimately more important — drawback is that by not trying him in front of an international body, such as the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal, the charter of the United Nations itself and of the concept of the world collectively bringing despots to justice are gutted. The noble precedents set by the Nuremberg trials of the Nazis after World War II and the recent trials addressing the war crimes in the Yugoslavia and Rwanda would be ignored.

Some may say "good riddance," since the U.N. hasn't been very effective lately. But, marginalizing the U.N. by not having it try Saddam on behalf of the rest of the world further increases the chances that we — U.S. taxpayers — will be stuck with full tab for Saddam's ouster and the rebuilding of Iraq. A better strategy would be to attempt to use Saddam's capture and subsequent trial as a "bridge" to bring the rest of the world back into Iraq, checkbooks included.

It's a little unsettling to find yourself agreeing with Saddam Hussein's daughter. She's also arguing for an international trial, in the hopes that the rest of the world will take it easier on Dear Old Dad than his former subjects, particularly when it comes to the "ultimate punishment."

If the world would prefer to keep him sitting in a prison cell instead of lying in a grave, fine. That's a small price to pay for the world into becoming more involved in fighting the lingering terrorism in Iraq and in paying for its rebuilding efforts. To make good use of such an evil madman's trial would be quite a trick indeed. Saddam's atrocities could still be aired for Iraqis and the rest of the world to see. Iraqis could still be the prosecutors and key witnesses. But, a U.N. trial would also accelerate Iraq's reentry into the world's community of nations — and vice versa.

By MIKE WHITNEY
FOR AL-JAZEERA INFO

"We shall not agree, either now or in the future, to the rule of one national group over the other. Nor do we accept the idea of a Jewish state, which would eventually mean Jewish domination of Arabs in Palestine." David Ben-Gurion

"We must beware of blaming the murderers. Who are we to reproach them for hating us? Colonists who transform into a Jewish homeland the territory they have lived in for generations." Moshe Dayan

The protracted, 36 year long conflict that has pitted stone-throwing youths, and bomb-toting teenagers against the world's 4th largest army is drawing to a close. The final complexion of the settlement has not been hammered out at the negotiation table where reasonable men dispute the finer points of who will get what but, rather, in the agitated minds of a war criminal and his extremist cadres.

"We have no partner in the peace process", has always been the hue and cry from Israel, although there's an old man in a dilapidated compound in Ramallah who might argue that point. When nation's have tanks, attack-helicopters, F-16s and legions of well armed soldiers they rarely look for partners in peace, and Israel has not veered from that tradition.

The final settlement has been pre-ordained for some time now, although Israel's Prime Minister Sharon announced the plan as if it were some great surprise. It is not.

From the early 1970s the Israeli leadership has only seriously considered two variants of the same basic scheme. Both plans anticipated that Israel's "agreed border" would be the Jordan River, which has never

Sharon's final solution

Cages in the Promised Land

changed. What every Palestinian knows, however, is that the many failed commitments of "land for peace" have been empty promises that have only forestalled the present dire situation.

Oslo, of course, was the worst of these in that it provided the relative peace that Israel sought to continue its inexorable development of Palestinian land. In this way, it can be considered the most successful of the deceptions that have been used to steal more real estate from an unsuspecting neighbor. It must be acknowledged that during the supposed negotiations, Israel increased its Jewish population in the occupied territories by 90,000 people and doubled the number of settlements at the same time. (Another 100,000 went into East Jerusalem.) The greater body of these settlers was facilitated by Labor administrations, which is to say, that Israel's so-called "Dovish" party actually led the charge in expropriating land in the West Bank and Gaza. This should dispel any illusions one might have about one party or the other actually seeking a negotiated settlement. That was never the case. From the very onset, the leadership in both parties has been completely resolved to the goal of annexing these territories. Oslo only illustrates that point more clearly.

Oslo was basically a public relations campaign intended to disguise Israel's territorial ambitions. It was the moral equivalent of sitting down with your neighbor to work out the details of where to put a fence, while he is skillfully moving his entire family into the upstairs of your house. That should sufficiently describe what happened in eight years of negotiations with "the region's only democracy".

We would be remiss not to mention that the final negotiations between Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat at Camp David have been so dramatically maligned in the media, that they

deserve at least a passing comment. The final settlement as we know now was a "take-it or leave-it" proposition from Barak that left many questions unanswered. The right of return, the final status of Jerusalem, and a tacit acceptance that 80% of the settlements and 85% of the settlers would remain in the West Bank and Gaza, were among the unresolved issues. (This according to a Time Magazine interview with Henry Kissinger) Had Arafat agreed to the terms of the "generous offer", (in an expression coined by the perennially-dissembling, Thomas Friedman) he probably would have been murdered as a traitor by his own people in less than a week.

What we can derive from this bit of history is that Barak never had any serious intention making "difficult sacrifices" for peace. He is just one of a long line of fraudsters from the Labor party who camouflage themselves as doves to dupe the Israeli electorate into believing they actually have a choice. They do not. The commitment to the vision of Greater Israel is the litmus test for all serious contenders in the Israeli political system.

Sharon's announcement of "disengagement" should be seen as the final phase of a colonial process that began 36 years ago. It clarifies that Israel is determined to annex an additional 58% of the West Bank and establish the de facto borders of Greater Israel. This will leave the vast majority of Palestinians in three large reservations, similar to those provided for Native Americans during the 19th century. Their dependency on Israel for water, telecommunications and travel will be absolute, creating a situation where deprivation can always be used as a means of implementing policy. And, judging by the harsh terms of Israeli policy in the recent past, we should not expect that humanitarian concerns or common decency will play a large part in those policy choices. The Israeli

boot that was placed firmly on the neck of the Palestinians some time ago, is about to push downward even harder.

Apart from the litany of crimes that are routinely applied in the territories (including house demolition, collective punishment, targeted assassinations and unlawful detentions), the present situation on the ground reflects the hopelessness of the ongoing struggle. We can see that the "die has been cast", that Sharon has every intention of further violating his commitment to the Road Map by initiating a unilateral strategy that will forever obliterate any opportunity for a two-state solution.

It's widely known that Sharon visited South Africa a number of times during the 1980s, showing an active curiosity in an apartheid system that he will now try to apply in the territories. We can assume that he believes that this will produce the final solution the "the Palestinian issue". It will not, nor will it offer any more security for the people of Israel. It will, however, summarize Sharon's career in stark terms, a career that has spanned decades but never generated anything other than brutality, suffering and despair. His final act of treachery should certainly put him in a prominent place in the canon of modern despots and criminals along with the likes of Saddam, Marcos, Suharto and the Shaw of Iran.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be resolved by assassins like Ariel Sharon. The continuing struggle only proves that overwhelming force has some very definable parameters. It cannot create justice, nor will it produce security.

In the larger sense, the current Intifada has only reinforced our basic beliefs about the indomitable spirit of man. For all the great suffering they have encountered, Palestinians have proved to an astonished world, that "a man can be beaten, but not defeated". We should all be grateful for that.

Technical education Foundation of industrial progress



BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is of no doubt that building a modern state requires first the building of human resources prior to anything else, for a qualified person is the asset on which any country would build on and use for facing and fighting all kinds of backwardness and negativity. This is deeply understood by the industrial countries which invest in training and qualifying human resources through scientific and education and training. Drawing complete far-sighted and well-founded plans is the only way through which countries utilize their resources best.

Big industrialized countries invested in technical and vocational education, especially the socialist countries when they trained their people on many trades through which the people returned their knowledge to the country through labor and progress. This way through very short span of time countries took giant leaps in the development run whereas the third world countries remained in debt and struggling to survive. Instead these countries criticized and looked down upon such technical education although actually it is what industries are built upon.

Vocational training in all aspects was what progressed countries today depended on in the past in order to achieve their economic independence. The national media in those countries encouraged and brought to attention the importance of being independent for example agricultural wise so it



Technical training to help enhance building our industry

encouraged farming and producing crops and other agricultural products, it also encouraged small industries and the handicrafts or technical trades. Today these countries have well trained and expertise human resources that are self-reliant and in fact export to the rest of the world. In the same time the national media in developing countries did not realize the significant of such trades and people who became mechanics, electricians, plumbers, and other similar jobs were neglected and looked down upon by the society. This way the third world countries remained in need for even the simplest of goods becoming increasingly dependent on the more developed countries.

Not only did the developed countries care for the vocational training of its people they also simultaneously pro-

vided all requirements for the people to learn. They built institutions and training centers, provided jobs and even provided markets through which those people could implement their knowledge. It included vocational training in its infrastructure and gave space and encouragement for talents and creativity. This does not mean that all the people worked in such trades but it means that these countries created a balance in which the community complemented each other in all aspects.

What is happening in our country is that although there are a number of vocational and technical training centers (although quite limited in capacity and training) yet it happens that the graduates are depressed and jobless. The cycle is incomplete because if those capacities are not utilized then

the training is wasted and actually nothing is done except increasing the unemployment rate.

Yemen is a country rich with natural resources and intelligent man power. There is still a chance to build on these assets and with some planning and true will for development the country can break away from its misery loop and join the caravan of advancing countries.

The government is demanded to use statistics, to conduct studies and find out accurate information to build on its plans. Once the information is available then good planning must take place and opportunities for people to learn and work must be created. Taking care of the technical and vocational training is the first step to building our economy and helping ourselves.

The end of an intellectual



DR. ABULLAH AL-ZALAB
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The contents and directions of the debates that had been taking place a couple of days ago in the media and the Qat sessions about the TV serial Saif Bin Thee Yazan which had been broadcasted during last Ramadan has forced me to wonder about the complications of historical writings and the difficulties in transferring history into a TV program. I was wondering if there is a crisis in the TV scenarios and whether there is lack of professional and specialized people and if so, why? And why did our education system and our social culture failed in creating talents and skills able to produce such programs and hence force us to seek help from others.

I was occupied too much in this thought and this led me to more thinking and wondering about the real role of the Yemeni intellectual. For if you observe the cultural, scientific and educational productions one would discover that there is hardly any progress and that the job has transformed into documentation and registering and some analysis more than creation and productivity. The methodology was more like copy cat and imitation of others and in a way that would serve personal interests or circumstantial requirements such as getting a degree, money or influence or promoting a certain school of thought. And other than that, the Yemeni intellectual is actually absent and missing from the social change and developing movements.

This topic in itself raises many questions and doubts, an issue that again leads to assumptions and thinking of various probabilities regarding the direction of development in the society and the indications of change, in which direction are we going? And do we find ourselves today in the presence of a culture without intellectuals? An

absolute culture that does not hold any essence or actual thoughts? Where is the Yemeni intellectual today? What is his position and role in formatting today's culture? And where is his position in the political and social movements?

An intellectual, this mediator between the socialist and the culture activist, the intellectual who has connected the politician with the civilian, he who carries the nation's conscience all that and today here he is merely a name and a tag on an empty being. And if the answer is yes that the intellectual has really lost his identity then who will be the change agents and the real influencers in the society?

It seems that the businessman comes to be intellectual model, has dominated the scene today, as exclaimed by the Tunisian social science scholar Dr. al-Tahir Labib. This is an intellectual who has been hashed in the liberal garage and found himself by chance the technocratic expert who is right and hence started looking for justifications to his correctness. And so instead of the culture and intellect of a creative artist it becomes more like gambling and proving one's opinion to be right, come what may.

There are many factors, local, regional and international changes which have come together and interfered in the changes of societies and perhaps in the back stepping of the intellectual's influential roles. These factors such as the rapid information advancements and media and communication high technologies in addition to the social, economic transformations at the national level and the globalization on a larger scale.

The study or analysis of the Yemeni intellect proved what Dr. al-Tahir Labib has said regarding to the intellectual's destiny as an influential component of the system. Under the domination of the semi intellectuals and the common man unrealistic approaches, and with the globalization culture that lacks values it is surely the doom of an intellectual and probably his end.

DESALINATION & SOLAR ENERGY WITH HI-TECHNOLOGIES

SEPACE ENERGY ENTERPRISES, an equal partner in our Joint Venture TOWER AFRICA EST. (T.A.E) have pleasure to announce the release of extremely important Technologies;

- 1) SGF/DDV. - Prior to the gas being extracted and separated from the sea water - the salt and all other solids including precious metals and heavy metals are easily removed.
 - A. The extracted Hydrogen plus Oxygen is then guided into the special FUEL CELL (Hydrogen in said 'A' and Oxygen in said 'B'). Result is ELECTRICITY with emission being purified water.
 - B. Within the patent data there are 423 different mathematical equations with 230 combinations, - thereby providing 230 extractions of different substances.
 - C. Separate individual gas from raw natural gas.
 - D. Purify suspensions, both liquid and atmospheric of "all" contaminants
 - E. Self energizing for its operations.

We have succeeded in our endeavor, and have successfully produced a limited amount of the material. We have completed controlled testing, - each test providing results of absolute success and this has enabled Patent / s applications to be lodged.

The potential benefits for Middle East / Africa are enormous with industry growth and defense advancement.

Such complete apparatus requires additional components, and development of these individual products to completion for their intended utilization must be satisfied.

Further Technologies achieved during the research period are :-

- 2) SCEPRRE - our SOLAR ENERGY Technology.
 - A. The apparatus UTILISES more than 85% of the energy gathered, - this is 45% superior utilization than ANY other (and all other types gather ONLY the solar).
 - B. The volume gathered can be limited (such as operate waste water treatment) or the volume can be immense - such as to provide electricity or desalinated water to satisfy a city, etc
 - C. SCEPRRE also propagates the microwave, etc: etc: from solar atmosphere. The patent data includes all the mathematical equations PLUS that which EVERY other Scientist have missed, this being the absolute undeniable connection between NONLINEARITY and LINEAR and SELF GUIDED LIGHT BEAMS and if TAPERED propagation into ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE LENGTHS occur of IMMENSE FLUX density.
- 3) Hydroponics production of COTTON, WHEAT, BARLEY, RICE, TOMATOES - all controlled growth, disease free and can be produced in factories located almost anywhere.
- 4) Pharmaceuticals - specials formulas which use natural ingredients curing:-
 - A. Stomach Ulcers.
 - B. Mouth Ulcers.
 - C. Tooth and Gum diseases.
 - D. Destroying mouth Bacteria.

The achieved Technologies are UNIQUE, and place Yemen and fellow Nations to the forefront of HI-Technology achievement which encompass the ultimate NANOTECHNOLOGY / SCIENCE - in particular our Technologies listed as number one (1) and number two (2) and number three (3).

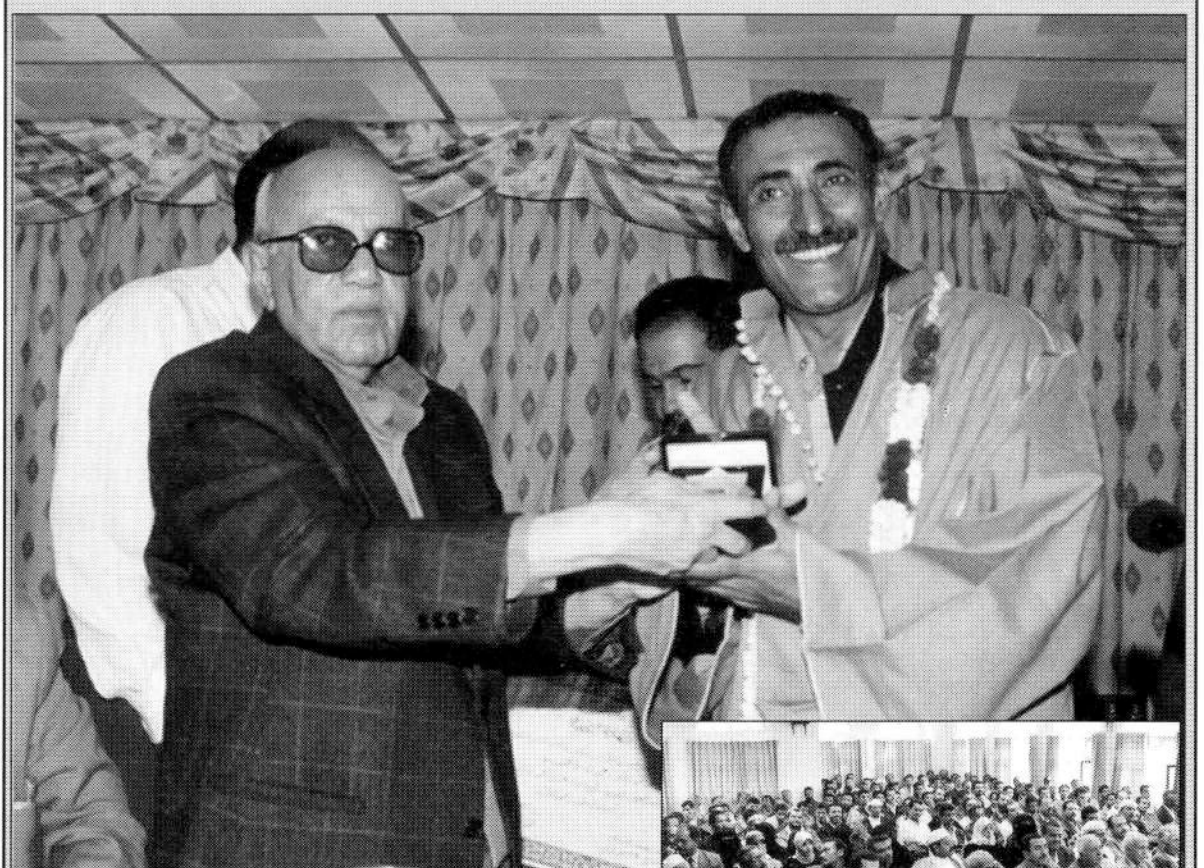
In addition to the aforementioned Technologies we have obtained a considerable number of other Technologies and products which are unique and Patented - but possibly not so important as those mentioned already.

Our fields are well-known and registered plus we have the EXCLUSIVE rights of all Technologies in Middle East and African Continent.

Complete disclosure will be made available to any person or Company or Government who are desirous of obtaining licensing rights or provide contracts for projects to which the Technologies or their SECONDARY products are capable.

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Afeef Cultural Establishment honors Abdulbasit Absi



MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a reception held at its premises in Sanaa, the Afeef Cultural Establishment honored prominent singer Abdulbasit Absi for his role in promoting the traditional Yemeni song throughout the years.

The honoring ceremony came to conclude the establishment's 2003 activities, and to mark the long list of achievements of Absi for the Yemeni song locally and internation-

ally.

Among those who attended the ceremony were many famous singers, including Ayoub Tarish Absi, Abdulrahman Al-Akhfash, and Mustafa Al-Haj.

In the concluding ceremony, the establishment's chairman and founder Mr. Ahmed Jaber Afeef gave a statement in which he emphasized the role Absi had played to publicize the Yemeni song and was later presented with the medal of appreciation and the establishment's

shield.

It is worth noting that the Afeef Cultural Establishment will be inaugurating next Tuesday the activities program for 2004 under the title "Culture between understanding and practice". The inauguration ceremony will present the activities planned to be organized in year 2004, their dates and venues.

AL-HAJ HEAVY EQUIPMENT & CARS AGENCIES



Al-Haj Exhibition on Shantui and Futian in Taiz

Al-Haj Heavy Equipment & Cars Agency held an exhibition in Taiz for the Shandong Shantui Construction Machinery Import and Export Co. Ltd and the Beiqi Futian Automobile Co. Ltd. during 1-12 January 2004.

Taiz Governor Judge Ahmad Abdullah al- Higri inaugurated Al Haj section in the exhibition, expressing his satisfaction with what he had seen in terms of excellence, high quality and efficiency of the exhibited Shantui and Futian products.

The exhibition witnessed great interest by the public as visitors poured to the site in large numbers.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Mohammed Ahmad al Haj said that "al-Haj exhibition in Taiz is considered the first step towards the inauguration of al Haj exhibition in Sana'a in 2004. This inauguration ceremony aimed at presenting the largest international Chinese companies, that are pioneers in the field of heavy industry, such as Shantui, which is considered one of the pioneer International companies with its deeply- rooted history in this field. Shantui signed contracts with the Japanese Komatsu and American Caterpillar, through which the company could gather American and Japanese techniques to manufacture instruments with high efficiency and quality.

On the other hand, the company attracted giant car manufacturing companies, such as, Shel, Futian, Artomobile, etc..

This could open new gates and bring new horizons to the field of heavy manufacturing industries and car trade in Yemen.

Futian and Shantui companies have entered the International market, and recently entered Yemen, competing through their advanced technology, techniques, excellent prices and qualities and keeping pace with development in trade field the world is witnessing.

Al Haj agencies provide genuine maintenance, workshops and foreign cadres and invites the audience to visit the exhibition.

Shantui Company

Shantui company started its national trade work in 1973 as the first company in the field of Chinese heavy instruments industry. It obtained its export license and is exempted from inspections by the trade and economic foreign relations ministry.

Shantui, in less than 15 years, exported more than 1,500 bulldozers to more than 60 countries in Asia, America, Europe, Canada and Australia.

Shantui has a variety of agencies and wide marketing capabilities.

It provides maintenance services in the form of:

- 1- Quality warranty periods for 2,000 work hours or for a whole year.
- 2- Customers enquiries are answered within one hour or technicians and maintenance service providers can be provided within 48 hours. They also arrive to their place of work in the fastest and best way.
- 3- The company is committed to carry out after-sale follow-up services every 250, 500, and 1000.
- 4- Secures support and communication for clients and has an online support and customer service on the Internet, all free of charge.
- 5- Shantui also organizes technical training course, pays visits, and establishes contacts with customers, in addition to providing them with technical support whenever required.
- 6- The company was awarded a number of international certificates for manufacturing quality, including the international quality certificate (ISO 9001-1994) and the golden medal for national manufacturing.
- 7- Shantui also believes in that the time of clients is invaluable.

Futian Company

Futian International Company for automobiles is considered one of the largest in the car industry as it processes the most advanced technology available.

The company has more than 10 giant factories for manufacturing cars, and employs more than 20,000 workers.

The company consists of four main sections:

A-Cars of various types, such as lorries, that can carry from 1.5 tons to 30 tons. It also has pickups, wagons, passenger buses, etc..

B-Trailer engines such as trucks, etc.

C-Agricultural tools of various kinds and forms, including ploughs, tractors, etc.

D-Construction equipment and materials and their supplies

Futian is one of the largest automobile industrial complexes in China and uses the most advanced of the latest international techniques in cars such as Toyota, Isuzu, and Mercedes.

Futian also provides warranty for motors from 20,000-30,000 Km or provides whole year maintenance services. It also has a special department that provides all sorts of spare parts.

The company provides after-sale services through professional engineers.

The company gained several international certificates in manufacturing including (ISO 9001)

The company works with very high capabilities and is currently producing more than 270 types of cars. The company has a production capacity of manufacturing hundreds of thousands of cars a year to the local and foreign markets customers.

The company's manufacturing process is done through very high qualifications and modern technology. This capability enabled it to compete strongly in the international market, in which it excelled and achieved greatly.



Main Center: Sanaa, Industrial Complex Tel: 207802 Fax: 208405

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 30 Dec.2003.

Main headlines

- NUO general secretariat discusses regulation of the Organization's electoral session
- Amidst strict security measures, American corn aid arrives in Salif
- 2004 budget, wrong figures and stabilization of poverty
- JMP demands stop chasing students, Terror and arrests at Sana'a University
- Forgery of licenses at labour office in Mahweet
- Organisation and National, Islamic conferences mourn demise of Dajani thinker
- Government pressures to for passing on YJS draft law
- Gunmen break through traffic office of Aden
- No candidate for YJS chairman so far
- Engineer killed in Usaifurah

Political editor of the newspaper says in his article what is aroused on the journalists syndicate draft law is a very important matter and following the right course and we should not be afraid of it. The idea of the government acceptance to deal with a civilian matter syllabus is something calling for astonishment and accepting such an orientation would abolish the civilian characteristic of the society and block its initiatives and activities, transferring it to government institutions atmospheres. What we perceive is that the government's right stops at giving the legal form to civilian organisations and does not exceed that to dealing with their syllabus. Political parties for instance are considered one of the society's phenomena and the government has legalized that phenomenon with a law named the law of political parties and stopped at that right, despite that the political parties form a medium quite different in its significance than civil society organisations. Journalism is one of the civilian society phenomena and the government has organized it by a law called the law of press and publications and stopped at that point. Civil society organisations are phenomena of the society and the government has its laws to regulate it. The question is what has urged the government to officially accept a legislation concerning the journalists syndicate and to attempt to get it approved at the parliament, as if the syndicate is one of the government's establishment? This would excite a state of provocation inside the journalist circles and pushes them to stop the attempt and undermine the draft law.

RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 30 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- Political parties in winter hibernation
- Sana'a, capital of poverty
- Expatriate blackmailed in Ibb

Columnist Nabil al-Aseedi writes that the unexpected rise in prices of some consumer goods has aroused anger of majority of the Yemeni people especially the poor, those of limited income and government employees. The citizens wondered about the reasons behind the rise in prices particularly that they are suffering from high expenses of living and the increase of prices is reminder of the price doses the government has been used to implement since the nineties decade and which have received great rejection and opposition from the citizens who took to the streets in massive demonstrations in the main cities of Yemen. Price rises mainly included the flour and corn the basic commodities the people of Yemen depend on and then the rise moved to other goods which raged the anger of

Main headlines

- Nasserite Organisation secretary-general calls for national dialogue to discuss deteriorating situations in the country
- At 1st anniversary of Jaralla Omer assassination, JMP demands abolishing demonstration law
- MP al-Assaly: Budget a government fraud and plunder of public property
- 30 killed, 10 wounded, occupation losses in Iraq in one week
- Eritrea might join Sana'a trio grouping
- Saddam threatens members of governing council
- Qatar succeeds to settle difference between Yemen & Kuwait
- Student leaders and activists arrested in Sana'a University, detained in political security prison
- Democracy and human rights, regional conference in Sana'a
- Teachers union holds a symposium on education deterioration
- Public property prosecution inflicts losses worth millions on the state
- The accused of stabbing the foreigners in Sana'a confesses of receiving \$60 from a network
- The president: Grouping open to all countries of the region
- Al-Bashir: Foundation agreement forms real guarantee for the grouping
- Police officer killed in Abyan
- Sana'a bans traffic of vehicles using diesel fuel
- More than YR 3 billion worth development projects, approved
- Clearing Aden from mines and explosives
- Yemen continues efforts to begin negotiations with World Trade Organisation
- German tourists arrive in Yemen soon

the people.

In this context the parliament has entrusted the question of the rise in prices of some consumer goods with its trade and industry committee to study with the concerned bodies of the government and to present its report within a week space of time. As for the citizen who began buying additional quantities of flour and corn for fear of new price rises, has lost hope in that the ministry of industry and trade would find a solution for this problem because he has heard many promises from the government every time there was a rise in prices.

Attariq weekly, 30 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- Agreement on establishment of Sana'a grouping of Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia, signed
- Restaurant worker in al-Tawahi stabs a young man
- Mahra branch oil company workers demand to be transferred

Columnist Khalid Ali Tuaiman says in his article our Arab regimes that have been keen on drawing their policies in a way corresponding and coordinated with the American policy in the region and offered repeatedly concessions for wooing consent of Uncle Sam and avoiding his anger, are now facing the dilemma of their popularity corrosion. For the American new strategy they have become forming a heavy burden and a source of internal bursts and

explosions, difficult to predict their extent and their expected reflections on the American vital interests in the region.

Hence it could be inferred the sources of anxiety and fear dominating now most of the Arab regimes. The American scenario could be having two aspects. One of them could be heading for a "democratization" of these regimes in accordance with the goals and criteria serving the American targets in the region and the second one in the re-drawing of the political map by defining its features and boundaries in the way serving the undeclared conditions for the establishment of the new Middle East Order where Israel becomes the axis of political, economic and cultural interactions and a center of hegemony and influence on all of the regional parties.

Al-Raie al-A'am weekly, 30 Dec.2003.

Main headlines

- A gang deforms political security reputation by unlawfully seizing citizens' pieces of land in Hadramout
- Hamdan schools factories administration handed over to persons having no relationship with education
- Training course for non-governmental organisations organized by woman forum for studies

- First charitable project in Yemen renders care for 90 female orphans
- Workshop on juvenile and street children care
- While prisons swarmed with prisoners, UN coordinator lauds Yemeni government
- Teachers Union symposium discusses education low standard

The newspaper's economic editor says in an article that economic experts expect that in the coming years Yemen would witness much deterioration in the purchasing power of the Yemeni currency and feverish spiral rise in prices and drop in levels of income and spending. The editor says the economic indicators have reflected that the Yemeni economy is running towards general collapse and rise in proportion of unemployment and inflation as well as retreat in the per capita income. A working paper presented by Dr Amin al-Haddad on the economic reality of the Yemeni family he has pointed out that the Yemeni family living conditions during the period 1992-198 has deteriorated greatly as a result of many factors among which is the government adoption of a program of economic reform that reflected negative impact and created new circumstances and factors led to the spread of poverty phenomenon among the families and consequently it has become a chronic phenomenon. Economic studies and indicators make it clear that Yemen is lacking justice in income and income distribution among the population. One fifth of the population of least income gain 6% of the gross income while one fifth of those of higher income get 49% of the income. Indicators also pointed out the existence of great variance in income distribution between families and this means that policies governing he economic activity work growingly for redistribution of income in favour of rich families at the expense of the great majority of families.

Al-Balagh weekly, 30 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines

- American magazine Newsweek ridicules the prophet and the Islamic history and discloses the real aims of invading Iraq
- President Saleh calls on all presidents, kings and emirs to hold dialogue with their peoples instead of the use of force
- One of Khawlan al-Tayal tribes voluntarily abandons vengeance after the killing of 20 of its sons
- President of Sana'a University says the University has taken strict measures against those instigating riot

Mr Saed Awadh Baiesa writes an article on the phenomenon of beggary describing it as one of the social phenomena that requires serious consideration and full study, especially as it has become a profession added to the present ones in the society. It has become widespread in all governorates of the country and using different arts and techniques for attracting mercy of the people. The astonishing thing is that it has been found that some of the beggars possess luxurious cars and houses and eat at tables full of the best food because they have changed this phenomenon into a profession for rapid material gains without exerting any effort.

The concerned parties in our country as the ministry of social affairs and labour can follow suit of some Arab and world countries that managed to solve this problem and put an end to this bad phenomenon. They have to try to exchange expertise and visits to end it with the support of international and non-governmental organisations inside and outside the country and this could be achieved by building houses for those in need for special care especially there are children among them. S they can be rehabilitated and incorporated into the society.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers
Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is to receive British Prime Minister Tony Blair Saturday afternoon in Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to discuss the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and efforts to implement the roadmap peace plan.

Al Akhbar
Libyan Prime Minister Shukri Ghamen said Thursday that the United States should act quickly to reward his country for abandoning its secret weapons programs. Ghamen warned that unless the United States lifted sanctions by May 12, Libya would not be bound to pay the

remaining 6 million dollars promised to each family of victims killed on Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988.

Al Gomhuria
— Egypt is ready to supply Iran with whatever it needs of humanitarian aid to help victims of last Friday's earthquake that struck Bam, head of the Egyptian interests section in Tehran Ambassador Shawki Ismail said Friday.

Egyptian Mail
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak renewed refutation of rumors that his son Gamal Mubarak is groomed as his successor on Friday.

Britain

The Times
British Prime Minister Tony Blair encouraged the Liberal Democratic Party, the second largest opposition party, to be more critical of America's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because he found the unquestioning support of largest opposition Tories unhelpful when negotiating with Washington.

The Guardian
The White House has retreated from its doctrine of regime change and preemptive military action and is returning to traditional diplomacy in an effort to repack George W. Bush as a president for peace.

The Financial Times
Financial markets started 2004 in bullish mood Friday as surveys

suggested manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic were vindicating investors' rising optimism about the global economic recovery.

The Daily Telegraph:
British security chiefs ordered the cancellation of a British Airways flight to Washington for the second day Friday because of fears of a terrorist plot to stage another Sept. 11-style attack.

The Independent
A week of terrorist alerts that has caused disruption on a scale not seen since Sept. 11, 2001 culminated in dramatic scenes at Heathrow airport Friday, when a British Airways flight to Washington was barred from taking off for the second successive day.

Germany

Sueddeutsche Zeitung
Anti-terror measures taken by the American administration more and more strongly hamper the international air traffic.

Frankfurter Allgemeine
Founder of the terrorist group Ansar al

Islam Mullah Krekar was arrested in Oslo Friday.

Die Welt
Illegal work for private housekeeping will be fined up to 1,500 euros from 2004.

Pakistan

Dawn
Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha here on Friday predicted that the 12th summit of the South Asian leaders that opens here on Sunday will be extremely successful and it will pave the way for greater regional cooperation.

The News
South Asian foreign ministers here on Friday agreed on a draft of the

South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and will recommend it to the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which will open on Sunday.

The Nation
Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Friday affirmed that the present parliament will complete its full term and that he will not dissolve it.

India

The Hindu
Indian Prime minister A.B.Vajpayee has again said that this will be his last attempt at making peace with Pakistan in an interview to a German Magazine "Dawn".

The Hindustan Times
Two days ahead of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, militants attacked

the crowded railway station in the India-controlled Kashmir on Friday, killing four security personnel and injuring more than 12 people.

The Times of India
The Sensex in the Bombay Stock Exchange breached the psychologically important 6,000 mark on Friday as the bull run on the markets continued unabated.

Kenya

The People
Normal business has begun picking up in Kenya's capital Nairobi after a lull brought about by the Christmas and New Year festivities.

East African Standard
Some Kenyan private schools have been accused of turning their students into robots by encouraging rote-learning. The Kenya Association of Private

Schools said such learning approaches make pupils socially, mentally and spiritually underdeveloped.

Daily Nation
A total of 17 senior doctors and pharmacists have been transferred in a major reshuffle at the Kenyan health ministry to assist in streamlining the provision of health services in the country.

France

France Soir
Passengers rigorously checked, planes escorted by fighters, policemen aboard with secret weapons and flights canceled for terrorist-suspect...Is the hyper air security during festival seasons vigilance or para-

noiac?
Le Figaro
Terror alerts are multiplied during the Christmas and New Year festivals as Washington took more aggressive efforts to protect its airspace.

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (60):
Good wishes for success in exam (I)

Exam marks the culmination of a long process of hard study coupled with sustained efforts to achieve academic excellence. It, therefore, assumes a great significance for students. It provides a precious outlet for them to demonstrate the best of the knowledge and skill they have acquired through diligent study. It also offers an invaluable opportunity for them to scale greater heights of success. As our countless young friends would at present be bracing themselves to confront yet another exam ordeal at the end of the first semester of this academic year, we present below a bouquet of good wishes for their spectacular success in the exams ahead. May Allah, the most Merciful and the most Compassionate, bestow upon all of them His choicest blessings in the form of physical strength, mental stamina and, above all, an unconquerable will to give a good account of themselves.

- Wishing you success in your exams. This brings more wishes than you could guess for the best of luck and much success. Tons of good luck and good wishes be with you. Now all that is required from you is hard work!
- Best wishes for success in your exams. "The bud of knowledge is seeking the truth... the blossom of truth is finding wisdom". May you dedicate yourself to reach whatever goals you aim for. May you welcome every challenge as an opportunity. May you find in each new day a chance to build a better future.
- All the best for your exams. Make sure you work hard with lots of determination.
- To wish you every success, as you take exam. Hard work and determination, that's what it takes to reach the heights of success. And because you have all these things, it's a pleasure to wish you good luck and success in your exam. Best wishes always.
- Opportunities present themselves and it's the lucky ones who spot them instantly. May you overcome whatever obstacles come in your way and may you fulfill the goals you cherish in your heart and reach out to be the best. Wishing you success and all the happiness that goes with it.
- Hope you've flying success in your exams. Spread your wings and go on to achieve spectacular success. Add another colored feather in your cap.
- Life simply means to go ahead each day courageously, and face the challenges that may come your way. Scores of best wishes come just for you to wish you achieve your hopes and dreams. Best wishes.
- For your exam. We shape our tomorrows from hopes of today. And as you take your exam, here's wishing you all the luck in the world and hope you'll pass out with flying colors and reach your special goal. With wishes for your continued success.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Most children remain at school at the age of six and sixteen.
- He avenged on the enemy for the murder.
- The Yemen Times has the largest circulation of any newspaper in English in Yemen.
- The thief was arrested and his pockets searched.
- The patient will die before the doctor comes.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- If he **apologizes**, he will be excused.
- I shall be happy, if you **tell** me the truth.
- Much of your success and prosperity in life **depends** on your sincere efforts.
- Many a man **has** fallen a victim to temptation.
- I who **am** a teacher lead a simple life.

III. Increase Your Word Power

A. How to express it in one word.

- Members of a groups, tribe, etc, that has lived in a place from the earliest times.

- The science of sound.
- A statement made on oath.
- One who is able to use the left hand as well as the right.
- The plea that a person charged with a crime was else where when it was committed.

Suggested answer to last week's questions

- That which cannot be conquered: **unconquerable**; **invincible** (adj.)
- That which cannot be wounded: **invulnerable** (adj.)
- That which cannot be believed: **incredible** (adj.)
- That which can easily be set on fire: **inflammable** (adj.)
- That which cannot be avoided: **unavoidable**; **inescapable**; **inevitable** (adj.)
- That which cannot be expressed in words: **inexpressible** (adj.)

(B) Foreign phrases and Idioms

Give the sources of origin and the meaning of the following:

- Exceptio confirmat (probat) regulam
- fade
- Fait accompli.
- fenome
- gens de lettres.

Suggested answers to last weeks questions

- etranger** (Fr.): stranger, a foreigner.
- et tu Brute!** (Lat.): You, too, Brutus! (Caesar's exclamation when he saw his much loved Brutus amongst his murderers.)
- euge!** (Lat.): Well done!
- eureka!** (Gk.): I have found it!
- excelsior** (Lat.): Higher.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words.

- conspectus, prospectus.
- evolve, provoke
- impair, injure
- attachment, affinity
- wrong, wrongful.

Suggested answers to last week's questions.

- fair** (adj.) (acting in a just and honourable manner): We should be fair in our perceptions of and perspectives on people and things.
fare (vi.) (progress; get on): How did you fare in the exam?
- pain** (vt.) (cause suffering of mind or body): You shouldn't pain others by your words or deeds.
pane (n.) (single sheet of glass in a window): The new window pane was broken when it was hit by a cricket ball.
- soul** (n.) (the non-material part of the human body, believed to exist for ever): Philosophers believe in the transmigration of the soul.
sole (adj.) (one and only): Rash driving was the sole cause of the accident.
- main** (adj.) (chief): Ramadan is one of the main festivals in Yemen
mane (n.) (long hair on the neck of a horse, lion, etc.): The mane of the lion enhances its beauty.
- read** (vt.) (look at and be able to understand something): I can read your thoughts from your expression.
reed (n.) (part of a wind-instrument that vibrates to produce sound): She is moving her fingers gently on the reeds of the bassoon.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Illustrate the meaning of the following phrases in sentences.

- to blow one's own trumpet
- a bolt from the blue
- to beat black and blue
- to cast an aspersion
- to change hands.

Suggested answers to last week's questions.

- bad blood** (a feeling of enmity): There is a lot of bad blood between the two former friends.
- a book-worm** (one who is very fond of reading books): A book-worm as he is, he has hardly any time for family and friends.
- a fair-weather friend** (a friend only during the time of prosperity): If you spend money, it's small wonder

that you will be surrounded by many fair-weather friends.

- to add fuel to the fire** (to aggravate the matter): Hard labour coupled with his weak constitution added fuel to the fire and ruined his health.
- to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** (to be born and brought up in a wealthy family): She was born with a silver spoon in her mouth; so she finds it hard to understand the misery of the poor.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

1. Complete the following sentences using one of the sentence types given below

- You still haven't told me.
- You've already told me.
- You haven't told me yet.

Remember: Sentences **a** and **c** have almost the same meaning. But **a** is slightly stronger in meaning and emphatic than **c**.

- Could you please do your homework now because you _____
- Please don't show me the letter again because you _____
- We've been waiting for the tickets for two weeks but they _____
- Could I keep the book for another few days because you've _____
- I've asked him three times to lay the table but he _____
- I'm not going to write to him again, I _____
- Unfortunately, when I reached the station the train _____

Suggested answers to last week's questions.

The words that do not belong in each list are given in italics

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. dash | <i>stroll</i> | race | hurry |
| 2. vicious | cruel | violent | <i>tender</i> |
| 3. gentle | stern | harsh | severe |
| 4. simple | stupid | <i>cunning</i> | foolish |
| 5. reluctant | unwilling | hesitant | <i>eager</i> |
| 6. ruthless | <i>merciful</i> | fierce | hard-hearted |
| 7. sturdy | fragile | delicate | breakable |
| 8. upset | trouble | hurt | <i>carefree</i> |
| 9. innocent | <i>suspicious</i> | blameless | honest |
| 10. furious | <i>surprised</i> | mad | angry. |

(B) Composition: Paragraph Writing

Expand the central idea contained in the saying

49. BEAUTY LIES IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

Last week's topic:

48. BARKING DOGS SELDOM BITE

People lacking in substance make a lot of noise about themselves. Such pompous and self-conceited people boast of their power, position and influence. They employ all possible means to impress others and leave no stones unturned to emphasize their importance. They don't hesitate to exaggerate whatever little they may have which is blown out of proportion to hoodwink others. This is only a ploy to conceal hollowness, lack of substance, and is born out of a feeling of inferiority. Conversely, men of learning, wisdom or means are reserved. They don't show themselves off or blow their own trumpet in order to achieve self-promotion or self-glorification unlike the vainglorious bombasts who believe in their self-proclaimed greatness. As a matter of fact, their humility and modesty speak volumes about their worth or merit. Their deeds are louder than their words.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"And Allah hath full Knowledge about your faith."
S.4A.25.

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Truly loving another means letting go of all expectations. It means full acceptance, even celebration of another's personhood."—Julia Roberts

Dr. Khalid Abdullah Tumeem to Yemen Times

"Greater exposure to practical affairs needed to be partners of social evolution"

Harnessing the youth energy is one of the foremost challenges before any society. Sana'a University has been alive to this crying need and has been galvanizing efforts to utilize the untapped potential of its youth, the architects of tomorrow. The department of youth affairs, Sana'a University, under the stewardship of Dr. Khalid Abdullah Tumeem, Vice Rector, is making sustained efforts to further streamline the youth activities of the university.

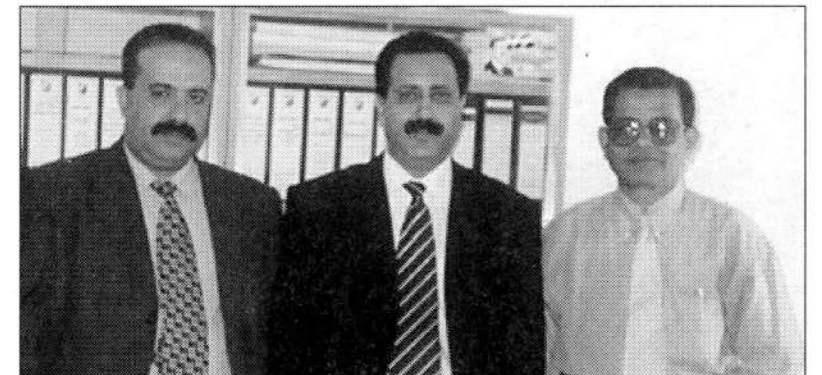
With a view to getting a better understanding of the man and his mission, Dr. Ramakanta Sahu had an intimate interaction with him.

Excerpts

Q: Sana'a University has earned an unenviable reputation for being supportive of promoting youth talents.

What are different programs you have mounted over the current year?

A: First of all I should thank Yemen Times, the esteemed newspaper that has established itself as a powerful organ to project all-round developments of our county including those in the educational sector.



L-R: Dr. Abdulhakeem Al-Fasel, General Director, Public Relations; Dr. Khalid Tumeem, Vice Rector, Students' Affairs, Sana'a University, and Dr. Sahu

As far as the achievements of Sana'a University are concerned, Sana'a University was established in 1970 as the first university in the Republic of Yemen. Over the years it has distinguished itself as a center of academic excellence mostly because of highly scholarly and competent staff members.

It is no wonder that Sana'a university has been at the forefront of educational development in the Republic of Yemen. One of the distinctive features of Sana'a university is the accent it puts on the spectrums of youth welfare activities, including housing, athletics, social relations and academic services.

Now, we have a plan to achieve these aims by consolidating the good work initiated by our predecessors.

Our future plans include organizing intra and inter university debates and matches. Naturally, for this program we want to qualify the students academically as well as behaviorally, so that, the students are able to build their personality concretely for the benefit of the self as well as our country.

Q: You'll agree with me that there should be closer interaction between the teachers and the students. What do you suggest to develop this relation for the benefit of the university as well as for the society?

A: This is a very good question because the relationship between the teachers and the students is of crucial importance.

Therefore, we want to develop a healthy mutual relation between the two communities through new programs and activities. So we don't want to let the students to confine themselves to classroom lectures only. On the other hand, we want them to be stake holders for the substantial growth of the university.

Q: What is your point of view about a system of evaluation of teachers by their students and the evaluation of the chairmen of the departments by the teachers in the department?

A: The evaluation of students by their teachers is very important in so far as it would help us to identify a reliable tool of practical value to identify teachers that can leave a true impact on their students for their, the university's as well as for the society's benefit. The relation between the staff members and the student community should be positive and constructive so as to enrich the university. At the same time, we should apply the regulations of the university practically and honestly, in order to achieve the aims of the university.

Q: Is it possible to institute a system of rewards for the high achievers?

A: Actually, the provision of reward and punishment is based on sound principles but we should strictly follow the regulations of the university and make more efforts to promote talent within the framework of the provisions of the university.

Q: What are some of the major problems facing you and what are your priorities?

A: Actually, I have to candidly admit that there are some problems, but we are still trying to find out and discover the acute problems crippling our premier institution in order to offer the best solutions in accordance with the university's regulations and the present circumstances.

It is important to forge a network of good relations between our department of students affairs and the colleges in our university as well as our office with the other offices of the university, such as, academic affairs, higher studies, public relations and other administrative wings of the university.

However, we have to face the problems squarely and find out the best and the most practical solutions for them.

Q: As we know you have a vision to bring the university on par with other prominent world universities. What measures do you suggest to modernize the university?

A: I think this is a question with wider ramifications. As such I prefer to submit this question to the Ministry of Higher Education for their views.

Q: How to ensure larger participation among students in youth promotion programs? Do you have separate programs for boys and girls?

A: I think we have to formulate a program or an agenda of action within the framework of the prevalent resource constraints of our country. Therefore, we are drawing up an action plan for practical programs, specially for faculties such as medicine, dental science and so on.

In order to achieve the goals of the curriculum, the students should get more practical experience before graduation.

Q: What are your last comments and suggestions for a qualitative development of the university of Sana'a?

A: The development of the university could not be achieved by one person or one individual administrator. It is the outcome of teamwork and concerted efforts of the entire administrative set-up of the university, starting from the officials up to the Rector of the university. They should work hand in hand honestly for the benefits of our university as well as the society.

As our leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh supports the most promising students by instituting awards for youths and meritorious students, we have to utilize this opportunity properly to ensure human resource development of our country.

Q: What is your evaluation of Education page in Yemen Times? You would be glad to know that meanwhile we have completed more than 200 lessons.

A: Actually, I follow the lessons published in this page. It is an excellent attempt because it is a manifesto for the educational development in the universities as well as in our country.

I hope that this page will continue to build on its image and march ahead on the path of excellence, specially, as it is concerned with vital educational issues.

Q: Any last comments?

A: We hope that Allah will help and support us to achieve the aims of Sana'a University and uphold its honor and glory which it has so laboriously accumulated over the years among the universities in Yemen.

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Angles | Chains | Full | Material | Shoe |
| Bags | Close | Grain | Measure | Shut |
| Bays | Clothing | Grocery | Nets | Small |
| Bins | Coating | Haul | Opening | Soap |
| Box | Coins | Heavy | Oval | Sold |
| Brace | Container | Hide | Package | Sort |
| Bread | Corrugated | Inner | Pleated | Spill |
| Break | Crate | Insert | Pressure | Stamp |
| Built | Crayon | Instructions | Product | Stuffed |
| Bulk | Creak | Laundry | Rails | Tough |
| Bundle | Cube | Leaky | Raised | Truck |
| Cage | Deliver | Letter | Ratio | Tupperware |
| Cardboard | Dimension | Lids | Rectangular | Vans |
| Cargo | Documents | Liner | Recycle | Volume |
| Carry | Dolly | Lunch | Ridges | Weak |
| Cars | Envelope | Mail | Rope | Wires |
| Carton | Equipment | Make | Sealed | Wooden |
| Cereal | Erect | Marked | Shipping | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Cookies

ALL BOXED IN

Solution: 4 letters

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

In its first participation in the GCC up 2004:

Yemen's team disappoints fans

For the second time in a row, Yemen's football team was defeated with a margin of 4 goals, causing major disappointment to all fans everywhere in Yemen and abroad. The latest loss was to host Kuwait by 4-0 last Thursday in a very weak performance that seemed to be based on an uncertain strategy of neither defense nor attack.

The overall weak performance was attributed by many to the physical superiority of the Kuwaiti team. Furthermore, the experience of Kuwait's team is incomparable to that of Yemen. On the other hand, this win enabled Kuwait to regain confidence and presenting a fabulous show of come back after the two earlier disappointing matches.

Yemen currently stands as the last rank in the 6-team GCC up tourna-



Kuwait team happy for the win 4-0 against Yemen.

ment, signaling the weak and incapable performance of the team, which contradicted with the performance of the Under-17 team in the last Asian tournament, in which the Yemeni team excelled and brought great proud to its fans.

Newcastle bank on Woodgate and Dyer



The return from injury of England internationals Jonathan Woodgate (left in this file photo) and Kieron Dyer for tomorrow's FA Cup third-round tie against Southampton should help ease the pressure on Newcastle manager Bobby Robson. REUTERS/Ian Hodgson

By ROB STEWART

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) - The return from injury of England internationals Jonathan Woodgate and Kieron Dyer for today's FA Cup third-round tie against Southampton should help ease the pressure on Newcastle manager Bobby Robson.

Newcastle, a disappointing seventh in the premier league, were knocked out of the League Cup by first division West Bromwich Albion and Robson and his players were warned this week by chairman Freddy Shepherd to perform or face the consequences.

Central defender Woodgate, 23, has missed the last three premier league games with a torn hamstring while midfielder Dyer, 25, has been sidelined for Newcastle's last two outings with a stomach ailment.

"At the moment, Jonathan Woodgate looks set to return and is in pretty good shape," Robson told reporters on Thursday.

"Woodgate has had a full day's training and looks very hopeful. We kept him out of things against Blackburn at the weekend to ensure he

had a further week of training and to be re-assured that his hamstring is fine.

"He's managed a week of pretty decent training, including extra shifts, that will ensure that he is able to come through on Saturday, both physically and clinically."

Dyer, who has made 19 appearances for England, had hospital tests on Monday for a stomach complaint.

"Hopefully that has now been dealt with," Robson added.

"He is now back in training, although he has been practising a little gingerly. We've continued to monitor him."

Newcastle have not won at Southampton since 1972 and Robson will be mindful of his side's sorry exit in the third round of last year's FA Cup at the hands of Wolverhampton Wanderers, who were then in Division 1.

"That was probably as angry as I've been since I became Newcastle manager (in September 1999) and I don't want a repeat of that this weekend," Robson said. "It is a tough draw and one we didn't want, but neither did Southampton."

Japan captain Nakata loaned to Bologna

TOKYO, Jan 2 (Reuters) - Japan captain Hidetoshi Nakata is anxious to make a fresh start at Bologna following a frustrating spell with Italian rivals Parma.

With a six-month loan deal with Bologna formally announced on Friday, Nakata blamed a rift with Parma coach Cesare Prandelli for his decision to leave the cash-strapped club.

"I have decided to make a fresh start for the new year with a move to Bologna," Nakata said on his official website.

"Last season, I was being played out of position and still nothing has changed...even though the coach told me things would be different."

Ansa news agency said Parma could save 900,000 euros by loaning out Nakata — welcome news as the collapse of the club's parent company Parmalat has left them urgently needing to off-load players in an attempt to

slash their wage bill.

Nakata, who has failed to establish himself since joining Parma from AS Roma for \$26 million in July 2001, has complained bitterly about playing in a defensive midfield role.

The 26-year-old has yet to complete a full match in 11 Serie A appearances this season.

"The way I want to play and the way I am being asked to play are different," said Nakata. "I apologise to the Parma fans."

Nakata will be reunited at Bologna with Carlo Mazzone, his former manager at Perugia, his first Italian club.

"Coach Mazzone was one of the biggest reasons for moving to Bologna," said the Japan captain.

"I spoke to him on the phone and he immediately put my mind at rest. He understands me as a player and as a person and I have absolute trust in him." (Additional reporting by David Brough in Rome)

Spain's Servia leads Dakar after Shinozuka crash

PARIS, Jan 2 (Reuters) - Spaniard Jose Maria Servia led the Dakar Rally on Friday after overnight frontrunner Kenjiro Shinozuka crashed on a muddy and aborted second stage near Narbonne.

Shinozuka, who fought for his life in last year's race after an accident left the Japanese in a coma, lost more than five minutes following damage to the front of his Nissan pickup in a stage that was abandoned with half the cars yet to run.

Frenchman Claude Arnoux's buggy became bogged down in the mud in the middle of the course, forcing organisers to halt competition and give the remaining cars an average time.

South Africa Giniel de Villiers, Shinozuka's team mate, also crashed on the special 25 km course in southern France on the second day of the Rally after a snowy prologue in Clermont-Ferrand on Thursday.

"On a sharp bend, I didn't want to use the hand brake, I hit a rock and the car

flipped," he said, after driving much of the stage with no windscreen. "The car is damaged but it should be okay."

Servia, driving a Schlesler-Ford buggy, had no problems with the conditions.

"We really went very well all along the course and overtook four or five cars that were nice enough to let me go by," said the Spaniard. "It's an advantage compared to those who were stuck behind other competitors."

Japan's Hiroshi Masuoka, winner of the last two Dakars, was sixth overall in his Mitsubishi and 59 seconds adrift of Servia.

Masuoka's French team mate Stephane Peterhansel was second overall, three seconds behind the Spaniard.

Briton Colin McRae, making his Dakar debut in a Nissan, climbed to ninth place.

In the motorcycle category, David Fretigne of France led on a Yamaha ahead of compatriot Cyril Despres on a KTM.

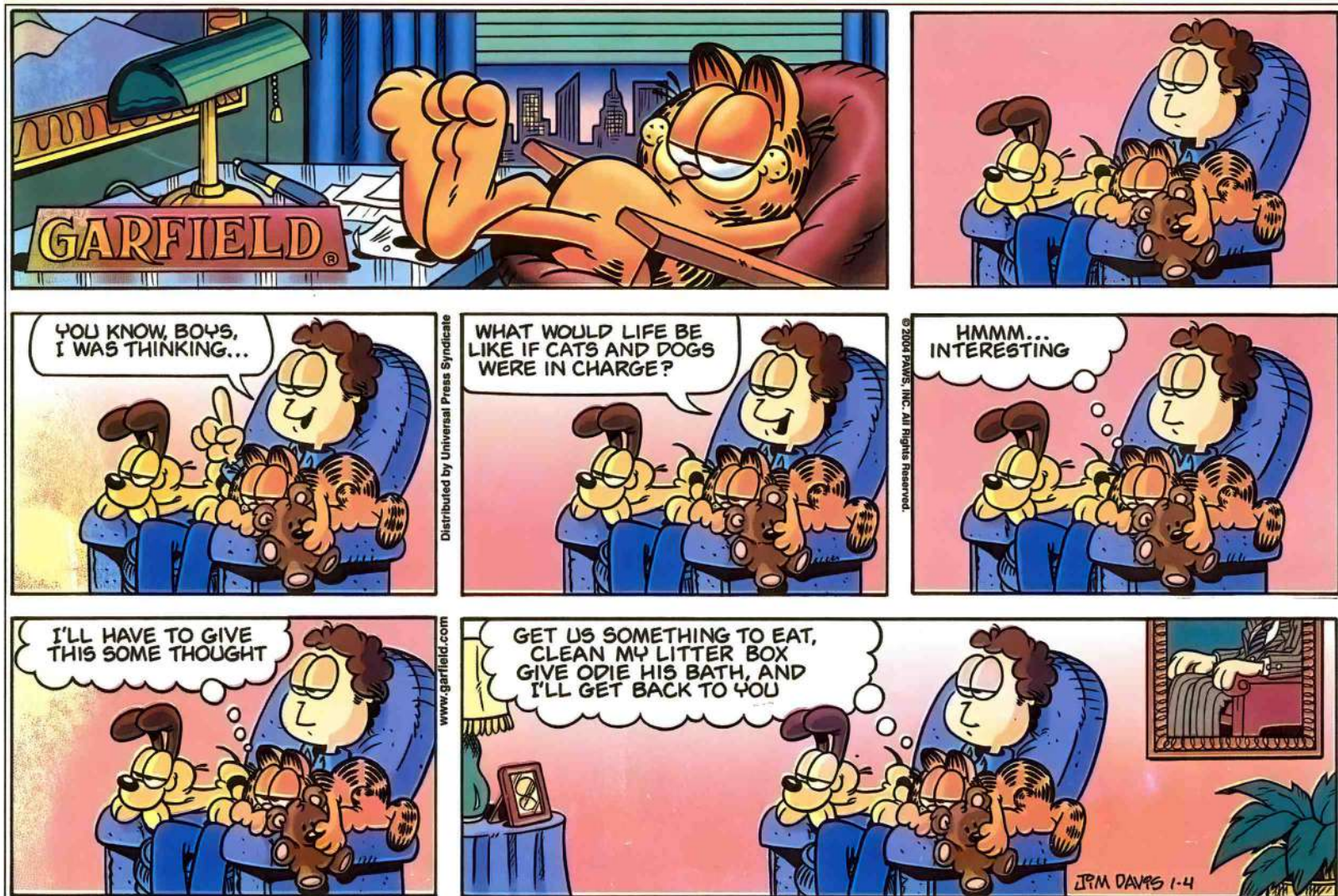
7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	25	25	25	24	24	24	24
Lo	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Aden

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	31	29	30	30	31	30	31
Lo	21	22	22	22	20	20	20



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Diversity will lead you into new territory. The more people you meet, the better your imagination will flow, and the more unique your ideas will become.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Work and career changes should be what's holding your attention today. Be prepared to make a move that may not be your first choice. It can be an excellent stepping-stone.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Your emotions will fluctuate and you may not make the best choice if you are too hasty. Improvements must be made, but you aren't sure where to begin. It's time to reevaluate.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Being too chatty will work against you today. Don't expect to get any cooperation from others. Travel and communication will be frustrating; work on your own interests and by yourself.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Put yourself in a position that allows others to view you as a worthy leader. You should be able to bring some stability to a relationship that you have been questioning. Clear-cut questions and answers will bring good results.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You could damage a relationship you are in if you overreact and are critical. Back off and stop trying to make choices for others.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Don't back away from a chance to discuss your goals and opinions with someone in power. Your popularity is on the rise and you should be able to make new friends and form new partnerships.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Make changes to some of your personal papers and look into any health problem that has been plaguing you. This is a day to fix, mend and take care of yourself. Positive action will bring good results.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
If you allow someone to push you into discussing your true feelings, you are probably going to say and hear things you would rather not. Surround yourself with a group so personal issues cannot be raised.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Your industrious nature will shine through today. Your stable and strong personality will make a statement to those in higher positions, allowing you to advance.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Do things with a friend. If you are in a relationship, do something you both enjoy. Combine social activity with work. You'll impress your colleagues and your personal partner at the same time.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Problems are likely to develop today. An unsettled feeling will lead you into an emotional dilemma. Don't let your imagination get the better of you.

YEMEN TIMES

2004 مسابقة صنعاء الثقافية

الفائز الأول 1,000,000
الفائز الثاني 500,000
الفائز الثالث 250,000
الفائز الرابع 150,000
الفائز الخامس 100,000

بالإضافة الى العديد من الجوائز العينية

برعاية الشركات التالية :

للمشاركة في الرعاية إتصل على موبايل ٧٣٨٩٣٣٥١



بنك اليمن والخليج
Yemen Gulf Bank



مجموعة شركات أخوان ثابت
Thabet Brothers Group



Canon

natco



TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
SANA'A-YEMEN



كوبون أسئلة وحل (٩)

الإسم : السن : الجنسية : رقم البطاقة لشخصية / الجواز :
اللقب : العنوان : المدينة / المحافظة :

١. اذكر ثلاث وكالات تابعة لشركة آر تكس ؟
٢. فندق عدن هو فندق ذو : ٣ نجوم - ٤ نجوم - ٥ نجوم
٣. اذكر اسم المجموعة التي تضم شركة الحديد للملاحة والنقل (ش.م.ي)؟
٤. مشروب الطاقة باور هورس مسجل في وزارة الصحة السعودية تحت رقم - ١٩٩٨/١٠٤٢/١ - ١٩٩٨/٢٢٢/٢
٥. مجلة الأسرة والتنمية الصادرة عن يمن تايمز تناولت في عددها الأول موضوع خدمة تحقيق التنمية الشاملة دون الالتزام بحقوق الإنسان

وذكر مؤتمر قمة الألفية . فمتى عقد هذا المؤتمر؟
(أيلول - سبتمبر ٢٠٠٢م) - (أيلول - سبتمبر ٢٠٠١م) - (أيلول - سبتمبر ٢٠٠٠م) ؟

للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:
على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى ٢٠٠٤ 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. ٢٥٧٩ ، صنعاء).

ستستمر المسابقة لعدة أشهر ويمكن للمشارك أن يشارك بأكثر 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 ٢٦٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظاً موفقاً للجميع....

المصادقية هي شعارنا، ونفتكم هي غابتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماكم من بين الفائزين.....

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■ Required: a translator from arabic to English and English to Arabic Done by Teacher from U.K only in Taiz : pls contact 73605146
■ Required for A reputed company A well qualified Yemeni sale manager for their tender activities, pls contact
e-mail: whatacat@sofhome.net
■ Required for the meridian Institute of English and computer, Six English teachers, three computer teachers pls contact: 73212872
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Old City of Sana'a, glory and pride Part I



YASER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

While welcoming the New Year and especially after Sana'a being crowned cultural capital of the Arab world, the city is dressing up gaudily awaiting its visitors and friends. For the country is expecting many intellectuals, artists and literature people as well as politicians to visit Yemen during this year in order to participate in the exhibitions and cultural celebrations on the occasion of Sana'a Arab Cultural Capital 2004.

The events planned to take place during this year include exhibitions for poetry, fine arts, theater, story and cinema. It also includes four international conferences and four assemblies, four seminars and 13 various exhibitions and more than 11 cultural caravans coming



Old city of Sana'a, where the fragrance of ancient Arabia can still be smelt.
Photo by M. S. Noman

from various governorates of the republic of Yemen.

The city is depending on its long history and ancient civilization in order to

make this celebration special and different from all previous cultural capitals.

Sana'a is one of the oldest cities in the world it's almost more than two thou-

sand years old and possesses rich civilization. Ancient engravings in the historical sights indicate many of the pre-Islamic civilizations such as Saba and Himiar and also the post-Islamic civilizations. The city is located on a plateau of around 2150 meters above sea level and its inhabitants total to be two million inhabitants. It has a moderate climates which is characterized by a relatively high temperature difference between night and day that could reach more than 18 degrees centigrade in summer as the day is around could be more than 30 degrees going down to 12 at night whereas in the winter it could be two degrees and some times drops down to minus 6 at night.

The city is of the most significant cities in history for it was one of the Saba kingdom cities, the kingdom that was mentioned in many of the old sculptures and engravings although archeological scientists could not agree exactly on the date of its establishment, however, evidence indicate that it was the first city established post the great flood

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founded by Sam son of Noah (mpboh) therefore the name; Sam, or city of Sam. The city is also named after Azal son of Yaqtin son of al-Eaid son of Amir son of Shalikh grandson of Sam. The name Azal was mentioned in the Torah, the holy book for Jews, and also history books confirmed the existence of kingdoms of Saba, Qataban was in the same city. Historian also indicate that the city started by a few houses and then it grew into a small village and eventually into a secure city, whereas other historians say

that it was a trade station where most caravans and trade roots passed by especially those carrying gum and incense. Another factor that aided its prosperity during those times is the rich and fertile land in which agriculture was of the basic industries. All these factors led to the city being a significant part of the Arabian Peninsula. And although not much information is available about it, yet it is agreed that the city and throughout many centuries managed to survive and to remain strong and important.

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صنعاً - شارع الزبيري (٣٧٥٠٦) - مركز صماء التجاري (٤٤٨٥٠٤) - عدن - الميناء (٦٣٣٣١) - المكلا - الديس (٢٠٢١١) - نجر - شارع جمال (٢٥٠٨١٧)

يمني Yemany
٥٠٠ مل أو ٢٥٠ مل أو ٢٠٠ مل أو ١٥٠ مل
عصوه ٢٠٠ مللي حديد
عند تقديمك أي ٣ اعطيه
طبيب مركز يماني
لاقرب يقاله
العرض ساري حتى نفاذ الكمية
العرض لا يشمل حجم ١٢٥ مللي